**Statement of Purpose**

Every day, I read news stories about artificial intelligence acting unethically or invading privacy. This deeply concerns me. Why are so many organizations prioritizing profits over people's rights? This disconnect between technology's potential to improve our lives and its misuse fuels my desire for change. How can we build powerful AI without sacrificing privacy? I believe we can, and I want to be part of the solution.

Motivated by this, I founded “SocialXChange”, a privacy-focused digital asset social platform. We introduced the concept of "Dumb AI," which only learns from data users willingly provide, making handling private information more transparent and secure. Our goal is to create a safe space where users enjoy freedom and privacy while ensuring the platform's security.

I envision a future where AI and blockchain work together to create a decentralized, ethical, and transparent web that protects individual rights while fostering innovation. Integrating blockchain technology can democratize how the web operates, reducing the control of single tech giants.

My academic journey has been one of exploration and discovery. When I began my undergraduate studies, I had no experience in programming. Learning to code in my first semester felt like wielding a magic wand—I could build anything. I started creating projects across various domains and freelanced to build web applications for startups, students, and clubs.

Driven by curiosity, I ventured into the stock market, attempting to develop an intelligent system for market predictions. Although I didn't succeed due to the market's complexity, the experience taught me valuable lessons. I also delved into blockchain, cryptocurrencies, and NFTs, presenting a seminar on blockchain at my college's Association of Computing Machinery. Additionally, I started two e-commerce businesses, handling all the technical aspects myself. While I was exploring so much, I was also failing and learning.

In my third year, despite my efforts, I failed to secure an internship. Feeling like a jack of all trades but a master of none, I questioned my approach. Realizing I was spreading myself too thin, I decided to focus solely on academics for three months, reevaluating my priorities. This shift paid off when I secured one of the highest-paying job offers from my college.

The next day, I reignited my entrepreneurial spirit by launching CornerInk, a web application that enables users to design and order custom merchandising, including apparel and promotional items. The platform simplifies bulk ordering with intuitive design tools and automated pricing based on quantity and customization. I developed it end-to-end, and it achieved revenue of INR 8 lakhs within its first year, serving corporations, colleges, and food chains. This experience taught me the value of focus, resilience, and strategic planning. I embraced the saying: "A jack of all trades is a master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one."

I have always loved solving real-world problems, and my academic projects reflect this passion. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I developed “CoviProtec**”**, a platform to streamline vaccine bookings for users and hospitals. I also built a hand sign recognition system to bridge communication gaps for the deaf community and a video lecture summarization tool with automatic quiz generation to support online education.

Starting my professional career, I joined the Chief Technology Office at Wells Fargo as a Software Engineer. Working in observability and foundational automation introduced me to a new realm in fintech. My manager encouraged me to understand various products and integrate them to create value. I quickly built a dashboard now used globally by over 12,000 technology users and command centers to monitor critical applications like credit cards, ATMs, and payment systems, aiding in issue identification and decision-making.

I also developed a self-service portal that automates the onboarding of applications into the logging ecosystem, which I built independently. This reduced manual workload by 80%. These projects earned me recognition at the leadership level, and I was given the opportunity to work across multiple teams. Since then, I've explored various domains, building automation, smart dashboards, anomaly detection systems, and AI models to automate tasks. My managers, industry experts in observability, guided me in understanding the immense value and insights that can be derived from data.

Working with diverse technologies and focusing on automation, I realized the vast potential of AI. However, I also became concerned that we might be ignoring the risks while focusing solely on the benefits. These experiences deepened my interest in **AI ethics and safety**. While I'm excited by AI's rapid advancements, I'm equally concerned about data privacy, energy consumption, and the ethical use of information. I'm particularly interested in exploring how blockchain can create a decentralized method of information collection and transfer, ensuring transparency in how data is used.

I am particularly interested in the work of Professor Fei-Fei Li, co-director of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI). Her advocacy for an interdisciplinary approach to AI development, as articulated in her recent book *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI*, resonates deeply with my own values and perspectives. I am inspired by her commitment to ethical AI practices and believe that integrating diverse fields is essential for advancing responsible technology.

Similarly, Professor Dan Boneh's research on zero-knowledge proofs has been highly influential in shaping my interests. His work holds significant potential for enhancing privacy in AI systems that utilize blockchain, ensuring sensitive data remains confidential while still allowing for verification and accountability. As co-director of the Stanford Center for Blockchain Research (CBR), Professor Boneh collaborates with experts across various disciplines to address ethical concerns in AI applications.

Stanford University's pioneering efforts in AI and blockchain, led by esteemed professors like Dr. Li and Dr. Boneh, make it the ideal environment for me to pursue my goals. The university's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and ethical innovation aligns perfectly with my interest in contributing meaningfully to the field of AI.

My aspiration is to build a startup that leverages these technologies to serve everyday users, fostering safer and more accessible digital ecosystems. I aim to establish open-source, decentralized mechanisms for creating ethical AI and data applications. In the long run, I hope to lead initiatives to establish global standards, ensuring that technology serves humanity equitably.

In conclusion, I am drawn to graduate studies not only to deepen my technical expertise but also to equip myself to address the complex ethical and practical challenges of tomorrow's technology. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the fields of AI and blockchain, and I am confident that this program will bring me closer to my goal of creating technology that empowers and protects its users.