A GLIMPSE AT WOMEN-LED ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

Dr. Kavita Singh* and Prof. Harpreet Kaur

ABSTRACT:

Global resource depletion increases the likelihood of ultimate exhaustion. The worldwide scientific and political communities are increasingly emphasising the importance of development that protects the environment, promotes social cohesion, and fosters cultural advancement. As technology progresses, the interaction between women and nature becomes more obvious. As a result, the article will offer basic information about women and the environment while advocating for environmental protection. Furthermore, this review paper emphasizes the significance of women participating in the environmental movement, a good trend. We shall explore the implications of previous research for women’s empowerment as they engage with environmental and cultural problems across the world on this page. The current research also focuses on local environmental movements in the Indian subcontinent led by notable female ecologists. Furthermore, education is essential for long-term sustainability in various social, economic, and cultural settings throughout the globe. The broader public’s access to education is also essential.

KEYWORDS: Women, Environment, Sustainable Development, Environmental Movement, Education

INTRODUCTION:

A person’s environment includes all around him/her, whether on the earth’s surface or below the earth. Albert Einstein defined “environment” as “anything that is not oneself.” “The environment includes everything but the individual’s DNA,” Wordsworth wrote. Douglass and Holland define environment as “all external elements, influence the situations that affect the behavior, nature, life, growth, development, and adulthood of living organisms.” External or cultural, economic, educational, physical, religious, and social variables affect an organism’s growth and development.

Women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation because they play a critical and indispensable role in family and community resource management. Women globally manage water, energy, and food resources, as well as forests and agricultural land.
Interest in women and their relationship to the environment increased in the early 1960s due to Esther Boserup’s book, "Woman's Role in Economic Development." Politicians and governments started to realize the link between environmental and gender issues in the 1960s. Changes in natural resource and environmental management began as a direct result of women’s distinctive position. According to the Environment Bank, “W[omen play a critical role in managing natural resources, including land, forests, energy, and water, and often possess the extensive historical and current understanding of the natural environment.” Women have historically been overlooked or neglected, but increasing attention has been given to women's influence on the natural environment and, in turn, the environment's impact on women's health and well-being. Gender-environment interactions have a profound effect on men and women's views of nature, resource management, allocation, and people's everyday lives and well-being.

Women are essential since they make up half the world’s population. Programs for women are many. In these programs, women are empowered, and communities are made self-sufficient. “Sustainable development” was the new approach. Environmentally sustainable development needs public participation in the purchase, installation, and maintenance of advanced technologies. Global environmental degradation may be halted in the following decades with significant legislative and behavioral reforms. Participants in decision-making processes must be empowered and engaged. Next, education is essential in many social, economic, and cultural contexts. Moreover, protests, marches, and suicide fasts are used to raise awareness.

The campaigns use education and campaigning to combat poverty, pollution, and injustice on social justice. Population expansion has harmed animals. Oppose robot trawlers. Recently, the media has emphasized mass mobilization. The most common forms of protest are marches and barricades. The environmental movement spans science, society, and politics. Environmentalists have been mocked, imprisoned, and even killed.

Women constitute about half of the global community, and their contributions to growth cannot be ignored. 90% of third-world women rely on the land for their livelihood. According to UNEP, this connection will be emphasized when countries gather later this year to assess progress toward the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). Rahman (2003) asserts that women’s position as main dependents rely upon their fulfilled reproductive responsibilities. Women are the poorest people - not only in terms of financial resources but in every significant indicator of progress.

Women in Africa are the primary keepers of local knowledge, especially when it comes to natural resource conservation, management, and food preparation. Despite advances in agricultural methods, women continue to face difficulties due to pesticides and fertilizer contact. Excessive pesticide use degrades soil fertility, pollutes the drainage system, and decimates commercial fisheries.

In the report “Our Common Future,” WCED (The World Commission on Environment and Development), chaired by G. H. Brundtland, coined “Sustainable Development.” According to the Commission, sustainable development is “growth that meets present needs without jeopardizing future generations’ ability to meet their own.” It is a concept that can foster more political agreement and one that the international community should embrace. In a developing country, sustainable development must result in inequitable economic and social growth with little or no environmental
damage. Conscientious and informed citizens have the potential to create a sustainable community.

