**TakeOrTrade - An exchange and giveaway platform without any monetary exchange!**

**Requirements Elicitation**

**1. Elicitation Techniques:**

We didn’t do textbook stakeholder interviews Here’s what actually happened:

**- Personal Experience:**

- My family needed a microwave after shifting. Saw my neighbor throwing an old one out. Thought to myself, why isn’t there a place to **trade** my old things for things I need?

**- Observing Real Behavior:**

- Watched people discard many things (things that other ppl might need) during difficult housing situations (when they move, be it a change of locality or country).

- Saw people beg for free things on socials (feels degrading) vs. sellers scalping free items (feels exploitative).

**- Conversations with other struggling People:**

- one of them said I’d trade my extra chair for your utensil sets, but I don’t want to post on [bikroy.com](http://bikroy.com) and get 50 unnecessary texts either asking for the price or from scammers.

**2. Elicitation Prep**

- **Goal:** Make trading things feel normal, not like begging.

- **Stakeholders Identified:**

1. Struggling Students: Need things but hate feeling like freeloaders.
2. People Moving Out: Have things to get rid of fast but feel guilty trashing it.
3. Lurkers: Will trade if it’s easy and safe.

**3. Conducting Elicitation**

**- Body:**

Asked the questions:

- "What’s the bare minimum to make a trade happen?" > Photo + description + chat.

- "How to avoid time-wasters?" > No ‘hold for me’ - first to meet gets it.

- "How to stop resellers?" > No cash allowed - moderators ban $$$ talk.

Then decided: We’ll have a reporting system that will allow you to report users with appropriate

**4. Analysis**

**- Key Insights:**

- People want quick hassle free trades (not profiles with 5-star reviews).

- Hardly anyone likes free platforms like [bikroy.com](http://bikroy.com) anymore, you have to pay to even make your ads appear on other people’s pages.

**5. Difficulties**

- Initially, trying to gather functional requirements felt very challenging

- Kept thinking about a hundred different features and functional requirements but couldn’t decide on which to keep and which to get rid of

**Now this might lead to the question- Why nothing like my portal exists in this country yet?**

* **From what I could come up with, it’s a cultural hurdle i.e. it’s seen as desperate or “low-status”. My application will hopefully normalise it.**

**Requirements Analysis**

**MoSCoW Breakdown for TakeOrTrade**

**1. MUST HAVE**

1. User Auth (login/signup)

2. Item Listing & Search

- Post items (photo + description)

- Filter by category (Textbooks, Furniture)

3. In-App Chat

4. Basic profile - show user info + listed items (`profile.html`)

5. City-centric features:

- Location tags (e.g., "Near IUB Campus")

**2. SHOULD HAVE**

1. Wishlist

2. Notifications - Basic alerts for trades/messages

3. Safety Features - Meetup spots near campuses (DU, NSU, IUB)

4. Simple Moderation - Report button

**3. COULD HAVE**

1. Item Matches - "Your old chair matches Ali’s desk request"

2. Barter Suggestions - "People trading X for Y near you"

3. Move-Out Urgency Tags - "Must trade by May 30!"

**4. WON’T HAVE**

1. Payment Integration - Defeats the "no cash" purpose

2. Fancy UI Animations

3. Delivery Options - Keep it face-to-face for safety

**Software Requirement Specifications**

**Introduction:**

As a human who’s tired of seeing good things go to waste - be it food or be it money - while people who need it cannot afford it. Ever watched someone throw out a perfectly good chair, knowing some struggling student is out there sitting on the floor and breaking their backs for the degree? Or needed a textbook but couldn’t manage the money? That’s why TakeOrTrade should be built.

This isn’t some fancy app with complicated rules. It’s a simple, no-nonsense platform where people can:

- Giveaway things they don’t need.

- Trade/Exchange materialistic things instead of begging or overspending.

- Find what they need without dealing with scammers or sketchy Facebook groups.

I’m hoping to build this because I’m sick of the waste and the struggle. No points, no fees, no corporate nonsense - just real people helping each other out. If you’ve ever been broke, stuck with things you don’t need anymore but can’t throw away, or just hate seeing good things wasting away, this is for you.

