

## Renewal of Folk Art of Maharashtra Helps in Women Empowerment

Dr. Lalieetaa Bbhagat

*Assistant Professor, S.N.D.T College of Home Science, Women's University, Pune, (M.S.)  
India*

### Abstract

Maharashtra has a rich artistic tradition which helps Indian handicraft gigantic. India is famous for its numerous traditional art forms, each more beautiful than the other, and the Warli Art is one of the most well-known of all. Warli paintings are believed to be one of the oldest form of art in history. It is a form of tribal art which owes its origin to the state of Maharashtra in India. This art is very popular among the tribal community, however till date it has not gained any special recognition outside India. Warli painting is a form of tribal art mostly created by the tribal people from the North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra, India. This range encompasses cities such as Dahanu, Talasari, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, and Vikramgad of Palghar district. This tribal art was originated in Maharashtra, where it is still practiced today. This warli tribal painting art form first originated in Maharashtra, where it is still practised frequently. It is believed to be one of the oldest kinds of art forms in history. It is pretty popular in India and has a distinct charm everywhere it is expressed, but it has not gained much recognition outside its territory. Warli art of Maharashtra is a set of basic geometric shapes: a circle, a triangle, and a square.

**Key Words:** Warli Painting, Folk Art, Tribal Art

### 1. Introduction

The Warli Painting tradition in Maharashtra are among the finest examples of the folk style of paintings. The Warli tribe is one of the largest in India, located outside of Mumbai. Warli art is a style of rural Indian tribal art that is practiced primarily by the womenfolk of the Warli tribe of Maharashtra. Despite being close to one of the largest cities in India, the Warli reject much of contemporary culture. Warli paintings of Maharashtra revolve around the marriage of God Palghat. The style of Warli painting was not recognised until the 1970s, even though the tribal style of art is thought to date back as early as 10th century A.D. The Warli culture is centered on the concept of Mother Nature and

elements of nature are often focal points depicted in Warli painting. Farming is their main way of life and a large source of food for the tribe. They greatly respect nature and wildlife for the resources that they provide for life. Warli artists use their clay huts as the backdrop for their paintings, similar to how ancient people used cave walls as their canvases. Their paintings represent scenes from their day-to-day life such as farming, harvests and fishing, worshipping, festivals, weddings and dancing, culture, beliefs, and more. The most common elements in these paintings include trees, flowers, fish and animals, sun and moon, huts and hunting, etc. These paintings seem to be nothing more than Warli figures drawn in whites on rich dark walls to the untrained eye, but a closer inspection shows that Warli is far

more than meets the eye. To many, it may seem like just a simple art form of India. With the back-to-the-roots movement taking over every part of our lives, art lovers flaunt the Warli motif with pride. Traditionally, this painting is done on a red ochre background with white paint and these are the only two colours used. But, today, a variety of colours are being used to replicate these artistic motifs on fabrics, home décor or other artistic forms. Not just an art, Warli art to some extent makes us think of being environmentally conscious and finding joy in simple things of life. The Warli people lead fairly simple lives. Earlier, they worshipped nature and depended on nature for food and everyday living. They did not believe in disrupting nature or taking more than they needed. The Warli people believe in harmony between nature and man, and these beliefs are often reflected in their paintings. This train of thought also holds true for our lives today. A lot of urban folk are now adopting a minimalist lifestyle by staying away from technology whenever possible, eating clean, embracing handloom and taking a closer look at science behind ancient customs and traditions. So, it isn't much of a surprise that traditional art forms like Warli are making their way back into our society to remind us of the simple pleasures of life. The tribes have also used Warli paintings to impart knowledge. Keeping the art alive, in February 2016, a group of Japanese artists adopted the Ganjad village in Palghar district in an effort to keep the art form alive. This group of social artists from Japan have also been constructing huts from cow dung, mud and bamboo sticks to promote painting on the walls. Dahanu is another village that has managed to keep Warli art alive. In a world of excesses, unpretentiousness is a rarity and this art form keeps that belief alive. So,

purchasing and promoting hand-painted Warli items seems like a fitting tribute to this one-of-a-kind art form. And while you're at it, you might want learn a thing or two from their way of living.

## 2. Objectives

- To study how Warli Painting as a source of income for women
- To study how government and semi-government bodies helping in developing skills of art in people

## 3. Research Methodology

This paper is based on interview and observation methods. Data has been collected through primary as well as secondary sources.

Primary data has been collected by taking interviews of painters, sellers and customers. The open ended questionnaire was prepared to understand role of Warli helpful in one's livelihood and to know occurring from olden days till now in making Warli. The study was conducted in different Pune, Maharashtra, India. The interviewees selected randomly. The interviewees are in between 25 to 50 in age.

Secondary data has been collected from different books, research papers, library and journals.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

The planned design to achieve the objectives of the research as follow:

1. Area of research – is in Pune, Maharashtra, India
2. The questionnaire was prepared based on various questions related to Warli Painting, techniques, method, material, etc.

