



# Pertaining the Feminist Vision of Ecocriticism for Environmental Justice against Gender Biases and Women Critics: A Literature on the International and National Perception

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**Abstract**— *To explore environmental literature from a feminist perspective, a large diversity of feminist eco-critical approaches to affirm the continuing contribution, it is necessary and relevant to present a feminist perspective in environmental literature, culture, and science. Feminist ecocriticism is considered as a substantial history that defines women's environmental writing and social change activism with the eco-cultural critic. This research mainly defines the connection of the feminist vision of eco-criticism by taking the international and national perception against gender biases and women critics. The main purpose of the study is the elaboration of ecocriticism for environmental justice against gender biases and women's critics.*

**Keywords**— *Feminism, Ecocriticism, Gender, Environment, Perception, Ethics, Ecofeminism.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental justice is about the fair or equitable distribution of environmental goods, services, and resources. Eco-feminists have been among the most vocal opponents of a theory of ethics or justice that presupposes abstract individualism, i.e., a theory of human nature according to which humans are what we are independent of and abstracted from any social contexts and relationships. In the present time, eco-criticism grows stronger because of its intersection with environmental politics and philosophy, literacy, and cultural study, and post-colonial theory, globalization theory. The study mainly identifies to bring eco-criticism into closer alliance with an environmental feminist study by drawing upon the sources of the eco-feminists theory and criticism and going beyond their methodologies offering a new practice of feminist eco-criticism that mainly speak in multiple feminist voices and draw attention to several issues such as sexual and environmental justice, the active role of women

in environmental, social justice issue, post-colonial eco-feminist concern, ecology, and green queer theories. Identifying the interrelation among all these diverse topics, create a critical pathway to the poetic and politic of feminist eco-criticism and make a connection between human and non-human environment from a feminist viewpoint. At the same time, it also examined the feminist eco-criticism vision that is more necessary and effective because it includes sustainable discursive practices that help to develop and establish a more ethical position. As a result, it can be said that feminist eco-criticism guides an ethic-based culture that is based on situated values and create gender significance human and non-human (Gaard, Estok & Oppermann, 2013).

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Feminism theory and Ecocriticism

Feminist ecocriticism is considered as a substantial history with its roots mainly focus on women environmental writing and social change activism and it also focuses on second-wave feminist literary criticism and eco-culture critic. Yet, as Greata Gaard observed in his book name *New Directions for Eco-feminism* published in 2010 introducing eco-criticism to date, Lawrence Buell's *The Future of Environmental Criticism* (2005) and Greg Garrard's *Ecocriticism* (2004), defining the eco-critical root in development as per feminist and eco-feminist literary perspective (Gaard, 2011). In North America, eco-criticism focuses on providing equality from two roots such as Audubon, Thoreau, Emerson, and Muir, and feminist literary criticism. One of the most prominent feminists, Annette Kolodny explored environmental literature in her landmark studies such as *the Lay of the Land* (1975) and *The Land Before Her* (1984) and found dominant perspective in the environmental narrative such as white, heterosexual male, who used and regularly feminized the land for subordinating nature (Kolodny, 1984).

To focus on feminist ecocritical theory, it defines in the eco-criticism conferences in Turkey, China, Taiwan, Korea, Canada, Germany, and have noted that there is a diverse screen for eco-criticism. As a result, eco-criticism is known as eco-pedagogy to eco-punctual approaches to contemporary and historical phenomena, to the argumentation of eco-critical theories, and finally reaches reflexive interrogation of the eco-criticism subject, matter, and intersection. Feminist eco-critical theory mainly explores the shape of contemporizing feminist ecocriticism that is considered as new material and post-feminist colonialism. In topic, *Epiphanies: Dioxin, Power, and Gendered Bodies in Laura Conti's Narratives on Seveso* explored the question of narrative agency and political factor material by considering the case of at least the first few big ecological disasters that occurred in 1976 (Iovino, 2013).

Feminist and environment justice mainly analyze and provide an important corrective by examining the environment experience of the mainstream because it has served to raise awareness about alternative environmentalism that offers intersectional and cultural specific tools for evaluating the protection of culture by and about women and communities of color. For example, essay work done by Chiyo Crawford in her book named *Stream of Violence: Colonialism, Modernization, and Gender* Mari Cristina Mena's *John of God* and argue the eco-feminism that are inspired by environmental justice and particularly focus on indigenous Mexican women. The

eco-criticism theory in context to the novel of Arundhati Roy's "*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*" will be also implicated that majorly involves the darkest and most violent episodes of modern Indian history and implicates the ecocriticism aspects (Ganguly, 2017).

