

# HELLO FARMAISH

## P2 project

AN ANIMATED SHORT FILM

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## **Acknowledgement**

I sincerely extend my deepest gratitude to my guide and mentor, Prof. Shilpa Ranade , for her guidance and support throughout the project.

I would also like to sincerely thank Prof. Aditi Chitre, Prof. Sumant Rao, Prof. Mazhar Kamran, Adjunct Prof. Swati Agarwal and Prof. Abhishek Verma and my batch mates and friends from IDC for all their patience, valuable feedback and constant encouragement.

This film is dedicated to the place and people around me. Many thanks to my parents for supporting me while doing this project.

Anukriti Singh

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## **Research**

### **Primary Research**

**Questions that I asked while interviewing/discussing the topic with people around me -**

- 1. Do you have a Radio set?**
- 2. Do you still use it to listen to it?**
- 3. Which station did you listen to?**
- 4. Do you have any specific memories related to radio?**
- 5. Any family members that still use the radio and what are their experiences or memories?**

**Number of people that I talked to - around 20 to 22.**

Things that were common during the interviews-

1. Old people -
  - listening to the old songs and programs on Akashvani
  - People used to gather around the radio kept at the tea stalls during certain radio shows for example - cricket live commentary, janmashtami
  - Emotional attachment with the radio sets and taking care of them.

- News in the morning
- Bhajan's in the morning

#### 2. Teenagers-

- Teenagers listening to radio while trying to solve math
- Love guru programs on private radio channels
- Favorite RJ
- Favorite Jingles
- Prank shows

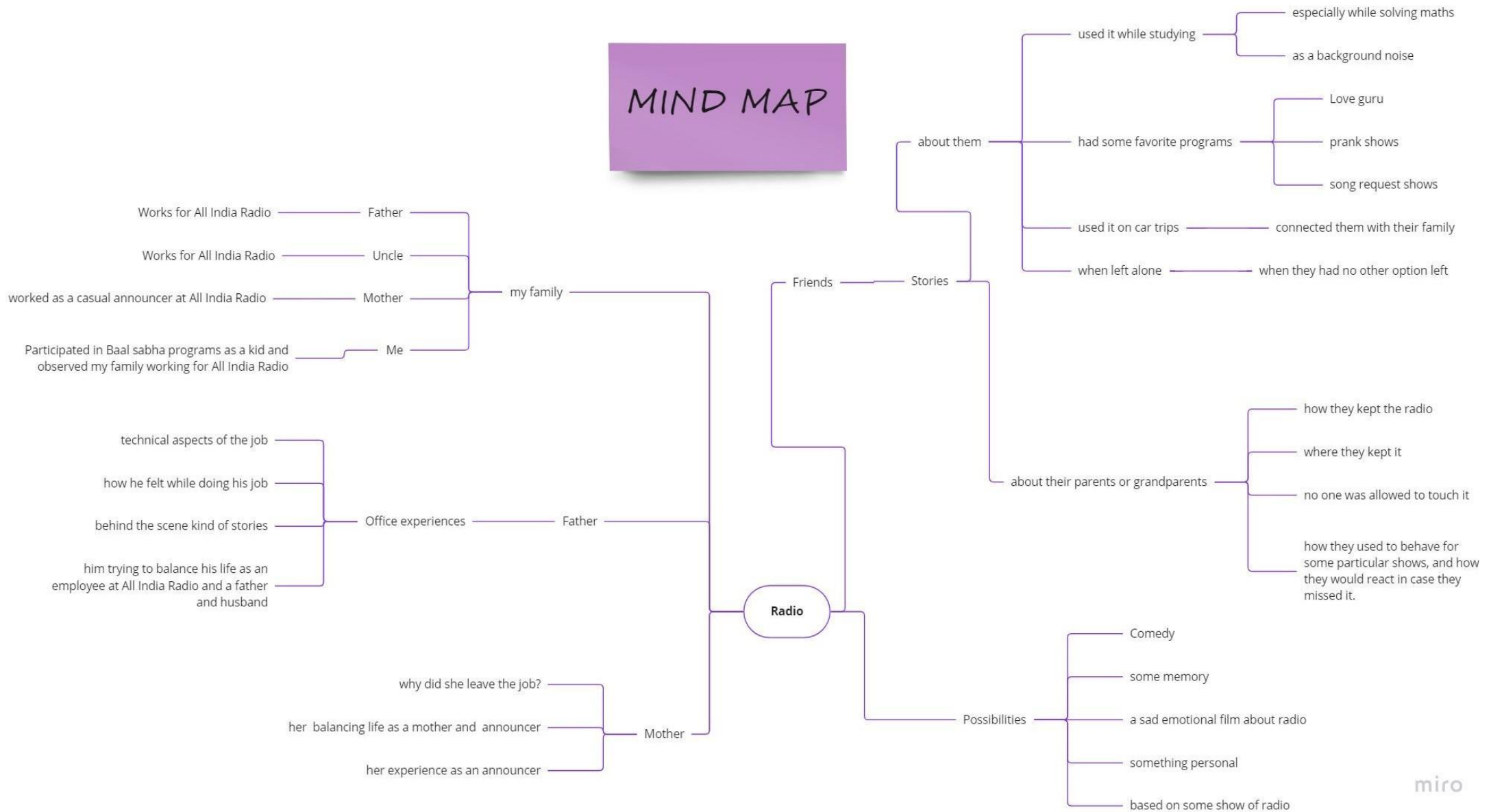
#### 3. Adults-

- Going back to some particular memory while listening to some particular old song
- Listening to it while driving or when they are in

My research also included talking to my parents and relatives about radio and they had some very interesting stories to tell, which I kept on recording for future references. I started discussing the topic with my friends - this time I came across a different perspective. My friends were able to recall the time when their parents or grandparents used to carry a radio and in some cases they still do but most of them went back to the memories they had with their grandparents and radio. In most of the cases radio was a very precious object to them, they were possessive about it, punctual for their favorite shows on it and the radio sets were always kept somewhere around their bed and no one was allowed to touch. The more I talked about it the more I discovered that for people around me radio is still something that connects them with others, through the stories or memories. Each story had a different emotion it carried, but all the stories had one thing in common that it was a memory , something that does not happen anymore, something that they loved and cherish now.

Other than that, I kept on watching one minute films both animated as well as live action, this greatly helped me to think about the format of the story building for a one minute film. I also found some films on the topic of radio itself, but different concept.

# MIND MAP



## Story concepts

**Main idea of the project** - to capture the essence of togetherness we had during the era of All India Radio.

Idea 1-

Sholay's dialogue is being played and the whole family is enacting the whole thing and then the father turns off the radio, his hand turns into an old hand and he is sitting with an old radio in an empty house.

Idea 2-

A scenario of a Kashmiri family sitting and having a candle light dinner due to lack of electricity. All of them are sitting in one room and inside a blanket and listening to Akashvani.

Idea 3-

Badi maa is in the kitchen making breakfast for her children who are still sleeping and Bade papa switches on the radio, all of this is happening at 6 am. The radio starts with the beep sound and then the "sanket dhwani" starts to play. The announcer on the radio starts

narrating the news and Badi maa is trying to finish making breakfast so she can finally enjoy listening to her favorite program "chitralok-gaane naye zamane ke" on the radio. As soon as the announcer is done with the news bulletin, Bade papa enters the frame and switches off the radio then Badi maa and the children who were also waiting for the program start shouting at him - arre kyu band kiya radio? Tum jaan boojh ke karte ho na yeh? And then Badi maa goes towards the radio and turns it on, and faces towards him, but now it's an empty room with Bade Papa's photo on the wall with a dried up garland on it and her children bringing the tea for her in the morning and she is listening to the news with a smile on her face looking at her husband's photo.

Idea 4-

A girl trying to solve math is listening to the radio, and the RJ is telling a horror story, the girl starts imagining it and visualizing it through the candle's light and shadow

#### Idea 5-

An old man taking care of a very old radio set and doesn't let anyone touch it or go near it, always keeps it near his charpai and in a brown leather case and later we see the backstory of the radio belonging to his mother when he was a child.

#### Idea 6-

An old man somehow breaks an old radio and is restless. He asks his son to get it repaired but he refuses or makes some excuse. The old man goes missing from the house, his entire family is searching for him and later find him at a tea stall with other old people and random strangers listening to the old hindi songs being played at the radio there.

#### Idea 7-

A guy telling a story/experience about his time in Kashmir on a very old radio set about when there was electricity problems how they used candles to light up the room and firewood to keep the place warm, and then in the darkness of the night they used to switch on the radio and listen to the programs and the stories, there is this other who is in this completely different zone and world who is trying to visualize it through her imagination but in the current era

of hyper-visualization and the idea is to capture how she goes through this.