## 4. Material Used

The simple pictorial language of Warli painting is matched by a rudimentary

technique. The ritual paintings are usually created on the inside walls of village huts. The walls are made of a mixture of branches, earth and red brick that make a red ochre background for the paintings. The Warli only paint with a white pigment made from a mixture of rice flour and water, with gum as a binder. A bamboo stick is chewed at the end to give it the texture of a paintbrush. Walls are painted only to mark special occasions such as weddings, festivals or harvests. They make it with a sense that it can be seen by those who would take birth in future.

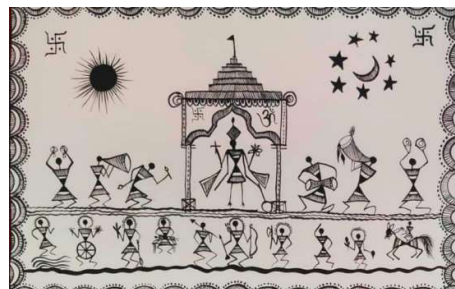
### 5. Painting Technique

Warli paintings are traditionally practised on mud walls with white paste. This white Warli paintings are known for having a limited design vocabulary that often consists of dots and dashes arranged in a

### 6. Evolution of Warli Painting

Over the years Warli paintings have evolved drastically. Initially, these beautiful masterpieces were curated on mud walls with a paste of rice and water that was used to paint the characters on the canvas and chewed bamboo sticks were used to act as paintbrushes; since then warli painting characters came into the picture. But, on the other hand, today Other than that, Warli paintings are not just restricted to the traditional mud walls anymore. They've expanded on a great scale in the home decor industry and seem to be growing day by day. From pots and vases to bed sheets and curtain prints, they are becoming increasingly popular and highly liked. The textile and clothing industry is fond of this beautiful Indian art form, not just the home decor world. These days witnessing a beautiful Warli painting printed sari adorned by women on the street or the fashion show ramp is a

paste is rice, water, and gum that acts as a binding catalyst. Further bamboo sticks, chewed at the end, are used to act as a paintbrush. They usually carry a close resemblance to prehistoric cave paintings. If you were to perform a warli art background today, you could use white paint to draw the caricatures with an ochre background.



linear manner to portray a scene. One of the most prominent aspects of Warli art is the Tarpa dance.

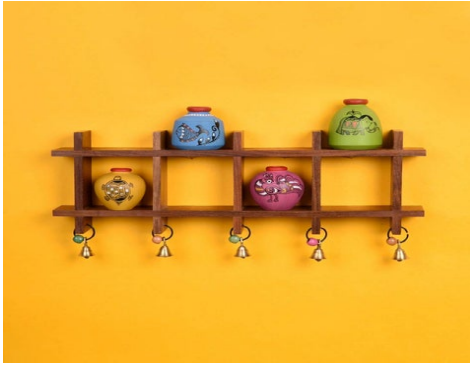
the conventional paints and paintbrushes can create an end product just the same!



common sight that everyone very much likes!

### 7. Warli Art home décor products that will make perfect additions to your home –

- Wall Mounted Decorative Wall Shelves: The hand-painted pots celebrate the essence of Warli art and once placed on the Sheesham wood wall shelves, they add an element of brightness to your walls.



- Hand-Crafted Wooden Key Holder: Functional and fascinating, our hand-crafted wooden key holders with warli paintings are perfect for hanging your keys in one place.



- Terracotta Earthen Vases: These hand-painted earthen vases will beautify your home with the authenticity of warli art.



## 8. Government steps for skill development of Warli

In our developing nation, culture is one of the key elements for an economy. When we talk about culture development of handicrafts stands behind. For the country the source of earning for an exchange it can be said that development of handicrafts always maintains the aesthetic values and due to its expert craftsmanship exquisites.

Maharashtra has its own artistic tradition to provide an ample development of handicraft industries in India to make us proud. To reach the next level Maharashtra is taking a huge step for its growth. There are many associations who are developing the handicrafts for economic balance as well as creating an immense contribution to develop the skills of women's creativity.

There are number of industries who are promoting handicrafts to India as well as outside India. They are:

- The All India Handicraft Board
- Indian Institute of Craft and Design ( IICD )

## 9. Research findings and discussion

The results were studied to design the conclusion. There are 30 interviewee, out of which 11 were males and 19 were females. Through study it is analyzed that this art is olden and related to women more as compared to men. 90% males agree with statement that this art is for women. 85% interviewee agrees that this government and semi-government bodies helps in developing skills as well as in livelihood. But all government and semi-government bodies are not doing their best for its development. May be this is due to unfavourable conditions or because of corruption, which is the biggest problem in

the country. 98% agrees that traditional Warli is more attractive than contemporary Warli.

Traditional Warli is made for reasons such as used in marriage ceremonies and it's the main part of dowry in olden days, but today's Warli is made without any reason just for business purpose. Contemporary Warli is easy in making and helps in living standard of women.

### 10. Conclusion

The paper concludes that although, original form of traditional Warli is fading. Many NGOs and industries have brought around the art and skill sector of

Maharashtra. Traditional Warli do not have either purpose or quality for which they were made. Government has been working for the upgrade of Warli by organizing special training programs, fairs, exhibitions, competitions, so on. The additional side of this skill development is that it provides source of income to many dependent. Working with different NGOs is the easy way for home making woman as they can work according to their own conditions. As developing skills helpful for uneducated or rural people to mind their own work with comfort. Helps women for leading better life with a source of income.

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