

Children of broken homes

Visual Communication- Project 3
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Approval sheet

The Visual Communication-Project 3
entitled “Children of broken homes” by
Ashika Singh is approved, in partial fulfil-
ment of the requirements for Master of
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Technology Bombay.

Guide:



Chairman:



Internal Examiner:




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Declaration

I declare that this written submission 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. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified an idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

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I would like to thank my classmates, and other friends and mess didi for sharing their view points. I would also like to thank my mother for sharing her experiences and knowing about the subject.



Abstract

Nowadays the rate of broken family is alarmingly increasing. Largely it is seen today that families are broken out of breakups and divorces. Although the effect falls on both the spouses, even the child goes through all the hardships and troubles which remain unseen by all. It's affects are huge on the children, which leads them to depression, insecurity and many other mental problems.

My project on 'Children of broken homes' will deal with the psychology of a child, of how and what does the child go through mentally when the family is broken. How the separation of parents and regular fights at home affects his behaviour, actions, lifestyle, choices, and decision making abilities for throughout his life. Attempt will be made here to address the issue through the child's point of view.

Introduction

Home is the best place to raise, care and discipline the children. It is a place where they are trained to be productive citizens of the world. It must be a place where a child can get love, care, mentoring, guidance, teaching and other important virtues from their parents. Home is the place where the child first learn everything, the parents will always be the first teacher of the child. With the absence of this kind of healthy environment, children may not get those essential virtues and attention that they need to be productive and useful in the society. And when both the parents are busy in their fights, the impact of this is more devastating on the children. The affects can eventually ruin them mentally as well as physically which may further hamper their future life.

Moreover, divorce and separation are the hardest challenges that can happen to a couple especially if they have kids. Without the parents knowing, this might have big effects of consequences to the life of the child. It could lead to some emotional diseases and mental unstability. It is painful for the husband and wife to finally break up or end their marriage but they are two matured individuals who are strong enough to handle changes in their lives. However, the child who doesn't know of the matter of disruption at home is small enough to understand and take up the troubles.

Coming from a broken family, I too hold experiences which are dark and tough to remember. In my childhood, I thought life runs the same way I saw in my family with regular fights and arguments between my parents. But today, when I look back at those days, I realize, life was not easy then. Its because of the happenings of the past which has affected me too in some manner in the past.

Having been so close to this issue which now we get to see very common in every other house, I thought I could take up this as my P3 topic. I think, its important to give attention to the child who is somewhere neglected by all in between the quarrels and conflicts. And who suffers equally when the family breaks.

Primary Study

Reviewing my family

When I decided to choose this topic, although I was confident that I could do it but somewhere I was unsure of how would I speak about it in open during the presentation because I found it difficult to explain things which I had experienced and seen as a child. At one point of the time I thought to quit this topic, but then I realized this feeling is what makes this topic important to work at. I again made my mind to continue with the same topic.

After deciding that I would work on this subject I tried to again review my memories of childhood because I feel, the time spent that time was very difficult and life was tricky. Although I feel now I live more peaceful life than before. I also believe that the happenings of the past has added to who I am now as a person in whatever manner. My parents regular conflicts had build fear in me as a child. Which I think is undesirable for any child to hold.

Talk with a friend (from broken family)

I had a chat with my friend whose parents are not divorced but live separately in different houses. She was very open to speak on this matter and as I already knew some facts about her family issue. Because of which we could have a comfortable chat.

She says, her father's existence doesn't make any difference in her life and she rarely goes to see her father. She stays with her mother, still she is not much attached to her. She says, at home she feel caged as her mother unnecessarily burdens her with futile talks and responsibilities which is none of her concern. She is a research student in IIT-B and her home is nearby the intitute, still she skips to go home as she know, at home she will not find peace. Her mother and her younger sister will start fight with her as soon as she reaches home. I found her very frustrated in her speech. She says, she can live a good life only when she moves away from home and her family members. She is happy to stay alone.

I feel the effects of broken family is different on different kids. Some become responsible at a very young age where as some runs away from taking up the responsibilities. Like wise, the effect may be different in reason and degree but the effect is present in every child.



