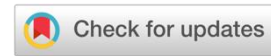




Research Article



Assessing the Impact of Ecofeminist Policy on Gender and Environmental Practices

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Abstract: Global environmental degradation and persistent gender inequality continue to challenge the achievement of sustainable development in Pakistan. Although Pakistan has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, the government still implements environmental and gender policies in a fragmented and sectoral manner. Policymakers continue to prioritize normative approaches that fail to address patriarchal domination, women's marginalization, and environmental exploitation in an integrated framework. This study examines the urgency of strengthening ecofeminist policies within a sustainable socio ecological framework that promotes gender justice and environmental sustainability. The research applies a juridical normative method combined with a comparative policy approach through an examination of environmental governance practices in Pakistan and Sierra de Santa Rosa. The findings reveal that Pakistan has not established comprehensive policies capable of integrating gender equality with environmental governance. In contrast, Sierra de Santa Rosa implements a participatory and community-oriented model that enables women to contribute actively to environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and local economic development. This study concludes that Pakistan must strengthen gender responsive environmental governance by integrating institutions, encouraging community participation, increasing women's involvement in decision making processes, and promoting cross sectoral collaboration to achieve long term socio ecological sustainability.

Keywords: Ecofeminist; Environmental; Gender; Policy; Sustainability;



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INTRODUCTION

Global environmental crisis, marked by climate change, natural resource degradation, pollution, and declining quality of life, has driven the emergence of various theoretical approaches to develop more equitable and sustainable environmental policies.¹ One of the approaches that has gained significant scholarly attention is ecofeminism, a perspective that emphasizes the interconnection between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature as consequences of

¹ Yassine Chami, Dina Imad, and others, 'Abuse of Rights: A Comparative Study between Mālikī Jurisprudence and Positive Law', *AHKAM: Jurnal Ilmu Syariah*, 25.2 (2025), 415–28 <https://doi.org/10.15408/ajis.v25i2.44606> Yong Li, Bairong Wang, and Orachorn Saechang, 'Is Female a More Pro-Environmental Gender? Evidence from China', *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19.13 (2022) <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19138002>



hierarchical, patriarchal, and exploitative social structures.² Within the context of public policy, ecofeminism argues that environmental issues cannot be separated from gender issues, as women frequently experience disproportionate impacts from environmental degradation while simultaneously remaining marginalized within decision making processes.³ Accordingly, the examination of the impact of ecofeminist policies on gender and environmental practices becomes highly relevant in assessing the extent to which policies grounded in ecological justice and gender equality are capable of producing substantive social transformation.⁴

Historically the term ecofeminism was first introduced by Françoise d'Eaubonne in 1974 through the proposition that the domination of women and the domination of nature originate from the same structures of oppression.⁵ Since then, ecofeminism has evolved into an interdisciplinary theory integrating perspectives from feminism, environmental philosophy, sociology, law, and political studies.⁶ Ecofeminism rejects dualistic paradigms that position men as superior to women, humans as superior to nature, and rationality as more valuable than care and relationality. In its subsequent development, the theory has emphasized that the resolution of environmental crises must be pursued through the transformation of oppressive social structures, the empowerment of women, the recognition of local knowledge, and development oriented toward sustainability.⁷ Consequently, ecofeminism functions not merely as a theoretical critique, but also as a normative foundation for the formulation of inclusive public policies.

The relationship between ecofeminism and environmental policy is reflected in efforts to integrate gender perspectives into the management of natural resources, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, as well as energy and food governance.⁸ Women, particularly those living in rural areas and vulnerable communities, frequently play a direct role in managing water resources, food

² Sriharini and others, 'From Doctrinal Legitimacy to Child Protection: Mapping and Reconstructing Child Marriage Fiqh Studies in Indonesia', *Journal of Islamic Law*, 7.1 (2026), 57–83 <https://doi.org/10.24260/JIL.V7I1.5678>

³ Filip Fors Connolly, Mikael Goossen, and Mikael Hjerm, 'Does Gender Equality Cause Gender Differences in Values? Reassessing the Gender-Equality-Personality Paradox', *Sex Roles*, 83.1–2 (2020), 101–13 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-019-01097-x>

⁴ Hamda Sulfinadia and others, 'Negotiating Islamic Inheritance and Customary Law: Functional Legal Pluralism and Matrilineal Pusako Randah in Minangkabau', *Journal of Islamic Law*, 7.1 (2026), 1–30 <https://doi.org/10.24260/JIL.V7I1.3743>

⁵ Mohsi Mohsi and others, 'Harmonizing Legal Pluralism in Marriage Laws', *Al-Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syari'ah Dan Hukum*, 10.2 (2025), 100–118 <https://doi.org/10.22515/ALAHKAM.V10I2.11048>

⁶ Bernadette P. Resurrección, 'Gender and Environment in the Global South', *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*, 2018, 71–85 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315886572-5/GENDER-ENVIRONMENT-GLOBAL-SOUTH-BERNADETTE-RESURRECCI>

⁷ Bernadette P. Resurrección, 'Gender and Environment in the Global South: From "Women, Environment, and Development" to Feminist Political Ecology', *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Environment*, 2017, 71–85 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315886572-5>

⁸ Mathieu Bourbonnais, 'Applications of Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Analysis, and Remote Sensing in Environmental Impact Assessment', *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment*, 2022, 201–20 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429282492-13/APPLICATIONS-GEOGRAPHIC-INFORMATION-SYSTEMS-SPATIAL-ANALYSIS-REMOTE-SENSING-ENVIRONMENTAL-IMPACT-ASSESSMENT-MATHIEU-BOURBONNAIS>



production, household energy, and the preservation of local ecosystems.⁹ Nevertheless, their access to land ownership, capital, education, and political representation often remains limited. Under such circumstances, gender neutral environmental policies risk reinforcing existing inequalities.¹⁰ In contrast, ecofeminist policies seek to ensure women's participation in environmental planning, the protection of rights over natural resources, and the equitable distribution of development benefits.¹¹ The significance of gender in environmental practices is not merely an issue of representation, but is directly related to policy effectiveness and ecological sustainability.

Pakistan constitutes an important area of study because it simultaneously faces two major challenges, namely gender inequality and ecological vulnerability.¹² Available data indicate that women's labor force participation in Pakistan remains within the range of approximately 22–24 percent, significantly lower than that of men, thereby reflecting women's limited access to economic opportunities and public policymaking.¹³ Furthermore, Pakistan ranked among the lowest countries in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report, demonstrating the persistence of structural gender inequality. In addition, data from UN Women reveal that women account for only approximately 22.63 percent of the national labor force, while women's average income remains substantially lower than that of men.¹⁴ These conditions demonstrate that environmental policies are unlikely to achieve effectiveness without the economic empowerment of women.

At the same time, Pakistan faces a range of environmental challenges, including severe flooding, drought, deforestation, air pollution, and water crises, all of which produce widespread social consequences.¹⁵ Simultaneously, patriarchal social structures in several regions continue to restrict women's participation in land ownership,

⁹ Dohyoung Kim and Junseok Hwang, 'Is Renewable Energy More Favorable to Diversity than Conventional Energy Sources on R&D Performance?', *Science and Public Policy*, 49.4 (2022), 646–58 <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scac016>

¹⁰ Yassine Chami, Elsoghair Mahdy, and others, 'Legal Discourse Analysis: Foundations of Forensic Linguistics and Its Applications in Legislation and Litigation', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 7.2 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.58256/g09ere43>

environmental Impact Assessment: Challenges and Opportunities for Transformative Approaches', *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment*, 2022, 181–200 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429282492-12>

¹¹ Vishal Dagar and others, 'Impact of Renewable Energy Consumption, Financial Development and Natural Resources on Environmental Degradation in OECD Countries with Dynamic Panel Data', *Environ Sci Pollut Res*, 29.12 (2022), 18202–12 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-16861-4>

¹² Siti Zumrotun and others, 'Islamic Family Law in Diaspora: Negotiating Gender and Marital Authority among Indonesian Muslim Immigrants in Sydney', *Journal of Islamic Law*, 7.1 (2026), 193–221 <https://doi.org/10.24260/JIL.V7I1.5687>

¹³ Hariyanto and others, 'Eco-Governance Fiqh and Urban Waste Management: A Critical Study of Environmental Policy in Yogyakarta', *Journal of Islamic Law*, 7.1 (2026), 247–74 <https://doi.org/10.24260/JIL.V7I1.5167>

¹⁴ Rachel Herbert, Holly Falk-Krzesinski, and Andrew Plume, 'Sustainability Through a Gender Lens: The Extent to Which Research on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Includes Sex and Gender Consideration', *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.2139/SSRN.3689205>

¹⁵ Sajjad Ahmad Afridi and others, 'Generativity and Green Purchasing Behavior: Moderating Role of Man-Nature Orientation and Perceived Behavioral Control', *SAGE Open*, 11.4 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211054480>



education, employment, and public decision making processes.¹⁶ Rural women are frequently among the groups most severely affected by water scarcity, declining agricultural productivity, and natural disasters; however, their voices often remain underrepresented in the formulation of environmental policies.¹⁷ This disparity demonstrates that access to natural resources is closely interconnected with access to political power.

