



## Gender, Capitalism, and Environmental Degradation: A Material Ecofeminist Analysis of Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sorrow*

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### ABSTRACT

Amidst a backdrop of multiple crises, academics and activists have paid significant attention to the relationship between gender inequality and unchecked capitalism, which has prompted a closer look at the ways in which these two phenomena intersect. Octavia Butler's groundbreaking novel, *Parable of the Sower* presents a captivating story that takes place in a United States overwhelmed, by environmental degradation, resource exploitation and the resilience of individuals, particularly women. This research embarks on a journey onto material ecofeminism focusing on Vandana Shiva's ecofeminist framework as the guiding perspective. By applying this lens, this research aims to uncover the connections between gender, capitalism and environmental decline depicted in the novel. Through analysis of excerpts and passages this research aims to shed light on how ecofeminist themes are incorporated in the novel and how characters actions reflect ecofeminist agency, resilience, and resistance. This study not only enhances our understanding of ecofeminism in literature but also highlights the urgent need to address environmental challenges, gender dynamics and power structures, within society – both within fiction and reality.

#### Keywords:

Gender, Capitalism, Environmental Degradation, Material Ecofeminism, Exploitation



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## INTRODUCTION

This study explores the connections, between crises, gender inequalities and the impact of capitalism. This is an investigation considering the era of the Anthropocene. Previous research has established a foundation for examining how issues gender disparities and capitalism intertwine. Scholars and activists have dedicated efforts to studying these topics recognizing the need to address their complex relationships and societal implications. Leach, M. (2015), further emphasizes

the importance of gender equality within development providing grounds for the exploration through an ecofeminist lens. Additionally, Bina Agarwal's research in "The Gender and Environment Debate; Lessons from India" (April 1992) highlights the significance of discussing the relationship, between gender, environmental issues and sustainability. Agarwal's insights offer valuable perspectives on understanding the interactions involved. Furthermore, Vangeli, A. (2023) examines instances of justice in Italy such as Seveso and Casale Monferrato. These cases shed light on how women have played roles in challenging both patriarchal systems that perpetuate their subordination. This research adds to the increasing number of studies that highlight the pressing importance of tackling the connections, between concerns, gender dynamics and power structures both, in fictional works and real-life situations.

Octavia Butler's groundbreaking novel, *Parable of the Sower* 1992, published in 1992 presents a thought captivating portrayal of a future where the United States is devastated by climate change, exploitation of resources and economic inequality. Through an analysis of excerpts and passages from the book itself, this research will illuminate how Butler skillfully integrates ecofeminist themes into her narrative while showcasing her characters embodiment of ecofeminist agency through their resilience and resistance, against these challenges. It is important to examine how the novel explores the interconnectedness of gender and degradation. This includes exploring how women bodies and labor are exploited nature is feminized and gendered language is used to justify harming the environment, Butler, O. E. (1993).

Additionally, we must consider the impact of capitalism, on degradation and its contribution to gender inequalities. This can be seen through corporate resource exploitation, privatization of goods and the marginalization of women, in the economy. It is an area that requires attention. Moreover, it is truly fascinating to observe how Butlers characters, Lauren Oya Olamina embodies the principles and practices of ecofeminism. They display a reverence, for nature a dedication to community and a steadfast resistance, against oppression (Stamarski, C. S., & Son Hing, L. S., 2015). Moreover, this study emphasizes the pressing importance of tackling ecological obstacles, gender dynamics and power hierarchies within our society. This includes examining these interconnected issues through the perspective of Butlers novel as a means to contribute to the expanding realm of research, on ecofeminism and environmental justice.

