

Saying of this Issue/Quotation

Q. Some environmentalists argue that women, more than men, have inherent wisdom to preserve scarce indigenous resources, because of their relationship with nature?

A. Women have this wisdom from historical experience, resulting from the history of the division of labour. Historically they have had to bother with the essential things of life: food, water, feeding children. When resources started depleting they learned how to cope with less.

The argument must be used to switch the debate and ask the proper questions: Who has the knowledge? Whose knowledge counts? Answers to these questions are important for knowing where to begin, for it is through these qualities we can redress the imbalance by acting in ways which are not destructive to the environment.

Vandana Shiva



Taken from an interview with Dr. Vandana Shiva in the Planeta Fermea tent in Rio' Earth Summit. Interviewed by Annemiek Hoogenboom for *Terraviva*, The independent daily of the Earth Summit, Monday June 8, 1992 issue.