

SIROHI

**SKILLED SAMARITAN
FOUNDATION**

AN ORGANIZATION BRIDGING THE INCOME EQUALITY GAP BY RECOGNIZING AND LEVERAGING EXISTING CRAFT SKILLS OF WOMEN FROM MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES OF UTTAR PRADESH.

Skilled Samaritan Foundation

(SSF): is a social enterprise operating as a not for profit with their brand **Sirohi**. The Foundation provides income opportunities to women from marginalised communities in India by recognising their existing craft skills and providing them 'tech-based' design support to make well designed products.

Although a nonprofit, they try to conduct their operations like any for-profit business to **maximise economic and social impact** for its beneficiaries and product consumers. This led them to envisage a robust financial platform to track its financial strength (sales, purchases, expenses, inventory) as well as 'sustainability metrics', which included but was not limited to:

- Increase in artisan base
- Increase in personal disposable income to SSF's beneficiaries
- Amount of waste converted to functional products
- CO2 emissions saved
- Hours taken to weave one product
- Basic app. for women artisans to track products woven per month and calculate their increase in income on a monthly basis via Intuit Circles Program Partnership

THE CHALLENGE

When the team at [Tech4Good Community](#) met with SSF, they had spent the better part of the last three years searching for a holistic solution that could help them capture these metrics, but failed to find the correct fit for their requirements.

Here are a few challenges that Sirohi grappled with:

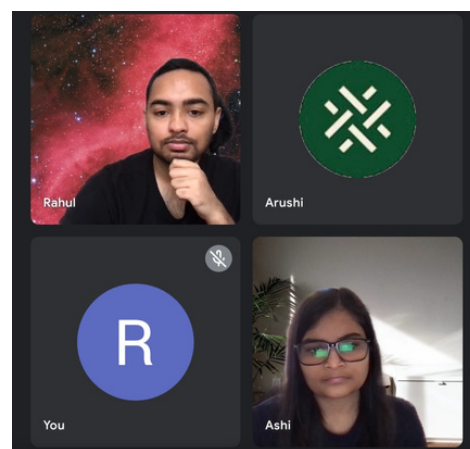
- **Tracking no. of active Artisans:** Due to decentralised production, product weaving was done by women in their homes, leading to limited accountability.
- **Siloed Data:** All payments were calculated & managed on excel or on paper. This led to inefficiencies during monthly payment cycles
- **Tracking Incomes:** Was done on Excel & inefficiently managed.
- **Tracking Productivity:** No system in place for this.

HOW THEY DID IT

Tech4Good Community's mentorship programme is replete with representatives from world class corporates, volunteering their time & expertise to Indian nonprofits. [Atlassian](#) is one such partner that **engages** its employees for such engagements **with** T4G as part of their [Engage 4 Good](#) initiative.

SSF attended the **EdelGive Foundation x Tech4Good Community Spotlight Series** & finally entered into a requirement mapping & tool development exercise with an Atlassian mentor. The objective of this engagement was to develop a strong tech-powered backend to manage **organisational inventory, stock, sales and beneficiary payments**, while using a **simple app-based platform** to provide **financial literacy to their beneficiaries to track their monthly incomes and production of goods**.

