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Statement of Purpose: Engineering Management

Plato posited that the truest forms of the universe are hidden from us; that no perfect circle or sphere exists in nature, however close they may approach flawlessness. Interestingly, Bernoulli's weak law of large numbers, which states that the average of the results from a very large sample of observations or experiments converges to the expected value, allows us to observe a physical manifestation of Plato's theory. I'm grateful to these contributions, for without them, we might never have witnessed the discourse between Nekrasov and Markov, and the ultimate emergence of Markov chains. The idea of Markov chains particularly piques my interest because it claims that each outcome, be it a dependent variable or an independent one, relies on the set of previous outcomes. I was drawn to this topic while working on my Acceptance Sampling & Six Sigma Strategy seminar for the Operations Management course. The binomial distribution curve is itself a feat of nature, but modifying a mass manufacturing process to fit production within the control limits of the desired quality is its intelligent extension.

While my robust undergrad curriculum has whetted my analytical skills, I still feel the need to augment my expertise in the management field. Thus, an Engineering Management degree is the next logical step in my professional journey. I'm particularly drawn towards the Management Consulting concentration that Cornell offers its students since I envision myself working in this sector. Having been an intern at a journalism firm (NewsGram) and a board member of the official news body at university, I would enjoy working with clients from the media industry. According to Bain & Company, the media and entertainment industries are currently experiencing massive digital revolutions, so there is prediction for a huge need of consultants in this field to help media firms capitalize on this disruption. However, the beauty of management consulting to me is that I could work with any firm specializing in any field over the entire gamut of businesses – which allows consultants to never halt learning.

My passion for business propositions invigorated during internship in Africa, where I was on a Global Volunteer program facilitated by AIESEC, an international youth leadership organization. My primary campaign was an endeavor to spread awareness about the importance of university education in Mauritius, through series of interviews and online outreach. Some extra free time on my hands encouraged me to participate in an entrepreneurial project of helping a local woman to grow her business of pickles. It proved to be a multidimensional task, requiring elements of teamwork, understanding her clientele and competitors, finding out ideal location to set shop, and lastly promotion.

My minor in Business Management afforded me an academic perspective on the dynamics of business through courses like Engineering Economics, Marketing, Financial Management, Operations and Human Resources. As an engineering student, the four consecutive mathematics courses in my earlier semesters have helped me build a strong base in statistics, calculus and probability. My Mechatronics major allowed me a study of programming-intensive courses like Programmable Logic Controller, Microcontrollers, Mechatronics System Design (ARM cortex controllers) – all of which required machine language codes and embedded C.

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In the summer of 2017, I interned at Fortuna Financial Services, a listed firm at the Bombay Stock Exchange. As part of the foundation team of Safal Finserv, a microfinance product, I aimed to forge collaboration with as many academic tuition classes as possible in Mumbai and Nasik (a tier 2 city) to gain exclusive rights as loan financing partners for their students. After gathering preliminary knowledge of how well our customers were receiving the product, our team began testing the online portal, which would be used to document students' details. This internship strengthened my concepts of time value of money that I had learnt in my finance courses at college, taught me the valuable modes of data presentation (like Pivot Tables) and exposed me to technical terms like repossession rate for loans.

College life at Manipal has been pivotal to my personal growth. Living in a rural town 700 kilometers away from home in Mumbai has definitely molded me into a responsible individual. Being a potpourri of cultures from all corners of India and even abroad from a few African and Asian nations, I was able to snap out of my parochial views that a typical city life had conferred on me and explore other ideologies. A number of extracurricular activities at college festivals and otherwise helped me achieve a well-rounded development. After working for 3 semesters at the official media body of our college, The MIT Post, I served as a board member in the position of Head of Reporting – International. Mentoring first year students over the basics of journalism and the research to support it inadvertently honed my own skills – after all, we learn best while teaching others.

I've long experienced an immense empathy for the LGBTQ+ community since my adolescence, which I was able to channel into something substantial when I came across a few like-minded individuals in Manipal. After countless deliberations, solicitation of advice from professors and meetings with the director of our university, the Queer & Ally Network was successfully established to spread awareness about and provide a safe space for the queer community. Taking a bold step against the backdrop of criminalization of gays in India, the organization holds film screenings and debates moderated by humanities professors. I would love to establish, or work with, a similar organization at Cornell.

I'm confident that I can thrive in an international setting because of my previous experience working with an international team in Mauritius. I've also stayed with a French family for six weeks in Rodez, a small town in southern France, as an English teacher for the family. The local populace hardly knew English, so I had ample opportunity to speak the French I had been learning over the past two years at *Alliance Francaise*. Adapting to the culture came so naturally to me that I left the country addicted their *fromage* and *vin blanc*.

Should I receive an admit from Cornell University, I would be enthused to work with Professor Ricardo A Daziano in his research over econometrics of consumer behavior with respect to technological innovation in transportation since it would allow me to play with topics I love and understand – statistics, sociology & market research, and Mechatronics (in case of self-driven cars). I would also like to assist Professor Huaizhu Oliver Gao in his research in experimental operations management, having already studied its basics in Manipal. I believe I have the adequate skill set and the research interests to thrive in Engineering Management courses, and I look forward to attending classes at Cornell University.