

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD

MARRIAGE



100 Women and 100 Dreams

Together,

*We can make the world a better place for
children everywhere*

The Global Campaign for the Prevention of Child Marriage (GCPCM)

Shahin Gavanji

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Child marriage is fundamental violation of human rights, which depriving children from their right to education, health and safety. The U.N. children’s agency, UNICEF, estimates more than 650 million women alive today had been married off when they were before the age of 18. The statistical analysis show that If child marriage had continued, more than 150 million girls will marry by 2030. The Global Campaign for the Prevention of Child Marriage (GCPCM) was launched in March 2019, and the primary goal of this Campaign is raising awareness and illuminating people’s minds to address child marriage in the world. The managers of campaign believe that education is a powerful strategy to prevent child marriage in the world. This Campaign is not a Charity or an NGO, it is just a free program available to communities to help spread awareness about child marriage and everyone who joins to this Campaign does on a voluntary basis. This Campaign has begun a global project for which is called “100 women and 100 dreams “and everyone from any country can join freely and work voluntary. In this project we invite women and the required information was collected through in-depth interviews of women who are actually involved in this phenomenon and they had married under the age of 18. The interviews were conducted from May 2019 to February, 2023. The participants from three countries (Figure 1), freely answered the questions raised during the interview and talked about their dreams for their future when they were child (they talked about their dreams before getting married).

The statistical analysis showed that, 100 married women aged 28 to 72 years (mean age of 47.18), who lived in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq had married under the age of 18, were enrolled (Table 1). The mean age of first marriage among the participants was 12.11 years (the range was 8–17 years).

Table 1. The characteristics of the participants

	Age (participants)	Age of marriage	Age of husband
Mean	47.18	12.11	23.46
Std. Deviation	10.895	2.670	7.554
Minimum	28	8	13
Maximum	72	17	48

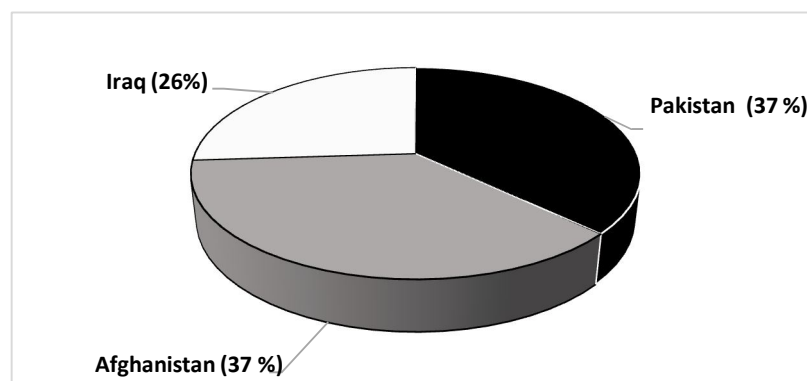


Figure 1. Nationality of the participants



The participants' husbands were in the age range of 13 to 48 years (mean age was 23.46 years). The mean, standard deviation, age of participants, age of marriage for girl and men for three countries are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. The characteristics of the participants from different countries

Participants		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Age of participants	Afghanistan	37	46.24	10.996	1.808
	Pakistan	37	49.41	11.966	1.967
	Iraq	26	45.35	8.809	1.728
	Total	100	47.18	10.895	1.089
Age of marriage (girl)	Afghanistan	37	12.11	2.767	.455
	Pakistan	37	12.22	2.529	.416
	Iraq	26	11.96	2.821	.553
	Total	100	12.11	2.670	.267
Age of husband	Afghanistan	37	25.05	8.521	1.401
	Pakistan	37	23.68	7.807	1.283
	Iraq	26	20.88	4.786	.939
	Total	100	23.46	7.554	.755

