

From Survival and Participation to Emancipation: A Thematic Review of Green Political Theory

Dr. Chandrachur Singh*, Dr. Hena Singh**

Abstract

Over the past fifty years, environmental catastrophes have significantly altered the political landscape, leading to a fundamental change in perspective from a focus on human interests to a focus on ecological concerns. This shift highlights a more comprehensive and inclusive viewpoint that accords significance of environmental conservation in safeguarding the entire ecosystem. Although nationalist barriers impede collective action, there is an increasing agreement over the necessity of tackling fundamental issues such as poverty eradication and gender discrimination at a global level in order to meet existential challenges. This paper examines the evolution of Green Political philosophy, mapping its progression from a focus on participation and survival to a more liberating framework. Early discussions mostly cantered around grassroots democratic engagement and immediate survival; however, modern thinking places greater emphasis on the wider goals of emancipation, taking inspiration from several philosophical traditions. This comprehensive perspective not only recognizes the constraints of expansion but also aims to reinterpret concepts of human independence and liberty within the framework of ecological sustainability. Emancipatory Green Theory seeks to go beyond traditional political ideologies by combining environmental concerns with larger social movements. The aim is to develop solutions to address systemic inequities and dominance. This study explores the trajectory in which the three broad parameters of Green Political theory developed and their contributions in tackling current environmental issues and transforming society's values, ethics, and power structures.

Key Words: Green Political Theory, Collective Action, Participation, Survival, Emancipation, Authoritarianism, Ecological sustainability, emancipatory Theory, Equity Justice, Societal transformation.

Introduction

*Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Hindu College, University of Delhi

**Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Miranda House, University of Delhi