



Walking Between Worlds

Shilpa Jain, YES!
India/California

☀ Call to Action

Support YES! or sign up for a JAM.
Visit www.yesworld.org.
Follow YES!
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Twitter: [yeschangemakers](#)

☀ Values

- Community
- Idealism
- Multiculturalism
- Understanding
- Creativity

☀ Lessons Learned

Living is learning, and learning is living. And unlearning is a vital part of our journeys.

Learn to adapt and see the world through different lenses: “Walk between worlds and build bridges between worlds.”

Looking for a way to serve the planet and your community? Follow the paths to truth; live compassionately; and seek connection in everything you do.

Shilpa let go of dominant models of “success” and “achievement” to pursue a life more aligned with nature, spirit, and her values.

She spent 10 years as a “learning activist” at Shikshantar: The Peoples’ Institute for Rethinking Education and Development in India. There, she was able to create an integrated life, “where living is learning and learning is living.” Later, she learned about YES! Jams: “an ever-expanding network of beloved community; a beautiful cauldron of human potential.” Now at YESWorld.org Shilpa collaborates with diverse teams from around the world to offer Jams for artists, activists, educators, lawyers, healers, dreamers, visionaries, and other changemakers. She has seen how Jams transform people’s lives and work, and give them even more capacity to build a better world.

☀ Language Arts

What are the three principles that guide Shilpa’s activism? Write an explanatory essay about the influence of Jainism in Shilpa’s activism, and how you can incorporate these principles into your own life, to be proactive in changing the world.

Shilpa uses creativity in her activism. Working in groups of 3-5 people, create an animated video or a short play in which you educate people about an environmental cause you feel passionate about. Present your play or video to your class.

After watching each group’s presentation from the last activity, hold a class discussion in which your class, as a group, chooses the methods they believe are most effective when using creativity to educate young people. Afterwards, write a short, one-page explanatory essay in which you discuss the reasons for your answers.

STEM Activities

How does having diverse educators impact students' literacy rates? Measure the percentage of educators, principals, and/or superintendents of color in communities with a significant minority population, and compare the academic statistics (graduation rates, state assessment scores, etc.) Present your findings in a graph.

Research and compare the percentage of students that graduate from Harvard with a degree in finance, economics, business etc. compared to the percentage that graduate with a degree in sustainability-related studies (environmental science, marine science, sustainability science, conservation, etc.).

Have students examine literacy rates in their own communities and develop strategies for supporting local literacy efforts. Optionally, students can do volunteer work as a service-learning opportunity and a way to develop civic responsibility.

Sustainability Innovations

What is Yes!? How do they connect young and intergenerational changemakers around the world?

The [North American Leadership Jam²](#) is one of the original flagship programs for Yes! Review the staff for the 2021 Summit and explain how their backgrounds could add a unique perspective to the Jam. Would you want to participate in this Summit? If so, who would you like to meet?

Review this [article³](#) about **intercultural competence as a key driver for organizational success.** How is effective communication highlighted based on a diverse team or organizations? Explain your definition of diversity.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Intercultural Communications Trainer. With society and societal challenges now global, communicating and cooperating across cultures is critical. Today, you can receive training in intercultural communications. [Learn more here⁴](#).

Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Officer. More corporations, organizations, and institutions are recognizing the opportunity and responsibility for maintaining diverse workforces, and ensuring that all workers feel included in the workplace culture. There are now a variety of D&I jobs at larger companies, from VPs of D&I and diversity managers to D&I trainers. This [article⁵](#) provides an introduction to this field.

Event Planner for Nonprofits. Shilpa regularly uses the skills of event planning—coordinating guests, logistics, and promotion—when organizing the YES! Jams. From conferences and charitable auctions to concerts, there are abundant opportunities for planning enriching, sustainable events for nonprofits. To learn about the basics of event planning, you can [read more here⁶](#).

1 <https://yesworld.org/about-us/>

2 <https://oldsite.yesworld.org/najam2019/>

3 https://sso.shrm.org/IDBUS/SHRM/PORTAL-EE/JOSSO/SSO/REDIR?josso_cmd=login&josso_partnerapp_id=portal-sp

4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercultural_communication

5 <https://www.aihr.com/blog/diversity-and-inclusion-jobs/>

6 <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/event-planner-525613>

