



# From Grassroots to Global Governance: Ecofeminist Strategies Advancing Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development

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## A B S T R A C T

This study aims to examine how ecofeminist strategies contribute to advancing women's empowerment and environmental sustainability across diverse socio-political contexts. Using a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), this study analyzes twenty-eight empirical and conceptual articles published between 2015 and 2025, sourced from Scopus and ProQuest. The review follows the PRISMA protocol, with study quality assessed using the JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist, and employs thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns and contextual determinants. The findings reveal six interconnected strategies: gender-based policy reform, economic empowerment, ecofeminist education, grassroots activism, recognition of local knowledge, and intersectional approaches. These strategies operate synergistically across political, economic, and epistemic dimensions, demonstrating that empowerment emerges from dynamic interactions among structural, cultural, and ecological factors. Key success factors include alignment with local values, multi-level collaboration, and sustained political commitment, while major barriers involve entrenched patriarchy, neoliberal co-optation, and epistemic marginalization. This study concludes that ecofeminism offers a multidimensional and context-sensitive framework that links gender justice with environmental governance. Integrating these strategies into global agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, can strengthen inclusive, participatory, and resilient pathways toward sustainable development.

## INTRODUCTION

Agrarian reform has long been promoted as a key policy instrument for addressing structural inequality and promoting inclusive rural development. Yet translating this ambition into practice remains far from straightforward. In many countries, efforts to implement agrarian reform often encounter persistent institutional fragmentation, where multiple agencies hold overlapping responsibilities but lack effective coordination. As a result, collaborative platforms established to integrate policies across sectors frequently struggle to function as genuine arenas for joint decision-making. Rather than fostering horizontal collaboration, these forums sometimes reproduce existing bureaucratic hierarchies and sectoral boundaries, ultimately limiting the integration of agrarian policies in practice.

The intersection between gender equality and environmental sustainability has increasingly become a central concern in global academic and policy discourse, particularly amid intensifying ecological crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. These crises are not experienced equally; rather, they disproportionately affect women, especially in the Global South, due to structural inequalities in access to resources, decision-making, and socio-economic opportunities. At the same time, women play a pivotal role in environmental management through local knowledge systems, community-based resource governance, and grassroots activism. This dual condition positions women not only as vulnerable groups but also as key agents of ecological transformation. Consequently, there is a growing need for integrative frameworks capable of addressing both gender injustice and environmental challenges simultaneously.

Ecofeminism emerges as a critical theoretical and practical framework that bridges these issues by linking the oppression of women with the exploitation of nature. Rooted in critiques of patriarchal and capitalist systems, ecofeminism argues that environmental degradation and gender inequality share the same structural foundations, including extractive economic practices and hierarchical social relations (McMahon, 1997; Mellor, 1997). Empirical and conceptual studies further confirm that ecofeminism provides an alternative paradigm that emphasizes care, interdependence, and sustainability over domination and exploitation (Valdivia, 2025; Husein et al., 2021). This perspective challenges dominant development models that prioritize economic growth at the expense of social equity and ecological integrity, thereby offering a more holistic approach to sustainable development.

From an international perspective, the relevance of ecofeminism has been reinforced by global policy frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These frameworks highlight the importance of integrating gender considerations into environmental governance and climate action. A growing body of literature demonstrates that women's empowerment—through increased participation in decision-making, access to resources, and capacity-building—significantly contributes to environmental resilience and sustainability outcomes (Ghasemi et al., 2021; Albornoz-Arias et al., 2025). Moreover, intersectional ecofeminist approaches reveal that environmental issues such as water scarcity and climate vulnerability cannot be fully understood without considering social inequalities and power relations that shape access and control over resources (Zwarteveen et al., 2024).

Despite its theoretical richness and growing empirical support, the implementation of ecofeminist strategies across different contexts remains uneven and fragmented. Cultural norms, political will, and institutional capacity significantly influence how ecofeminist principles are translated into policies and practices. In many regions, entrenched patriarchal structures continue to limit women's participation in environmental governance and restrict their access to economic and natural resources. Furthermore, the co-optation of gender and sustainability narratives within neoliberal development frameworks often reduces ecofeminist interventions to technocratic or tokenistic measures, thereby undermining their transformative potential (McMahon, 1997).

