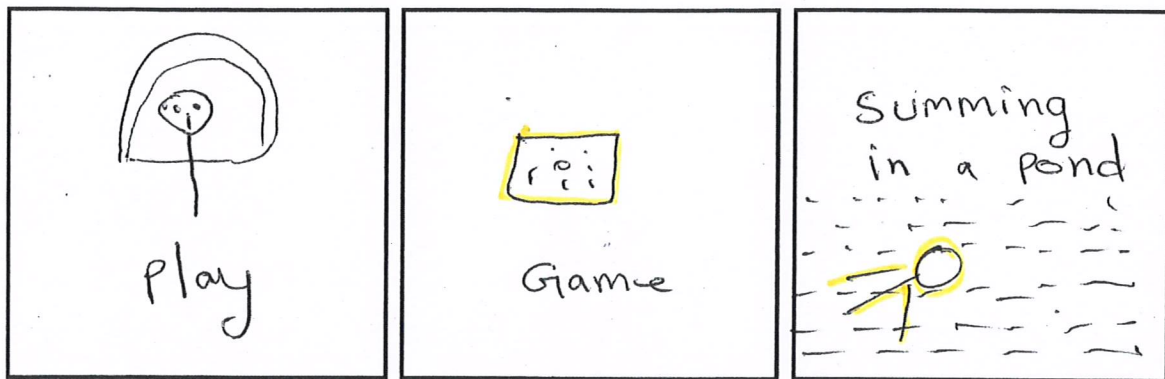




**My name is Samia.  
I was born in 1981 in Bangladesh.  
I came to the UK in 2001.  
This is my story.**





When I was 12, I liked playing all the time. I didn't like going to school! I would play games and swim in the pond instead.





I liked watching TV in our  
house in Bangladesh.



But when I was 15, I stopped playing and started to care about my education.



But I didn't do well in my SSC  
(school leaving exam).



So when I was 19, I got married and stopped my education. I was very sad to leave my family. I was also upset not to complete my education.



The textiles we saw in the Whitworth Art Gallery remind me of my wedding sari.

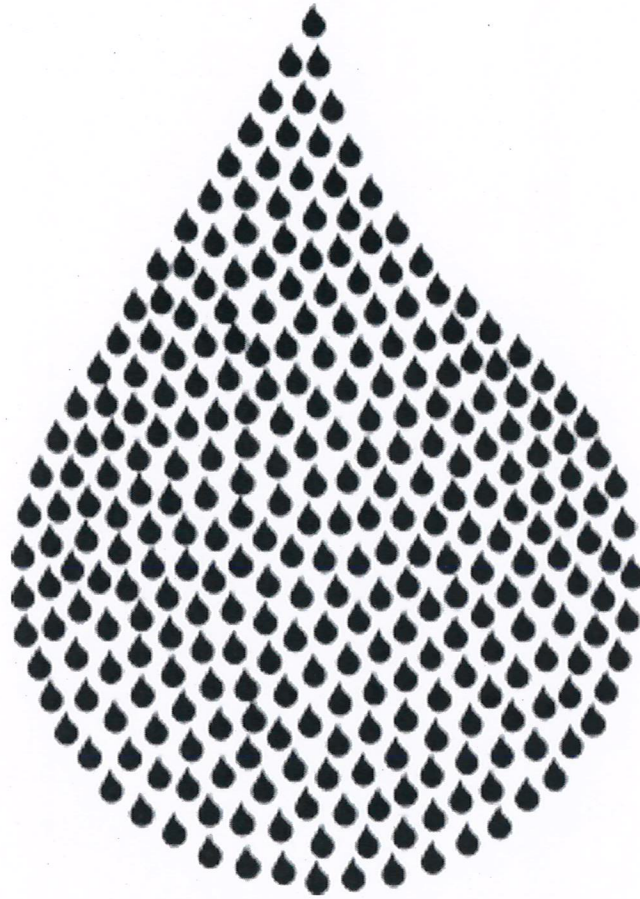


I came to England with my husband. I was a bit nervous. Everything was new and different. I had to face many challenges and adjustments.