#### Idea 8 -

A child's shadow is pointing a gun towards someone and there is another shadow with his hands up and carrying a side bag saying -

“sardar sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai “. The child's shadow with the gun moves ahead and says - “Toh ab goli kha” and starts laughing. The child shoots and hits the other shadow, the other figure falls down and there is static noise coming from somewhere. The child then drops the bamboo stick and picks up the radio from the scarecrow's shoulder and starts trying to tune it. The radio starts playing some english songs and the man is now old and sitting outside a closed mall at night. The old man (now a watchman) is still struggling to tune the radio back to the previous station.



## Story development

**Idea selected** - Sholay's dialogue is being played and the whole family is enacting the whole thing and then the father turns off the radio,

his hand turns into an old hand and he is sitting with an old radio in an empty house. Story development phase - I just kept on writing stories and wrote the stories in different ways.

## Story

A sick man in his 30s is folding his hands and making a request to someone in a gas lantern lit room- "Sardar, sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai"	The lady in his late 20s is sitting beside him with her back towards the sick man, shaking something replies- "to ab goli kha", meanwhile the little children imitate their father's reaction.	The lady turns around and feeds him the bitter <u>kaadha</u> . The man makes a bitter face. The couple and the two children start laughing	The radio starts to untune, the man lifts himself from the bed a little and moves towards the radio with great difficulty.	The man's young hand turns into an old man's hand and the radio now plays - "meri mann ki baat"	The old man is lying down on a bed with a lot of medicines on his bed and a young woman and man are sitting beside him using their phones and earphones.
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## First iteration

A sick man in his 30s is folding his hands and making a request to someone in a gas lantern lit room- "Sardar, sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai"	The lady in his late 20s is sitting beside him with her back towards the sick man, shaking something replies- "to ab goli kha", meanwhile the little children imitate their father's reaction.	The lady turns around and feeds him the bitter <u>kaadha</u> . The man makes a bitter face. The couple and the two children start laughing	The radio starts to untune, the man lifts himself from the bed a little and moves towards the radio with great difficulty.	The man's young hand turns into an old man's hand and the radio now plays - "meri mann ki baat"	The old man is lying down on a bed with a lot of medicines on his bed and a young woman and man are sitting beside him using their phones and earphones. An old lady enters the room and says- "arre itna sannata kyu hai bhai "
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## Second iteration

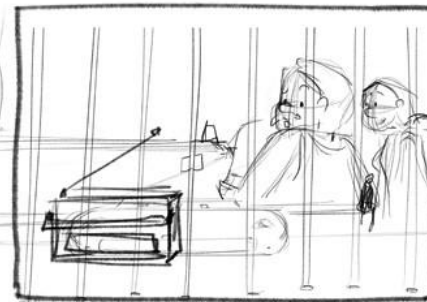
<p><b>Audio from the radio ~yeh hai WSO ayurvedic cream ~</b> A sick man(husband) in his early 30s is sitting on a bed with his children sitting beside him and playing by making shadows in the gas lantern -lit room.</p> <p><b>Audio ~ abhi aap sun rahe hai aakashwani ka mathura kendra aur karyakram ka naam hai - bioscope ki baatein aur aaj hum baat kar rahe hai 1975 me release hui mashoor film Sholay~</b> The wife in late 20s is making some herbal medicine in the kitchen and pouring it in a cup.</p>	<p><b>Audio ~ daakuon ki giroh me bhi 2 naam bahut mashoor hue ~</b> Wife enters the bedroom,the man sits up straight on his bed, the children pinch their noses as soon as the bitter smell of the herbal tea hits them.</p> <p><b>Audio is from the radio ~ Sardar, sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai sardar</b> The husband is folding his hands and making a puppy face towards his wife</p>	<p><b>Audio is from the radio ~ toh ab goli kha ~</b> Wife ignores the pleas of the husband and feeds the medicine.</p> <p>The husband makes a bitter face and his children make fun of him and start laughing.</p> <p><b>Audio ~ Amjad Khan Mumbai me chhote mote roles ke liye aaye the</b> The family is having a moment and everyone is laughing</p>	<p>The radio starts to untune, the man lifts himself from the bed a little and moves towards the radio.</p>	<p>The man's young hand turns into an old man's hand and the radio now plays - <b>"meri mann ki baat"</b></p>	<p>The old man is lying down on a bed with a lot of medicines on his bed and a young woman and man are sitting beside him using their phones and earphones.</p>
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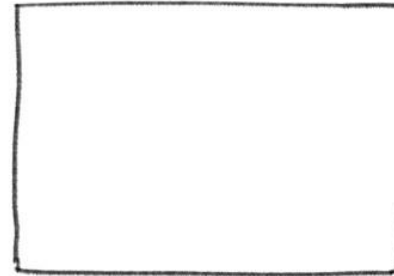
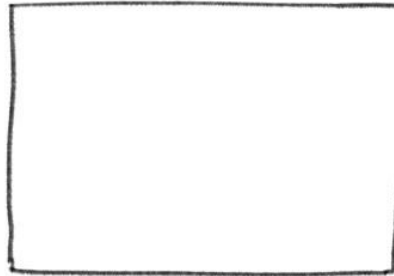
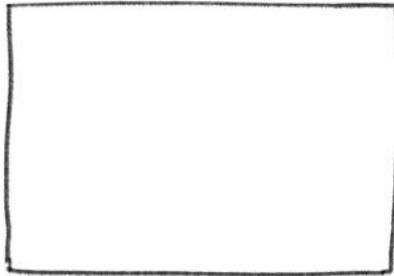
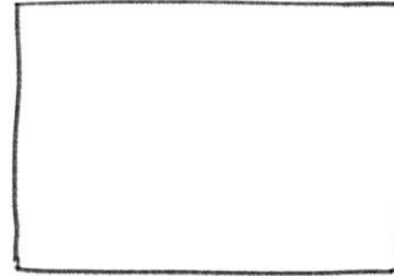
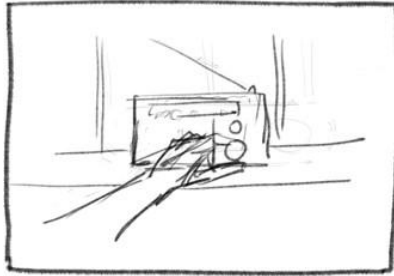
### Third iteration

<p><b>Audio from the radio ~yeh hai WSO ayurvedic cream ~</b> A daughter and her father just sing the advertisement and laugh together.</p> <p><b>Audio ~bioscope ki baatein show mein ek baar aap ka phir se swagat hai, aur jaisa ki hum baat kar rahe the 1975 ki mashoor film sholay ke villain gabbar singh ki ~</b> Someone is making some herbal medicine in the kitchen.</p>	<p><b>Audio ~ <u>daakuon</u> ki <u>giroh</u> me bhi 2 naam bahut mashoor hue ~</b> Father and daughter stop playing around and the daughter tries to hide from the big silhouette.</p> <p><b>Audio is from the radio ~ Sardar, sardar maine aapka namak khaya hai sardar</b> The husband is folding his hands and making a puppy face towards his wife while the daughter is sitting on her father's lap and laughing.</p>	<p><b>Audio is from the radio ~ <u>toh</u> ab goli <u>kha</u> ~</b> Wife ignores the pleas of the husband and shows the medicine.</p> <p>The girl takes the medicine.</p> <p><b>Audio ~ Amjad Khan Mumbai me <u>chhote</u> mote roles ke liye <u>aaye</u> the</b> The family is having a moment and everyone is laughing</p>	<p>The radio starts to untune, the man turns around a little and moves towards the radio.</p>	<p>The man's young hand turns into an old man's hand and the radio now plays - <b>"meri mann ki baat"</b></p>	<p>The old man is sitting and coughing beside his grown up daughter who is using her phone..</p>
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## Storyboard