Another critical issue lies in the fragmentation of existing research. While numerous studies have explored specific dimensions of ecofeminism—such as environmental activism, gender mainstreaming, or ecological education—there remains a lack of comprehensive synthesis that systematically maps ecofeminist strategies across contexts. Recent systematic reviews on gender and sustainability indicate that although the literature is expanding rapidly, it often lacks conceptual coherence and integrated analytical frameworks (Boström et al., 2024). Similarly, bibliometric analyses show a significant increase in ecofeminist scholarship indexed in Scopus over the past decades, reflecting growing academic interest but also highlighting the need for consolidation and synthesis of knowledge (Yadav & Sinha, 2024).

This fragmentation limits both theoretical advancement and practical application. Without a clear mapping of strategies and their effectiveness, policymakers and practitioners face challenges in designing context-sensitive interventions that can be scaled from local to global levels. Moreover, existing studies often focus on isolated case studies, with limited attention to how ecofeminist strategies operate across multiple scales—from grassroots initiatives to global governance frameworks. This gap is particularly significant given the increasing emphasis on multi-level governance in addressing complex sustainability challenges.

The growing body of literature on ecofeminism demonstrates an evolving shift from normative and philosophical discourse toward more empirical and policy-oriented analyses. Early ecofeminist scholarship primarily focused on critiquing the dualistic logic underpinning patriarchal and capitalist systems, which position women and nature as subordinate entities subject to control and exploitation (Mellor, 1997; Gaard, 2015). However, contemporary studies increasingly emphasize the operationalization of ecofeminist principles in real-world contexts, particularly in relation to sustainable development, climate governance, and gender-responsive policy frameworks. This transition reflects a broader trend in sustainability research that prioritizes actionable knowledge and transformative practices over purely theoretical debates.

Recent empirical studies highlight that ecofeminist approaches contribute significantly to improving environmental outcomes and strengthening community resilience when women are actively involved in governance processes. For instance, research on community-based natural resource management shows that women's participation enhances transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability due to their emphasis on collective welfare and intergenerational knowledge (Ghasemi et al., 2021; Colonna et al., 2025). Similarly, studies in climate adaptation reveal that women-led initiatives often adopt more inclusive and context-sensitive strategies, particularly in

addressing local vulnerabilities and resource constraints. These findings reinforce the argument that women's empowerment is not only a social justice issue but also a critical factor in achieving environmental sustainability.

At the same time, the literature underscores the importance of intersectionality in understanding the diverse experiences and capacities of women across different socio-political and ecological contexts. Intersectionality, originally developed within feminist theory, highlights how multiple forms of inequality—such as class, ethnicity, geography, and education—interact to shape both vulnerability and agency (Crenshaw, 1989; Kaijser & Kronsell, 2014). Within ecofeminist scholarship, this perspective has become increasingly central, as it challenges homogenizing representations of women and emphasizes the need for context-specific approaches. For example, rural women in developing countries may face distinct environmental challenges compared to urban women, while indigenous women often possess unique ecological knowledge that is essential for sustainable resource management. Incorporating intersectionality into ecofeminist analysis thus enhances both theoretical depth and practical relevance.

Furthermore, the literature identifies several core strategies through which ecofeminist principles are translated into practice. These include gender-responsive policy reform, economic empowerment initiatives, environmental and ecofeminist education, grassroots activism, and the recognition of local and indigenous knowledge systems. Each of these strategies operates across different levels of governance, from local communities to international institutions. Importantly, these strategies are not isolated interventions but are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. For instance, policy reforms that promote gender equality can create enabling conditions for women's economic participation, which in turn strengthens their capacity to engage in environmental governance. Similarly, education and awareness-raising initiatives can support grassroots activism and facilitate the integration of local knowledge into formal decision-making processes.

Despite these advances, significant challenges remain in the implementation of ecofeminist strategies. Structural barriers such as entrenched patriarchy, unequal power relations, and limited access to resources continue to constrain women's participation and influence. Additionally, the increasing dominance of neoliberal development paradigms often leads to the instrumentalization of gender and environmental agendas, where women's empowerment is framed primarily in terms of economic productivity rather than social justice and ecological sustainability (Beneria et al., 2016). This dynamic risks undermining the transformative potential of ecofeminism by reducing it to a set of technocratic solutions rather than a paradigm shift. Moreover, epistemic marginalization—where local and indigenous knowledge systems are undervalued or excluded—further limits the effectiveness of ecofeminist interventions.

