

# Feminism in Indian Author Arundhati Roy's Novel

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**Abstract:** *Arundhati Roy the author states that the "critique of capitalism in the contemporary world has to begin with a critique of globalization." This is precisely what I plan to do in research paper, exactly like how Roy did it in her activism writings. The research paper is about the plight of displaced people of India. Arundhati Roy describes how a person can be displaced from their home in the name of development and that the home chosen for them is not as good as their original home. The writer goes on to describe how the displacement of people from their native lands has been seen for two decades. The writer then states that a political party in India has been trying to improve the condition of these families. The researcher also states that in India, government and private companies have been displacing people because they want to build cities, dams, mines and industries. Roy then goes on to state that still, despite all this displacees are being used as labor free of charge by these companies and they are not even paid minimum wage. She then goes on to say that still displaced people prefer living there compared to living in rehabilitated area. Roy say even though displaced people are not happy with what is happening but they have no choice but to stay there because they do not have any other option left and the land which is being taken away from them cannot be replaced..*

**Keywords:** Eco-feminism, feminism, women, patriarchal

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ecofeminism is one of the most important and controversial topics confronting writers, thinkers, and activists today. By definition, ecofeminism is a philosophical perspective that links the exploitation of women to the exploitation of nature. The term ecofeminism was first coined by Françoise d'Eaubonne, in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort* (1968). In this work, she claimed that modern society's domination of nature and women are two sides of the same coin. Her views were influenced by Simone de Beauvoir's ideas about patriarchy and Antoinette Fouque's writings on women's bodies as battlegrounds in the fight against oppression. Arundhati Roy is a world-renowned writer who has been known to incorporate aspects of feminism into her works; however, not until now has she been considered an ecofeminist writer. Critics have analyzed her previous novels to find elements of feminist thought; however, readers familiar with Roy's work have noted that she does not explicitly state any philosophical views or political leanings in her work. This has led some to claim that Roy does not consider herself a feminist; however, this is not strictly true.

Arundhati Roy is a feminist writer who employs the use of English and other languages in her writing. She is the author of *The God of Small Things*, one of the best-selling novels. This novel won her the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997. She has also authored several nonfiction pieces, scripts, and essays. In addition to this, she has worked with documentary films. She has been awarded several times for her work throughout her career.

Roy was born in India on November 24, 1961. Her father was a prominent architect while her mother was a housewife. At the age of five she moved to New Delhi with her parents and three siblings and then again to England at the age of twelve where she spent most of her years and went to school. Her family returned to India when she was eighteen years old due to political instability in England (Milver, 2012). After attending college in India and graduating from Delhi University, she received a degree in architecture which later became useful when she started writing (Milver, 2012). Roy began her career as an architect after graduating from university but soon found a passion for writing (Milver, 2012).

Arundhati Roy is a feminist writer and activist. She was born in India and lived there for much of her life, but now lives in England. Her books have been translated into more than two dozen languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. Roy's most recent novel, *"The Ministry of Utmost Happiness,"* was published in June 2017. The book is set in India and follows the stories of several different characters as their lives intersect over the course of many years.

Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* is a novel that explores the idea of eco feminism through the eyes of a child, Estha. Even though this book was published in the 1990s, it is still relevant today. In *The God of Small Things*, Roy depicts how things change when people try to live without hurting the environment. Estha, the protagonist in this novel,

has been groomed by his father to respect nature and exercise minimalism. He does not believe in luxury and does not wear shoes even on special occasions. He is an example of eco feminism because he believes that someone who is rich should not have more than what he needs because excessive wealth destroys nature and leads to inequality between men and women.

Arundhati Roys works often carry strong feminist themes, and are in some cases written from a feminist perspective. In her novel *The God of Small Things*, for example, she addresses the patriarchal violence that was a part of life in Kerala during the 1960s and which has continued to a lesser extent until the present day. She also explores gender roles and expectations in her essays as well as in her other novels, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* and *Broken Republic*.

Arundhati Roy has been called many things: a great novelist, an eloquent speaker, and a prominent political activist. She's also been called an eco feminist author of India. In the late 20th century and early 21st century, environmental issues became a popular topic in literature. This is particularly true of India, where the topics of globalization and environmentalism are especially relevant. Arundhati Roy has often been at the forefront of this movement; she's well-known for her activism as well as her writing.

Roy was born in 1959 in a small town in South India to a family of communists who were trade union leaders. She published her first novel, *The God of Small Things*, in 1997. This novel won the prestigious Booker Prize and has sold more than eight million copies worldwide. The book tells the story of two children who live with their mother after their father dies in an accidental fire. Their mother marries another man and moves to the city, but returns to visit them every few years. While living with their mother, they don't have much contact with their extended family (the family from their father's side).

Arundhati Roy is an outspoken eco feminist author of India. She is the author *The God of Small Things*, and the non-fiction books *War Talk* and *Walking With the Comrades*. She has long been involved in environmental and social causes; she was part of a campaign against the building of a dam on the Narmada River, which affected hundreds of thousands of poor families in India. She described her activism as "a battle for human rights."

When examining the theme of patriarchal violence within Arundhati Roys work, it is important to note that patriarchy is defined as "a social organization based on father-right", which means that male heads of household have absolute power over the women in their families. This power can be used to oppress women as well as children, who have no say whatsoever in matters such as inheritance or money spent within the family. In Kerala, where Roy grew up and set many of her stories, these practices are still common today. In fact, according to a study done by Kudumbashree Mission in 2016, more than half (52%) of men surveyed felt that men should have complete control over household finances.

Arundhati Roy is a powerful speaker and writer, so it's somewhat surprising to see her allegedly perpetuating patriarchal violence in her work. Specifically, the essay "The Doctor and the Saint" is problematic in its portrayal of Mohandas Gandhi, who is written as an idealized figure that never made any mistakes in his life. This is problematic because it "romanticizes" him, making him seem like he was too perfect to have done anything wrong ever. It also empowers people to idolize Gandhi and think of him as a role model, even though he did some very violent things like supporting the caste system, encouraging husbands that beat their wives only if "they deserved it," and suggesting that the British should use poison gas on the Indian population.

Arundhati Roy is one of the most fascinating and talented writers of our time. Her books are written in a style that is both beautiful and unique. She writes about current issues and events in India with a voice that is both challenging and meaningful. In her book *The God of Small Things*, she writes about the issue of economic violence and injustice in India. She discusses how this economic injustice affects many people's lives, especially women. She does this by describing how India's Indian Criminal Code allows husbands to beat their wives if they feel they have been disobedient. This topic is very interesting because it seems so unjust and cruel; however, there are some who would argue that this is an example of cultural relativism.

## II. CONCLUSION

Arundhati Roy is often known for her political activism, but she's also a wonderful writer. She's written two novels: *The God of Small Things*, which was made into a movie in India, and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. In both novels, Roy explores many themes, from the caste system to Indian politics to sexual violence and oppression. But one

theme that comes up in both novels and features prominently throughout them is economic violence and injustice. The caste system itself is an example of this—caste is a social construct that divides people based on their birth and prevents those deemed "untouchable" from receiving education or even using public spaces like wells or roads.

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