The research brings a perspective to the field of justice. Their work emphasizes the significance of examining forms of inequality within socio issues and how analyzing them can help address the complex challenges posed by climate change and environmental injustice. Taking an approach not only helps us understand the social factors that lead to both successes and setbacks but also allows for more comprehensive and effective solutions to these injustices (Malin, S. A., & Ryder, S. S. 2018). Recent examples from parts of the world such as granting rights to rivers and nature youth led climate change lawsuits and pipeline protests demonstrate the increasing momentum, behind deeply intersectional environmental justice activism. Furthermore, the increasing intensity of

environmental justice activism marks a turning point in the understanding of the complex relationship between social justice and environmental concerns. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive, inclusive strategies that not only recognize the complexity of these problems but also push for systemic change in order to create a more just and sustainable future for both human societies and the natural environment (Kioupi, V., & Voulvoulis, N. 2019). Building on these foundations, this study seeks to make a significant contribution to this developing conversation by providing insights that could open the door for revolutionary acts and policies meant to address the complex issues of our day.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In this study, Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* is used as a lens to explore the connections, between degradation, gender inequality and capitalism. These are issues that require attention. Despite works there is still a need for a comprehensive examination of how these elements interact within literary narratives and the wider socio environmental context such as materialism. The aim of this research is to contribute to discussions, on materialist ecofeminism and environmental justice while shedding light on the challenges posed by the interplay of environmental, gender and economic factors. This research is significant as it applies Vandana Shiva's materialist ecofeminist framework to analyze Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* a book that has not been extensively explored from this ecofeminist perspective before. This research not only fills this gap in knowledge by examining the novel through the lens of materialist ecofeminism but also significantly advances the field of ecofeminist literature.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To analyze capitalism and resource exploitation in *Parable of the Sower* through Shiva's material ecofeminist lens.
2. To highlight instances of female characters' resistance and empowerment in combating different situations in the novel.
3. To explore ecofeminist narrative woven throughout the dystopian landscape of the novel with respect to environmental degradation.

### **Research Questions**

1. How does capitalism drive resource exploitation in *Parable of the Sower* through Shiva's material ecofeminist lens?
2. What are the key instances of female characters' resistance and empowerment in combating different situations in the novel, emphasizing their agency within ecofeminism?
3. How is ecofeminism reflected in the dystopian world of the novel especially with respect to the environmental challenges?

## **Delimitation**

Certain delimitations are set for this research as it uses a single novel, *Parable of the Sower*, as the data for analysis and primarily relied on Vandana Shivas ecofeminism as the theoretical framework. The scope is not broadened to other dystopian novels or ecofeminist theoretical frameworks. The main focus is, on feminist and economic aspects with some consideration given to cultural influences. While recognizing intersectionality the main emphasis lies in exploring how gender, the environment and the economy intersect while giving attention to racial and ethnic issues. By establishing these delimitations, this research aims to provide an, in depth examination of the selected topics.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The merger of ecofeminism, into the realm of literature has given rise to a diverse discussion that explores the connections between gender roles, capitalism, environmental degradation, and the portrayal of women characters. In this context Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* stands out as a poignant work of literature that calls for an analysis, from a materialistic standpoint. This review delves into the aspects of ecofeminism its application, in literature and relevant literary works that underscore the significance of this framework.

Kouhestani (2015) examines the pressing environmental challenges that our modern world faces. She draws a parallel, to Octavia E. Butlers novel, *Parable of the Sower* which beautifully portrays a society in turmoil due to environmental disasters leading people to drastically change their way of life. By utilizing Butler's perspective Kouhestani aims to identify and assess issues related to environmental justice. Her research aligns with the objective of this study. Understanding the relationship between capitalism, gender dynamics, environmental degradation and female empowerment, in *Parable of the Sower*. This research is significant as it emphasizes the need to address these issues in order to safeguard not only people's wellbeing but also the health of our planet and the stability of the global economy.

Shahnavaz (2017) conducted a study that delves into the world depicted in Octavia Butlers novel *Parable of the Sower*. The book portrays a society where oppressive patriarchal dominance impacts both women and the planets natural ecosystem. This research draws connections, to ecofeminist perspectives, such as those of Vandana Shiva and other scholars to explore the relationship, between the Earth and the suppressed matriarchy. Ultimately the study concludes that Butlers "Earthseed" presents a vision of a society where ecofeminism holds sway.

In Mohammadi's study (2016), he delves into the connection, between Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* and how they portray humans and nature in a posthuman perspective. According to Mohammadi these science fiction stories present a viewpoint that sees humanity as intertwined with nature in a non manner drawing inspiration from Rosemary Radford Ruethers feminist interpretations of the Bible. This analysis aligns with the themes explored in this research, which investigate the relationships between capitalism, gender dynamics, environmental

degradation, and female empowerment through Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist framework. While this study primarily focuses on the ecofeminist standpoint Mohammadi's work expands upon this conversation by introducing the concept of posthumanism and its implications, for human nature interactions.

