International Journal of Advanced Research and Multidisciplinary Trends (IJARMT)
An International Open Access, Peer-Reviewed Refereed Journal
Impact Factor: 6.4 Website: https://ijarmt.com ISSN No.: 3048-9458

Women Empowerment Through Self-Help Groups Among Tribal Women In Bastar District: A Social Work Perspective

Virendra Kumar Khandelwal
President, Youth for Dabhra ,Sakti, Chhattisgarh
Dr. Tulika Sharma
Head of the Department School of Studies in Social Work, Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya, Bastar, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh
Dr. Samir Thakur
Associate Professor School of Studies in English Shaheed Mahendra Karma Vishwavidyalaya, Bastar, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh
DOI: https://doi.org/10.65578/ijarmt.v3.i04.1354

Abstract
This Research explored how colonial extraction material ecologies and structures are represented in the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh in an eco-critical and postcolonial critique. The qualitative and interpretative research methodology, applied in the study, relied on the close textual analysis of Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, and Flood of Fire. The results showed that colonialism was a system of economy and ecology that has turned land, water, crops, and human labor into commodities in the world trade networks, especially opium trade. The discussion has also illuminated the disruption of material ecologies through monoculture practices, environmental degradation, and forced labor systems resulting in an ecological long-term imbalance and inequality. The paper has also shown that Ghosh used multi-perspective narrative to prefigure marginalized voices and argue against the colonial capitalism logic of exploitation. The study contributed to the literature of environmental humanities by its emphasis on the relationship between environmental systems and human systems as well as its description of the relevance of eco-materialism to the study of the past and the present environmental problems.
Keywords: Material Ecologies, Colonial Extraction, Ecocriticism, Postcolonial Literature, Environmental Humanities

1.INTRODUCTION

Ecology and colonialism have emerged as an important area of interest in the study of modern literature since scholars are increasingly acknowledging the fact that colonial expansion was not merely a political and economic event, but also an ecological event. To facilitate the imperial economies, the colonialists manipulated the landscapes, agricultural systems and the natural resources in a systematic manner. Literature is very important in revealing these concealed aspects of history by showing how the environment change and human exploitation were closely tied to each other.

In these regards, the writing of Amitav Ghosh, especially the Ibis Trilogy, such as Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, and Flood of Fire, presents a compelling discussion of colonial exploitation. The trilogy is set in the 19 th century opium trade between China and India, and it depicts how the

imperial forces restructured land, labor, and trade structures to harvest economic value, but at the same time led to ecological disturbance.

Material ecologies is the concept of a complex interaction between people and non-humans (land, water, crops, and labor). These factors in the colonial settings were converted into commodities that resulted in the destruction of nature and social inequalities. The present paper will set out to discuss how Ghosh treats these processes and the way in which he critiques the colonial extraction structures using an eco-critical and postcolonial approach.

1.1 Ecology and Colonialism

Colonialism had significant effects on natural ecosystems leading to the introduction of monoculture agriculture, extraction of resources and new land-use patterns. These changes normally resulted in soil depletion, biodiversity loss and ecological imbalance in the long-term. The ecocriticism, combined with the postcolonial theory, enables viewing that the exploitation of the environment was closely intertwined with the imperial power order.

1.2 Historical Context: The Opium Trade

The Ibis Trilogy is based on the opium trade. The British rule forced Indian farmers to grow opium rather than food crops that interfered with the local economy and ecology. The local settings have been integrated into the international trade networks in the system, which demonstrates the integration of colonialism and environmental exploitation.

1.3 Material Ecologies and Extraction

Material ecologies are concerned with the linkage between natural resources and human labor in the economic system. The trilogy commodifies land, crops and people to the interest of the colonialists. Ghosh attacks this extractive system not only by depicting its environmental destruction and human price, but also by depicting the resistance in small ways.

1.4. Research Objectives

The study was informed by the research questions that explored the relationship between material ecologies and colonial extraction in the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh concerning ecological change, exploitation and literary antagonism.

- The topic should be to examine the material ecologies as symbolized in the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh and how land, water, crops and human labor relate to each other.
- To examine the forms of colonial extraction represented in the trilogy, especially in the context of the opium trade and the effect it had on ecological processes and human societies.
- To study the challenges that Ghash raises to the commodification of nature and the human body, through an eco-critical and postcolonial approach.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Such themes as ecology, climate and global literary forms are gaining more and more popularity in recent academic literature on Amitav Ghosh and the Ibis Trilogy because the author pays attention to the environmental and socio-cultural elements of the colonial discourse.

