

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Rejina Verghis
Principal Statistician



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Hi there! I am Rejina Verghis – A principal statistician



Where do I work?

I work for a company named Glaxo SmithKline. GSK is a UK pharmaceutical company with offices across the world.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked studying maths, drama and reading in the library during my free time. I studied at a girls-only boarding school. We had a small space to grow plants and flowers.

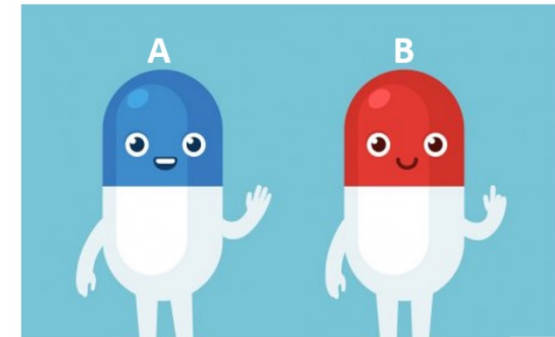
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love watching TV and movies in Malayalam (my mother tongue), Tamil, Hindi, English. I am also a keen gardener. Last year, I grew tomatoes, beans, cabbages and created a herb garden.

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What do I do as a principal statistician?

I work on data about patients' health. My job involves choosing the sample of patients that I should study, giving some new treatments and others standard treatments, and then gathering information to see whether the patients are improving or not. Finally, I summarise the information to conclude whether the new medicine is good or not.



Is medicine A better than medicine B?

How does what I do make the world a better place?

My job uses data and checks to see if the medicine that patients are taking is safe and beneficial for them to use, to help them get better.

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What I like about my job

I like to work with data on a computer. I also like that most of the time, I work as a part of a team, trying to resolve the different issues we are faced with in a project.



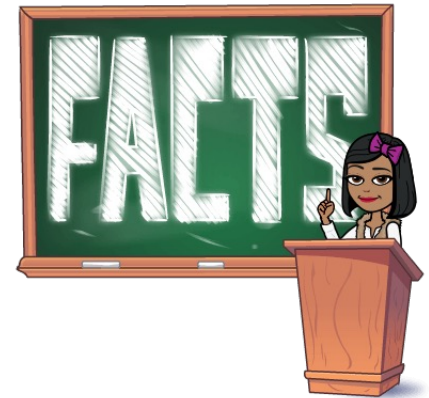
Challenges I have faced

Sometimes data won't be numbers. It can be texts, images, and other types of data. These can be difficult to work with compared to numbers. Most of the time I work as a part of a large team, based across India, the USA, and the UK. All the countries are in different time zones. It is difficult to find a time which suits all of us. If my Indian colleagues schedule a meeting at 9am, it is too early for me and people in the USA. However, we all work flexibly to meet our targets.

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If you want to be a principal statistician, you need:

- ✦ **to be good with numbers** and enjoy doing sums and calculations
- ✦ **to enjoy collecting evidence, facts and data**
- ✦ **good communication skills**
- ✦ **to be a team worker** – you need to work with people from different professional backgrounds



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a principal statistician like Regina Verghis?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a principal statistician?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Regina Verghis is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

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