



NEWSLETTER #29

In Collaboration with Girl Up Preet

THE RAVEN

“

Ecofeminists call attention to the fact that environmentalists, feminists, and those fighting racism and poverty, are pulling on different straws in the same broom.

~Lisa Kimmerer

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ECOFEMINISM

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

Ecofeminism, also called ecological feminism, branch of feminism that examines the connections between women and nature. Its name was coined by French feminist Françoise d'Eaubonne in 1974.

Importance

Ecofeminism puts forth the idea that life in nature is maintained through cooperation, mutual care and love. It is an activist and academic movement, and its primary aim is to address and eliminate all forms of domination while recognizing and embracing the interdependence and connection humans have with the earth.

About Vandana Shiva's beliefs (a key figure of Ecofeminism):-

In India, ecofeminist Dr. Vandana Shiva is the pioneer who prepared the ground for ecofeminism with a strong belief that women have always been the key to solve various societal problems and environmental problems are one of them. One of the leading pioneers of the ecofeminist movement in India and in the world, she agrees that women do share a special relationship with nature, and that this relationship is reciprocal and unexploitative.

Shiva holds colonialism responsible for the “destruction of nature and women’s work”, and underlines how what might be considered development by many actually doesn’t benefit women and nature in the way that it “perpetuates domination and centralisation through patriarchal control”.

Examples of Ecofeminism

One example is the Chipko Andolan movement in India, a forest conservation movement that was led by indigenous women who were affected the most by the rapid deforestation in the 1970s. Another example is the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Founded by Wangari Maathai in 1977, this was set up to respond to the needs of women in rural areas of Kenya who reported that water supplies were drying up, food supplies were no longer secure and they had to walk further and further to get firewood for fuel and fencing.

ECOFEMINISM: THE CROSSROADS OF GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ecofeminism, a 1970s academic offshoot of the feminist movement, related women's subjugation to humanity's oppression of nature. Ecofeminism was coined in 1974 by Françoise d'Eaubonne, a French novelist and feminist activist.

Ecofeminism started to influence feminist, environmental, and artistic movements in the 1980s.

By the late 1990s, critics were dismissing ecofeminism as essentialist, unable to effectively address feminist or environmental problems.

Ecofeminism strives to explore and strengthen both feminist and ecological ideas. The framework investigates how gender and nature overlap, notably how binary classifications wrongly categorise opposing groupings, providing unfair importance to one grouping and fostering hierarchical thinking. The agricultural gender gap exemplifies how social activities may benefit the environment. A stronger education and healthcare system can empower women to be more active decision-makers in their communities, driving economic growth and development.

Ecofeminism recognises the interconnectedness of social and environmental challenges, and how remedies in one may impact beneficial results in the other. The most powerful resolutions and policy actions generally cross socioeconomic disparities with climate change. Achieving sustainable development requires recognising and addressing these linkages.



“EQUALITY, ACCESS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE ARE AT THE HEART OF FEMINISM'S MISSION.”

- DIEDRAH KELLY



Diedrah Kelly, the recently appointed Consul General of Canada in Mumbai, has a special fondness for India that is immediately apparent. “You can feel the dread in certain circles when you merely look at the term ‘feminist’ or ‘feminism’.

However, it's important to realise that the goal here is inclusion, as well as improved representation, equal opportunity, and a fair playing field for all individuals. It's a real pity that we're still having to bring them up. As a result, I believe the first step is to eliminate the fears people have when they hear the term "feminist" and to reassure them that they have nothing to be concerned about. Feminism is a movement that aims to achieve equality. It's all about equal access and equal opportunity.”

THIS ALL-FEMALE RURAL UP ORGANISATION CONDUCTS GROUNDBREAKING MEDIA COVERAGE!

The country's only rural, women-led media collective Khabar Lahariya- once the proud publisher of local language newspapers and now the proud digital-only rural news channel with 554k YouTube subscribers and an average of 10 million views every month - enters its 20th year this year. Khabar Lahariya's team of Dalit-led but Muslim, also OBC, also upper-caste women, all showing what a truly diverse media organisation can look like - enters its 20th anniversary this year, as well.



"It has been a fundamental tenet of our independent journalism for the last two decades to be selective about who and how we include in the frame or narrative, to corroborate and to provide many points of views. Many parties in Uttar Pradesh have pledged to protect the rights of the poor and disadvantaged over our two decades of reporting (and friendship). We've held them accountable when they haven't followed through their promises." - Team Khabar Lahariya

DO WOMEN SYMPATHIZE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE THEY ALSO FEEL VIOLATED?

Living in a society which considers women weak, they have always acted up or voiced their opinions in the case of environmental issues. Back in the time, when women didn't have the power and courage to stand up for themselves, they still stood up for protecting and preserving the environment. One of these instances is the very famous Chipko movement. This movement took place in Uttarakhand in the 1970's. the government at that time had decided to cut the forests near Mandal village but the women of Mandal



village took it to themselves and protested against the cutting of trees. These women took the path of non-violence that is, they embraced all the trees to prevent the government officials from cutting the trees, they also kept a watch on the trees during the night time. The participation of females is what made it one of the first eco-feminist movements. Guara Devi, Suraksha Devi, Sudesha Devi, Bachni Devi, Chandi Bhatt and Virushka Devi were some of the women who played a very important role in this movement.



RECOMMENDATION TO READ, LISTEN & WATCH

Books

- Women and Nature by Susan Griffin
- Feminism Or Death: How the Women's Movement Can Save the Planet by Françoise d'Eaubonne

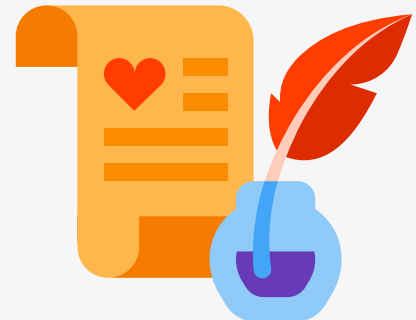


Podcast

- Eco Chic by Laura E Diez
- The Ecopolitics Podcast-EPISODE 9: Ecofeminism And Queer Ecology

Poem

On the Pulse of Morning by Maya Angelou



Documentary

Hands On: Women, Climate and Change

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS
FORTNIGHTLY'S- THE RAVEN?
WHAT DID WE MISS?
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About EnviSAGE & Girl Up Preet

EnviSAGE- the Environmental Society of SGND Khalsa College is a group of highly motivated environment conscious and prudent members who believe in the maxim, 'Our actions today will impact the tomorrow of others'. We consider the earth and all its resources as a precious gift, not to be taken for granted, but to be respected, preserved and nurtured. We feel that we are responsible and accountable for our activities and behavior towards the environment and strive to share the same enthusiasm, concern, knowledge, and sense of gratitude with others as well. Through our activities, we aim to empower individuals in terms of knowledge about environmental issues and challenges that we are currently facing.

Girl Up Preet is a change oriented social club under a global campaign of the United Nations foundation which has been actively participating with the community to tackle and change the gender dynamics that are extremely unacceptable in today's world. Equality is what matters for us and we are working to establish a Society that gives equal representation and opportunities to people irrespective of their gender or sex. Preet came into inception when young change-oriented students of SGNDKC came together and pledged to make an impact on the world in the best way possible.

Curated with love by

*Shawn, Jyothika, Gurshan, Shubhangam, Naina, Priyanka, Aryan,
Sujal, Harsh, Marooshat, Sutanayaa and Harmmeet*