S. Irum and M. Yaqoob (2024) analyzed Sea of Poppies in the context of human ecology and feminized views on environmental disaster. Their research argued that ecological degradation was not equally natural but significantly affected the gender and social stratification. They focused on

how land crisis and environmental discontinuities affected marginalized peoples, establishing a relationship between the ecological degradation and social injustice.

Likewise, A. I. Gunaratne (2023) examined the notion of Global Anglophone literature and its emergence in the postcolonial studies. The paper has pointed out the contribution that has been made by the authors like Ghosh to the world literary discourse since they were addressing the transnational histories, experiences of colonization and the environment. Gunaratne proposed that these works broadened the Anglophone literature in terms of ecological and cultural accounts of the imperial histories.

S. Carson (2020) explored the history of climate in South Asia, with reference to weather logic and atmospheric phenomena. The paper has shown the effect of climatic conditions and environmental change on the historical developments in the area. The work Carson gave was a valuable contextual overview of how the ecological aspect, including weather conditions and environmental disturbances, were interwoven with the socio-economic and political changes in the colonial period.

In their edited volume Animalia: An Anti-Imperial Bestiary for Our Times, Antoinette Burton and Renisa Mawani (2020) analyzed the presence of animals and non-human beings in the history of imperialism. Their writing brought out the ways in which colonial systems claimed the state of domination to animals and ecological systems in addition to human beings. The paper emphasized that non-human life forms played a central role in comprehending the larger processes of imperial domination and environmental abuse, which led to eco-critical and anti-imperial politics.

Similarly, A. Bajaj (2024) critically analyzed the narrative form of the Ibis Trilogy and discussed it in its interrelations with the genre of historical novels. The article proposed that Ghash changed the convention of historical fiction by merging a vast array of archival research investigation with fiction writing. Bajaj pointed out that the trilogy unveiled concealed dimensions of colonial history, such as trade, migration, and ecological change, and as such, the trilogy also challenged the conventional Eurocentric histories.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in the study was the qualitative and interpretative research design to explore the way material ecologies and structures of colonial extraction are embodied in Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh. The design of the methodology was aimed at the in-depth textual analysis of the literary narratives in their historical, ecological, and postcolonial contexts.

3.1 Research Design

The study was based on a qualitative design with interpretation and descriptive analysis. Such a method was deemed suitable because the research did not seek to measure data but to address the themes, symbols and narrative forms. The design allowed taking a critical look at the way ecological and colonial aspects were displayed in the text.

3.2 Sources of Data

3.2.1 Primary Sources

The primary data for the study were drawn from the *Ibis Trilogy*, which includes:

- Sea of Poppies
- River of Smoke
- Flood of Fire

These texts were analyzed to understand the depiction of ecological transformation and colonial extraction.

3.2.2 Secondary Sources

The secondary sources were scholarly articles, books, and critical essays on ecocriticism, postcolonial theory, and environmental humanities. The sources assisted in conceptual back-up and context of the analysis.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in the study was an interdisciplinary approach which incorporates:

- Ecocriticism: To look at the ways nature and environmental change are represented.
- Postcolonial Theory: To examine the dominance, imperialism, and exploitation of colonies.
- Eco-materialism: To comprehend how human and non-human components are interrelated in the production and extraction systems.

This combined system allowed to gain an overall picture of both ecological and socio-political aspects of the text.

3.4 Method of Analysis

The analysis technique was close textual reading on the chosen novels. The research topic was:

- Narrative and plot structures.
- Experiences and representations of labor by character.
- Landscape, agricultural and sea descriptions.
- The images of trade systems and economic networks.

In this way, the study was able to recognize the trends of ecological change and the processes of colonial extraction hidden in the story.

3.5 Scope and Limitations

The research was confined to the study of Ibis Trilogy only and not other works of the author. Although the qualitative method enabled a detailed interpretation, the results were subjective and relied on the textual evidence and theoretical views.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The qualitative textual approach to the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh demonstrated that there were great patterns concerning material ecologies and colonial extraction structures. The findings have been arranged in themes in order to capture the major dimensions of analysis that have been gained as a result of the study.

