

Open
Rockets
for **EDUCATION**

PIONEERS
Of
OPEN-SOURCE.



X
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Neksha DeSilva **team**

Founder, Lead contributor

📍 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Where is volunteering?

You might see it mostly on physical surfaces. In terms of tech, let's call them tangible outputs. We see them on whiteboards, blackboards, under trees, in gardens, crops, roadsides, seashores, highways, and so much more. But did you see the impact on abstraction? Did you see how humans turned the simple wooden aircraft into the SpaceX Starlink constellation? Did you see how languages like Rust have immediately changed the era of computing to Artificial Intelligence? Did you see how fast tasks with massive value, worth transfers with trillions of mass data from one place to another, happen without distraction? Yeah, you might think it's because there were people who invented it or were smart enough to invent them. But in fact, none of the above-mentioned things were developed without the power of open-source.

Today, for a valuable example, let's take Mark Zuckerberg, who has nearly open-sourced more than 15 major technologies which do not only help to fasten the user experience, efficiency, and the big topic which is trending nowadays, AI. But they also helped thousands of humans, especially learners and students, to browse the web with a significantly lower amount of cost and time, making a significantly big advantage for the entire humankind. Open-source development is not just a thing as an investment but rather, it's a kind of benefit to all. So, that's the key point I want to address before you move further.

And I would like to address something very important: the impact of open-source contributions on newcomers. When you're new to a class, a grade, or even to a book, where do you look first? The syllabi, class contents, index, or the first page? That's the moment where you might say "Wow." So, that moment is called the first impression. In any subject, any grade, any task, no matter how hard or how deep the things are, humans are biologically made to learn every second of their lives. So the point is, it's wonderful how our open-source developers have made a lasting legacy and such a good impression to our newcomers, as you can see the uninterrupted, relative bond between the growth of the world and the growth of technology. Unexpectedly great.

Thanks.



We're a Team, just *for* Education.

When students teach students, **something extraordinary** happens.

We are a growing volunteer-driven community of learners and young educators from leading Sri Lankan schools who are passionate about spreading free, high-quality tech education — especially to those who may not always have access to the latest tools, competitions, or mentorship.

We conduct interactive online sessions, weekly programming contests, and real-world project-based learning, all free of charge. Students selected to our program are guided through structured levels of learning in ICT and Computer Science, ranging from basic computing to competitive programming, web technologies, and modern software tools based on a curriculum we've attached for your reference.

Participants receive:

- *Mentorship through live Zoom sessions
- *Access to premium learning resources
- *A physical certificate upon completion, officially issued by OpenRockets and backed by tech partners and educational collaborators we are working with

We are not a company.

We are not a tuition class.

We are a non-profit, student-led initiative with a single aim, to give every capable student the chance to shine, **no matter where they come from.**

We kindly invite you to consider nominating a few students from your educational institution, especially those who show interest or ability in ICT, programming, or technology. Even students who are curious but haven't had much exposure will benefit greatly.


With your help, we can reach the bright minds who just need a small spark to start their journey.

Let's open the door. Together.

We're a team. A real one

Chethina Randidu

Team, Contributor

 Colombo, Sri Lanka

We, Open Rockets is a growing community of thinkers, builders, and self-learners who believe in the power of open collaboration through code.

We are not a company, a startup, or a brand. we're a movement built around curiosity, creativity, and contribution. At our core, we bring together programmers, designers, and developers who want to learn, share, and create without gatekeeping.


Whether you're a complete beginner trying to write your first “Hello, World,” or a seasoned developer experimenting with new technologies, Open Rockets is a space where you belong. We grow through real projects, shared ideas, and the freedom to fail and rebuild. **We host coding sessions, community discussions, open challenges, and mentorship programs** to help everyone level up together. There's no rigid structure just people who care.

This isn't just about code and it's about mindset. About showing that anyone with curiosity and grit can build something meaningful. **That your background doesn't define your future.**

We've seen students build tools, contributors launch passion projects, and strangers become mentors. That's the kind of impact we live for.

Vidul Batawala

Team, Contributor

 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Open source refers to software whose source code is made freely available for anyone to inspect, modify, and distribute. It is not a trend or a brand; it's a method of development rooted in transparency, collaboration, and community ownership. From the Linux operating system to the Firefox browser, open-source software powers much of the modern digital infrastructure.


In Sri Lanka, open source holds untapped potential. With a growing number of young developers, students, and tech entrepreneurs, access to open-source tools allows people to build without heavy investment. Educational institutions are beginning to integrate open-source tools into their curricula. **Freelancers and small companies use platforms like WordPress, Python, and Node.js, all open source,** to deliver real-world solutions. Importantly, open-source participation teaches global collaboration, version control, and code literacy, which are critical for any modern tech workforce.

The economic impact is significant. By using open-source software, businesses avoid **licensing costs, reduce vendor lock-in, and have full control over customization.** Government institutions and startups alike can deploy secure, low-cost digital services without relying on expensive foreign software. This democratizes innovation, putting powerful tools in the hands of everyday Sri Lankans.