Talk with a mess worker(from broken family)

I often had chats with a lady mess worker(didi) of my hostel, who says that her relation with her husband is not harmonious at all. Its been 2 years that they live separately and her daughter is with her husband. She said that she wanted to keep the child but for some reasons her husband doesn't give her the child. After a few months I saw her with her daughter in the mess. I asked her, 'did you get your daughter back?' She was very happy, and said 'yes I have my child with me now. It was only possible with the help of other mess workers who helped me to get my daughter back'. But she was unhappy that her daughter doesn't interact with her much now and she has observed a lot of changes in her attitude and behaviour towards her and others

in the two years since the time she got separated from her husband. I saw didi bringing her daughter everyday to the mess after that. One day, by chance I initiated a talk with her daughter in the mess. She is 8yr old girl. I could only talk a few minutes to her, but what I observed was that she was very open in talking to me but as her mother(didi) came, the girl scolded didi for no reason and went away. This was a small incident which was enough for me to realise the anger which had built in that little girl's heart for her mother. I couldn't come to any solution here. But the only thing which I could see then was that, the broken family has affected the little girl so much that she has distant herself to her own mother. She is unaware of what things, moments she is missing.

Secondary study

Outcomes of children exposed to destructive conflict



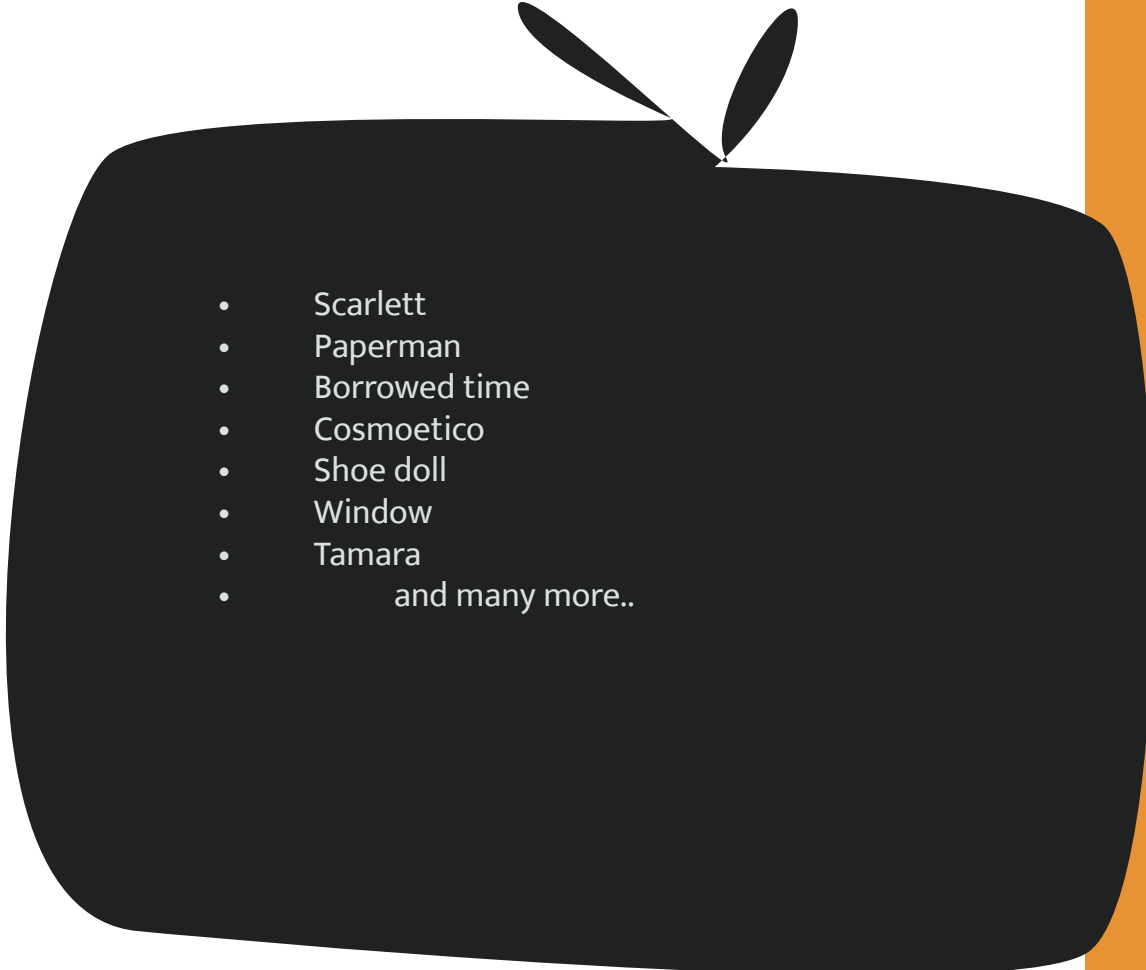
- A common outcome of destructive conflicts between parents is the development of emotional or behavioural difficulties for children.
- Children's own social relationships can also be affected. As a result, children and young people in high conflict homes may have difficulties getting on with others, such as parents, siblings.
- Children are also at risk of a range of health difficulties, including- digestive problems, fatigue. They may also suffer with sleeping problems.
- Difficulties can extend into school, with children less able to settle, more likely to have trouble getting on with peers, and less likely to achieve academically because of the impact of conflict between parents on children's cognitive abilities and attention.
- The parent-child relationships also affected, leading to negative outcomes for the children.

