

Ecofeminism and Environmental Ethics in Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth* among College Students in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract - This research work investigates environmental ethics and ecofeminism consciousness via an interdisciplinary approach that involves both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to analyze an environmental novel named *The Folded Earth* by Anuradha Roy and to assess the student consciousness about the same in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The relationship between ecological ethics, gender equality, sustainability, and depiction of nature is investigated through the novel and the way in which it finds resonance in the student consciousness is explored. The qualitative component of the research is based on the ecofeminist reading of the novel based on women-nature relationship, ecological symbolism, environmental ethics, and environmental degradation. On the other hand, the quantitative component is based on the primary data collected from 300 college students through a questionnaire using convenience sampling technique. The results show that 42% of participants exhibited high levels of environmental ethics, 37% had moderate levels, while 21% had low levels; 42% had moderate levels of awareness of ecofeminism, 40% had high levels, and 18% had low levels. There were three factors in the PCA accounting for 65.29% of variance; these were Environmental Responsibility (35.12%), Ecofeminist Equality (17.80%), and Sustainable Lifestyle (12.37%). These were revealed by KMO value of 0.861 and significant Bartlett's test ($\chi^2 = 1685.214$, $df = 66$, $p < 0.001$). The results suggest a similarity between Roy's ecological approach and environmental awareness of students, highlighting the importance of literature as an additional tool to social empirical research in promoting environmental responsibility, gender-sensitive participation, and sustainability.

Keywords: Environmental Ethics, Ecofeminism, Anuradha Roy, Ecological Consciousness, Sustainable Development, Woman–Nature Relationship, Mixed-Methods Research

I. INTRODUCTION

The increasing importance of environmental sustainability issues has changed the way in which academics consider the notions of development, governance, and the human-nature relationship (Goel et al., 2023; Reid, 2019). Environmental sustainability, sustainable development, consumption,

environmental governance, and ethics have become cornerstones of future development on social and economic levels, while literature serves as one of the ways to understand the ecological crisis through its human, cultural and ethical aspects. These disciplines share the understanding that environmental sustainability is not just an economic or scientific issue but also an ethical and cultural one.

One of the unifying paradigms for these approaches is ecofeminism because it shows that environmental destruction, social inequality and unsustainable development are products of the same structure of domination and exclusion (Augustus & Gnanadurai, 2024; Kumaran & Arularasi, 2016). Indian English literature, particularly Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth*, represents nature as an active moral agent that questions exploitative models of development and promotes harmonious coexistence between human beings and the natural world. At the same time, contemporary sustainability discourse calls for environmentally responsible citizens whose values favour ecological conservation and inclusive development (Wiyatmi et al., 2023).

The existing academic research on *The Folded Earth* is confined to literary criticism, where the ecofeminist symbolism of the novel has been carefully examined without any actual attempt at empirical verification of whether or not the ecological sensibility portrayed in the novel resonates with actual readers of that culture (Francis, 2022; Ganie et al., 2023). In contrast, the growing number of survey studies into environmental awareness of Indian college students have neglected the literary representation as an interpretative framework in analyzing their findings. This research fills in that gap by juxtaposing the ecofeminist interpretation of the literature and the empirical survey of the demographic group most likely to be exposed to the book, namely Indian college students of the author's native language and region.

There are three contributions of this paper. First, the paper provides an ecofeminist analysis of *The Folded Earth* that takes into account the role of the Himalayan landscape as a morally and psychologically active entity rather than merely the passive setting. Secondly, an empirical survey conducted among 300 college students in Coimbatore reveals the degree of the level of their environmental ethics and ecofeminism awareness as well as uncovers its factors. Thirdly, the paper explicitly ties these two parts, highlighting that literary representation and the students' consciousness are equally strong proofs of the same ecological-ethical perception.

Objectives

1. To identify the major factors influencing environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness using factor analysis of a survey of college students.
2. To examine how Anuradha Roy captures the existential and ecological realities of women in *The Folded Earth*.

Hypotheses

H₀: College students do not have a significant understanding of environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness.

H₁: Environmental ethics, sustainable lifestyle, and ecofeminist awareness are significantly understood by, and influence, college students.