In her 2009 work, Melissa Vargas presents an interpretation of Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*. She highlights the significance of these stories in her portrayal of Americas future. Vargas raises awareness, about the consequences if society fails to address the real-world challenges depicted in these novels. These challenges include injustice, socioeconomic inequality, and ecosystem pollution. The study commendably emphasizes how Butler's work sheds light on these issues and challenges societal systems. Additionally, it acknowledges the limitations of Earthseed the system depicted in the novels while also recognizing efforts, by the SolSeed movement to address those shortcomings in ways. In its conclusion this study underscores Butlers intention that finding solutions to social problems necessitates ongoing dialogue. While Vargas primarily focuses on exploring justice and environmental perspectives within these novels this study delves deeper into capitalist aspects related to environmental concerns found within Butler's narratives by utilizing Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist framework. Its aim is to contribute to discussions surrounding ecofeminism, literature and important socio environmental issues specifically as they intersect with literature.

In her analysis of Octavia Butlers novel *Parable of the Sower*; Yarish (2021) emphasizes the link, between the book and the concept of "Reconstruction." Yarish connects it to movements focused on self-care within abolitionist politics. According to Yarish the protagonist, Lauren Oya Olamina embodies ideals that draw inspiration from feminists involved in the Reconstruction movement. These ideals advocate for sustainability, interdependence and self-care as part of an abolitionist stance. Vandana Shivas ecofeminist perspective aligns with this analysis particularly when examining themes related to gender. Expanding on Yarish's work this study incorporates Shiva's framework to explore how gender, capitalism and environmental degradation in Butler's narratives. Specifically, it focuses on how the novel engages with Reconstruction and its connections to abolitionist politics. Similarly, Hodge (2020) introduces the concept of "dystopia" as a lens for analysis. Highlights the importance of considering context in narratives. Hodges research resonates with this study's examination of materialist ecofeminist aspects in Butler's story while emphasizing their evolution. Both studies aim to reveal how gender, capitalism and environmental degradation are interconnected within Butler's work. This underscores their relevance for analyzing systems and injustices within dystopian literature both presently and, in studies.

In her research Messimer (2023) delves into a blend of concepts; the notion of cruel optimism the idea of gradual violence and the study of hyperobjects. Her discoveries offer insights that can enhance the analysis of Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower*. Messimer's work aligns, with the themes this study aims to explore and contributes to the existing body of literature on sociopolitical dystopias. Messimer presents Timothy Morton's theory, on hyperobjects, which refers to entities that're so vast and complex that comprehending them fully becomes challenging for understanding.

This research is particularly interested, in utilizing Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist framework to explore the themes presented in the novel. The objective is to analyze how gender, capitalism and environmental devastation are interconnected within the text, which aligns with Messimer's exploration of hyperempathy, in Butler's character.

Messimer's work focuses on how the main character mentally responds to the reality of climate change and societal upheaval. The author connects hyperempathy with the concept of hyperobjects to explore this perspective. This critical viewpoint enhances the investigation aiming to understand the relationships, between ecofeminist narratives, capitalist structures, and ecological issues in the book. Messimer's analysis highlights the importance of empathy and idealistic thinking in times of disasters. It prompts us to reconsider how we can coexist with our environment and ponder how female characters in *Parable of the Sower* might tackle challenges posed by hyperobjects. By adding this study, brings a dimension to this literature review showing its relevance, within the context of dystopian fiction and ecofeminist discourse.

In a study, by Hatice Övgü Tüzün in 2021 Octavia Butlers science fiction works have been thoroughly examined, focusing specifically on *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*. Tüzün's research aligns, with this study objectives as it explores the elements present in these works. By utilizing science fiction as a platform Butler effectively delves into topics like class struggles, racial disparities, gender biases and the impact of climate change within contexts. Tüzün's investigation sheds light on how environmental exploitation intersects with structures that perpetuate women's subordination and overall oppression. This resonates with this research's objectives as it seeks to analyze the ecofeminist narrative embedded in these novels and its connections to issues such, as gender dynamics, capitalism, and environmental degradation.

