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AN ECOFEMINIST READING OF ARUNDHATI ROY'S "THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS", GITA MEHTA'S NOVEL "A RIVER SUTRA" AND SARAH JOSEPH'S "GIFT IN GREEN"

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Abstract

Purpose: This literature analysis aims to explore the subtle ecofeminist undertones found in the works of Arundhati Roy, "The God of Small Things" Gita Mehta's, "A River Sutra," as well as Sarah Joseph's "Gift in Green." The objective is to examine the ways in which these novels blend ecological and feminist issues, exposing the writers' viewpoints on the relationship between gender and the environment. The critical movement known as Ecofeminism advocates the notion that women are inherently linked to the environment. According to this idea, women's subjugation and oppression are equivalent to the exploitation and deterioration of the natural world via the lens of ecology and feminine hood.

Design/ Approach: The Review of Literature makes use of secondary data that was found on instructional websites and in printed publications. To determine the research gap, researcher used resources such as Google Scholar, Research Gate, SSRN, Elsevier, Academia, and Shodhganga. The study makes use of websites and doctoral thesis. Qualitative research is conducted using the keywords "ecofeminism, ecocriticism, women and nature, environment degradation, river" that may be found in internet articles, peer-reviewed journals, publications, and a number of linked portals. Qualitative analysis is done including close reading, interpreting, comparing and contrasting the primary sources chosen for the study. Critical Essays on Ecofeminism and novels with ecofeminist approach will also be incorporated to conduct the research.

Findings:

- Symbolism of Nature in Arundhati Roy's "The God of Small Things": Roy uses the river and surrounding scenery as metaphors to illustrate how women and the natural world are exploited.

Critique of Commodification: The book criticizes the environment's and women's bodies' commodification.

- The book "Gift in Green" by Sarah Joseph examines the connections between environmental concerns and women's rights within the sociopolitical framework of Kerala.

Impact of Development: Emphasizes how women and the environment are affected by development.

- "A River Sutra" by Gita Mehta explores Diverse relationships: Explores various interactions that exist between people and their surroundings.

Spiritual Links: Examines the emotional and spiritual ties that exist between women and the natural world.

Originality/Value: The goal of ecofeminist literature is to demonstrate how the idea of ecofeminism may be used to explain the key gender and environmental crises that confront us every day. Ecofeminism makes observations about the relationship between humans and nature and promotes a caring ethic that is beneficial to the welfare of both humans and animals. The remedies provided by an ecofeminist ethics aid in negotiating a voice and space for the marginalized. The patriarchal societal mindset leads to the dominance and exploitation of nature and women. Thus, it is impossible to address the ecological catastrophe without also addressing patriarchy. Ecofeminism provides a critique of popular social movements in this way. The novels with ecofeminist approach focus on Women and Nature's Relationship. The interaction between nature and the feminine is central to ecofeminist studies. According to ecofeminism, women and nature are inextricably linked. The study aims to demonstrate how an ecofeminist approach might undermine the patriarchal society's dual dominance of women and nature. The relationship between all forms of oppression and how they are portrayed in the chosen texts will be examined through the lens of ecofeminist theory. Examining the elements of oppressive conceptual frameworks that are hidden behind the exploitation of women, the environment, and animals is the main objective of the project. Through exposing unequal gender relations, dispossession of indigenous people, and monetization of nature, the novels expose the faults of hierarchical thinking. These books envision a robust social structure founded on the ecofeminist value of interdependence.

Paper type: Analytical research type

Keywords: ecofeminism, ecocriticism, women and nature, environment degradation, river.

