FEMALE SAFETY

ANIMATION PROJECT II AN II - 75

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CENTRE
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
2016

Semester III Project report

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Declaration

I declare that this written document represents my ideas in my own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources.

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November 18, 2015

Approval sheet

The project titled Just Another day - An animation film on women safety by Vasundhara Agrawal is approved for partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of 'Master of Design' in Animation.

Guide

Internal examiner

Chairperson

External examiner

Date 26.11.2015:

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my guide Prof. Shilpa Ranade for her continuous support, suggestions and feedbacks. Her guidance has enabled me to evolve and enrich my creative thinking and made this project possible.

I would also like to thank the entire Animation faculty who patiently listened to my presentations and gave productive feedbacks. So Prof. Phani Tetali, Pro. Sumant Rao, Prof. Nina Sabnani and Prof. Mazhar Kamran a big thank you to you all.

I would like to thank all those people who shared their experiences and opinions on this topic with me.

Last but not the least i would like to thank all my family and friends who supported me in all aspects weather listening to a story, to improving the storyboard, to giving creative feedbacks. It would not have been possible without you people so thanks.

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Abstract

This project aims to understand the issue of female safety through a short animated film. The film intends to evoke a feeling of understanding and empathy towards the experiences women face in their everyday life. The film focuses not only on the physical aspect of safety but also on the mental aspect of safety for a woman.

It portrays how the societal norms very often put so many restrictions on a woman that even doing very simple harmless everyday activities makes her feel hesitant and fearful. How one persons meaningless actions can affect anther's mental stability. It portrays a women's everyday fight with her concern for self-security. And also tries to explain how a simple action can make someone feel safe and secure. That the courage lies within and an act of bravery does not need an audience to applaud.

Introduction

It is an unfortunate fact that the female population faces more safety issues than the males all around the world. For numerous reasons women are almost always dominated mentally and physically throughout their lives. Some consider them as the non earning part of the society hence lowering their rights to speech and ownership while others judge them based on her physical strength. This feeling of superiority by men leads to physical and mental dominance which also translates into various form of crimes against women.

However this also increases the level of safety measures people take for their own women family members. Often portrayed as a protective instinct of the family becomes nothing more than a rule book of restrictions for the females of the house. As a result she ends up being told even what she can eat, drink, wear, read, talk, think etc. Even after all this she lives in a perpetual vulnerability of being harmed. She has to be vigilant and alert to every step she takes, every person she meets even the food she eats. Can this kind of objectification of women make her feel safe and secure?

As part of my exploration i aimed at understand the safety of the female gender as a whole and not just women safety, as babies as young as 6 months also get raped in our society. It is a matter of concern for how can small school girls be made aware of how to be alert and aware of any kind of physical and mental harassment without taking away the innocence of their childhood. The same applies to all those women who undergo rigorous year of education and muster courage to go work in a different city away from home.

Therefore the scope of the project is to understand the feeling of 'safe' for a woman which is not only physical but also mental. It aims to portray the difficulties women face even in their everyday lives. How even educated independent women have to struggle to be able to live a perfectly safe tension free day.

The film also aims to send out a small message to the society how even small acts of standing up for someone when required which need not necessarily involve a fight back can help someone maintain their dignity and confidence.

Research

Women Safety is a vast topic concerning almost everyone in the county. The topic has been explored, and represented through several mediums time and again. Hence i began my research by taking a look at how people from various fields like journalism, film, media and authors have represented this topic in the past.

Newspaper Articles:

Almost every other day there is an incident reported where a woman is either harassed, molested or raped and murdered. With the increase in the number of women stepping outside their homes to work and support their families there is an increasing concern for safety. However what is more disturbing is the fact that such crimes are soaring in number even for the school going women population. Below are a few newspaper reports which were a part of my study.

> These two news articles influenced me to concentrate more on the safety issues faced by school going girls and independent working women living in metropolitan cities usually regarded as safe.



Unruly bikers harass morning joggers, targe women at Marine Drive

TNN | Jul 14, 2015, 02.55 AM IST

MUMBAI: A 33-year-old businesswoman was assaulted by thre a motorbike along Marine Drive on Friday. The woman, whose name has been withheld request, jogs along the stretch around four times a week at 6am. Such harassment by bil Marine Drive has been a frequent experience of those who regularly walk or run along the early in the morning.

"This has been going on for a couple of years," said the woman, a Worli resident, "If you walking, they whack you on your butt or they yell and stare. I've been hit twice - once on and another time on my hips. The most recent incident was last week when they hit me belt." She adds that the incidents could be avoided if they were more traffic cops on the

"There is hardly any police patrolling for most of the stretch -- just a couple of them, after Club. It's very scary," says personal trainer Pankti Gosar who regularly runs along Marir often as early as 5.30am. "There are so many bikers there, particularly during this time of Three of them ride on one motorcycle in an extremely reckless manner. They pass comn us, try to drive too close. That stretch gets very unsafe." Gosar runs in a group comprisin



BAREILLY: Faced with constant sexual harassment by goons waiting RELATED at the other side of a river that 200-odd girls from a dozen villages in Bareilly have to cross every day to reach school, the students have * Rain prolongs 200 Barelly decided to choose safety over their much-needed education. girls' wait to rejoin achool In what many see as a most telling statement on the state of affairs in *b>Soon, bridge to help 200 Uttar Pradesh, around a dozen villages that send their girls to a school Barelly girls get to school in Shergarh, 45 km from Bareilly, have come together to say that they would rather have their daughters go without schooling than subject Sexual assault on tribal ords them to the teasing and often assault that has now been going on for Two hospel staff, BEO suspended in Ch... two years. Goons dissoruet wedston.

hrides part to markel home.

without 'pheras'

A bunch of hooligans, who wait at the other side of the river that the girls have to cross, have been making their lives miserable, harassing the students and often even sexually targeting them. Not willing to give * Barelly tenne whar securion up their studies, the girls had been quiet till now, but on Tuesday their parents, helpless at the police taking no action, decided to discontinue the studies of 35 of these girls. The rest said they will follow suit. The

girls along with their family members also met Union minister and Bareilly MP Santosh Kumar notice him to halo them so that they don't have to doon select

Movies:

Movies and films have time and again addressed the different aspects of women safety hence it was essential to study the existing films and series. This part is divided into two sections of animation and live action films especially since the ultimate medium of my film will be animation:

Animation Movies and Series:

Komal:

"Komal" is a Short Film based on Child Sexual Abuse. Child Sexual Abuse is a common phenomenon and a serious issue in India. The film deals with educating children and equipping them with the right tools and information, so they know how to deal with it, not after the crime is done, but before it happens. The film has handled a sensitive issue very efficiently. Also the style of animation and narration is quite simple yet effective.



Komal, 2015, a film by CLIMB MEDIA



Vama- Women Harrasment, 2013 a film by Pocket Films

"Vama" - Women Harrasment:

Vama is a stop motion animation short film. This film aims to spread social awareness on the universal issue of women harassment. The film portrays different levels of injustice a female faces right from being a foetus in the womb to a full grown adult. The sensitiveness of the issue was brought out very well through use of bold colors and creation of depth in the staging of the act.



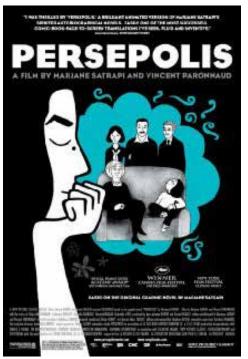
Burkha Avenger, 2013 by Aaron Haroon Rashid

Burkha Avenger:

Burkha Avenger is a Pakistani animated TV series created and directed by famous Pakistani rock star and social activist, Aaron Haroon Rashid. The show features Jiya, an "inspirational teacher" whose alter ego is a burkawearing super heroine. Jiya uses "Takht Kabaddi", a special martial art that incorporates books and pens, to fight crime. The main purpose of female empowerment was very well served by the film.

Persipolis:

Persipolis Is a 2007 French-Iranian-American animated film based on Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel. The story follows a young girl as she comes of age against the backdrop of the Iranian Revolution. Although the film is a story and experience of one single woman it speak for a lot of women around the world. The storytelling and animation style of the film is equally impressive.



