


Women and nature: An ecofeminist study of environmental conservation sustainability

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Article information	Abstract
Submitted: 2024-10-10 Revised: 2024-12-13 Published: 2024-12-31	Global issues such as the exploitation of women and the environment are exacerbated by patriarchy and capitalism, resulting in gender inequality and environmental degradation. Women play a crucial role in conservation, as seen in the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, the Chipko Movement in India, and the struggles of Dayak women in Indonesia. Ecofeminism integrates gender and environmental issues to promote equitable sustainability. This study examines the relationship between women and the environment from an ecofeminist perspective, focusing on patriarchal domination, women's interaction with nature, and their traditional roles and ecological knowledge in environmental preservation. The research employs a literature review method, using credible journals, books, and reports to explore ecofeminism and women's roles in conservation. The study focuses on identifying key themes related to gender and conservation, exploring diverse perspectives, and developing a conceptual framework for systematic analysis and logical conclusions. The findings show that ecofeminism critiques patriarchal structures that subordinate women and nature, often making them targets of exploitation. This approach promotes the integration of gender analysis in ecology for inclusive and sustainable development, emphasizing women's crucial role as agents of change toward a more just world. Ecofeminism highlights women's involvement in resource management, conservation leadership, and their role as key actors in environmental justice and gender-sensitive policy-making. This study contributes by emphasizing the importance of the ecofeminist perspective in critiquing patriarchy, integrating gender analysis in ecology, and recognizing women as agents of change in resource management, conservation leadership, and the formulation of inclusive, gender-sensitive environmental policies for sustainable development.
Keywords: Ecofeminism, Gender Equality, Environmental Conservation, Patriarchy, Women's Empowerment	

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INTRODUCTION

The exploitation of women and nature is a globally interconnected issue, which Buckingham (2015), Seren (2023), and Wahyono (2024) argue is reinforced by patriarchal and capitalist systems that create domination and double exploitation. Rowland (2015), Wieczorek (2018), and Limoudehi and Bakhtvar (2020) emphasize that patriarchy places women in subordinate positions, while capitalism exploits this inequality to extract women's labor and natural resources for economic gain. According to Workneh (2020), Filho et al. (2023), and Sullivan and Hickel (2023), rural women who rely on natural resources daily are the most vulnerable to environmental damage, including deforestation, water pollution, and climate change. However, Singh (2018), Nguyen and Rydstrom (2018), and Tran (2021) highlight that women play a crucial role in environmental conservation, as seen in the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and the Chipko Movement in India, which led successful community-based struggles against environmental degradation. In Indonesia, Purwanto et al. (2020), Niko et al., (2023), and Niko et al., (2024) stress the importance of Dayak women's traditional knowledge in conservation. These scholars agree that an ecofeminist approach, integrating gender and environmental concerns, provides strategic solutions for more inclusive and equitable sustainability.

Ecofeminism has become a critical approach to patriarchal dominance, highlighting women's contributions to environmental protection globally. Bangun (2020) shows that women are key actors in natural resource management, advocating for justice and equality. Hosseinneshad (2017) found that women are more committed to protecting the environment, such as through efficient energy use and waste management. Nofrima et al., (2023) define women as agents of change in the context of climate change and sustainable development. Meanwhile, Phillips (2020) proposes an ecocentric approach that integrates humans into the broader web of life, promoting an inclusive epistemological framework. Riady (2021) examines the Chipko Movement, which has incorporated gender perspectives into environmental policy and has become a model for the global environmental movement. Duru et al., (2022) and Bryan et al., (2024) reveal the impacts of environmental damage on women in rural communities, while Niko (2017) highlights the connection between Dayak women and nature.

Although ecofeminist studies have highlighted women's roles in environmental conservation globally, most research remains general and focuses on specific movements, such as the Green Belt Movement, the Chipko Movement, or local contexts in Indonesia. Previous studies emphasize women's contributions to resource management and environmental protection but have insufficiently explored the direct link between patriarchal domination, women's relationship with nature, and their traditional knowledge in sustainable practices. Furthermore, most studies do not comprehensively integrate social, cultural, and ecological analyses simultaneously, often overlooking women's potential as agents of change in local contexts. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the relationship between women and the environment from an ecofeminist perspective, emphasizing the impacts of patriarchy, ecological interactions, and women's traditional roles and local knowledge in preserving natural resources.

