

# *Dr. Vandana Shiva*

## **Biography:**

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a physicist, philosopher, ecofeminist, environmental activist and writer. She is director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, and in 1993, Shiva won the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Right Livelihood Award) for her efforts in placing women and ecology at the heart of modern development discourse. She is a leader in the International Forum on Globalization, along with Ralph Nader and Jeremy Rifkin and she addressed the World Trade Organization summit in Seattle, 1999, as well as the recent World Economic Forum in Melbourne , 2000.



Before becoming an activist, Shiva was one of India's leading physicists. She holds a masters in Philosophy of Science and a Ph.D. in Particle Physics. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy. Dr. Shiva has since contributed in fundamental ways to changing the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food. Her books, "The Violence of Green Revolution" and "Monocultures of the Mind" have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable agricultural development in India and throughout the world.

In 1982 Vandana established an independent institution, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, dedicated to high quality independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times. In close partnership with local communities and social movements this institution has validated the ecological value of traditional farming techniques and has been instrumental in fighting many destructive development projects in India. In 1991, she founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect biodiversity and the integrity of living resources through resource conservation, ecological agriculture, and sustainable living.

Dr. Shiva's contributions to gender issues have also gained international recognition. Her book, "Staying Alive" dramatically shifted the perception of third-world women. In 1990 she wrote a report for the Food and Agriculture Organization on Women and Agriculture entitled, "Most Farmers in India are Women". She founded the gender unit at the International Centre for Mountain Development in Kathmandu, and she is a recognized leader in the ecofeminist movement.

Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering are other dimensions of Dr. Shiva's international campaigns for sustainability. She has helped movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with their campaigns against genetic engineering.

Besides her academic and research contributions, Dr. Shiva has also served as an adviser to governments in India and abroad as well as NGOs such as the International Forum on Globalisation, Women's Environment and Development Organisation and Third World Network.

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**Awards:**

For her contributions to deepening the ecological paradigm, and for linking research to action, Dr. Shiva has received many awards including:

1. Order of the Golden Ark, 1993 by his Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for her outstanding services to conservation and ecology.
2. Global 500 Roll of Honour, 1993 by UNEP for her outstanding environmental work.
3. Earth Day International Award, 1993 by Earth Day International for her dedicated commitment to the preservation of the planet as demonstrated by her actions, leadership and by setting an example for the rest of the world.
4. Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award), 1993 for her pioneering insights into the social and environmental costs of the dominant development process, and her ability to work with and for local people and communities in the articulation and implementation of alternatives."
5. VIDA SANA International Award, 1993, Spain for her contribution to Ecology and Food Security.
6. "Pride of the Doon" Award from Doon Citizen Council, Dehra Dun, India, 1995, in recognition to her distinguished contribution to the region.
7. The Golden Plant Award (International Award of Ecology), Denmark, 1997 for the remarkable contribution for Ecology and Environment.
8. Alfonso Comin Award, 1997, Barcelona, Spain for important contribution both scientifically and personally to the ecologist and feminist movement in India widening their fields towards a greater perspective where struggles related to gender, ecology, ethnicity, class and Human Rights meet.
9. Commemorative Medal by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand on the occasion of the Celebration of the 18th World Food Day organised by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok on 16 Oct 98.
10. Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Republic from the International Scientific Committee of the Pio Manzu Centre at Rimini, Italy during the XXIV Pio Manzu International Conference on "The Horizons of Hermes" on 18 Oct 98.
11. Pellegrino Artusi Award 2000, Italy for original contribution to reflections on relations between humans and food.
12. HORIZON 3000 Award of Austria on May 10, 2001 in recognition to rendering useful service for defending Human Rights and Preservation of Peace and for the vision of a world wide fair development in the third millennium.
13. Awarded by the ASIA WEEK Magazine as one of the top five most powerful persons in Asia. For services rendered as an Ecologist aiming for preserving World Ecology, she has been recognised as among the 50 most powerful people recognized.

14. John M. Berry Sr. Leadership Award for dedicated vision and commitment to family farm agriculture.
15. Recently awarded the Special International Literary Prize "Ken Saro Wiwa" by Acquiambiente, Italy

### **Publications:**

Dr. Shiva is recognized for her contributions to the fields of women and environment, biodiversity, biotechnology and intellectual property rights and ecological issues related to agriculture. Her books include:

1. Water Wars, South End Press, Boston, 2001
2. Patents, Myths and Reality, Penguin India, 2001
3. Tomorrow's Biodiversity, Thames and Hudson, London 2000
4. Stolen Harvest The HIJACKING of the GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY, South End Press, 1999
5. Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge, South End Press, USA, 1997 (Translated into Spanish, Italian and Japanese)
6. Biopolitics (with Ingunn Moser), Zed Books, U.K. 1995
7. Closer to Home, Earthscan, London, 1994 Women, Ecology and Health: Rebuilding Connections (Editor), Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and Kali for Women (1993)
8. Monocultures of the Mind: Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Agriculture, Third World Network, Penang and Zed Press, U.K. 1993, (translated into two Italian and Japanese)
9. Ecofeminism, Kali for Women, New Delhi and Zed Books, U.K. 1993 (Translated into Portuguese language)
10. Biodiversity: Social and Ecological Perspectives (Editor); Third World Network, Penang, Zed Press, U.K. 1992 (translated into two languages)
11. Ecology and the Politics of Survival: UNU, Tokyo and SAE, New Delhi and London 1991
12. The Violence of the Green Revolution; Ecological degradation and political conflict in Punjab; Third World Network, Penang, Zed Press, ,1993 (Translated into Japanese language)
13. Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Survival in India; Kali for Women, New Delhi 1988, Zed Press, U.K. (translated into 6 other languages)

In addition, Dr. Shiva is author of over 300 papers in leading scientific and technical journals.

Biography adapted from:

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Environmental Agency. Curriculum Vitae for Vandana Shiva.

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