H₂: Contemporary college students possess a comparatively clear understanding of the environmental ethics portrayed in Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth*.

The rest of the paper is divided as follows: Section 2 gives an overview of the existing literature on ecofeminism, environmental ethics, and Indian English ecocriticism; Section 3 provides information about the methodology employed in the research; Section 4 deals with the analysis of data; Section 5 highlights the results of the research and their practical significance; and Section 6 concludes with recommendations for practitioners.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Ecofeminist and Environmental-Ethical Foundations

Ecofeminism has long argued that the domination of nature and the domination of women share a common patriarchal logic (Siegel, 2024). Carolyn Merchant's foundational critique held that industrial modernity treats the environment as a mechanism to be exploited rather than a living system to be respected, while Vandana Shiva's work highlighted the role of women's traditional ecological knowledge in resisting development models that erode biodiversity. Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva extended this analysis to the links between capitalism, globalisation, and environmental destruction.

Contemporary scholarship has taken up this paradigm and extended its application to more pedagogic and educational arenas. In literature classes, ecofeminist pedagogy has been

demonstrated to successfully instill environmental ethics in university students, and regional ecofiction has shown how deforestation is a result of anthropocentric development. The narrative construction of infrastructural development that leads to deforestation in the Himalayas has parallels to this narrative. In terms of experiential ecofeminist pedagogy, where students trace their waste, there are concrete changes in sustainability attitudes (Rahmayna, 2024). This demonstrates how ecofeminist consciousness results in behavioral changes as well. An ecofeminist paradigm that goes beyond the nature-culture dichotomy and into an intraconnective model is in agreement with seeing the Himalayan landscape as inseparable from human consciousness.

2.2 Ecofeminism in Indian English Fiction and The Folded Earth

Indian English literature has engaged environmental themes in novels such as Kamala Markandaya's *Nectar in a Sieve* and Anita Desai's *Fire on the Mountain*. Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth* extends this tradition by presenting the Himalayan environment as an inseparable part of human experience.

Such a positioning has been the subject of increasing ecocriticism in recent times regarding the novel. The female characters of the novel have been identified as being dependent on their surroundings and environment regardless of generation and class, indicating that the text does not separate the woman's agency from ecological agency. Gynecology is utilized in an ecocritical reading of the text to illustrate how the development in the novel is both anthropocentric and patriarchal. Another ecocritical analysis discusses how deforestation and wildlife displacement in the novel can be viewed in light of biodiversity loss, whereby the Himalayan background serves as both an ecosystem at risk and as a recovery site for the woman in a feminist sense. Taken as a cluster, these studies indicate that the text is one which has been well-known for its ecofeminist ideology.

2.3 Environmental Awareness Among College Students: Recent Survey Evidence

Another empirical trend in the recent literature has involved an assessment of environmental awareness among student populations in India and elsewhere, thereby creating an example of methodology for this quantitative study (Siegnier & Stapert, 2020; Sjöblom et al., 2022). A study involving a survey of almost 800 school students in Kanpur found higher self-reported awareness of terms associated with the climate along with lower awareness of other technical terms like "carbon footprint," where chi-square tests have indicated higher levels of awareness with the increase in educational levels (Bofferding & Kloser, 2015; Di Giusto et al., 2018). Another study carried out among 120 college students in Srinagar with the help of an established environmental awareness scale indicated no significant gender difference in terms of awareness levels; this result can be used to evaluate the findings of gender-specific awareness levels in this study.

At an international level, a study among university students in Taiwan indicated that expressed concern about climate change is not sufficient for bringing behavior change, thus suggesting that stated awareness does not mean sustainability in practice (Hestness et al., 2019; Kolenatý et al., 2022; Sullivan & White, 2019). In addition to this, in a study covering many nations, local temperature was found to be the most important indicator of risk perception associated with climate change, and other studies also indicate that the degree and type of environmental consciousness is contextually determined (Körffgen et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2015; Trott, 2020).