This study aims to explore the relationship between women and the environment from an ecofeminist perspective, focusing on three main themes: patriarchal domination and its impact on women, the relationship between women and the environment, and the traditional roles and ecological knowledge of women in preserving natural resources. The study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how patriarchal social structures influence women's access to and participation in environmental conservation, while highlighting women's contributions as agents of change in sustainable practices. The benefits of this research include strengthening academic arguments on integrating gender analysis in ecology, supporting gender-sensitive environmental

policies, and appreciating the role of women in natural resource conservation and inclusive sustainable development.

Based on the research objectives, it can be tentatively concluded that women play a crucial role in environmental conservation, although they are often constrained by patriarchal structures that limit their access and participation. Preliminary findings indicate that women's relationship with nature is not only ecological but also cultural and social, with traditional knowledge serving as a vital asset in sustaining natural resources. From an ecofeminist perspective, empowering women and recognizing their ecological roles are key to achieving inclusive and equitable sustainable development. This study seeks to address several central questions: How does patriarchal domination affect women's access to and participation in environmental conservation? How do women build their relationship with the environment through traditional practices and ecological knowledge? And to what extent can the ecofeminist perspective provide a framework to empower women as agents of change in environmental sustainability?

Method

This study employs a literature review method, following the recommendations of Bowen (2009) and Snyder (2019), to conduct an in-depth analysis of secondary sources on ecofeminism and women's roles in environmental conservation. The sources include scientific journals, books, and reports from environmental organizations, selected for their relevance and reliability to the research topic. The process involves identifying key themes related to gender issues and women's contributions to environmental preservation, providing a critical foundation for understanding gender roles in ecology and conservation. In addition, the study examines diverse perspectives by considering literature suggested by George (2008) and Grewal et al. (2016), who highlight the importance of selecting sources based on thematic relevance and credibility. This approach ensures a systematic, rigorous, and comprehensive understanding of the intersection between gender and environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, the collected literature is carefully evaluated to ensure its suitability for the research focus, following the guidelines of Regmi et al. (2016) and Christou (2023). This study also takes into account the perspectives of Cullen and Brennan (2021) and Kozinets and Seraj-Aksit (2024), who emphasize the importance of selecting literature that accommodates multiple approaches and viewpoints. The evaluation process ensures that the sources not only provide relevant information but also represent diverse analytical perspectives, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the topic. The main objective is to consolidate various insights and interpretations to offer broader and deeper knowledge of the issue under study. This approach strengthens the validity, reliability, and richness of the analysis, enabling the research to present well-founded conclusions regarding the intersection of gender and environmental conservation.

In this study, the researchers developed a conceptual framework, as suggested by Sutton and Austin (2015) and Reed et al. (2021), to systematically guide the organization and analysis of data. According to these scholars, a well-structured framework allows researchers to connect concepts meaningfully and ensures a coherent approach to understanding complex issues. Tenny et al. (2022) and Naeem et al. (2023) argue that identifying patterns and trends through the interaction of concepts is essential for revealing relationships that deepen comprehension of the dynamics under study. By applying this perspective, the researchers examined how themes and insights from the literature interrelate, enabling a more nuanced analysis of the subject matter. This approach, grounded in the views of these experts, facilitates the development of a comprehensive understanding and supports the formulation of logical, evidence-based, and detailed conclusions regarding the research topic.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Result

Patriarchal domination and its implications for women

Patriarchy, as a system of domination, has profound implications not only for women’s social position but also for the environment. Through the social construction of women and nature in subordinate positions, patriarchy reinforces gender inequality and environmental exploitation. The strict gendered role division enforced by patriarchy leads to the confinement of women to the private sphere while men dominate the public sphere. This division has direct parallels with the way humans manage and exploit nature. This reaffirms the need to understand and address patriarchal values that not only hinder gender equity but are also responsible for ecological destruction, thus fostering an ecofeminist perspective that links women’s liberation to the preservation of nature.

