

What is micro trade?

... small businesses with small turnovers like the kirana store around the corner, the SHG that makes pickles, the milk vendor, the mobile repairman etc. Usually it is run by a single person or by a group not exceeding 10 members. However these individuals or groups can 'network' for mutual benefits...

These businesses operate in a very 'organic' manner and do not strictly adhere to any standard processes which makes them highly adaptable and nimble but also stops them from realizing maximum efficiency.

Micro enterprises in developing countries*

80% of all enterprises 50% of all urban enterprises 2% of GDP Main provider of employment 500 million micro entrepreneurs worldwide 5% have access to financial services

Aim

To study and understand the nature of micro trades and map the trade paths... Material, Cash and Information flow and to conceptualize a device that would make these operations more efficient, accountable and pleasurable without compromising on the organic nature of operation.

Approach

To build a strong conceptual model that is scalable and that can be easily duplicated.

Perceived challenges

The vastness and the diversity
Time constraint to understand and map the system
Lack of understanding of local knowledge and the nuances
Secretive nature of people involved in business
Resistance to change/technology.

Encouraging factors

Newer technologies are becoming cheaper Interest shown by corporate sector which would ensure development and proliferation of appropriate applications.

Initial Studies

Kirana Stores
Construction materials merchant
Fabricator
Oil merchant
Car rental operator

Final Studies

Farmers Hundekaris Adatyas

What surprised me...

... the business does not run on the main copy, duplicate, triplicates... Neither on emails and carbon copies but rather on verbal promise.

... They TRUST each other and at the same time observe extreme CAUTION in all their dealings...

...the organic nature of the business and the extreme nimbleness...

...ability to handle large amount of quantitative data without any technology intervention...

...Keen to use new technology. (I expected resistance...)

Why Rural Areas?

Digital inclusion of the rural population and connectivity are the key to empowering rural India. One of the main hurdles is the lack of locally relevant, affordable content

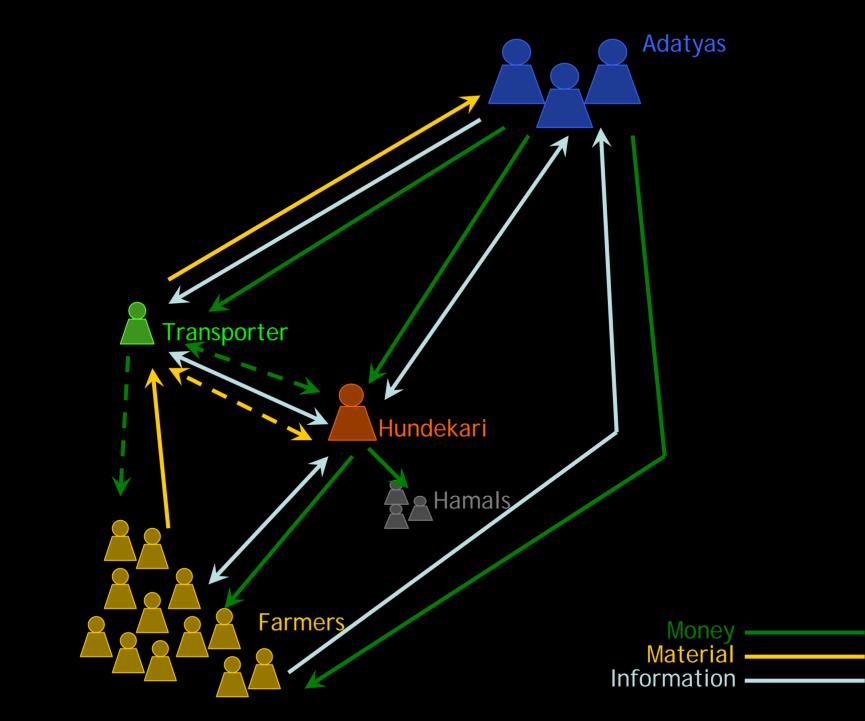
With wireless and mobile technology growing exponentially it wont be long before clever applications are would connect entire rural India both horizontally and vertically.

