2019, a transformational year in my career. It is the year I move back to my home country, India and take on an exciting role with a start-up, Carpe-datum Analytics, Inc. as Chief Data Scientist focusing on education analytics. The start-up is looking to develop a data product that will help predict student success and enable schools to customize curriculum to maximize student potential. Disruption caused by availability of high speed internet combined with MOOCs has made India a booming talent base for data science professionals. I work with HR to hire a team of talented and entrepreneurial data scientists.

Data Science is a team sport. I work with my team to collectively define an agenda for next 3 years. The team is divided into groups focusing on market research, data infrastructure, data product development. We tap into the capabilities offered by Amazon to set-up a scalable cloud based infrastructure. Team reaches out to state government school board, but face lukewarm response due to bureaucracy and government red tape. We re-focus our efforts towards private school systems where there is larger amount of money to invest and greater desire to differentiate themselves. We gather data from several schools across metropolitan regions and build a beta of the data product. We share early insights to some of the participants to generate interest in the product. 2020 is focused on refining the product by offering it to early subscribers for free, but seeking greater participation. Team works with these subscriber schools to record several additional data points such as homework completion rate, time-invested by parents, extra classes taken outside etc. We conduct A/B testing by implementing product recommendations in some classes and comparing the results against a control group. We continue to feed the results and continue to train the machine learning model. 2021, we take our product to market and receive excellent response from schools. The team is conferred a state award for its contribution to education. Management is proud of team’s accomplishments and I am ready for my next challenge.