In childhood, every child has fascinated with the stories. Parents, grand parents used to tell stories to children of family. Being a daughter of a religious family, in childhood I was fascinated by mythological stories and stories of rituals. And as I have studied art so I always relate mythology and art.

It the time of Ph.D., I want to work on some subject in which I can explore depiction of mythology in art. After a deep study of the subject and discussion with my supervisor Prof. Ram Viranjan, research area has centralized on the two epics Ramayana and Mahabharata and its depiction in Indian art (paintings). And the topic has formed as "Study of Ramayana and Mahabharata in Contemporary Indian Art (Painting)." Thus I found a great opportunity to work on the desired subject under the guidance of a great teacher and Chairperson of Dept. Fine Arts. Prof. Ram Viranjan.

In this study, the various aspects of the depiction of both epics has explored. To form this study, it has divided in seven chapters.

Through the ages how mythology and art has interweave with each other along with the meaning and motives has explained in first chapter, Introduction.

Hindu Mythology is a bouquet of many scriptures. Among all the great epics Ramayana and Mahabharata has a significant place. So the story of both epics has narrated in second chapter, study of Hindu Mythology.

From the very early both the epics has depicted on the walls of temples and palaces. There transformation on palm leafs and paper under the different schools of Indian miniature paintings has explained in third chapter, Study of Ramayana and Mahabharata in Indian art.

Some of the modern Indian artists have depicted the artwork based on Ramayana and Mahabharata. Some of them
has worked on both epics but some on single epic. The depiction of artists such as Raja Ravi Verma, Abindranath Tagore, Nand Lal Bose, Jamini Roy, K. Venkatappa, Asit Kumar Haldar, Kshitindranath Majumdar, Ramgopal Vijayvargiya, Sarat Chandra Dabo, Sukhbir Sinjgh Sinhal, M.F. Husain, Amarnath Sehgal has described in the fourth chapter, Concept of Ramayana and Mahabharata in Indian Art.

Even in the present scenario some of the artists have selected their subject for artworks from the epics. Artist like A. Ramchandran, Laxman Pai, Ganesh Pyne, Vasudeo Kamath, Poosapati Parmeshwar Raju, Vijender Sharma, Sunil Kumar Vishwakarma and Anant Kumar Mishra has depicted series of paintings. Except artist's own depiction some government and non-government organizations has invited artist to create artworks on the themes of epic. All this has written in fifth chapter, some contemporary Indian Artist with their Mythological Paintings based on Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Both the epics are seems to be the ocean of knowledge inspiration and teachings. So the epics has rewrite, narrated, depicted and visualized in different arts except painting. Thus the contribution of both epics has described in the sixth chapter, contribution of Ramayana and Mahabharata in Indian art.

The gist or the findings of this research work has given in the seventh chapter, conclusion.

For both the epics there is no bar of space, time and mediums, so it has traveled through ages and still artists love to depict it with their unique visualization.

To understand the artist's vision, belief and sentiments behind the depiction of epics, I have done this research work with my best efforts.

(Akanksha Verma)
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Within infinite myths lies an eternal truth
    Who sees it all?
Varuna has but a thousand eyes
    Indra, a hundred
You and I, only two.

(Akanksha Verma)