1. Introduction: The goal of the study is to examine how women and the natural world are portrayed in the selected writings of three Indian authors. The close study of the books by Sarah Joseph, Arundhati Roy, and Gita Mehta tends to highlight how oppression of women and the natural world occurs in conjunction with patriarchal societies. The study analyses the dominant structures as they are presented in the Novels using the theory of Ecofeminism. It also examines the writers' attempts to challenge the exploitation and dominance of marginalized groups, wildlife, and the natural world. These authors, who show how all kinds of dominance are interconnected, have challenged the persistence of individualistic values in a society ruled by men. A cultural response to gender discrimination and environmental exploitation, ecofeminist literature blends feminist and ecological viewpoints. Both feminist and environmental movements have vigorously discussed the idea and practice of ecofeminism. Ecofeminism tackles gender issues as well as environmental issues impacting women, children, people of colour, and the marginalized by fusing environmentalism and feminism. The literature of ecofeminism critiques both gender and the environment. The select novels serve as instances of resistance to racism, oppression, land grabs, and the needless depletion of natural resources. When analysing the materials provided, an ecofeminist viewpoint aids in dismantling the ways in which oppressive structures operate.

2. Aims and Objectives of the study:

- (1) Examine the Ways in Which Female Characters Are Represented: Look into the ways in which female characters are portrayed in relation to the environment and nature in the chosen novels.
- (2) Determine Themes of Ecofeminism: Find recurrent ecofeminist patterns and themes in the character interactions and story structure.
- (3) Explore broader implications: Analyse how these ecofeminist readings affect larger environmental and sociocultural discourses.
- (4) Attempt to provide a substantive and democratic substitute for nature's and women's sustenance.
- (5) To draw attention to the writers' ecological worries and shed light on how a writer's sincere concerns can be used to support the cause of women's and nature's sustainable survival.

(6) A new understanding of human-nonhuman interaction to be gained from the study that enables to develop an ethic of care towards animals.

3. Methodology: The study employs a qualitative methodology that combines thematic analysis and careful reading. Comparative analysis will be used to identify the similarities and contrasts in the three novels' ecofeminist themes. The essential theoretical basis for ecofeminism and literary criticism will be found in secondary sources.

4. Literature review: The two venerable and oppressed objects in the world—the environment and women—are the subjects of ecofeminism. Despite appearing to be a new hypothesis, it is rooted in ancient references, as women and nature are frequently contrasted in literature from nearly everywhere in the globe. Thus, the idea of ecofeminism is born and grows to be a prominent area of literary research. As the world demands, it helps people to respect and preserve both women and the natural world. This literary study instructs individuals to act sensibly so as not to harm women and the environment, in contrast to other aesthetic studies that simply offer pleasure and calm. Instead, it primarily raises awareness of the flawed world and the chaotic state of the present.

4.1 Ecofeminism: Ecofeminism brings together the elements of the feminist and the green movement, while at the same time offering a challenge to the both. The term Ecofeminism was first coined by the French Feminist Francoise d'Eaubonne in her book *Le féminisme ou la mort* in 1974. It borrows from feminism the idea that humankind is gendered in ways that oppress, subjugate, and exploit women, as well as from the green movement a concern about how human activity affects the non-human world. One of the main subcategories of feminism is ecological feminism, or ecofeminism, which examines the relationship between women and the environment. The phrase "Ecofeminism," which emphasizes that the patriarchal society destroys both women and nature, was coined by the French feminist Francoise d'Eaubonne. In the past, ecofeminists have battled against the devastation of nature and raised awareness of the unequal status of women and the environment as a result of the domination of male-centered culture. They fiercely criticize the male-chauvinist culture for treating women and the natural world like objects. It addresses issues like as gender inequality and the exploitation of nature, in addition to the spiritual bond between women and the natural world.