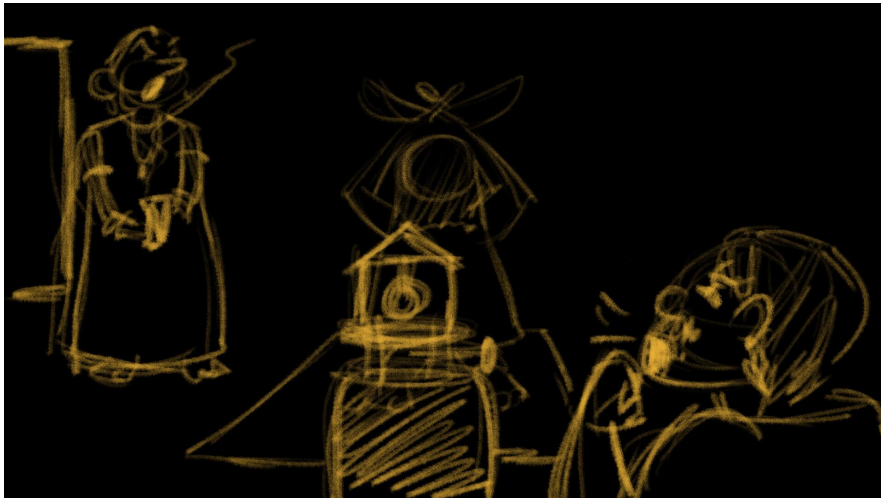
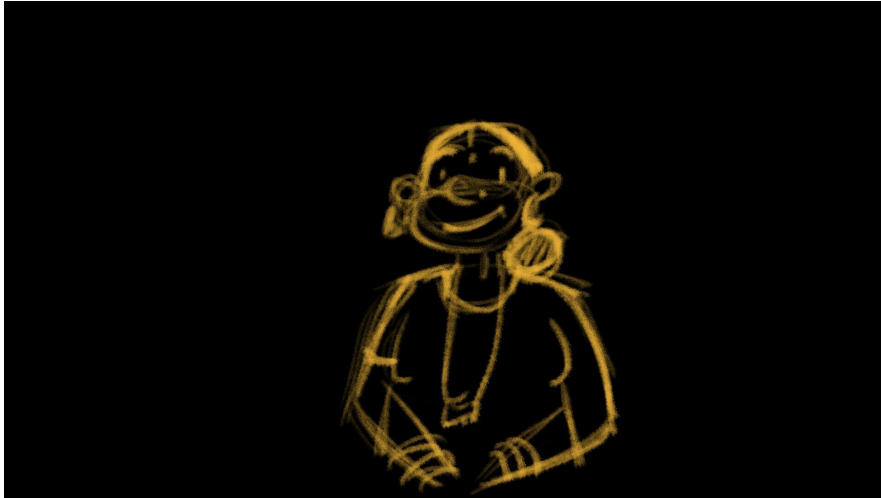


## Concept art









## Character exploration

Characters -

Mother - Kumudh(age 28)

Father- Amar (age 30 )

Daughter- Kriti(age 4-5 )

The characters had to be Indian, maybe a cliché couple with a big height difference and a cute little daughter.





## New story

After our P2 stage 2 presentations, my project guide Prof. Shilpa Ranade suggested that I look for a story which is a bit more towards the personal and real side of the radio.

So I decided to go back to the recordings that I had saved while talking to the people during my research phase. There I found two stories that were totally different from the genre I was initially going for. These stories were my father's and his colleague's experiences from when they had joined All India Radio.

**The first story** was about a man who was an announcer at the radio station and his wife. This husband and wife had created a code language, through which they were able to communicate with each other. So the wife listened to the radio during the late night waited for his husband to say that it's time to say good-night, and we will meet tomorrow in the morning, so the code was - morning , in hindi morning can be said as Pratah aur Subah, so if the husband said - pratah - it meant he will be overworking and the wife would just lock the house doors and sleep and if the husband said subah - the wife will start preparing the dinner table for him.

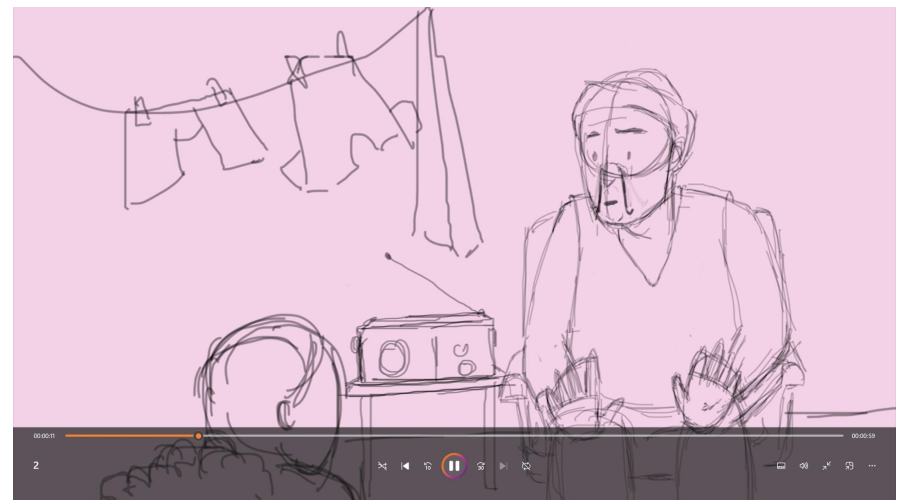
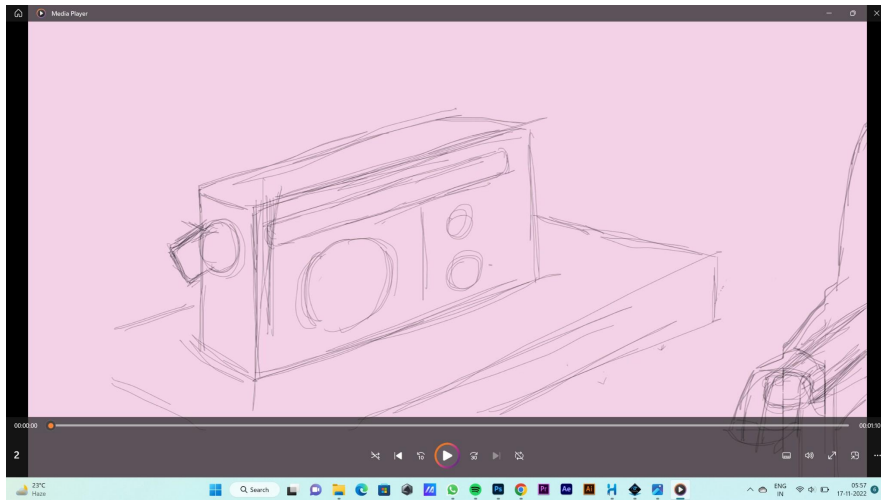
**The second story is about a man who was mesmerized by a female announcer's voice while listening to the radio, and**

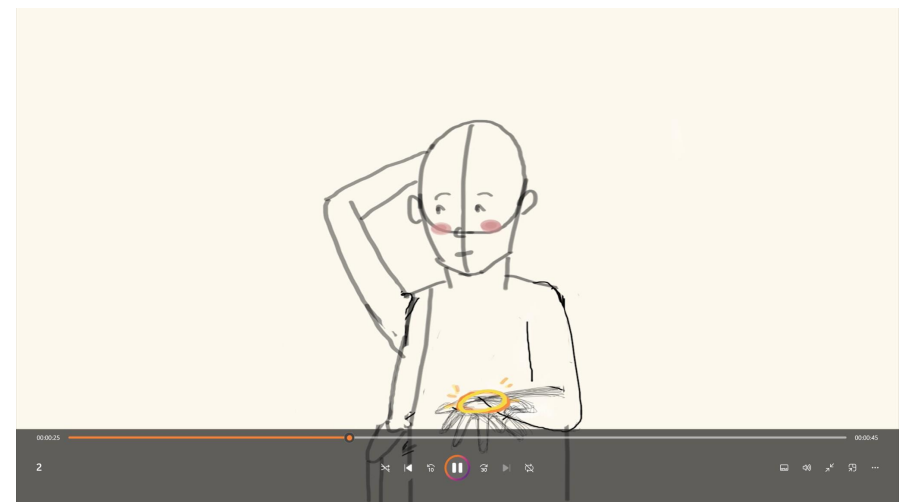
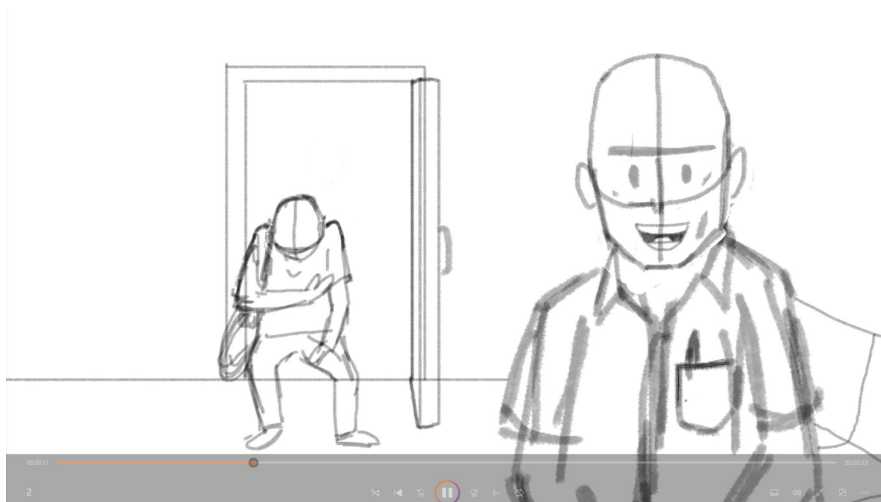
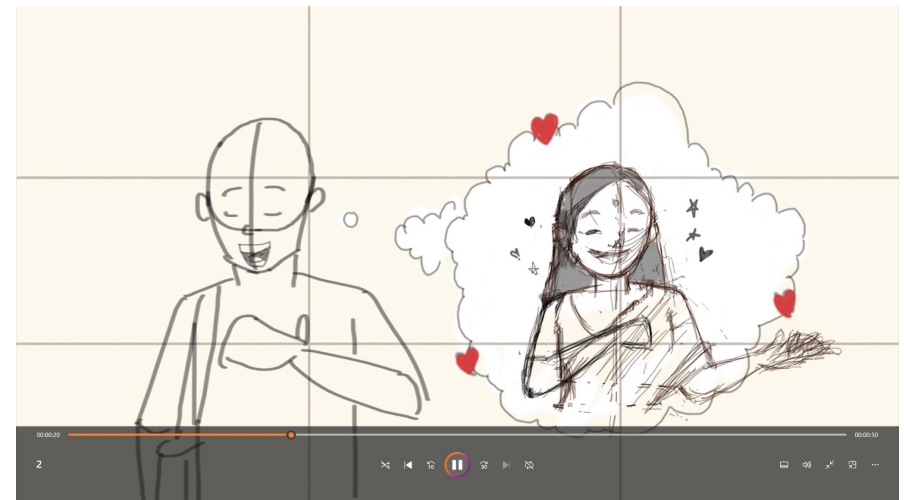
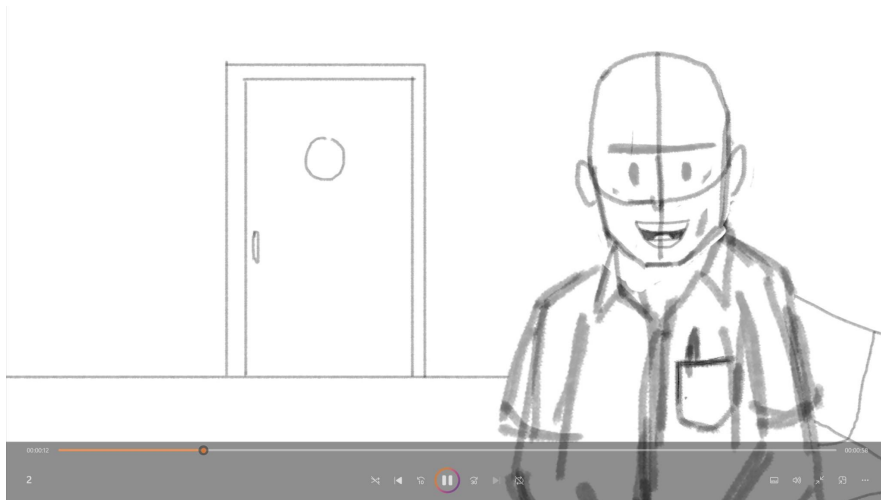
**one day he went to the radio station and demanded to see her and marry her. He thought that she was a young woman in her 20s but when she came to see him she was a 55 year old woman.**