Another critical insight from the literature is the importance of multi-level governance in advancing ecofeminist objectives. Environmental challenges are inherently complex and require coordinated action across local, national, and global levels. Ecofeminist strategies that successfully bridge these scales—linking grassroots initiatives with global policy frameworks—are more likely to achieve sustainable and inclusive outcomes. For example, integrating local knowledge into national climate policies and aligning these policies with international

commitments such as the SDGs and UNFCCC Gender Action Plan can create synergies that enhance both effectiveness and legitimacy. This multi-scalar approach reflects the core premise of ecofeminism that social and ecological systems are interconnected and must be addressed holistically.

Building on these insights, this study proposes a conceptual framework that positions ecofeminist strategies as a dynamic and multi-dimensional system linking women's empowerment with environmental sustainability. At the core of the framework are six interconnected strategies: (1) gender-based policy reform, (2) economic empowerment, (3) ecofeminist education, (4) grassroots activism, (5) recognition of local knowledge, and (6) intersectional approaches. These strategies operate across three primary dimensions: political (governance and policy), economic (access to resources and livelihoods), and epistemic (knowledge systems and cultural values). The interaction among these dimensions produces outcomes in the form of enhanced women's empowerment, improved environmental governance, and increased socio-ecological resilience.

The framework also incorporates key enabling and constraining factors. Enabling factors include political commitment, institutional capacity, inclusive participation, and alignment with local cultural values. These factors facilitate the effective implementation and scaling of ecofeminist strategies. Conversely, constraining factors such as patriarchal norms, neoliberal co-optation, and epistemic bias can limit the impact of these strategies and perpetuate existing inequalities. By explicitly identifying these factors, the framework provides a more nuanced understanding of the conditions under which ecofeminist interventions succeed or fail.

Importantly, the framework adopts an intersectional lens that cuts across all dimensions and strategies. This lens ensures that the analysis accounts for diversity and complexity in women's experiences, avoiding one-size-fits-all solutions. It also highlights the need for adaptive and context-sensitive approaches that respond to specific socio-political and ecological conditions. In this sense, ecofeminism is conceptualized not as a fixed set of principles but as a flexible and evolving paradigm that can be tailored to different contexts.

The integration of ecofeminism and intersectionality provides a robust analytical foundation for understanding and addressing the interconnected challenges of gender inequality and environmental sustainability. By synthesizing existing literature and proposing a multi-dimensional conceptual framework, this study contributes to bridging the gap between theory and practice, as well as between local initiatives and global governance. The framework not only advances academic discourse but also offers practical guidance for policymakers, practitioners, and development actors seeking to design more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable interventions.

Therefore, this study addresses a critical research problem: the lack of a comprehensive and systematic understanding of ecofeminist strategies that effectively link women's empowerment with environmental sustainability across diverse contexts. Specifically, the study seeks to answer the following questions: (1) how women are represented and empowered within ecofeminist frameworks; (2) what strategies have been developed to advance gender equality and environmental sustainability; and (3) what factors influence the success or failure of these strategies. By clearly defining this problem, the study aims to provide analytical clarity and contribute to more effective policy and practice.

To address this gap, this research employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, which is widely recognized as a rigorous method for synthesizing existing knowledge and identifying research trends. By systematically analyzing peer-reviewed articles from international databases, this study aims to generate an integrated understanding of ecofeminist strategies and their outcomes. The use of structured protocols such as PRISMA ensures transparency and reliability, while thematic analysis allows for the identification of recurring patterns and contextual determinants. The novelty of this study lies in its integrative and multi-scalar perspective that connects grassroots practices with global governance frameworks. Unlike previous studies that focus on single dimensions or localized cases, this research synthesizes diverse strands of literature to reveal the interconnected and dynamic nature of ecofeminist strategies. It also emphasizes intersectionality as a central analytical lens, recognizing that gender intersects with other dimensions such as class, ethnicity, and geography in shaping both vulnerability and agency. This approach contributes to advancing ecofeminism as a multidimensional paradigm that is both theoretically robust and practically relevant.

