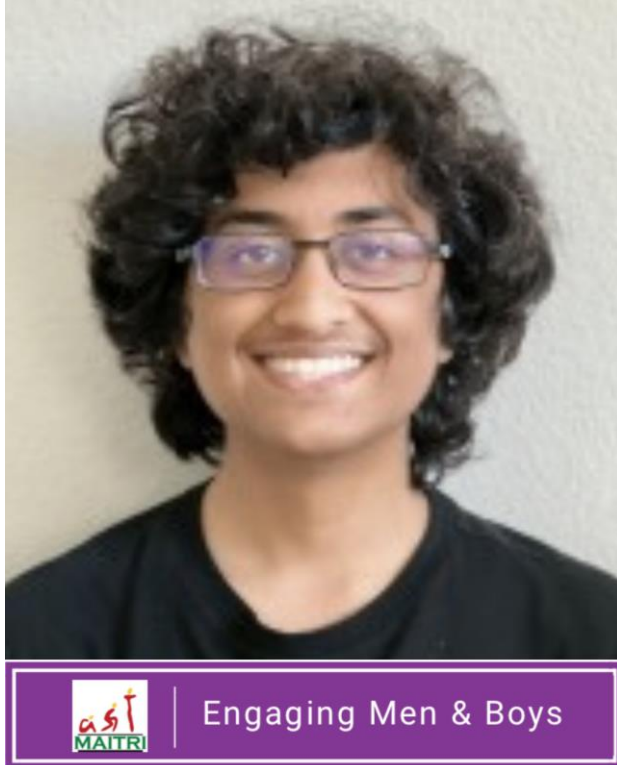


Eshwar Chandrasekhar



Q: Tell us your name and a little bit about yourself.

A: My name is Eshwar Chandrasekhar. I am a college student at the University of Maryland studying aerospace engineering.

Q: Do you see women around you (school, workplace, family, community, etc.) facing inequality/injustice? Can you give any examples? What can men do to end that inequality?

A: I have seen women in my college courses for engineering talk about how challenging it can be to pursue their degrees because engineering is a primarily male-dominated field. Other than that, however, I haven't been around many people who have outwardly expressed that they are struggling with injustices and inequality, mostly because I am surrounded by many strong women in my life. What I like to do to end this is to not bring attention to the issue in a way that perpetuates it or emphasizes it in a way that makes it worse. For me, it is better to treat the women I am surrounded by daily as just being in my field and being an engineer. I don't know if this is the right way to treat it but it has shown benefits in my life so far.

Q: How do you feel popular media perpetuates and glorifies toxic partner relationship dynamics; can you think of any examples?

A: Oh my god, teen movies like *After* and *The Kissing Booth*, that are directed towards kids, and social media videos that glorify them... I hate it so much. This doesn't need to be a thing that people are placing into others' minds and isn't the right idea of what a relationship should be. These ideas shouldn't be glorified in film or media because that is what, honestly, our generation gets most of their personality from. I know I talk like some social media stars that I watch or used to watch and it just naturally happens when we are exposed to it, so by watching media that glorifies toxic relationships... it's just not good. The fact that these movies are putting it into people's heads that this is what a "modern relationship" is like is not right.

Q: In what ways can men be allies to women, in their day-to-day life?

A: Just be respectful. Most of my experiences with gender inequality in the field I am studying, engineering, have taught me to just treat people like the humans they are. Your first thought shouldn't be "oh, they are a woman, therefore I have to treat them this way...", but rather should be "oh, this person has this experience or is in my major..." and then go off of that because I think that usually ends in less unconscious bias. Everyone naturally develops these biases and schemas based on past experiences that we use to influence our interactions with new people. I think that a big reason why we have a lot of discrimination is because of this and the biggest thing men can do is, as a starting point, try to address this by adjusting our minds to see people as people. Though unconscious bias is unavoidable, as we get older we can work to think through it more and ask ourselves where these biases come from and how we can change that to not influence our interactions with other people as much.