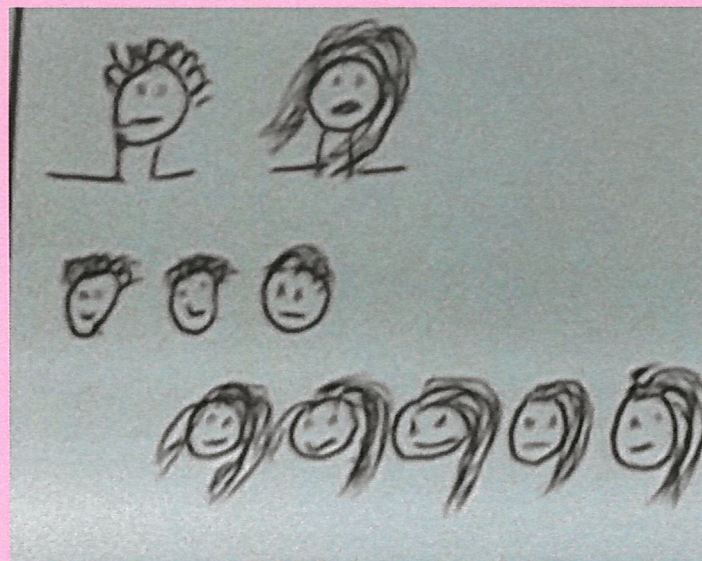
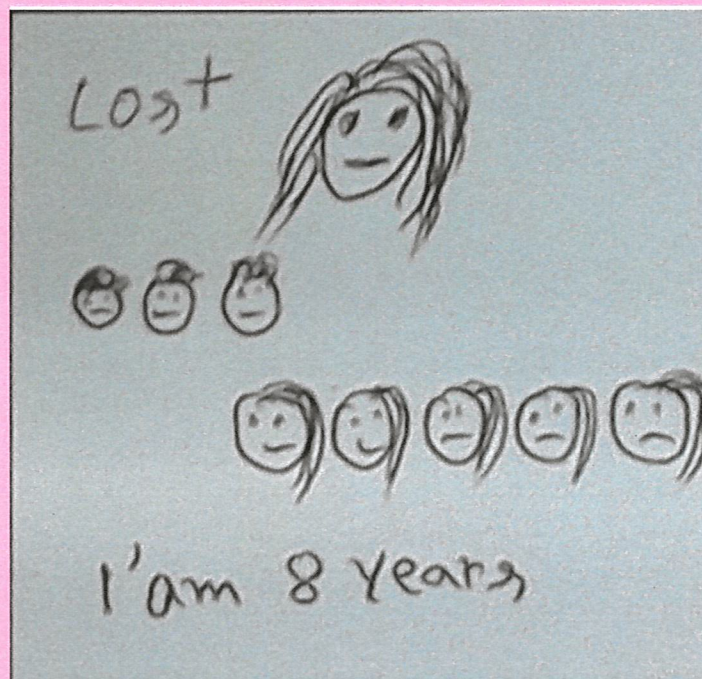


