

“A Study on Vandana Shiva’s book Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development”

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Abstract: *In the Indian framework, several Ecofeminists have appreciated that the subjects of woman's liberation should not be reduced to the contradictions between man and woman. For almost two decades feminists have successfully used the lens of gender to critique the extent to which androcentric bias has distorted the theory and practice of science. To liberate, the woman needs to empower herself to confront different institutional structures and cultural practices that subject herself to patriarchal domination and control. Vandana Shiva producing a body of Indian Ecofeminism that is committed to feminist and social issues. It is through the mind of central analysis of book Vandana Shiva’s book Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development to the fundamental concept of ecofeminism. She criticized the basic concept of the development in ecofeminism, neglected modern science, and economics-based development.*

Key Words: *Ecofeminism, Vandana Shiva, Ecology, Staying Alive, Women.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Vandana Shiva is reflected as one of the environmental activists and radical scientists in the world. She has spent her life advocating diversity and indigenous knowledge. She wrote many books about agriculture and food. She was involved in many campaigns against the development of agriculture through genetic modification. She also got the "Right Livelihood Award" in 1993 which is also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize. She characterizes an affiliation among development, ecology, and women and relates nature with women, alluding that the death of nature is the death of women.

Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development is one of the best books written by Vandana Shiva. She is an environmental activist, physicist, and anti-globalization advocate. Despite her popularity as an author, there are very few analyses of Vandana Shiva's eco-feminism. To better understand somewhere, she was coming from with all this, I absolutely to recite her book Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development. Staying alive by Vandana Shiva is remarkable not only for it contains or matter but also its Method of presenting the matter of the book. In that book, she evaluates consumerism and the reductionist science of modern Western scientific framing. This book discusses the feminist perspective in the human interaction with nature. She looks at the history of the development and talks about how it's not neutral and biased towards men. She also called this development mal-development which did not respect diversity, She expresses that how colonization, patriarchy, ecological crisis, and oppression of women have a strong link together. Interconnection and the interdependent nature of the environment instead led to the foundation for exploitation, injustice, and inequality. This book is very important to understand how women played a significant role in the past and also provide the history of the long struggle of women for the environment. At the beginning of the book, she interrogations the basic concept of the development of ecofeminism. She deserted modern science and economics-based development.

The author maintained that this development is not developing the society, history of development details the destruction of nature, women, and culture for which third world women, tribal and peasants are still fighting, modern science and economics assumptions of the western patriarch, ecology and created misbalance in nature. Shiva describes the development of science and economic progress as the patriarchal men displace women and nature from the productive work. The author talked about the reductionist nature of modern science and economics which are also violent to women and nature. The author provided the evidence to prove that survival of the mankind is much more about the human gathering than man as the hunter. They wrecked the traditional intimate relationship between human life and nature. She points out that people have preserved and continued nature with their traditional knowledge, system the holistic and ecological knowledge of nature. The feminine principle is a response to all the deprivation and domination of women. In comeback to that, many ecological movements were led by women. She further described two prototypes of the women one is the life-enhancing paradigm that appears from the feminine principle and talked about sustainability and the other is life-destroying which only cares about profit maximization. It was deliberated that women

have a very important role in food gathering due to provide fodder for livestock, forest feeds them wood for burning, and many herbs for medicinal use. She named modern scientific thinking reductionist thinking and always use synonyms like patriarchal and colonialism. She directly denies modern science by saying reductionist hence denies our all achievements.

This book affords to look for the gender issues in the ecological context, a very different context of the development, the intimate connection of the women and forest. In that book very nicely presents women's roles and women's struggles in environmental issues. Vandana Shiva tries to create a space for the voices of the third-world country in a radical way. The author talks about respect the traditions and practices of the indigenous community. She put this point evidently and that we should not directly deny the traditional practices without proper research and should not impose a model for all the world. While reading the book I found that ecofeminism is very conservative and radical. She tries to romanticize the life of women and tribes as an ideal without any miseries and also emphasizes that we should follow their living style.

2. CONCLUSION:

Vandana shiva exhibited a representation that the problems faced by the women and tribal are created by men as an idea of the development. She establishes that all the environmental crisis has their root in modern science and economic thinking which is not true at all. She described a book about how male history writing excludes women's economic and scientific contribution, water crisis which is threatening the survival of animals, plants as well as human life. This research paper aims to focus on Ecofeminism tradition and the status of women in the Present context. This novel has been examined through her views from an ecological and feminist perspective. This is why it came out as an inspiration for the researcher to work on it.

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