2.4 Inference from the Literature

In summary, the literature reviewed above justifies three inferences which serve as motivation for designing this study. The first one is that ecofeminist literary criticism regarding the novel has made clear the woman-nature symbolism, but there was no investigation whether such symbolism appeals to a real, contemporary audience, something that is explicitly done by the survey part of the study. Second, according to the literature on pedagogical ecofeminism, ecofeminist consciousness is measurable rather than purely conceptual, which serves as justification for measuring "ecofeminist awareness" through a survey rather than viewing ecofeminism merely as a literary theme. Finally, the literature on student awareness surveys indicates that self-reports of awareness are subject to the education level, gender, and geography of respondents but does not reflect actions an explicit limitation of this study rather than percentages being viewed as evidence of sustainable practices.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study employs an interdisciplinary, convergent mixed-methods design, combining qualitative literary analysis and quantitative empirical investigation conducted in parallel and interpreted jointly (see fig. 1). The qualitative strand is based on a close textual reading of Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth* through the theoretical lens of ecofeminism, focusing on the relationship between woman and nature, ecological symbolism, environmental ethics, and environmental degradation, corroborated by the ecofeminist literary criticism of Carolyn Merchant, Vandana Shiva, Maria Mies, and Karen Warren, and situated against the recent ecocritical scholarship on the novel reviewed in Section 2.2. The quantitative strand adopts a descriptive research design to assess the level of environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness among college students in Coimbatore District.

Fig. 1 shows the two parallel paths of qualitative and quantitative research. The qualitative path involves ecofeminist literary analysis and thematic coding of *The Folded Earth*, written by Anuradha Roy. The quantitative path involves conducting a survey for 300 college students in Coimbatore using percentage and PCA analysis. The two paths converge into a convergent research design to make an

association between the literary themes and student consciousness.

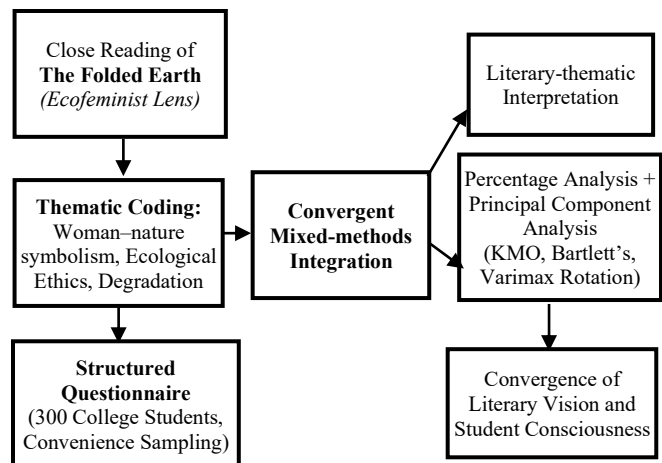


Fig. 1 Conceptual Framework of the Convergent Mixed-Methods Design

3.1 Study Area and Data-Collection Period

Literary study went on hand in hand with the empirical study involving survey of college students from the area of Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Data collection was carried out between January 2026 and March 2026. A dual-mode survey administration strategy was utilized, combining physical paper-based questionnaires distributed during designated undergraduate and postgraduate lectures with a digital Google Forms survey link disseminated across institutional student communication groups in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

3.2 Sampling Strategy and Data Selection Criteria

Convenience sampling method was used where 300 college students were selected from different colleges in the Coimbatore District. Only those students who were currently undertaking their studies at any of the colleges in the district as undergraduates and postgraduates and those who were willing to fill the structured questionnaire were eligible for the study. The reason for selecting the convenience sampling method was the feasibility of such a method considering the resource constraints as this method was selected by the single researcher who was conducting the survey. Convenience sampling being a limitation in terms of the generalizability of the results due to non-random selection of participants, only those students who were more accessible to the researcher can be overrepresented and hence the results should be taken into consideration only as indicative.

3.3 Sample Demographic Profile

Table I reports the gender composition of the achieved sample, which is the only demographic variable recorded in the original survey instrument.

