**Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds.  Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc.  Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the University of Washington.**

I belong to country where culture is deeply embedded our lives. India’s culture is often labeled as the amalgamation of several cultures. I went to a school where all my friends are from different regions of India, they speak different languages, practice different traditions, eat a variety of food cuisines and celebrate many colorful festivals with fervor. As I grew up, I celebrated my living with this vibrant culture palate.

However, despite this vibrancy, there are some dark spots too which I have noticed in our culture. Girls do not get equal rights, especially the right to education in India. This situation has massively improved since Independence but it still lingers on. Even today, parents tend to save money for a girl’s dowry rather than spending it on her education. My grandmother is an example of this dark custom. She was denied even basic education but she stood up to this prejudice. Even though she couldn’t attain education, she made sure that girls in our family didn’t lose this right. Thanks to her and my grandfather, my mother and my aunt didn’t lose education, but they had to fight for it. My education is a testimony of their efforts and will power. This was why whenever my grandmother looks at me, she has a glint of pride in her eyes as I am the only one in our family who is getting ready to fly out of the nest, to the vast world outside India, to pursue higher education.

The vibrant culture, the living with people from different backgrounds and the fact that I am the product of a small rebellion, make me the perfect combination for the cultural diversity at the University of Washington.