Persipolis, 2007 by Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud

Live Action Short film:

During my research I came across a number of very recently made short films on the issues faced by women. These films heavily influenced me as they even brought out the aspect of self respect and mental struggle a women faces rather than just concentrating on the problem that was already visible



Going Home, 2014 film by Vikas Bahl

Going Home: A short film directed by Vikas Bahl shows a girl driving home alone on a deserted road at night when her car breaks down. An SUV with five men stops by and you would imagine the next scene would show another crime against a woman, but the men help her repair the car. They exchange glances on seeing the girl alone but drop her home safely in the end.

Would every woman in India be dropped home safely? The video says its 'impossible in the real world'.

The video asks a very important question that can we give women a world without molestation and harassment. The question raised is not only important the representation although sarcastic shows what is right and what should actually be done. This is also something I was inspired by..

That day after everyday:

Another short film directed by Anurag Kashyap tells the story of three working women and their everyday struggle to reach their workplace. The three women live in constant fear of molestation and harassment not just in public space but even in their own gated community. The film shows how they have been going to self defence classes after office but unable to decide if they are physically ready to fight. This is when their trainer steps in and explain its not the physical but the mental strength which helps one wins a battle. Hence a person can fight and defend themselves when they think they are ready to fight. That day they fight back the colony goons, not only defending themselves but gaining respect in the society as well as their homes.



That day after everyday, 2013 film by Anurag Kashyap



Rape its your fault, 2013 film by AIB

Rape: Its your fault:

Is a satire showing how whatever form of physical harassment a women faces its her fault. No matter how she is dressed where she is located if she is raped, harassed or molested its always her fault. This satirical act gave me goosebumps when beaten and battered women were shown on the screen and all they said was "Its my fault". The films has been able to spread a very important message to the society saying "look how she is silently accepting all your atrocities and blames", "Are you still not ashamed?".

l'am not a woman:

An apology to all the Indian women on behalf of the Indian men. This video by East India Comedy left a thought that will keep revolving in your mind irrespective of you being a man or a woman. The video urges that giving a serious thought is the need of hour, when so much is happening around us. The video starring four men – Rajit Kapur, Neil Bhoopalam, Meiyang Chang and Sorabh Pant starts with them wish to be women and tell us why they are not women. They begin with a wish, regret of not being one and finally apologize to all the women on behalf of all the Indian men for giving them the present disgusting atmosphere to live in!

The highlight of the video is when the four demand women to give stronger reply to all their offenders. The video also showcased roadside romeos to outrageously stupid politicians making random comments on something as serious as rape.



I'am not a woman, 2014 film by East India Comedy

Interviews, Observations and Personal Experiences



Interview with Convener, Women Cell IIT Bombay:

In a personal interview with Professor Prita Pant Convener of the Women Cell at IIT, Bombay she explained about the establishment of the women cell. In accordance with the Supreme Court ruling of 1997 on the issue of sexual harassment at workplace The Women's Cell of IIT Bombay was established in 2002. She explained the process the women cell follows to address a problem. Which primarily consists of making a complain to the council, an inquiry into the issue and a recommended course of action for the culprit.

It is surprising how even in a closed and secure surrounding like the IIT women face various kinds of safety issues. Some of which are often related to social media harassment where it becomes extremely difficult to track the culprit as they often make fake internet profiles. This form of harassment causes major mental disturbance to the victim instead of physical harassment.

She also explained how the institute has set up a Quick Response Team to address and respond to any such issues even at odd hours. This has helped many people to take the appropriate action on time.



Women in Mumbai Locals:

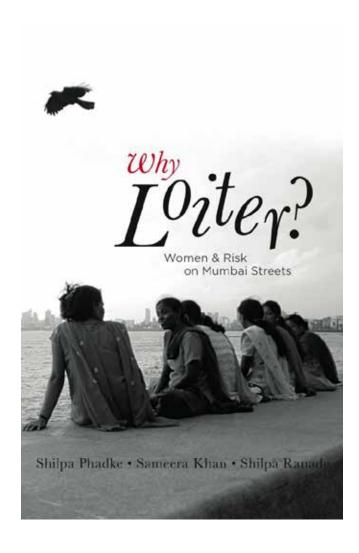
A large part of Mumbai's working women population travel by train. Train being one of the fastest mode to travel within the city of Mumbai is also one of the most risky modes of transport. The short duration stoppage at stations, the heavy rush at peak hours and the poorly designed platforms makes it not only difficult but an everyday struggle for a number of women across the city. But women have adapted to this mode in their own intricate ways which is even fascinating when analysed. Like if a women is a daily passenger and can afford the first class pass they do so. Working women usually leave office a bit earlier than men so that they can avoid the rush hours at least on the platforms and also be home before its too dark. Women passengers travelling late in the night prefer travelling in the general compartment rather than being stranded alone in a women's compartment.

Also late night travellers often have someone to pick them up from stations. Apart from that even the railways provides guards in the women compartment for late night travellers. Such approaches helps people feel safe and secure.

Personal Experience:

I stayed in the city of Hyderabad for four years from 2010-2014, working for a multinational company. I used to stay in a shared flat for the first two years and then shifted to an individual flat for the last one year of my stay. During my solo stay in the city away from home while I had many good and memorable experiences many of them were also not very comfortable. Especially the daily commute to office. People more than often ogle and make you feel uncomfortable in a public place. An intentional uncomfortable touch from a passerby or just being judged by the clothes that one wears are things experienced most often. I remember once i got into a shared auto which had a man and a girl already seated in it, the girl however was occupying more than half the space left for me to sit. When i requested her to move she shifted uncomfortably. I peaked to look over and observed how the man was trying to more and more lean on her. I shouted on the man to sit properly and he was taken aback. He apologised and sat upright. These incidents however subtle they might look has always disturbed my mental peace and made me feel unsafe.

The Book: Why Loiter?



A book that questions women's access to public space vs the claim to public space. It is an effort to go beyond the problem of the real and implied risks associated with women's presence in public. The authors draws from the feminist theory and argue that only by celebrating loitering - a radical act for most Indian women - can a truly equal, global city be created. The book is an excellent read to understand the Indian women who hail from various part of the society. Women who work and who don't work, rich women and middle class women, it speaks about suffocation and dissatisfaction in abundance. It speaks about the concept of fun and how one controls the amount of fun a woman can have by controlling her degree of freedom. The book provided me with a thorough understanding of the issues faced by woman and reconfirmed my observations and experiences such that I could represent it in the film.

Story Explorations

After my initial research and analysis I narrowed down to two areas of female safety which I wanted to represent through my film. One was a story associated with working women of age group 20-30 years of age. And the other was to be able to represent the issue of eve teasing and harrasment faced my a majority of young teenage school going girls. Hence I proposed the below two story lines:

Aarti: Story of a working women

Aarti had a hard time convincing her parents to let her join a new job in another city. Her dream of living in a big city, living life freely and travelling to her hearts content was finally coming true. She enthusiastically moved to her new job in the city of Bangalore. But soon she realised everything was not picture perfect like in her dreams. Her everyday commute to office was becoming more and more difficult with men staring, passing comments, trying to touch her inappropriately. Everyday her list of safety checks kept increasing. Cover your face (pretend too much dust in the city), carry a pepper spray, carry a safety pin, wear appropriate clothes (your favourite clothes are safe in the cupboard), don't stay outside late, don't deviate from your normal office route etc etc. There is always a sense of caution and self imposed restrictions. But what if even after doing all this she doesn't feel safe? What if she is actually not safe? Will Aarti go back to her hometown?

Asha fights back

Asha loved going to school with her friends. She didn't mind cycling 14 kms everyday to school. In fact she enjoyed it, when breeze blew on her face, when she raced with her friends it was the most fun time of her day cycling to and back from school. But one day it all changed when she and her friends got followed by some goons. Their parents got worried, Asha was scared she didn't want to face them again. However with a lot of courage she decided to cycle back to school after a few days, and there they were again. What did Asha do? Did she stop going to school? Did she fight back?

After the initial proposition of the two story lines I explored both the concepts in terms of stories a bit further. Trying to write various stories for my film I realised I had a better understand of the issues and problems faced by working women. Although I was highly disturbed by the issues of teenage school going girls who face the issue of eve teasing and harassment I realised I didn't want to send across any wrong message without having understood the situation properly. Hence I decided to further my work upon a story of working women.

However one very important aspect of the feedback I received after my presentation of story lines was that my current story lines were all focused on the protagonist fighting back. Although this gives the protagonist a nice superhero appeal however it also scars another part of the society as the villain. Therefore the focus should be to show a change within the society itself by portraying both bad as well as good supportive characters. This lead me to write another story.