Honor based social practices, forced marriages, and violence against women in certain Pakistani communities further illustrate that gender subordination remains a serious social problem.¹⁸ This research constitutes an interdisciplinary study occupying a strategic position within the development of contemporary scholarship, particularly in fields that intersect law with literature and the humanities. The law and literature approach demonstrates that literary narratives are not merely aesthetic expressions, but are also capable of reflecting and criticizing socio legal structures that shape concepts of justice, power relations, and governance practices within society.¹⁹ Literary works frequently reveal the cultural foundations underlying legal norms while simultaneously exposing the limitations of formal law when confronted with deeply rooted and complex social realities.²⁰ In this context, literary texts become relevant sources of analysis for understanding crucial issues such as gender justice, honor based violence, environmental ethics, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

In Pakistan such conditions are powerfully reflected in *The Pakistani Bride* authored by Bapsi Sidhwa, which portrays the lives of women within the patriarchal society of Kohistan. Through the character of Zaitoon, the novel illustrates how women are positioned as objects of family honor, controlled through marriage, and punished when resisting structures of domination.²¹ Simultaneously, the harsh and untamed mountainous environment functions as a symbolic space representing women's struggle for survival.²² The novel demonstrates that the oppression of women and the

¹⁶ Gilbert Givano and Yunita Ismail, 'Housewives Environmental Awareness in Household Solid Waste Management', *Journal of Environmental Engineering and Waste Management*, 5.1 (2020), 54 <https://doi.org/10.33021/jenv.v5i1.962>

¹⁷ Daniel Balsalobre-Lorente and others, 'A Holistic Approach to Sustainability: Exploring the Main and Mediating Role of Circular Economy in Net Zero Emissions', *Journal of Environmental Management*, 382 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2025.125319>

¹⁸ Silvia Coderoni and Maria Angela Perito, 'Sustainable Consumption in the Circular Economy. An Analysis of Consumers' Purchase Intentions for Waste-to-Value Food', *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 252 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.119870>

¹⁹ Ahmed Hassan Abdou and others, 'The Effect of Environmentally Sustainable Practices on Customer Citizenship Behavior in Eco-Friendly Hotels: Does the Green Perceived Value Matter?', *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 14.12 (2022) <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14127167>

²⁰ Mary E. Phillips, 'Reconnecting with Nature: An Ecofeminist View of Environmental Management', *Geographical Research*, 58.2 (2020), 154–66 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-5871.12388>

²¹ Yasir Hussain and others, 'Exploring the Mediating Role of Environmental Strategy, Green Innovations, and Transformational Leadership: The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Environmental Performance', *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 29.51 (2022), 76864–80 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-022-20922-7> Mohamed El-Erian, 'The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Corporate Governance and Achieving Sustainable Development', *Access to Justice in Eastern Europe*, 2026, 208 <https://doi.org/10.33327/AJEE-18-9.1-a000177>

²² Ayman Aslam and Irfan Ahmad Rana, 'Impact of the Built Environment on Climate Change Risk Perception and Psychological Distancing: Empirical Evidence from Islamabad, Pakistan', *Environmental Science and Policy*, 127 (2022), 228–40 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2021.10.024> Dina Imad and



exploitation of nature originate from the same structures of power, thereby rendering it highly relevant for analysis through an ecofeminist perspective. Legal issues concerning ecofeminist policies become increasingly important considering that Pakistan continues to face severe environmental challenges, including water crises, deforestation, air pollution, catastrophic flooding, and high vulnerability to climate change.²³ Concurrently, patriarchal social structures in several regions continue to restrict women's mobility, asset ownership, access to education, and political participation.²⁴ Data from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recorded 405 women as victims of honor killings in 2024, increasing from 226 cases in 2023. This fact confirms that policy reform must proceed alongside cultural transformation and effective legal protection.²⁵

Legal framework in Pakistan has indeed demonstrated progress through the recognition of environmental protection and women's empowerment policies; however, their implementation frequently encounters institutional, cultural, and economic obstacles.²⁶ Several previous studies support the relevance of ecofeminist theory. Research conducted by Jose concluded that attitudes toward gender equality positively correlate with environmental concern, thereby supporting ecofeminist assumptions.²⁷ Furthermore, Abigail Opoku examined how women in Africa contribute to promoting environmentally sustainable practices through the lens of materialist ecofeminism, finding that African women act as active agents of transformative change by leading grassroots movements and introducing local green innovations.²⁸ This argument is reinforced by the findings of Inayat Ullah, who asserted that women's equality in the labor market, together with technological innovation through research and development expenditures, constitutes a viable development instrument for ensuring environmental sustainability.²⁹

others, 'Doctrinal and Comparative Assessment of GMO Liability Laws in the UAE', *Journal of Human Rights, Culture and Legal System*, 6.1 (2026), 31–58 <https://doi.org/10.53955/jhcls.v6i1.701>

²³Shahida Begum and Ahmed Ali, 'Water Scarcity in Pakistan: Analyzing Its Political, Social, And Economic Impacts', *Indus Journal of Social Sciences*, 3.2 (2025), 431–40 <https://doi.org/10.59075/IJSS.V3I2.1275>

²⁴Arslan Ahmad and Prosun Bhattacharya, 'Arsenic Contamination of Groundwater in Indus River Basin of Pakistan', 2018, 393–403 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-3889-1_24

²⁵Hafeez Ullah and others, 'Multidimensional Perspective of Green Financial Innovation between Green Intellectual Capital on Sustainable Business: The Case of Pakistan', *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 29.4 (2022), 5552–68 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-15919-7>

²⁶Sunbul Naeem Cheema and Yehuda Baruch, 'Impediments to Progress toward Discrimination-Free Workplaces: The Overlooked Causes of Gender-Based Discrimination in the Pakistan and UK Contexts', *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal*, 45.1 (2025), 17–42 <https://doi.org/10.1108/EDI-09-2023-0305>

²⁷José M. Echavarren, 'The Gender Gap in Environmental Concern: Support for an Ecofeminist Perspective and the Role of Gender Egalitarian Attitudes', *Sex Roles* 2023 89:9, 89.9 (2023), 610–23 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-023-01397-3>

²⁸Abigail Opoku Mensah and others, 'Gender Justice and Environmental Sustainability: The Role of Women in Promoting Green Practices in Africa', *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 2025, 1–20 <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-07-2025-0415>

²⁹Inayat Ullah Wani, Ishfaq Nazir Khanday, and Shaukat Haseen, 'Ecofeminism or Techno-Centrism? Analysing the Gender-Environment Concoction in the Anthropocene: A Study of OECD Countries', *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 2023 30:54, 30.54 (2023), 115021–36 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-30598-2>



Similarly, Fatemeh Bagheri demonstrated that Iranian women's commitment to pro environmental initiatives is driven by their intrinsic relationship with nature and their desire to resist gender inequality and challenge male dominated structures. Iranian women have therefore exhibited collective resilience against gender stereotypes.³⁰ In addition, Rahmatu Buba emphasized the importance of integrating gender perspectives in addressing Africa's socio economic dynamics, particularly through women's contributions to improving sustainability outcomes, including enhanced agricultural practices, disaster response strategies, and access to clean energy.³¹ This is reflected in grassroots movements such as Nigeria's clean water campaigns and Malawi's climate adaptation programs, which have demonstrated transformative impacts resulting from inclusive policies.