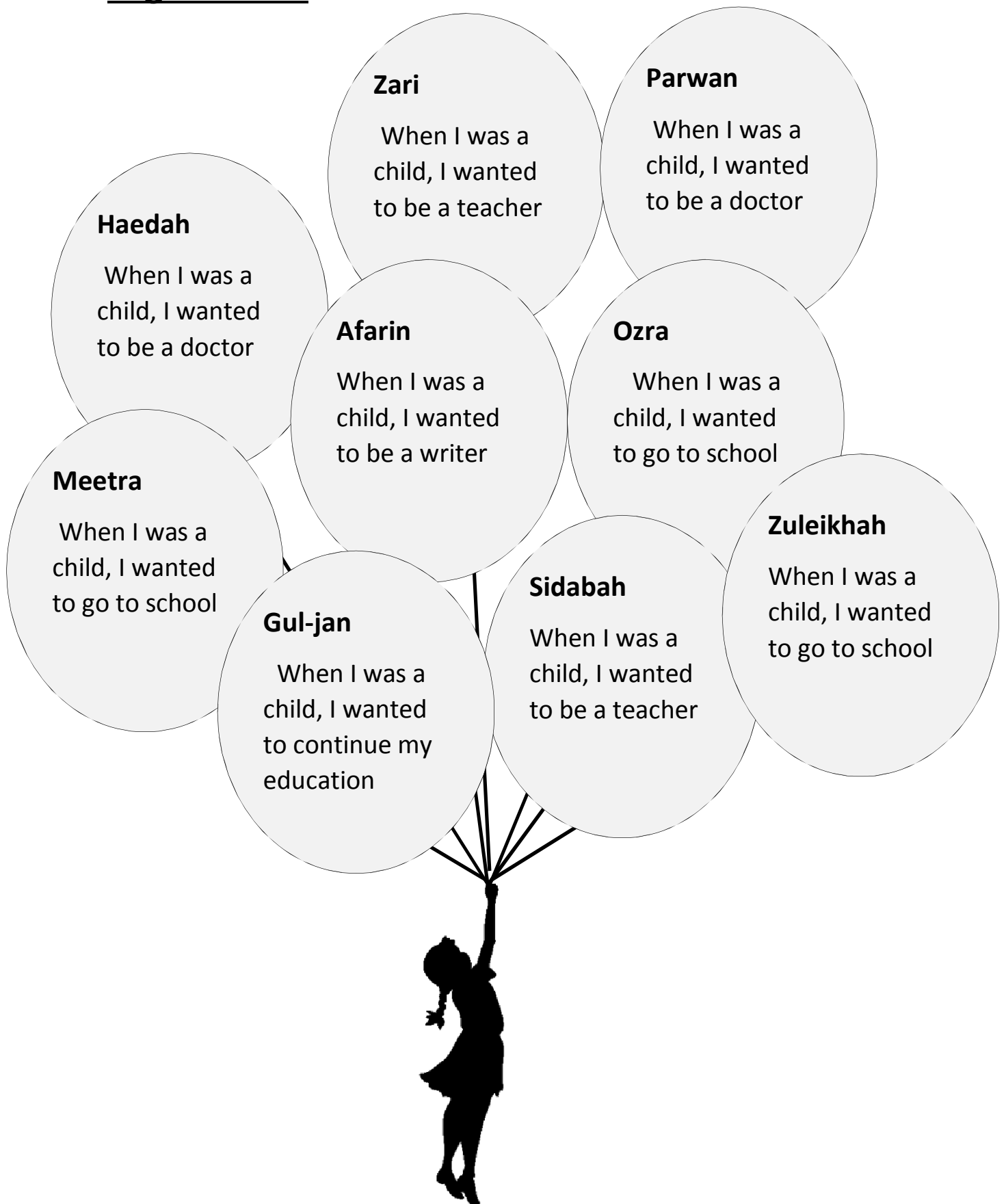
Analyzing the interviews demonstrated that dreams of all 100 women were shattered by getting married at a young age. Each of them had many dreams for their future when they were child, but they couldn't fulfill their dreams and they became engaged in family issues that they were not yet ready to handle. They spoke with regret about their desire to continue their education and interests.

The women spoke about their dreams when they were a child, from the earliest that they can remember, and send a united voice in the world to prevent child marriage.