4.1 Representation of Material Ecologies

As it was shown in the analysis, material ecologies in the trilogy were represented as active systems in which the human and non-human components were closely interrelated. Land, rivers, oceans, crops and human labor were not presented as separate entities but a part of a greater ecology network, which was influenced by colonial intervention.

Farmland especially opium fields were depicted as locations of an ecological change. Monoculture systems were introduced to replace traditional farming methods which interfered with soil fertility and local biodiversity. Equally, rivers and oceans served as ecological channels through which people could trade, migrate and even exchange their cultures.

International Journal of Advanced Research and Multidisciplinary Trends (IJARMT)
An International Open Access, Peer-Reviewed Refereed Journal
Impact Factor: 6.4 Website: https://ijarmt.com ISSN No.: 3048-9458

Table 1: Elements of Material Ecologies in the Trilogy

Ecological Element	Representation in Text	Impact of Colonial Intervention
Land	Opium cultivation fields	Soil depletion, loss of food crops
Water Bodies	Rivers and Indian Ocean	Trade expansion, ecological disruption
Crops	Forced opium farming	Monoculture and reduced biodiversity
Human Labor	Indentured workers	Exploitation and displacement

The table shows that the ecological factors were all systematically converted into productive units during the colonial rule and this is a reflection of how nature was integrated into the imperial economies.

4.2 Structures of Colonial Extraction

The analysis has found that there are various layers of colonial extraction in the narrative. The exploitation of economies, environments, and humans worked in unison, creating a complicated structure of imperial power.

It became the opium trade as the main process of economic extraction, which connects Indian agricultural production with the world markets. This regime was based on force, law enforcement and trade networks which were run by colonial powers.

Table 2: Forms of Colonial Extraction

Type of Extraction	Description	Representation in the Trilogy
Economic Extraction	Profit through opium trade	Export networks and trade routes
Environmental Extraction	Exploitation of land and resources	Conversion of farmland into opium fields
Labor Exploitation	Use of indentured labor	Migration and displacement of workers
Cultural Extraction	Imposition of colonial systems	Loss of indigenous practices

The results indicated that the colonial extraction was multidimensional as it had impact to not only the economy but also ecological systems and social structures.

4.3 Commodification of Nature and Human Bodies

One of the conclusions of the research was the commodification of natural resources and human labor. The land was turned into a production place whereas people became a part of the colonial economy as economic assets.

The colonial capitalism dehumanized characters in the trilogy by causing displacement, loss of identity and forced migration. Likewise, natural resources like crops and water bodies were given economic importance, and their ecological importance disregarded.

4.4 Narrative Strategies and Ecological Critique

The discussion showed that Ghosh used narrative techniques that focused on environmental consciousness and criticism. Describing landscapes, water journeys, and agricultural activities in detail also demonstrated the ecological impact of colonialism.

The multiplicity of the point of view enabled the story to reflect the various experiences of the people such as those of the farmers, laborers and traders. This layer cake of storytelling supported the interrelationship of the ecological and social systems.

International Journal of Advanced Research and Multidisciplinary Trends (IJARMT)
An International Open Access, Peer-Reviewed Refereed Journal
Impact Factor: 6.4 Website: https://ijarmt.com ISSN No.: 3048-9458

Table 3: Analytical Focus and Key Findings

Analytical Focus	Key Observations	Implications
Narrative Elements	Multi-perspective storytelling	Highlights interconnected experiences
Character Experiences	Displacement and exploitation	Reflects human cost of colonialism
Landscape Descriptions	Detailed ecological settings	Emphasizes environmental transformation
Trade Systems	Global economic networks	Shows integration of local and global systems

The table shows the use of narrative techniques to criticize colonial extraction and highlight ecological interrelatedness.

4.5 Discussion

Study conclusions were coherent to the eco-critical and postcolonial theoretical descriptions since they established that colonialism was an ecological and an economic system. The way in which material ecologies were turned into commodified resources was an expression of the larger logic of imperial capitalism.

Another aspect that the paper highlighted was that human exploitation and environmental degradation were intertwined. The causes of the ecological imbalance and social inequity include forced opium production, forced eviction of workers and the restructuring of the trade networks.

In addition, the narrative of the Ibis Trilogy resulted in breaking the historical histories of mainstream by foreshadowing the voices of the marginalized and emphasizing the ecological impacts of colonialism in the long term. This contributed to the timeliness of the eco-materialism and the idea of nature, work, and economic relations with one another.