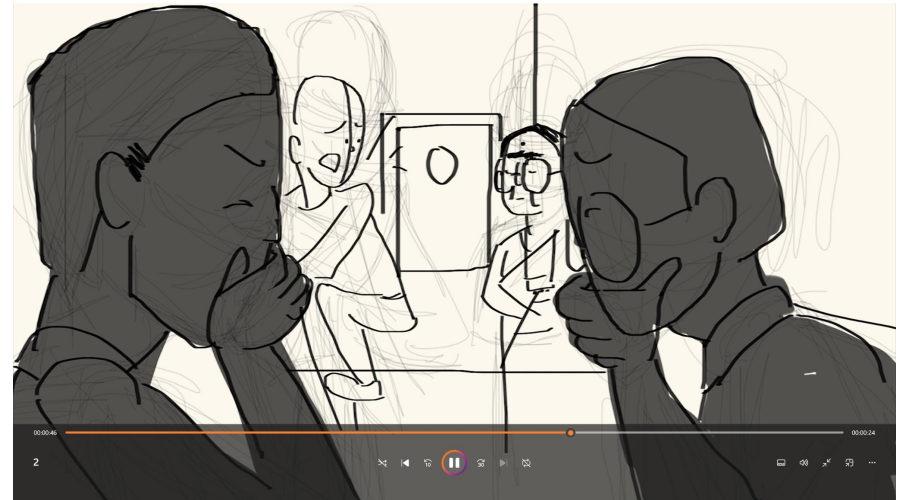
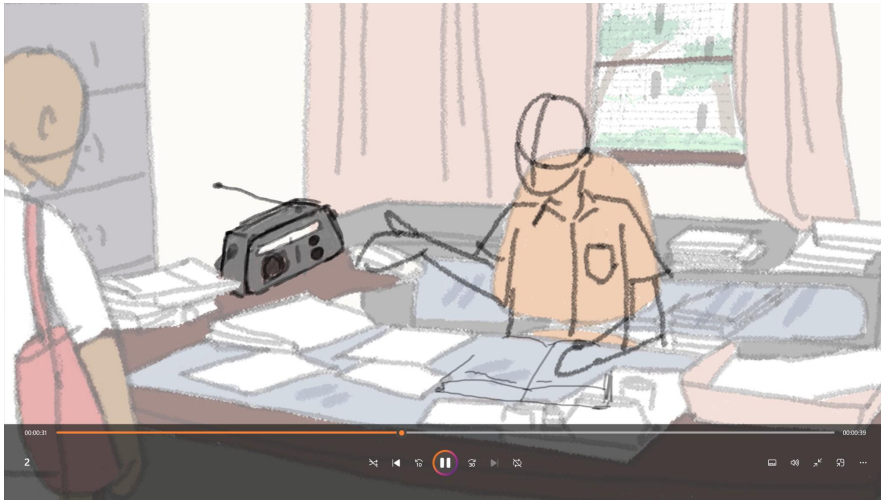
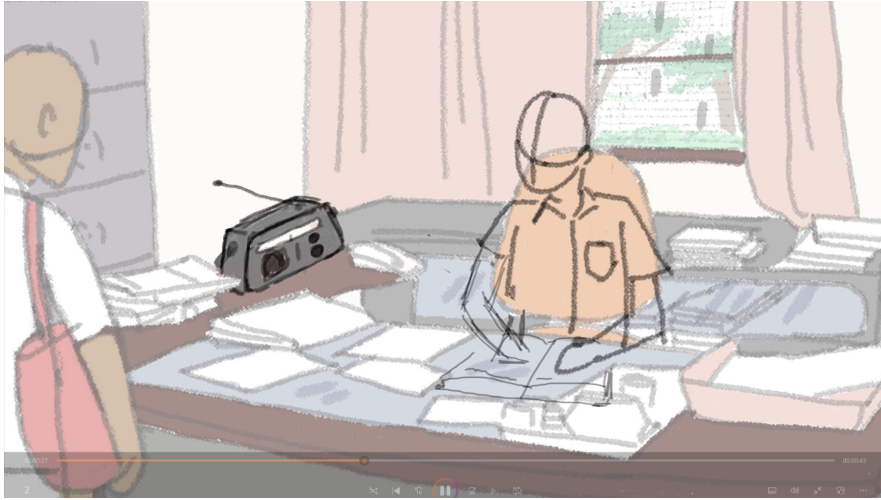
Both the stories were in audio format and in my father's voice. I shared it with my batchmates and they all found the old woman story more interesting, as well as my father's voice and his way of telling the story so I decided to go with it. After editing the original audio a lot and somehow bringing it down to 1 min 42 secs I shared it with my guide, she approved this story.