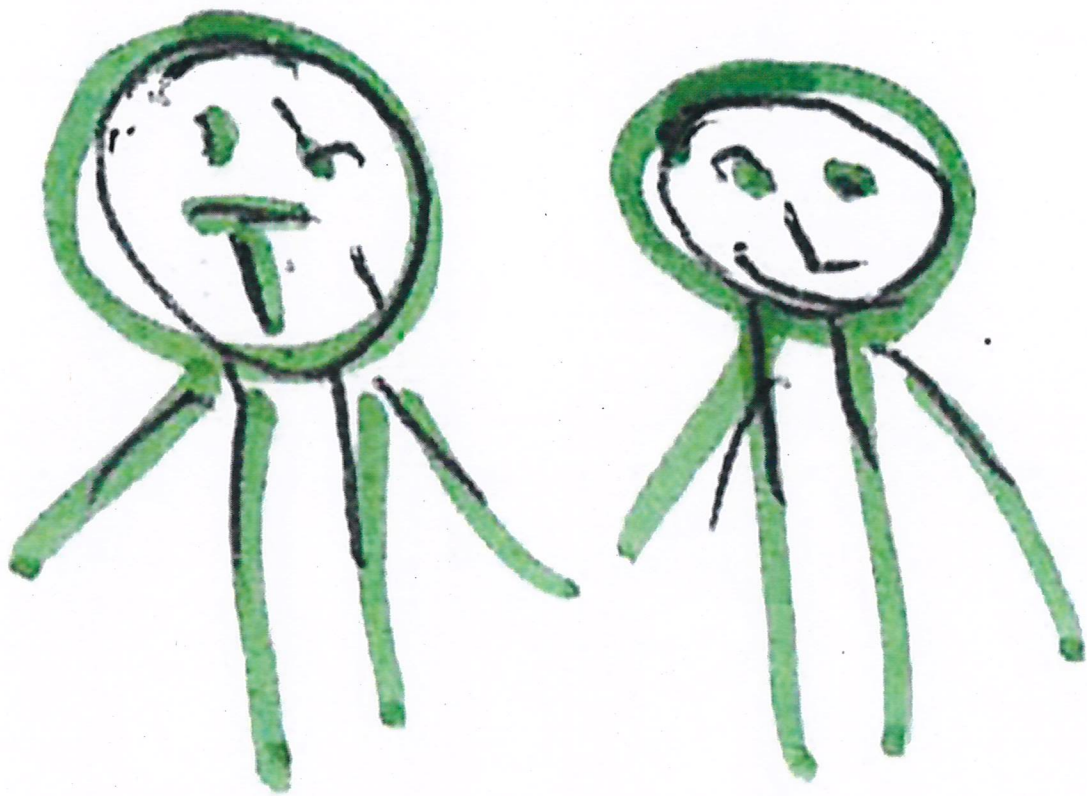


I met my in-laws and my new country. I lived with my in-laws and my husband's extended family for the first five years. It was difficult to adjust, but I managed as they were supportive and nice to me.





I missed my old friends and  
my mum. I was very sad.



But now I have children.



