The readings that have been chosen, resonate with the interesting and intriguing juxtaposition, and possibilities - some beneficial, some not so beneficial - that Big Data and Artificial Intelligence throws up. In an article by Fleishman, T. (2021, Oct. 28), 'Big data can render some as 'low-resolution citizens', Cornell Chronicle, (https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/10/big-data-can-render-some-low-resolution-citizens), writes on a study that looks at 'Aadhaar', the Government of India's biometrics-based individual identification system, which aims to provide standardized legal identity to all of India's 1.25 billion registered residents. Aadhaar, the world's largest biometrics-based identification database, is taken as a test case, to highlight the "deep relationship between the way of life of a person and what is recorded and registered about them on a database" (*Big Data Can Render Some as 'Low-resolution Citizens' | Cornell Chronicle*, 2021). The study itself, "Seeing Like an Infrastructure: Low-resolution Citizens and the Aadhaar Identification Project," (*Big Data Can Render Some as 'Low-resolution Citizens' | Cornell Chronicle*, 2021) by Ranjit Singh, Ph.D. '20, and his collaborator, Steven Jackson, "was interested in the disconnect, if any, between the plans for implementing Aadhaar, and the reality on the ground for the citizens participating in the program". (*Big Data Can Render Some as 'Low-resolution Citizens' | Cornell Chronicle*, 2021)

The study opined that a) if you make Aadhaar's three key processes—enrollment, seeding, and authentication - and access a little bit more difficult for some people, it would make certain people's lives a little bit harder, and b) even universal or inclusive systems that are devised in good faith, could end up being differentiating in outcome. And that this differentiating could contribute to inequality and the curtailment of the rights and entitlements of some citizens.

Mason, E. A. (2018, January 9). *Opinion | A.I. and Big Data Could Power a New War on Poverty*. The New York Times. (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/01/opinion/ai-and-big-data-could-power-a-new-war-on-poverty.html), argues forcefully that big-data and artificial intelligence, rather than being viewed suspiciously and dismissed as conspirators of pandemonium and disorder, could be a catalyst, even a new linchpin in fighting poverty and aiding in the promotion of economic stability. The Op-Ed article opines that artificial intelligence and big data offers the vision of a meritocratic and technocratic society, and an unbiased, ideology-free evaluation of the effectiveness of the government's social programs. Admittedly, Big Data, where machines are provided with tons of structured, unstructured and semi structured data sets, is the new fuel, the new lubricant, the new oil. Big Data is also emblematic of the 'New Age', an age of algorithms, disruptive technologies, computation and neural networks, that have infiltrated and penetrated every aspect of our lives. But Big Data and the collection and marshalling of data bring with it, contrarian views, and translates into unique challenges and benefits, as well as tangible pitfalls. Big Data, unnervingly sits, amplifying the good, while echoing the shrillness of manipulation and despair. Without an iota of doubt, artificial intelligence and big data, which have a synergistic relationship, offer potential benefits to society. But they have their drawbacks as well.

As cited by Singh and Jackson, large-scale data systems play a vital role in how state government machineries authenticate and administer citizens, and while such data systems advance the cause of technology in public policy decision making, providing "crucial insight into the strategies and mechanisms by which effective access to the basic rights and entitlements of citizenship are granted, claimed, and at times undermined" (*Big Data Can Render Some as 'Low-resolution Citizens' | Cornell Chronicle*, 2021), they are also frequently uneven in

implementation and have exclusionary consequences, especially among disadvantaged and marginalized groups. Again, as pointed out by Singh and Jackson in their study the process of data collection, be it by way of enrollment, seeding, and authentication, gives "rise to a spectrum of resolution in which the rights and entitlements of 'high-resolution citizens' are expanded, while those of 'low-resolution citizens' are curtailed" (*Big Data Can Render Some as 'Low-resolution Citizens' | Cornell Chronicle*, 2021). Singh and Jackson who came up with the terms "low-resolution" and "high-resolution" citizens, emphasize that people need to be in 'high resolution' to become a part of the system. They opined that it was generally acceptable - even understandable and accurate, to lump "low-resolution citizens" at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale, and "high-resolution citizens" at the top end.

Aadhaar's implementation and the Indian government's insistence on it while providing welfare schemes to millions, has resulted in the urgent need for emergency safeguards against 'Aadhaar-related hassles'. Prominent among these hassles are excessive Aadhaar imposition, arbitrary exclusions, inadequate facilities for Aadhaar enrolment, updation and retrieval and unreliable demographic details. Suggestions to tackle these burning issues could have been put forth.

Career goals: Numbers, data and data analytics fascinate me: I would like to harness big data sets in areas like job mapping, differentiated education, business solutions and, most importantly for a better prediction and assessment of what programs are needed by the not so privileged sections of the population.

Big data is a great tool for garnering information on various facets of our daily lives, including education, consumer spending, digital financial payments, employment,

social issues and proposed parliamentary legislations. It has the potential to transform how businesses operate when it comes to making decisions, formulating strategies and interacting with their customers.

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