ROOTCODE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2022, Rootcode Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Rootcode, embarked on a transformative journey to enhance technology education for underprivileged school children. Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya in Horana became the pioneer recipient of our comprehensive initiative. The team at Rootcode engaged students in biweekly ICT sessions, established a cutting-edge computer lab, and recognized academic excellence through monthly scholarships aiming not just to teach technology but to inspire futures. Our commitment extended to teacher training and industry awareness programs, ensuring sustained impact beyond the project timeline.

PROJECT METRICS

TOTAL STUDENTS REACHED

70+

TOTAL SESSIONS CONDUCTED

60+

TOTAL HOURS ENGAGED

360+

TOTAL NUMBER OF HUMAN HOURS

960+

ROOTCODE: WHO ARE WE?

Rootcode, a leading global technology firm specializes in building world-class digital products, UX Design, and Artificial Intelligence. With a mission rooted in empowering businesses by building great technology, Rootcode has enabled numerous clients worldwide to successfully launch impactful digital products in international markets. Established in 2014, Rootcode has swiftly emerged as a prominent entity in the global tech arena, serving a diverse clientele spanning over 30 industries worldwide.

OUR MISSION

In December 2022, Rootcode Foundation was officially launched with the core aim of empowering underprivileged children with technology education. Our journey commenced on January 14th, 2023, as we adopted our very first school.

Recognizing that real change requires time, we committed one entire year to the school, conducting bi-weekly sessions to instil essential tech skills. Rootcoders visited the school, infusing the learning with fun and practical experiences and fostering a passion for technology among students. Rootcode Foundation is also dedicated to supporting the enhancement of IT infrastructure in schools through the establishment of computer labs and the provision of essential facilities.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERS

Reflecting on the past year, we are humbled by the collective achievements and impact realized through our shared commitment to empowering underprivileged students in Sri Lanka.

At Rootcode, we recognize the transformative power of technology - a force that has influenced each of our individual journeys. However, we acknowledge that not all individuals in our country have equal access to opportunities and resources. Through the Rootcode Foundation, we've undertaken a mission to address this disparity, enabling underprivileged students to aspire for greater goals and transform their lives. We extend our deepest appreciation to our Rootcode team for their invaluable contributions, which were pivotal in realizing the ambitious vision of this project and transforming it into a remarkable success.

Alagan Mahalingam
Founder & CEO
Rootcode

Mangala Perera
Partner & COO
Rootcode

Pabashani Herath
President
Rootcode Foundation (2023)

PROJECT GOALS

Our project aimed to :

- **Cultivate Technological Literacy and Innovation:** Promote digital literacy and innovation among students.
- **Enhance Tech Education Quality by Empowering Educators:** Improve the quality of tech education by empowering teachers with essential technical skills and resources.
- **Provision of Scholarships for Academic Excellence:** Motivate students through scholarships, recognizing academic excellence and encouraging further learning.
- **Establish a Modern Learning Environment:** Establish an environment equipped with essential IT infrastructure to ensure students have access to requisite resources for comprehensive ICT education.

SELECTED SCHOOL

Located in Horana within the Western Province of Sri Lanka, Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya caters to a student body spanning grades 1 to 11, comprising over 85 students. The school operates in a mixed-gender environment and has a committed academic staff of 15 teachers. The primary language of instruction is Sinhala, while English is introduced as a secondary language. Despite facing resource constraints, both teachers and parents were committed to providing education to underprivileged students. This dedication underscores the potential for transformative impact within this rural community.

