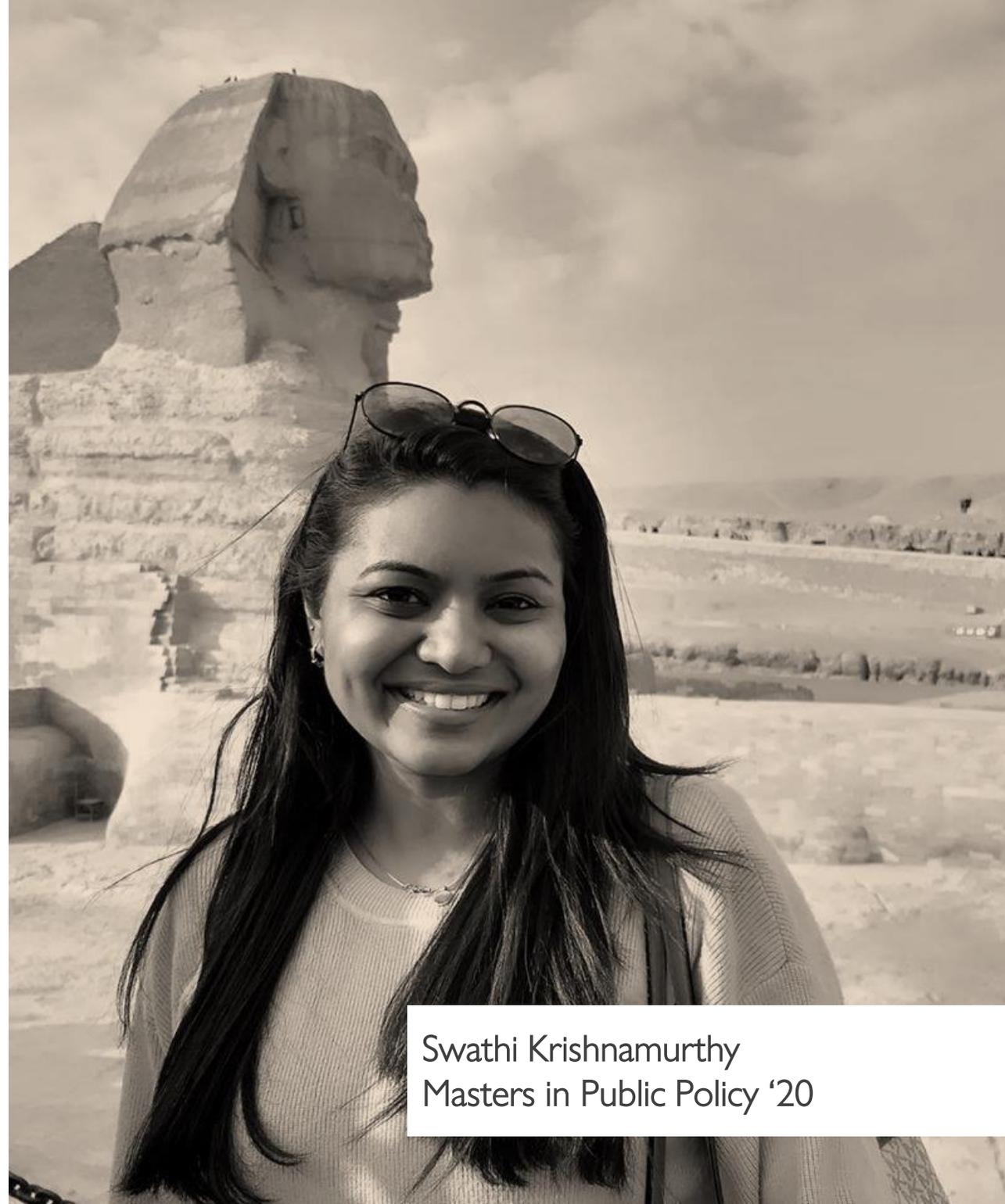# Professional in the Making

Swathi Krishnamurthy is currently a second year student. She has five years of cumulative work experience across the IT industry, NGOs, and start-ups. After working for two years as a software engineer with Capgemini, she did not find the IT industry enticing for the long-term.

She had always been concerned about the under-served sections, and wanted work in that area. Soon after, she took up the Teach for India fellowship, which provided her an opportunity to work in under-resourced schools as a full-time teacher. Experiencing the problems plaguing the school education system first hand, pushed her to look for meaningful solutions outside the status-quo, to bridge students' learning gaps. By the time she completed her fellowship, 80 per cent of her class students' competencies were at the desired grade level.

Curious to understand the complex problems of society that still batter the education system, she began to look at the problem in its entirety. It is with this quest that she joined the Public Policy course at NLS. In her words, "At NLS, I gained enriching experiences in the field of Law, Regulation, Policies, Economics, and Development. Courses like Research Methodology, Statistics, Econometrics, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, etc. have helped me observe, record, and articulate problems better, and hence propose more meaningful solutions."

Her dissertation is where all of these components came together, where she attempted at gauging the efficacy of the RTE Act, in solving the problem of low educational attainment in socio-economically weaker sections of the society. She presented this proposal at a national-level paper presentation competition at IIM, Bangalore, and secured the first place in November 2019. She also participated in the NASPAA-Batten Policy simulation competition in February 2019, and her team won the third place at the global level.

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