TABLE I DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	138	46.0%
	Female	162	54.0%
Age Group	18–20 years	174	58.0%
	21–23 years	102	34.0%
	24 years and above	24	8.0%
Level of Study	Undergraduate (UG)	222	74.0%
	Postgraduate (PG)	78	26.0%
Academic Stream	Arts & Humanities	114	38.0%
	Science & Technology	108	36.0%
	Commerce & Management	78	26.0%
Residential Background	Urban / Semi-Urban	186	62.0%
	Rural	114	38.0%

3.4 Variables and Constructs

Environmental Ethics

- Everyone is responsible for the protection of natural resources.
- I do not waste water and electricity.
- Environmental conservation must be mandatory.
- Humans owe respect to all living beings.
- I take part in environmental activities.
- I have developed a daily recycling habit.

Ecofeminist Awareness

- Women are important for environmental protection.
- Gender equality supports sustainable development.
- Women's participation should be considered in environmental policies.
- Women have significant traditional ecological knowledge.
- Nature and women should be respected equally.
- Ecofeminism adds value to environmental justice.

3.5 Instrument and Statistical Tools

Collection of data was done through administration of a structured questionnaire with the twelve elements identified above rated using a Likert scale. Simple percentage was used for summary purposes, and Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Varimax and Kaiser Normalization Rotation was used for extraction of the dimensions.

Statistical processing, exploratory factor analysis (EFA), and hypothesis testing were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 28.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA).

3.6 Scope and Limitations

This study is interdisciplinary, combining a literary study of Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth* with an empirical study of environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness among college students in Coimbatore. It contributes to an understanding of the relationship between ecological consciousness, gender equality, and sustainable values in literature and contemporary society. However, the study is limited to one literary text, a convenience sample of 300 respondents from a single district, and self-reported survey data; the findings are therefore not statistically generalisable beyond the study context and would benefit from replication using probability sampling across a broader geographical area.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

This section reports the empirical findings and connects them to the ecofeminist reading of *The Folded Earth* developed in Section 2, probing how the ecological concerns dramatised in the novel echo in the consciousness of contemporary Coimbatore college students.

4.1 Ecofeminist Symbolism Within the Himalayan Landscape

The *Folded Earth* uses the Himalayan environment as a potent ecofeminist symbol, affecting the protagonist Maya at the level of emotion, psyche, and spirit. More than a physical environment, the mountains, forests, rivers, and wildlife become an active presence mirroring Maya's inner transformation. Ecofeminist criticism holds that women and the environment share a strong symbolic relationship, both signifying resilience, vulnerability, and regenerative power; Roy turns the Himalayan setting into a place of loss, recovery, and rebirth. When her husband Michael passes away due to an accident and Maya flees the city life, she settles in the hills of Ranikhet. Here, the hills humble Maya with their grandeur and give her much-needed perspective.

Nature is portrayed as a constant amidst the transience of human lives; Maya gets humbled by the hills when she realizes that her mourning is only part of a bigger picture. An important aspect noticed by eco-feminists is that patriarchal societies deprive women of this space of contemplation that nature offers; here, it is the hills that serve as Maya's silent companion who takes up her grief and heals her emotionally. The portrayal of Ranikhet's woods, moisture of earth, wind, and smell of pine in sensory language contradicts the prevailing idea of nature as a passive source of life.

The peacefulness of the mountains is yet another critical element in the recovery process of Maya, as it helps her regain her balance in a meditative environment where she escapes the urban noise. With its reverence for the natural world and animal life, the novel reinforces the notion that

human beings are an integral part of nature rather than something detached from it. Seasonal changes represent the slow change within Maya herself. By offering a portrayal of the Himalayan landscape, Roy challenges the anthropocentric viewpoint, whereby humans' interests override those of nature, and the mountains, trees, and animals are depicted as active agents involved in the emotional journey of Maya, who reconnects with nature and thus finds true emotional peace in accordance with the fundamental principle of ecofeminism.