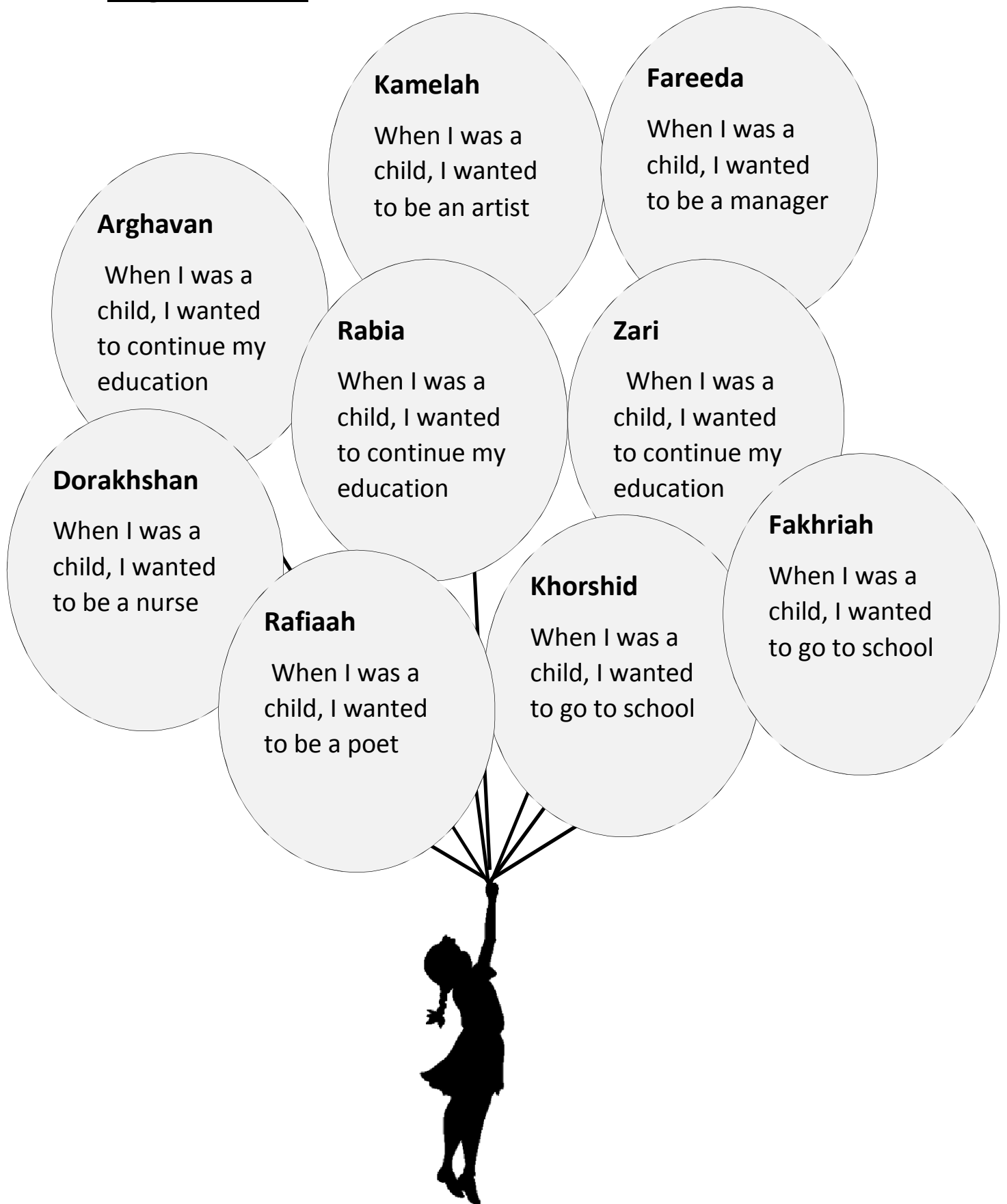
What was their dream when they were a child?