4.2 Selected Ecofeminist Novels in Indian English Literature:

“The God of small things” by Arundhati Roy [1]:

Arundhati Roy's deep and complex book "The God of Small Things" examines the nuances of family, love, and social conventions against the backdrop of post-colonial India. Rahel and Estha, the twin twins, serve as the narrative's eyes, and it centres on the horrific experiences they had as children and how those events affected them later in life. Roy has a non-linear narrative style that jumps around in time, giving the plot several levels of intricacy. The story is made more emotionally impactful by the rich, poetic language, which perfectly captures the rich scenery of the Kerala landscape. The book takes a critical look at the repressive caste system and inflexible social hierarchies that are common in post-colonial India. Characters struggle with society rules and expectations, which causes conflicts and individual tragedies. The story explores cultural taboos via the lens of Rahel and Estha's forbidden love, which is essential to the narrative's plot. Their relationship's social repercussions are a reflection of how restrictive cultural norms are. Meenachal, the river, is a strong and recurrent symbol throughout the book. It stands for both emancipation and imprisonment, life and death. The tragic events surrounding the river become a metaphor for the characters' lives and the societal forces that shape them. The book examines how globalization worsens already-existing inequality and challenges the legacy of colonialism on Indian society. Characters like the Untouchable Velutha fall prey to both the contemporary economic system and colonial persecution. A major issue is the dynamics of power in families and in society at large. The book illustrates how people can be silenced and oppressed by the use of power. Characters who oppose these hierarchies of authority, like Ammu, suffer dire repercussions for doing so. The protagonists struggle with unmet expectations, personal traumas, and unfulfilled dreams, creating a narrative characterized by trauma and loss. The impact of the tragic events on the characters is depicted with deep psychological insight. Novel gives a complex account of ecofeminist topics in the post-colonial Indian state of Kerala's sociocultural and environmental milieu. The book presents a compelling story that emphasizes the connection between gender and ecological issues by deftly tying together the experiences of the female protagonists with the deterioration of the natural environment.

“A River Sutra” by Gita Mehta [2]:

Gita Mehta's "A River Sutra" weaves stories that explore the nuanced relationship between women and environment, offering a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of ecofeminist issues. Mehta creates an intricate tapestry that highlights the spiritual, cultural, and ecological ties that exist between women and the environment through a sequence of interrelated stories set against the backdrop of the Indian subcontinent. Numerous female personalities, each with a distinct relationship to nature, are presented throughout the book. Mehta illustrates the various ways in which women interact with nature, from the young lady breaking free from the constraints of society norms to the elderly singer finding comfort by the river. Mehta emphasizes the unique bond between women and nature by incorporating ecological and spiritual themes into the story. A recurrent theme, the river takes on symbolic meaning as a sign of spiritual regeneration and enlightenment, representing the characters' interwoven destiny. The stories in "A River Sutra" frequently highlight how patriarchal systems affect women and the environment. The protagonists negotiate social norms and limitations, reflecting the larger effects of a patriarchal culture on the welfare of women and the environment. The book makes the case for women and the natural world living in harmony. By finding safety and solace beside the river, the characters demonstrate the possibility of a mutually beneficial and balanced coexistence between people and the natural world. Mehta depicts the interdependence of lives along riverbanks through the intertwined narratives. The characters' futures are closely linked to the river's health, highlighting the mutually beneficial interaction that exists between the natural world and human existence. In the book, a number of female characters are portrayed as the guardians of spiritual and cultural traditions. Mehta emphasizes how important it is for women to preserve and disseminate knowledge about the environment and its importance within a larger cultural framework. The stories also discuss how modernization and environmental deterioration have an impact. Mehta criticizes how economic growth has altered the environment, pointing out how women and traditional ways of life are disproportionately impacted by these changes. Mehta's investigation of femininity goes beyond the domain of people to include the natural world. The portrayal of the river, trees, and animals as having a feminine essence encourages readers to think about how women and the environment are interconnected in terms of femininity.

