



**The Role of Theatre
&
Combating COVID
Pandemic with Eco-
feminist Approach
by
Debkalpa BasuDas**

INTRODUCTION

Eco-feminism is a school of thought which gives emphasis on deprivation or subordination of women as well as the nature by any patriarchal society for ages.

In this new pandemic scenario, which the world is experiencing for the last few months, due to COVID-19 virus, eco- feminist way of thought can be a coping mechanism or regarded as a disaster management system.

Eco-feminist Approach to combating Covid Pandemic

The outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in a blanket shutdown of economic activities such as aviation, tourism and non-essential industrial development resulting in positive climate change, better air quality and decreased pollution. All these have started a lot of discourses about the environment.

- Women in informal sectors
- Women often carry a significant burden to provide support, both inside and outside the house
- Life is even worse for survivors of domestic violence
- In patriarchal social structure, women are more dependent on the nature than men. Eco feminism talks about the inter-relation between women and the nature

Combating Covid with eco-feminist approaches, raising community with Theatre



Research Objective

- In the present research we are nurturing with an idea that eco feminism is the main theme and theatre production has been made
- The main aim of this research is to create mass awareness using theatre as a tool.
- Not only witnessing the show, also to watch how its influence the perception of the audience is also one of the main objectives of this research.

Methods

- Research Area-a **tribal village** of Purulia District name '**Baragora**'
- Conducted **one field survey** in that village with 200 respondents
- survey the **level of awareness** regarding Eco-feminism were explored
- One theatre in '**Santhali**' language for performance on the issue of eco-feminism is to be staged
- **Assessing two things:**
 - ❖ Whether theatre can create awareness regarding the issue of eco-feminism?
 - ❖ If yes, then how much it influences the mass regarding the issue?

Why Theatre?

- Theatre is a **lively art**
- It is an **art of togetherness**
- It can be represented **to various types of audience** in the same time
- The financial background is quite different from other arts
- **The most interesting medium** to send message of the picture of the society to the people of the world
- The whole **life experience** of the audience is shown through drama in which the audience can feel very familiar to their life
- Not only the **high budget** stage crafts, but also **the street plays, low budget dramas, summer theatres** are to be staged.
- A theatre should be **informative to all the people.**
- It's become a **thought process of the audience** and which leads to **change in their perception.**

Introduction of Drama (Rehearsal)

[Please click here to see the video](#)

Relationship between Theatre & Audience

- Relationship is like **flower and garland**
- Audience's mind is like **mirror of the stage**
- **Appreciation of audience** is the main source of **enchantment of actors**
- Famed actor Mr. **Kendle** told about acting that, '*Acting is like photography. One has to make same impression on hundred people*'.
- Audience can gain a lot from theatre in many ways. **Audience** is being **enriched by enjoying story, narration, dance and songs**

A scene from theatre (Rehearsal)

[Please click here to see the video](#)

Eco-feminism and Theatre

- The theatre is used in the whole world as **the weapon to wake the people up to a more practical and aware world**
- So many theatres have been produced **to create public awareness** against the woman oppression and suppression in the world
- In India, especially in Bengal, many theatre groups have **taken woman oppression as the main theme**
- Some theatres have been produced here to create **awareness against environmental pollution and dilapidation of environment**

Eco-feminism and Theatre

- ❑ **Eco-feminism is marked for dual suppression on women and environment**, but we are not getting many examples as a theme in theatre in the world
- ❑ Women oppression and abuse of nature are related to each other.
- ❑ In India, especially in Bengal, we can't find plays on this theme
- ❑ Women and nature both is exploitable (Warren 1997). It is exploitable by patriarchal society due to patriarchal mindset. This subject was not discussed as the theme of theatre.



Thank You