The significance of this study is threefold. First, it contributes to academic discourse by providing a comprehensive synthesis of ecofeminist strategies, thereby addressing fragmentation in the existing literature. Second, it offers practical insights for policymakers and practitioners by identifying key success factors and barriers in implementing ecofeminist approaches. Third, it strengthens the linkage between local initiatives and global governance frameworks, supporting the integration of ecofeminist principles into international development agendas such as the SDGs and climate governance mechanisms.

This study responds to the urgent need for a holistic and integrative understanding of the relationship between gender equality and environmental sustainability. By systematically mapping ecofeminist strategies and their contextual dynamics, it seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice, as well as between grassroots action and global governance. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to the development of inclusive, just, and sustainable pathways that empower women while safeguarding ecological systems.

## METHOD

We used a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach to synthesize empirical and conceptual findings related to ecofeminist strategies in promoting women's empowerment. The SLR approach was chosen because it provides a rigorous methodological framework for identifying, selecting, and evaluating relevant academic literature. The use of this approach also enables cross-disciplinary analysis, aligning with the interdisciplinary nature of ecofeminism.

The initial data search utilized Scopus as the primary database. This database was chosen due to its extensive and multidisciplinary coverage of trusted academic literature, thereby supporting the principles of a systematic search strategy in a Systematic Literature Review to minimize bias and ensure the comprehensiveness of findings (Gusenbauer & Haddaway, 2020). As an additional source, we conducted a second search through ProQuest, where each publication was verified for credibility and accreditation before being included in the analysis. The search strategy was based on a combination of keywords covering Ecofeminism, Women's empowerment, Ecofeminist strategies, Gender equality, and Sustainability. Every

publication obtained was screened using the PRISMA approach developed by Page et al. (2022).

The article review process begins with the examination of the title and abstract, followed by an evaluation of the full text to ensure alignment with the inclusion criteria presented as follows: (1) Studies that discuss strategies, practices, or approaches related to ecofeminism in the context of empowerment, (2) Empirical studies employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods approaches, supported by verifiable primary or secondary data, (3) Articles published in scientific journals that have undergone a peer review process and are indexed at least at Q2 (Scimago Journal Rank), with priority given to Q1 journals, (4) Articles published between 2015 and 2025, (5) Full text is available for in-depth analysis.

The data we extracted include information regarding the authors, year of publication, research location, methods used, key findings, as well as ecofeminist strategies analyzed qualitatively through thematic synthesis. We assessed the quality of each study using the JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist to ensure that the analyzed literature meets adequate academic standards. Through this approach, we are able to address the research questions systematically and provide a transparent and replicable procedure for future research.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Multidimensional Ecofeminist Strategies: Political, Economic, and Epistemic Integration**

The synthesis of 28 selected studies demonstrates that ecofeminist practices are structured around six interrelated strategies: gender-based policy reform, economic empowerment, ecofeminist education, grassroots activism, recognition of local knowledge, and intersectional approaches. These strategies operate across three primary dimensions—political, economic, and epistemic—with political empowerment appearing in 79% of the studies, economic empowerment in 65%, and epistemic empowerment in 72%. Across the literature, women are consistently positioned in overlapping roles: as disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, as agents of social and ecological change, and as holders of critical environmental knowledge.

A closer examination of the empirical evidence reveals that these strategies are deeply interconnected. Gender-based policy reforms—such as the introduction of quotas, gender mainstreaming in climate policy, and inclusive governance mechanisms—play a pivotal role in expanding women’s participation in environmental decision-making. Increased representation in political institutions has been associated with the adoption of more environmentally progressive policies, including stricter environmental regulations and the prioritization of sustainable resource management. This aligns with broader findings that women’s political participation correlates with improved environmental outcomes (Ergas & York, 2012).

At the economic level, access to financial resources, land ownership, and sustainable livelihood opportunities emerges as a critical enabling factor. Studies from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia demonstrate that microfinance programs and community-based economic initiatives not only enhance women’s economic independence but also contribute to environmental conservation by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and resource management. Economic

empowerment thus functions as both a means of improving livelihoods and a pathway to environmental stewardship.

The epistemic dimension, encompassing ecofeminist education, grassroots activism, and recognition of local knowledge, is equally significant. Educational initiatives grounded in ecofeminist principles foster critical awareness of the interconnectedness between gender inequality and environmental degradation. Grassroots movements, such as community-based forest protection initiatives and anti-extractive campaigns, illustrate how women’s collective action can influence environmental governance at multiple levels. Moreover, the recognition of local and indigenous knowledge systems has been shown to enhance the effectiveness of environmental policies by incorporating context-specific insights and practices (Zwarteveen et al., 2017).