“Gift in Green” by Sarah Joseph [3]:

In the setting of Kerala, India, Sarah Joseph's "Gift in Green" presents an engrossing story that combines feminist viewpoints with environmental concerns, offering a prism through which to examine the relationships between gender, ecology, and social systems. Contributing to an ecofeminist reading, the book explores the difficulties women encounter navigating the intricate network of environmental degradation and patriarchal standards. The female protagonists struggle with negative impacts of environmental deterioration on their lives in addition to gender-based inequality. "Gift in Green" looks closely at how women are affected by contemporary development. Women's lives are negatively influenced by the rapid industrialization and urbanization that frequently results in migration, as they are disproportionately affected by changes in their socioeconomic and ecological environments. In the novel, women fight against environmental injustices that are imposed upon them in instances of ecofeminist activism. Joseph highlights the connection between environmental degradation and women's health. The portrayal of deforestation, exposure to hazardous chemicals, and contaminated water supplies as elements that negatively impact women's health highlights the inextricable connection between women's health and the environment. Sarah Joseph skilfully constructs an ecofeminist story in "Gift in Green," illuminating the relationship between gender and environmental challenges. In addition to criticizing the current environmental inequalities via the experiences of her female characters, Joseph actively promotes women as positive change agents in the pursuit of sustainable and fair futures. The book asks readers to consider how feminism and ecology might work together to achieve social justice and environmental sustainability.

5. Related Works:**"Nectar in a Sieve" by Kamala Markandaya [4]**

In a rural Indian setting, Kamala Markandaya's novel "Nectar in a Sieve" explores the complex relationships between gender, class, and environmental challenges with great poignancy. The novel, which was published in 1954, offers an engaging interpretation from an ecofeminist perspective, illuminating the nuanced interaction that exists between women, the land, and the larger socioeconomic factors that influence their lives. Markandaya

paints a clear picture of the rural setting and the families' reliance on agriculture. Rukmani, the main character, personifies the hardships and tenacity of rural women navigating the difficulties of agricultural life. The novel draws attention to how women and the land are exploited in tandem. Rukmani goes through the struggles of homelessness, displacement, and environmental damage with other female characters. These difficulties have an impact on the lives of the women as well as the soil's declining fertility. Markandaya criticizes how traditional rural villages are affected by modernity and industry. Gender inequality is made worse by the introduction of new technology and economic shifts, since women are disproportionately affected by societal and environmental changes. The book laments the disappearance of conventional farming methods and the knowledge that went along with them. Rukmani's observations on the shifting terrain highlight how sustainable farming practices and the corresponding social ties are being undermined. The gendered aspects of environmental injustice are portrayed by Markandaya. The way that women like Rukmani and her daughter deal with the effects of environmental degradation varies, which highlights the importance of understanding ecofeminism from an intersectional perspective. There is a connection between motherhood and environmental sustainability. Rukmani's bond with the soil illustrates a mutually supportive and nurturing relationship, highlighting the significance of women in taking care of their families and the environment.

“Fire on the Mountain” by Anita Desai [5]

An ecofeminist reading of Anita Desai's "Fire on the Mountain" is stimulating because it combines a moving examination of nature with the intricacies of interpersonal interactions. The novel, which was published in 1977, explores issues of isolation, environmental deterioration, and the effects of patriarchal norms on women living in a remote Himalayan community. Desai illustrates how modernity is invading the remote village life and how customs are being lost. The disturbance and the deterioration of the environment are similar, indicating a relationship between the community's ecological and cultural fabric. Nanda Kaul in particular feels exploited and alone among the female characters. The isolation that women experience in patriarchal civilizations and their susceptibility to the negative effects of environmental deterioration are reflected in Nanda's seclusion in the hilly area. Desai skilfully integrates the characters' emotional experiences with the surrounding natural environment. The protagonists' emotional conflicts and social issues are mirrored by the shifting weather, the impending danger of a forest fire, and the remote location of the mountain. The struggle between tradition and advancement is examined in the book. The younger generation embraces modernization while the older age holds fast to traditional ways of living. The influence on the environment and the female characters who are torn between these conflicting pressures both exhibit this tension. By including mystical and spiritual components, Desai highlights the characters' ties to the natural world. The characters' search for meaning and comprehension in the midst of emotional and environmental upheaval is reflected in the mountain, which serves as both a physical and a spiritual backdrop. The impact of male-dominated institutions on women and the environment is criticized in the novel. Similar to how the resources of the mountain are exploited, women are marginalized and exploited by patriarchal hierarchies in both the home and society. The issue of motherhood is explored in the book from both a biological and environmental perspective, emphasizing the importance that women play as environmental stewards. The relationship that female characters have with nature emphasizes how important it is to care for and defend both families and the land.