Other effects of a broken family on children

1. A broken home can make a child insecure in a sense that he no longer had a complete family he can call his own. For a child's mind, a family is composed of a father, mother and children. And living without either his father or mother will create fear and insecurities in him. This feeling of insecurities will even trigger if he is around his friends who are living a normal, complete and happy life.
2. The insecurities, self-doubt and lack of confidence in a child can eventually make him uninterested in life.
3. He keeps to himself the pain, shock and anger he feels. This in turn makes him vulnerable to anger, depression, revenge, alcohol, crimes, drugs and so on. He makes these as his outlets. Too much depression, alcohol addiction and drug dependency.

Animated films watched

These films were referred to understand the transitions, angles, shot division and the essence of any animated film. I learnt a lot by watching these films on the visual part.

- 
- Scarlett
 - Paperman
 - Borrowed time
 - Cosmoetico
 - Shoe doll
 - Window
 - Tamara
 - and many more..

Medium and Target Audience

I decided to choose an animation film as the medium of final execution. I think animation is a powerful medium to convey strong meanings and messages, also it has the ability to metaphorically show any situation in more exaggerated manner. Moreover, I wanted to learn the animation process as never before I had tried to animate things. For this film I first choose to use traditional method of painting to create the visuals and characters on paper with acrylic paint and then I digitally converted it to animation

The target audience for my project are the parents, as I think it is the parents who need to understand this issue most more than anybody else. The emphasis here is to sensitize the parents of this issue and let them put interest and feelings of their child before ruining the family's harmony and stability because the main victims will always be the child.



Ideation

Concept 1-

How a broken home affects the psychology of a child and that they could easily fall in bad companies and bad occupation.

Concept 2-

How a broken home makes the child insecure of its own family in front of the outer world. And how it is reflected in the child's behaviour and action.

Concept 3-

Final concept:

How the conflicts at home leads the child to make naive decisions which may not be good for them and hamper their growth and success.

Objective

- The broad objective of this project is to make people aware of the dark experiences that a broken family child goes through
- To sensitize parents towards the feelings of their child when there exist conflicts in the family.

Exploration on style



I thought of keeping the base style for my animation as hand painted. Being from a painting background, I thought I would go by painting each frame and take up traditional style of animation instead of digitally working through-out. Although it was time consuming, I painted visuals for each scene. I also took the help of the software, photo-shop later to make similar looking frames by editing.



Different expressions and angles were painted separately for each character on the paper.