Table 1
Patriarchal Domination of Women

No	Results	Description
1	Social Construction of Women and Nature	Women and nature are often constructed in marginalized positions in patriarchal systems, where both are seen as entities that can be exploited or controlled. Both are considered to have no superior position compared to men or other dominant elements in society (Ernanda, 2023 ; Ozden, 2023).
2	Gender Caste System	The patriarchal system creates a caste division based on gender, where women get a lower, subordinated, and marginalized position. This creates gender injustice that affects various aspects of life (Mosse, 2018 ; Mal & Saikia, 2024).
3	Division of Roles Based on Gender	Patriarchy dictates that men have a more dominant role and greater control in various aspects of social, economic, political, and psychological life. This limits women to the private sphere, while men play a more significant role in the public sphere (Figueroa et al., 2023 ; Idrus et al., 2023).
4	Patriarchy and Social Systems	In functional theory, the patriarchal system is likened to the arrangement of body organs where each organ has a specific function. This is adapted in a social system that divides social functions, including gender roles, which leads to a division of space that places men in public spaces and women in private spaces (Ali & Naylor, 2013 ; Strid & Hearn, 2022).
5	Implications for the Environment	The disadvantaged position of women compared to men is paralleled by how the environment is treated—as an object to be freely exploited. This shows that the exploitation of women and nature is the result of the same patriarchal values and domination (Ottuh, 2020 ; Mascarenhas et al., 2024).

Note: The data in this table are drawn from various relevant studies and literature on patriarchy, gender roles, and the relationship between women and the environment

Based on the table above, patriarchal dominance over women is effective in describing how this structure affects women's lives and the environment, but there is still room for improvement. This analysis could be expanded by exploring women's agency and resistance to patriarchal norms and including a discussion of solutions that have been or could be implemented to address these injustices. Additionally, considering cross-cultural perspectives and integrating contemporary feminist theories such as intersectionality would provide a more dynamic and in-depth understanding. Overall, while this table provides a strong foundation, adding more nuance and diverse perspectives would enrich the discussion on the impacts of patriarchy. These findings highlight how patriarchy not only influences social structures and gender roles but also has broader implications for the environment, demonstrating the close correlation between the oppression of women and nature in the context of ecofeminism.

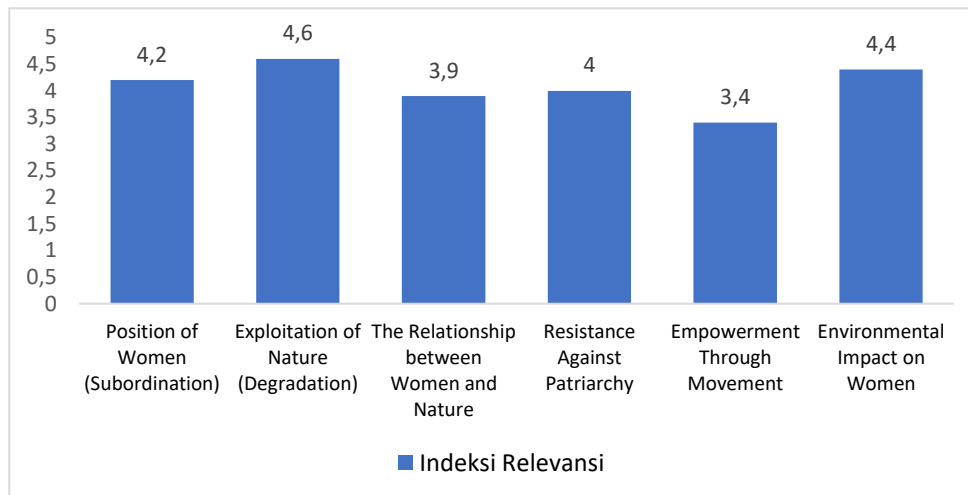
Relationship between women and the environment

This analysis will discuss the deep connections between gender and ecology, often overlooked in more general environmental discussions. Historically, women have often been closely associated

with nature and have experienced the direct impacts of environmental degradation. They also tend to lead conservation initiatives. This analysis will explore how patriarchal structures influence these relationships and how women are specifically impacted and contribute to developing solutions to environmental problems.