Tüzün's examination of how Butler portrays the flaws of nature such, as violence, prejudice and hierarchical thinking aligns with critical framework for this investigation. Similar to ecofeminists she presents a critique of systems that uphold oppression and sees patriarchal dominance as a form of parasitism. Tüzün highlights how Butler's work aligns with principles and adds to our understanding of the authors contributions, by incorporating ecofeminist theories and concepts. Tüzün's work is a crucial source of information that is used in literature review to support the ecofeminist framework to examine Butler's novels. It supports the claim that the Earthseed books are timeless ecofeminist works that examine the links between environmental degradation and the subjugation of oppressed people while offering a forum for thoughtful consideration of these matters. The author also quoted Vandana Shiva in this context (Regan 2020).

Paloma Villamil Agraso's (2012) research provides insights, into the framework and the concept of spiritual ecofeminism as portrayed in Octavia E. Butlers novels, namely *Parable of the Talents* and *Parable of the Sower*. This study aligns with the research, which investigates these books from an ecofeminist perspective. Agraso delves into the interconnectedness between ecology, spirituality and ecofeminism, in her work, which greatly aligns with current research objectives.

We resonate with Agraso's classification of ecofeminism as a subset of feminism that intertwines pantheism, feminism and a deep reverence, for the world. This alignment allows us to explore ecofeminist themes in Butler's books. This research aims to uncover the connections between capitalism, gender dynamics and environmental degradation depicted in these novels. Additionally, it holds significance for the research since Agraso specifically mentions *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* as works that do not depict a future but also encourage readers to reevaluate their relationship with nature. The objective is to highlight the aspects within these books, which call for a reevaluation of our treatment towards both the environment and women's roles, within it. Agraso brings insights, into the ecological aspects of Butler's work adding depth to the research and supporting the significance of a materialist ecofeminist approach in this research analysis. This research intends to utilize Agraso's research as a reference in literature review emphasizing how Butler's novels lay the groundwork for ecofeminism and their potential to raise consciousness, on social and environmental concerns.

When we take into account all of these studies collectively, this literature sheds light on the exploration of Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, from perspectives including ecofeminism, environmental justice, dystopian analysis and socio-political discourse. Together these studies emphasize how the novel addresses issues such as environmental decline, gender inequality, the impact of capitalism and the societal implications that arise from these intersections. While there is a body of research that provides valuable insights into Butler's narrative, a notable gap in research becomes apparent, the lack of an in-depth exploration using a materialist ecofeminist perspective specifically within the context of this novel. Despite the perspectives presented in the reviewed studies few delve deeply into applying Vandana Shiva's ecofeminism as a primary framework to analyze the intricate connections between gender, capitalism, environmental decline, and female empowerment, within Butler's work.

This research gap provides an opportunity to address a lack, in the analysis of *Parable of the Sower* by examining the novel through an ecofeminist lens we can gain a nuanced understanding of how Butler intertwines ecological, feminist and economic themes in her story. This approach will help uncover the interconnectedness between the exploitation of nature the subjugation of women and the impacts of structures depicted in the book. Moreover, this review emphasizes how timely and relevant it is to conduct a materialist ecofeminist examination within discussions on justice, gender equality and socio-economic disparities. It demonstrates how this approach not enhances analyses but also contributes significantly to ongoing conversations about societal systems and the urgent need for environmental and gender related reforms.

In essence, while existing studies offer perspectives on Butler's novel this literature review highlights a gap in scholarly exploration regarding Vandana Shiva's materialist ecofeminist framework applied comprehensively to *Parable of the Sower*. Addressing this gap holds promise in unraveling the dynamics between gender, capitalism, environmental degradation and female empowerment within the novel. It will make contributions, to both ecofeminist discourse and literary analysis.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research employs a qualitative research design to interpret and understand the textual content of Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* on the framework of Vandana Shiva's materialist ecofeminism. The focus of this qualitative content analysis of this analysis is to delve into the ecofeminist themes, in the novel, which emphasize the interconnections, between capitalism, gender dynamics, environmental decline and women's empowerment as its aim. The novel Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* is the main data source. A thorough reading for textual interpretation, and the identification of crucial narrative aspects is carried out. A purposive sampling is done by selecting specific excerpts and passages in relevance to the research objectives. Thematic coding is used to aids in extracting meaningful insights from the text. This study conducted a qualitative content analysis of the selected novel, that is guided by Vandana Shiva's materialist ecofeminist perspective.