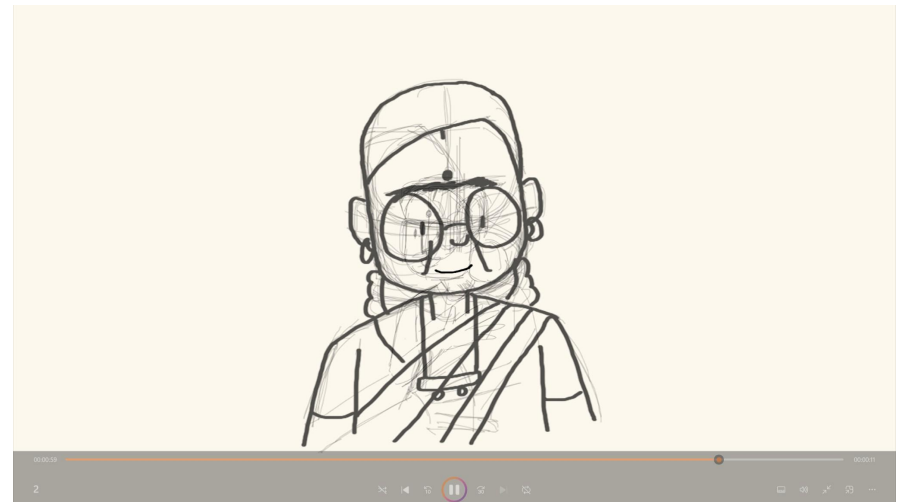
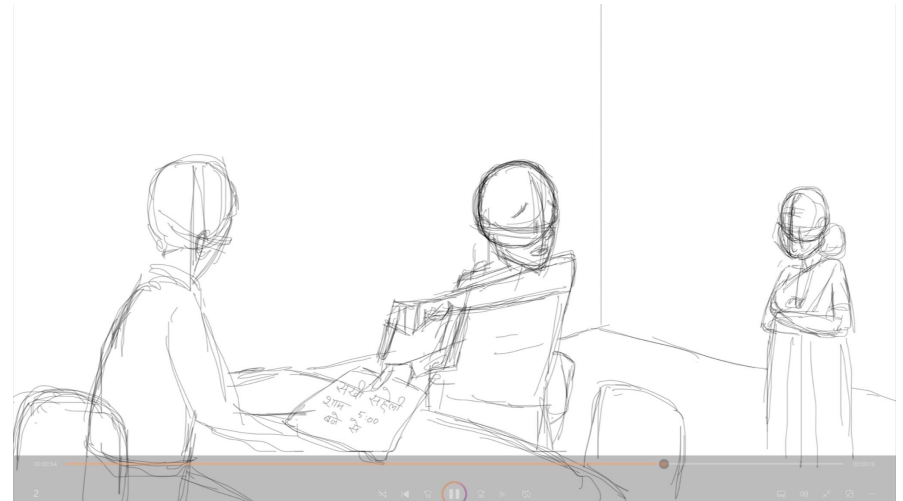
# New Storyboard