Figure 1

Summary of Interviews on Women and the Environment



Note: taken from researcher interviews 2024

The graph illustrates the deep connection between women and the environment within an ecofeminist perspective, showing how patriarchy simultaneously affects both. It first highlights women's subordination under patriarchal systems, which limits their roles in society, mirroring how nature is exploited for profit without regard for long-term consequences. The exploitation of nature reflects the treatment of women, as both are subjected to domination and neglect. The graph also emphasizes women's crucial role in natural resource management, often demonstrating more sustainable practices than male-dominated approaches, drawing on their deep environmental knowledge despite marginalization. Moreover, women's resistance against patriarchy and leadership in environmental movements show that they are active agents of change, not passive victims. Finally, the graph underscores how environmental degradation disproportionately impacts women, who experience its negative consequences more intensely. Overall, it highlights that protecting nature and addressing gender injustice are interconnected, emphasizing the importance of an integrative ecofeminist approach.

Nature connectivity and women: Traditional roles and ecological knowledge

In ecofeminism, women are considered the leading agents in the environmental movement due to their closeness to nature and unique experiences in dealing with ecological injustice. Ecofeminism links the patriarchal domination that oppresses women with the exploitation of nature, suggesting that both phenomena are rooted in the same value system. The following is a summary of findings on the role of women in the environmental movement from an ecofeminist perspective.

Table 2

The Role of Women and Ecological Knowledge

No	Results	Description
1	Women as Guardians of Nature	Ecofeminism identifies women as natural links to nature, given their role in managing resources such as water and food. Their local knowledge of ecosystems makes them key to conservation efforts (Gough et al., 2024).

2	Resistance to Exploitation	Women are often at the forefront of the fight against environmentally damaging projects, defending land and water sources from exploitation fueled by patriarchal values (Mathur et al., 2023).
3	Empowerment Through Environmental Action	Initiatives such as the Green Belt Movement highlight not only environmental conservation but also the economic and political empowerment of women, demonstrating that nature conservation and improving the status of women must go hand in hand (Presbey, 2013).
4	Integration of Gender and Ecology	Ecofeminism emphasizes the importance of a holistic approach that combines gender perspectives with ecological issues, addressing the injustices that result in environmental degradation (Mondal & Majumder, 2019; Liu, 2024).
5	Advocacy for Sustainable Development	Ecofeminists strive for development that is not only ecologically sustainable but also inclusive and socially just, recognizing that the oppression of women and nature are related problems (Holy et al., 2021; Dong & Kim, 2022).
6	Creating a New Narrative	Ecofeminists seek to change views that view nature and women as resources or subordinates, promoting respect and protection for both entities (Chircop, 2008; Sharnappa, 2016).

Note: The data in this table are drawn from various relevant studies and literature on patriarchy, gender roles, and the relationship between women and the environment

The findings in Table 2 highlight the pivotal role of women in ecofeminist movements, showing how they simultaneously act as stewards of nature, community activists, and leaders in conservation practices. Women’s local and traditional knowledge, particularly in managing essential resources like water and food, is invaluable, yet it is often underutilized due to insufficient access to resources and decision-making power. They frequently lead resistance against environmentally exploitative projects, although this frontline activism exposes them to significant social and economic risks. Initiatives such as the Green Belt Movement exemplify how environmental conservation can be paired with women’s empowerment, demonstrating the potential for integrated approaches. However, the broader adoption of such models remains limited, as integrating gender perspectives into ecological policy continues to face challenges from inadequate recognition, understanding, or acceptance at institutional and policy levels, emphasizing the need for stronger support and inclusive frameworks.