TARGET COMMUNITY AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

STUDENT DISTRIBUTION BASED ON GRADES

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Grade 02	04	04	08
Grade 03	02	06	08
Grade 04	02	05	07
Grade 05	07	06	13
Grade 06	02	04	06
Grade 07	03	03	06
Grade 08	02	05	07
Grade 09	02	03	05
Grade 10	03	04	07
Grade 11	02	04	06

**Year = Grade*

STUDENTS' GENDER DISTRIBUTION:

- Male Students: 36.25%
- Female Students: 63.75%

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY:

- Availability of devices laptops at home
  - Desktop Computers - 3%
  - Laptops - 2%
  - Tabs - 0%
- Access to the internet at home
  - Fibre Connection - 0%
  - Wifi Routers - 3%
  - Mobile Data - 80%

PREVIOUS IT EDUCATION:

- Previous exposure to IT courses or training - 0%
- Participation in workshops, or competitions - 0%

CAREER ASPIRATIONS (BEFORE THE PROJECT):

- Future career goals within the IT sector - 0%
- Awareness of different IT career paths - 5%-10%

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:

- Proficiency in mother tongue (Sinhala) - 70% -80%
- Proficiency in English - 30% - 40%

ICT EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

In recent years, Sri Lanka has made commendable strides in integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into its education system. However, a significant digital divide persists, particularly in rural and underprivileged schools where access to quality ICT education remains a challenge. The "new normal" brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic further accelerated the adoption and utilization of these technologies, emphasizing its role in modern educational practices.

Challenges:

- Shortage of Trained ICT Teachers: One of the main hurdles is the scarcity of trained teachers in ICT, which poses a significant obstacle. Many educators lack the necessary skills to effectively integrate technology into their teaching methods.
- Socio-Economic Barriers: The socio-economic status often determines access to technology at home. Students from underprivileged backgrounds face challenges in extending their learning beyond school premises due to limited resources.

Challenges:

- Infrastructure Limitations: Challenges such as insufficient computer labs, outdated equipment, and inadequate internet connectivity hinder the effective implementation of ICT programs in rural schools.
- Limited Access to Devices: Despite efforts to distribute laptops and tablets to schools, access to such devices remains scarce in many rural areas, severely restricting students' ability to gain hands-on experience with technology, further exacerbating the digital divide.

In the context of rural underprivileged schools in Sri Lanka, the need for tech education is imperative to bridge the digital divide and empower students with essential skills for the 21st century. Access to information technology not only enhances educational quality but also opens avenues for socio-economic development. ICT education equips students with digital literacy, enabling them to navigate an increasingly technology-driven world. Moreover, it fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, empowering students to overcome socioeconomic barriers. Recognizing the transformative potential of ICT education, initiatives, and investments are crucial to ensure that all students, regardless of their geographical location or economic status, have equal opportunities for a brighter future.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR SCHOOL SELECTION

Ensuring the success of educational initiatives begins with selecting the right partner schools. Our approach to school selection involves a structured methodology aimed at identifying schools that align closely with our project's objectives and have the potential for sustainable impact.

1. Identification of Potential Schools:

- Initiated by compiling a list of potential schools based on existing contacts, and known information in collaboration with Rootcoders.
- Conducted in-depth analyses of the unique needs and obstacles faced by schools in disadvantaged regions, ensuring a targeted selection process.

2. Shortlisting Schools:

- Applied established criteria to shortlist schools that closely aligned the project requirements.
- Conducted a thorough review of documentation, engaged in discussions with school administrators, and assessed current ICT capabilities and challenges.

3. Contact and Visit Shortlisted Schools:

- Initiated communication with the shortlisted schools to express interest and gather additional information.
- Conducted phone interviews or virtual meetings to understand the school's perspective and needs.
- Scheduled on-site visits for first-hand assessments of infrastructure, learning environment, and community dynamics.

4. Examination of Schools:

- Conducted in-depth examinations of ICT facilities during on-site visits.
- Evaluated readiness of educators and students to embrace technology, and the overall socio-economic context.
- Engaged with key stakeholders, including teachers, students, and community members, to gain insights into unique challenges and strengths related to tech education.