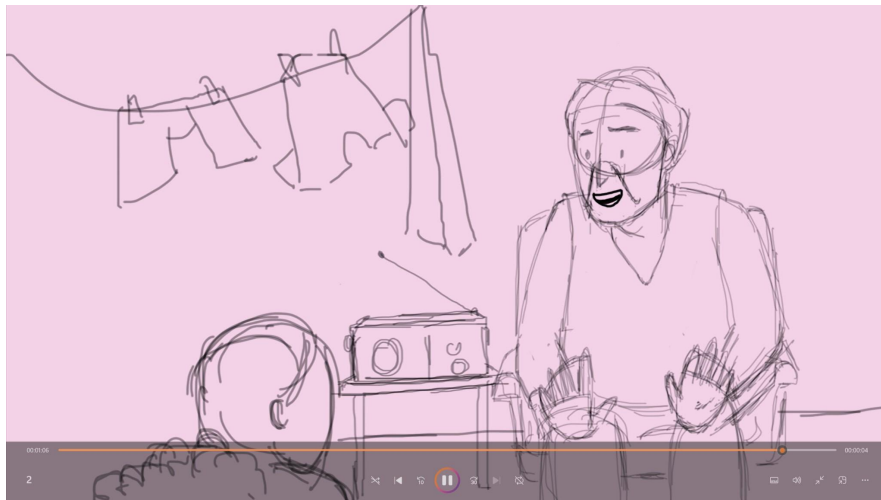




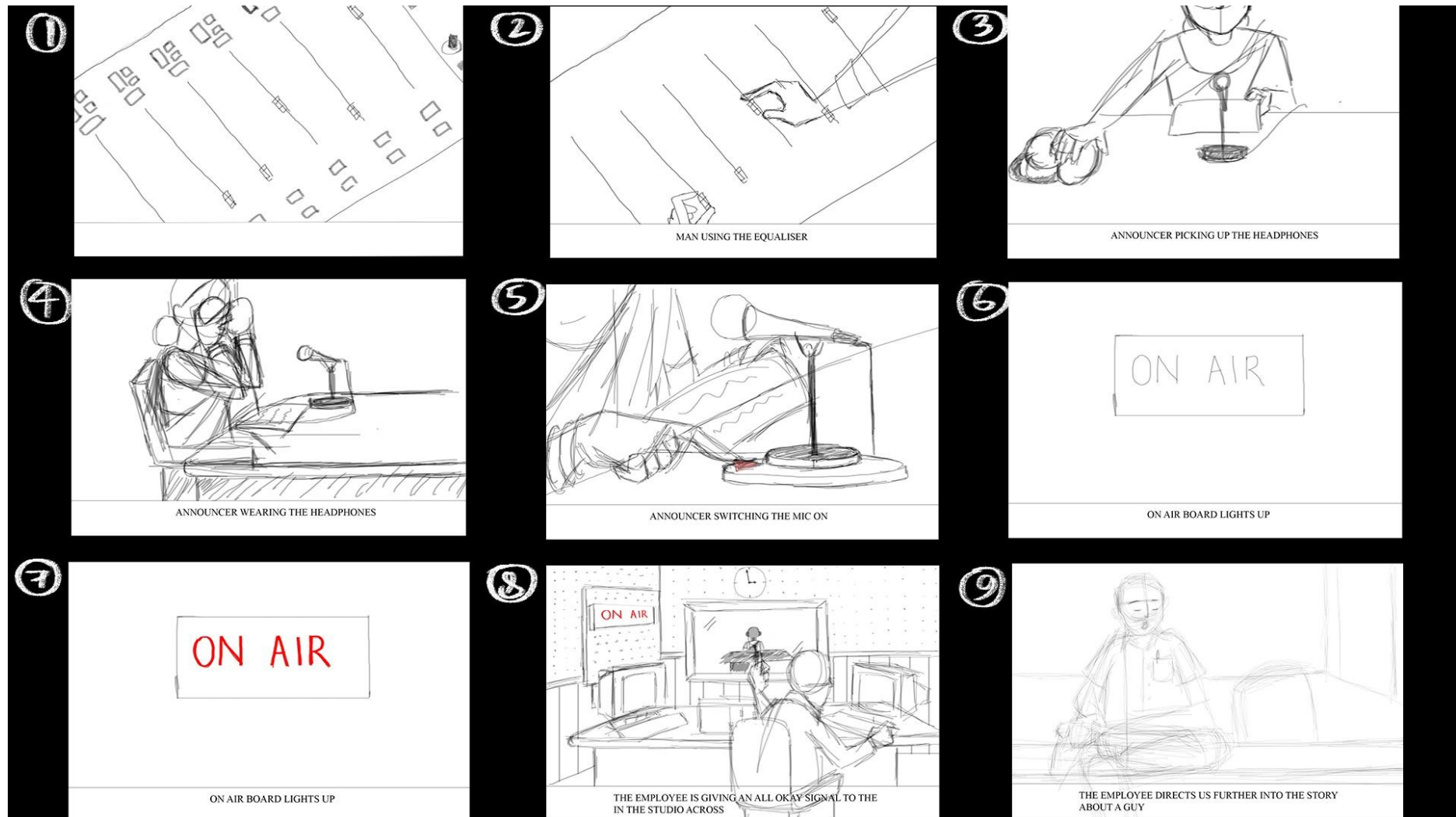


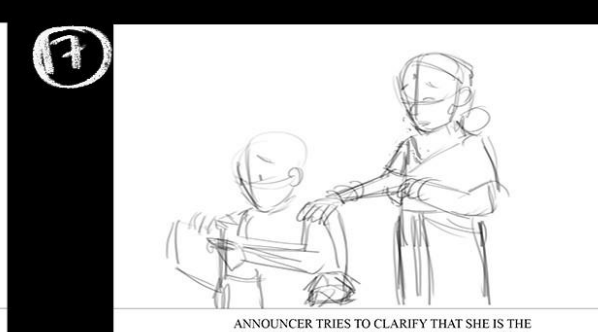
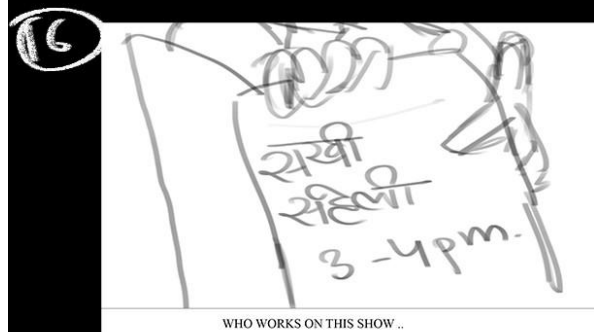
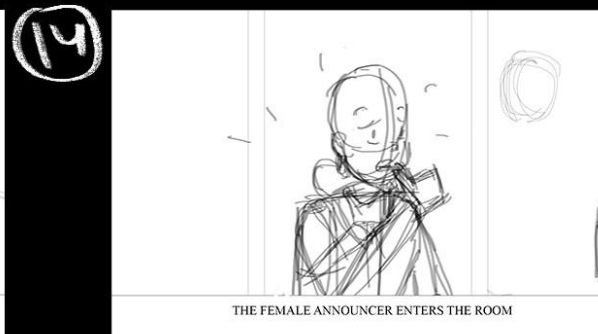
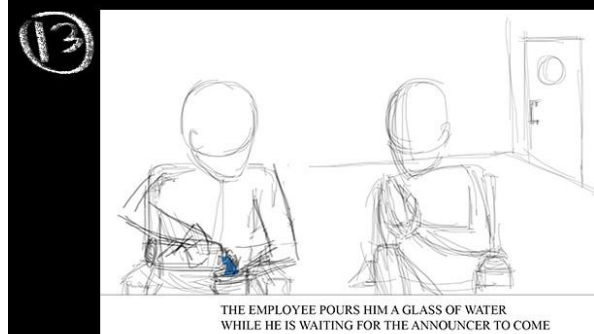
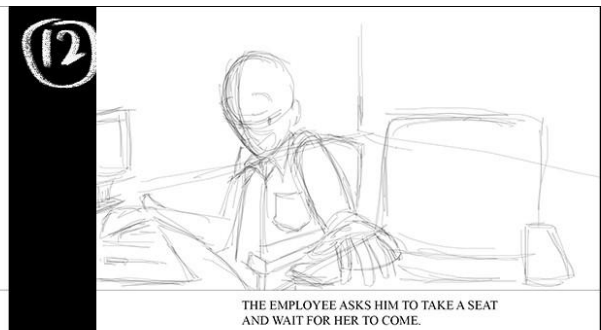
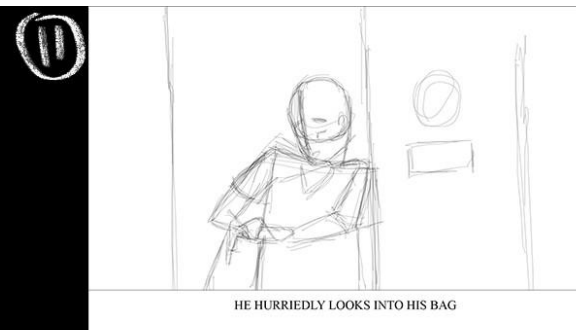


The feedback on this storyboard was that why not directly start with the office setting and establish the story from there itself. I worked on the feedback and started working on a new storyboard.



## Storyboard version 2 duration 1 minute 24 seconds





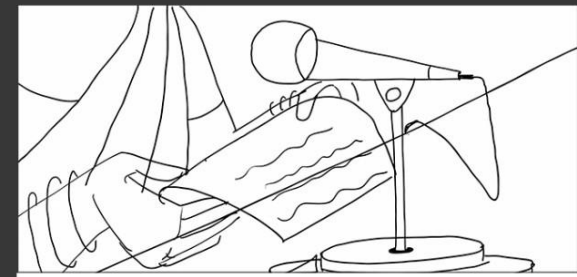
### Storyboard version 3 - duration 1 minute 5 seconds



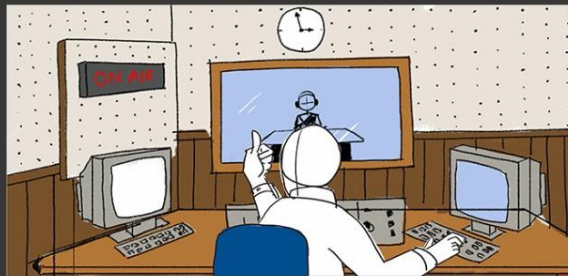
Mohan is tuning the radio and waiting for the bus



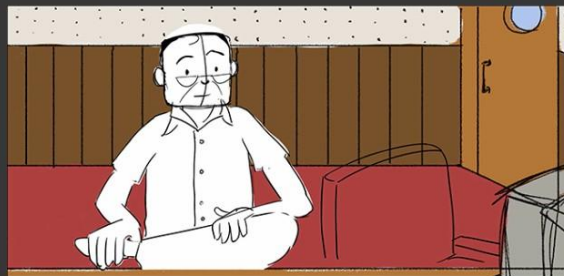
Employee starts telling about radio's announcer



a lady announcer switches on the mic



Employee gives her go ahead signal



Employee then continues that once there was a village guy



Mohan enters the studio and the employee turns around



Mohan is observing his surroundings



Mohan then tells his desire to meet and marry the announcer

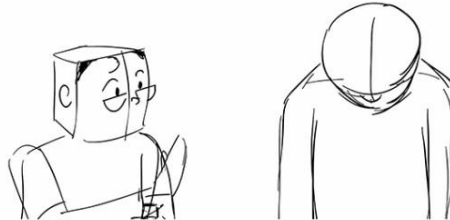


Employee giggles and says okay

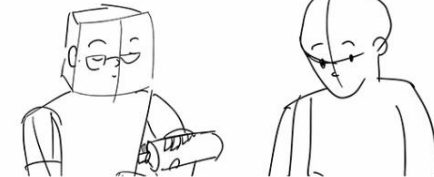




Employee asks Mohan to sit and wait for her



Meanwhile Mohan sits and employee tells him she is recording the program



Employee pours him a glass of water.



