

## **THE STORYTELLING LEGACY OF BHARAT: UNDERSTANDING HOW STORIES SHAPED AND SUSTAINED AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION**

**Dr. Uma Rajmohan**

*Ed- Tech Director, NedX Academy*

### ***ABSTRACT***

*Storytelling has been central to the cultural, spiritual, and social fabric of Bharat (ancient India). Far beyond entertainment, stories functioned as repositories of wisdom, ethical guidance, and collective memory. This paper explores how oral traditions, epics, folktales, and mythological narratives shaped and sustained Indian civilization across millennia. By examining the role of stories in transmitting dharma, preserving historical consciousness, and fostering social cohesion, the study argues that storytelling was not peripheral but foundational to the endurance of Bharat's civilizational identity.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Bharat; Storytelling; Oral Tradition; Epics; Collective Memory; Dharma; Cultural Continuity; Ancient Civilization.*

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