

ECO-FEMINISM: AN OVER-VIEW

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Ecofeminism



THE SYLLABUS

PHIG SEMESTER 4 SEC B (Man and Environment)

- A. Classical Indian Attitude to Environment
- B. Respect For Nature
- C. Intrinsic Value of Nature
- D. Deep Ecology and Its Third World Critique
- E. Eco-feminism
 - i) Understanding nature and the feminine, ii) Dualism in Western tradition, iii) Masculinity, humanity and nature

SOME ECOFEMINIST THINKERS



Val Plumwood



Karen J. Warren



Maria Mies



Vandana Shiva



Arundhati Roy

BACKGROUND OF ECOFEMINISM

- Environmental ethics and feminism are two hotly debated contemporary issues in the field of moral philosophy
- The problem of environmental ethics is closely connected with the relation between man and nature, especially man's relation with the environment
- Awareness of environmental problems gathered momentum since late 1960s
- Just like environmentalism, the women's movement became established as a world-wide influence since the 1960s
- Within the women's movement there is a wide range of groups and ideologies
- A particular type of feminism is **ecofeminism** which was its origin to the relationship between women and nature

WHAT IS ECOFEMINISM?

- Ecofeminism is a **merger** of ecological movement and feminist movement
- Over the last three decades ecofeminism as a social issue emerged when feminists got interested in environmentalism and it is a platform where environmentalism and feminism become blended with each other
- In 1991 the World Bank declared that women took significant role in preserving natural resources like water, soil, forest, energy etc
- Both nature and women are exploited, deprived and dominated by men. Thus a kind of proximity is built between them
- The source of power of both women and nature is productivity
- Ecofeminism gives stress on the role of women to achieve importance regarding the environmental issues

CONTD...



- Ecofeminism is a branch of feminism that sees environmentalism, and the relationship between women and the earth, as foundational to its analysis and practice

FOUNDER OF ECOFEMINISM

- Francoise d'Eaubonne (1920-2005) was a French feminist, who introduced the term “ecofeminism” in 1974



SOME FACTS ABOUT ECOFEMINISM

- Ecofeminism sees parallels between the exploitation of nature and the exploitation of women, parallels that are understood in the context of patriarchy
- Ecofeminist analysis explores the connections between women and nature in culture, religion, literature and iconography, and addresses the parallels between the oppression of nature and the oppression of women
- These parallels include but are not limited to seeing women and nature as property, seeing men as the curators of culture and women as the curators of nature, and how men dominate women and humans dominate nature. Ecofeminism emphasizes that both women and nature must be respected

CONTD...

- Instead of regarding the forest as having a commercial value, rural women of Third World Countries set it as a source of domestic needs. Women are the gatherers of the three basic 'F's - fuel, food and fodder
- The dualism, on the one hand between humans and nature and on the other hand between men and women sees both nature and women as oppressed
- The most significant point regarding the relation between nature and women is that both nature and women are in the marginal positions from the economic perspective. Both are considered as the exploitable resources and both are the victims of existing patriarchy

CONTD...

- Ecofeminist theory asserts that a feminist perspective of ecology does not place women in the dominant position of power, but rather calls for an egalitarian, collaborative society in which there is no one dominant group
- Ecofeminism offers a way of thinking and organizing ourselves by encouraging interconnectedness with our environment and addressing the subjugation of women and marginalized peoples
- Ecofeminism puts forth the idea that life in nature is maintained through cooperation, mutual care and love



THANK YOU

Any query regarding the topic
is always welcome