ACM-W Chennai Regional Celebration of Women in Computing2020, 10th October 2020

ACM-W Chennai Regional celebration of women in computing 2020 was organized by ACM-W Chennai Professional Chapter along with the ACM-W Student Chapters of SSN College of Engineering, SRM Institute of Science, VIT Chennai and Easwari Engineering College on 10th October 2020 with the theme "Artificial Intelligence for Social Good". It was mainly intended for Indian women undergraduate students to provide specialized knowledge and career advice in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning and Data Analytics. Due to the prevailing pandemic scenario, the event was organized in virtual mode on the Zoom online platform.

The event was started by Dr. Chitra Babu, Professor & Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SSN College of Engineering (Autonomous), Member of ACM-W India Council. Dr Heena Timani, ACM W India Council Chair, Data Scientist, Co-Founder & Director of iAnanya Datalytix Pvt. Ltd. delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Heena highlighted the entire spectrum of benefits of ACM-W membership and took the opportunity to brief about past events as well as upcoming events that are going to be held under the banner of ACM India. She talked about ACM E-learning resources, ACM Digital library, and organization of summer/winter schools, Hackathon and programming contests that are specifically targeted for female students.

Dr. Mukta Paliwal, Persistent Systems, AWS certified ML Specialist, ACM India Eminent Speaker, delivered the keynote address on the topic"What is Responsible AI".She explained the Responsible AI framework that consists of methods and practices that should be adapted while developing AI based systems and software. Dr.Mukta showed several examples such as Deep Fake videos illustrating why Responsible AI is important while building AI based systems. Also, she covered the application of AI in various sectors such as Healthcare and Medicine, Banking and Finance, E-commerce, Social Media, Agriculture, Autonomous Vehicles, Robotics, Astronomy and Entertainment. The session was very useful and informative for the young minds. The feedback of the audience was collected through Mentimeter.

Dr. Mukta Paliwal, Persistent Systems, AWS certified ML Specialist, ACM India Eminent Speaker
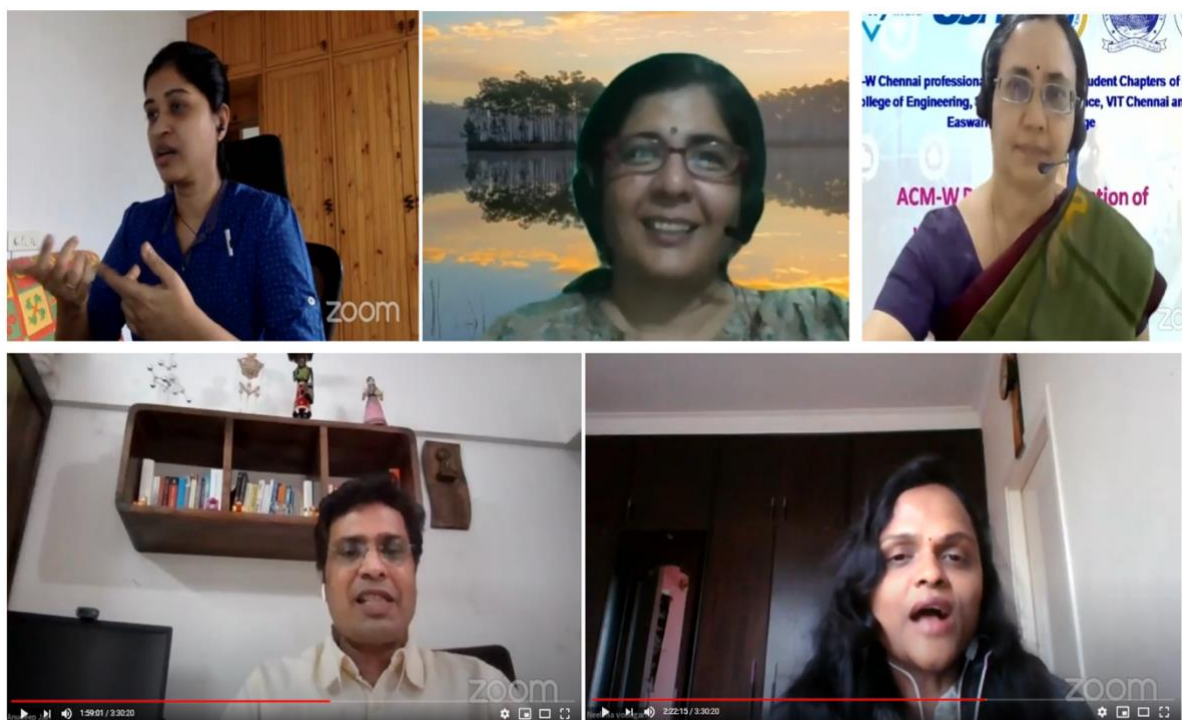
Following the keynote talk, there was a panel discussion on the topic "Preparing for successful careers in AI, ML and Data Science". This panel was moderated by Dr. Chitra Babu. She set the context for the panel discussion with the following narrative: Over the past decade data in every consumable field data has grown exponentially in terms of volume and variety. The availability of huge archival and historical data has opened up fresh opportunities for every business to analyse the data, finding interesting patterns and drive valuable insights for the future decision-making. Artificial Intelligence and machine learning have made huge strides in the past decade. Especially deep learning, a sub filed of machine learning has made phenomenal inroads in solving problems in the area of image analysis, language translation and speech recognition.

