



The most memorable one during my visit in Hyderabad early this year was Madam Padmini's puppetry centre, i.e. the Sphoorthi Theatre for Educational Puppetry, Art & Craft STEPARC at: 312, Srinivasa Towers, Quadri Bagh, Amberpet Hyderabad- 500-013

Due to Padmini's enthusiasm and interest in social awareness and environment her aesthetic activity employs various visual arts for the school children. Her group is well prepared to provide performance, lectures on Puppetry, story telling, folk lores and folk arts of India. I greatly appreciate Padmini's passion and obsession in developing "Educational Puppetry" through numerous collaborations with groups of women, teachers and educational institutes. In the centre she has a set of interesting portable puppetry stand, painted and clothed black. From her storage she kindly showed me her theatrical apparatus, such as dozens of glove puppets, rod puppets, and paper puppets of her "children". The leading character was a couple monkeys Malu and Mali.

Accompanied only by Mr. Prakash with a small dram, Madam Padmini enthusiastically presented me a brief show featuring the story of "Malu and Mali" and then "Capseller and Smart Monkey." While manipulating her puppets and recounting story her show was very entertaining, often reflecting any mix of the political, economic, cultural or social issues. Social commentary and comedy are combined as a unique entertainment and edification.

I also thanked Padmini, Mr Prakash, the group and family for her further enthusiastic help and direction in my research on Indian puppetry.

Visit Testimony on Tuesday, 6 January 2015
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