



## THE ROLE OF ECOFICTION IN AUGMENTING ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS: PERCEPTION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT:

*The paper presents information on the significance of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness. Ecofiction deals with ecological issues and representation of ecological elements in various genres of literature. The representation of nature and its fauna and flora in active or in passive form is a point of attraction in all kinds of literature. The modernisation and mechanisation often results in exploitation of nature beyond its limits of regeneration. In this context, it was thought that a study would be worthwhile to know the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students. A questionnaire was employed to conduct a survey among graduate students in Thrissur district, Kerala with a view to explore their perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness. Comparisons of their perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students were also made based on their gender.*

**KEYWORDS :** Ecofiction, Graduate Students.

### INTRODUCTION

We live in a world troubled with environmental problems like pollution, climate change, deforestation, ozone layer depletion etc. Ecological degradation is one of the urgent concerns that the world has to address in the present scenario. Ecofiction is ecologically oriented fiction, which shares ecological concerns and it represents the relationship between nature and human beings. It may help to increase awareness on ecological disasters. Ecofiction became popular in the 1970s, along with various environmental movements. These stories prompt the readers to experience environmental disasters and equip them to critically think about their own actions, behaviour and attitudes towards the environment.

#### Need and Significance of the Study

The modernisation and mechanisation often results in exploitation of nature beyond its limits of regeneration. The representation of nature and its fauna and flora in active or in passive form is a point of attraction in all kinds of literature. Fiction has the power to influence people's lives. Literature can powerfully shape cultural values that affect readers' behaviour, and stories can set cultural norms for people. Fiction can achieve this because it can help readers to experience "reality" (Said 31-53). Therefore fiction could also be written to augment ecological awareness of readers.

Ecofiction deals with ecological issues. The popularity and literary appreciation of ecofiction has increased over the years. Ecofiction may help to augment ecological awareness among people and therefore can create a positive attitude towards our environment. The perception of youth regarding the power of Ecofiction to sensitize human minds regarding environment is crucial as they can function as a promise for the future. They can actively participate in all the actions to save our environment. In this context, it was

thought that a study would be worthwhile to know the perception graduate students in Kerala towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness.

### OBJECTIVES

- To explore the perception towards role of ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students.
- To compare the perception towards the role of ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students based on gender.

### HYPOTHESES

1. The perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students is moderate.
2. There is significant difference in the perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students, based on Gender.

### METHODOLOGY

- **Survey Method** was used to conduct the study on a **sample** of 600 graduate students of Kerala, of which **202** were male students and 398 were female students.
- A **Questionnaire** (prepared by the Investigator) to assess the **role of ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness** among graduate students was the **tool** employed for gathering data regarding the study.
- The data were tabulated and analyzed using **statistical measures** like Arithmetic Mean, Standard Deviation, Critical Ratio (t-test) and Percentage Analysis.

### Findings and Discussion of Results

1. The perception of graduate students towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness is high.

The data regarding the percentage analysis of perception of graduate students towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness is given in Table-1.

**Table 1: The Perception towards the Role of Ecofiction in Augmenting Ecological Awareness among Graduate Students**

	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
High	270	45
Moderate	210	35
Poor	120	20

Among the graduate students, 45% perceive that the role of Ecofiction is high in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students, 35% perceive that the role of Ecofiction is moderate in augmenting ecological awareness, and 20% perceive that the role of Ecofiction is poor in augmenting ecological awareness. Therefore, majority of graduate students identify the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness. This indicates that majority of graduate students identify the role of Ecofiction is high in augmenting ecological awareness

2. There is significant difference between male and female graduate students towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness among graduate students.

The consolidated results of the Perception of graduate students towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness for the Sub-samples based on Gender are presented in Table-2.

**Table 2: Data and Results of the Perception of graduate students towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness for the Sub-samples based on Gender**

Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	Critical Ratio	Level of Significance
Male	202	13.59	2.72	5.54	P<0.01*
Female	398	16.20	1.58		

*\*Significant at 0.01 level.*

The mean and standard deviation of the scores of perception of male graduate students are 13.59 and 2.72, and those of the female graduate students are 16.20 and 1.58 respectively. The critical ratio obtained is 5.54, which is significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that there is significant difference between the male and female graduate students in their Perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

- Majority of graduate students perceive that role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness is high.
- There is significant difference between male and female graduate students in their Perception towards the role of Ecofiction in augmenting ecological awareness.

In the light of the findings of the study, the following **suggestions** are provided.

Various literary programmes should be organized to improve ecological awareness among students. The students' access to various genres of Ecofiction at large should be encouraged. Measures should be taken for the effective use of Ecofiction in classrooms that may help the students to develop positive attitude towards environment. Special efforts should be made to incorporate Ecofiction in curriculum at various levels of education.

### WORK CITED

- Said, Edward. *The World, the Text, and the Critic*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1983. Print.