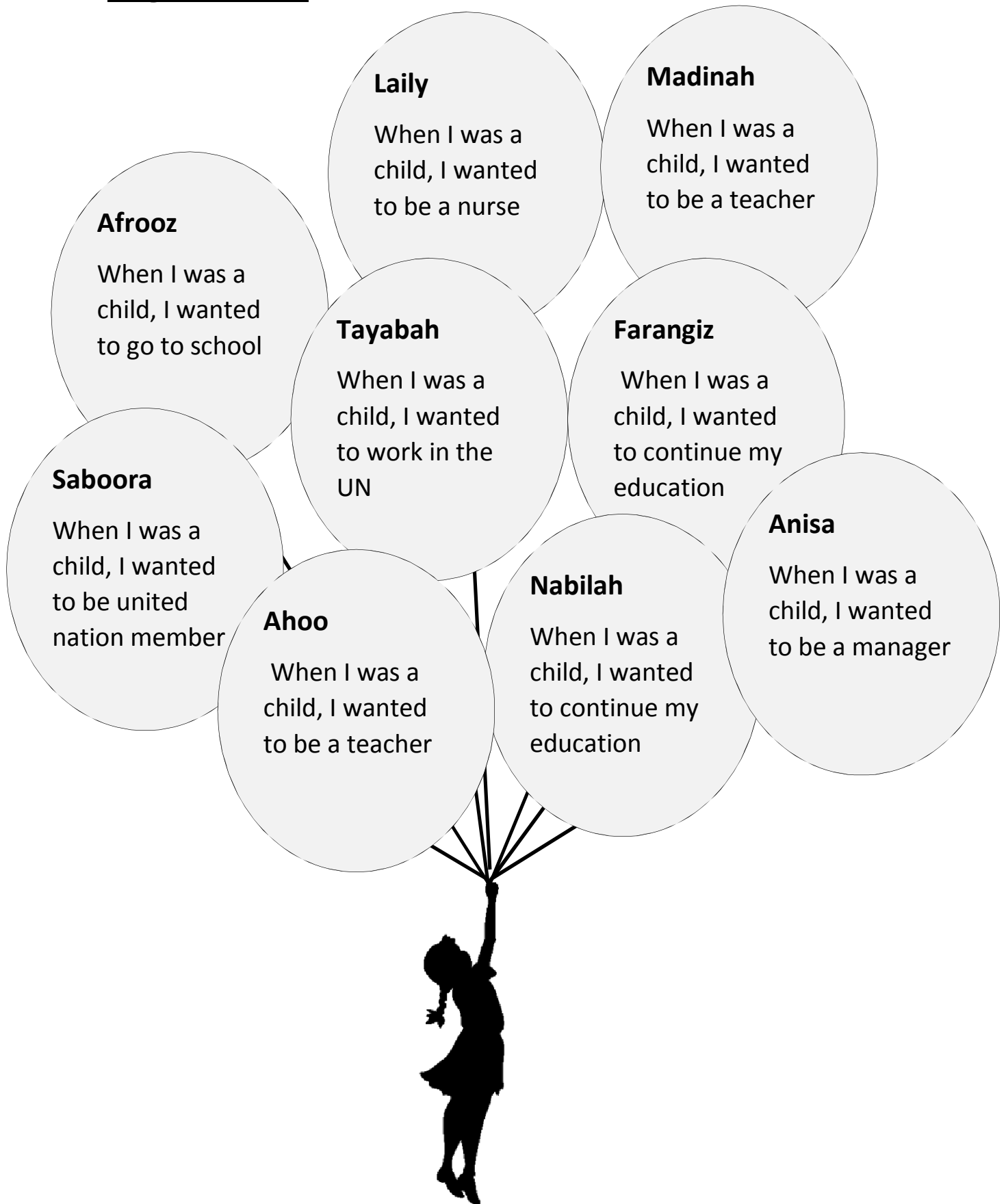
Afghanistan