Furthermore, ecofeminists face significant challenges in changing systems that exploit nature and marginalize women by advocating for development that is not only sustainable but also socially just. Efforts to create new narratives that respect nature and the role of women are essential, but much work is needed to transform these views into the mainstream. This summary highlights the urgent need for greater recognition, support, and integration of gender perspectives in environmental planning and policy, strengthening women’s capacity to participate fully in sustainability efforts.

Discussion

Equality and ecology: Exploring the impact of patriarchy on women and the environment

In ecofeminist discourse, scholars such as Shiva (1989) and Plumwood (1993) argue that patriarchal structures are the root of many problems affecting both women and the environment. Ernanda (2020), Woehrle (2022), and Subudhi & Keyoor (2019) suggest that patriarchy systematically positions women and nature in subordinate roles, often treating them as exploitable resources. These scholars critically analyze how traditional views that associate women primarily with motherhood and caregiving not only confine them to the domestic sphere but also reinforce ideological foundations for environmental exploitation. By comparing various social contexts, they highlight that patriarchal norms enable men to dominate public spaces and make critical environmental decisions without adequately considering long-term ecological or social consequences. Overall, these analyses underscore the interconnected oppression of women and

nature, demonstrating that addressing environmental degradation requires simultaneously challenging gender hierarchies and social norms.

Warren (1994) and Salleh (1991) argue that gender dynamics reinforce traditional labor divisions while promoting unsustainable practices harmful to the environment. They interpret the connection between social hierarchies and ecological degradation, showing that the exploitation of women and nature is interlinked across cultural and societal contexts. These analyses highlight how traditional approaches often overlook systemic oppression affecting both gender and environment. From this perspective, ecofeminism provides a critical lens to examine gender inequities alongside environmental exploitation. By integrating social and ecological justice, ecofeminism advocates a holistic and inclusive approach to environmental issues. Recognizing and incorporating gender perspectives is essential for achieving equitable and sustainable solutions, addressing both social and ecological vulnerabilities simultaneously.

Vandana Shiva (1989) argues that the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature are not only parallel but also mutually reinforcing within patriarchal systems. Merchant (2006) and Gonzalez-Grandon et al. (2024) interpret this dynamic as a structural problem, where societal values prioritizing profit and power systematically marginalize women and undermine ecological sustainability. Comparative analyses show that traditional environmental policies often overlook women's roles and ecological knowledge, despite their critical contributions to sustainable practices. Morrison et al. (2024) further emphasize that both environmental degradation and gender injustice stem from the same patriarchal root, reinforcing the interconnection between social and ecological oppression. From this perspective, ecofeminism offers a framework that critically integrates gender justice with environmental advocacy, highlighting the need to recognize and empower women as central agents of change in achieving equitable and sustainable conservation.

Val Plumwood (1993) argues that empowering women and adopting a holistic ecological perspective can challenge patriarchal domination and reduce nature's exploitation. She interprets the link between women's oppression and environmental degradation, emphasizing the need to transform societal values and resource management practices. Warren (2001) and Clark (2012) further suggest that ecofeminism integrates the struggle for gender justice with environmental sustainability, revealing how traditional development models often marginalize women and ecological concerns. Comparative analyses highlight that women's ecological knowledge is frequently undervalued, limiting conservation effectiveness. Together, these perspectives show that ecofeminism critiques structural inequalities while advocating systemic changes in human-nature interactions and social institutions, promoting more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable environmental governance.

Ecofeminism emphasizes the interconnectedness of gender injustice and environmental degradation, highlighting the necessity of integrating principles of gender equity with environmental sustainability. The theory demonstrates how patriarchal structures shape both social and ecological systems, a central concern in ecofeminist discourse. To strengthen this analysis, incorporating case studies that illustrate ecofeminism in real-world contexts is essential, as they provide concrete examples of how the theory can inform responses to environmental injustice and degradation. Additionally, recognizing and valuing women's local and traditional knowledge is crucial, as it significantly contributes to sustainable practices. While the theoretical framework is clear, including practical applications and examples would further enhance understanding and underscore the relevance of an ecofeminist approach in shaping sustainable policies and practices.

