**2. Fast Track Training Project**

After completing the Fast Training period successfully we made up groups of three to do our fast track training project. Me, Fawsan, and Fasna made up a group and selected a project from the “WSO2-Redmine”. We arranged a meeting with Mr. Srinath to discuss about the details. He inspired us with the project idea and gave the approval for us to continue working on the project.

**Project Description**

WSO2-Products, despite of having very powerful and efficient functionalities, does not consist of a killer mechanism to visualize data. This could result in potential customers to underestimate the ultimate productivity of some of their products. Therefore a generic web tool(a *widget* as we may address) for visualizing data, without expertise knowledge on the subject, is a vital requirement. Our task, therefore, was to create a generic JavaScript library which can be used by open-source developers to draw charts.

**Getting Started**

The library will be a simple JavaScript library from a high level point of view. However doing this without the aid of external libraries is discouraged due to 3 *mundane* facts,

* Limited time frame
* Having to *reinvent the wheel*
* Neglecting the best open-source practices.

However we have to be extra careful when selecting external libraries for a software project. We must ensure that the resource is trustworthy and able to perform the expected task. Considering all above mentioned facts, we agreed upon using **d3js** to lay the foundation for our tool.

**Why d3js over other similar libraries?**

The term 'd3' stands for *data driven documents*. It is a kind of low level JavaScript library for manipulating documents based on data. So to answer the question, 'why d3?',

* It provides many reusable and advanced functionalities, which would have consumed a lot of time, if attempted to write from scratch.
* It has gained a good reputation over time, even from experts, for its strongly written code base.
* A lot of samples are available for new developers to grasp the d3 environment.
* Neatly written documentations are also available.

Shown below are few samples from their official website, d3js.org



