

### **Thank You – My Heart Speaks**

Before I approached Padmini ji for guidance / interview on 'Story Telling', I personally had all those inhibitions in mind.....may be the better way to place is - *I was slightly apprehensive....not too sure.....will she really give time.....will she be willing to respond....*as I never got an opportunity to meet / interact with her earlier. Moreover, with the times changed & also the fact being that each one has a very closely knitted personal / business / professional commitments, it is rather difficult to even think if someone could actually volunteer to get into such a detailing on storytelling from psychological and practice perspective. But she proved me wrong with her acceptance to my request & openness to share knowledge in a quickie.

Interaction with Padmini ji made me encounter with new information, skills and concepts related to how 'story telling through puppetry' is contributing to the shift and shape of education. In the process, we are challenged to make sense of our roles in this shift, and are encouraged to develop a community of connected colleagues with whom we wrestle with the questions of how we can best help students / community at large to learn and thrive with their knowledge and skills in the 21st Century. Sphoorthi Theater, which is her heart child, is a live example of how such traditional yet **contemporary in thought practice** professions tackle with the social issues and bring the desired change in the society at large.

I have learned to shift my understanding of storytelling from focus on prescribed content, to audience-centred, issue-based, socially embedded classroom. Consequent to her insightful views and understanding the sanctity with which she practices storytelling, my energy and excitement about 'story telling' is at a new level of longing. Today if I am seeing myself half-way through my thesis preparation and am confident that I have the ability to groom myself as 'story teller', a part of this inspiration is derived from the perspectives that Padmini ji shared.....which are picked straight from her life experiences.

Having said that, the process that I have embarked upon to discover the 'story teller' in me made me stand at a point wherein I could clearly see that "the more we share, the more we connect, the more we challenge ourselves" will only groom ourselves to master the art of storytelling. At this juncture, it is not overboard if I say that a part of the credit of my conviction goes to Padmini ji as she emphasized on looking at storytelling from the canvas called as LIFE rather than 'just a story & the characters in it'.

To summarize the long story short - The learning exchange with Ms. Padmini Rangarajan is all about the "Vision on Display & Practice". And to conclude.....all that I could say & offer is.....

*"It's been an incredible journey of thought maturity that happened AND I express my gratitude wearing my heart on the knees Padmini Rangarajan ji".*



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