We should not think of the planet as a gift from our ancestors or mothers, but rather as a legacy from our children and future generations to come. Significant adjustments in policy and behavior will be required to halt environmental degradation. The welfare of communities is critical for achieving eco-development via ecological, economic principles, and gender equality. Decentralized governance needs people to be empowered, engaged, and actively involved in decision-making processes. Education is essential for achieving sustainability across a spectrum of social, cultural, and economic settings. It provides information, insight, and comprehension while highlighting the importance of ethics and morality.

Human existence is dependent on the environment, which must be protected. Regardless of this, natural resources are exploited in many ways. To preserve the environment, people have turned to nonviolent action campaigns. Environmental movements, according to T. Yanki (2005), are social movements. They are affected by the limitations and possibilities imposed by national politics.

Collective activity has meaning and value because it is comprehended, assigned, and socially constructed. Individuals who are dissatisfied with some element of their life may gain optimism that their issues may be resolved via collaboration. Without appropriate framing, people are reluctant to act even when presented with chances to do so. Social movements seek to change society and politics fundamentally.

Since the 1920s, when people rebelled against the commercialization of natural resources, environmental preservation has been a priority in India. Many events demonstrated the increasing worldwide importance of environmental catastrophes. In 1973, the Indian government announced the start of Project Tiger, a dedicated conservation initiative focused on preserving the country’s wildlife. The Department of Environment was recognized in 1980, followed by a developed Ministry of Environment and Forests five years later (MOEFCC). The contemporary environmental movement grew out of more traditional environmentalism that flourished in the early twentieth century.

Conservationists such as T. Roosevelt and G. Pinchot emphasized the need to conserve and efficiently utilizing natural resources. The post-1945 economy raised awareness of the environmental consequences of economic development, but it also conditioned more prosperous Americans to anticipate a higher standard of living. After WWII, preservationism grew in prominence in the United States, spearheaded by John Muir and Edward Leopold. While environmentalists’ objectives included preservation, the movement’s agenda was far broader and more varied. Environmental organizations communicate with the government via various tactics, including rallies, marches, blockades, arrests, strikes, suicide fasts, and public demonstrations.

Environmental education has been critical to the human species’ existence on the earth for millennia. As a member of a gatherer-hunter society, we were expected to learn about the weather, climate, plants, animals, geography, and other natural components, as well as other facets of daily life. In the late 1960s, modern environmental groups started to emerge in the world’s wealthy nations.
WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS:

A strong bond prevails between women and the environment through everyday interactions. Dr. Karve, a women’s rights activist, summed up the inextricable connection between women and national development when he said, “If you educate a man, you teach an individual; if you educate a woman, you educate the whole family” (by Dr. Karve). Women’s contributions to development must not be underestimated. Current global experiences show a strong connection between women’s education and development, especially in emerging nations.

Women’s advancement is inextricably linked to national advancement. Both government and non-governmental organizations have created women’s development programs. The programs prioritize equitable opportunity for women through eliminating gender prejudice, empowerment, and encouraging self-sufficiency. It emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach, encircling health, education, and work. These got momentum as a result of all the community reports on the status of women in India.

“My environment is the bedrock of my economy and life as a whole. My sustenance comes from the land.” It is a well-known statement attributed to Dankelman and Davidson (1988). It was found in 2005 that there is a strong link between the environment and women. UNEP’s Klaus Toepfer predicted in a report on International Women’s Day (March 8th, 2005) that the link will be emphasized when nations meet later in 2006 to evaluate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (Nasrin, 2012).

We should regulate our environment and the effect of environmental change on people, particularly women. Ninety percent of women in developing countries subsist on agriculture (Dankelman and Davidson, 1988). According to agricultural activities, the women workforce into two groups by Boserup (Boserup, 1970). The first is widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, where females do most agricultural work. Boserup (1970) asserts that this is a feminine farming technique. Women’s status is defined in this system by their participation in production; “They often enjoy considerable freedom of movement and financial independence from the market of their goods.” (1970, Boserup). Women are also visible in this organization (Nasrin, 2012).