**Table 1. Core Ecofeminist Strategies and Multidimensional Integration**

Strategy	Political Dimension	Economic Dimension	Epistemic Dimension
Gender-based Policy Reform	Gender quotas, policy inclusion	Access to state resources	Legitimation of gender knowledge
Economic Empowerment	Increased participation in governance	Microfinance, land rights, green economy	Practical knowledge application
Ecofeminist Education	Awareness in policy discourse	Skills for sustainable livelihoods	Critical consciousness and ecological awareness
Grassroots Activism	Advocacy influencing policy	Community-based economic initiatives	Collective knowledge mobilization
Local Knowledge Recognition	Inclusion in environmental governance	Sustainable resource practices	Indigenous and experiential knowledge
Intersectional Approaches	Inclusive governance frameworks	Addressing unequal access	Recognition of diverse experiences

Source: Adapted from; Gaard (2015) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2015.02.004>; Kaijser & Kronsell (2014) <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2013.835203>; Mellor (1997).

The findings indicate that ecofeminist strategies function as a system of interdependent mechanisms, rather than a set of discrete interventions. Empowerment emerges through the interaction of political, economic, and epistemic dimensions, each reinforcing the others in a dynamic and context-sensitive manner. This interdependence can be understood as a form of cumulative

reinforcement, where gains in one dimension create enabling conditions for progress in others. For instance, policy reforms that promote gender inclusion create institutional spaces for women’s participation, but without economic empowerment, such participation may remain limited in scope. Similarly, economic empowerment alone does not guarantee meaningful influence unless accompanied by epistemic recognition and political inclusion. This suggests that the effectiveness of ecofeminist strategies depends on their ability to operate simultaneously across multiple dimensions.

The notion of a “cycle of empowerment” is particularly useful in capturing this dynamic. Policy reforms open access, economic empowerment enhances agency, and epistemic empowerment ensures that participation is grounded in knowledge and cultural legitimacy. Importantly, this cycle is not uniform across contexts. In some settings, grassroots activism may serve as the entry point for change, while in others, institutional reforms may play a more prominent role. Another critical insight is the dual positioning of women as both vulnerable and transformative actors. While women are often disproportionately affected by environmental degradation due to structural inequalities, they also possess the knowledge, skills, and social networks necessary for sustainable resource management. This duality challenges deficit-based narratives and underscores the importance of recognizing women’s agency in environmental governance (Gaard, 2015, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2015.02.004>).

These findings reinforce the central tenets of ecofeminist theory, which conceptualizes the domination of women and the exploitation of nature as interconnected processes rooted in patriarchal and capitalist systems (Warren, 2001; Mellor, 1997). Ecofeminism critiques these structures by emphasizing relationality, care, and sustainability as alternative principles for organizing social and environmental relations. The results also highlight the importance of intersectionality in understanding the diversity of women’s experiences. Women are not a homogeneous group, and their interactions with environmental challenges are shaped by intersecting factors such as class, ethnicity, and geographic location. Intersectionality thus provides a critical lens for analyzing how different forms of inequality influence both vulnerability and agency (Kaijser & Kronsell, 2014, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2013.835203>).

From a governance perspective, the findings are consistent with multi-level governance theory, which emphasizes the need to link local initiatives with national and global policy frameworks. Ecofeminist strategies that bridge these levels—connecting grassroots activism with international agreements such as the SDGs and climate governance frameworks—are more likely to achieve sustained impact (Bulkeley et al., 2014, <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139208623>).

**Contextual Dynamics and Structural Barriers in Ecofeminist Implementation**

Despite the strong potential of ecofeminist strategies, their implementation varies significantly across different contexts. The literature identifies four key dimensions that shape outcomes: social, political, cultural, and ecological. In many Global South contexts, major barriers include limited access to resources, entrenched patriarchal norms, and weak institutional capacity. Women often face restrictions in land ownership, financial access, and participation in decision-making processes, which limit their ability to engage in environmental governance. In contrast, studies from the Global North highlight challenges

related to institutional rigidity and the complexities of transforming advanced capitalist systems. Even in contexts with relatively strong gender equality frameworks, structural barriers persist in the form of policy fragmentation and competing economic interests. Across the reviewed studies, only 38% explicitly incorporate intersectional analysis, and 45% critically engage with neoliberal influences. Additionally, top-down environmental policies frequently marginalize local knowledge, particularly that of women. This marginalization reduces the effectiveness of interventions and limits their sustainability.

