ABOUT DHAATU

The urban families of today are financially successful, educated and aware. While at many levels, they are able to obtain what they set out to achieve for, there are some areas where we fall behind. Traditional wisdoms are being lost sight of. We do not have the time to really teach our children what we know subconsciously, nor are we equipped to do it. Part of the reason is that today’s earning generation grew up without being explicitly taught. The lessons and values spilled over from previous generations, uncorrupted by the disintegrating pressure exerted by many sections of the media of today. This creates a gap between what we want our children to know and what indeed they are learning on their own. We find no other way of bridging this gap than to go back to our ancient roots.

Dhaatu, a non- profit organization has been founded to address this need in today’s society. The Sanskrit word Dhaatu means root, an essential ingredient, the soul, the supreme spirit. Dhaatu seeks to introduce a direction that comes from a contemplation of our roots, our origins and our rightful place and purpose in life.

## MOTIVATION BEHIND DHAATU

Is to instill in children eternal human values and relevant wisdoms through the medium of story telling and personal interaction – utilizing the ample material for art and expression from India’s ancient wealth: captivating stories told through epics, upanishadic episodes and historical/mythological accounts of varied, colourful and inspiring personages.

To conduct classes and interactive workshops with adults – sharing traditional wisdoms about stages of life and ways of living – aimed at introducing an element of introspection and evaluation of life’s objectives.

To further traditional arts, artisans and art forms which have been instrumental in spreading traditional story lines from Indian literature and mythology and try to bring them in touch with the mainstream – by incorporating them into the courses and activities of Dhaatu.

## THE DHAATU TEAM

Founders : Anupama & Vidyashankar Hoskere

Members :  
Mythily Shikaripur – Puppeteer, Bharatanatyam performing artist, Carnatic vocalist, Engineering Graduate  
Chitra Rao – Puppeteer, with a degree in Business  
Shobha Raj – Culture Educator & Puppeteer, Computer Engineer  
Prakruti Hoskere – Star Puppeteer, Bharatanatyam performing artist, student of Architecture  
Vedhus Hoskere – Star Puppeteer, National talent Science scholar ( NSTS), Student of Civil Engineering BMSCE.  
Kaushik Sampath – Design Support, A traditionalist and a design Whiz- Engineering PHD student at John Hopkins  
Sampats Kumar T.S. – PRO Dhaatu  
Radha Sampath – Administration, Dhaatu  
Divya Hoskere – Youngest member of the team, budding bharatanatyam artist  
Shandilya Srivatsa – Photographer

Supported by :  
Sri. M.R. Ranganatha Rao – Master Puppeteer, Guru of Anupama Hoskere  
Sri. P. Praveen Kumar – Chithkala School of Dance

Website of Dhaatu: <http://dhaatupuppets.org/>