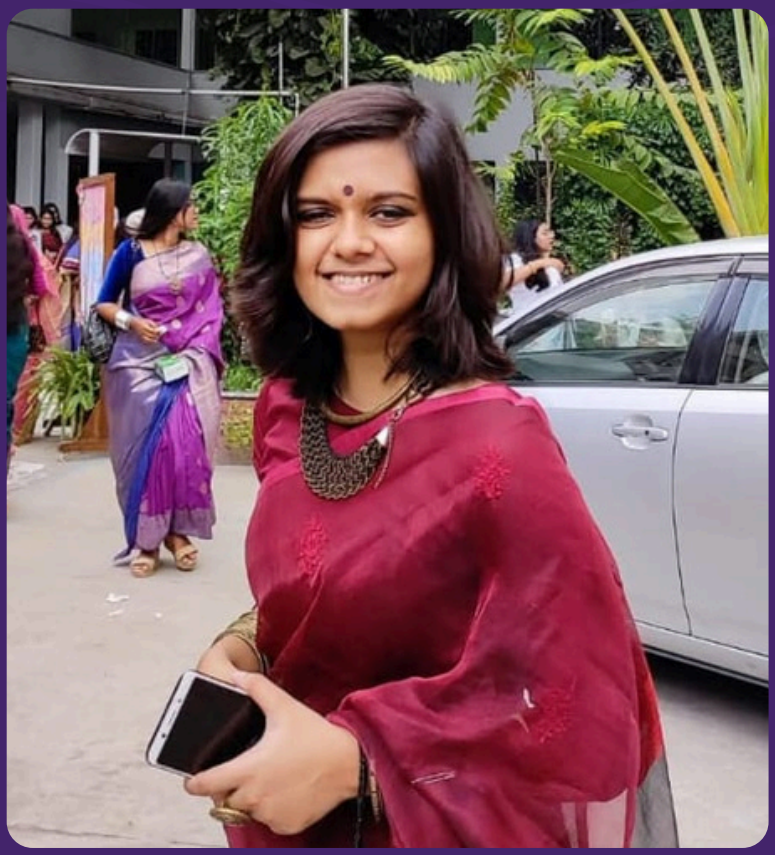
SheSTEM

From Sparks to Solutions: Nashita's Journey in STEM Innovation

2025



Name

Nashita Rubaiyat

Institution

IUT

Field of Study

Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)

Expected Graduation

2027

www.shestem.org

Nashita's story is about persistence in a space where she often felt outnumbered—and how hands-on learning helped her turn doubt into direction. She entered university excited by electrical systems, but the reality of a heavily male-dominated environment and a demanding curriculum initially shook her confidence. Over time, she began to rebuild it through practical projects, mentoring support, and opportunities that pushed her to test her skills in real problem-solving contexts.

Nashita's STEM Journey

From an early age, Nashita was drawn to electricity and technology. That curiosity led her to EEE at IUT, but adjusting to the environment was not easy. With very few women in her cohort, she felt pressure and discouragement early on. Still, she did not step back, she slowly learned how to cope, seek guidance, and keep moving forward.

Her family's support mattered, but so did the sense that she could find her own way through the challenges by building skills and seeking the right networks. Over time, she started to approach her studies with more confidence and a clearer understanding of what it would take to succeed in engineering.

"I started my university feeling extremely demotivated. There are less than 20 girls in my class. But slowly, I am learning to cope"

SheStem Experience

Nashita participated in SheSTEM's flagship business competition, MIST Engibiz, held at the MIST campus, where her team competed against over 100 teams and emerged as winners, supported by mentorship-linked guidance. The most defining element for her was participating in a business competition, where she learned how to collaborate under pressure, ask for support when needed, and translate ideas into something tangible. She actively sought help from seniors and mentors, which also helped her expand her network and learn how others navigate similar pathways.

Her team eventually developed an emergency-support concept (the "SHEBA Box" idea), designed to make assistance more accessible. The concept focused on affordability and wider reach: during danger or emergency situations, an AI system would detect coded messages and trigger alerts to emergency contacts saved by the user.

For Nashita, this was more than a competition output, it was proof that her ideas could become practical solutions when paired with structure, teamwork, and technical learning.

"I participated in various competitions from time to time and sought help from seniors/mentors. This time it all worked out"

Confidence and Career Progression

Before SheSTEM, Nashita rated her confidence in pursuing STEM at 1 out of 5. Today, she rates it at 4 out of 5. Through competition participation, she strengthened communication and teamworkespecially learning to address an audience more confidently.

She also gained practical skills beyond coursework, contributing to the AI-related coding work, graphics-related tasks, and product/service positioning. These experiences helped her see herself not just as a student trying to survive a difficult department, but as someone capable of building and presenting solutions.

At the same time, she is realistic about the broader ecosystem. She rates her access to STEM opportunities at 2 out of 5, recognising that progress exists, but systemic barriers remain for women in engineering.

"Overcoming fear while addressing an audience, is something I learned through SHeSTEM"

Way Forward

Nashita anticipates barriers related to gender bias and the nature of available jobs in the sector. She notes that many roles, especially in power-sector pathways, may be located in secluded areas, which can create family concerns. She also observes that employers can be reluctant to hire women for certain roles. As a result, she is considering pathways that align better with her circumstances, such as electronics-focused or desk-based roles, while continuing to build technical credibility.

She also highlights structural realities like comparatively low starting salaries in some engineering tracks, despite the effort required to complete the degree. Moving forward, she believes stronger visibility of women's achievements and better networking support can help bridge the gap between capability and opportunity.

"Most jobs are in secluded areas, employers are reluctant to take women."

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