### 2.2 Aspects of environmental justice against gender biases and women critics

Environmental justice is realized by the fair and equitable distribution of environmental burdens across the entire population. Environmental Justice explores the environmental burdens impacting all marginalized populations and communities. Environmental justice mainly examines and composes what is by now a lightening of many ways in which poor women and marginalized group suffer from the brunt of environmental dangers. To support this, the words of representative for the South West Network for the environment and economic justice, target the people of color through racism, sexism, and lack of social and economic justice, especially for women of color who are considered the poorest of the poor and pay the highest try for the politician that increased once and health problem and devastation of the economy. Environmental justice does not believe in insensitivity that occurs randomly because Environmental justice is identified as a product of an American environmental movement that is rooted in the values and interests of the elite society. Several commentators describe environmental movements like the 'women's movement that is considered as a wave. The first wave defines the preservation and conservation movement that was marked by the effort of John Muir in 1890. The second wave defines the individual activism by National Environmental Organization in the late 1960s and early 1970s to protect natural resources and the environment (Verchick, 2004).

There are several women grassroots activists that have developed a powerful critic that portrays on the local level and based on their experience to claim communities fighting. One of the ecocriticism theories of Amitav Ghosh's *Hungry Tide*" implicates the clear justification of humanism and environmentalism, especially when they come into a conflict of interest with each other. This novel won the 2004 Cross Word Book prize by portraying the main character Piyali Roy who was a young marine biologist and travels to the Sunderbans in search of rare and endangered dolphins and meets Kanai that is a translator and businessman on the Kolkata suburban railway. Her journey begun with a disaster and shared an uncanny instinct way of the sea (Ghosh, 2005).

### 2.3 Feminist vision of ecocriticism towards environmental justice

The feminist vision of ecocriticism focuses mostly on ethical perspectives on the interconnections among women, nonhuman animals, and nature. This predicts the feminist vision of ecocriticism towards environmental justice. Environmental justice is considered as a political movement that is related to the public issues of racism and culture movement that redefine the ideology and representation. It is a technical question that how can literature and criticism further make the effort of an Environmental justice movement to make attention in such a way in which environmental degradation and hazards affect the poor people and people of color equally. It also defines a typical question about what are the different traditions in nature writing by the people of color, by the poor in the US, and culture outside it? It also asks the question of how can toxic waste lead to poisoning, uranium mining, and other environmental health issues fully grown in literature and criticism. It also indicates the issue of environmental safety and labor safety and many more. To define all these questions there are two articles set back to back such as the *Eco-criticism Reader*, which neatly stages the problem and indicates the solution. It also examined the first essay written by Scot Russell Sanders, *Speaking a Word for Nature*, plotted several examples of unnaturalness and point out the corrector that expresses by taking the theme of sunset (Sanders, 1987).

Susan A. Mann, an eco women's activist and educator of sociological and women's activist hypothesis, considers the jobs ladies played in these activisms to be the starter for ecofeminism in later hundreds of years. Mann relates the start of ecofeminism not with women's activists but rather with ladies of various races and class foundations who made associations among sexual orientation, race, class, and ecological issues. This ideal is maintained through the thought that in dissident and hypothesis circles minimized gatherings should be remembered for the conversation. In early natural and ladies' developments, issues of fluctuating races and classes were regularly isolated (Mann, Susan 2011). It also defined the moment of the 1970s and 1980s in different countries. For example in Indian in Utrakhand, in 1973 define a Chipko movement done by women to protect the forest from deforestation (Warren, Karen 2000). Another example, in Kenya, in 1977, the Green Belt movement was initiated by a professor, Wangrai Matahai by initiating a rural tea planting program and preventing desertification in the area by covering a thousand trees around the villages. The eco-criticism towards environmental justice, the novel Indra Sinha's "Animal people" identify the unification of people and presenting a vision towards environmental

justice. This novel talks about by plotting the character of the animal itself that defines as the victim of the chemical industry explosion post by Kampani. The title Animal's Behavior defines the difference in the behavior and attitude of Kaufward and the American doctor, Ellie. A line such as "HEY ANIMAL'S PEOPLE! I DON'T [...] UNDERSTAND YOU!" becomes apparent on page 183 defines everyone's attitude towards her clinic (Taylor, 2013).

### III. ANALYSIS

The research aims to explore how the setting influences the movement of the narrative and how the association between humanity and the environment in which it lives affects the creation of stories and storytelling, in *Legends of Pensam* (Dai, 2006). The research would also look at the importance of Nature in creating myths and archetypes. It would also look at the theory of the butterfly effect and how it navigated in the narrative of *Butterfly Effect* by Rajat Chaudhuri. It would also look on at how the theory acts and incorporates itself in the narrative of ecological sustenance and climate change (Otis, 2018).

