

Short  
BIOGRAPHY  
of  
**Dr. Vandana Shiva**

**B**orn on November 5, 1952 in the verdant valley of Dehradun, to a father who was the conservator of Forests and a farmer mother with a deep love for nature, Vandana Shiva received her first lessons on environment protection in the lap of Himalayas. A student of St Mary's School in Nainital and later of Convent of Jesus and Mary, Dehradun, Vandana Shiva had always aspired to be a scientist since childhood. But nuclear physics soon raised questions in her mind regarding its Impact on Life and the environment. And thus began Vandana Shiva's passionate affair with the environment.

**D**r. Vandana Shiva is trained as a Physicist and did her Ph.D. on the subject "Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory" from the University of Western Ontario. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore.

**I**n 1982, she founded an independent institute, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times, in close partnership with local communities and social movements. In 1991, she founded *Navdanya*, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming and fair trade. In 2004 she started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in collaboration with Schumacher College, U.K.

**D**r. Shiva has 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, reductionist Green Revolution Agriculture. Through her books Biopiracy, Stolen Harvest, Water Wars, Dr. Shiva has made visible the social, economic and ecological costs of corporate led globalisation.

Demystifying GATT and WTO, working with farmers to explain TRIPS and the Agreement of Agriculture are other dimensions of her work on Agriculture and Food Security.

The area of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Biodiversity is another area where Dr. Shiva has contributed intellectually and through campaigns.

Through her leadership and commitments, Dr. Shiva and her team successfully challenged the biopiracy of Neem, Basmati and Wheat. Besides her activism, she also serves on expert groups of government on IPR legislation.

Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering are another dimension of Dr. Shiva's campaigning internationally. She has helped movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with their campaigns against genetic engineering.

Dr. Shiva's contributions to gender issues are nationally and internationally recognised. Her book, "Staying Alive" dramatically shifted the perception of third World women. In 1990 she wrote a report for the FAO on Women and Agriculture entitled, "Most Farmers in India are Women". She founded the gender unit at the International Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu.

More recently, she has initiated an international movement of women working on food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology called, *Diverse Women for Diversity*. The movement was launched formally in Bratislava, Slovakia on 1-2 May 1998.

Dr. Shiva combines the sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. She is equally at ease working with peasants in rural India and teaching in Universities worldwide.

Dr. Shiva has been a visiting professor and lectured at the Universities of Oslo, Norway, Schumacher College, U.K. Mt. Holyoke college, U.S., York University, Canada, University of Lulea, Sweden, University of Victoria, Canada, and Organisations and Institutions worldwide on ecology, feminism and globalisation.

Dr. Shiva has been invited as Bernheim Chair for the Study of Peace and Citizenship at the Universite libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

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. She is Chair of the International Commission on the Future of Food.

The Government of India nominated Dr. Shiva for the SAARC Autonomous Women's Advocacy Group.

Dr. Shiva is a member of Technical Support Group of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India or drafting the "Scheduled Tribes and Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill"

Dr. Shiva is on the Advisory Board of the Green Institute, Washington D.C, USA and the Center for Food Safety, Washington D.C

Dr. Shiva is a member of the Scientific Commission of the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity, Italy

Dr. Shiva is on the Advisory Committee of the Challenge Program Project on "Strategic Analysis of India's River Linking Project" launched by The International Water Management Institute, Srilanka

Dr. Shiva is on the Central Advisory Committee for launching and promotion of Organic Mission in the country through CAPART.

Dr. Shiva is a member of an Expert Panel on Organic Farming constituted by Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Shiva is a member of the sub-group on organic farming constitute by the Planning Commission for formulation of XI Five Year Plan

Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental "hero" in 2003 and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia.

Dr. Shiva was elected to the Executive Committee of World Future Council. The World Future Council is a new voice in the global political arena – one that draws on our shared human values to champion the rights of future generations, and works to ensure that humanity acts now for a sustainable future.

Dr. Shiva has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005.

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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. The Special International Literary Prize “**Ken Saro Wiwa**” awarded by Acquiambiente, Italy for her book Water Wars
16. Awarded the **Reading for the Environment Book Prize** by the German Foundation for the Environment for her book Tomorrow’s Biodiversity

## **Publications by Dr. Shiva**

Dr. Shiva is recognised 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. **Earth Democracy – Justice, Sustainability and Peace, South End Press, Boston, 2005**
2. **Water Wars, South End Press, Boston, 2001**
3. **Patents, Myths and Reality, Penguin India, 2001**
4. **Tomorrow’s Biodiversity, Thames and Hudson, London 2000**
5. **Stolen Harvest The HIJACKING of the GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY, South End Press, 1999**
6. **Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge, South End Press, USA, 1997 (Translated into Spanish, Italian and Japanese)**

7. **Biopolitics** (with Ingunn Moser), Zed Books, U.K. 1995
8. **Closer to Home**, Earthscan, London, 1994 **Women, Ecology and Health: Rebuilding Connections** (Editor), Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and Kali for Women (1993)
9. **Monocultures of the Mind: Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Agriculture**, Third World Network, Penang and Zed Press, U.K.1993, (translated into two Italian and Japanese)
10. **Ecofeminism**, Kali for Women, New Delhi and Zed Books, U.K.1993 (Translated into Portuguese language)
11. **Biodiversity: Social and Ecological Perspectives** (Editor); Third World Network, Penang, Zed Press, U.K. 1992 (translated into two languages)
12. **Ecology and the Politics of Survival**: UNU, Tokyo and SAE, New Delhi and London 1991
13. **The Violence of the Green Revolution: Ecological degradation and political conflict in Punjab**; Third World Network, Penang, Zed Press, ,1993 (Translated into Japanese language)
14. **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.