This story was based on my research and experience and was totally fictional it had no association with any person alive or dead. Although this story was entirely discarded later it was a very productive learning experience in terms story writing and scripting.

The Initial Story:

The news had reported another heinous crime against woman. Again and again they flashed the same thing sometimes verbally and sometimes through text, its always disappointing and saddening to hear a criminal incident especially in the early morning hours. However the rate of these kind of criminal activities were increasing now a days to shocking numbers. This also lead to their everyday arguments about why does she have to go

out to work? why does she have to wear western office formals? why couldn't she take up another job nearby. Door bangs. She leaves the house. Walking down the street she had numerous thoughts bellowing in her mind, voices in her head some from the news some from the people around her. Suddenly someone rushed passed her, a girl running and panting heavily, she turned around and saw the girl run past, in front of her she could see two goons, she felt too scared to even scream she hid in the adjacent lane.

After some time with her mind full of fear she started walking again......suddenly she saw this huge shadow, she got a bit scared and started walking faster the shadow also picked up pace, suddenly it caught her hand she let out a shriek. She was scared to open hers eyes but when she did she saw this huge man " madam watch out for the traffic, heres your wallet." She was still in shock she could hardly believe what just happened, hastily she boarded the bus, it was a bit more packed than the normal days. A few minutes later she heard "aye" she turned back a man was holding another mans hand and shouting at him " hey, i saw u were trying to touch her, behave yourself". She was shocked as well as happy not very often people stood up for her.

The same day evening when she was returning home she saw a few goons teasing a girl. It was a dark and narrow alley. Her first though was to run off.....but today she felt a bit more confident, in the past her fears had made her believe that people just act as spectators. She went back to a more well lit area and called a few others for help hence together they fought. not only did they fight they also made the goons realise what was it to be real men.

Script for the Initial Story:

Scene1: The scene shows a woman in the kitchen cooking. Sound of TV in the background. When she hears her husband shout.

Ashish: "do you hear this? a woman gets abducted in the board daylight, is raped and thrown back in the evening. do you have many idea how unsafe its becoming out there"

Aarti: is packing her tiffin. does not respond to her husband.

Ashish: "why do you have to go out to work?, I mean everything else is ok but why do you have to wear western office formals? isn't your office in India, hah(mocking laughter) at least you can take up a job nearby.

Aarti: hands over tea to her husband, picks up her handbag, wraps her face with a scarf and leaves

door bang

Scene 2: The scene shows Aarti walking down the road she hears the voices in her head, they just don't stop, they keep coming like a humming bird, "unsafe", "abducted", "job", "clothes", "unsafe", "family", "why? why?"

Ramesh (a local goon) along with his friend Kali were standing at the teastall seeing Aarti they start walking behind her

Ramesh: "Yaar aaj dhoop bahut hai na?" (Coming behind Aarti)

Kali: "Ustad sham ko ate hain, dhoop dhal jayegi " (winks) (they come closer to Aarti)

Ramesh and Kali cross in front of Aarti and leave while laughing loudly

Scene 3: Aarti starts walking faster, and faster, she doesn't even look up..... and bam...her shoulder hits someones shoulder and she stumbles a little.....she turns to apologies but that face just like Kali's even more intimidating.....she nervously starts walking again......

First man: "O, Madammmmmm"

Aarti: walks faster

First man: "Oye, Oyeeeeeee..."

Aarti: almost running suddenly someone pulls her back and a car zoom passes her missing her by inches

Second man: "dekh ke chaliye madam"

Aarti: in meek voice almost whispers "thankyou"

First man: arrives panting......

Aarti: Shocked and scared

First man: "Madam aapka wallet gir gaya tha"

Aarti: looks from the first to the second man (who is not at a distance walking away) and looks down

Scene 4: just then a bus arrives she gets on to the bus.

She was standing behind him when he shouted "Ayeee" and held his hand (third man)

Fourth man: "kya hua bey...."

Third man: "abbey aye ladies to haath kyun lagata hai...tameez se reh" other passengers turned around and stared at the fourth man "aye bus se utaro ise, voices in unison "haan utaro ise......"

The fourth man has to get down from the bus.

Aarti smiles slightly for the first time since the day started. For the first time she looked a little less worried.

Scene 5: Aarti was sitting in the office cafe with her friend Rupa.

Rupa: " see this is the problem it doesn't matter what they wear......but if we wear clothes like that people make a fuss out of it"

Aarti: "doesn't matter what you wear, people always have something to say"
Aarti again: "but you know what not everyone is that bad i
guess......" starts thinking about the man who returned her wallet
and the man who saved her from getting banged. She looks up from
her thoughts and says "lets go i need to finish work and leave"

Scene 6: she finished her work left office at 7 pm. she took the bus home. as she was walking from the bus stand towards her home she noticed two guys walking very close to a girl walking in front of her and......before she could comprehend what was happening a cab drove near the girl and the two guys pushed her in.

Aarti runs behind the car and clicks a photo to capture its number.

Aarti: "Hello police station, i am speaking from this area just now two guys kidnapped a girl in a car, the number of the car is MH0071.

Aarti then runs to a nearby shop and tells them what happed. She also calls people from around and allets them.

This scene ends here and cuts to a scene back in Aarti's house where the news can be heard

Scene 7: Reporter:and last night mumbai police rescued a women from abduction. The police was informed of the abduction by a lady who was observing the two guys. The quick wit and action of this lady helped police track the criminals on time.

Aarti smiles while sipping a cup of tea.

Why the story was discarded?

After the initial scripting of the story i realised the story conveyed the topic and the message that i intended but lacked experiential feel. The story looked a bit too staged and exaggerated. Since the film is going to represent a very sensitive issue i wanted a true representation.

Also at this stage the story was very linear and i wanted to look into other forms of story telling. This was the time i tried to understand parallel narrative and its effectiveness in story telling. There was also an idea of telling a story from two different women's perspective, which shows their everyday experience of bad incidents and good incidents. But the issue that was faced here was the same as before that it lacked an experiential telling. Hence a few discussions a different approach was adapted which consisted of collecting incidents.

Hence i moved on to a the approach of collecting various experiences . These experiences would then be analysed for a potential story. Given on the next page are various experiences that I came across some of them being my own .

Collection of Experiences

After exploring a fictional story based on by study and reception i moved on to another approach of collecting incidences. I collected the below short incidences from various interactions and live incidences at various places. The vision was then to build a narrative with these incidences such that they would have real life experiences and help the audience associate better with the film. Below are the individual narratives:

- 1. She loved to party, to go out with friends, to dance have fun. Being a single child she was brought up with utmost care and love, she was given immense freedom. But still she had secrets to hide, secrets of her drinking times.
- 2. They all shopped, sometimes window shopping, at others they shopped in real, but more than once they would shop online. It was hard to resist, with all those pretty dresses popping up on the ad window screens now and then. But the biggest problem was always the occasions to wear those pretty dresses. There were not many comfortable occasions to wear them. They couldn't make those dresses a part of their daily routine and it definitely turned heads when they wore it even amongst their own friends.
- 3. Reading the bollywood updates was the best time of the day for her. The tabloid world so colourful and spicy added colours to her boring life. But sometimes when the cover page ad had an underdressed female star it was a bit more than embarrassing to pick the paper from the common reading table at office. There was always a hesitation of who is watching what you pick from the common table.
- 4. There was a stir when they read the local news that day. Hidden in one corner was the news of abduction and rape of a well educated working girl, if that wasn't shocking enough they read the otherwise regarded safe and secure route of abduction. It was their daily commute route to office.

- 5. The first time it happened she got a bit confused....and then after some time it happen again. Another autowala while returning change pressed the change real hard in her hand, he actually held her hand for fraction of a second. From then on she preferred a close catch for the change, keeping her hand a bit low so that their hands don't actually come in contact.