#### Legends of Pensam by Mamang Dai

*Legends of Pensam* by Mamang Dai defines an understanding of the unique position of the northeast concerning the rest of India. This novel also appreciates how the topographical, cultural, and political differentiation creates a unique kind of literature from this region. This novel defines the specialty of Arunachal Pradesh and locates Mamang Dai who belongs from Arunachal Pradesh and comprehends how Mamang Dai handles the existing realities in congestion with the wealth of traditional old literature that is present in Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from this, the *Legends of Pensam* also defines a response to modern and traditional culture. This novel is a work that is relevant in the contemporary turmoil of change because it defines the cultures of North East India that are facing tremendous challenges in the segment of education and modernization. Her novel showed evaluation of cultures and identified that they embody and also examine lots of distinctive identify markers for the types of the regions (Biju, 2018).

#### Butterfly Effect by Rajat Chaudhuri

The novel, *Butterfly Effect* by Rajat Chaudhuri define the character of a North Korean agent steal an untested genetically modified rice variety from the UK lab and carry back to Korea to make cross-pollinate crop and highlight an epidemic of rapid aging across the continent with high fertility. The Butterfly Effect is listed

as the “50 Must-Read Novel Disaster Novel” and presented in the museum of Science Exhibition of Washington US and Sahitya Academy New Delhi. Chaudhury believed that he has written an indicate all the issues related to the mainstream media because as a writer and activist it was his duty to spread awareness about the dangers posed by GM food, virus-mediated gene delivery which is used without taking any precaution so that his novel is recognized as danger and amplifies them to a fictional scale.

#### IV. RESEARCH GAP

The present study has evolved the discussion on the feminist vision of ecocriticism with implications of international and national perception. This has further helped in analyzing the view of the researchers and public regarding the feminist vision of ecocriticism. The discussion on the ecocriticism for environmental justice against gender biases and women’s critics is implicated in detail. The environmental justice against gender biases and women’s critics has been implicated here. The concept of feminism theory and ecocriticism has been implicated in this study. The important information on the relationship between humans and the environment has been discussed here. The discussion on the assumption of women’s relationship of care and compassion with nature has been elaborated in detail. The discussion on the discussion on the literature and studies highlighting the feminist vision of ecocriticism towards environmental justice has been elaborated in detail. All these sections explain the need for pertaining the feminist vision of ecocriticism for environmental justice against gender biases and women critics for the welfare of the society. Therefore, this review will discuss the update on the perception of environmental justice against gender biases and women critics at the national and international level which will be implicated in this paper. The present study analyses the perception of the feminist vision of ecocriticism and the existing literature has helped in explaining its impact on environmental justice against gender biases and women critics that further help in filling the gap.

#### V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Environmental movements are taking place in the changed places such as kitchen tables that there is a discussion about inner critics about poverty pockets and people of color. The kitchen table highlights the actions that are taken in the favour of poor people at ground level so that they are included in the environmental policies and there is a reduction in the threatening health conditions of poor communities and families. The research highlighted

that environmental justice includes feminist strategies that help in shaping the feminist movement the highly contributes towards the development of the poor and marginalized communities and ensures the safety and social equality among all. In the conductance of environmental justice, the women play an important role because they are the major leaders that work at ground levels with the environmental organizations to seek the care of the impoverished communities. It includes the active participation of different environmental organizations such as "Mother's Air Watch" of Texarkana, "Mothers of East Los Angeles" so that there is the elimination of toxic incinerators (Verchick, 2004). The current research highlighted the active involvement of female activists in social movements and family role activities so that there is a reduction in the hazardous waste incinerator. It will not only help in spreading awareness about environmental preservation but also increase the standard of living of individuals and their quality of life by providing opportunities for children's education, healthcare, and hygiene. Therefore, it can be said that women play an important role in generalities and actively participate in the universalizing of environmental development through personal traits.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Environmental justice can be defined as the terminology that is associated with the uniform allocation of environmental goods and services to all individuals. However, in the current scenario, it has been observed that there is a lack of equitable distribution of environmental goods that creates issues in the proper utilization of services by the masses. Under such conditions, it becomes essential to include the participation of eco-feminists that helps in raising the voices of the poor communities so that they receive their share of environmental resources that have been barred off from them. Additionally, Feminist Ecocriticism plays an important role in developing an interrelation between women and nature through different literary theories and criticism so that valuable insights are drawn from different fields in the form of chaos theory and psychoanalysis. It includes analyzing the genres initiating from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century science fiction so that there is the development of feminism theory and its implication in the environment. Moreover, the present research also focuses on analyzing environmental justice so that there is an equal and uniform distribution of resources among the individuals and improvements are brought in the living conditions of marginalized populations and communities. Based on the above facts, it can be said that feminist ecocriticism plays an important role in developing ethical

perspectives and constructive associations between women, nonhuman animals, and nature. It leads to the promotion of environmental justice that helps in reducing the differentiation between the rich and poor communities and enhances the living standards of the marginalized communities through ecocriticism theory.

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