

# **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT SOCIOLOGY & HUMANITIES**

**ISSN 2277 – 9809 (online)**

**ISSN 2348 - 9359 (Print)**

*An Internationally Indexed Peer Reviewed & Refereed Journal*



**Explore Innovate Educate**

**Shri Param Hans Education &  
Research Foundation Trust**

[www.IRJMSH.com](http://www.IRJMSH.com)

[www.SPHERT.org](http://www.SPHERT.org)

Published by iSaRa Solutions

## Interrogating Women Empowerment: Locating Feminist legacies in Madhubani Paintings

**Dr Kauser Tasneem**

Assistant Professor

Department of History

Karim City College, Jamshedpur.

Mobile No: 9709053431, 7004886722

E-mail: kauser.a@rediffmail.com

### Abstract

Cultural narratives are best expressed in art, dance and architectural forms. The Madhubani Paintings which flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar is a great cultural heritage of India. The diverse nature and style of the Madhubani paintings which can be created with fingers, twigs, matches and brushes comprises of five distinct styles. Madhubani paintings are also referred to as Mithila Art and is characterised by line drawings filled in with bright colours and contrasts or patterns. The paintings are created to invoke the mother goddess, so a variety of fertility symbols like flowers and plants are used. The paintings are popular because of their tribal motifs and bright earthy colours. The chief aim of the paintings was to present the Hindu mythology in graphic form. Growing by leaps and bounds since it got official recognition in 1970, Madhubani paintings have become a great source of foreign exchange. But the biggest impact of these paintings has been on the lives of women. The paintings empowered women economically and enriched them traditionally. It has transformed the social condition of women. It made women economically independent. The paintings broke class and caste barriers. The women have also shown ecological concerns and harmony with nature is established. They have earned international recognition and critical acclaim. Madhubani Paintings is a communal activity that has broken caste barriers, empowered women and ignited in them ecological concerns and in this process, it has the harbinger of a silent revolution.

The paper is effort to analyse the cultural and economic importance of Madhubani Paintings and how it has helped to transform the lives of the women residing in that area. The paper is written entirely on the basis of secondary sources.

**Key-Words:** Paintings, women, empowerment, gender, culture, transformation, folk-art and Madhubani.

**Bio-Note:** Dr. Kauser Tasneem is Assistant Professor in the Department of History, Karim City College, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Her areas of interest are Modern Indian History, World History, Cultural History and Gender Studies. Several of her papers have been published in reputed journals within the country.

**Interrogating Women Empowerment: Locating Feminist legacies in Madhubani Paintings**  
Culture is expressed in art, dance and architectural forms. Folk art is deep-rooted in the cultural fabric of the society and also has an intimate connection to the geography of the region. Folklore is intimately connected with the traditional customs, knowledge, artistic and oral traditions among