

Deepak Varuvel Dennison

 ddeepak95.com |  dv292@cornell.edu

Research Interests

My research is focused on **developing and evaluating culturally-aligned AI Systems for the Global South**. Broadly, I am interested in **Human-Computer Interaction, Human-AI Interaction, Responsible AI, and Learning Sciences**.

Education

Cornell University , PhD in Information Science	Aug'24 - Present
Stanford University , MS Learning Design and Technology	Aug'22 - Aug'23
Ashoka University , PG Diploma in Liberal Studies	Jun'17 - Jun'18
SSN College of Engineering , BE Biomedical Engineering	Jun'12 - May'16

Experience

Research Intern , Microsoft Research	Jun'25 - Aug'25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examined how culturally aligned AI systems are developed for social good applications in non-Western contexts.	
Research Assistant , Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence	Jun'23 - May'24
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built educational tools leveraging AI technologies for supporting teachers and students in their classroom teaching/learning processes.• Built the AI-Feedback feature for Code In Place, a large-scale coding course offered by Stanford, to provide automated feedback to section leaders and students leading to improvement in learning outcomes.• Developed a web-based learning tool to empower students to utilize LLMs critically and effectively in their writing processes.	
Operations & Technology Manager , Infant Jesus Matric Hr Sec School	Jul'18 - Jul'22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handled and optimized the operations of a K-12 school with 1200 students by integrating technology-enabled processes.• Received several awards for designing and implementing initiatives for nurturing maker culture and improving reading ability among students across India.	
UI/UX Designer , Zoho Corporation	Jun'16 - Jun'17
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed user-centric interfaces for an IT-helpdesk software that caters to around 100,000+ teams worldwide.	

Technical Skills

- **Web Development:** Next.js, React, Streamlit, Firebase
- **Scripting & Automation:** Python, Node.js, Appscript, AWS Lambda
- **UI/UX Design:** Figma, Adobe XD, Balsamiq
- **Prototyping:** Lasercutting, 3D Printing, Raspberry Pi, Arduino
- **Content Creation:** Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, LaTeX

Publications

Designing Culturally Aligned AI Systems For Social Good in Non-Western Contexts

Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Mohit Jain, Tanuja Ganu, Aditya Vashistha

Under Review

Teacher-AI Collaboration for Curating and Customizing Lesson Plans in Low-Resource Schools

Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Bakhtawar Ahtisham, Kavyansh Chourasia, Nirmal Arora, Rahul Singh, Rene F. Kizilcec, Akshay Nambi, Tanuja Ganu, Aditya Vashistha

Under Review

Does Increased Choice over Learning Topic Improve the Effectiveness of Automated Feedback for Educators? [\[🔗\]](#)

Dorotya Demszky, Heather C. Hill, Eric S. Taylor, Ashlee Kupor, Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Chris Piech

Education Sciences

From Consumers to Critical Users: Promptly, an AI Literacy Tool For High School Students [\[🔗\]](#)

Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Raycelle C C Garcia, Parth Sarin, Jacob Wolf, Christine Bywater, Benjamin Xie and Victor Lee

The Thirty-Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-24)

Co-designing AI Education Curriculum with Cross-Disciplinary High School Teachers [\[🔗\]](#)

Benjamin Xie, Parth Sarin,* Jacob Wolf,* Raycelle C. C. Garcia, Victoria Delaney, Isabel Sieh, Anika Fuloria, Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Christine Bywater, Victor R. Lee

The Thirty-Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-24)

Evaluating LLMs' Generation of Growth-Mindset Supportive Teacher Language [\[🔗\]](#)

Margarett Clapper, Cameron Hecht, Michaela Jones, Nirel Jonesmitchell, Meghann Johnson, Deepak Varuvel Dennison, Dorotya Demszky and David Yeager

AIED2023 Workshop: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Educational Technology Research and Development

Awards

GSE Fellowship , Stanford University	2023
UNLEASH Plus Finalist , UNLEASH	2022
Winners - Open Innovation Challenge , Government of Tamil Nadu	2022
Winners - Youth for Earth , The Climate Reality Project	2021
Star Educator 2020 - Excellence in Digital Innovation , Learning Matter	2020
Mother Teresa Fellow , Center for Social Impact & Philanthropy, Ashoka University	2019
Torchbearer , Young India Fellowship , Ashoka University	2018
Academic Top Rank Holder , Anna University	2016

Media Features

EducationWeek[\[🔗\]](#)

"AI Can Make Education More Personal (Yes, Really)"

Freethink[\[🔗\]](#)

"Stanford study finds AI improves the performance of teachers and students"

ABC7 News[\[🔗\]](#)

"How will AI be taught in classrooms? These Bay Area teachers are integrating it into lessons"

The Hindu[🔗]

“Chennai Corporation’s vaccination portal gets a good response”

The Indian Express[🔗]

“TN polls: Global Shapers Chennai Hub comes up with website to help voters make informed decisions before voting”

Other Selected Projects

CESTA Digital Anthology, Stanford University, Software Architect

Jan’24 - May’24

- Designed and developed the CESTA Digital Anthology System from scratch to facilitate the publication of Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis’s scientific works by both faculty and students.
- Architected a Quarto-based system integrated with GitHub and designed processes that enable both technical and non-technical authors to contribute to the anthology.

Tales For Tweens, Creator

Sep’21 - July’22

- Created an inclusive, progressive storybook for young Indians on themes like body positivity, financial literacy, climate change, and mental health — selling over 2,000 copies.

GCC COVID-19 Vaccination Portal, UI/UX Lead

Jun’21 - Aug’21

- Designed the COVID-19 vaccination appointment portal of Greater Chennai Corporation in partnership with the state government.
- The portal facilitated over 2,19,000 vaccinations and was awarded by the government for its effectiveness and ease of use.

Election Promises, Tech & Design Lead

Feb’21 - May’21

- Developed a platform that allowed voters to compare party promises and candidate information during the Tamil Nadu 2021 Legislative Assembly Elections, facilitating informed voting choices.
- Designed marketing creatives and assisted in content translation from English to Tamil and vice versa. The platform reached 12 million+ views and was widely acclaimed.

Service

Student Volunteer, Thought Summit: LLMs & Society

2025

Reviewer, ACM CHI

2025

Research Consultant, Pratham Education Foundation

2023-2024

Organizer, GSE Design Collective, Stanford University

2022-2023

Impact Officer, Global Shapers Hub - Chennai, World Economic Forum

2020-2021