In grade 11, I moved to a new city and enrolled in an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. One evening, I went to see a friend who was one grade above me and we talked about subjects offered by the school. He asked me what subjects I chose, so I started listing out some. But as soon as I said Computer Science, he interrupted and suggested me to choose something else. I only realized what he meant 3 months into the course. The teacher was new and the unstructured nature of the course required us to aggressively self-study. School started at the end of July, and in October, we had to start working on our projects to code an application.

By September 2018, I realized that no one in the class knew how to code except me. There was a vacuum created by the curriculum pace and the unfamiliarity of the class with the self-study structure of the course. I empathized with my classmates’ confusion; learning coding can be intimidating because it is convoluted and filled with jargon. I knew this because I was there once. I wanted to help, but I did not know how to propagate my knowledge to large number of students.

February the following year, having been attending an engineering club my close friend created, the obvious struck me; “I should start a coding club!” It was an epiphany. I asked him to help me with managing it. This was a tedious work that I was afraid I would not have the time to handle, which was confirmed by several teachers’ discouragement. Nevertheless, I trudged on. I had the knowledge to help my classmates who were struggling. How could I not help? What better use is there to the knowledge I gained? I put out a survey to gauge the interest, and much to my surprise, several reached out to me and mentioned that they would invest an hour every week in my club. I finally realized the gravity of the job I undertook, and at the same time I felt fulfilled. I hoped to at least show them that coding was not as hard as it may seem. If I could spark an interest in them, all the time I spent acquiring knowledge and honing my skills, would have real positive value.