The second kind of female’s seen in South and West Asia. They work in agriculture at a lower rate than men. According to Rahman (2003), women’s primary dependent status is contingent upon their reproductive obligations. Islam (1993) cited Shiva’s (1988) and Mies’ (1993) writings on women and the environment (1988). There is a link via an organic growth process in which women and mother nature cooperate. The method is summarized below (Mies, 1988):

1. Women’s relationships with nature, both internal and external, are reciprocal. They consider their bodies as producing, just as they regard peripheral nature as creative.
2. While women’s acceptable nature, their appropriation of the peripheral world does not include either dominance or property. Women do not own their bodies or the land; instead, they work with both to enable and promote development.
Women are the poorest people regarding financial resources and every other significant development measure (Jahan, 2008). Women have a vital part in environmental management as farmers, stockbreeders, and providers of fuel and water (UNEP & TERI, 1999). Thailand’s forest dwellers weave a bamboo wrap over the umbilical cord and placenta to protect them and secure them to holy trees. This tree was never cut down. It serves as a metaphor for man’s relationship with nature. It is essential to highlight that the link between women and the environment is less visible in the West since most women do not have a direct connection to the source of their food, energy, and water (Nasrin, 2012).

The connection between women and the environment has been more apparent in the recent years. Women’s contributions to environmental issues have long been documented since they manage natural resources daily, care for the environment, and make choices regarding family consumption and production patterns. However, environmental degradation has exacerbated the difficulty of many of these activities. According to data, women make up most “low-income groups” and are often victims of poverty and environmental degradation (Nasrin, 2012). When natural resources are abundant, women face many obstacles. Phil Franks, CARE’s poverty and environment advisor, was worried that the adverse effects of natural resource depletion and degradation disproportionately affected women, compounding their already extensive farm duties and roles in families and communities. Jahan (2008) recognized that when her finances dwindle, her responsibilities grow. Women are the leading guardians of native knowledge in Africa, particularly when it comes to natural resource preservation, management, and food preparation. Denkelman and Davidson (1988) characterized women’s perspective in this situation by saying that women recognize that involvement in contemporary agricultural technology jeopardizes their only means of subsistence control (Nasrin, 2012).

“When the government of Tanzania sent new hybrid maize seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to males, the women who did most fieldwork disregarded the new crop. Although women labored more than men on the previous harvest, profits from the new crop were typically reserved for males.” Rural women in many countries were initially reluctant to embrace the new hybrid due to its unpleasant taste, increased labor requirements for preparation and cooking, storage, and reliance on the market for seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Despite advancements in agricultural technology that have increased production, women suffer from pesticide and fertilizer exposure, posing severe health concerns. In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discovered that women had significantly higher 10 of the 116 dangerous chemicals tested in their bodies than men. Excessive agrochemicals, especially pesticides, degrade soil fertility, pollutes waterways, and decimates catch fisheries (Nasrin, 2012).

WOMEN, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

WCED (The World Commission on Environment and Development), chaired by G. H. Brundtland, created “sustainable development” in the report “Our Common Future.” The Commission defines sustainable development as “growth that satisfies current demands without jeopardizing future generations’ capacity to satisfy their own” (Nayak and Kanungo, 1993). It is a notion that can promote more political consensus and one that the international society should encourage. It is an all-encompassing term that encompasses both socio-economic growths.
According to the Chamber’s Dictionary, sustainability is “the degree to which the planet’s resources may be used without causing harm.” Maintaining implies sustaining life, providing for life, and guaranteeing without fail (The Oxford English Dictionary).

As Prasad (1990) said in his opening speech that “a radically new approach to environment and development is needed, one capable of predicting and presenting, or at the very least reducing, environmental harm connected with every significant development initiative” at the Third International Conference on Environment Education in Goa, India.