As part of theoretical framework, this writing delves into ecofeminism, which's a framework that explores the interconnections, between women's oppression, environmental destruction and the patriarchal capitalist system. By drawing upon the work of Vandana Shiva, one of today's prominent ecofeminist scholars, this research aims to uncover how Butler's novel portrays the links between gender dynamics, capitalism and environmental deterioration.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study explores the connection, between gender and environmental issues in Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* using Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist framework as a foundation. Vandana Shiva offers a perspective that explores the links, between capitalism, the exploitation of resources, oppression based on gender and the degradation of the environment. This viewpoint is rooted in Shiva's ecofeminism. Shiva contends that "the marginalization of women and the destruction of biodiversity go hand in hand." By this, she is suggesting that there is a connection, between oppression and gendered oppression. She believes that women have a role in safeguarding biodiversity. At the same time, they are also more susceptible to the negative impacts of monoculture capitalism. (Shiva 2014, 164).

Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist framework has significantly contributed to our understanding of how environmental degradation and gender-based oppression are intertwined with economic systems, particularly capitalism. This framework is consistent with the main objectives of the research which explores the portrayal of degradation and resource exploitation, in the novel in terms of the capitalist system. It draws on Shiva's materialist ecofeminist perspective to examine how these processes are influenced by gender. The analysis also focuses on how capitalism impacts gender norms and empowers characters. The objective is to showcase the ways in which the story incorporates concerns and capitalism. This research study utilizes Vandana Shivas materialist ecofeminist perspective to explore topics such, as access to resources, gendered roles in labor and the work involved in reproduction. The objective is to evaluate the experiences and actions of the



characters within the context. These elements are crucial for understanding how characters engage with challenges. The analysis focuses on highlighting the agency and resistance displayed by characters as they strive to address degradation. It also emphasizes the interplay between themes of gender, capitalism and the environment, within the narrative. Through this framework this study aims to provide a detailed investigation.

## **ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis begins by systematically examining the categorized recurrent themes and patterns that are pertinent to the research objectives. This analysis applies Vandana Shiva's materialist ecofeminist framework to interpret the coded themes within the novel.

This data focuses on how the capitalist system affects resource exploitation and environmental degradation. This study identified sections that discuss goals, profit oriented motivations and their impact, on the environment. This theme showcases how capitalism exacerbates issues. This data provides instances where women assert themselves and overcome challenges. Make notes on situations where female characters demonstrate their independence, defy societal expectations, and oppose the degradation of their environment. Based on the investigation, this study identified passages that discuss how ecological issues affect gender roles. The main focus is on how environmental degradation affects and influences female characters within the context of gender roles. This theme sheds light on the linkages, between gender and environmental concerns.

After thorough reading of the novel, it is evident that the whole plot revolves main character of Lauren Oya Olamina, who is a young black. widow residing in a dystopian society and is concerned about matters like climate change and economic inequality in United states. This young woman is passionate to give herself and her people a better future. The data for this research also from the dialogues of Lauren Oya Olamina who is the protagonist and the main female character whose words fulfills the requirements of data. The data is collected in the form of excerpts and passages based on coding and categorization of recurring relevant themes and each passage is going to be analyzed on the selected theoretical framework of Vandana Shiva, materialist ecofeminist framework.