Story line



A little girl (from broken family) participates in a drawing competition at her school. She is happy and confident enough that she will win the prize. But there is a cunning girl in her batch who doesn't want her to win. She makes every attempt to trouble the little girl. But the tricks of the cunning girl don't stop the little girl from painting beautifully.

As time passes by, the cunning girl's anger over the little girl grows as everybody in their batch admires the little girl's drawing. The little girl is happy over her own drawing. But her temperament changes instantly when her eyes fall on the trophy kept on the table. She becomes sad and feels lost, when she notices that the colored water from her container is dropped over her drawing sheet. It seems that the cunning girl must have

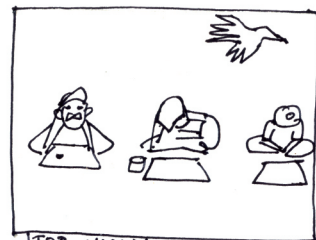
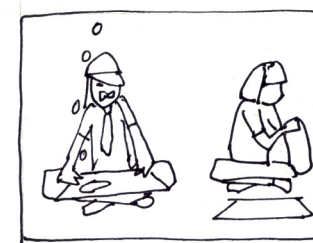
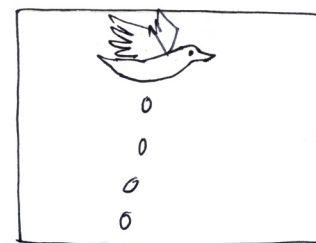
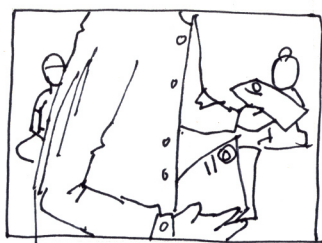
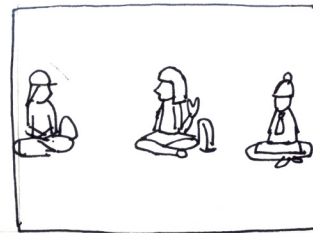
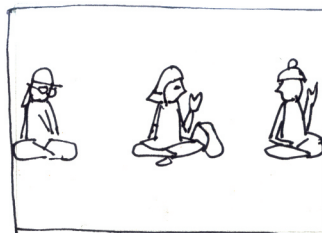
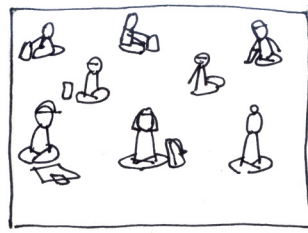
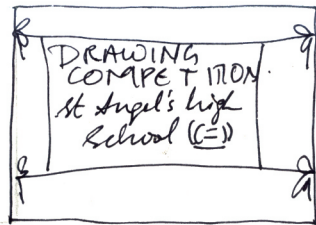
dropped the water on her sheet. But in real, it was the same little girl who spilled water over her own work.

The little girl did that because the trophy reminded her of the past, when once she had won a similar looking trophy and took it to home hoping that her parents would appreciate her and be happy about it but that didn't happen. When she reached home, her parents were busy fighting and her father used the trophy to hit her mother. The trophy banged her mother's forehead very hard.

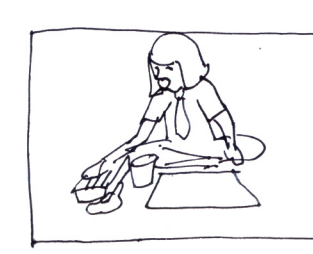
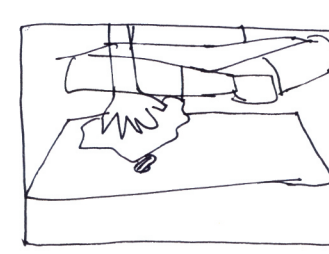
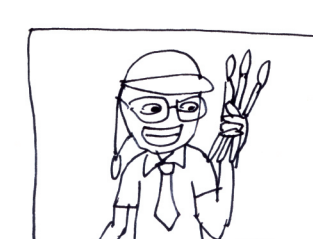
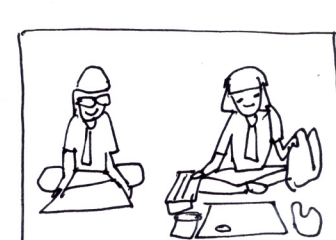
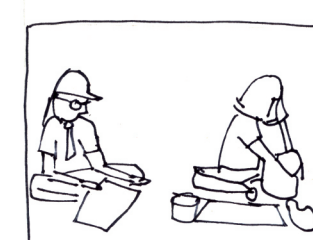
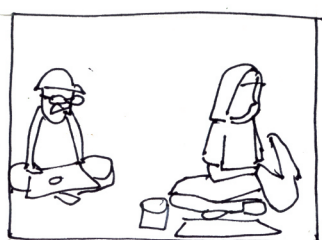
Due to this tragedy of the past, the little girl spoiled her drawing by spilling water over it because now she did not want to repeat this incident at home.