 6. He turned back once, he turned twice the third time he turned again she got a bit scared. Nevertheless she kept on walking, it was a dark lane but it was a shortcut to her house. She now regretted for choosing the shortcut. But then he stood there just like that for some time waiting, as if waiting for her to cross. She tried to prepare herself mentally for an attack. But as she took the turn she saw......she saw a drunk man who was trying to balance himself on his twos. As she past him the other guy stood guard and waited till she entered the community gate.
- 7. She rarely missed the regular office bus......rarely.....not that she had to be in office dot at 8:20 am every day, not that her boss was a hitler, also not that her job was a really relaxed one where she never had to stay back late. But if you stay back late the office provided late night cabs but the timings for the morning bus was fixed. Sharp at 7:30 am. If she missed it she would have to take an auto and getting into an auto would mean uncomfortable stares, an awkward touch and sometimes unfair charges.
- 8. She had tried for the Police Services twice when she couldn't get through she applied for the Security Services. She cleared all the stages one after the other the written exam, the physical test, the interview and the medical but now was the biggest test of telling everyone else because she had to go for a six months training. Her father had rejected her plea before so this time it was time she told her husband. She tried to lie but when her husband got to know the truth he was furious and left the house. When he returned after two hours he asked "what do you want to do?" she said "i want to go", he said "ok go then, the hard work shouldn't be wasted".

9. Changing trains is always difficult, trying to locate the correct platform, finding a coolie, bargaining the exorbitant prices, walking those long platforms......She finally found a place and sat on the platform bench with her mother. Hardly fives minutes had past and at a distance of 6 foot from where they sat two men in their late twenties/ early thirties started talking to each other. Then they started to talk and stare, talk and stare, talk and stare, at first she tried to ignore but then it became evident she was the point of their discussion and amusement. She shouted loud from her bench "kya problem kya hai aapko?", they didn't reply she shouted again "kya ladki nahi dekhi kya? problem kya hai?" they quickly left

10. They had been tricked, they were charged the full fare and promised good seats but had been forced to adjust in the small cabin area of the bus. The small space had to be shared with 7-8 others. He sat opposite to them in a squarish seating design. It was around 12 in the night. She was half asleep when he started touching his foot with hers, she got startled, she moved her leg, after sometimes again he repeated this time to her shock he smirked. She looked at her sister, and they used their secret language to communicate. Her sister realised it was not a matter of mistake now, she was facing the same issue a while ago. They told their father, the man clearly denied all blames, but the shouting of the family in the closed bus made him scared internally. He was moved to another seat at the back of the bus.

11. She looked at him and smiled just before looking at the auto driver. The auto driver in turn looked at the back seat and called one of the two guys to sit on tiny front seat with him. She sat with him comfortably to the end of their journey.

Sequencing of selected stories:

After collecting the stories i tried various ways of sequencing to check if the incidents could together tell a story. This helped me arrive at my final story. Some of the initial story sequences are as below:
Aligning the stories to check their natural flow:

she rarely missed the regular office bus......rarely.....not that she had to be in office dot at 8:20 am every day, not that her boss was a hitler, also not that her job was a really relaxed one where she never had to stay back late. But if you stay back late the office provided late night cabs but the timings for the morning bus was fixed. Sharp at 7:30 am. If she missed it she would have to take an auto

The first time it happened she got a bit confused....and then after some time it happen again. Another autowala while returning change pressed the change real hard in her hand, he actually held her hand for fraction of a second. From then on she preferred a close catch for the change, keeping her hand a bit low so that their hands don't actually come in contact.

She looked at hims and smiled just before looking at the auto driver. He in turn looked at the back seat and called one of the two guys to sit on tiny front seat with him.

they all shopped, sometimes window shopping, at others they shopped in real, but more than once they would shop online. It was hard to resist, with all those pretty dresses popping up on the ad window screens now and then. but the biggest problem was always the occasions to wear those pretty dresses. there were not many comfortable occasions to wear them. they couldn't make those dresses a part of their daily routine.

reading the bollywood updates was the best time of the day for her. The tabloid world so colourful and spicy added colours to her imaginary life.

But sometimes when the cover page ad had an underdressed female star it was a bit more than embarrassing to pick the paper from the common reading table.

she had tried for the Police Services twice when she couldn't get through she applied for the Security Services. She cleared all the stages one after the other the written exam, the physical test, the interview and the medical but now was the biggest test of telling everyone else because she had to go for a six months training. Her father had rejected her plea before so this time it was time she told her husband. She tried to lie but when her husband got to know the truth he was furious. When he returned after two hours he asked "what do you want to do?" she said "i want to go", he said "ok go then, the hard work shouldn't go waste".

Changing trains is always difficult, trying to locate the correct platform, finding a coolie, bargaining the exorbitant prices, walking those long platforms.......She finally found a place and sat on the platform bench with her mother. Hardly fives minutes had past and at a distance of 6 foot from where they sat two men in their late twenties/ early thirties started talking to each other. Then they started to talk and stare, talk and stare, at first she tried to ignore but then it became evident she was the point of their discussion and amusement. She shouted loud from her bench "kya problem kya hai aapko?", they didn't reply she shouted again "kya ladki nahi dekhi kya? problem kya hai?" they quickly left

He turned back once, he turned twice the third time he turned again she got a bit scared. Nevertheless she kept on walking, it was a dark lane but it was a shortcut to her house. She now regretted for choosing the shortcut. But then he stood there just like that for some time waiting, as if waiting for her to cross. She tried to prepare herself mentally for an attack. But as she took the turn she saw......she saw a drunk man who was trying to balance himself on his twos. As she past him the other young guy stood guard and waited till she entered the community gate.

Final Story

Aarti knew she was late......not too late but late enough. She rushed out of her house and ran towards the bus stand. She was almost there when zoom the bus went off. She ran behind it for some distance but too late. She let out a sigh...... she went back to the auto stand and got into one of the standing autos. He stared at her, she looked and tried to ignore but he didn't look away. She quickly took out a scarf from her bag and wrapped around her face. The auto stopped in front of her office. She got down from the auto and handed the autowala the money and waited for the change. She put her hand forward for him to return the change. He put the change on her hand and squeezed her hand. She withdrew her hand immediately, he smirked and drove off. (cut) Scene 1 ends but the next scene continues on a roadside a girl is seen standing

Vidya was waiting for the auto when she heard someone call her, she turned around said "Vikram, hey Hi how are you?" Vikram "i am good, you waiting for the auto?" just then an auto arrived. She waved and signalled it to stop. She went closer to the auto (the same auto from scene 1) and looked at the backseat, there were two men already sitting inside, just then Vikram came closer to her, the autowala signalled one of the men to come and sit next to him in the front seat. Vikram got in first, she next and they both got down at the office. (cut)

Scene 2 ends but cuts to a reading/ breakout area in an office

Vidya was feeling restless, she had been wanting to read the bollywood times since morning but uff today's cover page......these people just dont know what to put even on the newspaper, its so embarrassing to pick a newspaper like that in public. She made another attempt, she went slowly looked around and quickly grabbed the paper from the stand. There you go, oh those filmy updates and gossips how i missed them she thought. (cut)

Scene 3 transitions into Scene 4 camera moves from Vidya to Aarti

Aarti went and sat beside her, picked up another newspaper lying on the table and started reading it, she leaned a bit forward to read it more intently, She gasped, at the location of the abduction. (cut) Scene 4 dissolves from a location in Aarti's thoughts to the dark alley in Scene 5

He (Vikram) turned back once, he turned twice the third time he turned again she(Aarti) got a bit scared. Nevertheless she kept on walking, it was a dark lane but it was a shortcut to her house.

She now regretted for choosing the shortcut. But then he stood there just like that for some time waiting, as if waiting for her to cross. She tried to prepare herself mentally for an attack. But as she took the turn she saw....... she saw a drunk man who was trying to balance himself on his twos. As she past him the other young guy stood guard and waited till she entered the community gate.

