

REPORT ON THE TALK – ECOFEMINISM: WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

The Department of Philosophy, Indraprastha College for Women, organized a talk on “Ecofeminism: With Special Focus on Indian Environmental Movement” on 26 September 2025. The event was conducted in the Conference Room from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., witnessed the active participation of students, faculty members, and research scholars. The programme commenced with the auspicious lamp-lighting ceremony dedicated to Maa Saraswati, followed by the singing of the Delhi University Kulgeet. A formal inauguration and felicitation of the invited speaker added to the dignity of the occasion. The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Akham Hemabati Devi (Teacher In-charge), with Dr. Richa Kela as the Convenor, and Dr. Neha Sukhija as the Co-Convenor, supported by other members of the organizing committee.

The distinguished speaker for the session was Dr. Sujata Roy Abhijat, Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi. A noted scholar in environmental ethics, feminist theory, and ethics, Dr. Abhijat has contributed extensively to the discipline through her research and publications, including her recent work “Environment and Religion.” Her lecture provided valuable insights into ecofeminism and highlighted its deep connections with Indian environmental movements, inspiring the audience to reflect on the intersections of ecology, gender, and social justice. The session proved to be intellectually enriching, leaving participants with a profound understanding of the theme and encouraging further engagement with issues of environmental philosophy. The event was anchored effectively by Ms. Soumya Singh and Ms. Parul Yadav, ensuring a smooth flow of proceedings. The session began with an English poem on ecofeminism recited by Aastha (2nd Year), setting a reflective tone for the event.

The central aim of the session was to introduce participants to the framework of ecofeminism, particularly in its relevance to the Indian environmental movement. The discussion drew attention to the crucial role women have played in grassroots ecological struggles and emphasized how ecofeminist

thought connects environmental sustainability with questions of justice and equality.

Her lecture began by highlighting the core concern of ecofeminism, which links the oppression of women with the degradation of nature. It examined how patriarchal structures, colonial legacies, and social hierarchies have historically justified domination over both women and the environment. Environmental crises such as land degradation, pesticide contamination, species reduction, and ozone layer depletion were discussed as consequences of systemic exploitation. The reference to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* illustrated the dangers of unregulated scientific progress and its impact on both ecological and human well-being.

The talk emphasized the interdependence and interconnectedness between humans and nature, advocating a shift from anthropocentric perspectives toward a holistic, nature-centred approach. While Western philosophy, exemplified by Descartes' *Cogito ergo sum*, traditionally elevated human rationality above nature, ecofeminism calls for recognizing nature's intrinsic value and fostering a responsible ethical relationship. The discussion stressed the mindful use of scientific advancements, ensuring they support ecological sustainability rather than exploitation.

The Conceptual roots of ecofeminism were explored through scholars like Val Plumwood, who critiqued rationalist traditions that normalize domination, and Carolyn Merchant, who examined the mechanistic worldview treating nature as a controllable resource. The early introduction of the term eco-feminism by Françoise d'Eaubonne was highlighted, advocating a woman-led ecological revolution. The core assumption of ecofeminism—that oppression of women and nature are structurally linked—was emphasized, alongside the need for gendered perspectives in environmental ethics. Different strands of ecofeminism, including liberal, radical, cultural/spiritual, socialist, and postmodern approaches, were discussed, underscoring the diversity of thought within the movement.

Practical illustrations included Indian environmental movements, notably the Chipko Movement, led by courageous women like Gaura Devi, where slogans such as "Kill me, not the tree" exemplified grassroots activism. The Appiko Movement in Karnataka further illustrated community-led initiatives integrating cultural traditions and local knowledge for ecological preservation.

These examples demonstrated how women lived experiences are essential in shaping both ecological and social consciousness.

The session also addressed the language and symbolism of oppression, highlighting how women and nature are metaphorically labelled and “othered,” reinforcing systems of domination. The discussion concluded with a call for an alternative worldview based on connection, care, and ethical responsibility, stressing that women’s liberation and ecological balance are inseparable goals, and sustainable development must integrate ethical, cultural, and gender-conscious perspectives to ensure a harmonious relationship between humans and the natural world. Few questions and doubts from the audience were also answered by the speaker at the end of the lecture.

The programme concluded with a Hindi poem on the same theme, performed by Aakreti (3rd Year) and Yamini (2nd Year), leaving a lasting impression on the audience. The talk witnessed an active participation of students from the Department of Philosophy and other departments as well. The students’ active involvement added both creative and intellectual depth to the session, making it engaging and memorable.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks. By combining scholarly insights with creative student participation, the event not only enriched academic understanding but also encouraged a collective commitment toward sustainability and justice.

The event poster, glimpses of the talk and the list of participants are attached below:



INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ORGANISES

**A TALK ON -
ECOFEMINISM: WITH SPECIAL FOCUS
ON INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
MOVEMENT**



SPEAKER:
DR. SUJATA ROY ABHIJAT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



12:00 - 1:00 P.M.



26TH SEPTEMBER, 2025



CONFERENCE ROOM

PATRON
PROF. POONAM KUMRIA
PRINCIPAL

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
DR. AKHAM HEMABATI DEVI

CONVENOR
DR. RICHA KELA

CO-CONVENOR
DR. NEHA SUKHJA

OFFICIAL POSTER







HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EVENT