Simply put, this refers to environmentally friendly progress. “Our Common Future,” a report of the WCED (World Commission on Environment and Development), sets the following requirements for attaining sustainable development:

A political framework that allows people to participate effectively in decision-making.
A self-sustaining economic system that generates surplus and technical knowledge.
A social system that deals with the conflicts that arise as a consequence of discordant development. A manufacturing system that recognizes the need to preserve the ecological grounds for development.
A technical system that is always looking for new answers.
An international framework that supports long-term economic and financial trends.
A self-correcting administrative system that is adaptable.

Sustainable development is not a top-down model that can have implementation. Unlike sophisticated technology, which can be implemented and maintained without substantial community engagement, any plan for environmentally sustainable growth requires people’s awareness, help, and active participation. Thus, motivation and participation should be the main goals of environmental education for sustainable development to take action in their communities and ensure environmental protection and management (Jala, 1989). By and large, nature, education for women, and progress are the cornerstones upon which man’s existence on earth is founded (Nikolaou et al., 2019).

Individuals are the driving force behind environmental degradation. The majority of problems may be addressed if a person believes in necessity rather than greed, in comfort rather than luxury, and examines what makes a happy existence. An individual may help by, for example, utilizing biodegradable locally available materials (rather than plastics), changing the temperature of faucets, planting trees, segregating trash, collecting rainwater, reusing and recycling wastes, growing organic food, using public transportation rather than driving a personal car, and avoiding the use of crackers and chemical paints during festivals. Citizens who are responsible and well-informed have the potential to create a sustainable community. Thus, a sustainable individual lifestyle may lead to a sustainable community, nation, and, ultimately, a sustainable planet. We should not see the world as a bequest from our forefathers. It was a gift from our children.
Human behavior toward environmental systems is what keeps us all alive on this planet. As a result, the future is very much within our reach. Humanity can reverse the degradation of natural resources and the environment in the following decades, but significant changes in policy and behavior will be required.

Sustainable development must result from inequitable economic and social growth with minimal or no environmental damage in a developing country. Village welfare via ecological, financially viable values and gender equality and access to health care, livelihoods, education, credit, and decision-making is significant to achieving eco-development (Kyoto, 1998). Decentralized governance necessitates people’s empowerment, involvement, and active participation in decision-making processes.

Education is the essential input for attaining sustainability in various social, economic, and cultural settings. It supplies a person with knowledge, information, and understanding while emphasizing ethics and morals, resulting in human thinking and behavior (Testing, 1996).

Peace, human rights, gender equality, child protection, employment opportunities, safe housing and sanitation, universal education, food and nutrition, and, most crucially, a stable population are required for sustainable development (Anonymous, 2002). As a result, a country’s capacity to develop sustainably depends on its people’s understanding of the intricacies of human-environment interaction and their eco-friendliness. As prominent environmental educators for young children, women may influence behavior modification, resulting in cost savings in food, water, energy consumption, and preserving natural resources and biodiversity (Dash, 2005). They may instill a rational and forward-thinking attitude and values in future generations.

**Work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Women and the Environment**

“Life is a whole; it is a circle. That which destroys the circle should be stopped. That which maintains the circle should be strengthened and nurtured.” – UNEP in 2004 (Nasrin, 2012)

This comment is unique to everyone and is from the UNEP evaluation (2004). According to Dankelman and Davidson, women’s standing has worsened (1988). West colonialism, third-world countries’ increasing reliance on the Western Monetary system, technical advancements such as agricultural modernization, more global severe labor, and religious extremism have all added to the challenges faced by women. Among them, the most recent threat to women is environmental degradation. Toxic contamination, natural resource depletion, water depletion, food and work, and the displacement of traditional regions contribute to widespread human suffering in emerging countries. Environmental movements are mainly focusing on these issues. Many institutions address the needs of women who are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. IUCN, UNEP, and FAO are all active participants in raising awareness of women’s critical environmental role. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) work on Women and the Environment is summed up in Table 1 (Nasrin, 2012). The World Bank (2002) recognized in reading that gender equality is critical to long-term growth. An Agenda-21 Action Plan was established, which recognized the importance of women in environmental protection. Another requirement was for the creation, by 1995, of national,
regional, and global work to assess the effect of the environment on women’s development. Women attended lectures, shared their experiences, and voiced their concerns about environmental degradation. The significance of women in environmental conservation, in particular, was documented on a national level via the campaigning of feminist organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They encouraged women and emphasized women’s special role and unique voice regarding environmental and health issues. Women have been engaged in advocating their rights to develop a vibrant society by establishing change networks. They also encouraged community action by increasing women’s awareness of social, environmental, educational, and political problems.