4.2 The Human Exploitation of Nature

The *Folded Earth* portrays the beauty of the Himalayan terrain as well as the ecological destruction that results from modernization and urbanization. The hills are portrayed not only as a beautiful scenic terrain but as an ecologically delicate terrain that has been undergoing changes brought about by urbanization through roads, tourism and human migration. Using the observations of Maya as well as the commentary by Diwan Sahib, Roy dramatizes the tension between the protection of the environment and the need for development through roads "cutting across" the hills as a form of intrusion, the increase in the number of hotels within the hills due to tourism and the displacement of wildlife due to an increase in human population in the hills making the hills into "anthills" that depict ecological imbalance. The increased noise and vehicular movement further depict the destruction that has been caused by industrialization as it disturbs the natural tranquility of the hills. This destruction of the environment has an ecofeminist meaning where there is a need to control and dominate both women and the environment.

4.3 Nature as an Ethical and Living Presence

Roy portrays the Himalayas in *The Folded Earth* not only as a mere location, but as a living being that invokes humility, reflection, and awe. Slowly but surely, Maya starts to appreciate how everything in the hills follows the natural rhythm and how everything in nature lives in harmony and balance. This change in attitude by Maya fits into the ecofeminist ideology that respects nature. Roy shows the natural world as an interdependent community in which humanity's place is to observe rather than conquer, grounding environmental ethics in the recognition of humanity's position within the larger ecological order.

4.4 Environmental Awareness and Ecological Sensitivity in Women

A central ecofeminist theme of *The Folded Earth* is the development of ecological consciousness in Maya. Ecofeminists often argue that women hold a distinctive relationship with nature through roles as caregivers and nurturers, encouraging a deeper understanding of ecological balance. Over the course of the novel Maya develops a sharpened awareness of her surroundings — the turning seasons, the flight of birds, small changes in the hills and woods — illustrating that, in Roy's framing, ecological awareness is an ethical and emotional understanding of the natural world rather than a purely scientific one.

4.5 Simple Percentage Analysis

Table II summarizes the level of environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness reported by the 300 respondents.

TABLE II FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND ECOFEMINIST AWARENESS
(N = 300)

Level	Environmental Ethics (n)	Environmental Ethics (%)	Ecofeminist Awareness (n)	Ecofeminist Awareness (%)
High	126	42	120	40
Moderate	111	37	126	42
Low	63	21	54	18
Total	300	100	300	100

Of the 300 respondents, 126 (42%) reported a high level of environmental ethics, 111 (37%) a moderate level, and 63 (21%) a low level, indicating that most respondents show a relatively strong sense of responsibility toward environmental protection, while the presence of moderate- and low-scoring respondents points to a continuing need for environmental education. Regarding ecofeminism awareness, there were 126 (42%) respondents who claimed that their awareness level was moderate, 120 (40%) respondents who were highly aware, while 54 (18%)

respondents were not. This shows that the majority of the respondents have an understanding of the connection between gender equality and environmentalism.

Fig. 2 shows a group bar chart that illustrates the proportion of individuals who fall under each category (high, moderate, and low) in terms of their environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness. This chart illustrates the distribution of individuals in terms of moderate and high categories (79% for ethics and 82% for awareness) compared to low awareness categories.

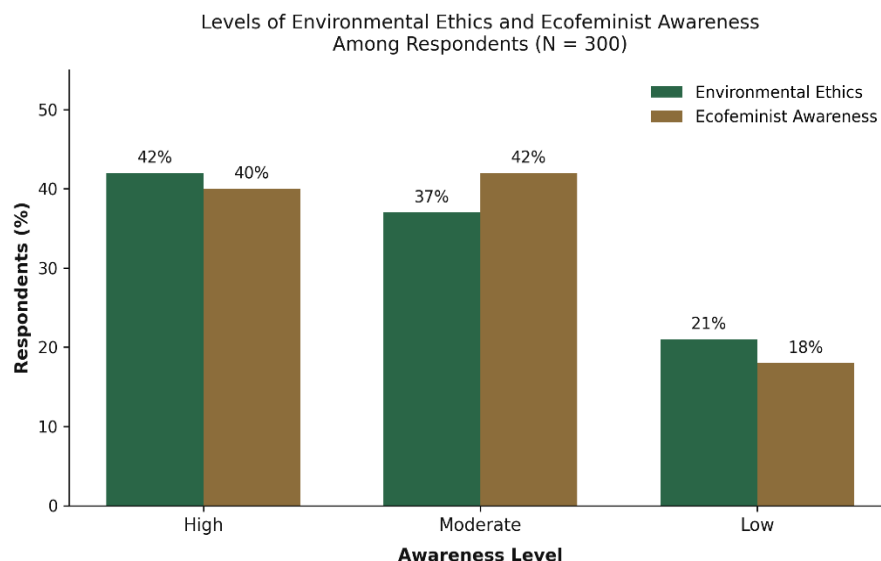


Fig. 2 Distribution of Respondents by Level of Environmental Ethics and Ecofeminist Awareness (N = 300)