Previous studies position women as strategic actors in environmental protection, green innovation, and sustainable development. Nevertheless, the majority of earlier research has focused on African contexts, Iran, or global studies in general, while discussions specifically concerning Pakistan remain relatively limited. Previous studies have also tended to focus either on the theoretical dimensions of ecofeminism or separately on gender and environmental issues, such that integrative analyses concerning the relationship between policy design, legal implementation, changes in gender practices, and environmental outcomes remain insufficiently explored. Moreover, earlier scholarship has primarily emphasized women's social roles and the benefits of gender equality, without comprehensively evaluating the effectiveness of ecofeminist policies as instruments of law and public policy in addressing gender inequality and environmental degradation. This research is important because it specifically evaluates the impact of ecofeminist policies in Pakistan, with a particular focus on gender disparities in access to resources, participation in environmental decision making, and the effectiveness of policies in promoting ecological sustainability. This study further expands previous scholarship by connecting ecofeminist perspectives with the socio legal context of Pakistan, characterized by patriarchal culture, structural inequality, and complex environmental challenges, while also examining their correlation within The Pakistani Bride and through comparative analysis with other countries.

METHOD

This research employs a normative juridical and comparative policy research method integrated with interdisciplinary approaches, particularly ecofeminism, environmental governance, and law and literature studies. The normative juridical approach is used to examine legal instruments and policy frameworks related to gender equality, environmental protection, and sustainable development in Pakistan, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Constitution of Pakistan, the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997, the Protection of Women Act 2006, the Punjab Women Protection Act 2016,

³⁰ Fatemeh Bagheri and others, 'Women and Pro-Environmental Initiatives in Tourism: The Intersection of Gender Dynamics and Environment Issues', *Journal of Travel Research*, 2025 <https://doi.org/10.1177/00472875251383543;WGROU:STRING:PUBLICATION>

³¹ Rahmatu Buba, 'Gender Equity in Environmental Governance', *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy*, 15.1 (2025) <https://www.unjpe.com/index.php/UNJPE/article/view/285>



and policies associated with the Sustainable Development Goals.³² These legal frameworks are analyzed to assess their coherence, implementation, and effectiveness in integrating gender justice with environmental sustainability.³³ The conceptual approach applies ecofeminist theory to examine the relationship between patriarchal domination, gender inequality, and environmental exploitation through the principles of ecological justice, gender equality, and sustainable development.³⁴ The study also incorporates a law and literature approach through an analysis of *The Pakistani Bride* to reflect structural violence and patriarchal culture in Pakistani society.³⁵ Furthermore, a comparative policy approach is employed by comparing Pakistan with Sierra de Santa Rosa, Mexico, to identify differences in policy integration, women's participation, environmental practices, and socio ecological outcomes. Through statutory, conceptual, literary, and comparative analysis, this research formulates normative recommendations for inclusive and sustainable socio ecological governance.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Gender and Environmental Practices in Pakistan

Ecofeminism constitutes a synthesis of socialism, feminism, and ecology that emphasizes the elimination of various forms of oppression based on gender, race, class, and species.³⁶ This approach originates from the dichotomy between the self and the other as the root of domination, while simultaneously distinguishing ethical constructions between masculine perspectives grounded in rights and justice and feminine perspectives emphasizing the ethics of care and interconnectedness.³⁷ Within patriarchal societies, women and animals are frequently positioned as objects of subordination, a condition historically influenced by the division of labor and the control of resources by men.³⁸ Such relations subsequently evolve into structural domination that may be understood as a form of abuse of power against vulnerable groups. The development of agriculture and land ownership further reinforced patriarchal structures through divisions of social roles that confined women to the

³² Khaula Alkaabi and others, 'Sustainable Development Goals from Theory to Practice Using Spatial Data Infrastructure: A Case Study of UAEU Undergraduate Students', *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 15.16 (2023), 12394 <https://doi.org/10.3390/SU151612394/S1>

³³ Yassine Chami and others, 'Legal Discourse Analysis: Foundations of Forensic Linguistics and Its Applications in Legislation and Litigation', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 7.2 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.58256/G09ERE43>

³⁴ Emilio Chuvieco and others, 'Factors Affecting Environmental Sustainability Habits of University Students: Intercomparison Analysis in Three Countries (Spain, Brazil and UAE)', *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 198 (2018), 1372–80 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JCLEPRO.2018.07.121>

³⁵ Maya Khater and others, 'Assessing the Impact of Green Tourism on Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the United Arab Emirates', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 6.2 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.58256/OMOWVR07>

³⁶ Sandrine Caroly, Antoine Girard, and Pierre Falzon, 'Climate Crisis and Gender: Women Strategies in a Male-Dominated Profession', *International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics*, 113 (2026), 103901 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ERGON.2026.103901>

³⁷ Maya Khater, Yassine Chami and Mohamad Albakjaji, 'Legal Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the United Arab Emirates', *Journal of Human Rights, Culture and Legal System*, 5.2 (2025), 378–411 <https://doi.org/10.53955/jhcls.v5i2.469>

³⁸ Inês Campos and Esther Marín-González, 'People in Transitions: Energy Citizenship, Prosumerism and Social Movements in Europe', *Energy Research and Social Science*, 69 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101718>



domestic sphere.³⁹ Feminism emerged as a response aimed at eliminating such inequalities through various approaches, including liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, socialist feminism, and radical feminism, each of which possesses distinct analytical focuses.⁴⁰ In relation to animal protection, two principal approaches have developed, namely rights based theories recognizing the moral rights of animals and utilitarianism, which emphasizes consideration of the suffering and welfare of all living beings.⁴¹

Ecofeminism asserts that the struggle for women's liberation cannot be separated from efforts to end the exploitation of animals and the environment.⁴² The separation between feminist movements and animal rights movements ultimately weakens broader efforts to dismantle patriarchal domination comprehensively. Therefore, an integration between the agenda of women's liberation and the emancipation of other living beings is necessary in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable social justice.⁴³ Ecofeminist theory is constructed upon several fundamental principles, including gender justice and ecological justice, both of which emphasize the importance of equality and environmental protection.⁴⁴ The principle of anti domination serves as the foundation for rejecting all forms of subordination, whether directed toward women or nature. Furthermore, the principle of sustainability underscores that the utilization of natural resources must take into account the interests of future generations.⁴⁵

Principle of community participation also constitutes an essential element, requiring the active involvement of society, particularly women, in policy making processes. In addition, the principles of relational ethics and care place values such as empathy, cooperation, and social responsibility as the foundation of environmental governance.⁴⁶ From a legal perspective, these principles collectively imply the necessity of establishing regulations that are more inclusive and responsive toward vulnerable groups, while simultaneously balancing economic interests with social and

³⁹ Kenneth A. Gould and Tammy L. Lewis, 'Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice', *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice*, 2016, 1–181 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315687322>

⁴⁰ Christine Bauhardt, 'Solutions to the Crisis? The Green New Deal, Degrowth, and the Solidarity Economy: Alternatives to the Capitalist Growth Economy from an Ecofeminist Economics Perspective', *Ecological Economics*, 102 (2014), 60–68 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ECOLECON.2014.03.015>

⁴¹ Martin Weiss and Claudio Cattaneo, 'Degrowth – Taking Stock and Reviewing an Emerging Academic Paradigm', *Ecological Economics*, 137 (2017), 220–30 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2017.01.014>

⁴² Shannon Elizabeth Bell, Cara Daggett, and Christine Labuski, 'Toward Feminist Energy Systems: Why Adding Women and Solar Panels Is Not Enough☆', *Energy Research and Social Science*, 68 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101557>

⁴³ Walter Leal Filho and others, 'Reinvigorating the Sustainable Development Research Agenda: The Role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)', *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*, 25.2 (2018), 131–42 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504509.2017.1342103>

⁴⁴ Sónia Maria Martins Caridade, Diogo Guedes Vidal, and Maria Alzira Pimenta Dinis, 'Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: Outcomes, Challenges and Future Perspectives', *World Sustainability Series*, 2022, 167–76 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86304-3_10

⁴⁵ Miriam Gay-Antaki, 'Feminist Geographies of Climate Change: Negotiating Gender at Climate Talks', *Geoforum*, 115 (2020), 1–10 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.GEOFORUM.2020.06.012>

⁴⁶ Sebastian Bamberg, 'How Does Environmental Concern Influence Specific Environmentally Related Behaviors? A New Answer to an Old Question', *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 23.1 (2003), 21–32 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944\(02\)00078-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944(02)00078-6)



ecological protection in a sustainable manner. Relationship between law and sustainable development constitutes an important conceptual foundation for understanding the socio legal significance of literary representations of honor based violence.⁴⁷ Within the development of contemporary legal scholarship, environmental protection, gender justice, and institutional accountability are regarded as interconnected pillars in the realization of sustainable governance.⁴⁸ In certain contexts, particularly in regions of the Middle East, legal frameworks have evolved through the integration of sustainability principles and environmental protection as part of constitutional obligations, which in turn contribute to the strengthening of social stability and the advancement of human rights. Accordingly, the convergence between law and sustainable development demonstrates that legal reform is not merely technical in nature, but rather constitutes a prerequisite for broader social transformation.⁴⁹

Within the context of Pakistan, legislative responses toward honor based crimes demonstrate the dynamic interaction between normative progress and structural limitations. Significant reform was reflected in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2004, which classified honor killing as a criminal offense.⁵⁰ This reform was subsequently strengthened through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2016, which eliminated legal loopholes related to the granting of forgiveness by victims' families, thereby reinforcing the position of the state in prosecuting such crimes.⁵¹ Normatively, these reforms marked a significant step toward delegitimizing honor based violence within the national legal system.