5. Final Decision Making:

- Consolidated gathered information and assessed each school against established criteria.
- Made the final decision based on a holistic evaluation, considering the alignment of the school's needs with the project objectives and potential for sustainable impact.
- Communicated the decision to the selected school and initiated the collaborative process for implementing ICT education support initiatives.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The journey of implementing our project at Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya was not just about teaching technology but about igniting a passion for learning and innovation in the hearts of students and educators alike. From the outset, our program design went beyond traditional classroom instruction, aiming to cultivate a holistic educational experience that transcended textbooks and lectures. It began with careful planning and meticulous execution, guided by our commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of the school community

1. TEACHING SESSIONS

The ICT teaching sessions at Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya were delivered through a carefully crafted and collaborative strategy:

(a) Formation of Specialized Groups:

- To ensure personalized attention and effective teaching, smaller groups were formed, focusing on a specific grades.
- Each group had a designated leader selected based on expertise and passion, fostering a cohesive and supportive learning environment.

(b) Volunteer Engagement:

- Rootcoders, driven by a shared mission, dedicated their weekends to visiting the school and imparting knowledge.
- Volunteers were assigned to smaller-groups based on their skills and preferences, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment.

(c) Designing Curriculum and Study Materials:

- Extensive research went into crafting a curriculum tailored to the needs and interests of each grade and level.
- From foundational concepts to advanced applications, every lesson was designed to be engaging, interactive, and relevant.

(d) Annual Planning:

- A detailed annual plan was developed, scheduling bi-weekly visits to the school, taking into consideration both public and company holidays.
- The structured approach ensured consistent interaction and progress monitoring throughout the academic year.

(e) Creation of Learning Materials:

- Learning materials, including quizzes, test papers, and presentations, were crafted to complement the relevant syllabi.
- Emphasis was placed on ensuring the materials were not only informative but also captivating, capturing the imagination of young minds.

(f) Bi-weekly Visits

- Initiated teaching with foundational concepts, gradually progressing to more advanced areas to accommodate diverse learning levels.
- Emphasized hands-on activities to make students familiar with computers, peripherals, and application software.
- During each biweekly visit, specific subject areas and modules were covered, facilitating a well-rounded tech education experience for the students.

(g) Continuous Assessment:

- A robust and continuous assessment system was implemented, including quizzes, tests, and regular evaluations to track student progress effectively.
- Feedback and support were provided to address learning gaps and ensure every student had the opportunity to excel.

2. BUILDING A COMPUTER LAB

A significant leap forward was made by establishing a brand-new computer lab at Sri Siddhartha Kanista Vidyalaya, addressing a vital necessity. What sets this endeavor apart is the hands-on involvement of our dedicated Rootcoders, who personally undertook the labor-intensive tasks of cleaning, painting, and repairing the designated classroom. This act not only symbolized the investment in the school but also demonstrated the grassroots commitment of our team.

CAPABILITIES OF THE COMPUTER LAB

The newly established computer lab is equipped with modern desktop computers and appropriate furniture. To further enhance the educational experience, internet connectivity was provided for the school, with the internet bill being generously covered by the company for two years. This underscores the commitment to not just teaching technology but also empowering schools with the infrastructure and resources necessary for comprehensive ICT education.

3. TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

In our commitment to empowering both students and educators, specialized workshops were conducted for the academic staff at Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya. These workshops were meticulously designed to ensure that teachers were proficient in fundamental applications of technology crucial for modern teaching practices. Covering e-learning methodologies, essential application software, email, and internet technology, comprehensive training sessions were strategically crafted. The aim was to fully equip the academic staff so that they could seamlessly continue imparting technological knowledge to students beyond our project's duration.

4. INDUSTRY AWARENESS SESSIONS

Beyond traditional teaching, efforts were made to broaden the knowledge of the senior students of Sri Siddhartha Kanishta Vidyalaya. Many students had limited views regarding career opportunities in the IT sector, often influenced by misconceptions, including gender roles. Measures were taken by our Rootcoders to debunk these misconceptions and inspire the students to envision themselves as future IT professionals.

Witnessing this transformative shift in their aspirations, students began to express ambitions of pursuing careers as Software Engineers and beyond. To offer them a tangible glimpse of such IT careers, visits were arranged to the Rootcode headquarters, providing students with first-hand exposure to the working environment. This immersive experience cultivated a deeper understanding and enthusiasm for potential careers in the IT industry.

5. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

In recognition of academic achievement and to provide tangible support for ongoing development, monthly scholarships in the form of cash awards were awarded to outstanding students participating in our ICT teaching initiative. These scholarships, funded by both the company and our Rootcoders, aimed to not only acknowledge academic excellence but also to motivate and support promising students in their educational journey.

Rootcoders, motivated by a shared commitment to philanthropy, have generously contributed to support these scholarships, showcasing their dedication to education. Their contributions extend beyond more than financial aid, illustrating a sincere belief in the transformative potential of education. Through their generosity, Rootcode Foundation's impact transcends technology education, offering meaningful opportunities for aspiring learners to pursue their educational goals.

6. OTHER INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Beyond the formal curriculum, efforts were made to create a vibrant and enjoyable learning environment through various interactive sessions and engaging activities. From organizing friendly cricket matches to engaging robot sessions and lively concerts, opportunities for holistic development were provided to students. By incorporating elements of entertainment and hands-on experiences, the aim was to make the learning journey both enriching and engaging for the students, fostering a positive educational atmosphere.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE

A cornerstone of our educational initiatives has been fostering student engagement and active participation in our sessions. Encouraging students to immerse themselves in the learning experience has been pivotal in creating a dynamic and interactive educational environment. The accompanying chart, detailing attendance patterns, illustrates our strategy to maintain high student attendance rates. By consistently emphasizing the value and relevance of the sessions we managed to successfully cultivate a culture of continuous involvement and enthusiasm among the students. This commitment to active participation not only enhances the learning experience but also contributes to the overall success of our educational endeavors.

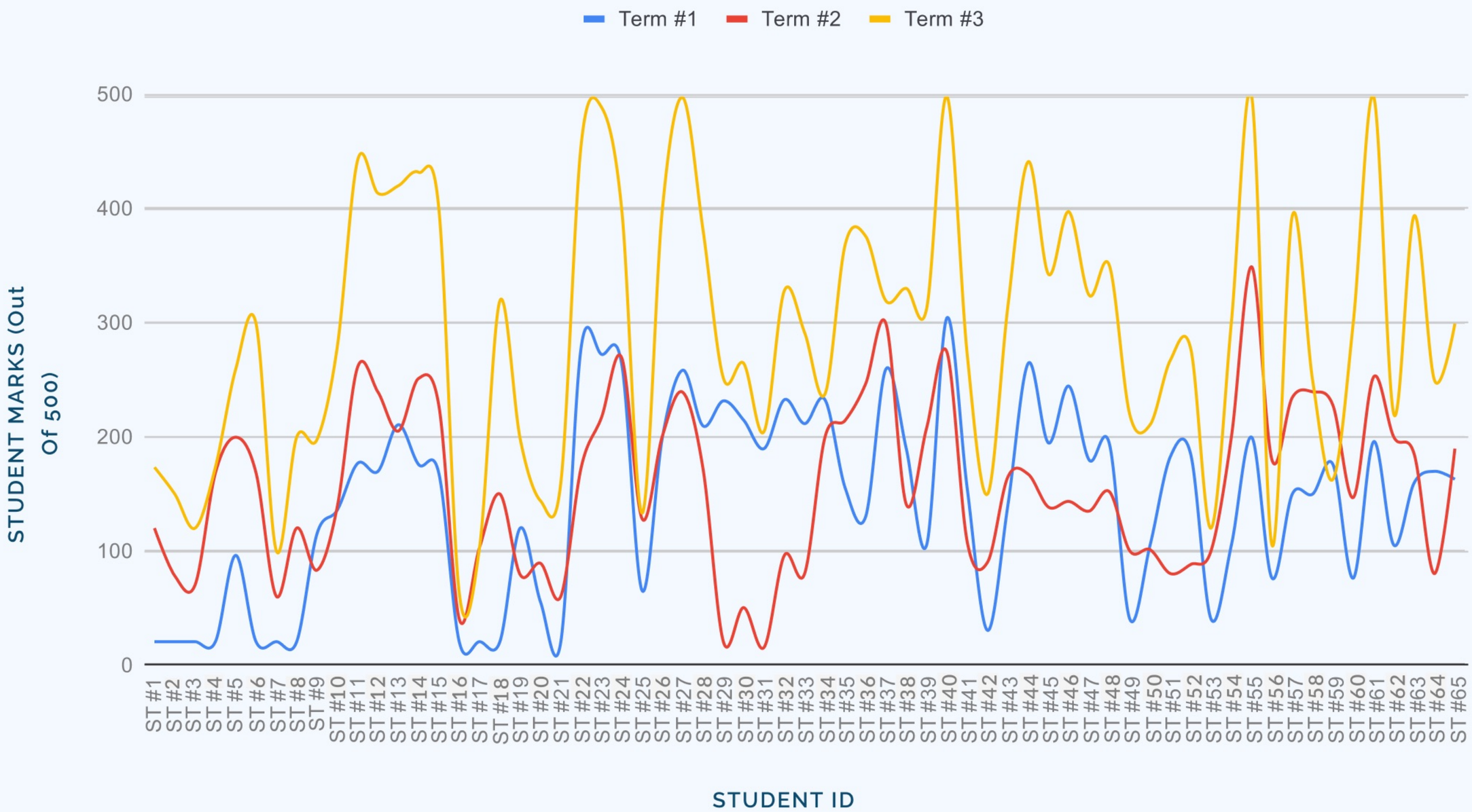
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