The dynamic relationship between women and the environment: An ecofeminist perspective

Within an ecofeminist framework, the relationship between women and the environment is dynamic and interdependent. Shiva (1989) and Plumwood (1993) argue that women are often associated with nature across cultures, reflected in language, social roles, and their management of critical resources such as water, land, and forests. Ali and Naylor (2013) and Ruslin (2022) interpret this engagement as both practical and symbolic, showing that women's active participation in rural resource management not only sustains their families and communities but also constitutes resistance against patriarchal structures. Comparative analyses suggest that these same structures, which marginalize women socially, simultaneously drive the exploitation of natural resources for economic gain. From this perspective, ecofeminism highlights the intertwined oppression of women and nature, emphasizing the need to recognize women as crucial agents of ecological stewardship and social change.

Ecofeminism offers a critical analysis of patriarchal systems, asserting that the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature arise from the same underlying values that sustain domination (Maine & Bunnell, 2010; Mas'udah, 2023). Salleh (1991) interprets women-led movements, such as India's Chipko Movement and Kenya's Green Belt Movement, as both environmental and social interventions, demonstrating how women actively challenge systemic inequalities while promoting conservation and empowerment. Bennett et al. (2017) and Lawless et al. (2020) further analyze the domestic context, highlighting that although women are often confined to household roles, they serve as critical agents of social transformation, contributing to sustainable practices and environmental justice. Comparative insights from these studies reveal that women's engagement spans local and global contexts, emphasizing their pivotal role in linking gender equity with ecological stewardship.

Ecofeminists interpret women both as victims of ecological degradation and as central actors in nature conservation (Rynbrandt & Deegan, 2002). Arun and Subbiah (2020) and Johnson (2022) analyze how women's direct experiences with environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change position them to recognize the immediate consequences of ecological harm and often assume leadership in advocating for sustainable practices. Comparative insights highlight that the symbolic association of women with "mother earth" reinforces their perceived responsibility for environmental stewardship, paralleling their roles within families and communities. These interpretations suggest that women's ecological engagement is both practical and culturally embedded, demonstrating how gendered social positions intersect with environmental agency and emphasizing the critical need to integrate women's perspectives in sustainability and conservation policies.

Ecofeminism emphasizes recognizing and supporting women's roles in environmental movements while critically analyzing the social and economic structures that perpetuate exploitation and domination. Anurogo (2023) and Liu (2024) interpret women's contributions in Indonesia such as preserving mangrove forests and adopting eco-friendly technologies as crucial for advancing both ecological sustainability and socio-economic development. Comparative analyses indicate that women's engagement in natural resource management often produces more inclusive and sustainable outcomes than male-dominated approaches. However, ecofeminist scholars argue that translating theory into practice requires understanding local contexts, acknowledging the specific challenges women face, and developing strategies that account for diversity among women. While recognizing women as leaders in environmental conservation is vital, ensuring their effectiveness demands adequate resources, institutional support, and structural empowerment. Collectively, these insights suggest that integrating gender justice with environmental sustainability is essential for creating genuinely inclusive solutions that produce long-term ecological and social impacts.

The role of women in ecofeminism and environmental conservation

Scholars such as Mathur et al. (2023) argue that women have historically played a crucial role as environmental protectors, often leading efforts to combat ecological degradation. Unger (2014) interprets women's participation in conservation programs as both a mechanism for safeguarding natural resources and a strategy for community empowerment. Abo-Khalil (2024) further analyzes how integrating gender perspectives into ecological management enhances the development of inclusive and sustainable environmental policies. Comparative studies by Lwamba et al. (2022) and Filho et al. (2023) indicate that women's advocacy not only influences policy-making but also strengthens gender equality by ensuring that women's voices are incorporated into decisions affecting the planet's future. Collectively, these analyses suggest that women act as pivotal stakeholders whose leadership in environmental sustainability demonstrates the interconnectedness of gender justice and ecological conservation, highlighting the need for policies that recognize and institutionalize their contributions at both local and global levels.