Data from the South Asian region indicate that Pakistan continues to struggle in effectively achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly with regard to gender equality. Pakistan ranked 125th out of 163 countries in the 2023 SDG Index. In practice, Pakistan continues to face numerous challenges, including poverty and income inequality, which have generated further social problems such as child marriage involving women and girls, often resulting in domestic violence.⁵² These conditions are reflected in *The Pakistani Bride*, which portrays domestic violence and the destructive effects of this social problem upon the lives of its female characters. These women experience physical abuse, psychological torture, sexual

⁴⁷ Bina Agarwal, 'The Gender and Environment Debate: Lessons from India', *Population and Environment: Rethinking the Debate*, 2019, 87–124 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429302602-6>

⁴⁸ Clare D'Souza and others, 'Hand Me Downs and Sustainable Choices: A Circular Economy Necessity', *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management: An International Journal*, 30.3 (2025), 549–69 <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFMM-05-2025-0242>

⁴⁹ Bin Tang and Jing Wu, 'Institutional Perceptions, Subjective Well-Being, and Public pro-Environmental Behaviour: Moderating Effects of Perceived Environmental Conditions – Evidence from China', *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 541 (2026), 147535 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JCLEPRO.2026.147535>

⁵⁰ Martin Binder, Ann Kathrin Blankenberg, and Jorge Guardiola, 'Does It Have to Be a Sacrifice? Different Notions of the Good Life, pro-Environmental Behavior and Their Heterogeneous Impact on Well-Being', *Ecological Economics*, 167 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2019.106448>

⁵¹ Michael Prinzing and others, 'Pro-Environmental Behaviors and Well-Being in Everyday Life', *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 98 (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2024.102394>

⁵² Muhammad Irfan Syaifuddin, Siti Syamsiyatun, and Jeanny Dhewayani, 'Encouraging Unity in Diversity via Marriage', *Al-Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syari'ah Dan Hukum*, 10.2 (2025), 170–90 <https://doi.org/10.22515/ALAHKAM.V10I2.12581>



violence, and emotional mistreatment perpetrated by their male relatives in Pakistan.⁵³ Additional problems are reflected in Pakistan's social, economic, and political structures, which demonstrate discriminatory tendencies against women. Inequality in access to education, employment opportunities, and political participation contributes to the formation of systemic inequality within society. Women are also highly vulnerable to various forms of violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment. Such conditions worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered an increase in domestic violence cases. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime stated that this phenomenon indicates how national emergencies and global crises possess the potential to exacerbate violence and sexual abuse against women. Consequently, these circumstances create a social environment that is insufficiently conducive to the development of women's capacities and empowerment in Pakistan.⁵⁴

Pakistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1996 and therefore bears the obligation to protect women from sexual violence and various forms of gender-based violence committed by both non state actors and state authorities. As an implementation measure, the government established the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), which is tasked with providing policy recommendations, particularly concerning honor killing practices, while simultaneously promoting gender equality and the protection of women's rights in Pakistan.⁵⁵ Nevertheless, the existence of this institution has not yet produced a significant impact in reducing gender inequality. Normatively the protection of women has also been accommodated within the Constitution of Pakistan. Article 25 affirms the principle of equality and guarantees equal protection before the law without discrimination based on sex. Furthermore, Article 27 prohibits discrimination based on social status, belief, or gender. The Constitution also provides opportunities for women's political participation, including within legislative institutions, while Articles 32 and 34 emphasize the importance of women's full participation in various sectors of development.

Despite the existence of legal frameworks and international commitments, the implementation of CEDAW in Pakistan continues to encounter numerous obstacles.⁵⁶ One of the principal challenges is the persistence of honor killing practices that remain deeply rooted within society. This is reflected in the high number of cases occurring annually, while only approximately 10–20 percent are reported and legally prosecuted. Consequently, many women have yet to receive effective protection

⁵³ Muhammad Afnan Talib and others, 'Groundwater Governance: Integrating HHRA and Strategic Foresight to Mitigate Arsenic Risk in Central Sindh, Pakistan', *Futures*, 176 (2026), 103761 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.FUTURES.2026.103761>

⁵⁴ Toqeer Ahmed, Mohammad Zounemat-Kermani, and Miklas Scholz, 'Climate Change, Water Quality and Water-Related Challenges: A Review with Focus on Pakistan', *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17.22 (2020), 1–22 <https://doi.org/10.3390/IJERPH17228518>

⁵⁵ Lukman Santoso and others, 'Fragmented Legal Protection in Child Marriage Prevention', *Al-Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syari'ah Dan Hukum*, 11.1 (2026), 27–55 <https://doi.org/10.22515/ALAHKAM.V11I1.14103>

⁵⁶ Elyta Elyta and others, 'Political Development through Renewable Energy: The Use of Ex-Mining Land in Indonesia's New Capital', *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 13.3 (2025), 1693–1718 <https://doi.org/10.26811/PEURADEUN.V13I3.1099>



from the state.⁵⁷ Weak implementation of regulations at both national and regional levels, combined with limited public awareness concerning women's rights, constitutes a major factor hindering policy effectiveness.⁵⁸ Therefore, the involvement of international organizations becomes essential in strengthening efforts to address gender inequality in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has also adopted several international commitments through international legal instruments, particularly CEDAW. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of these reforms continues to face substantial implementation challenges, especially within tribal and rural areas such as Kohistan. Law enforcement is frequently hindered by the dominance of customary legal systems, including jirga mechanisms, geographical isolation, weak institutional capacity, and deeply entrenched patriarchal norms operating as informal legal systems.⁵⁹ From a juridical perspective, these conditions may be analyzed through the doctrine of abuse of rights, illustrating how non formal power structures are capable of exceeding normative limits in order to sustain oppressive practices against vulnerable groups.

As a consequence, a governance gap emerges in which formal law operates only at the normative level, while patriarchal customary authorities continue to dominate social practices in reality.⁶⁰ The Pakistani Bride also reflects this condition by portraying gender inequality and patriarchal domination as structural problems embedded within society rather than as isolated social deviations. Therefore, addressing this gap requires not only legislative reform, but also the strengthening of institutional accountability mechanisms capable of transforming legal norms into effective protection for women. Such an approach aligns with the sustainable development agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 16, which emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions. From a legal perspective, gender inequality reflects the incomplete implementation of the principle of substantive equality, despite Pakistan's formal recognition of such principles through its Constitution, particularly Article 25, which guarantees equality before the law without discrimination based on sex. In addition, regulations such as the Protection of Women Act 2006, the Punjab Women Protection Act 2016, and the National Climate Change Policy 2012 demonstrate formal recognition of women's protection and the importance of their participation in development.⁶¹ Nevertheless, in practice, women, particularly in rural and tribal regions, continue to experience limited access to land

⁵⁷ Mohammad Issa Alhourani and others, 'The Painful Lives of Pakistani Tribal Women: A Postcolonial Feminist Reading of Jamil Ahmad's *The Wandering Falcon* (2011)', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 6.1 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.58256/E9QCP116>