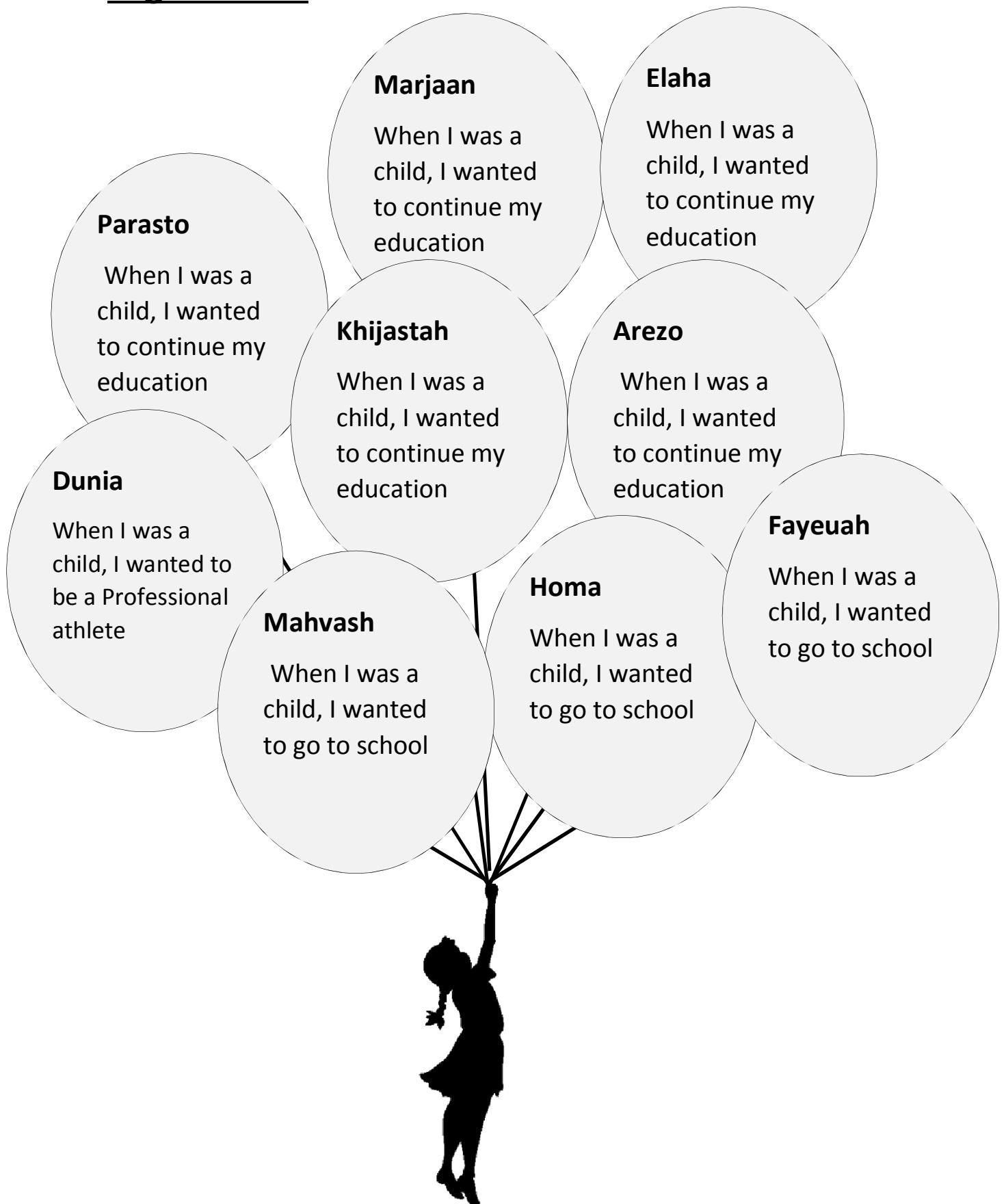
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