*“The universe is Godseed. Only we are Earthseed.” The Destiny of Earthseed is to take root among the stars.” (Butler, 1993).*

Here in these lines uttered by Lauren we can see the relationship of feminism and ecology that how a female character is talking out her perspective of nature. Analyzing it on materialist ecofeminist framework, we can see that this passage reinforces the materialist ecofeminist notion of reinterpreting religious beliefs in alignment to the environmental norms. Here the words, of Earthseed and stating universe as “Godseed” is one such attempt. Here Lauren, redefines spirituality in environmental contexts and ecological set up. Lauren's interpretation of humanity's fate in the stars emphasizes the idea of ecofeminist agency. The concept of ecofeminism promotes women's autonomy in tackling environmental issues, and Lauren's position as the creator and

leader of Earthseed serves as an example of this idea. Earthseed provides an alternative spiritual paradigm that supports agency in addressing environmental challenges and encourages proactive participation with them. We can see in these lines the combination of purposeful action in response to environmental concerns, spirituality, and hope. It illustrates the possibility of a fresh, ecofeminist-aware spiritual framework that may motivate constructive action and deal with the intricate problems of ecological degradation and climate change. Earthseed's mission and Lauren's vision are in line with the ecofeminist idea of women's agency in addressing environmental issues.

*“Cities controlled by big companies are old hat in science fiction. My grandmother left a whole bookcase of old science fiction novels. The company-city subgenre always seemed to star a hero who outsmarted, overthrew, or escaped “the company.” I’ve never seen one where the hero fought like hell to get taken in and underpaid by the company. In real life, that’s the way it will be. That’s the way it always is.” (Butler, 1993).*

The theoretical framework of ecofeminism explores the connections, between ecofeminism, capitalism, gender dynamics and environmental issues. It is relevant to this excerpt from Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* specifically focusing on a quote by Lauren Olamina. Laurens perspective aligns, with the novel’s future, where powerful corporations govern cities. Let’s analyze this viewpoint using this research framework as a reference; The passages dystopian backdrop offers a context, for comprehending the interplay between concerns and capitalism. While the chapter doesn't delve deeply into problems it suggests that corporate controlled cities may be connected to deterioration hinting at a potential link between corporate interests and harm, to the environment. Laurens comment emphasizes how "the company" dominates cities indicating the presence of capitalism. From research standpoint this illustrates how corporations exert control over resources and potentially exploit them. Laurens observation raises questions, about empowerment and resistance even though it doesn't explicitly focus on the dynamics of gender. The fact that individuals willingly choose to join these businesses and accept wages could be seen as a form of resistance or a means of survival, in a post-apocalyptic society. It is crucial to consider the gender aspect when examining this type of resistance and its implications. This excerpt gives us a glimpse, into the dystopia portrayed in the novel, where characters such as Lauren navigate a world. It serves as a starting point for exploring how the narrative intertwines exploitation and capitalism and examines their influence on the roles and empowerment of characters. This aligns, with the objectives and theoretical framework of this study.

*“We have God and we have each other. We have our island community, fragile, and yet a fortress. Sometimes it seems too small and too weak to survive. And like the widow in Christ’s parable, its enemies fear neither God nor man. But also like the widow, it persists. We persist. This is our place, no matter what.” (Butler, 1993).*

In this passage from chapter 12, after her father’s demise, Lauren is giving a sermon to her community. To be more persuasive, she used the parable of the importunate widow to motivate her

people to persist in the times of adversity. While analyzing the passage through materialist ecofeminist perspective, we have the following findings: Lauren encourages her people to stay interconnected and work as a group against the issues like environmental degradation and other societal problems that were occurring. This message of interconnectedness also aligns with the ecofeminist spirit of seeing bonding between humans and nature. The passage underscores the importance of community and collective action in the face of adversity. In this sermon, Lauren wanted her people to take stand against oppression. The main idea here is to resist against the environmental degradation and the gender-based oppression occurring in their society. This reinforces to challenge the societal patriarchal structures and exploitation of women because of this. Overall, in this passage we can see that the materialist ecofeminist spirit is evident as the themes revolve around the concepts of degradation and gender-based oppression. There's also a blink of ecofeminist spirituality as Lauren talks about the relationship between God and people.

