



Nelson College London

# Navigating success/failure as an impact entrepreneur

Aravinth Panch | DreamSpace Academy

# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Story
- Entrepreneurship
  - Innovations
  - Achievements
  - Investment
  - Learnings

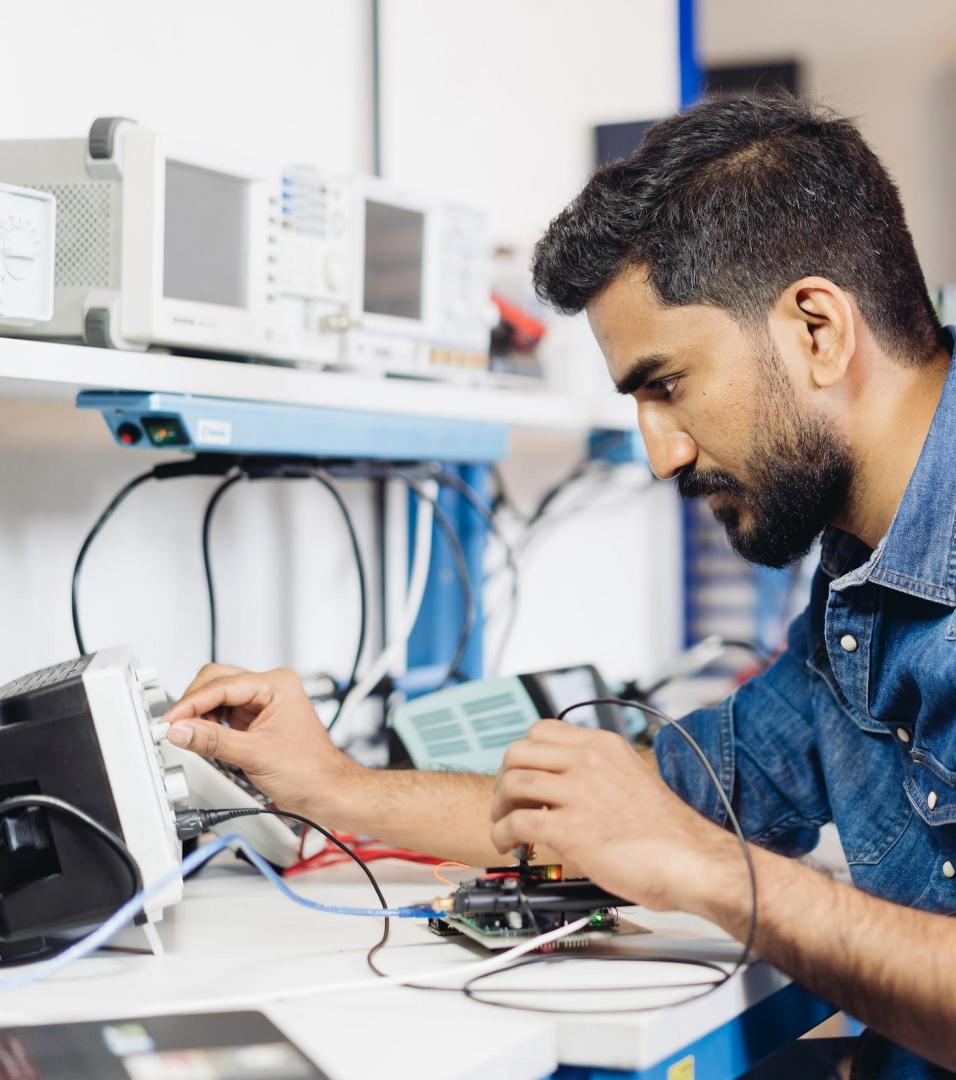


## Impact Story



The real joy in life comes from  
finding your true purpose and  
aligning it with what you do every  
single day !