Thousands of similar projects, small and big, are transforming the rural landscape and empowering the rural population.

Scenario

Sekhar Hande, a Hundekari has to plan the transport of agricultural produce from his village to the market yard in Pune.

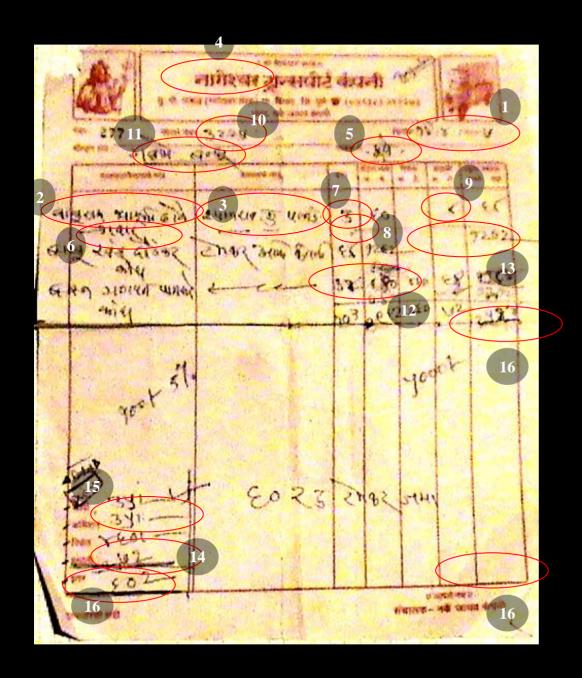
He needs to collect information on the produce to be sent by various farmers, plan and decide on the mode of transport, aggregate the materials, communicate to the dalal at market yard and make bills for transporter and the dalal.



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Bill

- Date
- Name of the farmer
- Name of the Adatya
- Name of the *Hundekari*
- Destination
- Produce
- Quantity
- Weight
- Refund (For gunny bags)
- Vehicle Number
- Name of the driver
- Transportation charge
- Hamali (Labour- loading)
- Thapi (Labour- arranging on the truck)
- Commission for *Hundekari*
- Total

Product Brief

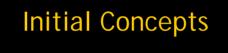
To design a communication device to assist the 'Hundekari' in trading of agricultural produce as well as act a device that will permit synchronous/asynchronous communication for personal needs.

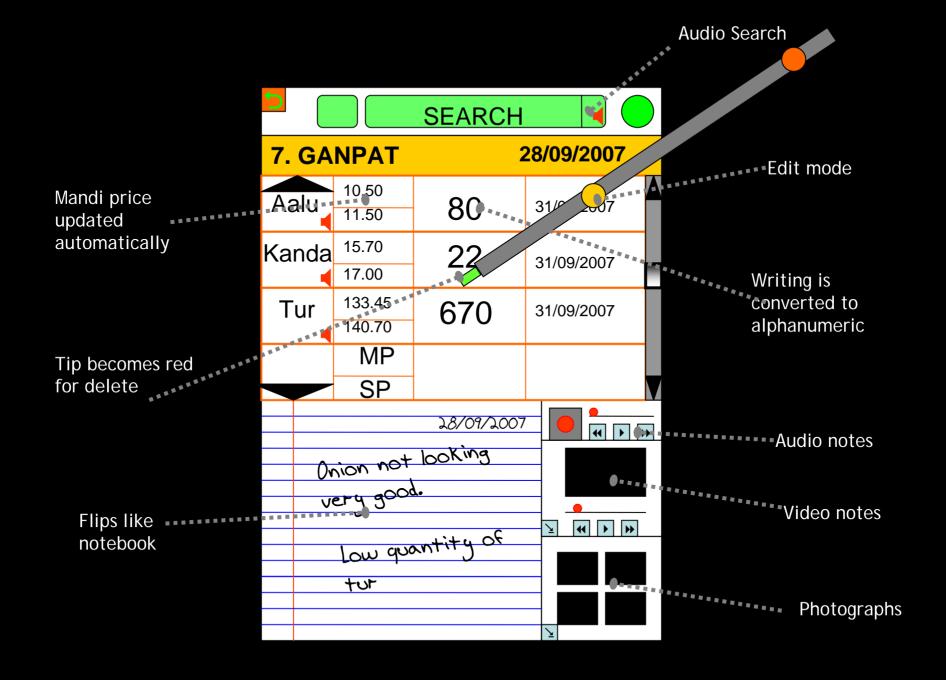
The device must enable making/receiving calls, sending/receiving messages. It must have the ability to support local languages for navigation and messaging.

