

## **VOICES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS: RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF HUMAN-MADE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS.**

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This study explores the reasons behind environmental activists' actions as well as the traits they have in common. Participant observation and in-depth interviews were used in the data collection process. By researching this subject, I hope to arm fiction and non-fiction writers, filmmakers, and documentarians with a tool that will enable them to portray environmental activists more truthfully in their books, movies, and documentaries, assisting us in forming public opinion in favour of saving the environment and educating ourselves about how to maintain life on Earth. Gaining insight into the struggles and coping mechanisms faced by local environmentalists can foster optimism and unity in the battle against the deforestation that has contributed to the climate disaster. The preliminary results of a much larger investigation that requires an interdisciplinary approach are presented in this presentation.

Interviews and observations indicate that environmental activists have the following traits in common:

**Builders of Solidarity:** Transforming despair into collective action, they skilfully build solidarity among like-minded individuals.

**Being Resilient:** Rather than succumbing to fear or inaction, they tend to respond with a fighting spirit when faced with challenges.

**Truth-Seekers:** These activists recognise false hopes and remain steadfastly focused on truth and action.

**Deeply Connected to Nature:** Their bond with the land and water runs deep, motivating them to protect these vital life sources.

**Having Unwavering Belief:** Regardless of the scale of the problem, they harbour a firm belief in their ability to mitigate negative affects and prevail.

**Having Grit:** Quitting is never an option; they exhibit emotional agility and resilience.

**Having Ancestral Wisdom:** Drawing from ancestral knowledge, they find inner strength in developing coping strategies.

Fiction or non-fiction novels, digital stories, art, cartoons, films, and documentaries depend on the writers' knowledge and the way of looking at life. Even if writers wish to produce for building resilience against the climate crisis and show the injustices underway, representing true nature of the local activists would not be easy for them to grab as the environmental issues are usually biased and deliberately made intriguing in the public eye. Thus, the more the writers/authors/filmmakers/artists produce closer to the accurate, measurable characteristics of activists, the more they attain a believable setting, real-life conflicts and characters with whom the audience feels identified, and an outstanding plot since the events in environmental activism never stop unfolding, giving a larger room to play with and sustain suspense. Since mainstream media often ignores the narrative and figures of environmental activists, learning about them and spreading their word through literature, art, and films can spread hope, inspiration, and wisdom that would help shape our choices.

