Our Story

Q1) Where did it all begin?

When I was around 15 or 16, back in school, the biggest thing on my mind was to save enough money to buy my first phone as I was only allowed to have a phone after my O/L’s. I would save up the 100-rupee food allowance that my grandma would give me daily and I only ever spent what I saved if I was really hungry. My parents would have relented and gotten me a phone eventually but I wanted a fancier one with a colour screen that did more than just take calls, something that I felt they wouldn’t understand at the time.

Like most people my age I eventually finished school and went through university, majoring in Chemical Engineering, working in this field meant leaving home in the wee hours of the morning and coming home late at night. I fell into this routine for 3 years until I realized that I’d completely lost the spark that I had when I first started out.

Q2) What was the concept behind Mabspace?

As a child I was quite good at writing, creating presentations and making spreadsheets. I always wondered why part time work for students wasn’t normalized in our country, as I felt someone out there could have used my skills and I could have made extra cash doing what I was good at.

Q3) What caused the shift from employee to entrepreneur?

In my first year of work, I used some coding knowledge that I had picked up at my time in university to speed up my work but it baffled me that regardless of how efficient you were, companies in Sri Lanka weren’t happy unless you clocked in some amount of overtime, Efficiency was not the name of the game.

This eventually led me to become borderline depressed and unmotivated, One night, my grandma happened to mention that it would be great if she could easily find someone to run errands like letter writing and grocery shopping for her, weirdly this was what revived the spark I felt 3 years ago, just that one sentence. I felt like she’d given me a problem to solve, not just for her but for everyone who needed help from time to time but didn’t know who to turn to.

Q4) Did you ever have a make or break moment in your journey?

I met up with 2 of my friends and explained the idea of having an app like eBay for finding hired help and they came onboard. This led to us working with a development company who suggested that we start slow and go with a website instead. We worked with them for about a year when we realized that they weren’t doing our idea any justice. They were well behind schedule and skimped on features and functionality.

At this point we decided we should either give up or create the product ourselves. We reverted back to our idea of a mobile app as smartphones were gaining popularity. We learnt and developed everything from scratch and spent hours on end fine tuning our concepts.

Q5) Why would businesses or individuals choose freelance over a full-time job?

The freelancing trend is developing and is an attractive option as it allows people to be independent and work at their own pace. Businesses can really benefit from minimizing their in-house staff and instead hire designers, voice-over artists, writers and photographers on a freelance basis.

Q6) What drives Mabspace?

Our goal at Mabspace has always been to build a digital platform to help these passionate and skilled freelancers to bring their skills to light and help businesses easily locate homegrown talent from our app. Payments are seamless and secure and will be processed only once you are satisfied with the quality of work. With Mabspace, businesses can now focus on what’s really important and leave the rest to the professionals.