Globally, open source changes the world not through hype but through consistent, invisible evolution. The internet itself runs largely on open-source technologies including servers like Apache and NGINX, languages like PHP and Python, and databases like MySQL and PostgreSQL. Even AI frameworks such as TensorFlow and PyTorch are open source. Every contribution, from bug fixes to documentation, improves the global software ecosystem.

Menula De Silva

Team, Youngest Contributor

 Ratnapura, Sri Lanka

I'm 12 years old, and I believe in building things that everyone can use not just a few. That's why I chose open source.

Open source is freedom, learning, and community all in one. It means I can grow while helping others grow too.


With OpenRockets, I'm not just coding I'm creating projects that schools, students, and dreamers around the world can build on.

This is just the beginning. I'm learning, building, and sharing everything I can with you.

Because open means we rise together.

Tharusha Amarasinghe

Team, Innovations

 Galle, Sri Lanka

Open source is not built to impress. It is built to function, adapt, and last. It operates in the background of modern systems clean, accessible, and efficient. In Sri Lanka, where access to high-end proprietary software can be limiting, open source gives those with technical curiosity and discipline the freedom to build from zero, inspect every layer, and understand the system inside out.

What matters in open source is clarity. You don't rely on black-box tools. You read the logic, trace the algorithm, improve the edge case. This approach aligns naturally with how deep learners think — those who don't just use software but take it apart to see how it works. The code is not sacred. It's editable. It's meant to be questioned.


The impact is subtle, but strong. A student writing their own implementation of RSA doesn't need a license. A team building a Sinhala text classifier doesn't need permission. Every breakthrough however small is based on what the world has already shared, and what they're willing to give back. This culture scales naturally in local innovation: from low-cost school networks to rural inventory systems to custom-built data dashboards that serve actual needs.

More than a toolkit, open source reflects a way of thinking: optimize the process, verify the logic, and share the result. It rewards precision over popularity and resilience over speed. In that way, it aligns closely with the thinkers and builders who work quietly, obsessively, until their solution holds.

In Sri Lanka's long-term digital development, open source is not just an option. It's the foundation that allows those who understand deeply to build confidently without waiting for permission.

Gayani Wickramarathne

Undergraduate, University of Moratuwa

 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Open source software especially helpful for the students and beginners due to their financial difficulties. Moreover, It helps to get an understanding of how it works due to its transparency. Also it builds a strong tech community where people help each and grow together.

Nadula Nisith

Royal College, Colombo 07

 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Open source isn't just about writing code. It's about having the freedom to learn, to build, and to solve problems without waiting for access or approval. In Sri Lanka, where not everyone can afford high-end software or tools, open source gives people a real chance to create. It's not about getting things for free, but about removing limits. You can study the code, change it, and make it work for your world. That kind of freedom is rare. And for a country that needs homegrown solutions, open source isn't just helpful, it's essential.

Akesh P.

Undergraduate, University of Moratuwa

 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Open Source is the backbone of the modern software development. In Sri Lanka, we can use open source software to get people start on their software journey. Some people like coding but they don't know where to start. A place like open-source code could be a starting point for them.

Shirandi Lokupitiya

High school student, self-taught web developer

 Galle, Sri Lanka

I found open source when I was looking for free design tools. Didn't know much coding at first, but I downloaded some websites from GitHub, and started changing small things. Colors, text, layout. Bit by bit, I learned how it all works. For me, open source is like a teacher that doesn't charge you. You just have to spend time. In Sri Lanka, not everyone can buy software or courses. So this helps people like me. It's not easy, but it's fair.

Collaborators

(as of mid-2025. Based on Sri Lanka.)



Chamod Shehanka • Google Developer Expert



team

Harindu Fonseka • 99x.io • Game programmer



Achira Nadeeshan • 4th year undergraduate @SLTC



Ahamed Safnaj • GitHub Campus Expert (Alumni)



Dinil Tillakaratne • Front-end Developer



Ravin Bandara • Software Developer



team

Thisal Nethnidu • Student at Ananda College, CMB.




team

Thulana Upek • Student at Ananda College, CMB.

And **30+ more** International Collaborators.

We're thrilled to announce you that, when you become a registered student of us, you'll automatically grant the following benefits.

Verification badge + Spotlight + Top priority. [pack 01]

Share your new projects on  **OpenThreads**, get instant recognition. Even if they're small.
Platform by OpenRockets, for everyone.



 **OpenThreads.dev**

*More benefits will be available soon.

We've seen the E_p .



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We're changing the future of *brilliant minds** in Sri Lanka.
So your support matter more than anything else.

*Every mind is brilliant.

We're building. Innovating. Growing communities. Teaching what matters. Making learning raw, real, and **reachable**. No price tags. Just impact

and we do it all for **zero** profit.

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