Source: Tony Robbins

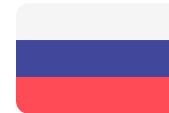
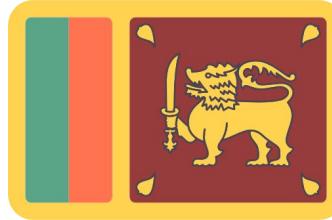


## Aravinth Panch

As a social entrepreneur, empowering underserved communities in the Global South to achieve sustainable development goals through education, innovation and entrepreneurship

As a tech entrepreneur, helping companies to realise their ideas from mind to market by providing 360° services in engineering, media, business, education

<https://dreamspace.academy>  
<https://aracreate.com>  
<https://aravinth.info>



60+ countries

# Education | Research



**SRM**  
UNIVERSITY  
(Under section 3 of UGC Act 1956)



  
**VELAMMAL**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
driven by a thought

**ARENA**  
MULTIMEDIA

  
**DAI-Labor**  
Distributed Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

[ **disi: aiti:** ]  
Daimler Center for  
Automotive Information Technology Innovations

Telekom  
Innovation  
Laboratories  


Telecommunication  
Networks Group **TKN**

## Interdisciplinary

# Corporates | Startups

**ARACREATE**



**BATCHORGE**



**TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES**



**MotorSkins**



**smart**

**Infosys**

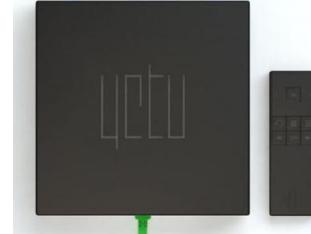
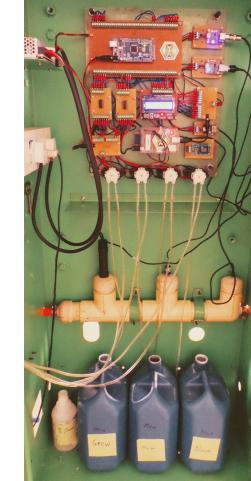


**SE\IC**



**250+ clients**

# Innovations | Projects



40+ products



# Impact Entrepreneurship



If I am not for myself, who will be  
for me? If I am for myself alone,  
what am I? If not now, when?

Source: Rabbi Hillel

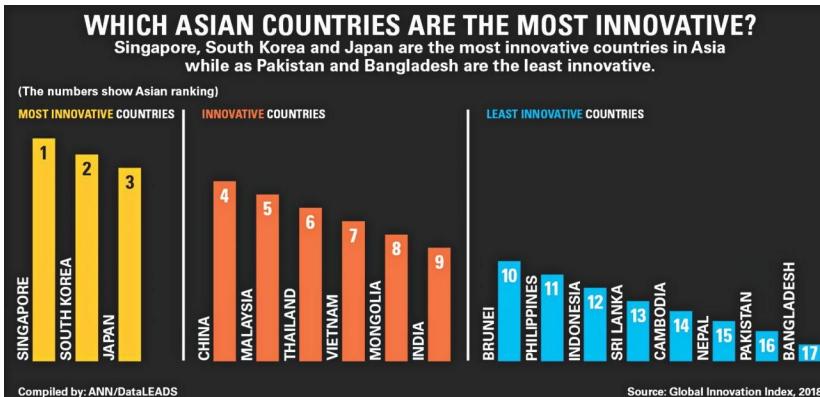
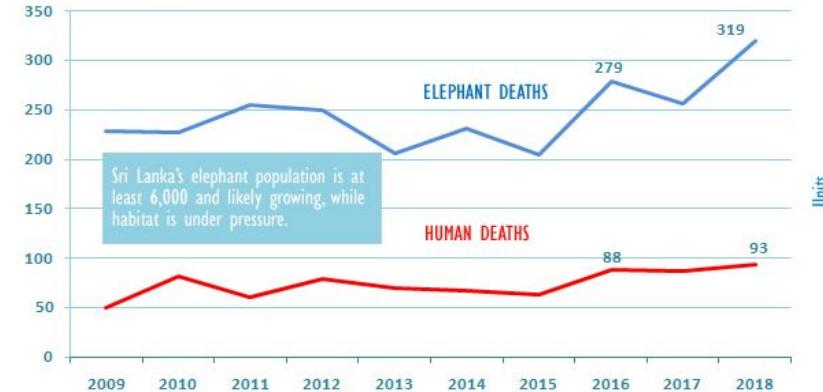
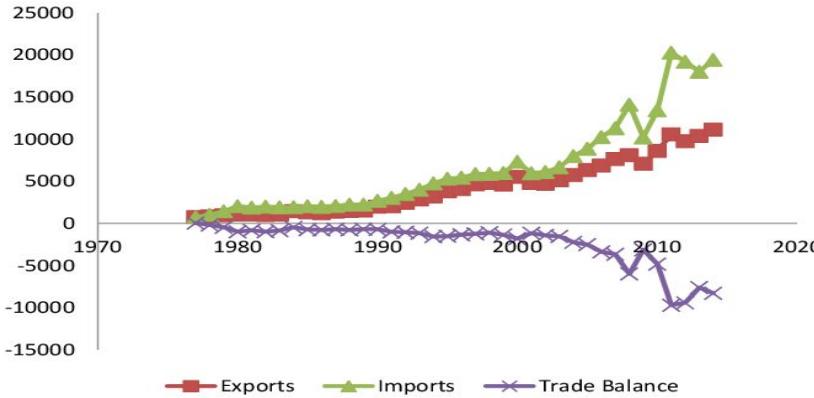
# Why do we do what we do?