Enviro-Movements as a Concept:

The environment is critical to human survival, and people must do all they can to protect it. Atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, forests, and minerals are some of the most critical resources we rely on for survival. People must protect natural resources by ensuring their use does not pollute or destroy them. Despite this, natural resources are being exploited in various ways, including habitat destruction, water contamination, air quality, and deforestation. All of these activities harm the ecosystem. People who are concerned about environmental issues are working hard to recover the environment. People have resorted to nonviolent action campaigns to protect the environment (Kalland and Persoon, 2013).

Globally, people were becoming increasingly aware of and worried about the environmental crisis. As a result, angry communities and concerned citizens have gone to the streets. The Bhopal Gas Disaster (1984), the Chernobyl Nuclear accident in Russia (1986), the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (1989), and the Gulf War in the early 1990s are just a few instances.

The environmental movement is global, with large and small organizations, and it differs by nation. The environmental movement’s goals are not always united because of its large membership, varied politics, and sometimes theoretical nature. The movement includes other movements, such as the climate movement. The movement involves a diverse variety of people and organizations.

Environmental movements “involve various people, organizations, and coalitions” to change environmental laws and practices (Yanki, 2005). According to Yanki (2005), enviro-movements are social movements. To encourage sustainable resource management, environmentalists pushed for improvements in public policy and individual behavior. The environmental, health and human rights issues are central to the campaign.

Three components interact dynamically to produce social movements. First, social movements are influenced by national political constraints and opportunities. A nationwide political system’s institutionalized structure and power relations are evaluated for their relative permeability or closure, the stability of the polity’s elite alignments, elite associates for a specific social movement, and the state’s capability for and proclivity for oppression. Second, both informal and formal administrative resources are required to mobilize and sustain collective action.
A social craze: Pre-existing organizations, such as informal networks, volunteer organizations, and religious groups, may contribute to the movement’s resources. Variables such as the kind of social movement are required. A society’s organizational culture may have an impact on social movements.

Third, it has meaning and value since collective action is understood, ascribed, and socially created. People unhappy with some aspect of their lives may become more hopeful that they may fix their problems by working together. People are unlikely to act even when given opportunities without proper framing (Yanki 2005).

Several academics and intellectuals elaborated on the environmental movement.

“Deliberate social action focused at enhancing the sustainable use of resources,” according to Christopher Rootes, is what environmental movements are all about. The resources available for preventing or correcting environmental deterioration, “Ecology is the study of the environment. Movements are enormous networks of individuals and organizations working together to achieve environmental goals. Environmental movements are diverse and varied, with management systems ranging from highly structured and institutionalized to radically casual. There are many different topics that they are interested in, ranging from a single subject to the entire spectrum of global ecological concerns. By including all levels and manifestations of the environmental movement, we may explore the links between them (Christopher, R.: 1999: 2).”

According to P. Almeida and L. B. Stearns (1998), collaborative action is characterized as follows:
1. Movements at the grassroots level
2. Social uprising
3. A cycle of protest

Local Grassroots Environmental Movements (LGEMs) fight particular contaminants in specific areas. Local Grassroots Environmental Movements have specific pollution-related goals. A social movement is a broader battle that includes both formal and loosely linked networks. The goal of social movements is to alter society and politics radically. The word cycle refers to heightened protest by various social movements from different geographical areas and socio-economic classes. It is critical to understand the political atmosphere in which a Local Grassroots Environmental movement operates.