⁵⁸ Bambang Irawan and others, 'Spiritual Ecology Across Faiths: A Comparative Study of GreenSufism in Indonesia and GreenFaith in the United States', *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 14.1 (2026), 51–76 <https://doi.org/10.26811/PEURADEUN.V14I1.1575>

⁵⁹ Ali Nawaz Khan, Khalid Mehmood, and Ho Kwong Kwan, 'Green Knowledge Management: A Key Driver of Green Technology Innovation and Sustainable Performance in the Construction Organizations', *Journal of Innovation and Knowledge*, 9.1 (2024), 111–29 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JIK.2023.100455>

⁶⁰ Dinda Aprillia and Abdul Kadir Jaelani, 'Forest Area Tourism Village Management: Regulatory Analysis In Karanganyar Regency As An Effort To Realize Sustainable Tourism', *The Fourth International Conference on Government Education Management and Tourism*, 4 (2025), 084–084 <https://www.conference.loupiasconference.org/index.php/ICoGEMT-4/article/view/607>

⁶¹ Yordan Gunawan and Mohammad Hazyar Arumbinang, 'The Climate Change Litigation Based Human Rights Approach in Corporations: Prospects and Challenges', *Journal of Human Rights, Culture and Legal System*, 3.2 (2023), 288–307 <https://doi.org/10.53955/JHCLS.V3I2.116>



ownership, natural resources, and decision making spaces, thereby reinforcing their subordinate position within patriarchal social structures.

These inequalities directly affect environmental degradation and the effectiveness of conservation efforts. Women, who socially occupy crucial roles in managing domestic resources such as water, food, and energy, are frequently excluded from environmental policy making processes. As a result, the policies produced tend to be insufficiently responsive to actual community level needs.⁶² Although Pakistan possesses legal instruments such as the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997, the approaches employed remain largely technocratic and have not fully integrated gender perspectives. Consequently, the potential of women's local knowledge in maintaining environmental sustainability remains underutilized, while simultaneously increasing women's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods, and water crises.⁶³

Case study of Kohistan provides a concrete illustration of gender specific environmental challenges. Women in the region face restricted mobility due to patriarchal social norms, thereby severely limiting access to essential resources such as clean water. When environmental degradation occurs, including the depletion of water resources or deforestation, women's workloads increase significantly because they remain responsible for fulfilling domestic needs.⁶⁴ At the same time, however, they continue to lack opportunities to participate in decision making processes related to natural resource governance.⁶⁵ The dominance of customary legal mechanisms such as jirga further reinforces this exclusion, thereby creating conditions in which women become the most affected group while simultaneously remaining the least represented in policy processes.

This phenomenon demonstrates the existence of a gap between formal law and prevailing social practices.⁶⁶ From a legal perspective, such conditions may be analyzed through the concept of abuse of rights, namely circumstances in which non formal power structures exceed their normative boundaries and are utilized to maintain domination over vulnerable groups, including women.⁶⁷ Consequently, formal law, which should function as a mechanism of protection, becomes ineffective in practice because it is overshadowed by patriarchal customary norms. Gender

⁶² Alireza Annabi and Mahmoud Jalali, 'Investigating The Central Performance of International Organizations in Environmental Protection', *International Journal of New Findings in Health and Educational Sciences (IJHES)*, 1.2 (2023), 1–25 <https://doi.org/10.63053/IJHES.11>

⁶³ Eleonora Federici, 'Why Ecofeminism Matters Narrating/Translating Ecofeminism(S)', *Iperstoria*, 2022.20 (2022), 66–77 <https://doi.org/10.13136/2281-4582/2022.120.1256>

⁶⁴ Mursalin Jahan, 'Woman and Nature: Ecofeminist Sensibilities in Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlet Letter', *ECS Transactions*, 107.1 (2022), 4347–55 <https://doi.org/10.1149/10701.4347ECST>

⁶⁵ Cary L. Klemmer and Kathleen A. McNamara, 'Deep Ecology and Ecofeminism: Social Work to Address Global Environmental Crisis', *Affilia - Journal of Women and Social Work*, 35.4 (2020), 503–15 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109919894650>

⁶⁶ Godwell Nhamo and Chipso Mukonza, 'Opportunities for Women in the Green Economy and Environmental Sectors', *Sustainable Development*, 28.4 (2020), 823–32 <https://doi.org/10.1002/SD.2033>

⁶⁷ Tanaya Saha, Avik Sinha, and Shujaat Abbas, 'Green Financing of Eco-Innovations: Is the Gender Inclusivity Taken Care Of?', *Economic Research-Ekonomiska Istrazivanja*, 35.1 (2022), 5514–35 <https://doi.org/10.1080/1331677X.2022.2029715>



inequality within environmental contexts therefore constitutes not merely a social issue, but also a legal problem associated with weak implementation and limited institutional accountability.⁶⁸ Although legal reforms in Pakistan have demonstrated normative progress, they have not yet fully addressed social realities at the local level.⁶⁹ Accordingly, a more comprehensive approach is required through the integration of gender perspectives into environmental policies, the strengthening of law enforcement mechanisms, and the harmonization of formal law with local practices while remaining grounded in human rights principles. Such an approach is consistent with the sustainable development agenda, particularly in promoting gender equality and strengthening just institutions as the foundation for achieving sustainable social and ecological justice.

Assessment of the Impact of Ecofeminist Policies in Pakistan

In assessing the impact of ecofeminist policies in Pakistan, it is essential to situate such policies within the framework of international law and global commitments that have been adopted by the state. Since the acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Pakistan has adopted human rights principles as normative sources in the formulation of national policies.⁷⁰ Furthermore, Pakistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1996, thereby affirming the state's commitment to eliminating discrimination against women, including within the contexts of protection against gender-based violence and access to resources. The policies adopted by Pakistan together with the emergence of ecofeminist movements, can be observed through the increasing integration of gender equality principles and environmental protection within social practices and public policies.⁷¹ Although the term "ecofeminism" is not always explicitly employed in formal regulations, ecofeminist values are reflected in various community based initiatives linking women's empowerment with environmental sustainability.⁷² These movements emerged both as a response to the failures of conventional development approaches that lacked gender sensitivity and as a form of resistance against patriarchal structures controlling women's access to natural resources.⁷³

⁶⁸ Mohamad Albakjaji, 'Sustainable Development Goals in International Law: A Review of Challenges in Implementation and Integration', *Journal of Posthumanism*, 5.2 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.63332/JOPH.V5I2.503>

⁶⁹ Vellayati Hajad and Ikhsan Ikhsan, 'Ecofeminism as a Movement: Choosing between Economics and Nature Protection', *Theoretical and Practical Research in the Economic Fields*, 15.1 (2024), 91–100 [https://doi.org/10.14505/TPREF.V15.1\(29\).09](https://doi.org/10.14505/TPREF.V15.1(29).09)

⁷⁰ Shakeel Ahmed Talpur and others, 'Pollution Indicators and Human Health Risk Assessment of Fluoride Contaminated Drinking Groundwater in Southern Pakistan', *HydroResearch*, 8 (2025), 167–77 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hydres.2024.10.005>

⁷¹ Abdul Kadir Jaelani and others, 'The Impact of Tourism Villages Regulations to Achieve Sustainable Villages Tourism', *Contrarius*, 1.3 (2025), 245–61 <https://doi.org/10.53955/CONTRARIUS.V1I3.217>

⁷² Waqar Ali and others, 'Unraveling Prevalence and Public Health Risks of Arsenic, Uranium and Co-Occurring Trace Metals in Groundwater along Riverine Ecosystem in Sindh and Punjab, Pakistan', *Environmental Geochemistry and Health*, 41.5 (2019), 2223–38 <https://doi.org/10.1007/S10653-019-00278-7>

⁷³ Chris Jeffords, 'On the Relationship between Constitutional Environmental Human Rights and Sustainable Development Outcomes', *Ecological Economics*, 186 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ECOLECON.2021.107049>



