

## **Women In Environmental Protection, A Perusal Of Vandana Shiva's, 'Staying Alive: Women, Ecology & Development'**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Human beings live in a blessed habitat, 'Earth'. Labelled as mother, life-giver, care-taker, this habitat is the only platform for all the generations to pursue, acquire and earn the basic necessities of life, namely, food, clothing & shelter. It is the prime responsibility for us to conserve & restore this planet to posterity. But, on the contrary, human beings take this boon as bane and involve themselves in the oppression and degradation of Earth. In this context, the existence of the other gender, 'female', its delicate and soft characteristics, as portrayed by male, is carried forward for the formulation of traits of Nature. The beauty and the irrepressible features of nature and women led to the advantage of men taking these traits for granted and led to the oppression of women and degradation of nature. Once upon a time, some thousand years ago, women were looked upon as the supreme power and Nature was worshipped as Goddess assigned with feminine characteristics, but as time proceeded the context was changed and reversed by male which eventually led to its degradation and exploitation of nature and women respectively. The vintage of respects and reverences for nature and women by men deteriorated and diminished with time and both came to be treated as puppet in their hands. Once women, the so called weaker sex today, played crucial role as food producers partaking with nature and its liabilities and discharged their duties effectively in not only giving birth but also producing food to them. They acquired extra ordinary ability in food production besides house hold chores and reproduction. This paper tries to showcase these ideas and explain the roles played by women in protecting the environment and their mutual love and bonding with nature as evidenced in the book, 'Staying alive : women, Ecology and nature' by the renowned Indian Ecofeminist, 'Vandana Shiva'.

Keywords: Earth, Gender, Ecofeminist, Degradation, Oppression

### **INTRODUCTION**

Human beings live in a blessed habitat, 'Earth'. Labelled as mother, life-giver, care-taker, this habitat is the only platform for all the generations to pursue, acquire and earn the basic necessities of life, namely, food, clothing & shelter. It is the prime responsibility for us to conserve & restore this planet to posterity. But, on the contrary, human beings take this boon as bane and involve themselves in the oppression and degradation of Earth. In this context, the existence of the other gender, 'female', its delicate and soft characteristics, as portrayed by male, is carried forward for the formulation of traits of Nature. The beauty and the irrepressible features of nature and women led to the advantage of men taking these traits for granted and led to the oppression of women and degradation of nature. Once upon a time, some thousand years ago, women were looked upon as the supreme power and Nature was worshipped as Goddess assigned with feminine characteristics, but as time proceeded the context was changed and reversed by male which eventually led to its degradation and exploitation of nature and women respectively. The vintage of respects and reverences for nature and women by men deteriorated and diminished with time and both came to be treated as puppet in their hands. Once women, the so called weaker sex today, played crucial role as food producers partaking with nature and its liabilities and discharged their duties effectively in not only giving birth but also producing food to them. They acquired extra ordinary ability in food production besides house hold chores and reproduction. This paper tries to showcase these ideas and explain the roles played by women in protecting the environment and their mutual love and bonding with nature as evidenced in the book, 'Staying alive : women, Ecology and nature' by the renowned Indian Ecofeminist, 'Vandana Shiva'.

### **ECOFEMINISM**

Ecofeminism is a system of thought that analyses the relationship between Nature and women and analyses placing women and nature on the same stand. It involves the concept of Gender to analyse