The contemporary environmental movement distinguished itself from an earlier type of environmentalism, often referred to as conservationism, that flourished in the early decades of the twentieth century. Conservationists such as T. Roosevelt and G. Pinchot emphasized the prudent and effective use of natural resources. Not out of concern for the management of natural resources for future growth, but as a consumer movement demanding a safe, clean, and attractive environment as part of a better quality of life.
The growing post-1945 economy extended knowledge of the environmental consequences of economic development, but it also prompted more affluent Americans to demand a higher standard of living. Environmentalists resorted to political action to preserve the planet because the free market could not meet the need for a safer, cleaner, and more attractive environment to enhance people’s quality of life. Nonetheless, the conservationist movement’s preservationist wing was a significant precursor to the contemporary environ-movement. J. Muir of the Sierra Club and A. Leopold of the Wilderness Society believed that natural areas such as woods and rivers were a source of economic growth and aesthetically pleasing resources. As a result, they argued that the government ought to save attractive natural areas from development by creating national parks. Many Americans acquired the financial means to enjoy outdoor leisure activities and visit national parks after World War II. As a result of Muir and Leopold, preservationism became a popular movement.

Women Environmentalists in a Global Context

The twentieth century saw the emergence of the feminist movement. While the first emerged far earlier than environmentalism, it was not until the twentieth century, particularly the 1960s, that the women’s movement recognized itself as a global force. Everyone believes they have participated in and contributed to significant environ-movements in a variety of nations. Contributions of Leading Women Environmentalists in a global context are listed in Table 2 (Nasrin 2012) (Report of the UNEP and TERI, 1999: p.3).

Women have a critical role in family and community natural resource management, and they are adversely affected by environmental degradation. Women control the world’s water, energy, food resources, and forests, and agricultural land. The environmental movement (alternatively called ecology) is a broad logical, social, and political movement concerned with ecological issues. It encompasses conservation and environmental politics. In response to air and water pollution worries, the modern environmental movement began in the 1960s and has since grown to include all landscapes and human activities.

Since its humble beginnings, the environmental movement has benefited from scientists, academics, mothers, authors, and women. Women have been ridiculed, ostracised, imprisoned, and even assassinated to push for environmental change, yet they continue to fight. Women are leading the charge in supporting the global environmental movement. We are up to the task of exploring the world’s oceans or conserving the Amazon.

The Origins of India’s Environmental Movements

Environmental conservation in India “goes back to the early 20th century, when people opposed the privatization of natural forests during the Spanish colonial administration.” (Geetanjay, S. 2007). According to the report, “in the 1970s, a coherent and reasonably organized knowledge of the environmental effect of state-monolithic growth began to emerge, eventually maturing into a full-fledged grasp of the finite natural world of natural resources and the need to avoid their depletion.”
Four significant events highlighted the increasing importance of environmental catastrophe on a worldwide scale. The inaugural event took place in Stockholm, Sweden, during the United Nations Conference on the ‘Human Environment’ (1972). The second occasion was the release of the report “Limits to Growth.” The third is the publication of the Brundtland Commission’s report, ‘Our Common Future’ (1987). The fourth event was the 1992 ‘Earth Summit.’ (S. A. Salunkhe, 2008).

Ramchandra, G. (1997) details three events that happened in India in 1973 that accelerated the debate of environmental problems in the country:

The Indian government announced the start of Project Tiger in April, a dedicated conservation effort focused on safeguarding the country’s national animal. Indian conservationists, aided and encouraged by international organizations such as the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), was instrumental in pressuring the government to establish a network of national parks and sanctuaries throughout the country to protect rare wildlife.

Second, the publication of an article titled ‘A Charter for the Land’ in Economic and Political Weekly on March 31st, 1973, by B. B. Vora, a senior official in the ministry of agriculture, called attention to the extent of erosion, waterlogging, and other forms of land degradation in the country. The Department of Environment was established in 1980, followed by a complete Ministry of Environment and Forests five years later.

Thirdly, on March 27th, 1973, in Mandal, a remote Himalayan hamlet, a group of peasants successfully prevented a party of loggers from cutting a stand of trees by embracing the trees. This incident sparked many demonstrations during the 1970s, together dubbed the “Chipko” movement. This movement highlighted fundamental issues of environment, fairness, and social justice and sparked vigorous discussion and action throughout the nation.