“The Hungry Tide” by Amitav Ghosh [6]

"The Hungry Tide" by Amitav Ghosh offers an engaging platform for investigating ecofeminist viewpoints, entwining the complex connections among gender, environment, and cultural identities. The novel explores the lives of its protagonists, exploring the intricate relationships between feminism, the environment, and social systems. It is set in the Sundarbans, a distinctive and biologically diverse location. The female characters, including Piyali Roy and Nilima Bose, reflect the cyclical rhythm of life in the Sundarbans by embodying the tide's ebb and flow. The close relationship between the lives of the women and the natural cycles highlights the ecofeminist notion of women as carriers and reflections of environmental change. Ghosh presents Kusum and other matriarchal characters in the book as possessors of ecological knowledge. The importance of female viewpoints in environmental conservation is highlighted by the information these women hold about the Sundarbans' delicate balance of life, mangrove forests, and tides. In the Sundarbans, the feminist activist Nilima Bose fights for environmental justice. Her attempts to preserve the area and its people demonstrate the connection between environmental and feminist issues and the ability of women to bring about constructive

change. "The Hungry Tide" discusses how the Sundarbans' delicate ecosystems are being impacted by climate change. Women in the area have particular difficulties as a result of the rising sea levels and more frequent cyclones, highlighting the gendered aspects of climate vulnerability. The cultural relevance of nature in the lives of the characters is explored in the novel. The natural world is intricately woven into rituals, myths, and traditions, highlighting the unbreakable bond between cultural identities and ecological landscapes. One recurring issue is the possibility of displacement brought on by environmental changes. Women like Moyna demonstrate the ecofeminist idea that women are agents of adaptation in the face of environmental disruptions by overcoming the difficulties of displacement with resiliency. The story explores the similarities between women's nurturing roles and the nurturing of the land, with a focus on motherhood as a primary theme. Mothers and the natural world have a symbiotic relationship that embodies the ecofeminist view of interdependence and vulnerability.

“The Folded Earth” by Anuradha Roy [7]

The narrative of "The Folded Earth" by Anuradha Roy skilfully blends the complexity of the natural environment with the experiences of women, creating a rich terrain for an ecofeminist interpretation. The story, which is set in Ranikhet, close to the Himalayas, examines themes of resilience, loss, and the complex relationships that exist between gender and the local ecology. Roy frequently uses the natural environment to symbolize the characters' emotional states. An ecofeminist perspective on the relationship between women and environment is provided by the shifting seasons and the difficult terrain, which mirror the inner difficulties and personal development of the female lead, Maya. The book shows how power disparities and inflexible gender norms affect women's lives and the ecosystems they live in. The story discusses how industrialization has affected rural areas, especially women's lives. Traditional lifestyles are being disrupted by urban influences and economic shifts, which has an impact on women's involvement in agriculture and their relationship to the environment. The book examines topics of grief and loss on both a personal and environmental level. A feminist viewpoint on the connection between environmental and human well-being is suggested by the observation that the lamentation of deteriorating natural environments is mirrored in the lamentation of personal relationships. Roy highlights the characters' ties to nature by incorporating mysticism and spiritual themes into the story. A harmonious coexistence between humans and the environment is emphasized by the river and the sacred grove, which take on symbolic meanings of spiritual veneration.

Table 1: Summary of findings.