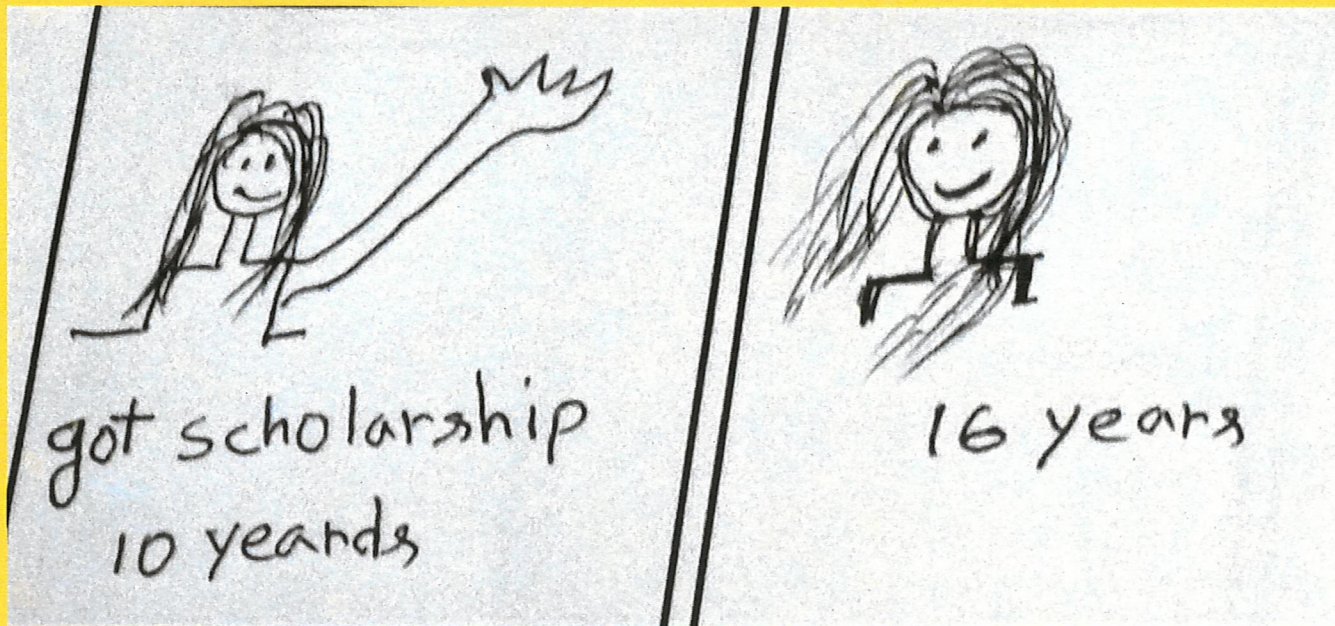
My name is Shapla. I am from Bangladesh. I was born in 1981 in a small village in Sylhet. I came to the UK in 2008. This is my story.

I am Shapla. My family has eight children: we are five sisters and three brothers. My mum I call Amma and my dad I call Abba.



When I was eight years old, my Abba passed away. I am the youngest of my family.





After I lost my dad, my young mind was broken.
But I was very, very good as a student. When I was 10 years old, I got three scholarships. Remembering those times, I feel very happy. This happiness continued until I was sixteen years old.

We are five sisters in this photo. This photo is part of my sister's wedding. It's a celebration called Gaye Holud and Mehdi party. But I can't remember all of the things that happened on that day!



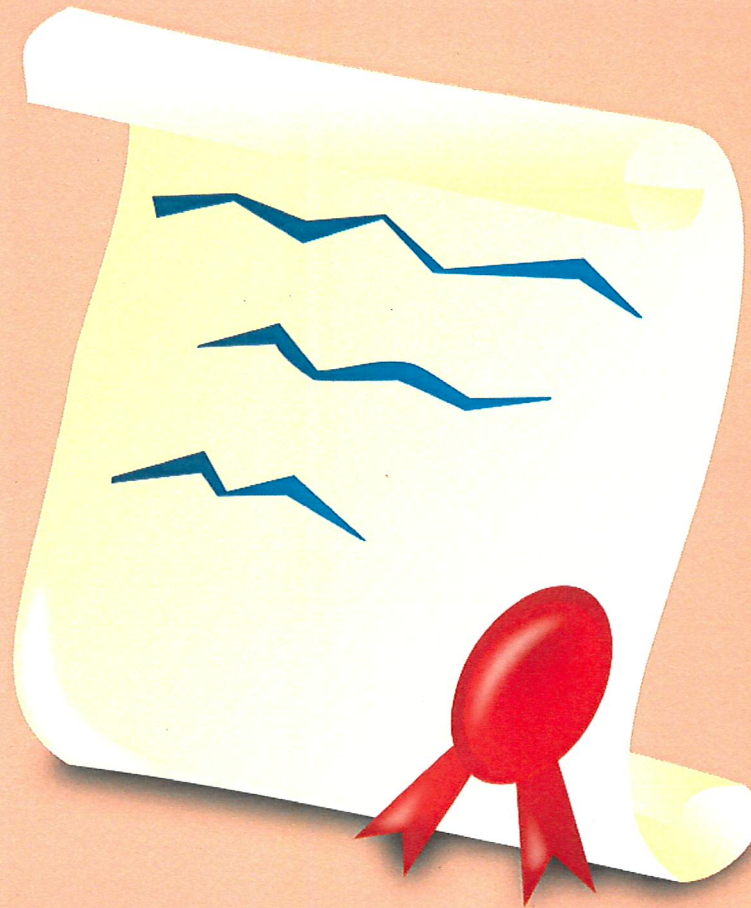
This is my sister's gift to me.