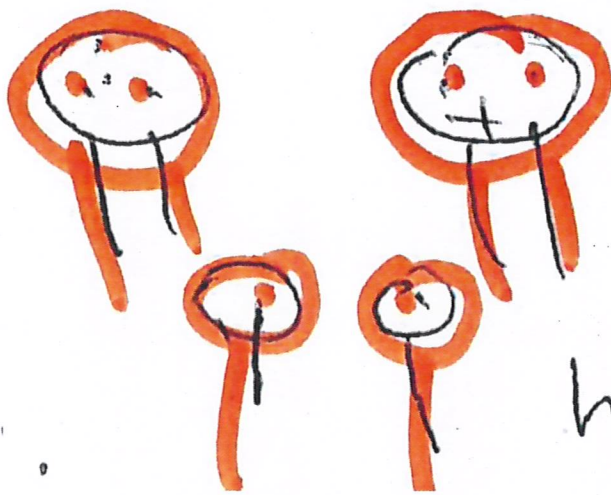


Sweet



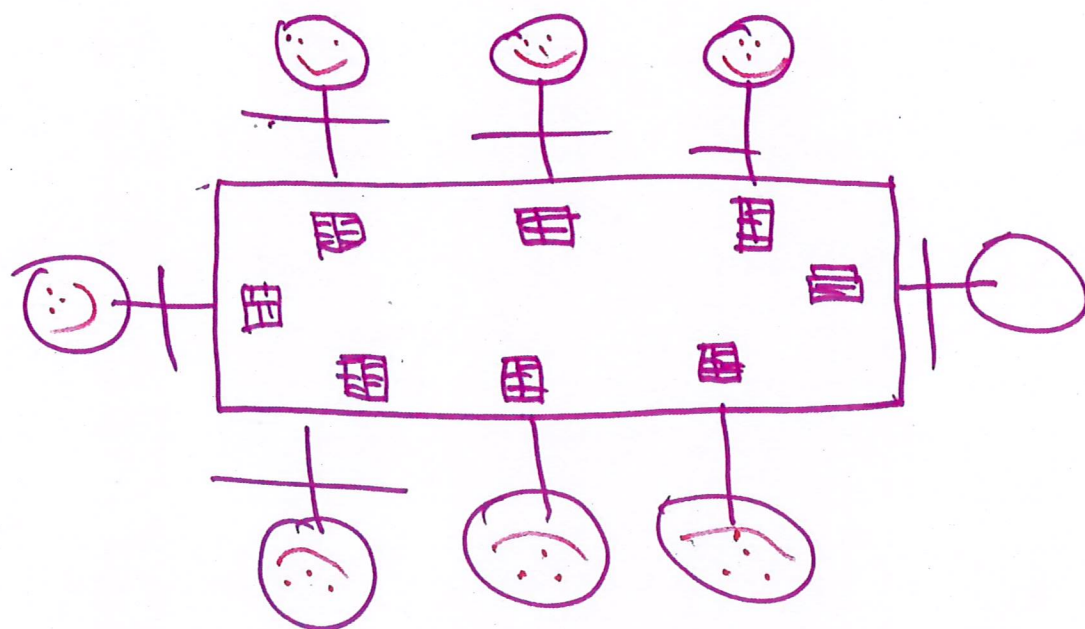
help each other

My children are sweet and  
they help each other.



happy family

We are a happy family.



English class

At first, I didn't understand English and I didn't have confidence to speak. I struggled to learn when I first came to the UK.

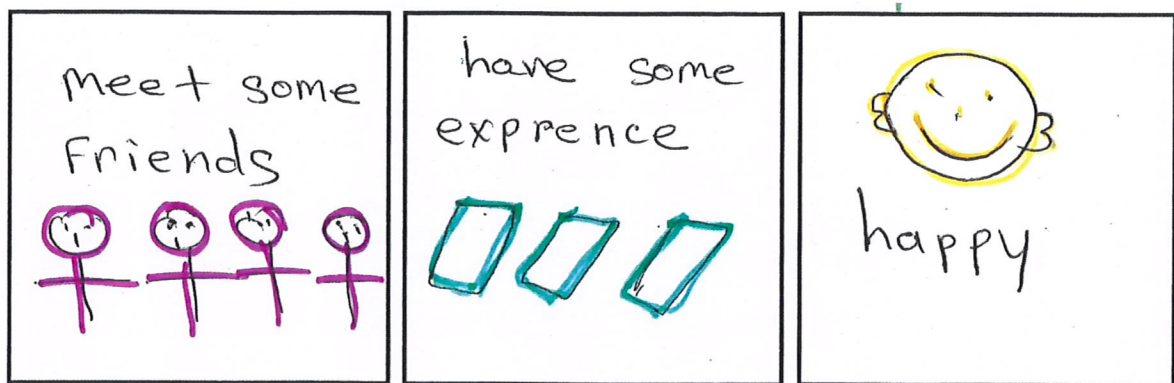




I learnt to speak English at Hyde College and I helped my husband. I am still learning, but it is taking a long time.



I can't drive yet, but I want to learn in the future. I want to become independent. I want to feel confident and be able to do things myself.



I want to meet new friends and  
have some happy experiences.





I have met some good friends  
at Hyde Community Action.





**Created as part of 'Graphic Lives: telling Bangladeshi migrant women's stories through graphic narratives'.**

In 2017, women from the British Bangladeshi community in Hyde explored their own life stories and the history of their communities through life history, cross-cultural storytelling and digital skills, as well as visits to museums and galleries. They then created digital comics using photographs, drawings and text.

This was a joint project between Manchester Metropolitan University and Hyde Community Action, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.