Sl. No.	Author	Date	Findings
1	Francis, Deepa Mary and Thangaraj. [8]	2016	This theory equates the ecology and feminine hood in terms of women's subjugation and oppression which are equivalent to the exploitation and deterioration of the natural world.
2	Gaard G, Murphy PD. [9]	1998	This collection looks at how literary criticism can support ecofeminist theory and practice as well as how ecofeminism can enhance literary criticism.
3	Heise, Ursula K. and Thomber, Karen. [10]	2016	It focuses on environmental anthropology, environmental history, and environmental philosophy.
4	Mallor, Mary [11]	1997	It explores the connection between women's subjugation and the deterioration of our natural world.
5	Ortner, Sherry B. [12]	1974	Analysis the ways in which creative and transcendental endeavours require and deserve the equal participation of men and women.

6	Tickell, Alex [13]	2007	It provides essential critical and contextual tools to read the god of small things
7	Warren, Karen [14]	1996	The study emphasizes the ecofeminist ethic, how patriarchal ideas support dominance over women and the natural world.
8	Al-Qudaeri, G. & Islam, M. [15]	2011	It offers a comprehensive analysis of how Roy presents women in all of her works, both fictional and non-fictional.
9	Chandra, N. [16]	2005	This critical study covers selected authors of contemporary Indian literature.
10	Comfort, S. [17]	2009	It demonstrates how Arundhati Roy's novel <i>The God of Small Things</i> as an environmental feminist criticism of imperialism.
11	Dingwaney, N. [18]	2005	This essay posits that the works of Ranajit Guha, "The small voice of history," and Arundhati Roy, "The God of Small Things," represent a modern "historical-political conjuncture" that identifies the fundamental or potentially resistant characteristics of the marginalized subaltern subject.
12	Ghosh, R. & Navarro-Tejero, A. [19]	2009	The ideas, attitudes, and ideologies that surface from the modern social and political sphere are presented in this volume according to Roy's intricate network.
13	Gupta, R. [20]	2002	It interprets feminine sensationalism and vivid themes related to the miserable, drudgery plight of the women
14	Chitra, K.P. [21]	2016	It looks at how Kerala has lawfully lost hectares of wetlands and paddy fields over the past few decades for housing, infrastructure development, and industries.
15	Gaard, Greta. [22]	1993	This work Based on ideas from ecology, feminism, and socialism, the ideology that justifies the exploitation of nature also supports racial, class, gender, sexual, physical, and species-based oppressions.
16	Gaard, Greta [23]	2013	Demonstrates the variety of feminist ecocritical views in order to support the importance, necessity, and ongoing contributions of a feminist viewpoint in environmental research, literature, and culture.
17	Garrard, Greg [24]	2012	Examines how humans and non-humans have interacted throughout human cultural history, including a critical examination of the term "human" itself.

18	Kothari, Rajni [25]	1998	Illustrates how, economically and scientifically, ecological degradation and women's marginalization are not inevitable.
19	Patel, Priti R. [26]	2013	It highlights how the woman is crushed and tortured as long as she is in the grasp of the heartless society. However, she is brought back to the process of being, becoming, and fulfilment in which she becomes a symbol of the great river itself after she is let to return to nature as an ascetic.
20	Joseph, Sarah [27]	2009	Th novel deals with the protagonist of the book decides to leave the convent and live a life unrestricted by traditional religious customs and standards.
21	Manimekalai, G. [28]	2017	It studies on female characters as the cornerstones of resolve and fortitude in a world ruled by males.
22	Pandey, Sarita. [29]	2019	Discusses how Mehta exposes the ways in which societal toxins like prostitution, commodification, and objectification exploit women solely for financial gain, undermining their inherent feminine essence and ability to sustain life.
23	Dhakal, Lekha Nath. [30]	2022	This article brings forth the idea of eco-feminism in Joseph's novel, Gift in Green to critique the male characters such as Dinakaran, Kumaran, Markose and Ambu who participated in so-called developmental works through constructions and the encroachment of the resources of the island turning its agricultural lands into source of income.
24	Lata, Shivani. [31]	2022	It illustrates that Development and progress are essential because they determine the course of the nation, but sustainable development is also urgently needed if we are not to extinguish ourselves in the fire of progress.
25	Anitha, R. [32]	2018	Analyses how men turn to violence and bloodshed, destroying their own homes and families in the process. However, women must rebuild and revitalize their livelihood, care for nature, make a case for life via solidarity, and rehabilitate homes.

