

Generation Google Scholarship Essays

- 1) Please give us one example of how you have exhibited leadership. Explain what you were trying to achieve, your role, how you influenced others, and the impact as a result of your actions. Think broadly and examine the many ways you are having an effect on the members of the different communities you are a part of. Keep in mind, the example you choose does not need to be a formal or traditional leadership role.

Ans) In my view, Leadership is the art of motivating people to work towards a common goal. I have participated actively in Programming clubs held in our University. I was a Core member of a club named "Elite Coding Club" in our University. This club was run by Students. Our team consists of 10 members with few faculties for running the program smoothly. There are 200 students we are guiding through this program. We have started this initiative in November 2020. We as a team explain Data Structures and Algorithms to our Juniors. Due to Covid Pandemic, we organized the sessions online. We explain new concepts to our juniors and help them to solve problems related to them. We also make them solve competitive programming using websites such as Codechef and Hackerrank.

As a part of this initiative, we not only discuss Data Structures and Algorithms but also various opportunities held for women, guidance for their career. Beyond these, with my interest, I have selected some students (As it was not possible for me to guide a lot of students, I picked up 10 members) and I was personally guiding them like conducting contests on Programming and tracking their work.

Now, our juniors were able to solve the problems during live contests on various platforms. And after the contest ends, we used to discuss the editorials of the problems. During our interaction, I have observed many students felt sad as they were unable to solve more questions. At that time, we used to conduct some motivation classes so that they will get their confidence back. I used to explain the situations when I lack motivation and how I got my confidence back. I thought it would be motivating to them by explaining my real-life scenario of overcoming the bad situations. Finally, our hard work paid off. Many students were trying their best to solve the problems and if they got stuck, they are asking us without any issues.

- 2) What is a significant challenge that you believe women in the tech industry face and how do you see yourself as being part of the solution(s) to this challenge? Keep in mind that impact can happen in many ways and at different scales.

Ans) Despite many hardships in society, women have come a long way. They are bringing visible changes in today's world. When we compare with the olden days, today's women have excelled in many fields like medicine, law, Business, and also software development. There is a lot of improvement in the societal perspective of accepting women into various fields. Yet the ratio of the number of men to women in the tech industry, says it all. According to women in tech statistics for 2020, men outnumber women in the Engineering industry. A whopping 80% of those in the field are male, while only 20% are female. Programmers today are making some biggest advances, but most of the programmers are male-dominated.

Due to several reasons, the participation of women is very less in programming and tech-related domains. Firstly, they lack proper guidance and mentorship. Even though there are male mentors, women don't get good support from them. Secondly, there are no female role models who can give them the motivation to succeed. Thirdly, due to lack of diversity in the workplace. The ratio of men is huge compared to women in every field. People feel that programming is only the men's thing, so they don't encourage women to stand on it.

When I started coding in my first year there were no female coders to help me and some of my classmates insisted on me to stop coding. It became very hard for me to stay motivated and to give my best. Even in many programs, people encourage men to participate and demotivate women which is very bad. Unfortunately, women often are not confident and underestimate their skills. According to a survey, it was seen that women having many years of experience are having the same confidence level as men having 0 or 1 year of experience.

So, to increase women in tech, it's important to provide them with female mentors and guidance for their career, so that they can discuss without any feeling. Mentorship programs would be the best option to conduct for women and guide them along. To improve programming skills, it would be good if the coding contests are conducted every week. And after a contest, discussion of those problems will make them improve better. Some discussion forums where women can say what difficulties they were facing and minimizing those problems would be an added advantage.