STUDENTS' PROGRESS BASED ON GRADES

Continuous assessment has played a pivotal role in monitoring student's progress throughout the academic period. Through systematic evaluation of assignments and tests, marks have been calculated, providing a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic journey. The attached charts serve as a visual representation, illustrating the collective progress of students across all grades throughout the year. This assessment not only allows for tracking individual achievements but also informs ongoing efforts to tailor educational strategies and support mechanisms, ensuring each student receives the guidance needed for their academic success.

OVERALL STUDENTS' PROGRESS



TESTIMONIALS AND SPOTLIGHTS

MELANI MADUSHANI

GRADE 9 STUDENT

"Rootcode, the incredible team that came to our school, transformed how we see technology. They made IT engaging and hands-on by teaching us every other Saturday, blending fun with practical learning. They provided us with computers, introducing us to the fundamentals and converting our apprehension about IT into passion. They also constructed a computer lab at our school, significantly enhancing our learning resources. Additionally, the scholarships they offered played a crucial role in supporting our educational journey. They've been a pillar of support through and through. A heartfelt thank you to the entire team!"

TESTIMONIALS AND SPOTLIGHTS

MR. M.H.L.CHATHURANGA

THE PRINCIPAL OF SRI SIDDHARTHA K.V., HORANA

“Rootcode Foundation's impactful initiative has greatly influenced our school by teaching technology for our students throughout the year. Their dedication extended to supporting teachers through essential technology usage workshops, contributing significantly to the overall improvement of tech education. The establishment of a computer lab and continued support in various aspects has further elevated our school's IT education. Rootcode Foundation's commitment to nurturing a tech-savvy and empowered generation aligns seamlessly with our educational goals, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contribution to our school community.”

PLANS FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Support Maintenance of the Computer Lab:

- Maintenance activities for the computer lab and its associated facilities will be systematically conducted through scheduled visits every three months in the upcoming year. This approach guarantees the ongoing sustainability of the infrastructure facilitating regular check-ups and timely repairs. By prioritizing upkeep, the optimal performance and durability of these essential facilities for many more years.

