

# Sayuri Pamoda Ponnampuruma

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## About Me

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A dedicated final-year Statistics Honors undergraduate at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with a strong passion for statistical modeling, statistical inference, Time Series analysis, spatio-temporal data analysis and Bayesian methods. Experienced in leveraging advanced statistical techniques and software to extract meaningful insights from complex datasets. Proven ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems through research, academic projects, and volunteer work. Skilled in data visualization, critical thinking, and effective communication. Eager to contribute to the field of statistics through innovative research, data-driven decision making, and impactful projects that address practical challenges.

## Education

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<b>University of Sri Jayewardenepura</b> <i>Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Statistics</i>	<i>March 2022 – Onwards</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Overall GPA: 3.9152/4.0</li><li>○ Statistics GPA: 3.933/4.0</li><li>○ Mathematics GPA: 4.0/4.0 (Up to second-year)</li><li>○ Chemistry GPA: 3.77/4.0 (Up to second year)</li></ul>	
<b>S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike College, Kurunegala</b>	<i>2007 – 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Completion of primary and secondary education.</li><li>○ Held various leadership roles and participated in extracurricular activities.</li></ul>	

## Volunteer & Extracurricular Experience

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<b>Organizing Committee Volunteer</b> <i>Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL)</i>	<i>Dec 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Moderated multiple conference sessions during the International Statistics Conference 2024, ensuring smooth transitions between speakers. <a href="#">certificate ↗</a></li><li>○ Managed time for presentations, ensuring speakers adhered to allotted durations.</li><li>○ Coordinated with speakers and attendees, supporting the overall success of the conference.</li></ul>	
<b>Event Coordinator</b> <i>Statistics Society, University of Sri Jayewardenepura</i>	<i>2024 – Onwards</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Coordinated and managed various events organized by the society, ensuring seamless planning and execution.</li><li>○ Collaborated with team members to develop engaging programs for students and faculty. <a href="#">certificate ↗</a></li></ul>	
<b>Logistics Coordinator</b> <i>Gavel Club, University of Sri Jayewardenepura</i>	<i>Dec 2022 – Feb 2023</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Coordinated logistical arrangements for VORBITOR'23, including venue setup, schedule management, and on-site support.</li><li>○ Ensured seamless execution of events designed to provide undergraduates with a platform to develop public speaking and leadership skills. <a href="#">certificate ↗</a></li></ul>	
<b>Assistant Secretary</b> <i>Statistics Society, University of Sri Jayewardenepura</i>	<i>2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Assisted in coordinating society activities and events, ensuring effective communication and planning.</li><li>○ Supported the Executive Committee in managing records, documentation, and official correspondence.</li><li>○ Contributed to organizing events to promote student engagement and interest in statistics.</li></ul>	

## Volunteer

*Sasnaka Sansada Foundation*

2021 - Onwards

- Taught mathematics to students at various schools, focusing on making the subject engaging and accessible.
- Participated in “Math Therapeutic Programs” aimed at improving O/L students’ confidence and skills in mathematics. [certificate ↗](#)
- Worked closely with students to help them overcome math-related challenges and enhance their understanding of key concepts.
- Collaborated with a team of volunteers to ensure smooth delivery of educational programs.

## School Experience

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### Leadership Roles

*Prefect*

- Maintained school discipline and encouraged positive behavior among students (as Prefect, 2009 - 2016).
- Supported the Head Prefect in managing duties and organizing events (as Deputy Head Prefect, 2017).
- Led the prefect team and coordinated major school functions, acted as a communication bridge between students and school administration, and oversaw prefect responsibilities, ensuring smooth operation of daily school activities (as Head Prefect, 2018–2019). [certificate ↗](#)

### Extracurricular Involvement

- Coordinated events and competitions, managed communication and publicity through media outlets (as Secretary, Sinhala Literary Association & Media Unit, 2017). [certificate ↗](#)
- Represented the school in inter-school debate competitions, developing critical thinking and public speaking skills (as Member, School Debate Team, 2017 – 2019).
- Competed in inter-school matches, fostering teamwork and discipline; participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Pesta Bola Jaring USM-Penang International Netball Tournament organized by University Sains Malaysia (as Member, School Netball Team, 2013 – 2018). [certificate ↗](#)
- Participated as Sergeant of the Kurunegala District Team in the National Camp of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (as Member, St. John Ambulance Brigade 2015 – 2020). [certificate ↗](#)
- Participated in leadership and training programs (as Corporal, Air Cadet Platoon, 2017). [certificate ↗](#)
- Participated in the annual assessment camp for leadership and cadet proficiency (as Senior Corporal, Air Cadet Platoon, 2018). [certificate ↗](#)

