

Role of Women in Chipko Movement

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Abstract: *Chipko movement was not only an environmental movement but also a social movement which was aimed at opposing commercial deforestation. Women's participation in the Chipko agitation was a very novel aspect of the movement. In the sixth decade of the last century, India was losing around 1.3 million hectares of forest every year. As a result, in the 1970s, the fight for a safe environment began. Led by Gaura Devi, a large number of tribal women wrapped their arms around the trees and opposed deforestation. The Chipko Movement has attracted world-wide attention. The image of poor, rural women in the hills of northern India standing with their arms around trees to prevent them being cut down is a romantic and compelling one. Although our country is male dominating country where most of the actions are taken by the men, but women has also shown their impact and importance at times. Chipko movement was the one where women showed what they can do when its needed. Chipko movement was launched to protect the trees being cut down. Women claimed that their trees would be preserved even at the cost of their lives. The movement not only inspired numerous people to work on practical programmes of water management, energy conservation, afforestation, and recycling, but also encouraged scholars to start studying issues of environmental degradation and methods of conservation in the Himalayas and throughout India.*

Keywords: Deforestation, Chipko movement, Tribal women, environment etc.