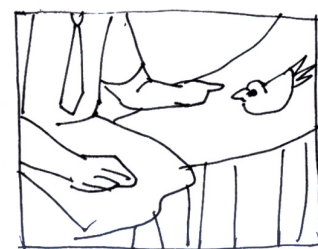
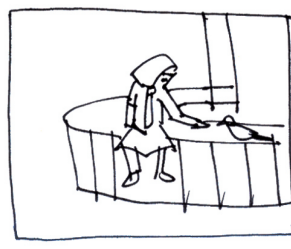
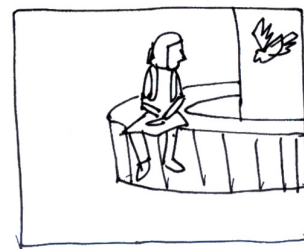
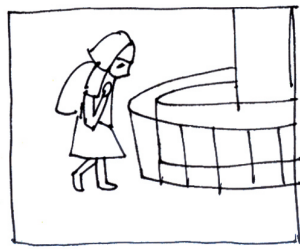
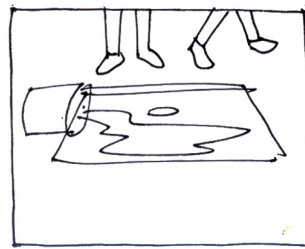
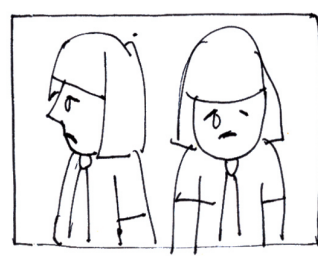
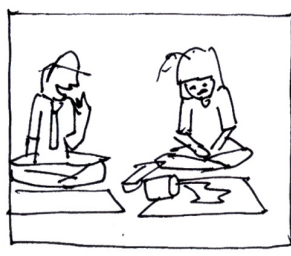
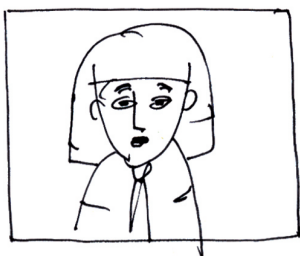
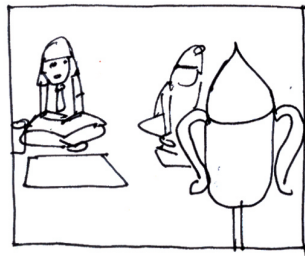
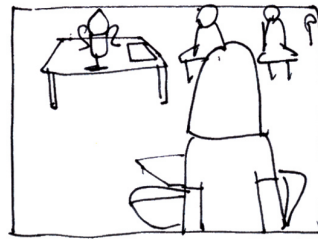
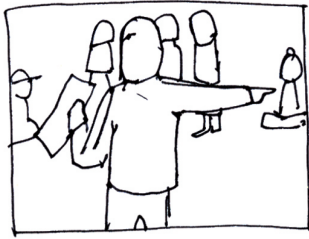
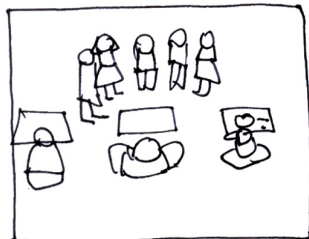
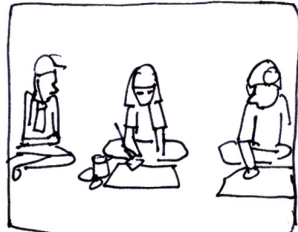
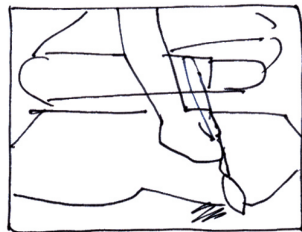
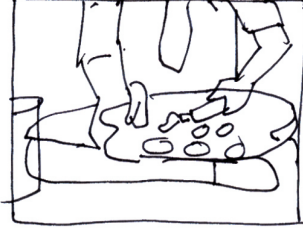
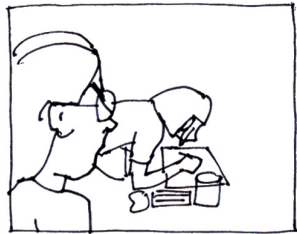
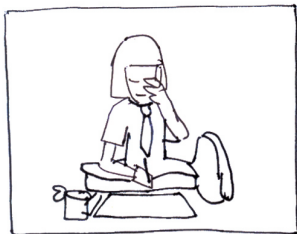
Storyboards