**Overall Description**

TakeOrTrade is a **community-driven platform** designed to facilitate the **exchange of goods without monetary transactions**. It connects people who have items to give away or trade with those who need them, creating a sustainable cycle of reuse.

**Key Aspects**

**1. Purpose**

- Eliminate waste by encouraging item reuse.

- Provide an accessible way for people to acquire necessities **without financial pressure**.

**2. Scope**

- Supports giveaways, direct trades, and request-based exchanges.

- Focuses on local communities to enable easy, in-person exchanges.

**3. User Types**

- Givers: Individuals or businesses looking to declutter or donate items.

- Takers: Those seeking free or bartered goods.

- Traders: Users who want to swap items of mutual value.

**NOTE: One user can act as all three above**

* Admin

**4. Differentiators**

- No money involved - pure exchange or gifting.

- Built on trust and transparency, with minimal moderation.

- Prioritizes speed and simplicity for urgent needs (e.g., students moving out).

**Functional Requirements (Detailed Breakdown)**

**1. Item Listing & Management**

**Process:**

**- User (Giver/Trader)**

1. Clicks "Post Item" button.

2. Selects listing type: Giveaway (FCFS/Request) or Trade.

3. Uploads 1–3 photos (optional but encouraged).

4. Fills in:

- Title (e.g., "Physics Textbook – Like New").

- Description (condition, reason for trading).

- Category (e.g., Books, Furniture).

- Urgency tag (e.g., "Must go by Friday!").

5. Submits; listing goes live immediately.

**- System**

1. Stores listing in the `listings` table (Supabase).

2. Auto-adds timestamp and user ID.

3. Displays listing in the "Near You" feed.

**2. Proximity-Based Discovery**

**Process:**

**- User (Taker)**

1. Opens app → sees default "Near You" feed.

2. Filters by:

- Area.

- Category (e.g., Electronics).

- Urgency ("30-min pickup" tag).

3. Clicks listing to view details.

**- System**

1. Uses browser geolocation (or manual Dhaka zone selection).

2. Queries Supabase for listings within 5km.

3. Sorts by newest/urgent first.

**3. In-App Negotiation (Chat)**

**Process:**

**- User (Interested Taker)**

1. Clicks "Message Owner" on a listing.

2. Types offer (e.g., "I’ll trade my desk fan for this").

3. Sends; waits for reply.

**- User (Lister)**

1. Gets real-time notification (Supabase realtime).

2. Replies via chat to confirm/decline.

**- System**

1. Creates a chat channel in `messages` table.

2. Pushes notifications via Supabase realtime API.

**4. Trade Finalization**

**Process:**

**- Both Users**

1. Agree on meetup spot (e.g., "NSU Cafeteria, 4PM").

2. Mark trade as "Completed" post-meetup.

**- System**

1. Flags listing as "Taken" in the database.

2. Optionally prompts for feedback (e.g., "Trade went well? 👍/👎").

**5. Moderation & Safety**

**Process:**

**- User (Anyone)**

1. Reports suspicious listings (e.g., "This is a scam").

2. Blocks abusive users.

**- System**

1. Hides listings after 3+ reports.

2. Notifies admin (you) via email/Supabase logs.

**Non-Functional Requirements**

**1. Handle Crowds Without Dying**

- Should stay working when 100+ users are online at once

- How? Supabase's free tier + simple pagination (`LIMIT 50` per page)

**2. Fast Enough for Impatient Students**

- Pages load in under 4 seconds even on bad campus Wi-Fi

- How?

- Compress images to <500KB before upload

- Use lazy loading ("Load more" buttons instead of infinite scroll)

**3. Work on Ancient Phones**

- Must run on Android 8 (2017 phones) and iPhone 6S

- How?: Avoid fancy JavaScript - basic HTML/CSS only

**4. Don't Leak Personal Info**

- Never show emails/phone numbers in public listings

- How?: Use Supabase RLS (Row Level Security) - turn it on in settings

**5. “I am not here to sell or trade contraband”**

- On signup page, there will be a checkbox that would require you to tick in order to sign up where we will have mentioned that you’ll be responsible for everything you do. If you’re caught doing shady work, you will be taken action against.