A 55 year old lady enters the studio



Upon seeing the lady, Mohan spills water

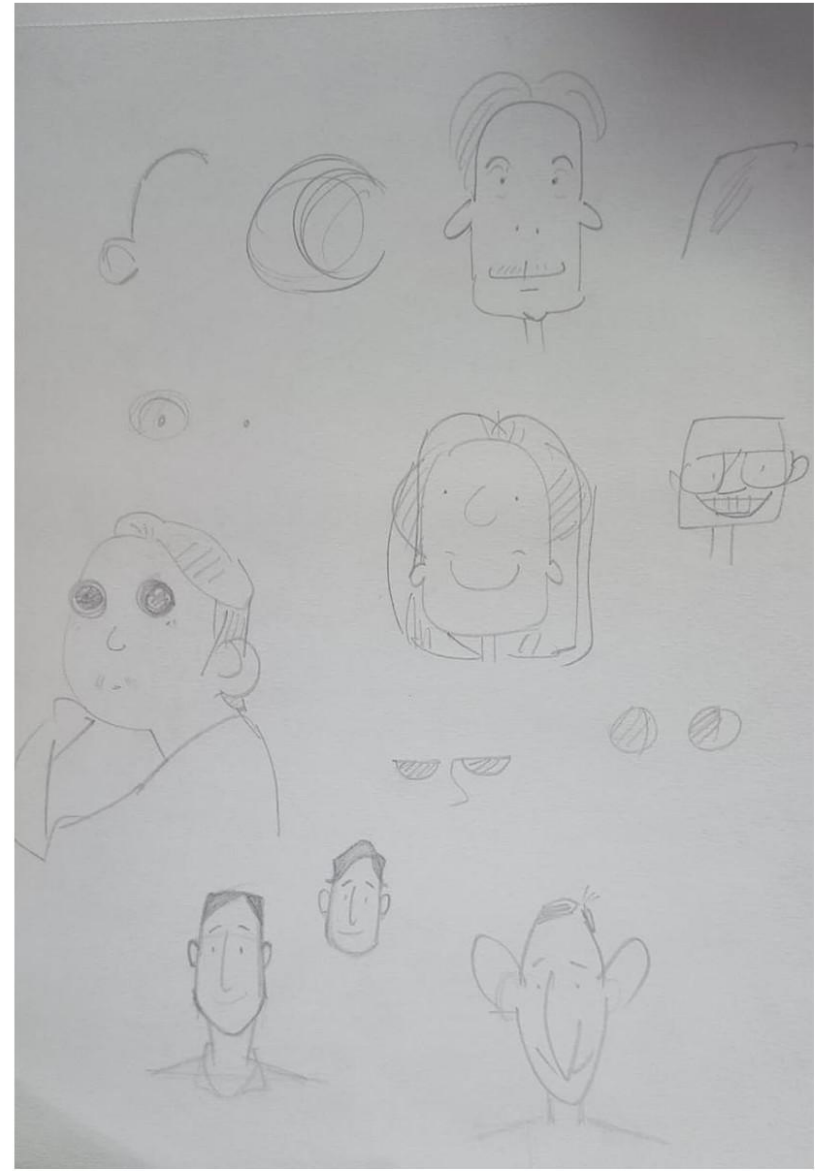


Mohan is sitting on top of a bus and is very sad while going back

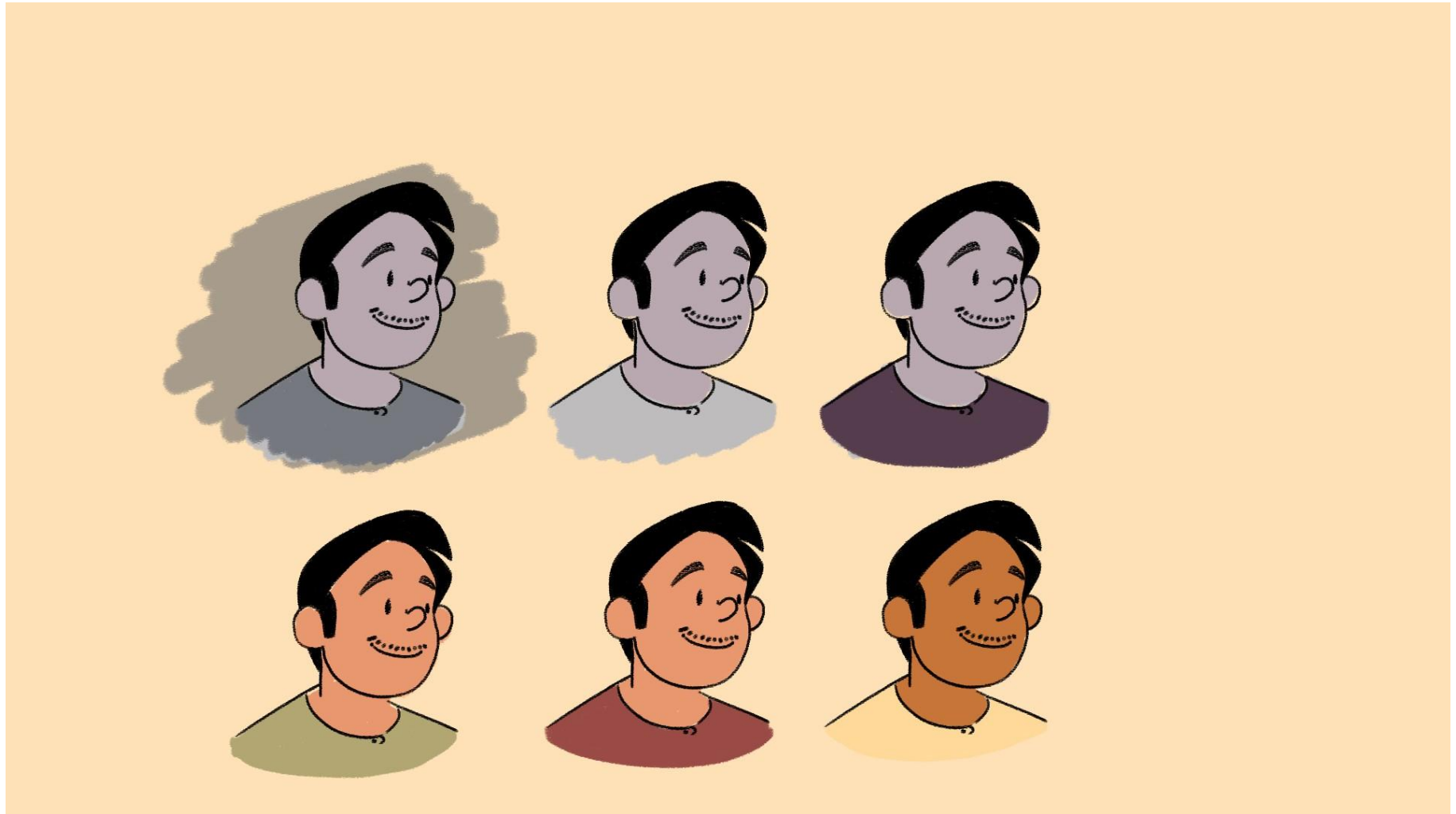
## Concept art and Character Exploration

**Mohan Lal** - He is 24 years old, from a village called Bhauri. He is naive, innocent and full of hope and really wants to marry this woman who he listens to every day on his radio.





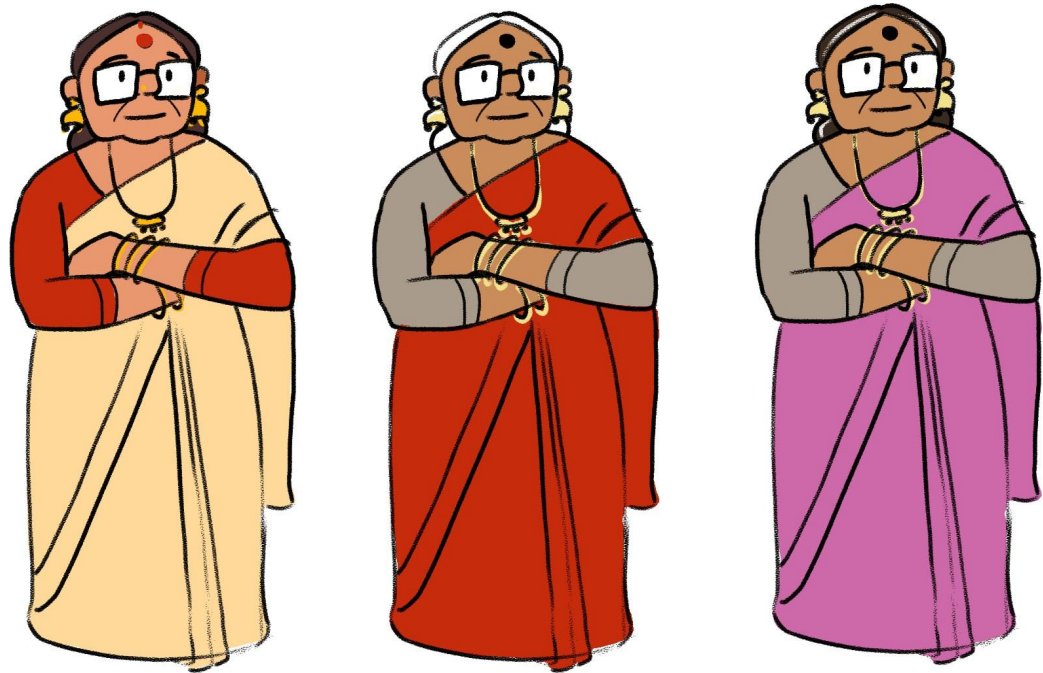




**Aparna Singh**

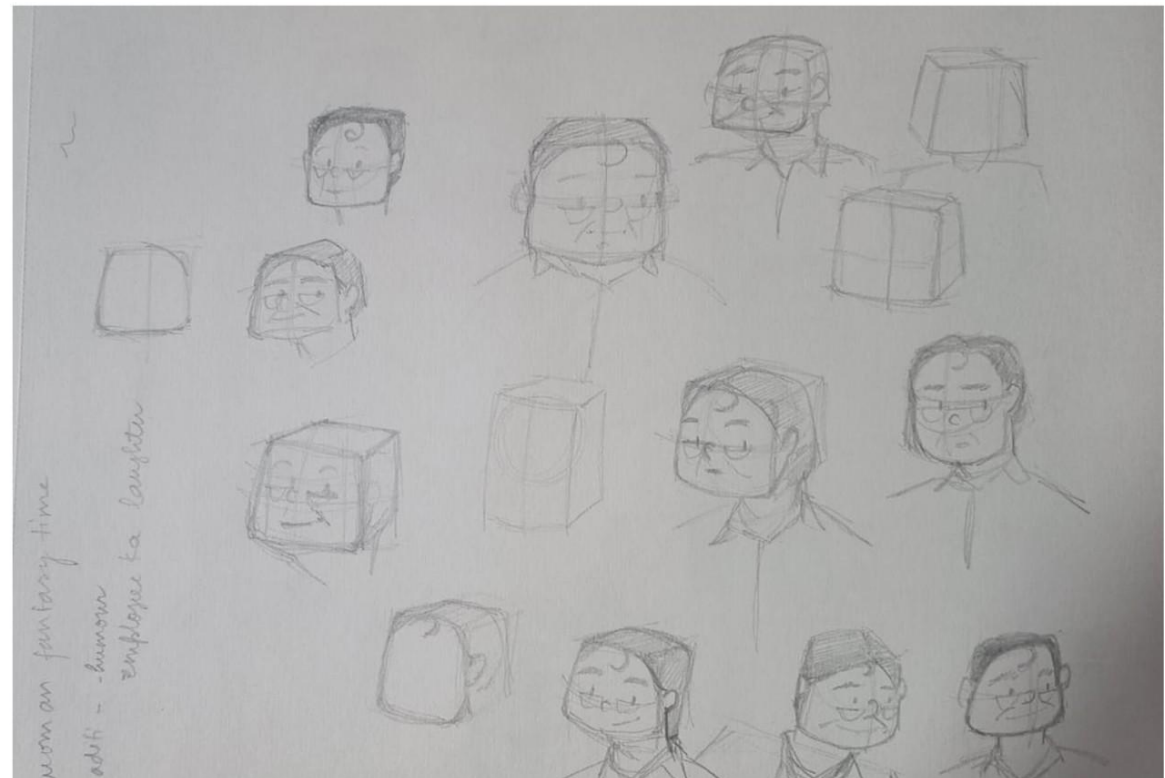
She is a 55 year old working woman, who has a melodious voice.