*"Things are changing now, too. Our adults haven't been wiped out by a plague so they're still anchored in the past, waiting for the good old days to come back. But things have changed a lot, and they'll change more. Things are always changing. This is just one of the big jumps instead of the little step-by-step changes that are easier to take. People have changed the climate of the world. Now they're waiting for the old days to come back." (Butler, 1993).*

In this passage Lauren makes a thought-provoking observation, in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. She suggests that at the core all struggles can be seen as power struggles. This aligns, with this research's perspective. Let's delve deeper into this passage based on the research findings: Ecofeminism emphasizes the idea that conflicts fundamentally about power dynamics as Lauren suggests. In this research, we delve into the power dynamics that underlie gender-based oppression and environmental exploitation. This finding aligns, with the ecofeminist perspective, which recognizes these problems as interconnected and stemming from power distribution. Lauren's concern regarding the exploitation of power and the strong taking advantage of the aligns, with this research that focus on the connection between oppression, power dynamics and environmental harm. Ecofeminism sheds light on how marginalized communities face an impact, from exploitation enabled by unequal power relationships. Lauren's call, for a change in the state of affairs. The establishment of a fair and equal society aligns, with the revolutionary aspects of ecofeminism. This research aims to explore how ecofeminism provides a structure to address these power struggles and promote the advancement of a righteous society. To put it simply this passage highlights the importance of understanding power dynamics and their role, in gender-based discrimination and environmental degradation. Lauren's comments serve as both a call to take action and a fitting addition, to the principles that shape this research.

*"The world is full of painful stories. Sometimes it seems as though there aren't any other kind and yet I found myself thinking how beautiful that glint of water was through the trees." (Butler, 1993).*

In this passage, Lauren, muses in this chapter about the eternal beauty of the natural world and the coexistence of terrible stories. This contemplation can be examined in light of this research approach, which is based on an ecofeminist materialism viewpoint. Here, Laurens appreciation, for the wonders of nature brings attention to an ecofeminist viewpoint regarding the connection, between women and the environment. Ecofeminism often emphasizes the importance of comprehending our surroundings and recognizing the contributions women have made in nurturing both human and natural communities. Laurens ability to cope with challenges is evident, in the provided excerpt. This aligns, with the principles of ecofeminism which emphasize womens capacity to adapt and persevere despite ecological circumstances. The passage underscores the strength and determination required to discover hope and beauty in the midst of adversity.

This line is a perfect example of Lauren's ecofeminist viewpoint, which incorporates community, hope, resilience, and an appreciation of nature in the face of societal and environmental issues. It functions as a narrative device that highlights how important these ecofeminist ideas are to the plot of the novel

*“But it can't protect itself from the encroaching sea, the crumbling earth, the crumbling economy, or the desperate refugees. Even getting back and forth to work, for those few who can't work at home, was becoming as dangerous for them as it is for our people-- a kind of terrible gauntlet that has to be run over and over again” (Butler, 1993).*

By examining this from Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* within Vandana Shiva's framework. The passage fits into this paradigm in the following ways: It discusses how the environment is, at risk from dangers like rising sea levels and land erosion. Materialist ecofeminism emphasizes the connection between women, nature and marginalized communities highlighting that these groups are disproportionately affected by degradation. The passage reflects the belief of ecofeminism that safeguarding the environment is crucial, for the welfare of everyone, women. Inequality: The discussion of the declining economy highlights the challenges faced in both the economic spheres. Materialist ecofeminism draws connections, between injustices and the exploitation of the environment specifically focusing on how women and marginalized communities bear impacts. Vandana Shivas work sheds light on women's role as managers of resources and highlights how economic disparities significantly affect their means of living. This passage highlights the principles of ecofeminism that pertain to the vulnerability of the environment, economic inequality, displacement ensuring working conditions and recognizing the interconnectedness of these concerns. It effectively demonstrates the difficulties experienced by women. Marginalized communities, amidst economic crises aligning with Vandana Shivas ecofeminist viewpoint.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion when examining Octavia Butlers *Parable of the Sower* using Vandana Shivas ecofeminist framework it becomes clear that the novel strongly aligns with principles. The main

character, Lauren Oya Olamina embodies ecofeminist themes such, as the interconnectedness between women and nature resilience in the face of societal obstacles and the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities—especially women. Moreover, passages from the novel shed light on how economic injustices intersect with exploitation. Laurens character serves as an embodiment of ecofeminist agency by highlighting adaptation resistance against oppression and the pursuit of an equitable and sustainable future. This analysis emphasizes how relevant the novel is in addressing issues relating to the environment, gender dynamics and power structures within society. It underscores the importance of adopting a perspective to examine and tackle these challenges both, in literature and real life.

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