

# **A Valuation to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* with Relevance to the Environmental Philosophy under Moral Consideration**

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## **1. Introduction**

*Silent Spring* was an environmental science book, written by Rachel Carson in 1962. This made a huge impact on the world's recognition of nature and environment with a serious approach to real matters. The book mainly concerned about the environmental conservation, environmental problems that existed and considered to be the foundation for the US environmentalist movement. As a whole, the main idea of 'Silent Spring' was to emphasize the impact that human behaviour upon nature. Her main argument was on the effects of pesticides on the environment. The pesticides can affect the ecosystems and she wanted to bring a more advanced biotic approach to safeguard the natural environment. The problem of this study is "how far Rachel Carson's work can be evaluated to be an environmental and a moral philosophical attempt." The main objective of the research is to emphasize the importance of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in the field of Environmental Philosophy. This research attempts to explain *Silent Spring* under moral philosophical considerations that is, how the impact of human behaviour can affect the natural environment as mentioned by Carson.

## **2. Literature Review**

Rachel Carson's (1962) gave prior notice to most of the environmental and human dangers with the unlimited usage of pesticides. She emphasized the pesticides can directly impact and bring long-lasting changes in the air, land, water and all the living beings. The book paid much attention to environmental problems and gave rise to the environmentalism in the United States (US) as well. This research is mainly concerned with her discussions on moral philosophical value added to it. Conor Mark Jameson (2013) has tried to bring about the growth of the environmentalism since Carson's *Silent Spring*. He has emphasized the most popular events in nature conservations, popular culture work, the political history, tracing back to 1962. But current research expects to emphasize how far Carson's work can be generalized as giving a practical means to the environmental philosophy. Lytle (2007) is a compact of Carson's biography and her influential work of *Silent Spring*. This book concerns

Carson's emergence as a writer and a nature lover. But in my research considerations, the theme is to elaborate how far the moral considerations have been included within 'Silent Spring'. Mostly, the works done based on 'Silent Spring' is related to the development of Carson until her work Silent Spring. Therefore, the need for moral consideration upon her content is a necessity.

### **3. Research Methodology**

This research is entirely based on qualitative data. Therefore, a philosophical analytic methodology has been used. The expectation was to evaluate the book on a moral basis, which means the content of the book 'Silent Spring' is broadly evaluated. Therefore, the books which are related to environmental philosophy, environmental ethics are used. Furthermore, under the qualitative framework the descriptive methodology also used because it is needed to get the exact idea of the content, terms, and the subject matter of environmental ethics. On this purpose, it has been utilized the information gathered through other research. This research work has been given major concern for collecting the qualitative data since it brings up a moral philosophical base.

### **4. Results and Discussion**

Silent Spring led to a widespread environmental awareness and the Environmental Protection Agency in the US, banning the domestic use of DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and more than the Earth Day. Her main attack was towards the chemical industry. The Silent Spring has been offered to the name of Albert Schweitzer, and Carson has indicated the quote of 'Man has lost the capacity to foresee and to forestall. He will end by destroying the earth. It seems that Carson first wanted to give the whole idea of her book that is the human behaviour impacting upon the environment. Carson's work is definitively proving that pesticides do harm the natural environment. These pesticides are damaging the eco-systems and kill the animals. Environmental philosophy discusses the natural environment and the human's place on the earth with a moral understanding. Morality is the principle that concerns which action is right, and which action is wrong. When it comes to the moral consideration, how the humans deal with the natural environment is highly concerned, because Carson attempts to discuss why the human behaviours are wrong towards nature.

### **5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Carson has elaborated that it is human behaviour which directly impacts on the environmental problems. In Environmental philosophy, two main theories are focused. They are as Anthropocentric theory and Non-anthropocentric theory. According to anthropocentrism, humans are the highest level of all living beings and

nature should be conserved for the survival of the humans itself. But the non-anthropocentric view suggests that animals and plants are also should be given priority, which means, an animal should have a free will to live, it is not for the survival of humans, but it is for the survival of the animal'. This is the main moral division within the environmental philosophy. Carson's main idea is challenging the anthropocentric view and elaborated the prevailing human notion not to handle the eco-systems or use nature for their benefit. According to Carson, human activities can ruin and destroy the earth. According to Carson, human actions always unleash negative consequences on nature, which means these actions can be harmful to the life circle, plants, insects, animals, and finally humans. This is the moral consideration that she grabs. With this idea in her mind, she tries to wake up the human mindset which has been built only for the betterment of themselves because if nature dies, that will be the end of the human species as well.

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