5.CONCLUSION

This Research has critically analyzed how material ecologies and structures of colonial extraction are represented in the Ibis Trilogy by Amitav Ghosh using an eco-critical and postcolonial approach. The analysis established that colonialism was not merely a political and economic regime but also a highly ecological phenomenon, which altered landscapes, shook up traditional farming practices and turned nature and human labor into commodities. The trilogy succeeded in depicting that land, water, crops, human bodies were integrated in imperial networks of extraction particularly the opium trade which led to environmental degradation and social injustices. Moreover, the story by Ghosh made people see the interdependence between ecological and human systems and how environmental exploitation and human suffering were reinforcing one another. It was also shown that the author used multi-perspective narration and elaborate descriptions of the ecology to criticize colonial capitalism and preempt marginalized voices. In general, the results highlighted the usefulness of eco-materialism in interpreting the historical and literary aspects of colonial exploitation, as well as, making a contribution to the modern discourse on environmental humanities and sustainability.

- Integration of Interdisciplinary Approaches: The future study needs to incorporate interdisciplinary insights (including environmental history, political ecology, and cultural geography) in order to give a more holistic picture of colonial extraction and ecological change.
- Expansion to Comparative Studies: It is hoped that scholars will carry out comparative studies comparing the Ibis Trilogy with other postcolonial literary texts to study how various writers express ecological exploitation and resistance in a variety of settings.
- Pay Attention to Timely Relevance: Future research is needed to understand the relationship between colonial patterns of the past and contemporary environmental disasters and, thus, connect the analysis of literature to the current problems of environmental change, sustainability, and global inequality.

REFERENCES

1. Alam, M. M. (2022). *Eco-material Rifts in South Asian Anglophone Fiction*. West Virginia University.
2. Balkan, S. (2022). *Rogues in the Postcolony: Narrating extraction and itinerancy in India*. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press.
3. Bhat, S. D. (2020). Maritime Links, Imperialism, and Diaspora in the Ibis Trilogy. In *Eastern and Western Synergies and Imaginations* (pp. 56-78). Brill.
4. Khandelwal, A., & Dhand, D. (2024). Environmental Destruction and Colonialism in Amitav Ghosh's The Nutmeg's Curse. *Library of Progress-Library Science, Information Technology & Computer*, *44*.
5. M Ms, S. V. (2024). Imperial Anarchy, Cultural Exchange and Cultural Sabotage in Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy.
6. Mallick, S. (2024). AMITAV GHOSH'S EXPLORATION OF IDENTITY AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE IBIS TRILOGY.
7. Singh, N. D. (2020). The postcolonial aesthetics of beauty, nature and form: Reading the glass palace, the hungry tide and the shadow lines by Amitav Ghosh.
8. Tasnia, R., & Haque, F. (2023). Trans-corporeality in Human-Nature Relationships: A Posthuman Ecocritical Study of Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies. *Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences*, 1.
9. Vincent, S. (2020). Material Ecocriticism: Maritime Trade, Displacement, and the Environment in Amitav Ghosh's Fictional Waterscape. *Negotiating Waters: Seas, Oceans, and Passageways in the Colonial and Postcolonial Anglophone World*, *149*.
10. VISENTIN ELEONORI, B. E. N. E. D. E. T. T. A. (2024). Narrating the Anthropocene and the Environmental Imagination. Amitav Ghosh, Nnedi Okorafor, Patricia Grace.
11. Irum, S., & Yaqoob, M. (2024). "[N] owhere was there anything green": Exploring Human Ecology and Gendered Perceptions of Land Disaster in Sea of Poppies. *Kashmir Journal of Language Research*, *27*, 153-170.
12. Gunaratne, A. I. (2023). The Rise of Global Anglophone. *Interventions*, *25*(5), 563-578.
13. Carson, S. (2020). Atmospheric happening and weather reasoning: Climate history in South Asia. *History Compass*, *18*(12), e12640.
14. Burton, A., & Mawani, R. (Eds.). (2020). *Animalia: An anti-imperial bestiary for our times*. Duke University Press.
15. Bajaj, A. (2024, August). Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy and the So-Called Secret of the Historical Novel. In *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (Vol. 57, No. 2, pp. 180-203). Duke University Press.