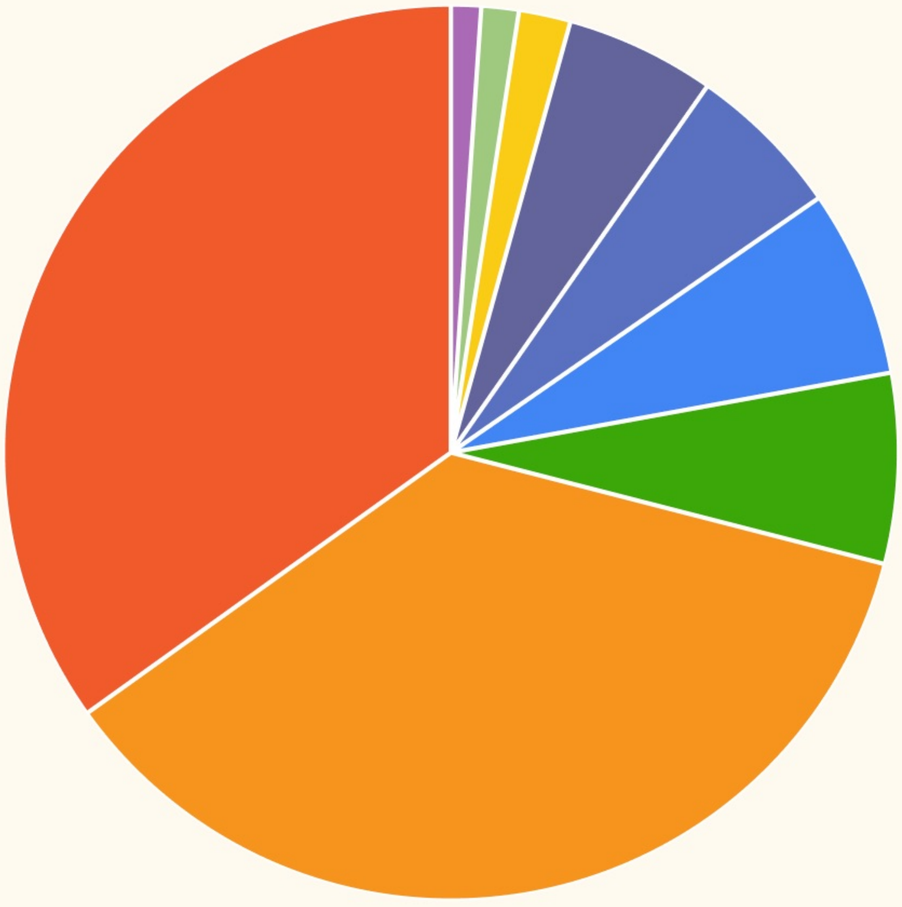
Teacher Training Programs:

- Comprehensive teacher training programs were conducted to empower teachers with the necessary skills for effective ICT integration. This initiative supports the sustainability of the project by ensuring that teachers are well equipped with the foundational ICT knowledge to continue guiding the students.

BUDGET

We have provided a comprehensive breakdown of Rootcode Foundation's financials, reflecting our commitment to transparency and effective fund management. Every allocation has been carefully directed to maximize the impact of the efforts to create lasting change in the communities.

BREAKDOWN OF THE BUDGET (IN LKR)



INTERNET & EQUIPMENT	36,130.00
STATIONARY	45,120.00
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOS	62,398.00
SCHOOL VISITS	180,532.00
LEARNING PACKS & GIFTS	188,365.00
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS	225,993.00
LIGHTING/SOUNDS/SCREEN	229,060.00
COMPUTER LAB	971,444.00
SCHOLARSHIPS	1,164,000.00

