

# Deepak Varuvel Dennison

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## Research Interests

My research focuses on **AI-based educational technologies for non-native English speakers** and the development of **AI systems to serve the Global South**. My skill set spans **software development, statistical analysis, and qualitative methods**, enabling mixed-methods research that bridges technical approaches and social science perspectives.

## Education

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

## Experience

<b>Research Intern</b> , Microsoft Research	Jun'25 - Aug'25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Examined how culturally aligned AI systems are developed for social good applications to support learning and knowledge sharing in diverse global environments.</li></ul>	
<b>Research Assistant</b> , Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence	Jun'23 - May'24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Built EdTech tools leveraging AI technologies for supporting teachers and students in their classroom teaching/learning processes.</li><li>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.</li><li>Developed a web-based learning tool to empower students to utilize LLMs critically and effectively in their writing processes.</li></ul>	
<b>Operations &amp; Technology Manager</b> , Infant Jesus Matric Hr Sec School	Jul'18 - Jul'22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Handled and optimized the operations of a K-12 school with 1200 students by integrating technology-enabled operational processes and pedagogical enhancements.</li><li>Received several awards for designing and implementing initiatives for nurturing maker culture and improving reading ability among students across India.</li></ul>	
<b>UI/UX Designer</b> , Zoho Corporation	Jun'16 - Jun'17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designed user-centric interfaces for an IT-helpdesk software that caters to around 100,000+ teams worldwide.</li></ul>	

## Technical Skills

- Web Development:** Javascript Frameworks(Next, React, Astro), Streamlit, Databases (Firestore, Supabase)
- Scripting & Automation:** Python, Node.js, Appscript, AWS Lambda, GC Functions
- UI/UX Design:** Figma, Adobe XD, Balsamiq
- Physical Prototyping:** Lasercutting, 3D Printing, Raspberry Pi, Arduino
- Content Creation:** Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Audition, LaTeX

## Ongoing Project

### ConvoEd: Personalized Learning through Conversations [🔗]

- Designing and developing an voice-based AI learning and assessment platform that supports learners through conversational interactions in their native language, with the goal of reducing language barriers and strengthening conceptual understanding.

## Publications

### Holes in the web: An Essay on the Knowledge Gaps in Generative AI [🔗]

Deepak Varuvel Dennison

Aeon | Republished in *The Guardian*[🔗] | 🏆 Featured in the Five Great Reads

### Designing Culturally Aligned AI Systems For Social Good in Non-Western Contexts [🔗]

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

Accepted to CHI 2026

### Teacher-AI Collaboration for Curating and Customizing Lesson Plans in Low-Resource Schools [🔗]

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

Accepted to CSCW'26

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

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

*Education Sciences*

### From Consumers to Critical Users: Prompty, 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, Dorrotya Demszky and David Yeager

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

## Awards

Graduate Resident Fellow, Cornell University	2026
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

<b>Mother Teresa Fellow</b> , Center for Social Impact & Philanthropy, Ashoka University	2019
<b>Torchbearer, Young India Fellowship</b> , Ashoka University	2018
<b>Academic Top Rank Holder</b> , Anna University	2016

## Media Features

### Vogue

*“Could AI Drive Indigenous Knowledge Out of Fashion?”*

### Freethink

*“Stanford study finds AI improves the performance of teachers and students”*

### Homegrown

*“A Children’s Book With Progressive & Inclusive Stories”*

### The Hindu

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

### The Indian Express

*“Global Shapers 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 positive impact.

**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

**Admissions Representative**, Information Science Graduate Student Organization 2025

**Student Volunteer**, Global AI 2025, 2026

**Reviewer**, ACM FAccT 2026

**Reviewer**, ACM CHI 2025, 2026

**Organizer**, GSE Design Collective, Stanford University 2023

**Impact Officer**, Global Shapers Hub - Chennai, World Economic Forum 2021