Script for the final Story:

- Scene 1: Scene of a house and the situation of someone getting ready to go outside the house
- shot 1: Interior of a house. People moving in silhouettes. In focus a bag on the table. A fast hand action pulls it in a swoop
- shot 2: Sound of footsteps like running. The door is shown closing with a bang sound
- shot 3: External street scene a bus drives past the screen, semi fast speed.
- shot 4: A woman(Aarti) running behind the passing bus (in perspective) she screams "Waitttttttt!"
- shot5: Slow zoom into Aarti's face where she is looking sad.
- Scene 2: This scene spans from Aarti boarding the auto rickshaw till the time she gets down in front of her office.
- shot 1: A queue to the auto rickshaws people standing in a line.
- shot 2: closeup of an auto rickshaw
- shot 3: Aarti bends to look inside the auto rickshaw to see two men sitting inside it. The space remaining for her to sit is very less.
- shot 4: She gets into the rickshaw finding it difficult to fit.
- shot 5: The auto rickshaw starts moving
- shot 6: a front shot showing the man sitting beside Aarti staring at her.
- shot 7: Aarti looks at the man and then she looks away
- shot 8: The auto driver is shown looking at Aarti through the rare view mirror
- shot 9: The man is still staring at Aarti.
- shot 10: Aarti looks at the man through the corner of her eyes without turning her head. Pulls a scarf from her bag and wraps it around her face.
- Scene 3: The scene is about the interaction between Aarti and the auto

driver

- shot 1: Roadside side view an auto stops and Aarti gets down the auto
- shot 2: closeup shot of the auto driver putting out his hand and Aarti drops the money from a distance in his hand.
- shot 3: Auto drivers hand putting back change in Aarti's hand. The camera first shows the two hands are at a height apart but then slowly the auto drivers hand keeps coming near Aarti's hand and he drops the change and then touches her hand.
- shot 4: Aarti's eyes go big in shock. She looks up at the auto driver.
- shot 5: The auto driver gives a sly smile, turns his head in front. The sound of acceleration.
- shot 6: the auto is shown going in perspective while Aarti still stands there like a statue with her hand holding the change.
- Scene 4: The same auto that dropped Aarti comes to another stand where Vidya is standing with her friend Vikram.
- shot 1: a girl (Vidya) is shown standing on a roadside from behind
- shot 2: a guy (Vikram) calls her "hey" she turns around
- shot 3: closeup shot of the Vidya and Vikram talking Vidya: "Vikram, hey Hi how are you?" Vikram: "i am good, you waiting for the auto?"
- shot 4: just then an auto arrives. the frame shows the auto stops near Vidya and Vikram is a bit behind her.
- shot 5: The auto driver (same as before) is looking at Vidya when Vikram comes and stand next to her.
- shot 6: The auto driver whistles and a man from the back seat comes and sits next to the auto driver in the front.
- shot 7: Sitting sequence backseat left to right: the other man, Vikram and Vidya.
- shot 8: Vidya and Vikram look at each other and smile.

Scene 5: An office breakout area scene

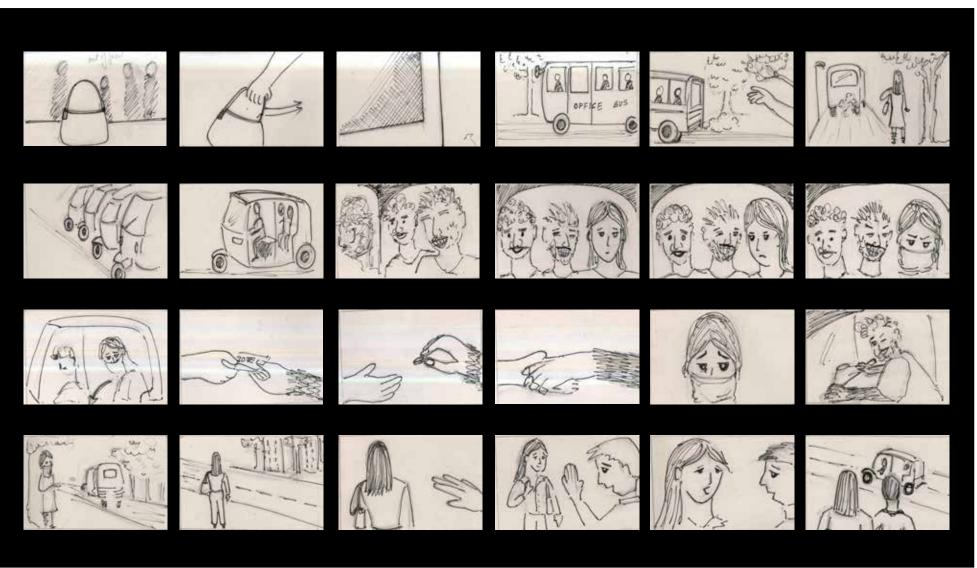
- shot 1: A newspaper hanging from a stand. Silhouettes of people walking past the stand. Picking other newspapers.
- shot 2: a hand goes to pick that newspaper but withdraws
- shot 3: closeup of Vidya's eye's looking here and there as if checking if anyone is around.
- shot 4: a closeup of a hand that quickly tucks the paper off the clip.
- shot 5: Vidya lets out a sigh in relief
- shot 6: quick overturning of the front page. Then pausing at a page with girls wearing pretty dresses.
- shot 7: shot dissolves into a dreamy face of Vidya.
- shot 8: she is seen dreaming of a day out with girls in a dress from the newspaper.
- Scene 6: Vidya and Aarti are working in the same office as collegues.
- shot 1: Vidya is seen looking up and smiling in a dreamy way. When the camera pans and we see Aarti siting next to her.
- shot 2: A closeup shot of her looking at the newspaper
- shot 3: the camera now shows the closeup of the newspaper. And zooms into the headlines "Woman abducted on her way to office"
- shot 4: closeup of Aarti's almost teary eyes. as flashback from the morning auto experience appear in her head
- Scene 7: The scene comprises of a dark lane which Aarti takes to go back to home
- shot 1: Mid shot of Aarti with her head down is seen walking
- shot 2: A perspective view of the long dark alley in which Aarti is walking.
- shot 3: she looks at her watch and says "let me take the shortcut i will reach

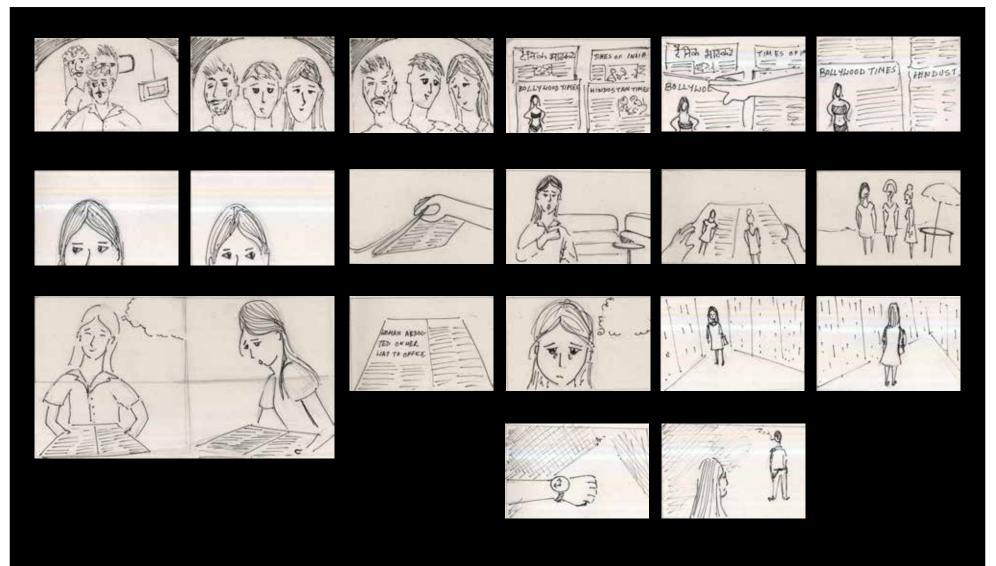
faster"

- shot 4: a guy walking in front of Vidya. Smoke coming from his silhouette.
- shot 5: Vikram turns (its day end, his half shirt is out, hair ruffled and he has a cigarette in his hand. the prim and proper morning office look is gone he looks more like a ruffian) looks and continues walking.
- shot 6: Closeup of Aarti's eyes as she checks for people around her. She continues to walk.
- shot 7: Vikram turns back again then turns around and keeps walking.
- shot 8: Aarti looks up and her eye brows change into a sign of worry.
- shot 9: Aarti sees Vikram going beyond the turn and he disappears.
- shot 10: Aarti takes the turn to see a drunk man standing there wobbly.
- shot 11: Vikram steps closer to the drunk man
- shot 12: Aarti quickly walks past Vikram and the drunk man.
- shot 13: She turns back while opening the community gate.
- shot 14: she sees Vikram going back
- shot 15: Aarti smiles to herself
- end

Story Thumbnailing

After the initial script a quick thumbnailing of the whole story was done to for visualization before moving on to the storyboard.