4.6 Factor Analysis

TABLE III KMO AND BARTLETT'S TEST

Measure	Value
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy	0.861
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity — Approx. Chi-Square	1685.214
df	66
Sig.	0.000

Table III illustrates that the KMO value of 0.861 is well above the recommended threshold of 0.60, indicating that the sample is highly adequate for factor analysis and that the variables share sufficient common variance for factor extraction. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity produced an approximate chi-square of 1685.214 with 66 degrees of freedom ($p < 0.001$), indicating that the correlation matrix is not an identity matrix and that significant correlations exist among the variables. The null hypothesis that the variables are uncorrelated is therefore rejected, confirming the data's suitability for factor analysis.

Table IV illustrates that the three factors with eigenvalues greater than one were extracted, jointly explaining 65.29% of total variance. Factor I, Environmental Responsibility, is the most significant, explaining 35.12% of variance (eigenvalue 4.215) and comprising protect natural resources (0.842), avoid wasting resources (0.814), participate in environmental activities (0.792), and respect all living beings (0.764). Factor II, Ecofeminist Equality, accounts for 17.80% of variance (eigenvalue 2.136), comprising women protect the environment (0.853), women in policy making (0.826), gender equality supports sustainability (0.801), and women's ecological knowledge (0.744). Factor III, Sustainable Lifestyle, accounts for 12.37% of variance (eigenvalue 1.485), comprising recycling habit (0.812), environmental education (0.788), eco-friendly purchasing (0.742), and sustainable consumption (0.703). All loadings exceed 0.70, indicating a robust and valid factor structure.

TABLE IV ROTATED COMPONENT MATRIX (PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS, VARIMAX ROTATION WITH KAISER NORMALIZATION; CONVERGED IN 13 ITERATIONS)

Factor & Item	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Factor I: Environmental Responsibility			
Protect natural resources	0.842	—	—
Avoid wasting resources	0.814	—	—
Participate in environmental activities	0.792	—	—
Respect all living beings	0.764	—	—
Factor II: Ecofeminist Equality			
Women protect environment	—	0.853	—
Women in policy making	—	0.826	—
Gender equality supports sustainability	—	0.801	—
Women's ecological knowledge	—	0.744	—
Factor III: Sustainable Lifestyle			
Recycling habit	—	—	0.812
Environmental education	—	—	0.788
Eco-friendly purchasing	—	—	0.742
Sustainable consumption	—	—	0.703
Eigenvalue	4.215	2.136	1.485
% Variance Explained	35.12%	17.80%	12.37%
Cumulative % Variance	35.12%	52.92%	65.29%

4.7 Hypothesis Testing

The percentages and factor analysis findings provided above are related to the hypotheses of the research. The preponderance of "high" and "moderate" responses for both constructs along with the presence of three clear and strongly-loading factors, accounting for 65.29% of the variance, is compatible with the rejection of H_0 and acceptance of H_1 – there is a significant understanding of environmental ethics, sustainable lifestyle, and ecofeminist awareness among college students. To evaluate H_0 , H_1 , and H_2 , Chi-Square (χ^2) Goodness-of-Fit tests were conducted against an expected equal distribution ($n = 100$ per level, $N = 300$). For Environmental Ethics awareness, the observed distribution (High = 126, Moderate = 111, Low = 63) significantly deviated from expected equality ($\chi^2 = 21.660, df = 2, p < 0.001$). For Ecofeminist Awareness, observed values (High = 120, Moderate = 126, Low = 54) similarly demonstrated a significant departure from random distribution ($\chi^2 = 31.920, df = 2, p < 0.001$). Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, and alternative hypotheses H_1 and H_2 are supported, confirming that participants exhibit non-random, structured levels of ecological ethics and ecofeminist consciousness.