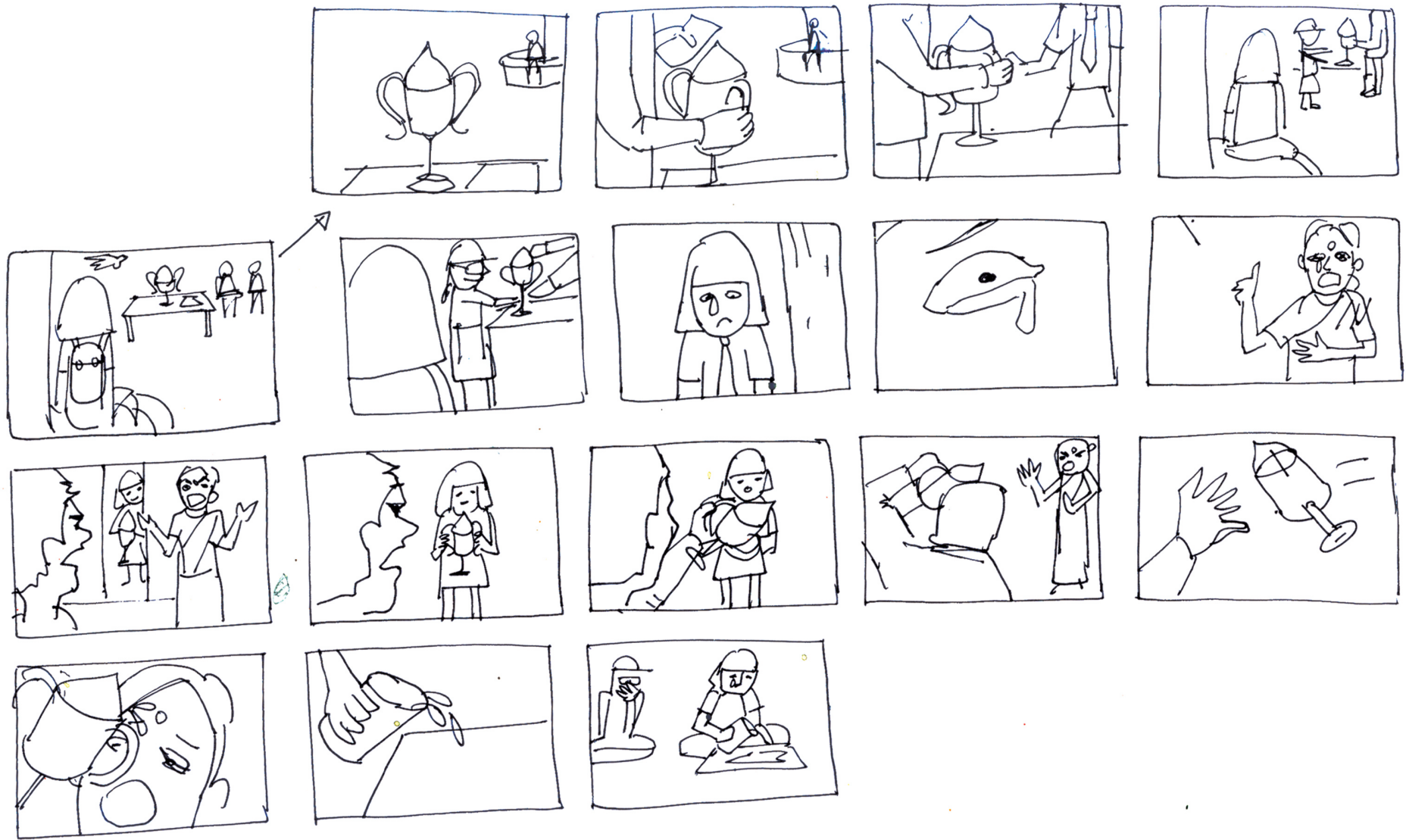
Storyboards were made very rough for my understanding. It helped me in understanding different angles, actions, transitions, expressions for the film. Every shot was finalised here. However, some changes were made later while making the final frames.