Three decades of **civil war** in Sri Lanka caused a massive impact on **socio-economy** and **environmental ecosystems**

**International aid** provided significant support, but **imported solutions** couldn't solve fundamental **local problems sustainably**

We set out to **empower locals** to solve complex **local challenges !!!**

# Why do we do what we do?



Source: unocha.org, global-innovation-index-2018, researchgate.net, oec.world

# Who are we?



**DreamSpace Academy** is a **non-profit social enterprise** tackling local **socio-economic** and environmental challenges through **challenge-based learning**, grassroots innovation and **impact-venture building**

# What is our mission?

Our mission is to achieve **sustainable development goals** in Sri Lanka by empowering **underserved communities**, protecting **environmental ecosystems**, facilitating **peacebuilding** and fostering **impact venture**

# How do we empower with DreamSpace Lifecycle?



## Changemaker Discovery

A Changemaker is identified by the motivation to tackle local environmental and societal challenges



## Challenge-based Learning

The Changemaker is trained in anything from photography to biotechnology with interdisciplinary workshops



## Grassroots Innovation

The Changemaker's lifelong interest and immediate project are identified to solve a complex local challenge



## Domain Expertise

The Changemaker's knowledge-base is amplified by collaborating with international experts and organisations



## Impact-Venture Building

The Changemaker's solution is graduated as a impact venture for socio-economic & environmental development