When I was six years old, I got my ears pierced and my sister gave me some earrings.

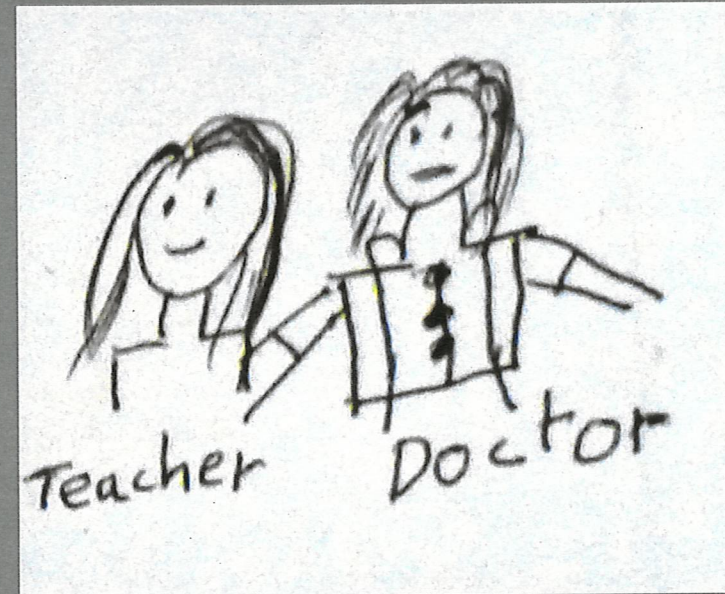
Unfortunately, I lost them three times, but I found them again and they are still with me.



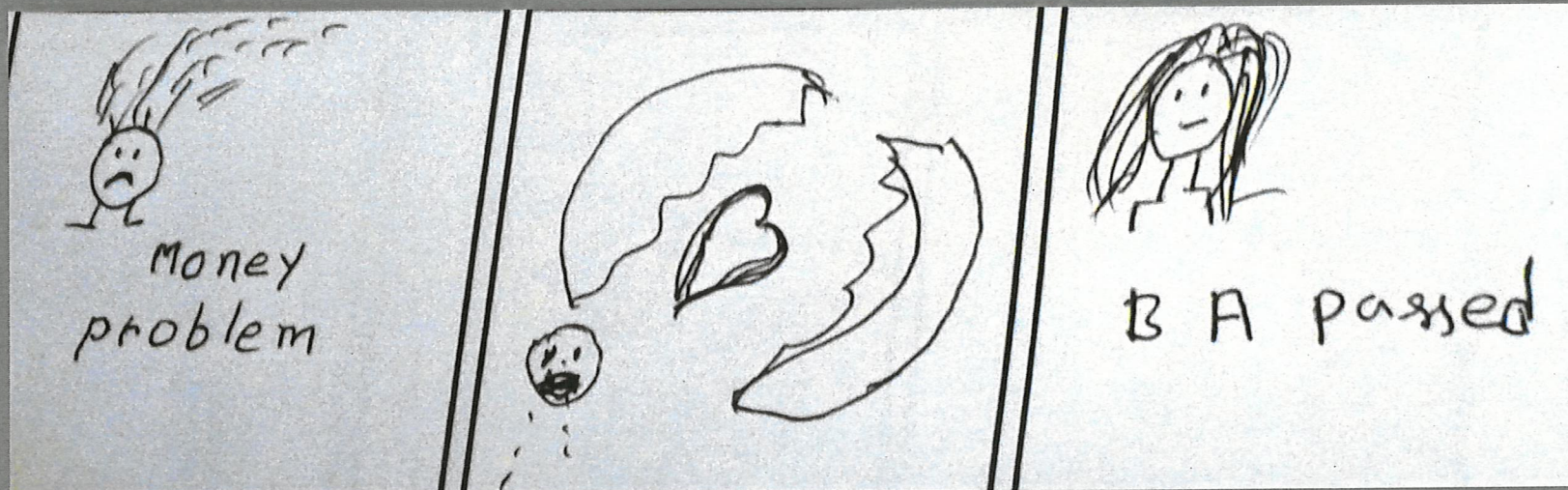
When my dad passed away I was very sad, but I got very good results at school and I got a scholarship. So my study life and school life was very wonderful.