Ecofeminist movements in Pakistan may be identified through various local practices involving women as principal actors in environmental governance.⁷⁴ One significant example is the involvement of women in social forestry programs and water resource conservation initiatives in rural areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, frequently facilitated by organizations such as UN Women and local non-governmental organizations. In addition, women have participated in sustainable agricultural management and household scale alternative energy production, including the utilization of biogas and environmentally friendly technologies.⁷⁵ These practices reflect ecofeminist principles that position women not merely as victims of environmental degradation, but also as agents of change possessing local knowledge and adaptive capacities in responding to ecological crises.⁷⁶ At the policy level although not explicitly labeled as “ecofeminist policies,” several governmental regulations and programs exhibit characteristics consistent with ecofeminist principles.⁷⁷ For example, women’s economic empowerment policies through the Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) program seek to expand women’s access to productive resources, while regulations concerning the protection of home based workers and workplace harassment protection further demonstrate recognition of women’s rights. Within the environmental sector, gender integration has increasingly appeared in natural resource management policies involving women in planning and implementation processes. These developments indicate a gradual shift from masculine and top-down policy approaches toward more participatory and inclusive governance models.⁷⁸

Transformations occurring following the development of ecofeminist movements in Pakistan may be analyzed through several dimensions. *First*, there has been an increase in women’s participation in decision making processes, both at the community level and within broader policy forums.⁷⁹ Women who were previously marginalized have gradually acquired spaces to articulate their interests, particularly regarding environmental issues directly affecting their lives. *Second*, there has been a growing collective awareness concerning the relationship between gender injustice and environmental degradation, thereby encouraging the emergence of more holistic

⁷⁴ Shabbir Hussain and others, ‘Drinking Water Contamination by Heavy Metals in Different Cities of Pakistan’, *International Journal of Advanced Chemistry*, 9.1 (2021), 40–43 <https://doi.org/10.14419/IJAC.V9I1.31529>

⁷⁵ Myrtati Dyah Artaria and others, ‘Risk and Protective Factors of Indonesian Women Migrant Workers in Malaysia’, *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 13.3 (2025), 1859–80 <https://doi.org/10.26811/PEURADEUN.V13I3.1728>

⁷⁶ John A. Burt, ‘A Natural History of the Emirates’, *A Natural History of the Emirates*, 2023, 1–748 <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-37397-8>

⁷⁷ Waseem Ishaque, Khalid Sultan, and Zia ur Rehman, ‘Water Management and Sustainable Development in Pakistan: Environmental and Health Impacts of Water Quality on Achieving the UNSDGs by 2030’, *Frontiers in Water*, 6 (2024) <https://doi.org/10.3389/FRWA.2024.1267164>

⁷⁸ Yash Aryan and others, ‘A Comprehensive Review of Human Health Risks of Arsenic and Fluoride Contamination of Groundwater in the South Asia Region’, *Journal of Water and Health*, 22.2 (2024), 235–67 <https://doi.org/10.2166/WH.2023.082>

⁷⁹ Dinda Aprilia and others, ‘Regulatory Model for Tourism Villages in Forest Areas Based on Sustainable Tourism’, *Legality: Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum*, 33.1 (2025), 286–306 <https://doi.org/10.22219/LJIH.V33I1.40177>



policy approaches.⁸⁰ *Third*, in several cases, community-based programs involving women have demonstrated more sustainable outcomes compared to conventional approaches, particularly with regard to natural resource conservation and local economic resilience. Developments have not entirely eliminated existing structural inequalities. Ecofeminist movements in Pakistan continue to encounter challenges in the form of cultural resistance, limited access to education and technology, and insufficient institutional support. Moreover, there remains a risk that ecofeminist approaches may be adopted merely symbolically without generating substantive transformation within structures of power and resource distribution.⁸¹ Therefore, more systematic efforts are required to integrate ecofeminist principles comprehensively into legal and policy frameworks.

Such systematic efforts cannot be implemented sporadically or symbolically, but instead must be developed through structured, data-based policy designs integrated throughout the entire policy cycle, including formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Conceptually, this approach is grounded in gender mainstreaming based on ecological justice, namely the incorporation of gender dimensions into every stage of policymaking. International practice has recognized this method as one of the most effective mechanisms for bridging the gap between legal norms and social realities.⁸² *First*, systematic measure involves the establishment of policy instruments explicitly integrating gender perspectives within environmental policies, such as the Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.⁸³ These instruments are not merely declaratory in character, but instead formulate sector based national action plans covering energy, forestry, and agriculture, accompanied by measurable gender indicators.⁸⁴ This model has been implemented in various developing countries and has proven capable of increasing women's participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation through multi stakeholder and community based approaches.

Second, ecofeminist principles may be integrated into macro development policies, as reflected in the transformation of environmental policies within the European Union through the European Green Deal. Studies demonstrate that environmental policies previously characterized as gender blind have increasingly shifted toward gender transformative approaches through the incorporation of care based economics, distributive justice, and the participation of vulnerable groups in the green energy

⁸⁰ Jessica Osanya and others, 'An Analysis of the Respective Contributions of Husband and Wife in Farming Households in Kenya to Decisions Regarding the Use of Income: A Multinomial Logit Approach', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 83 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2020.102419>

⁸¹ Nóirín MacNamara and others, 'Interrogating the Politicization of Female Genital Cutting (FGC) within Conditions of Asymmetrical Cultural Convergence. A Case Study of Northern Ireland', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 82 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2020.102391>

⁸² Indulata Prasad, "'We Have Achieved Great Feats...but Our Struggle Is Far from over": Centering Caste Difference in Feminist Discourse of the Bodhgaya Land Movement of Bihar, India', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 85 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2021.102438>

⁸³ Miray Özden, 'The Importance of Ecofeminism in Sustainable Development', *Studies in Critical Social Sciences*, 275 (2024), 88–114 https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004690868_007

⁸⁴ Marija Antić and Ivana Radačić, 'The Evolving Understanding of Gender in International Law and "Gender Ideology" Pushback 25 years since the Beijing Conference on Women', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 83 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2020.102421>



transition.⁸⁵ This development represents a concrete example of how ecofeminism has evolved beyond a social movement and become institutionalized within regional policymaking frameworks. Such measures illustrate a transformation from a merely regulatory state toward a responsive state that not only regulates, but also actively responds to structural inequalities.⁸⁶

Third, the strengthening of gender-based evaluation mechanisms constitutes another essential dimension, as illustrated by the Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard developed by UN Women. This instrument utilizes approximately fifty indicators to evaluate the extent to which national climate policies accommodate gender equality principles.⁸⁷ Global data indicate that many countries have adopted legal frameworks related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, implementation remains weak and uneven, particularly in relation to gender and environmental dimensions.⁸⁸ These findings demonstrate that the principal problem does not lie in the absence of normative frameworks, but rather in weak enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, thereby necessitating evidence based policy approaches grounded in ecofeminist perspectives. In Greece, despite the existence of national climate strategies integrating gender and environmental policies, evaluations reveal that gender dimensions have not yet been optimally incorporated into sectoral policies, resulting in low levels of women's participation within the green economy.⁸⁹ Accordingly, without explicit and measurable policy designs, the integration of ecofeminist principles tends to remain merely normative and fails to produce substantive impacts.

Therefore, Pakistan may implement several systematic measures to strengthen gender responsive environmental governance. First, the government may adopt the Climate Change Gender Action Plans model as a national framework for integrating gender perspectives into environmental policies and sustainable development programs. Second, policymakers may reform development policies by incorporating gender transformative principles comparable to those reflected in the European Green Deal in order to promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and gender justice simultaneously. Third, gender-based monitoring systems should be established

⁸⁵ Penny Weiss and Wynne Moskop, 'Ecofeminist Manifestos: Resources for Feminist Perspectives on the Environment', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 83 (2020), 102418 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.WSIF.2020.102418>

⁸⁶ Marco Cellini and others, 'Exploring the Nexus of Gender and Energy Transitions: A Systematic Literature Review', *Energy Research & Social Science*, 119 (2025), 103887 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ERSS.2024.103887>

⁸⁷ Enas Qutieshat and others, 'Governing Legal Chatbots: Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and Liability in Comparative Perspective', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 7.1 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.58256/ppfy4k96>

⁸⁸ Jennifer Burney and others, 'Impact of a Rural Solar Electrification Project on the Level and Structure of Women's Empowerment', *Environmental Research Letters*, 12.9 (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aa7f38>

⁸⁹ Hannah Salamon, 'The Effect of Women's Parliamentary Participation on Renewable Energy Policy Outcomes', *European Journal of Political Research*, 62.1 (2023), 174–96 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12539>



using indicators similar to those developed by UN Women.⁹⁰ Fourth, community-based approaches should be strengthened by involving women as principal actors in natural resource governance. These measures demonstrate that the integration of ecofeminism requires a multidimensional approach combining normative legal frameworks, institutional design, participatory governance, and data driven evaluation.⁹¹ Without these four elements, policies will remain limited to the level of rhetoric. Conversely, through systematic integration, ecofeminism may function as a transformational paradigm capable not only of addressing gender inequality, but also of contributing to the sustainable resolution of ecological crises.⁹²

Comparative Analysis of Ecofeminist Movement Implementation in Pakistan and Sierra de Santa Rosa

There has been tangible implementation in several developing countries, particularly in Latin America, through women based sustainable development programs in Sierra de Santa Rosa, which integrate women into the management of natural resources.⁹³ In this context, women's participation has not only enhanced environmental sustainability, but has also functioned as an instrument for transforming social structures that had previously been exploitative toward both women and nature.⁹⁴ This subsection therefore examines a comparative analysis of the implementation of ecofeminist movements in Pakistan and Sierra de Santa Rosa.