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Changemaker  
Discovery

Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



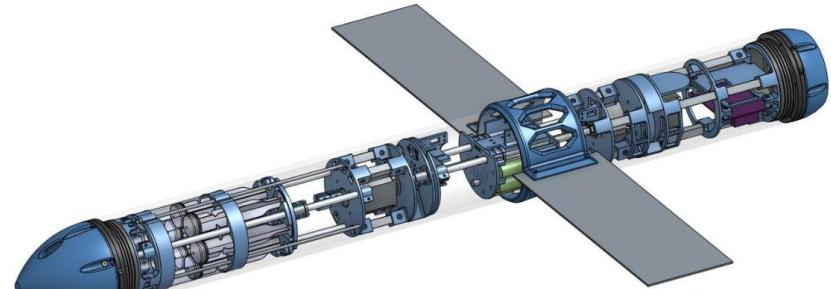
**Changemaker  
Discovery**

**Challenge-based  
Learning**



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Changemaker  
Discovery

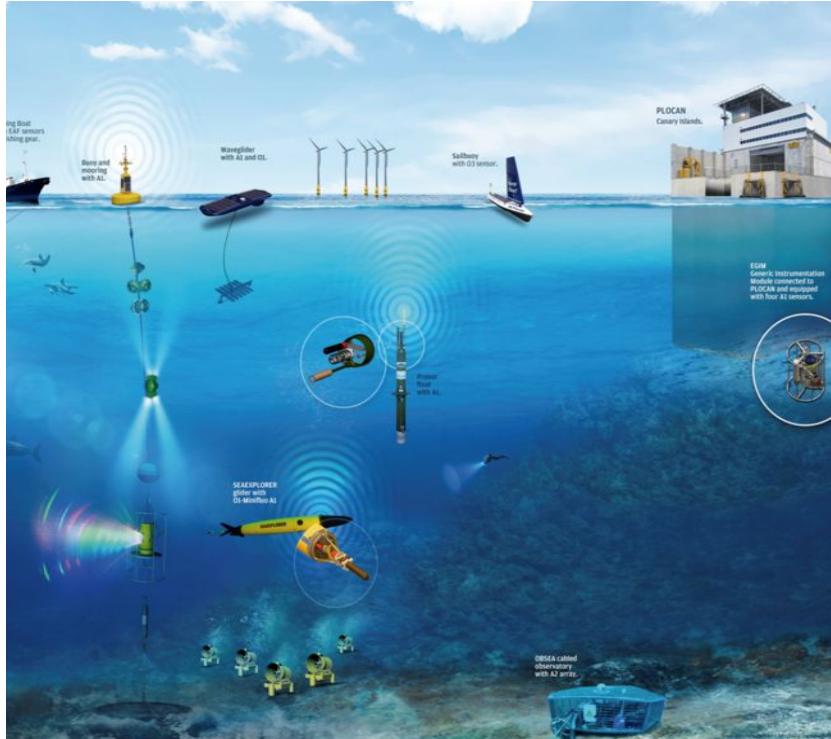
Challenge-based  
Learning

Grassroots  
Innovation



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Changemaker  
Discovery

Challenge-based  
Learning

Grassroots  
Innovation

Domain  
Expertise



Source: plocan.eu



# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Changemaker Discovery

Challenge-based Learning

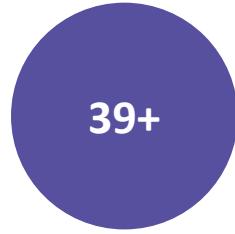
Grassroots Innovation

Domain Expertise

Impact-Venture Building

Source: dreamspace.academy,oceanswell.org,generationunlimited.org

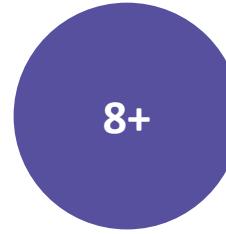
# What impact have we co-created?



Changemakers



Trainees



Labs



Innovations



Ventures



## Impact Innovations

# Sustainable Making

A lot of **The Making** happening, but

Do they make sense?

Are they solving real problems?

Are they environmentally sustainable?

Are they socio-economically feasible?

Are they producible and scalable?

...

# 5 Principles of Sustainable Making

- Make Things That Make Sense
  - Share How You Make
- Build for Continuity Design
- Integrate Local Knowledge
- Include Ecosystem Services

Source: Aravinth Panch

# How do we innovate?



## Local Challenges

A fleet of fieldworkers identifies local socio-economic and environmental problems. We question challenges and solutions first with Design Thinking



## Open Innovations

Open innovations are chosen as the foundational solution for the identified challenges. Collaboration with original authors is established



## Research & Development

With the support of external experts, further research and development is done on the chosen solution, thereby contributing to open innovations



## Local Manufacturing

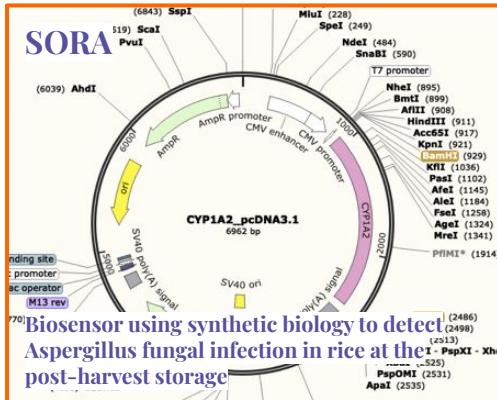
Produce with local materials and service providers to create awareness of regional products. Build manufacturing capacity to provide job opportunities