Dr. Chitra Babu introduced the panel members:

1. Dr.Kalika Bali, Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research Labs, Bangalore.

2. Ms. Neelima Vobugari, CEO, Tarah AI, Bangalore.

3. Ms. Shachi Dave, Research Engineer and founding member of the Natural

   Language Understanding Group at Google Research India, Bangalore.

4. Mr. Anudeep Jain, Senior Manager - Product development, FIS Global, Pune.

This has created significant interest in devising and deploying AI and ML based solutions in most of the industry verticals such as healthcare, finance, retail, energy, manufacturing, agriculture and education. This has created a huge demand for workforce that is well trained in areas such AI, M. As different industries are attempting to maximize their productivity through data analytics, it has also become important for the work force to be adequately trained in these technologies.

During the first round, all the panel members shared their experiences about working in the area of AI, ML and Data Science as well as their thoughts on the potential career opportunities in these domains and how the students should equip themselves with the right kind of skills while they are in the college.

Shachi discussed her career at Google focusing on NLP. She emphasized on three aspects that are important for any undergraduate student to distinguish themselves in career. 1. Curiosity: apart from theoretical background, she asked the students to equip themselves by reading current literature on recent innovations. 2. Practice: She insisted the importance of practicing whatever was learnt and applying the theoretical knowledge to solve real word problems. She also advised the students to participate in Hackathon, implement project ideas, post the code in

Github. 3. Mock interviews: She reiterated how important it is for the students to prepare well for the interviews so that they can confidently talk about the things that are mentioned in their resume.

Mr. Anudeep began with the very famous quote "In GOD we trust, all others must bring data" by Dr.W. Edwards Deming. He observed that AI, ML and data science is all about data as the new oil to be used for decision-making. He highlighted the career opportunities for the students in financial sector and emphasized how market sentiment Analysis is one of the important problems in the financial domain. He also reiterated that professional disposition and strong understanding of the problem are very important to succeed in career in addition to technical knowledge.

Dr.Kalika shared her experiences on interviewing candidates for **research fellow programs** at Microsoft. Nearly, MSR has been interviewing 1000+ students every year. The interview panel expects the broader perspective from students regarding why they are doing what they are doing.

Apart from practicing rigorous coding, she insisted the students to think about the problem, why the problem is important to solve. She observed that most of the times, the students have the technical knowledge, but they struggle with how to apply this to solve the real-life problems. She advised the students to break complex problems into smaller parts and attempt solving the smaller parts so that it becomes more concrete and tangible. Moreover, she also conveyed that the students have to understand the need of the user and be sensitive to the user implications as well as social implications while developing AI and ML based systems.