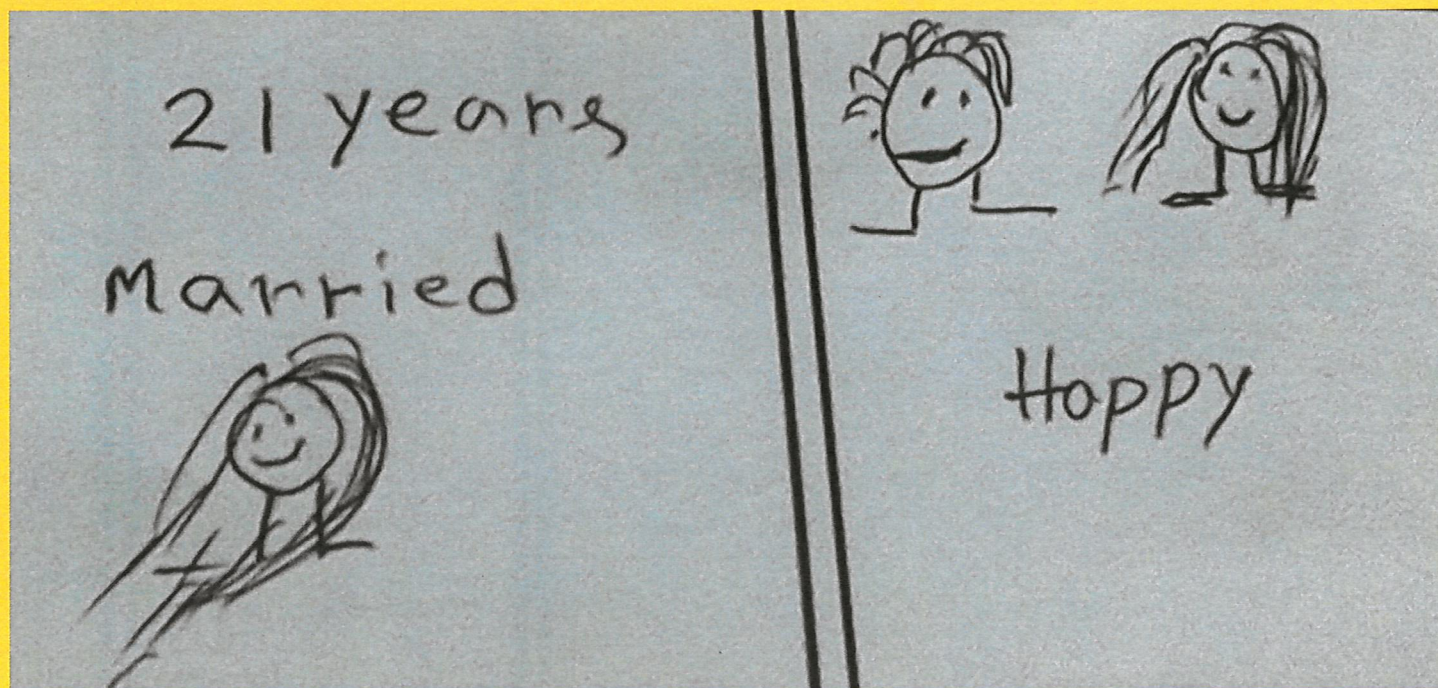


I wanted to be a doctor or a teacher, but money was a big problem. So I couldn't take up this profession. My heart was broken.