The selection of Sierra de Santa Rosa as a comparative object with Pakistan is based on the presence of similar structural characteristics within both regions. Both regions experience comparable challenges, including gender inequality shaped by patriarchal cultural systems, economic dependence on natural resources, and environmental pressures resulting from unsustainable patterns of exploitation.⁹⁵ These similarities render the comparison methodologically valid because it does not juxtapose two entirely distinct contexts, but rather compares two regions possessing comparable baseline problems while producing different policy outcomes.⁹⁶

Table 1. Comparative Analysis of the Implementation of Ecofeminist Movements in Pakistan and Sierra de Santa Rosa

⁹⁰ Sarpong Hammond Antwi, 'The Trade-off between Gender, Energy and Climate Change in Africa: The Case of Niger Republic', *GeoJournal*, 87.1 (2022), 183–95 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-020-10246-9>

⁹¹ Benjamin K. Sovacool and others, 'Pluralizing Energy Justice: Incorporating Feminist, Anti-Racist, Indigenous, and Postcolonial Perspectives', *Energy Research and Social Science*, 97 (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.102996>

⁹² Sopin Jirakiattikul, Tran Thi Lan, and Kuaanan Techato, 'Advancing Households' Sustainable Energy through Gender Attitudes towards Rooftop Pv Installations: A Case of the Central Highlands, Vietnam', *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 13.2 (2021), 1–15 <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13020942>

⁹³ Anastasia Quintana and others, 'Political Making of More-than-Fishers through Their Involvement in Ecological Monitoring of Protected Areas', *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 29.14 (2020), 3899–3923 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-020-02055-w>

⁹⁴ Patricia Santillán-Carvantes and others, 'A Global–Local Analytical Framework for Social-Ecological Systems: A Deductive–Inductive Approach', *Sustainable Futures*, 11 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sftr.2026.101688>

⁹⁵ Beth A. Bee, 'Power, Perception, and Adaptation: Exploring Gender and Social–Environmental Risk Perception in Northern Guanajuato, Mexico', *Geoforum*, 69 (2016), 71–80 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.GEOFORUM.2015.12.006>

⁹⁶ Iris Santos-González and others, 'Transforming Indigenous and Rural Communities through Solar Food Sovereignty: A Participatory Energy Approach in Mexico', *Energy Research & Social Science*, 136 (2026), 104703 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ERSS.2026.104703>



Aspect of Analysis	Pakistan	Sierra de Santa Rosa
Legal and Policy Framework	Has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet implementation remains normative and insufficiently integrated	Not based upon an explicit national “ecofeminist” legal framework, but implemented through operational local sustainable development programs (Programa de Desarrollo Sustentable)
Approach Model	Predominantly top-down, driven by the state and international organizations such as UN Women	Bottom-up and community based, with women positioned as principal actors in resource management
Integration of Gender and Environment	Partial; gender and environmental policies continue to operate separately and sectorally	Directly integrated into practice; women actively participate in conservation, food production, and local economic development
Role of Women	Still limited, with women frequently positioned merely as policy beneficiaries	Women function as principal actors involved in production, conservation, and community organizations
Concrete Programs	Women’s economic empowerment initiatives, labor protection policies, and programs aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence constitute important instruments for strengthening gender equality and social protection within sustainable development policies.	Reforestation, soil conservation, horticulture, and collective enterprises such as local food production
Economic Impact	Limited and uneven; many women remain concentrated in low paid informal sectors	Increased income generation through women’s collective enterprises, including local food processing industries
Environmental Impact	Insignificant due to the absence of integrated policy implementation	Clearly visible through land rehabilitation, forest conservation, and sustainable resource management

Source: Processed Secondary Data, 2026

Implementation of ecofeminist policies in Pakistan and Sierra de Santa Rosa demonstrates that the successful integration of gender and environmental issues is largely determined by the policy approach adopted, the degree of women’s participation, and the extent to which women are positioned as central subjects of development.⁹⁷ The comparison between these two regions illustrates that ecofeminism functions not merely as a theoretical critique of patriarchy and environmental exploitation, but also as a sustainable development model capable of generating tangible social, economic, and environmental transformation.

Ecofeminism recognizes the existence of a structural relationship between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature. Patriarchal systems position women and the environment as objects that may be controlled, exploited, and utilized for economic interests.⁹⁸ Consequently, policies grounded in ecofeminist principles are directed not only toward environmental protection, but also toward the construction of more equitable social relations through the provision of broader participatory spaces for women in natural resource governance.⁹⁹ In Pakistan, the implementation of policies concerning women and the environment remains predominantly normative and administrative in character. Although the state has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

⁹⁷ Stephanie Buechler and others, ‘Climate Change Perceptions and Responses of Male and Female Fishers in the Gulf of California, Mexico’, *Current Research in Environmental Sustainability*, 10 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsust.2025.100323>

⁹⁸ Carmen Pedroza-Gutiérrez and others, ‘What Are the Factors That Enable or Hinder Gender Equality? Lessons and Experiences on Gender Dynamics in Mexican Small-Scale Fisheries’, *Marine Policy*, 159 (2024), 105944 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.MARPOL.2023.105944>

⁹⁹ M. Banuet-Martinez and others, ‘“It Seems That Climate Change Is Already Harming Us All”: Complex Climate Change, Health, and Socio-Ecological Risks for Mexican Fishing Communities’, *Social Science & Medicine*, 384 (2025), 118548 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.SOCSCIMED.2025.118548>



Women and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such policies have not yet been fully integrated into local development practices.¹⁰⁰ Programs concerning women's economic empowerment and the protection of female labor continue to operate in a sectoral manner, thereby treating gender and environmental issues as separate concerns.¹⁰¹ As a consequence, the impact of such policies upon social structural transformation and environmental sustainability remains limited.

These conditions are further exacerbated by patriarchal cultural structures that continue to dominate Pakistani society. Within many communities, women continue to experience restricted access to education, land ownership, economic decision making, and political participation. Consequently, women are frequently positioned merely as beneficiaries of policy rather than as decision makers or resource managers.¹⁰² This condition prevents environmental policies from effectively utilizing women's local knowledge regarding conservation, water management, agriculture, and household food security. As a result, development policies continue to exhibit exploitative tendencies toward nature because their orientation remains predominantly focused on economic growth rather than ecological sustainability.¹⁰³ From an environmental perspective, policy impacts in Pakistan have likewise not demonstrated significant transformation. This is primarily attributable to the absence of direct integration between environmental protection agendas and women's empowerment initiatives.¹⁰⁴ Development programs continue to rely heavily upon top-down approaches designed by the state or international organizations. Such models frequently produce formalistic policies because local communities, particularly women, are not actively involved in policy planning or monitoring processes.¹⁰⁵ Consequently, program sustainability remains weak and social transformation proceeds at a relatively slow pace.