TOTAL VALUE

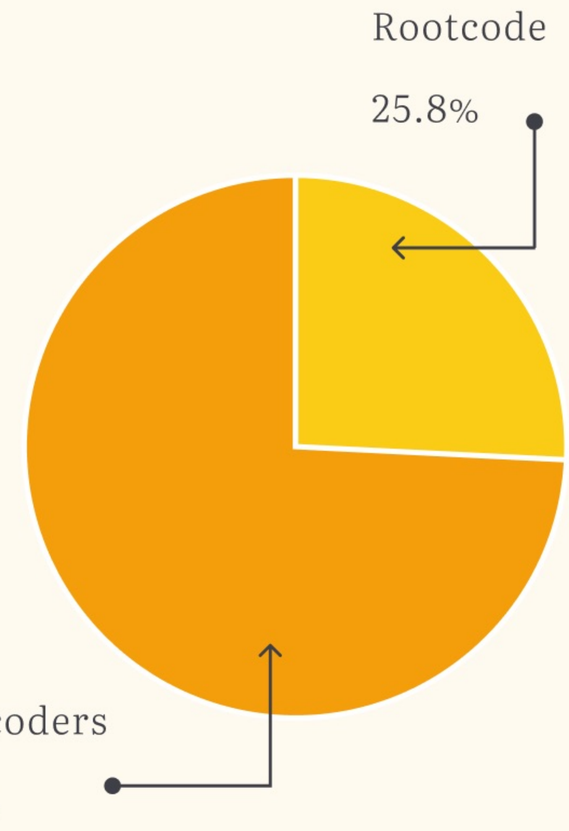
2,873,982

BREAKDOWN OF THE BUDGET (IN LKR)

COMPUTER LAB	**971,444.00**
Furniture	167,295.00
Computers	739,000.00
Infrastructure	23,200.00
Equipment	41,949.00
SCHOOL VISITS	**180,532.00**
Transport	136,547.00
Engineering Kits	24,950.00
Other	19,035.00
INTERNET & EQUIPMENT	**36,130.00**
Internet bill for 2023 (1200*11)	13,200.00
Internet bill for 2024	18,000.00
Router	4930.00
SCHOLARSHIPS	**1,164,000.00**
Company Contribution	300,000.00
Rootcoders' Contribution	864,000.00
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS	**225,993.00**
STATIONARY	**45,120.00**
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOS	**62,398.00**
LEARNING PACKS & GIFTS	**188,365.00**
LIGHTING/SOUNDS/SCREEN	**229,060.00**

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS (IN LKR)

Rootcoders, driven by a collective spirit of philanthropy, have made significant contributions to support scholarships, emphasizing their unwavering commitment to education. This dedicated group has gone beyond the call of duty, generously investing in the academic futures of deserving students. These financial contributions not only demonstrate the Rootcoders' genuine belief in the transformative power of education but also play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of academic excellence and inclusivity within the community. It is through their selfless generosity that Rootcode Foundation's impact extends far beyond the realms of technology education, creating meaningful opportunities for aspiring learners to achieve their educational aspirations.



- Rootcode - 300,000.00
- Rootcoders - 864,000.00
- Total Allocation - 1,164,000.00


LET'S LEARN
TECHNOLOGY

ROOTCODE FOUNDATION - 2024 PROJECT

Get ready for our 2024 project as we expand our initiatives to Mawathgama Kanishta Vidyalaya Homagama! Stay tuned for more updates in the upcoming annual report as we continue to make strides in technology education.

ROOTCODE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE 2023

PRESEIDENT

Pabashani Herath

ADVISERS

Alagan Mahalingam

Mangala Perera

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tiran Hettiarachchi

Abdul Raheem

Gajithira Puvanendran

Lasini Navarathna

Milinda Sandaruwan

Sanjula De Alwis

Sasindu Wickramarathna

Beyond those mentioned, every member of our Rootcode team played a crucial role in steering this impact initiative towards success.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our profound appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the 2023 project. We express our deepest thanks to the school principal and staff for their commitment and collaborative efforts.

We extend our sincere thanks to the supportive parents who entrusted us with their children's education and to the students whose eagerness to learn fueled our efforts; we are immensely grateful.

And finally, to our Rootcode team, your unwavering dedication and hard work formed the foundation of our accomplishments. Thank you to everyone involved for the invaluable contributions, commitment and passion, which proved to be a transformative journey in the lives of the students.

rootcode FOUNDATION

On a mission to help underprivileged students in Sri Lanka to learn technology and change their lives.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