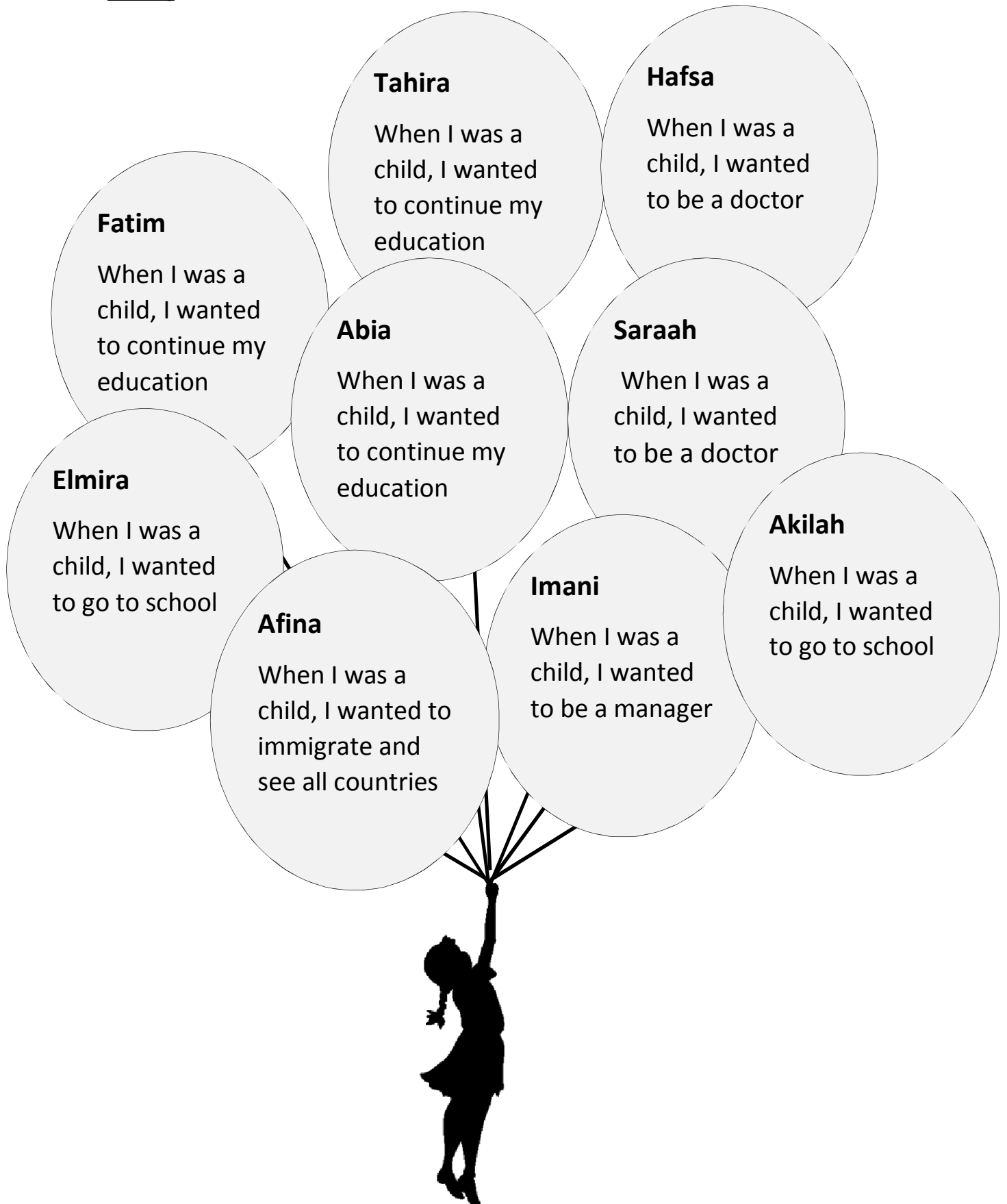
Afghanistan