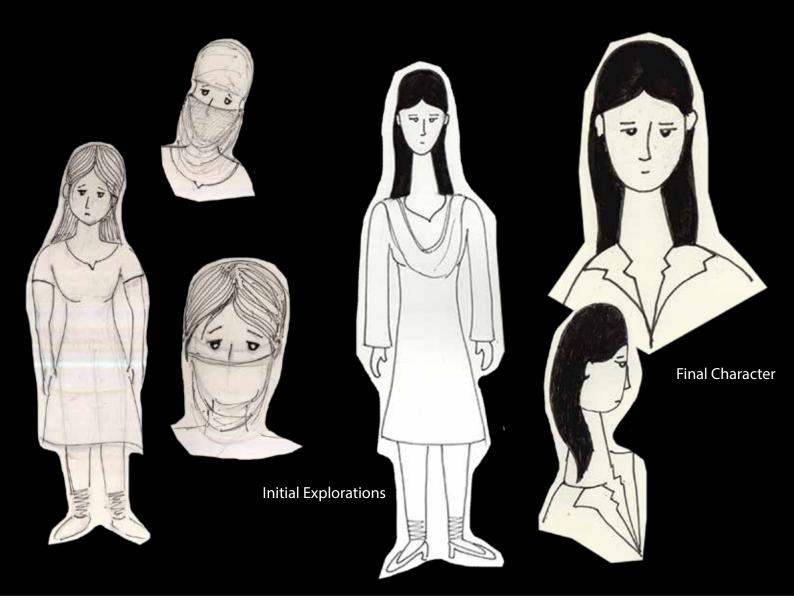


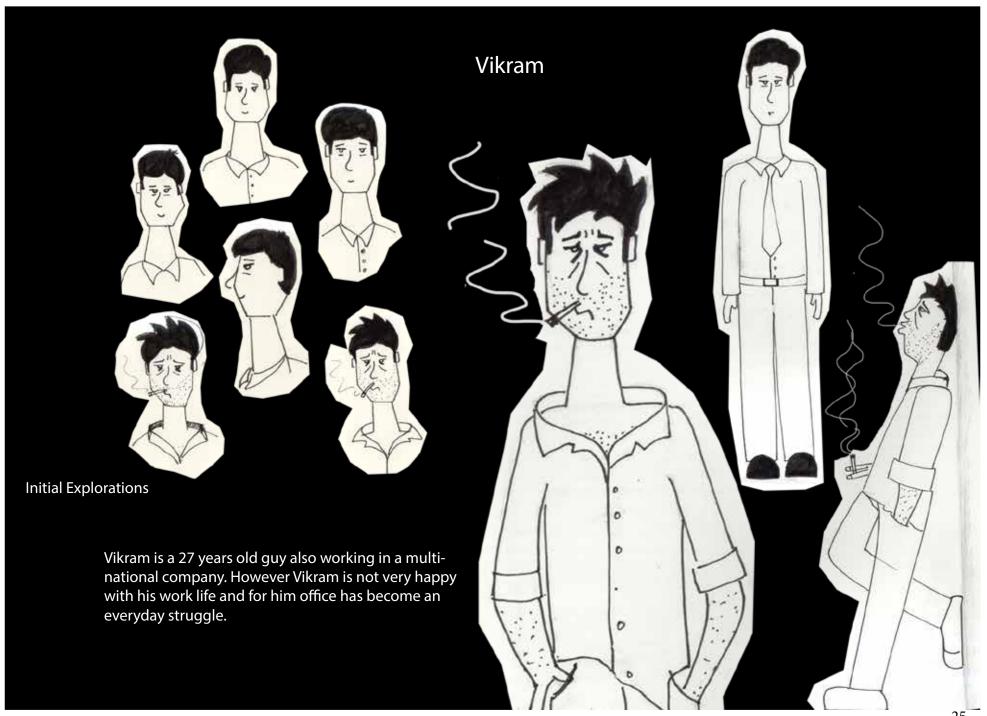
Character Design

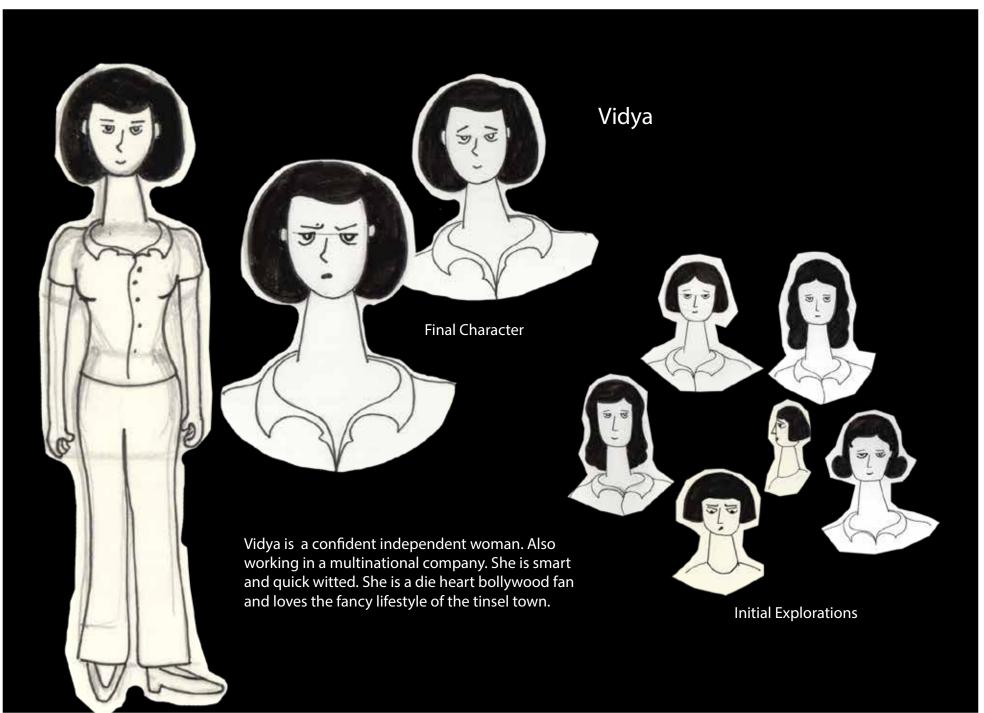
When I initially began designing characters I was quite lost. I was unable to understand how to design simple enough characters for an animation film which had a story so close to live action films. However over a few discussions with my Guide we realised that the film could be very well represented in a comic book style. I then started to look at a few comic books and their character style and got influenced by the film and the book Persipolis. This helped me evolve the characters one by one. The structure and the balance of black and white in the characters was exactly what I wanted in my characters. As the story demands I then designed six different characters each of which has been described in the next few pages.