TOP VIEW

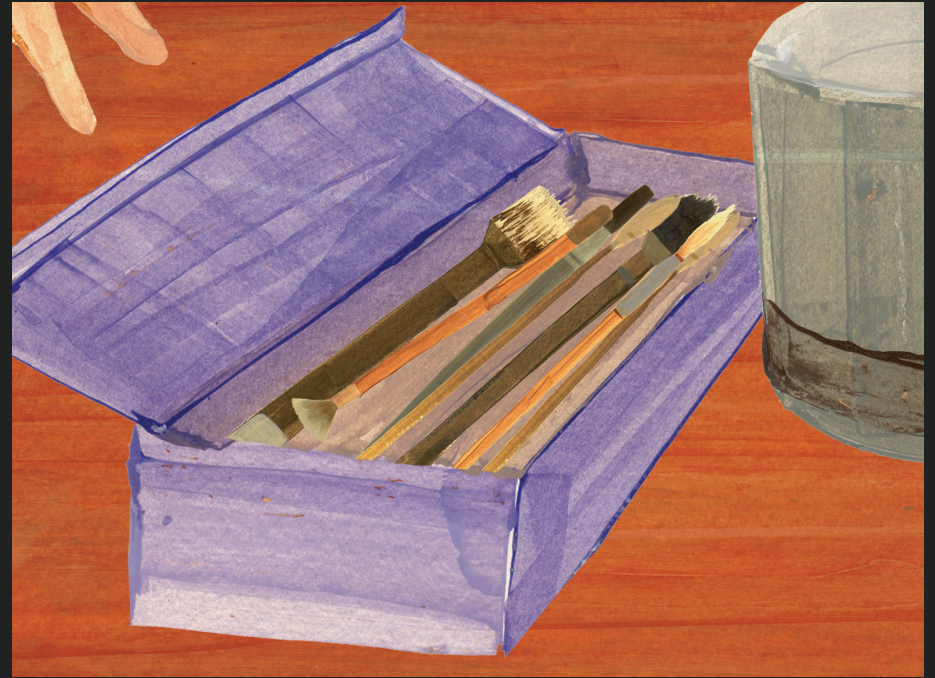






Screenshots from the film..









Music and sound

The film has no dialogues so I didn't had to deal with the recording part. However the background sound and music was taken from royalty free site to match the emotions and essence of the film.

Conclusion

The project has been a very interesting journey where I got to learn a lot of new things. I learned the process of animation which demands a lot of patience and dedication. As the entire animation is done in my own style of illustrations, its amazing to see my illustrations moving across the screen.

Apart from this, I feel happy that with the help of my guide and friends I was able to convey an important message to people through the film which is so close to my heart.



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