## Go To Market

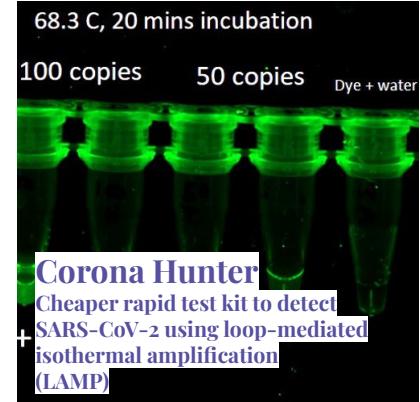
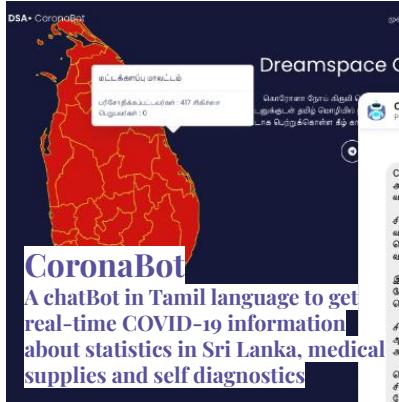
Pilot the solution with relevant stakeholders to validate the market potential. Build an inclusive business model to share the benefits with all contributors

# What are our grassroots innovations?



Source: trashfortrade.com, siwi.org ,igem.org

# What are our grassroots innovations?



# Our interdisciplinary labs



Peace Lab



Electromechanics  
Lab



Media Lab



Software Lab



Bio Lab



Business Lab



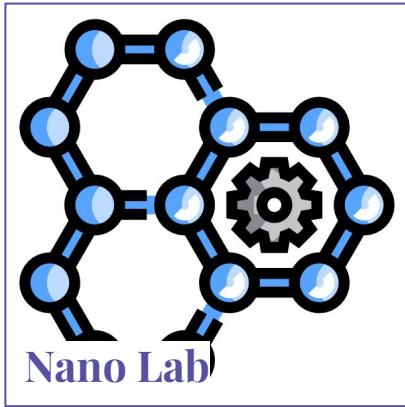
Space Lab



Art Lab

Source: dreamspace.academy

# Our interdisciplinary labs



Source: dreamspace.academy

# Our infrastructures: DreamSpace Collective



Source: [dreamspace.academy](http://dreamspace.academy)

# Our infrastructures: DreamSpace Hive



Source: dreamspace.academy



The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything !

Source: Albert Einstein

# How do we build domain expertise?



**Maite Hernandez Zubeldia**  
Design Thinking Expert | Hasso Plattner Institute  
Germany | Cuba



**Dr. Nico Meißner**  
Storyteller | Deputy Director | Griffith Film School  
Australia | Malaysia



**Femke Kroes | Janene Liston**  
Business Mentor | Pricing Strategist | BookBridge  
Switzerland | Netherlands



**Johnny FD**  
Travelpreneur | Digital Nomad | Nomad Summit  
USA

Source: dreamspace.academy,bookbridge.com

# How do we build peace and advocate well-being?



Fine Arts | Painting



Performing Arts | Vocal | Instrumental | Music



Handcrafting



Mind Sport | Critical Thinking

Source: dreamspace.academy

# How do we build peace and advocate well-being?



Environmental Advocacy



Youth & Women Empowerment



Peacebuilding and Reconciliation



Rural Development

Source: dreamspace.academy

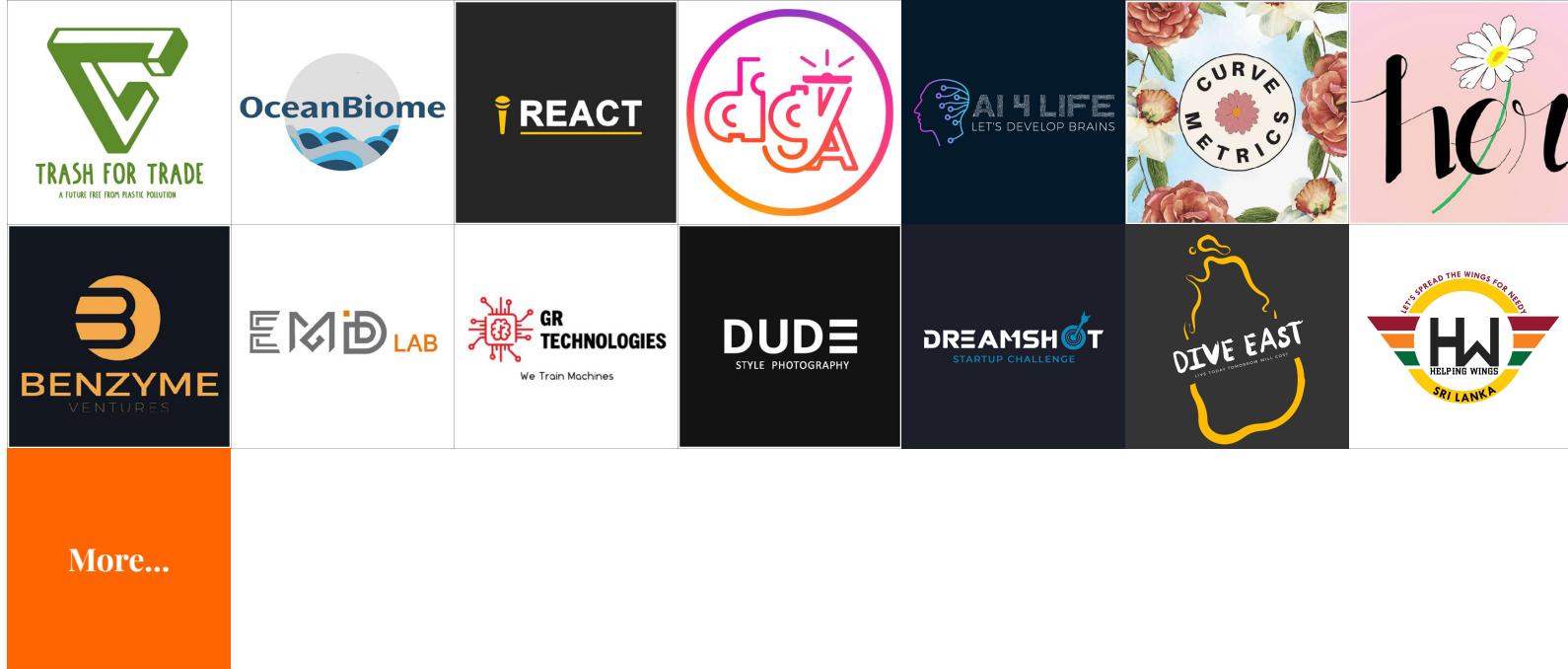
# Who are our team members?





## Impact Achievements

# What are our ventures?



Source: [trashfortrade.com](http://trashfortrade.com), [oceanbio.me](http://oceanbio.me), [ireactsrilanka.org](http://ireactsrilanka.org), [sylcls.org](http://sylcls.org)

# What are our achievements?



# Who is talking about us?



## Impact Investment

# What are our verticals and activities?

## SOCIAL MISSION

Personalised Empowerment  
Peacebuilding  
Community Building  
Wellbeing Advocacy

## BUSINESS VENTURE

Social Enterprises  
Capacity Building  
International Aid Projects  
Service Providing



**Impact Vision**



Our greatest glory is not in never  
falling, but in rising every time  
we fall !

Source: Confucius

# What is our vision?

Our vision is to build a **self-sustaining ecosystem** for local & international changemakers to **co-learn**, **co-innovate**, **co-live**, **co-farm** and **co-produce**, thereby co-creating next-generation enterprises to make Sri Lanka the biggest **social & tech innovation hub** in South Asia



## Impact Learnings



Ideas are cheap !  
Execution matters !!



# Use Scientific Methodologies !



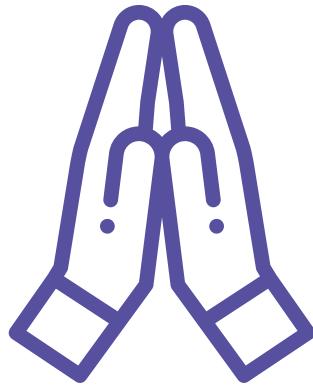
There is no success formula,  
but best practices !



Measure !  
Optimize !  
Iterate !



# Network is the Net worth !



Thank you !!!