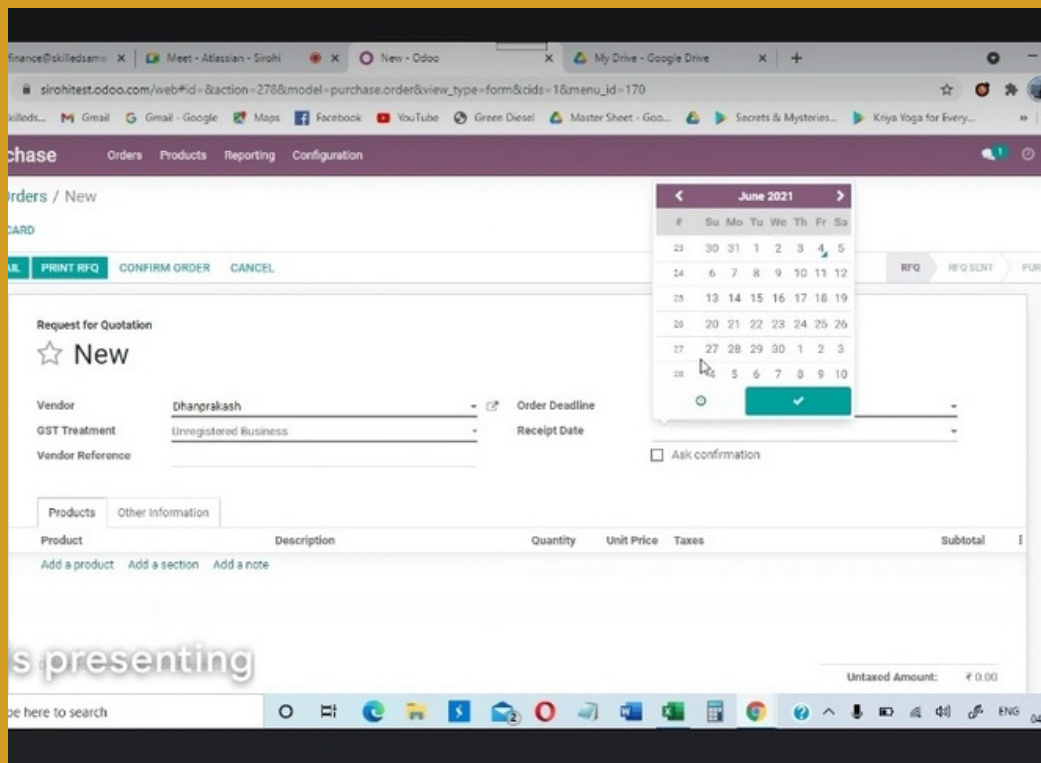
Within 3 months, the mentors from Atlassian developed a customised Management Information System that doubled up as their client management & finance & inventory management system to include all elements of their work.



"THE BIGGEST HELP TECH4GOOD PROVIDED WAS CONNECTING US WITH THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WE HAD THE OPTION TO CHOOSE AMONGST THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AND WORK WITH THE ONE CLOSEST TO OUR BELIEFS. TECH4GOOD HELPED COMMUNICATE THE EXPECTATIONS AND DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME TO AND FROM THE NON-PROFITS. AND THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY HAS SURELY BEEN THAT SMALL OPTIMISATIONS AND AUTOMATIONS CAN GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING NON PROFITS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS. SINCE THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONETARY RESOURCES OF A FOR-PROFIT ORG, THEY HAVE TO LOOK FOR LOW COST OR OPEN SOURCE TOOLS TO GET THE JOB DONE. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, THE QUESTION WAS NOT ONLY HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT ALSO TO DO IT IN A COST EFFICIENT MANNER."

RAHUL SINGH,
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER,
JIRA SERVICE MANAGEMENT
ATLASSIAN

IMPACT



Here are ways in which new Management Information System helped Sirohi overcome their challenges:

- It provides SSF with a financial and sustainable dashboard that structures their finances and enables them to track impact via numbers and a 'data' point of view.
- It allows them to showcase concrete impact to funders and stakeholders
- Helps them assess social impact of **number of women brought online, monthly payments**, automated system to **assess increase in monthly incomes of women** and number of new women onboarded every month
- Increases **transparency** in **financial management, payments** and assessing impact from a **social, economic and environmental POV**

FOR SIROHI, USING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM LIKE THIS, CAN HELP CREATE TANGIBLE SOCIAL IMPACT:

It leads to honed skill-sets for women & an increase in household personal disposable income & in savings, opening of bank accounts and financial planning among women. Inclusion & increase in rate of women in workforce & reduction in financial dependency of women on male counterparts. Fewer girls forced into child marriage which in turn leads to higher school attendance rates.