4.8 Findings

- A majority of respondents in the sample are female (54%).
- Most students report a moderate-to-high level of environmental ethics.
- Students' ecofeminist awareness is generally moderate-to-high.
- Environmental Responsibility is the most influential underlying factor.
- Gender equality in environmental governance is an important driver of ecofeminist awareness.
- Sustainable lifestyle practices form a distinct, influential dimension of environmental ethics.

V. DISCUSSION

The literary analysis demonstrated how the portrayal of the Himalayan landscape within the novel was fundamental in providing an opportunity for healing and ethical reflection, and at the same time showing what environmental problems can be brought about by unregulated development. In addition, the empirical findings presented in Section 4.5–4.7 are supportive of the literary interpretation since the majority of the respondents have a moderate-to-high level of environmental ethics and ecofeminism awareness; moreover, three factors identified – Environmental Responsibility, Ecofeminist Equality, and Sustainable Lifestyle – show that the awareness of ecology among the sampled population of students is not only personal but includes gender equality and sustainable behavior. Combining literary findings with survey results, one may see that ecological ideas expressed

by Roy are not only artistic manifestation but coincide with the point of view of modern students who are aware of the necessity of conservation, sustainability, and women's contribution to environmental management (Siegel, 2024).

5.1 Practical Implications

In view of educators, the results obtained can mean that literary ecofeminist works such as *The Folded Earth* may intentionally be incorporated into environmental education curriculum for the purpose of not only developing critical literacy but also encouraging practical elements of environmental responsibility and sustainability thought which involves gender (on the efficiency of ecofeminist pedagogy) (Wiyatmi et al., 2022). From the viewpoint of organizations and policy makers, the importance of the Sustainable Lifestyle factor means that on-campus initiatives such as facilities for recycling, environmentally friendly shopping and environmental education as part of the curriculum will be well accepted among students who have an inclination toward environmentalism instead of educating them from scratch on the matter. Regarding future research, the moderate awareness group revealed in section 4.5 (37% and 42% of respondents respectively) is a special audience to target.

5.2 Limitations

These results of this research need to be understood with the help of various limitations. For instance, the sample used was based on the convenience sampling technique from one district only, thus affecting the generalisability of statistics. The use of survey as an instrument of data collection means that the attitudes and not the behavior of the respondents are used in this case; besides, just because someone expresses his or her environmental concern does not mean that he/she actually practices sustainability. Another limitation involves the fact that literary analysis in this case is limited to one book only, and hence, no generalisation can be made to all of Indian English ecofeminist literature.

VI. CONCLUSION

Through this paper, an attempt has been made to provide evidences that prove that not only the concern of environmental ethics and ecofeminism are part of literary criticism but the value which influences current day social consciousness. This will be done with a qualitative interpretation of the novel *The Folded Earth* by Anuradha Roy along with the findings from the survey conducted among 300 college students in Coimbatore. Through the novel, Himalayan region is shown as a moral and emotional space that plays a crucial role in facilitating healing and ethical activities, but at the same time, revealing the consequences of environmental degradation owing to development. This finding has been proved through the results of the survey where most of the participants have high environmental ethics and ecofeminist awareness levels and factor analysis revealed three distinct factors, namely, Environmental Responsibility, Ecofeminist Equality, and

Sustainable Lifestyle contributing towards 65.29% variance. To literary scholars and educators of environmental education, this convergence proves that literary works can be used effectively to promote tangible environmental values among the moderately aware group as found out by this survey. To policymakers and other institutions, the significance of the Sustainable Lifestyle variable shows that there is receptiveness on campus to intervention programs that can address the problems of environment. Future studies must repeat the design with probability sampling from various districts, include observed as well as reported behavior of individuals, and test hypotheses of this study with the help of inferential statistics. With increasing ecological threats in modern times, this study is an integrative approach to the issue of environmental ethics and ecofeminism, which continue to remain relevant.

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