The device must be able to assist in the following functions

- 1. Taking down orders
- 2. Selecting suitable transport
- 3. Arranging the collection of produce
- 4. Preparing bills for Transporter and Adatya.
- 5. Sending the bills electronically or printing hard copies.
- 6. Maintain archives for reference
- 7. Maintenance of accounts

The communication device must be able to simplify the process and make it more efficient, transparent and aim at a zero error process which can be easily applied to other similar micro trade processes as well.





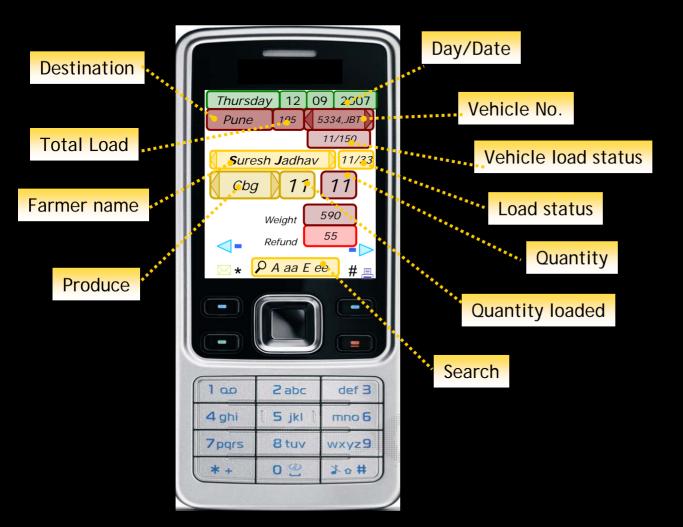


Concepts with mobile phones













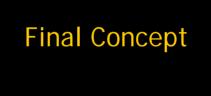




A concept with a printer attachment to which the phone can be docked.