But I continued my studies in a general way and eventually passed my Masters of Political Science in M.C. College in Sylhet.





When I was 21, I got married to a British Bangladeshi and I felt happy.

When I saw the plane taking us from Bangladesh to the UK, I was crying a lot, but my husband felt very happy.

This was not my first journey. My first plane journey was with my husband from Sylhet to Dhaka.











After I was married, I faced lots of immigration problem and my husband spent lots of money and was very fed up. But after 5 years I got my UK visa. My family and my husband's family felt so happy.



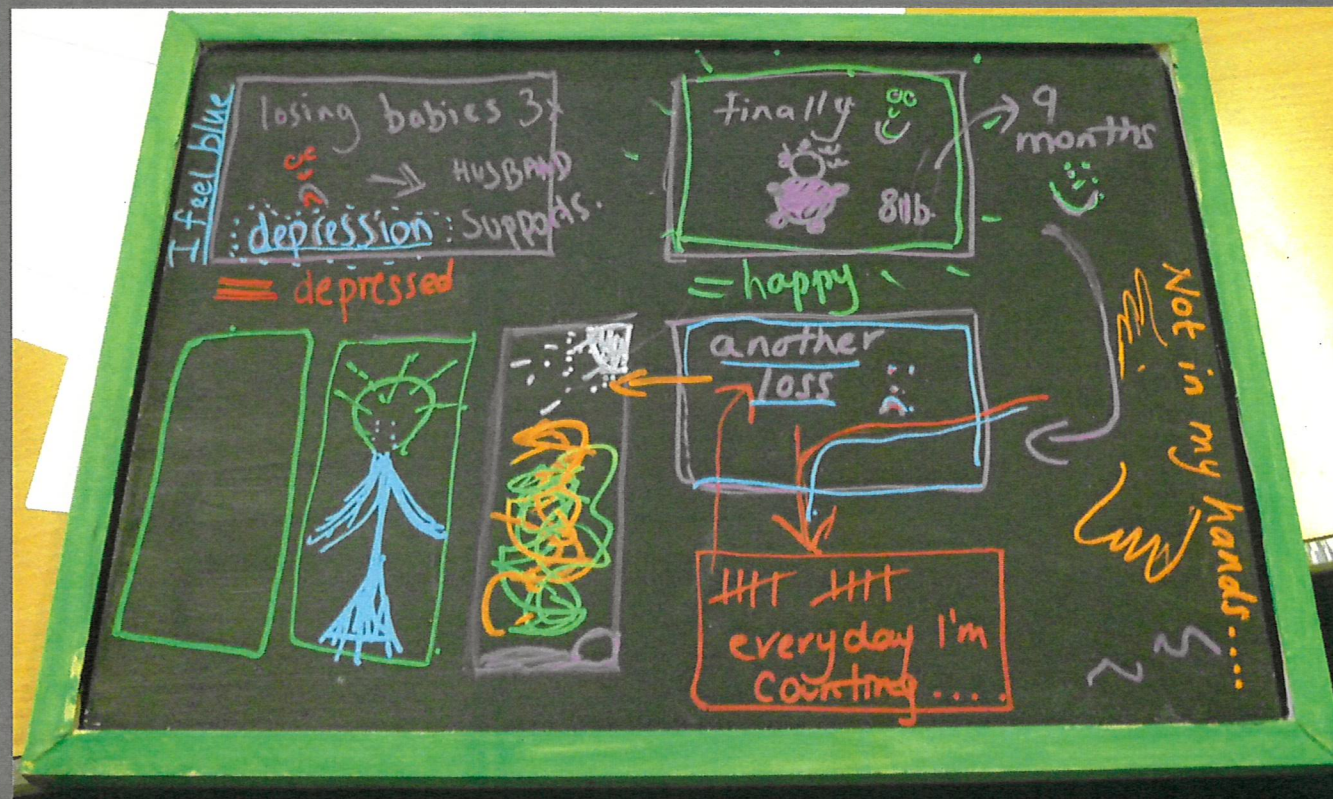
When I came to the UK, I faced lots of differences between the UK and Bangladesh, especially the weather, value of money, clothes and many others things.

