

## Profile - Shalini Khanna

Shalini Khanna Sodhi is the Founding Director and Secretary of the National Association for the Blind, India's Centre for Blind Women and Disability Studies in New Delhi.

She has worked as a disability rehabilitation and research professional for over two decades since 1998, specifically for women and children with visually impairment. She is a post-graduate in English Literature, and Industrial relations and personnel management, with RCI certification for Rehabilitation for visually impaired.

In the last 20 years, the NAB India Centre for Blind Women has worked for empowerment of 25000 women and children with different disabilities in different parts of India. And has directly trained more than 3500 blind women to access higher education, gain employment, and become self-reliant through its trainings, awareness programmes and community outreach.

Shalini has been instrumental in bringing 2 international training programmes for the VI to the country in the recent years. Besides, Blind Bake café, an enterprise created by her happens to be the only café in Asia to be run by visually impaired.

She is also a consultant and panelist for sexual harassment prevention committees in corporates and NGO's

Over the years, the Centre and particularly Ms. Shalini Khanna Sodhi has received lot of Media Coverage and been conferred with many awards for her contribution to the Empowerment of Blind Women. Some of these are as follows:

1. Top 75 Women Transforming India Award – 2022 by Niti Aayog and Women Entrepreneurship Platform
2. Rashtriya Prerna Doot Award – 2021 by Ministry of Social Justice DePwD and Family of Shirdi Sai Baba for Best Social Worker
3. Chiranji Lal Dhanuka Memorial Service, Lions Club, New Delhi – 2021 for Excellence in Humanitarian Services
- 4, Women Achievers award by Dainik jagran 2015