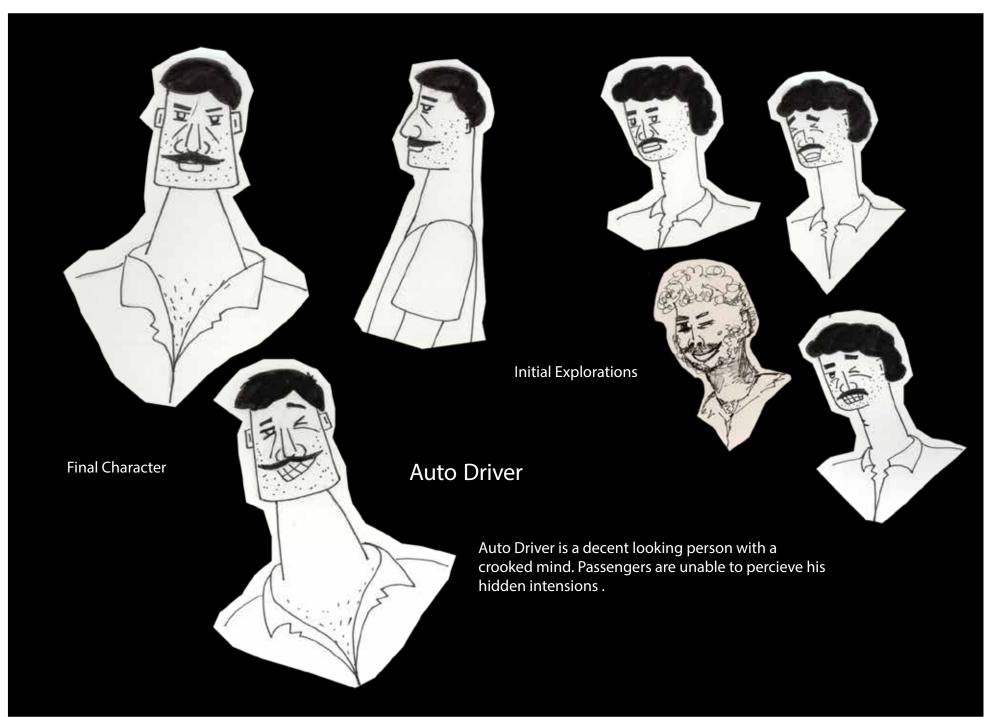
Aarti

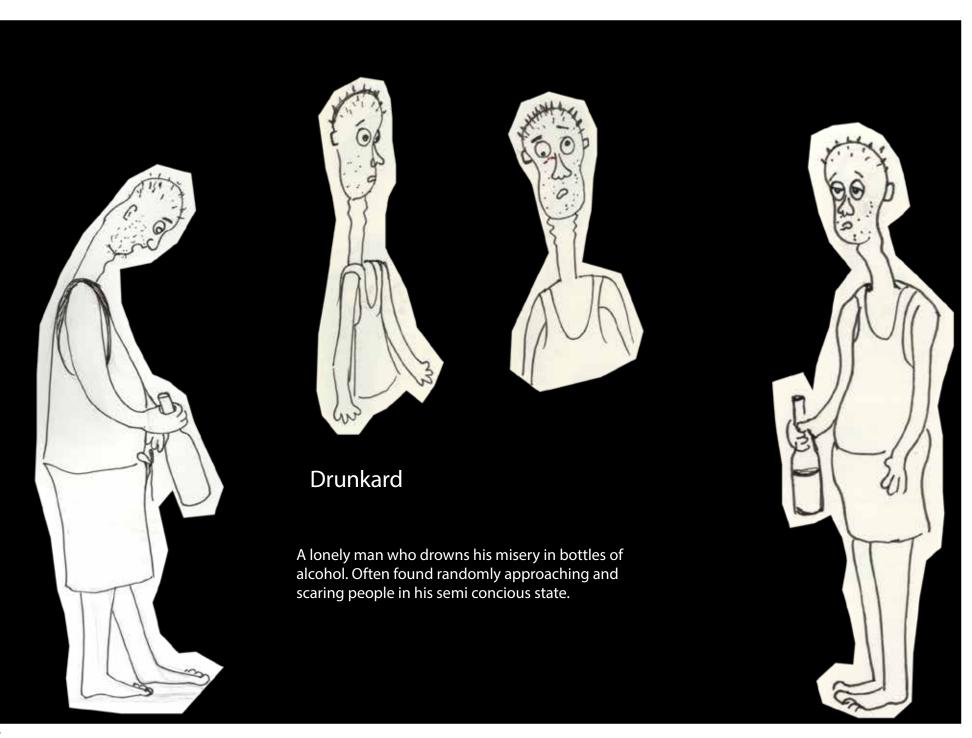
Aarti is the main protogonist in the film. She ihas a pretty face and a shy nature. She works in a multinational company in Hyderabad. Her family stays in Rajasthan hence she stays in a shared flat.

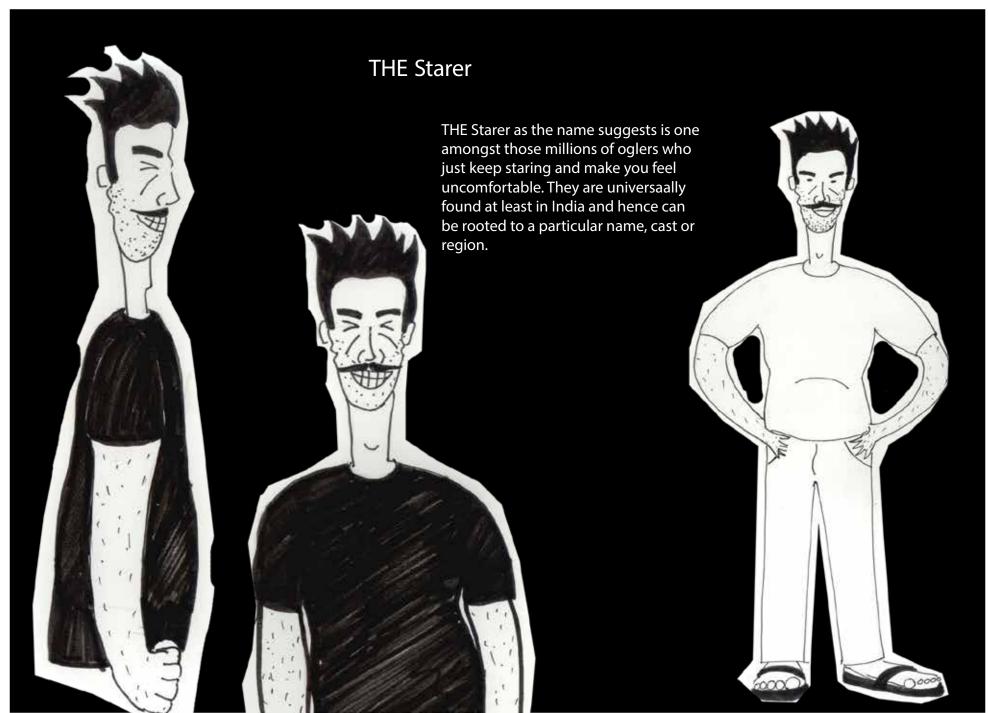












Concept Art



Initial digital sketch of the background done in photoshop



Tried a digital painterly style for the background



Started laying solid colours on the outlines



Laying out layers to indicate light and shadow.







The solid colour backgrounds were multiplied with texture and the effect of lighting was observed by changing saturation levels.





Storyboard



Location: Interior of a house Sound: NTV: Aur abhi abhi mili ek khabar ke anusar ekkis varshi ek mahila pe hua jaan lewa humla



Location: interior of a house Sound: sound of foot steps Dialogue: Anu Anuuu....main ja rahi hoon!



Location: interior of a house Sound: door banging and footsteps Dialogue: Murmur of late ho gaya late ho gaya!!



Location: Bus stand
Sound: bus going off
Dialogue: Shit shit shit
wait plz.....!



Location: Bus stand Sound: bus going off Dialogue: Hey heyy....



Location: Bus stand Sound: distant sound of bus Dialogue: everyday same fight......!



Location: Bus stand Sound: shuffle of feet



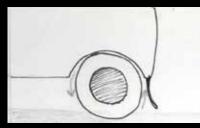
Location: Bus stand Sound: sighh..... Dialogue: aab shared auto mein dhakkey khatey hue jana padega



Location: Shared Auto stand Sound: people murmuring while waiting for the auto Dialogue: yahan bhi line.....!



Location: Shared Auto stand Sound: people murmuring while waiting for the auto Dialogue: ye autowala.... chadhun ki nai....



Location: Auto stand Sound: Sound of auto and passing traffic Dialogue: office ke liye late ho jayega



Location: Auto
Sound: Sound of auto and
passing traffic
Dialogue:
Starer: yaar mast dikti hai bey!
Aarti: Pagal aadmi ghur raha hai



Location: Auto Sound: continuous auto sound and a swish sound Dialogue: Autowala: Kaun hai zara main bhi toh dekhun



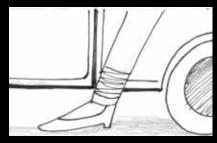
Location: Auto Sound: Sound of auto and passing traffic Dialogue: Starer: kash ek baar mil jaye! Aarti: Kya hai??



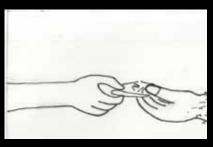
Location: Auto
Sound: Sound of auto and
passing traffic
Dialogue:
Starer: Hahaha chehra chupa liya
Aarti: Aaab dekh bewakoof
......!



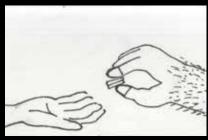
Location: Auto
Sound: Sound of auto and
passing traffic
Dialogue:
Starer: Giggles
Aarti: kya musibat hai ek din bhi
bus miss nahi kar
sakti......



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: background traffic noise



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: background traffic noise



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: background traffic noise Dialogue:

Aarti: why is he so slow.....!



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: background traffic noise Dialogue: Autodriver: Aise nahi madam.....!

Aarti: Gasp and a low whatttt.....



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: background traffic noise Dialogue: Aarti: did he really??? i mean

I cant think my head is spinning

how could he...



Location: Just outside the Auto Sound: increase in the background traffic noise Dialogue:

Autodriver: Ha ha ha ha!!Ha ha

ha ha!!Ha ha ha ha!!