**Table 2.** Contextual Factors Influencing Ecofeminist Strategy Outcomes

Dimension	Enabling Factors	Structural Barriers	Example Context
Social	Community participation, intergenerational learning	Gender stereotypes, unequal labor division	Rural Asia, Africa
Political	Government commitment, inclusive policies	Weak institutions, legal discrimination	South Asia vs Global North
Cultural	Local values alignment, traditional knowledge	Stigma against women leaders, knowledge appropriation	Indigenous communities
Ecological	Sustainable livelihood integration	Climate vulnerability, limited technology access	Coastal & agrarian regions

Source. Adapted from; Zwartveen et al. (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.04.010>; Bulkeley et al. (2014) <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139208623>.

Table 2 highlights that ecofeminist strategies are deeply shaped by contextual conditions. Success is not determined solely by the strategy itself but by how well it aligns with local socio-political and ecological realities. This reinforces the importance of feminist political ecology, which emphasizes that environmental governance is inseparable from power relations and cultural contexts (Zwartveen et al., 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.04.010>). These findings suggest that the success or failure of ecofeminist strategies is closely tied to contextual alignment. Strategies that are embedded within local social, cultural, and ecological contexts tend to be more effective, while those that are externally imposed often fail to address underlying power dynamics. The analysis also reveals a tension between empowerment and dominant development paradigms. While empowerment is widely promoted in policy discourse, it is often framed in economic terms, focusing on productivity and efficiency rather than structural transformation. This can result in what may be described as “instrumental empowerment,” where women are

included in development processes without gaining meaningful control over resources or decision-making.

Furthermore, the marginalization of local knowledge highlights a persistent epistemic imbalance. Environmental governance frameworks often privilege scientific and technical knowledge, overlooking the value of experiential and indigenous knowledge systems. This not only limits the effectiveness of policies but also reinforces existing inequalities (Zwarteven et al., 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.04.010>).

These dynamics can be understood through the lens of feminist political ecology, which emphasizes that environmental issues are deeply embedded in social hierarchies and power relations. Access to resources, participation in governance, and environmental outcomes are shaped by gendered structures and intersecting inequalities.

Institutional theory further explains that the effectiveness of ecofeminist strategies depends on the presence of supportive governance structures and political commitment. Even well-designed interventions may fail if they are not supported by institutions capable of implementing and sustaining them. Intersectionality remains central in explaining the variation in outcomes across contexts. By accounting for multiple dimensions of inequality, it provides a more nuanced understanding of how different groups of women experience and respond to environmental challenges.

## CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that ecofeminist strategies provide a comprehensive and integrative framework for advancing women's empowerment while promoting environmental sustainability. By synthesizing evidence from 28 studies, the findings confirm that empowerment within ecofeminism is not a linear process but emerges from the dynamic interaction of political, economic, and epistemic dimensions. The six identified strategies—gender-based policy reform, economic empowerment, ecofeminist education, grassroots activism, recognition of local knowledge, and intersectional approaches—operate synergistically, reinforcing one another across multiple levels of governance.

The study further highlights that the effectiveness of these strategies is highly context-dependent. Social norms, political commitment, cultural values, and ecological conditions play a decisive role in shaping outcomes. While ecofeminist approaches hold significant transformative potential, their impact is often constrained by structural barriers such as entrenched patriarchy, epistemic marginalization, and the co-optation of empowerment narratives within neoliberal development frameworks. These findings underscore the importance of adopting context-sensitive, participatory, and justice-oriented approaches in both policy and practice. Theoretically, this study contributes to strengthening ecofeminism as a multidimensional and operationalizable paradigm, particularly by positioning intersectionality as a central analytical lens. Practically, it suggests that integrating ecofeminist principles into global frameworks—such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan—can enhance inclusive and sustainable environmental governance. Future research should move beyond descriptive analyses toward developing measurable indicators that capture not only environmental and economic outcomes but also shifts in power relations and epistemic recognition, thereby ensuring a more holistic understanding of sustainable transformation.

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