Klemmer and McNamara (2020), Bell et al. (2020), and Body (2024) argue that women serve as key agents in environmental movements due to their intrinsic connection to nature and firsthand experience of ecological injustice. Shiva (1989) and Plumwood (1993) interpret this relationship through an ecofeminist lens, emphasizing that patriarchal domination of women is closely linked to the exploitation of nature, both driven by value systems prioritizing profit and power over sustainability. Agarwal (2009) analyzes women's management of essential resources, such as water and food, highlighting their unique knowledge of local ecosystems as critical for conservation. Comparative studies, including observations of the Chipko movement in India, demonstrate how women not only engage in resource management but also lead resistance against environmentally destructive projects, showing that their ecological stewardship and activism are interwoven with efforts to challenge patriarchal structures and promote sustainable practices.

Egri (1997) and Luke (2002) argue that ecofeminism highlights the empowerment of women through environmental movements, exemplified by the Green Belt Movement, which combines tree-planting initiatives with socioeconomic development for women. Tirosh-Samuelson (2005) and Bauhardt (2013) further interpret this as evidence that environmental sustainability is inseparable from women's empowerment, emphasizing that effective conservation requires integrating gender perspectives. Comparative analyses suggest that movements like the Green Belt Movement not only achieve ecological goals but also transform social structures by enhancing women's agency, income opportunities, and leadership roles. Together, these insights indicate that ecofeminist approaches link environmental action with gender justice, demonstrating that recognizing women's contributions and leadership is essential for developing inclusive, equitable, and sustainable conservation practices across diverse cultural and social contexts.

Warren (1994) interprets traditional ecological approaches as often neglecting gender, arguing that ecofeminism provides a more holistic framework addressing both environmental challenges and social injustices affecting women and other marginalized groups. Salleh (1991) analyzes the interconnection between women's oppression and environmental degradation, suggesting that ecofeminism advocates for development models that are just, inclusive, and sustainable. Plumwood (1993) further emphasizes the creation of new narratives that reject the commodification of women and nature, promoting their recognition as interdependent and valuable entities. Comparative analyses of these perspectives indicate that ecofeminism not only critiques patriarchal ecological practices but also offers practical guidance for rethinking human-nature relationships. Collectively, these interpretations highlight the necessity of integrating gender and ecological considerations in addressing contemporary environmental and social crises, reinforcing the relevance of an ecofeminist approach in policy-making and sustainable development initiatives.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that ecofeminism critiques patriarchal structures that place women and nature in subordinate positions, often targeted for exploitation. This approach integrates gender analysis into ecological studies to promote holistic and inclusive sustainable development, emphasizing the important role of women as agents of change in creating a more just and sustainable world. In ecofeminism, the dynamic relationship between women and the environment underlines their involvement in natural resource management and leadership in environmental conservation. Ecofeminism highlights how patriarchal structures not only exploit women and nature but also position women as victims and key agents in the fight for sustainability and environmental justice while advocating for sustainable policies and integrating gender perspectives into environmental management practices.

The theoretical implications of this study show that ecofeminism provides a critical framework for understanding and responding to the relationship between the patriarchal domination of women and nature. Theoretically, this approach challenges existing power structures by incorporating gender analysis into ecological studies, thus proposing a new paradigm in sustainable development that includes not only environmental aspects but also social justice. In practical terms, this study advocates the importance of involving women in environmental decision-making. Ensuring that environmental conservation policies and practices recognize and leverage women's knowledge and leadership can lead to more inclusive and practical solutions. This shows that women are not simply victims of environmental injustice but also important agents who can drive positive change toward a more sustainable and equitable environment.

Further research is recommended to conduct more in-depth research on the role of gender in environmental policy. This research could focus on developing more specific methodologies to measure the impact of gender-based policies on the success of conservation and sustainability programs. It is also important to explore how interventions specifically designed to empower women can influence natural resource management practices and environmental policies at different levels of government. This further research could include case studies in different countries to understand different cultural dynamics and how these influence the effectiveness of ecofeminism in environmental policy and practice.

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