6. New related issues: The field of ecofeminism is dynamic and always changing, adapting to new problems and broadening its horizons to tackle old ones. The interconnectedness and complexity of environmental and feminist problems are reflected in the rise in popularity of a number of modern subjects within ecofeminist discourse. These are a few fresh and connected ecofeminism-related concerns. Women are disproportionately impacted by climate change, especially those who live in underprivileged areas. The necessity for gender-inclusive climate policy and solutions are being emphasized by ecofeminists as they become more active advocates for climate justice. Women's well-being is impacted by urban expansion, pollution, and limited access to green places, which aggravates already-existing gender disparities. In conversations about feminist

agriculture, ecofeminists highlight just and sustainable food systems. This entails opposing industrial agriculture methods and advocating for agroecological strategies that put the health of the environment and women's rights first. These modern subjects demonstrate ecofeminists' continued dedication to comprehending and confronting the complex interplay between environmental and feminist issues in our quickly evolving global society.

7. Solution: The exploitation of women and the environment, intersectionality and marginalization, biodiversity loss and ecosystem destruction, corporate exploitation, and capitalist greed are major themes in ecofeminist fiction. Fiction written by ecofeminists highlights the complex relationships that exist between the environment, society systems, and gender. A multidimensional strategy that empowers women, acknowledges the intersectionality of environmental justice, encourages sustainable practices, regulates corporate activity, and promotes cultural transformations towards more harmonious interactions with nature is needed to address these fundamental concerns. The chosen works will be analyzed in the perspective of nature-women harmony with a discussion on these problems.

8. Research Gap: Although ecofeminism is explored in previous literature, these three particular books' comparative analyses are lacking. This study attempts to close this gap by offering a thorough analysis of the ways in which these writers incorporate ecofeminist viewpoints into their writing.

9. Research Agenda: Main Research Question: How do Sarah Joseph, Geeta Mehta, and Arundhati Roy employ ecofeminist viewpoints to illustrate how gender and the environment are intertwined in their novels.

Sub-questions: How do the novels depict the exploitation of women and the natural world?

How do the novels support resistance and a rethinking of society?

10. Final research Proposal in Chosen Topic:

Gyno -Ecological harmony with Ecofeminist approach in Arundhati Roy's "The God of Small Things", Gita Mehta's "A River Sutra" and Sarah Joseph's "Gift in Green".

11. Suggestions to improve: Diversify the Novel Selection To increase the study's scope, include more novels from different geographical areas.

Include Interviews For further in-depth understanding, interview authors or examine their statements.

12. limitations of the Proposal:

Subjectivity in Interpretation: The viewpoint of the researcher may have an impact on the interpretations.

Restricted Novel Selection: The analysis is restricted to three particular novels, which may limit how broadly the results may be applied.

13. Conclusion: This literature review establishes the groundwork for a comprehensive study on the ecofeminist dimensions of the selected novels. The proposed study intends to fill important knowledge gaps about the relationship between gender and environment in Arundhati Roy's "The God of Small Things", Gita Mehta's "A River Sutra" and Sarah Joseph's "Gift in Green". By addressing existing research gaps, the proposed study aims to contribute significant insights into the interconnected portrayal of gender and the environment in South Asian fiction, providing valuable knowledge for both literary scholars and ecofeminist theorists.

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