Ms. Neelima Vobugari, CEO, Tarah AI, pointed out how it is a very good time to get into this exciting field of AI, ML and Data Science. She also inspired the students by narrating her own experiences of launching a startup and how she efficiently manages her work and family. She urged the students to develop prototype projects using the current technologies. She also indicated that healthcare domain will be a top priority one to benefit from AI based solutions. The panelists patiently answered the questions of enthusiastic audience.

It was concluded that the students should develop sound technical knowledge, skills in programming languages such as Python, ML/DL frameworks, passion for problem-solving and healthy professional attitude to land in successful dream careers in DataScience.
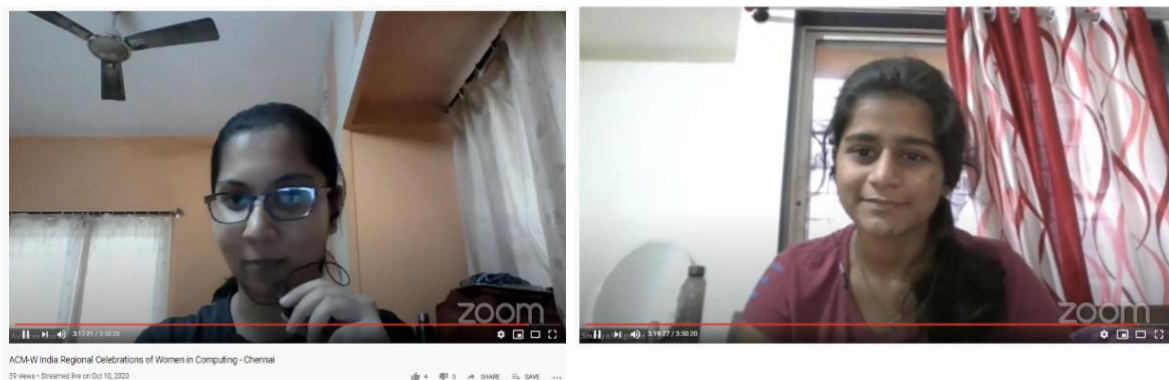
ACM-W Regional Celebrations 2020: Coding League

As part of this event, a competitive coding contest named as "CodingLeague" exclusively meant for female students was conducted on HackerRank with over 600 registered participants from over 25 institutions all across India.

This competition was hosted in HackerRank on 2nd October. In the preliminary round that was conducted from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, more than 250 female students participated. Among them, 40 were shortlisted and the final round was conducted between 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm on the same day.

The **second prize winner** for the CodingLeague event is **Soumya Malgonde** from Pune Institute of Computer Technology. She is a 3rd year B.Tech student from the IT department. She received an Amazon gift voucher worth of **Rs. 2000/**

And the **winner is Avishree Khare** from BITS Pilani, Goa campus. She's a 4th year B.Tech student from the CSE department. She received an Amazon gift voucher worth of **Rs. 3000/**

The prize-winners shared their positive experience with their participation in CodingLeague. Amidst the distressing pandemic, this celebration event invigorated everyone with its exceptionally well organised sequence of sessions and it received very good feedback from the participants.

Event Feedback collected using Mentimeter

How was your experience with the ACM-W India - Chennai Regional celebrations event?

Mentimeter

| Good | It was very interesting and informative. | A well organised informative session. |

| The information acquired during the session is extremely valuable. Thanks for the experience. | Very good | Fun and insightful |

| | Very informative.The panel discussion was amazing. | It was very insightful! |

| Informative | | |

How was your experience with the ACM-W India - Chennai Regional celebrations event?

Mentimeter

| Insightful and fun! Enjoyed the keynote and panel discussions :) | It was interesting, informative and productive. | Very nice |

| Fun panel discussion and Informative keynote address! | It was a wonderful experience being a part of this webinar | It was a really informative and interesting session |

| it was really good .very informative . | It was an enriching and informative session! | It was really well done and organized, especially given the pandemic situation. |

How was your experience with the ACM-W India - Chennai Regional celebrations event?

Mentimeter

| It was very informative. I learnt a lot from this event. | It was a very informative session | Very useful and informative. Thank you |