Statement of Purpose

In today’s age of complexity and crisis looming at every corner so does opportunity and in order to hedge crisis and optimize opportunities, we need to tap in to the ancient Indian wisdom for modern day business problems. At Nalanda a cornerstone to enlighten the mind, soul and awaken the wisdom for centuries has been shining beacon to educate, enable and empower for its students to understand knowledge from the core, learn without limits and be ready to face all forms of uncertainties by no means of fear. This is possible by the strength of the foundation, the legacy, heritage, faculty and this open spirit to learn from within, from the ecosystem and from mentors.

The programme on Sustainable Development and Management is a one of its kind MBA. It breaks the traditional stereotype of an MBA focussing only on learning and growing the P&L. If I may put it like this – It’s a responsible MBA which will create responsible corporate citizens of the future in the present. Sustainable Development is no longer the imperative of multi lateral agencies doing advocacy around the problems which plague the society or the environment. Sustainable Development is now the new age mantra for doing businesses the right way responsibly. It is the biggest revolution after the industrial age and the advent of digital businesses. In order to achieve this there is an inherent need for Sustainable Development and Management to go hand in hand as future leaders are created. Sustainability can no longer be part of a CSR obligation, it is now a strategic imperative which will chart out growth paths as well as help in competitive advantage.

We are starting to early signs in the form of ESG metrics being prescribed to ensure all businesses have ESG principle at the core of the way in which they are doing business. During my career I focussed on hard core corporate assignments including my initial years as an entrepreneur – the only thing that was being focussed on was delivering on client projects without understanding the sustainability of the outcome and the inputs. During the last few years I have started working on sustainability projects within the CSR space as well as implementation projects around Skilling, Livelihoods, Market Place Linkages and Micro Enterprise creation for marginalized communities, women and rural artisans. I have also led projects around the Sustainable Development Goals with United Nations and corporates, however increasingly I have realized that the scope is limited majorly to advocacy and policy framework however we are running out of time and need of the hour is to understand and practice sustainability in our everyday lives.

This has made my calling to pursue Sustainable Development as a vocation, as a passion, as a mission and as a purpose. This required understanding it better from the lens of management and in a structured manner so that I am equipped to be able to work with the University and the larger Corporate Sector along with the youth to have Sustainable Development in every decision that is made so that all interested and impacted parties gain and grow. Besides the course being one of a kind in a University which blends Ancient Indian Wisdom and modern business practices, the pedagogy is designed in a manner which is seamlessly integrated to blend in elements of Sustainable Development within a Management practice framework. This will help me to learn holistically and develop thoroughly as a Sustainability Development Management Professional.