**Q1 Tell us about your current financial situation. Why do you need assistance?**

I am currently living in India and though I am doing a job, but certainly the job is low paid. In India the level of income is much less compare to the economically developed countries. Also the unemployment rate is much higher in India and every employees need to updated skill to avoid the job loss scenario. Beside I am the only earning member in the family. I have total five members in my family. The course fee is more than eleven thousands Indian rupees, which is about half of my monthly income. Currently I did not have my own house and living in a rented apartment. I also have loans for the medical treatment of my parents. I want to take this course so that I can learn new technique which will help me to get better job. Currently I am doing job in the metallurgical sector, but I want to do job in the Information Technology sector. I would get better job opportunity if I go to the Information technology sector. Currently I have no IT skill to get the job. I feel that this course will help me filled that gap between my currently skill and the skill my future employer will required. There is lack of quality statistical learning courses offered in the Universities where I currently live. I lived in a small town name Ranchi in India. To complete the course I need to submit the graded assignments. I also need to have the course note available to me after the course ends. For this I need to be enrolled in the verified track. If edx.org kindly provided financial assistance to me it will be a great help. I am willing to pay the discounted amount will be obliged by your kind help.

**Q2 Tell us about your learning or professional goals. How will a Verified Certificate in this course help you achieve these goals?**

My main professional goal is to learn statistics, machine learning and data science. Though I have no back ground in code writing of particularly in statistics but I really want to learn and to progress in my career. I have taken some free learning material and courses which are legally available in online platforms and now I think I am ready to go deeper in the field of machine learning and data science. Programming requires constant learning and improving. Taking this course will help me to learn and study this Data Science and also to implement it. It can help me advance in my knowledge. This course will help me in defining Data Science, understanding how R language could potentially impact our business and industry, to write a thought leadership piece regarding use cases and industry potential of Data Science, explain Data Science to clients, friends, joining a community of economists, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and technologists that are shaping this technology as we speak. Identifying which aspects of Data Science seem most important and relevant to us, Walking away with a strong foundation in where Data Science is going, what it does, and how to prepare for it. Data Science course will help me achieve it to learn. My chance of getting job will certainly be improved if I have a verified certificate from EDX. EDX and the Universities associated with EDX are always held with high regards everywhere in the world. The quality of education provided in EDX is top notch quality. But my claim to learn a subject from EDX would required the verified certificate and grading. So a verified certificate will be very much essential for me for job prospect.

**Q3. Tell us about your plans for this course. What steps will you take to help you complete the course work and receive a certificate?**

I have go through the content of the courses. I have also downloaded the course companion textbook "Introduction to Statistical Learning" from the author's website. I also devoted my times for the past few months learning R and reading statistical methods. The course said that the the prerequisite for the courses are linear algebra, basic statistics course and computing. I have learned the linear algebra from online open course ware offered by Universities, and R programming and statistical analysis. So I think I am ready for the course. The course information page also mention that the it will take three to five hour per week for the course. I can definitely manage the time and willing to do the reading, and homework assignment. I have also read single variable calculus which may required for the course. Regarding programming I have learned how to write R script and share the document in mark down file which can be share to the peer for peer reviewed grading. I also willing to work for the course after my working hours and also in the week end to meet the deadline of submitting the assignment. If there is required to check the peers assignment for grading then I am also ready to check the peer assignment. I have taken free recourses to make data visualization which can be used to understand the data. Additionally I have also taken some introductory courses in GNU-Octave to understand the linear algebra. I think these steps will help me to complete the course work.