RFID Phone





Zoom Wheel

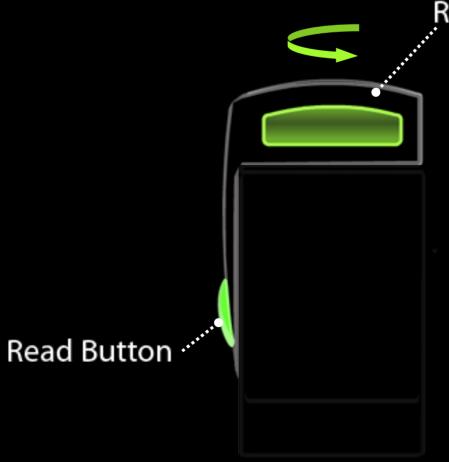
Toggle Button

Connect/Disconnect

Loudspeaker On/Off

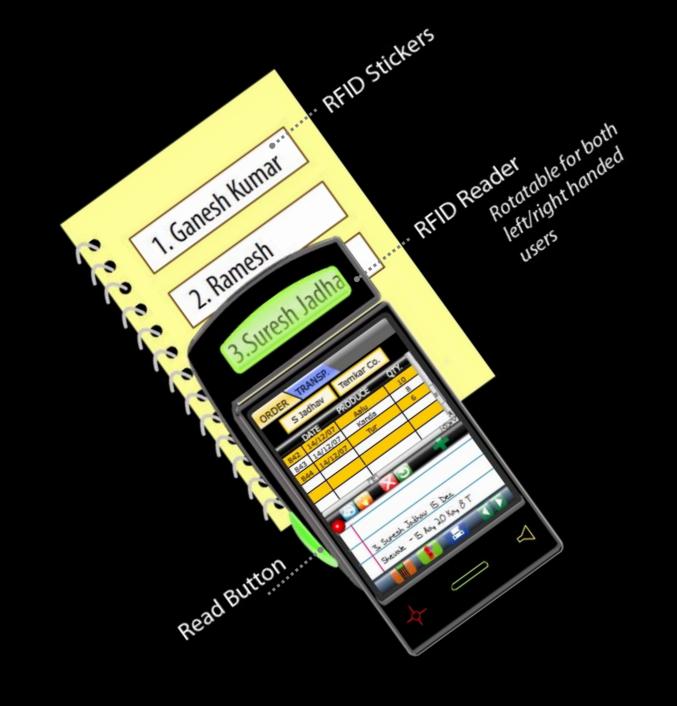


FarmCom V01



RFID Reader

Rotatable for both left/right handed users



RFID Tag

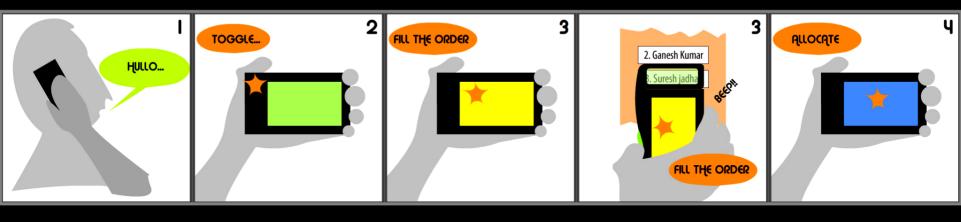


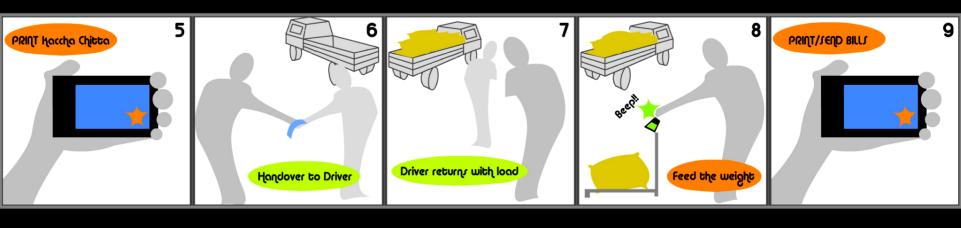
Download *Chopadis*



Contact Settings







Continuous... With stops...

Pabal to Pune *** T S Shevale and Co .*** JB Trasport *** 3224									
Farmer	Nos.	Produce	Weight	Motor	Refund	Hamali	Total		
Nageshwar	35	Aalu	1000	750					
Nageshwar	22	Kanda	700	440					
Nageshwar	16	Cabbage	216	216					
Nageshwar	22	Tur	980	440					
Rajesh	12	Cabbage	270	270	12	50			
Rajesh	16	Tur	650	320	32				
Rajesh	7	Kanda	150	140	7				
Suresh Jad	10	Aalu	330	200	10	110			
Suresh Jad	14	Kanda	300	240	14				
Suresh Jad	22	Tur	1000	440	44				

TOTAL 11643.00 Thapi 350 Commission 3000 Refund 133 Hamali 160



Toggle Button

Connect/Disconnect

Loudspeaker On/Off



FarmCom V01



