

Please tell us more about your cultural background and identity in the space below (100 word limit). If you need more than 100 words, please use the Optional section on Part 2.

Until a year ago, most people referred to me as a “coconut”- brown on the outside but bearing a cosmopolitan flair on the inside. I was regularly criticised for learning English before Bengali and familiarising myself with Wordsworth and Shakespeare before Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray. That, however, has recently changed. My time in India has allowed me to flourish and appreciate my own roots from learning about India’s rich history to Bengali cultural festivals. My unique perspective as an ex-“coconut” not only allows me to respect all cultures but imbibes me with pride for my own culture.

We know you lead a busy life, full of activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do for the pleasure of it. (*) (100 words or fewer)

When I was six, my mom got me a monkey bar. It was her solution to an ostensibly perennial stagnation of my height. At first, I detested it- nevertheless, imagination was my saviour and I concocted sequences, assimilated to rhythms and at the end of my sequence, I felt rejuvenated. The monkey bar allowed me to traverse into a halcyon reverie, reassuring me that it was okay to be in limbo. Although my feet now touches the ground, I still retreat to monkey bar, nestled across my bedroom door, every once in a while to dream, create and grow.

Although you may not yet know what you want to major in, which department or program at MIT appeals to you and why? (*) (100 words or fewer)

Computer Science and Mathematics has always captivated me. Since middle school, I developed games and prototype applications alike. Presently, I am conducting Natural Language Processing research to generate dyslexia-friendly text. My enthusiasm for Computer Science’s applications in finance, however, spawned when I devised an algorithm to help expatriate families plan finances. Since then, my interest burgeoned

and hence, for my Extended Essay, I began mathematically modeling financial time series using Fourier Analysis and comparing my model to orthodox stochastic methods. Given my intensifying enthusiasm with the field of computational finance, MIT's 6-14 program appeals to me the most.

At MIT, we bring people together to better the lives of others. MIT students work to improve their communities in different ways, from tackling the world's biggest challenges to being a good friend. Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community, whether in your family, the classroom, your neighborhood, etc. (*) (200-250 words)

Everyday in our classrooms and on media, individuals are asked to change the world. Most people aspire to jump aboard the bandwagon and with good reason- the overarching cause is truly magnificent, but how do you change the world, if you do not talk about what you want to change and how you want to change it? While students are increasingly socially aware, there exists almost no platform for students in most schools in Dubai to put forth their voices, voices that often precede meaningful action.

My team and I identified this problem and started to work on it. Enter Cambridge Talks- the first such event in our school where students actively deliberated and proposed solutions to improve the school community and the immediate neighbourhood- because change starts at home. We ensured that students had the liberty to best express themselves through music, poetry or orthodox discourse. The event translated into students organizing an iftar campaign for construction workers and bake sales for

charity in our school. Subsequently, inspired by the success of the event, my team and I decided to organise a more ambitious TEDxYouth Conference, open to all university and highschool students nationally. The event, which received media attention, aimed to foster a commitment towards socially-inclined goals and discussed several agendas from helping people overcome disability to identifying covert sexism, all under the theme of 'Transforming the World'.

Describe the world you come from; for example, your family, clubs, school, community, city, or town. How has that world shaped your dreams and aspirations? (*) (200-250 words)

"Mumbai Meri Jaan" ("Bombay's my life") is a phrase tossed around in the jamboree of conversations in this city. Ask any Mumbaikar (even me, a denizen for only a year) and we'll all acquiesce that there's something seductive about the "city of dreams".

As the Bombay Stock Exchange roars, and trains filled with dreams rush to the city's commercial center every morning, I am reminded of the power of aspirations. After a relatively chaotic start, Mumbai (itself reclaimed from the sea) has enabled me to reclaim my own ambitions of becoming a quantitative analyst / researcher and appearing on the Forbes 30 under 30 for finance. The dynamic start up environment, driven by ardent minds ferments my enthusiasm to eventually establish my own firm. The spirits of the diverse range of individuals I have interacted with and their transformations reaffirm that indeed, everything is possible with perseverance and hardwork.

Yet, there's a pureness to the ambition in Mumbai- a manager at Morgan Stanley volunteers to teach underprivileged children Mathematics every weekend alongside me while citizens open their homes to strangers during annual monsoon deluges. The city's yearning to do good, amalgamating with my middle-class family's struggle, means that I now look at the bigger picture. By this token, it is my long term aspiration to establish a

MOOC or a school sans tuition, because to me, whenever I see my dad regret his lack of formal education, I am reminded of education's transformative impact and how it should be an inalienable right.