In contrast to Pakistan, the implementation of sustainable development in Sierra de Santa Rosa demonstrates an approach more closely aligned with substantive ecofeminist principles. Although the term "ecofeminist" is not explicitly employed within its legal framework, development practices in the region have directly integrated women into natural resource governance through community based

¹⁰⁰ Sholahuddin Al-Fatih and others, 'Questioning Ecological Justice in Indonesian Forestry Regulations', *Contrarius*, 2.3 (2026), 226–46 <https://doi.org/10.53955/CONTRARIUS.V2I3.295>

¹⁰¹ Nagwa Abouhaiba, Saed Ahmed Khoulil and Maya Khater, 'Towards Protecting the Injured Party from Errors and Hallucinations of Artificial Intelligence: A Contemporary Legal Perspective', *F1000Research*, 15 (2026), 569 <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.179603.1>

¹⁰² Mario Bruzzone, 'Respatializing the Domestic: Gender, Extensive Domesticity, and Activist Kitchenspace in Mexican Migration Politics', *Cultural Geographies*, 24.2 (2017), 247–63 <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474474016673063>

¹⁰³ Rosa Felicitas Philipp, 'Defensa de La Vida: More-than-Human Care as Resistance against the Threats of Mega-Projects at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico', *Geoforum*, 167 (2025), 104453 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.GEOFORUM.2025.104453>

¹⁰⁴ Stephanie Buechler and others, 'Climate Change Perceptions and Responses of Male and Female Fishers in the Gulf of California, Mexico', *Current Research in Environmental Sustainability*, 10 (2025), 100323 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CRSUST.2025.100323>

¹⁰⁵ Guadalupe Gómez-Hernández and others, 'Perceptions of Oyster Farmers on Adopting Environmental Monitoring Technologies to Mitigate Ocean Acidification: A Case Study in Bahía San Quintín, México', *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 272 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2025.108013>



sustainable development programs.¹⁰⁶ This approach is fundamentally bottom up in nature, meaning that development is designed according to local community needs with women positioned as principal actors.¹⁰⁷ Women's participation in Sierra de Santa Rosa extends beyond domestic activities into environmental conservation, reforestation, land management, local food production, and community based economic organizations.¹⁰⁸ Women contribute to forest sustainability, horticultural development, and the establishment of collective enterprises based upon local resources. Such conditions indicate that women are positioned as subjects of development possessing economic, ecological, and social capacities.¹⁰⁹

Impacts of these community-based policies appear significantly more concrete when compared to Pakistan. From an environmental perspective, there has been land rehabilitation, forest conservation, and more sustainable natural resource management.¹¹⁰ Women's involvement in conservation activities has created patterns of environmental utilization that are more cautious and sustainable because their orientation extends beyond short term economic gain toward the protection of future generations' needs.¹¹¹ From an ecofeminist perspective, women frequently maintain closer relationships with the environment because their social experiences are directly connected with the management of food, water, and everyday household necessities.¹¹² In addition to ecological impacts, significant social transformations have also emerged. Women's involvement in economic activities and community organizations has gradually transformed their social position.¹¹³ Women who were previously confined to domestic spheres have increasingly gained recognition as public actors and economic decision makers. This demonstrates that inclusive environmental policies may simultaneously function as instruments for transforming gender relations within society.

¹⁰⁶ María de los Ángeles Milanés-Salinas and others, 'Drivers of Pro-Environmental Behaviors and Risk Perception to Climate Change in Small Coastal Communities: An Insight from the Mexican Pacific', *Environmental Development*, 55 (2025), 101194 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ENVDEV.2025.101194>

¹⁰⁷ Martina Topic, 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Affairs in the British Press: An Ecofeminist Critique of Neoliberalism', *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Affairs in the British Press: An Ecofeminist Critique of Neoliberalism*, 2021, 1–226 <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003091592>

¹⁰⁸ Milton Javier Rubiano-Guzmán and others, 'Perceptions, Sustainability and Forest Cover Associated to Public Programs for Coffee Production in the Sierra de Zongolica, Mexico', *Land Use Policy*, 165 (2026), 107978 <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.LANDUSEPOL.2026.107978>

¹⁰⁹ Eliza Sharma, 'Women and Politics: A Case Study of Political Empowerment of Indian Women', *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 40.7–8 (2020), 607–26 <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-12-2019-0261>

¹¹⁰ Jorge Alejandro Silva Rodríguez de San Miguel, 'Gender and Water Management in Mexico', *Management of Environmental Quality: An International Journal*, 29.5 (2018), 842–58 <https://doi.org/10.1108/MEQ-10-2017-0112>

¹¹¹ Chulin Pan and others, 'The Double Effects of Female Executives' Participation on Corporate Sustainable Competitive Advantage through Unethical Environmental Behavior and Proactive Environmental Strategy', *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 29.6 (2020), 2324–37 <https://doi.org/10.1002/BSE.2505>

¹¹² Ashraf Al-Rai, Dina Imad and Maya Khater, 'The Legal Regulation of Cybercrimes Related to Character Assassination under the Jordanian and French Legislation', *F1000Research*, 15 (2026), 359 <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.177079.1>

¹¹³ Annette Gough and Hilary Whitehouse, 'Challenging Amnesias: Re-Collecting Feminist New Materialism/Ecofeminism/Climate/Education', *Environmental Education Research*, 26.9–10 (2020), 1420–34 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504622.2020.1727858>



From an economic perspective, collective women-based enterprises in Sierra de Santa Rosa have also contributed to increasing local community income.¹¹⁴ Local food production and agricultural processing have generated new sources of sustainable economic activity. This model demonstrates that environmental development does not necessarily conflict with economic welfare, but rather may proceed simultaneously when local communities are actively involved.¹¹⁵ Comparison between these two regions demonstrates that the success of ecofeminist policies depends not merely upon the existence of formal regulations, but more importantly upon participatory and integrated implementation.¹¹⁶ Pakistan possesses stronger international legal legitimacy; however, implementation remains weak because its approach continues to be administrative and sectoral in nature.¹¹⁷ Conversely, Sierra de Santa Rosa does not possess an explicit ecofeminist legal framework, yet it has successfully developed more substantive development practices through the active participation of women within local communities. Accordingly, the foregoing discussion demonstrates that the impact of ecofeminist policies upon gender and environmental practices is multidimensional in character. Such policies are capable of transforming gender relations, increasing women's economic participation, and simultaneously creating more sustainable patterns of environmental governance. Ultimately, ecofeminism functions not merely as a theoretical approach concerning women and nature, but also as an alternative development paradigm that is more equitable, inclusive, and oriented toward long term socio ecological sustainability.

CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates that ecofeminist policies play an important role in bridging the relationship between gender equality and environmental sustainability in Pakistan. Although Pakistan has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the implementation of policies concerning gender and the environment remains sectoral, normative, and insufficiently integrated. Patriarchal structures, weak law enforcement, the dominance of customary legal systems, and the limited participation of women in decision making processes continue to place women in vulnerable positions in relation to both social exploitation and environmental degradation. Analysis of The Pakistani Bride further illustrates that violence against women and the exploitation of nature originate from the same structures of domination. Consequently, policy reform must be undertaken through a multidimensional approach integrating legal protection, women's empowerment, and

¹¹⁴ Ashraf Al-Rai and others, 'Violation of the Right to Privacy Through Artificial Intelligence Entities Under the UAE's Anti-Cybercrime Act', *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 7.1 (2026) <https://doi.org/10.58256/9xeb084>

¹¹⁵ Çisem Bektur and Sabri Burak Arzova, 'The Effect of Women Managers in the Board of Directors of Companies on the Integrated Reporting: Example of Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) Sustainability Index', *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment*, 2020, 1–17 <https://doi.org/10.1080/20430795.2020.1796417>

¹¹⁶ Charles Barthold, David Bevan, and Hervé Corvellec, 'An Ecofeminist Position in Critical Practice: Challenging Corporate Truth in the Anthropocene', *Gender, Work and Organization*, 29.6 (2022), 1796–1814 <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.12878>

¹¹⁷ Richard Freeman and Kristina Svets, 'Women's Empowerment in Small-Scale Fisheries: The Impact of Fisheries Local Action Groups', *Marine Policy*, 136 (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104907>



ecological justice. Comparative findings with Sierra de Santa Rosa demonstrate that community-based approaches involving women as principal actors are capable of producing more sustainable socio ecological outcomes. Women's participation in environmental conservation, natural resource governance, and local economic development has proven effective not only in strengthening environmental sustainability, but also in enhancing women's social and economic positions within society. Accordingly, Pakistan must reform its environmental and gender policies through stronger institutional integration, the reinforcement of law enforcement mechanisms, the implementation of gender mainstreaming within environmental policies, and the expansion of women's participation in natural resource governance. Such approaches should further be supported through cross sectoral collaboration, gender-based evaluation mechanisms, and the strengthening of local communities in order to establish inclusive, equitable, and sustainable socio ecological governance in the long term.

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