While preservation was an essential component of environmentalism’s objectives, the movement’s agenda was far broader and more varied. While preservationists emphasized protecting specifically designated non-residential areas, environmentalists focused on the environment’s impact on everyday living.

Different Protests: Environmental organizations employ a variety of tactics, including demonstrations, marches, blockades, arrests, strikes, suicide fasts, and public protests. Environmentalism has taken various forms of demonstrations. Some examples are Senapati Bapat’s Muslim Satyagraha against the construction of a dam Kuntipuna river in 1921, Narmada Bachao Andolan activists led by Medha Petkar’s Jal Samadhis in the Narmada protest or Sunderlal Bhugana’s Fast unto Death, or the damage of mono-crop plantations by the ‘Mannu Rakshna Koota Campaigns such as ‘Save the Nilgiris,’ ‘Save the Western Ghats,’ and ‘Save the Shivaliks.’ From Kashmir to Kohima. Sunderlal Bahugana conducted a major Padyatra. Numerous organizations, including the Dam Displacement Organization, the National Local fishermen Forum, and Sarva Seva Sangh, have embarked on these Padyatras to reach out to the government.
Table 3 depicts Environmental movements and notable female leaders in India that have made a difference. In India, the environmental movements are shown in Figure 1. It is a quote from Karan, P. P. (1994): Ecological Movements in India, published by the American Geography Society.

IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION:

Since the dawn of time, environmental education has been recognized as critical to the long-term survival of the human race on our planet. Being a part of a semi-nomadic culture included knowing about the weather, geography, climate, plants, animals, and other elements of nature, other elements of daily life, and other components of everyday life. Besides direct personal experience, most of this material gleaning through orally transmitted knowledge, formal schooling, rituals, and other aspects of culture held near the heart.

The modern environmental movements began to develop in the affluent countries of the world in the late 1960s. It is a social movement concerned with various environmental problems, such as pollution and the destruction of natural ecosystems, among others. The environmental movement has, for the most part, been treated like any other social movement. For the most part, the relationship between the environmental movement and education is one of internalization. The environment-linked movement is a deliberate effort to raise awareness of how natural environments function, mainly how people may control their behavior and ecosystems to live more sustainably.

The environment is a priority for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which states that it. This movement is essential for fostering an appreciation for nature in society and raising public awareness of the environment. Promoting environmental preservation via environmental-related movements and improving Societal Quality of Life (SQOL) is possible. It is possible to relieve poverty. Unequal distribution of wealth and development may be minimized, and sustainable development can be accomplished.

The environmental movement is a global movement that comprises diverse groups ranging from large to grassroots organizations, and it differs from nation to country. Educating people about the value of nature may help them better understand its significance. It can be accomplished by examining the cause-effect relationship from an interdisciplinary perspective and drawing on ideas from different educational research studies. The consequence is that individuals have an urgent duty to needed protection for their well-being, the glory of God’s name, and the conservation of the whole creation. Humans are the standard by which all else is assessed and judged more than any other species in the world.

Summary

The environment must be repaired and preserved, and this will involve a worldwide movement toward sustainability at all levels of society, from the grassroots to the international level. Winning the battle for long-term viability requires the participation of women who are both essential and experienced participants. Environmental advocacy organizations have the opportunity to speak out strongly about the links between women and the environment and fight to preserve their lives, and establish human rights for women and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, they may contribute to the
advancement of women and the protection of the environment. They may be able to analyze the aches, tragedies, and sufferings of millions of women by bringing their lobbying efforts to the globe’s attention. By educating and sensitizing the public to environmental activism for women, the media may play an essential role in this growing field of environmental activism for women. National policies on women and the environment must consider the consequences of environmental deterioration and begin planning suitable solutions.

Additionally, women’s knowledge of the location, dependability, and high-quality natural resources is critical. Without women, food security is impossible. Women should be mainstreamed in natural resource development and management, and their expertise acquired as resource manager, decision-maker, sufferer, water manager, fuel manager, and forest friend at the home and community levels should be appropriately used. Government interventions and lobbying efforts would assist women in developing new strategies for overcoming these obstacles, thus ushering in a new era of sustainable development.

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