

A CRITIQUE ON ECOFEMINISM

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Ecofeminism

"Theory the seeing of patterns, showing the forests as well as the trees- theory can be due that rises from the earth and collects in the rain cloud and returns to earth over and over. But if it doesn't smell of the earth it isn't good for the earth".

ADRIENE RICH

The women's movement in the 1960 was not of course the beginning of feminism. It was a renewal of an old tradition of thought and action already presented in classic books which has diagnosed the problem of women's inequality in society. Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" (1792) Oliver Schreiner's "Women and Labour" and Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own" (1929) portrayed the unequal treatment given to women. In 19th century women began to identify themselves as an oppressed group which found expression in feminist movements and feminist writings. There are several different types of feminism and feminist movements have explored the significance of women presented in literature. German Greer (The Female Eunuch) Kate Millet (Sexual Politics) Simon de Beauvoir's (The second Sex) portrayed the silent voices and oppression of women. John Stuart Mill (The Subjection of Women) 1869 and Fredric Engles (The Origin of the Family) 1884 also contributed to the tradition of Feminist Writing.

In the present research article an attempt has been made to explore various critical connections between Feminism and Ecofeminism. Ecofeminism is a theory which emerged from feminism, Ecology and Socialism. To understand the Ecofeminism as a theory and as an interdisciplinary approach it is very much essential to study the philosophical foundation of feminism and feminist movements. The first part of this research article deals with an enquiry of feminism and second part deals with a study of ecofeminism.

The feminism is concerned with 'conditioning' and 'socialization' of womenfolk in society. The terms 'Feminist', 'Female' and 'Feminine' are related to conditioning and socialization of women in society. To understand feminism it is essential to know the meanings of those terms. Feminist is related to political position, 'female' is a matter of Biology and 'feminine' is a set of culturally defined characteristics. Thus the terms female and feminine are very crucial to understand the force of feminism. Thus in feminist criticism the major efforts were taken to expose the mechanism of patriarchy that is cultural mindset of society which perpetuated sexual inequality. The feminist believe that in order to understand women's position in the world one has to understand the system of patriarchy. Men all over the world looked at women from their point of view and they have also taught and compelled women to look at themselves from male point of view. Feminism is a critique of patriarchy. It is a complicated and often contradictory body of research aimed at examining gender in society. Through history and tradition the myth of male superiority has been reinforced and maintained in the society. The women have been subjugated, oppressed by male dominated social institutions and value systems.

Feminism can be thought of as an ideology that has operated in political and social theory,