



Opened just seven months ago, this village-themed library aims to inculcate reading habits in children and adults, and inspire illuminating conversations

A WORLD BEYOND STORIES

Peeling back the layers of a given text and getting to its root through comprehension is the foundation on which **Kathatitam** is built.

Founded by wife-and-husband duo Shilpa Kiranveer and Kiranveer PN, Kathatitam is a welcoming, village-themed library and reading experience center. Its name translates to something that goes beyond stories, equating the act of comprehending a text to an invaluable tool. One that, when strengthened through exposure to illustrated and chapter-based imaginative storytelling, nourishes young minds and builds curiosity in them toward school texts with an eager-to-learn approach.

"I found that a story book is a great tool to practice comprehension and ease your understanding of and relationship with academics," Shilpa explains, sharing one of her many valuable learnings over the years.

AN ORGANIC EVOLUTION

With over 12 years of experience as a storyteller, Shilpa's journey to Kathatitam can be attributed to an organic unfolding of events.

From offering mindful guidance to the students of Vidyananya High School, to inviting young readers into her home, and now launching her library and her first children's book, *Olugulu Finds Her Paws* (for which she drew inspiration from her husband's experience in the corporate world), Shilpa is among those rare few who blaze the trail for others with an honest and kind disposition — immeasurable virtues that are thematically evident across her newest offering and the many books of Kathatitam.

Curious to learn about the discussions *Olugulu* may have sparked, Shilpa excitedly expresses, "I am very interested in

hearing back from parents and educators about how they resonated with the book and what conversations they had with children after reading it."

ROOFTOP LIBRARY

Designed by SS Interior Designers, Kathatitam is a rooftop library that opens to terracotta hues and old-world charm. Lining the outdoor courtyard are multiple sections of reading material held together by bookshelves from the Montessori-inspired furniture brand, WonderVed.

Accumulated over the years for her children, the books are categorized by Shilpa according to the themes and messages they convey. The racks, placed both outdoors and indoors, display meaningful section titles. *What is Bad?* explores the concepts of good and bad that most children are introduced to at an early age; *New Baby!* helps break the news to a child about a baby on the way; *Why Waste?* discusses challenges related to the environment; and *War and Loss* helps introduce sensitive topics around colonization and the refugee crisis.

The diverse, curated selections showcased also include mythology, young adult, and adult fiction/ non-fiction, among others. Furthermore, the space houses books in English, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada.

As we sit down in the courtyard and dive into reality-inspired imaginative realms with *What is a Refugee?* By Elise Gravel, and *The Conquerors* by David McKee, we realize that these beautifully illustrated books cater to everyone and defy age barriers. ■ IPSHITA

Note: Book donations are accepted as long as the stories resonate with the core values of Kathatitam.

5th floor, Lakshmi Nilayam, DLF Road, Gachbowli

Tel: 97391 02042

Timings: 12 pm to 6.30 pm (Tuesday to Friday), 10 am to 6.30 pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Instagram: @kathatitam

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This summer, Kathatitam is all set to burst with creativity. Held from April to May, the upcoming summer activities at the library will include a wide range of workshops related to live reading, pottery, papier-mâché, and more. By the end, all participants will be featured on Kathatitam's podcast, detailing what they took away from the experience.