I was surprised at how much things cost. And I didn't like wearing winter clothes.

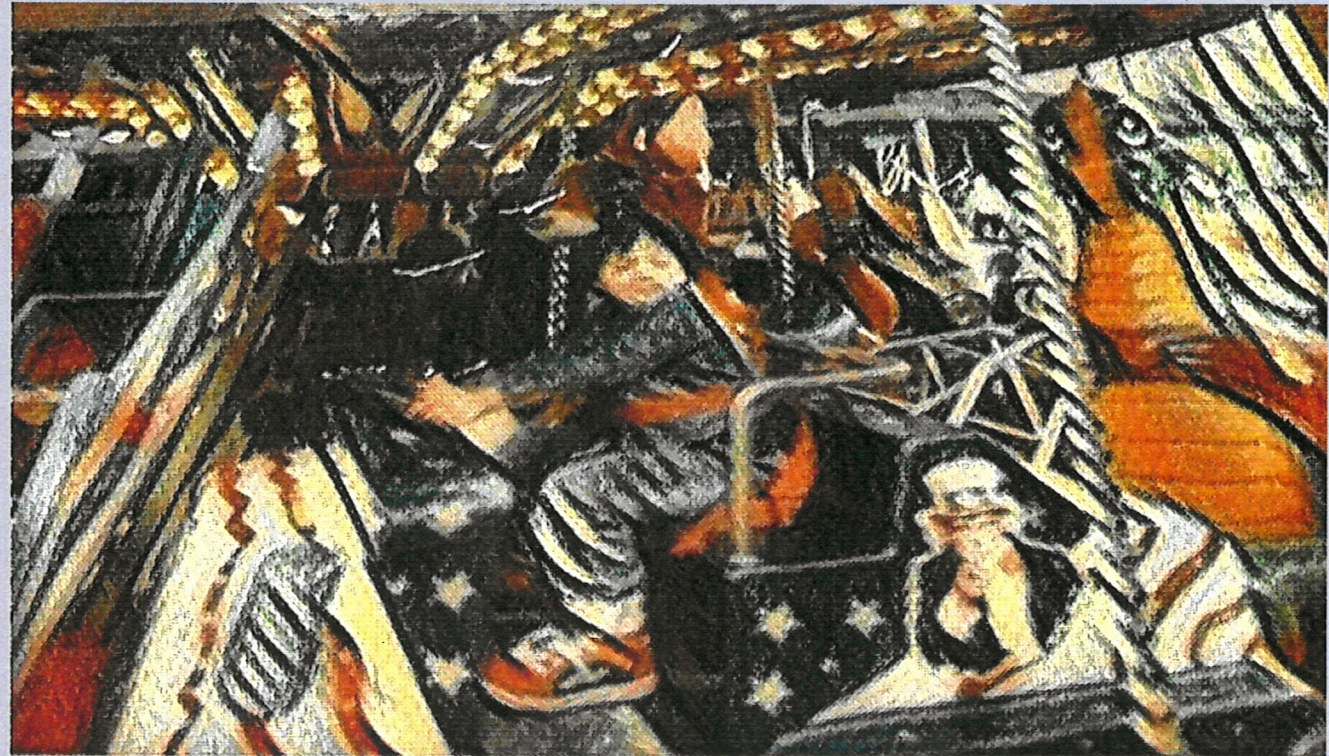
<p>I'm Surprised</p>	<p>My self</p> 	<p>£200 gift</p> 		<p>£180 oh my God</p>
<p>Weather</p>	 <p>cloud</p>	 <p>cool</p>	 	 <p>NO</p>

When I came to the UK, I tried for a baby, but unfortunately I had three miscarriage. This is one of the big problems in my life. I can't believe it happens so many times. It's really hard and I had problems with depression.

But I know it's not in my hands.



This is my only
daughter after three
miscarriages. Now
she is everything to
me.





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.