Location: Road side Sound: Sound of the auto going off



Location: Road side Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue: Aarti: snif...snif....what do they get but doing such things



Location: Road side Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue: Aarti: i feel so dirty



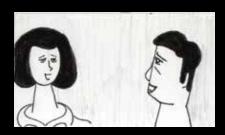
Location: Road side
Sound: Low background
traffic
Dialogue:
Aarti: filthy creature.....
cheeee, how dare he
touched me



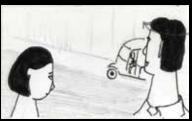
Location : Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic



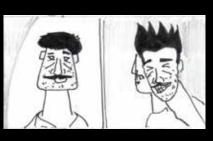
Location: Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue:
Vikram: Hi Vidya



Location: Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue:
Vidya: Hey Vikram, how are you



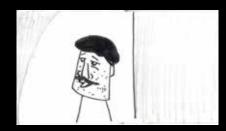
Location: Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue:
Vikram: Going to office and here comes the auto



Location: Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue:
Autowala and Starer: Oh ho Angreezi meem



Location: Another Road side location
Sound: Low background traffic Dialogue:
Vikram: Thanks for Vidya i'll get to sit in the back seat, he he he he!!



Location: Inside the Auto Sound: background traffic Dialogue: Autodriver: whistles, sala ladki ke saath hai iseliye peeche bathana padega



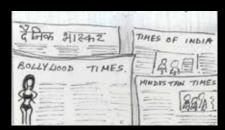
Location: Inside the auto Sound: background traffic Dialogue: Starer: kya natak hai yaar ye kabab mein haddi kahan se aa gaya,! Vidya: see i told you all coz of me he he



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue: general murmur aaj kal sab jagha wahi khabar/ aur ye dekho/! itney chotey kapdey /!



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue: Vidya: kaise uthaun paper, itney saarey log,! koi dekhega toh kya sochega



Location : Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue: Vidya: ye paper wale bhi na front page pe aise pics kyun daltey hain yaar



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue: Vidya: so embarrasing....its relatively free now



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue: Vidya: pick up fast vidya pick it up Vidya: yes!!! finally



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: people talking Dialogue:



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Vidya: Oh man look at those dresses, so pretty



Location: Office Cafeteria
Sound: low sound of people
talking
Dialogue:
Vidya: i wish i had this dress/ haan
aur pehnegi kahan pagli?!

Goaaa....
Location:
teh beach
Sound: low
talking
Dialogue:
Vidya: heh
Goaaa....



Location: Dreamy transition to teh beaches of goa Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Vidya: hehehe



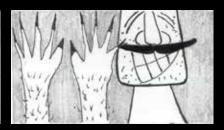
Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Aarti: arey look at that girl sitting alone and smiling



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Aarti: Whattt!!!!



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Aarti: such bastards, rakshash kahinka



Sound: low sound of people talking
Dialogue:
Aarti: Aur wo tarki kya mil jata hai inko chune se

Location: Office Cafeteria



Location: Office Cafeteria Sound: low sound of people talking Dialogue: Aarti: humey kaisa lag hai kisiko nahi pata



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti:Aaaj phir late ho gaya yaar



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti: Shortcut se jaldi pahuch jaungi



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti: ye admi......



Location: Dark lane
Sound: Sound of night
Dialogue:
Aarti: achanak kyun chal pada....



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti: Jaldi se gali par karle Aarti kuch nahi koga



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Vikram: Aaa rahi hai kya.....



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti: kya kar kya raha hai yeh



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti: koi aur hai kya aas pass



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Aarti:kya karun.....daud ke pachuch jaungi



Location: Dark lane
Sound: Sound of night
Dialogue:
Aarti: Loud Gasp....
Drunkard: Main tera hero.....

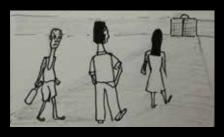


Location: Dark lane
Sound: Sound of night
Dialogue:
Aarti: pee rakhi hai isene.....kya
karun bhagwan
Drunkard: Loudly madam Main

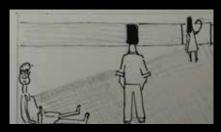
tera hero.....



Location: Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue: Vikram: Ruko.....!! You please leave fast



Location: Dark lane
Sound: Sound of night
Dialogue:
Aarti: fast fast faster.....!!
Thank you God thank you.....



Location: Dark lane
Sound: Sound of night
Dialogue:
Drunkard: sala sabke life mein hero
hai.....meri meri hi
life.....!!
Aarti: Is he still standing??!!

Vikram: Thank god i was there....!



Location : Dark lane Sound: Sound of night Dialogue:

Aarti: I couldn't even thank him...! Vikram:at least something good happened today.

Techniques

The technique followed from the very beginning till now has been described in details in the previous pages. Which was mainly started from selecting a topic to the research, story explorations, story thumb nailing, characters design, concept art to story boarding. This now leads me to the process of beginning animation.

The animation of the whole film I intend to do on paper and pencil. Where the method may vary as pose to pose for a few shots to straight ahead in some. I do not intend to restrict to any one particular animation method and go along with as the shot/ scene demands. The cleanup for each scene will be pencil cleanup which will then be transferred to a digital medium for ink and paint. I intend to use the software Toon Boom or TV paint for the digital inking of the images.

A few samples of the background have been shown in the section of concept art and hence the backgrounds will be made digitally on photoshop. A few scenes may require a reference image for the background and it will be used appropriately. I want to especially explore the lighting aspect for the backgrounds as the film has been spaced and located at different times of the day. A part of the lighting will be managed in the image itself and the rest during the process of compositing in the software After Effects.

There was a lot of deliberation as to if the film should have a narration or a third persons view. A few different narrations were written and discussed and then it was realised that since the film is a very experiential film a representation of the voices in the head would give a good feel to the film. Hence the whole film will have different voices as they speak in the heads of the characters while they interact with each others.

There are scenes in the film which might require some form of dramatic emphasis which will be represented using background themes and music, the other scenes of the film might require various folly sounds to create the ambience of the scene.

All techniques mentioned above have been described in understand with thepre production process achieved till now and the understanding of the process of animation as studied. If required the method and the process might change when the film is being animated.

Learnings and Feedbacks

Although it has been one and a half years now that i have been enrolled in the filed of Animation and Film making, I wont hesitate to say that this field is still very new to me and i am learning each and every day. Hence the project till now has taught me a lot. The project lead me to the understanding of the whole preproduction process of animation film making. Starting from the process of research where i got an opportunity to meet and talk to different people and listened to their opinion about a topic concerning the whole nation ,to understanding some really major issues. I started writing different stories and understood how difficult it was to write an effective and good story. I also looked into various ways to tell the story effectively, the initial idea was to tell a parallel narrative where people have different experiences and how can one persons experience flow into another. Over several discussions with my Guide we discussed how the story can be just people telling their experiences to just visuals with no voices, where the audience just experiences things silently.

During the several presentations made for this project lot of feedback received from faculty and friends some being in the lines of character design and how not everyone looks and does the same things. How even a sly looking person can turn out to be very helpful and how a decent looking person can be very mean.

One main feedback received during the initial stages of the story was to focus not just on the problem and the pain of the people but to provide an urge for other to get up and do something. As the increasing number of issues and problem in our society have made us somewhat comfortable and habituated us to live with it. People need to be reminded from time to time of what they can do and also that they need to do something.

The film is spanned across a whole day hence the film demands to have an effective change to lighting to show the same. Also there are several mood and situational changes faced by the different characters throughout the day. Hence it was suggested to explore techniques of lighting for each scene in the best possible way.

Although the character design was inspired by the comic novel style, animation for the film looked more challenging. The film has various scenes which cannot be achieved though one method of animation. Hence it was suggested that i try out straight ahead as well as pose to pose form of animation. The animation style may even vary from scene to scene.

Conclusion

Women Safety is not a new topic but women face newer problems each and every day. It is sad but equally surprising how a major concentration of the public goes into creating new problems instead of trying to solve it. Like in my study i found out about social media harassment. Who would think the internet and technology often regarded as such a boon would create so much problem in someones else's life. Many times we are taught to ignore people and problems for a smoother living. Women often are trained and advised to keep quite not to speak too loud or do things too aggressively. This silence is often misunderstood its time that people start making an active effort to look beyond the silence. This film intends to do exactly the same. It will try to bring out the difference in things as they are perceived and as they actually are.

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