## School achievements

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- Multiple awards at zonal, provincial and all-island levels in Sinhala language comprehension competitions (2012 – 2016). [certificates ↗](#)
- Best Student of the Year-2015 (first-ever selection in the school’s history). [certificate ↗](#)
- Winner of Education Category, “Abhiman Waram” 2019 (sponsored by Anchor and Champion Network). [certificate ↗](#)
- Achievements in art competitions at local and provincial levels. [certificates ↗](#)
- Achievements in chess tournaments (Individual and Team) [certificates ↗](#)
- Achievements in netball matches [certificates ↗](#)

## Awards

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**Winner Team - Undergraduate Category, IASSL National Poster Competition Institute of Applied Statistics Sri Lanka (IASSL) December 2024**

[certificate ↗](#)

- Presented the poster titled “What Makes Europeans’ Smiles Brighter?” at the International Statistics Conference 2024 held at Cinnamon Lakeside. Explored key factors that influence happiness indices in European countries compared to Asian countries.

### **Winner Team – Intra-Faculty Chess Team Tournament**

- Represented the Faculty of Applied Sciences and led the team to victory in the Intra-Faculty Chess Tournament, showcasing strong strategic thinking and collaboration.

## **Skills**

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**Programming Languages:** Python, R, LaTeX

**Statistical Software:** SAS, IBM SPSS, Minitab, Power BI

**Office Software:** Microsoft Office Suite

**Soft Skills:** Event Management, People Management, Communication, Teamwork, Problem-solving, Leadership, Adaptability, Time Management

## **Projects**

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### **Tracer Study of Nursing Graduates – State University**

**2025**

- Standardized over 1,000 open-ended job titles into WHO/ILO occupational groups, enabling structured labor market analysis.
- Applied qualitative text analysis (thematic coding) to graduates' improvement suggestions, aligning results with global nursing education frameworks.
- Developed classification models (SVM, Bagging, Random Forest) with resampling strategies (random oversampling, SMOTE-NC) to predict employment outcomes under severe class imbalance.
- Provided actionable insights for curriculum developers and policymakers, highlighting key areas such as clinical hours, teaching methods, and career guidance.

### **Survey-Based Project on Rice Nematode Infestation**

**2025**

- Project is based on field survey across multiple rice-growing regions.
- Mapped infestation levels using GPS-based spatial analysis, producing clear site-wise and ecological zone visualizations.
- Applied exploratory and inferential statistics in R, linking agro-ecological, farmer, and soil factors to nematode incidence and severity.
- Built negative binomial regression models in SAS, resolving issues of multicollinearity and sparse categories through variable recoding and VIF diagnostics.

### **Nova Retail Analytics Project – Power BI Dashboard**

**2025**

- Developed an interactive Power BI dashboard for a retail company, analyzing sales drivers, promotions, and discount effectiveness [Dashboard ↗](#)
- Cleaned and structured raw data by creating a time dimension table and categorizing holidays, salary days, and promotion types.
- Identified high-ROI promotions (vendor, multibuy) and weak discount strategies, providing targeted recommendations.
- Delivered actionable insights to improve campaign planning and optimize promotional budgets.

### **Interactive Naive Bayes Classifier – R Shiny App**

**2025**

- Built a Shiny web application enabling users to upload datasets, select target variables, and interactively adjust predictors [App ↗](#)
- Implemented a Naive Bayes model (`e1071::naiveBayes`) with Laplace smoothing to compute real-time class probabilities.
- Designed an interface that makes predictive uncertainty transparent, improving interpretability for non-technical users.
- Strengthened practical knowledge of probabilistic models by translating theory into an interactive, user-friendly tool.

## References

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- **Dr. Thiyanga Talagala**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Statistics, USJ  
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- **Dr. Chathuri Jayasinghe**  
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