Afghanistan



Iraq



Iraq

Halima

When I was a child, I wanted to be a nurse

Ulima

When I was a child, I wanted to be a chief in the big hotel

Bushra

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Ahlam

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Selma

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Jamillah

When I was a child, I wanted to be nurse

Yessenia

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Bibi

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Kadija

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school



Iraq

Zelmira

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Leilah

When I was a child, I wanted to be a nurse

Celmira

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Faiza

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Saree

When I was a child, I wanted to be a scientist

Ashya

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Alea

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Rayaa

When I was a child, I wanted to be an artist



Pakistan

Jahan

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Nafeeza

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Fareeha

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Zahra

When I was a child, I wanted to work in the government

Sabina

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Anbar

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Isha

When I was a child, I wanted to be a lawyer

Husniah

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Sawda

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Nawal

When I was a child, I wanted to be a writer



Pakistan

Famida

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Zulfah

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Mersiah

When I was a child, I wanted to be a teacher

Zara

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Faatin

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Aqsa

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school

Mahreen

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Shiza

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Atifa

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Zainab

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor



Pakistan

Raja

When I was a child, I wanted to be an artist

Elma

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Habeebah

When I was a child, I wanted to work in government

Yasmeen

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Mounira

When I was a child, I wanted to be doctor

Kulthoom

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Iffat

When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor

Hajar

When I was a child, I wanted to continue my education

Gulnar

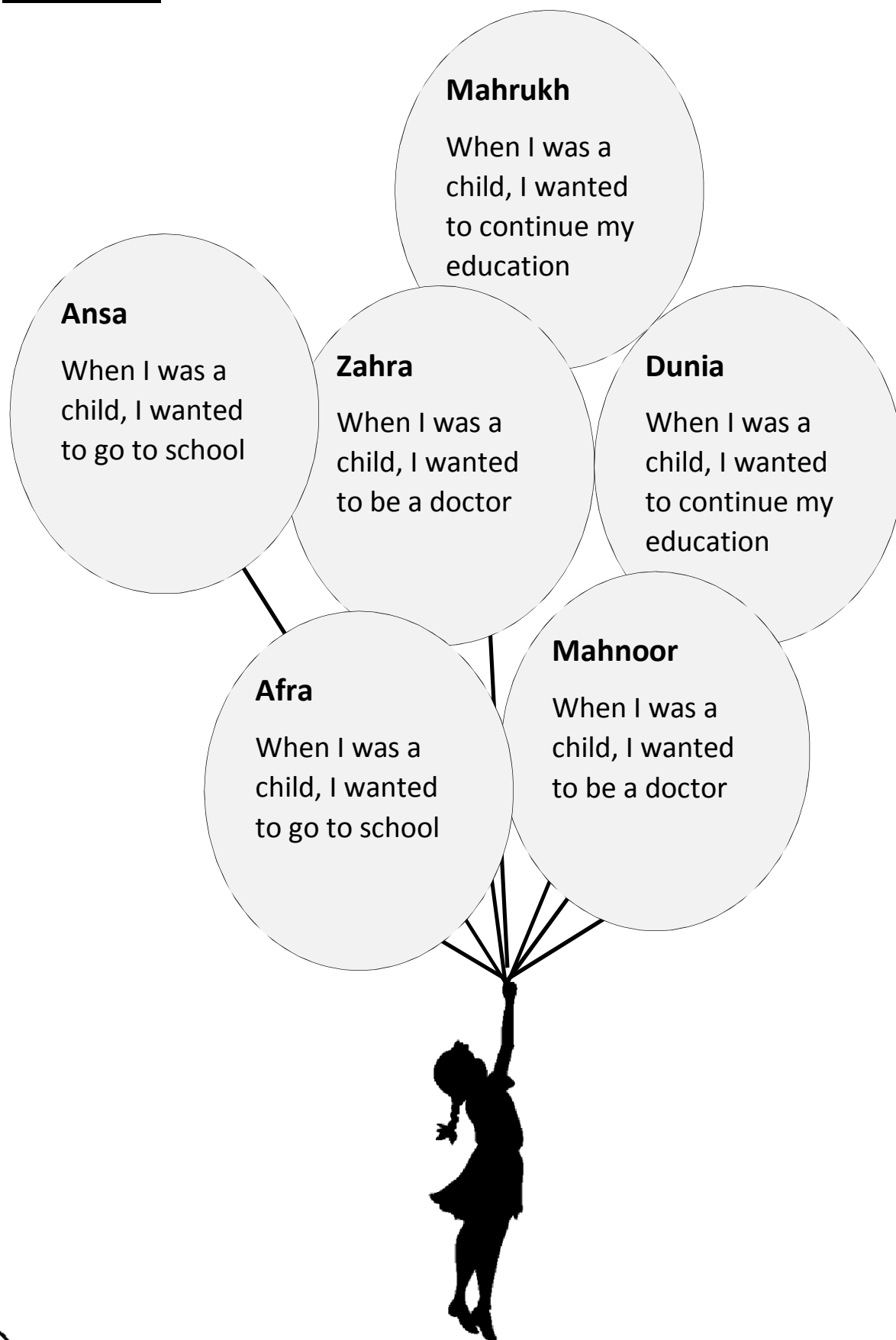
When I was a child, I wanted to have a big company

Rukhsana

When I was a child, I wanted to go to school



Pakistan



In general, the results of this project indicated that early marriages (between the ages of 8 and 17) stole their childhood and shattered their dreams. Furthermore, child marriage prevented them from going to school and isolated them from their families, friends, and their communities. The children should go to school and study; they should play with their friends. Girls who are involved in child marriage frequently get pregnant when still in their teen years, increasing their risk of pregnancy or childbirth complications which sometimes can lead to death. Child marriage limits girls' opportunities and employment chances in the future, and girls who leave school have worse health and economic outcomes than those who continue their education, and eventually, their children and families fare worse as well. In other world child marriage poses a risk to their lives, the lives of their children, and the future of their communities.

In this project, women who had married under the age of 18, were enrolled and spoke about their childhood dreams, and sent a united voice in the world to prevent child marriage.