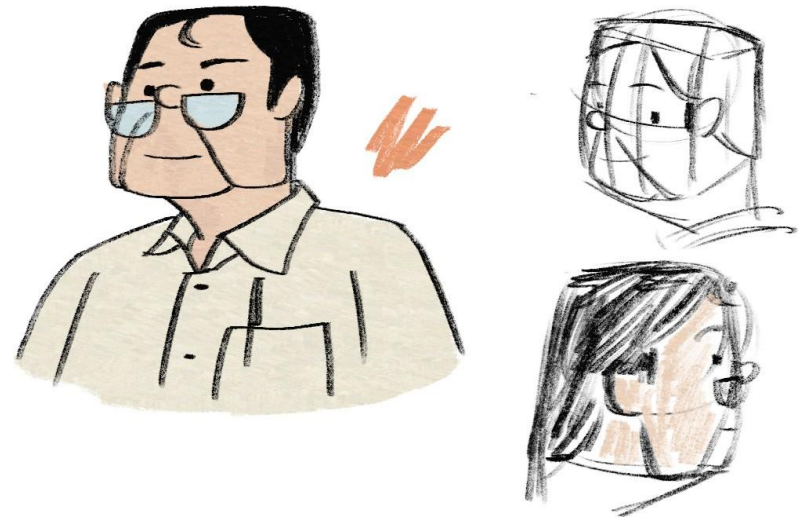
People who have only heard on the radio, think she is a 25 year old woman.



**Employee**

Age 56, the character is inspired from my father.

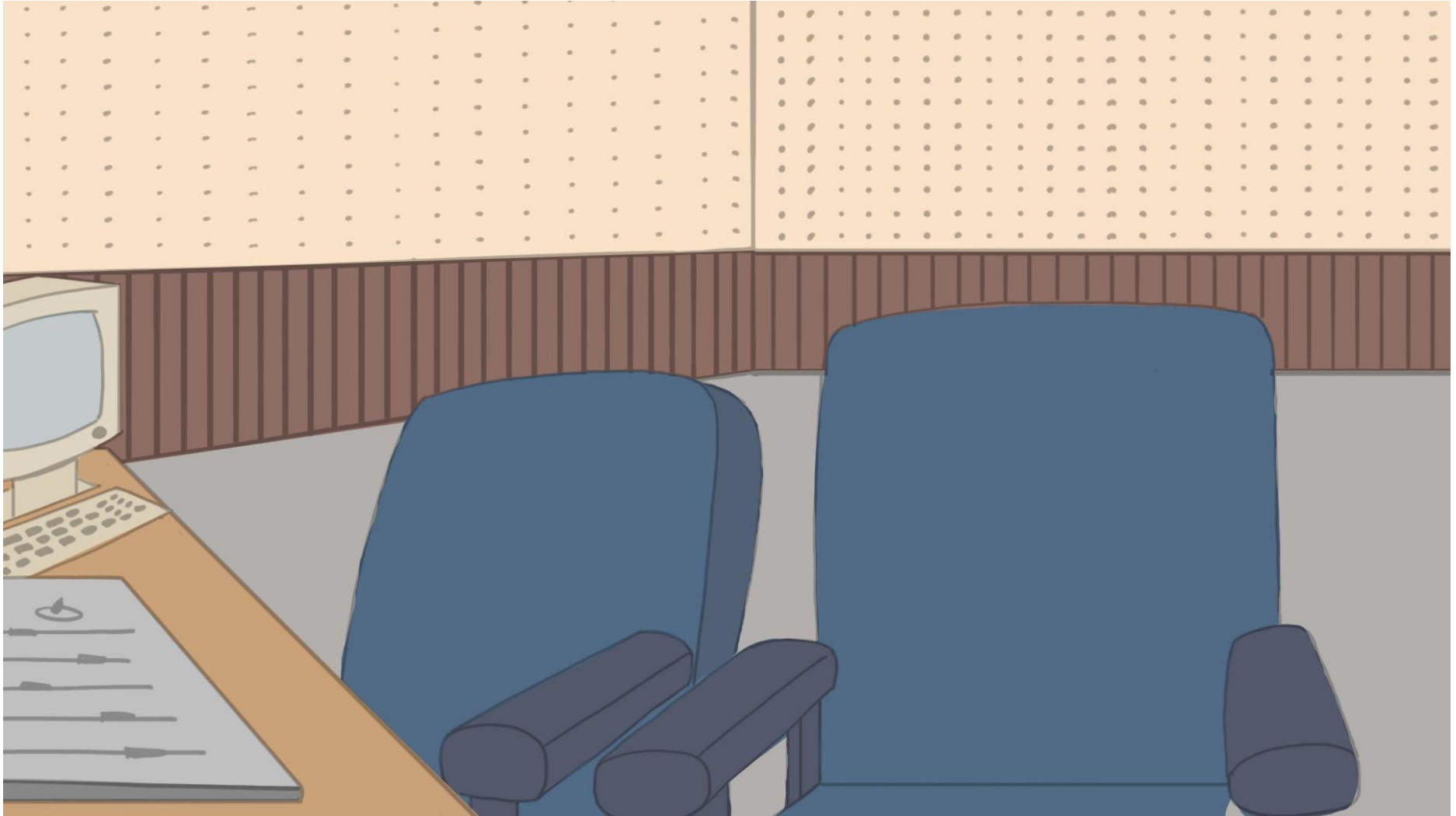






## Reference images



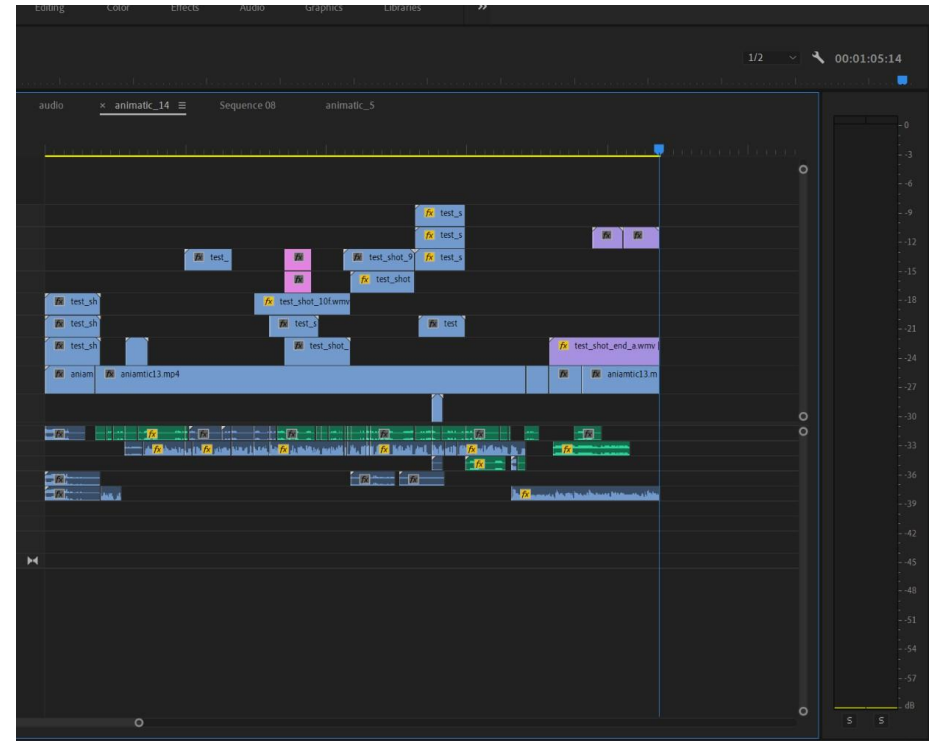






## Animatic and Rough Animation

After many iterations of the animatic- the storyboard when put together with the audio track I had was around 1 minute 24 seconds. During our P2 Stage 3 presentations, Prof. Sumant Rao told me to end the story right where it is revealed that she is a 55 year old woman and not a young woman. I tried my best to edit it out properly, while keeping the end and the beginning part of the animatic as it is, and my animatic was cut short to 1 minute 5 seconds. Initially, I made the animatic using two softwares Photoshop and Premiere Pro. Throughout the several iterations of the animatic, I tried various styles for the visual part of the film and started learning a new software - Toon Boom Harmony. The final shots of the film kept on replacing the rough shots in the animatic.





## **Challenges & Learnings**

- Changing my story was a minor setback since I had to start from the scratch with not much time left.
- Editing the audio track without losing the essence of the story and keeping it around 1 minute
- Keeping track of files - naming them properly, storing them in the correct folders
- Figuring out and learning new softwares.
- Taking feedback from everyone and making the right decisions for the film.

**THANK YOU!**