



Sketching the Storytelling Journey

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Stories are about caring sharing and giving. Being a storyteller for over 24 years now, I can feel the lightness in my being. I started to use stories to quieten children in the nursery section about 39 years ago and then used Stories to make concepts interesting as a history and social science teacher for the middle school. However, only after I became a librarian did I know its true value and shared some of the stories from the books to get children interested in reading. What began as an interest soon became a passion and so in **1998 I found Kathalaya-The House of stories**. That seed has now grown into a beautiful tree giving shade to storytellers, trainers, professionals and individuals from different walks of life rest and get a feel of the tree's shade.

It was quite challenging in 1998 to pursue one's chosen path along with a teaching job and demands of the daily life but my creative spirit would not sit quiet. Kathalaya had its own hurdles and challenges.

Traveling to the nooks and crannies of the World I set foot to spread, share and collect stories from the brooks, streams, people, mountains and whatever I touched. It connected and took me to through paths UN trodden. I discovered explored and experienced new encounters with Divinity –A Celestine and ethereal experience.

In this Endeavour I found my strengths and honed my skills as a trainer and facilitator, created challenging modules for imparting Storytelling both in the technical and the academic fields.

My mind constantly innovated and tried new ways to engage professionals, young adults, students and corporate and organized workshops and courses lasting an hour to a week to suit the need of the clients. Many a times I skipped lunch and tea, sat through the nights and between flights to innovative new techniques of Storytelling.

I took a giant leap when I established and founded the Worlds' first globally recognised International Academy of Storytelling certifying people to take storytelling as a career.

After long discussions and deliberations with the Directors and Presidents of the International Storytelling centers in Edinburgh, USA and Sweden I managed to get the Affiliation and recognition for the courses.

The International Academy drew many hearts and friends and well wishers who came forward to spread its wings around the world. Says Chetan who helped us set it up in the Himalayas *“I attended Geeta’s course and was blown away by the attention to detail, her expertise and her brilliance as a teacher. My mind became a film screen on which the angst and joy of the characters in her story played out. I was 100% immersed in her story. It was better than an IMAX movie because it was human.”*

It has been a wonderful Journey being myself and yet working together with others to ‘Make Storytelling happen’.

Thanks
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