



Seva Foundation
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Suzanne S. Gilbert, PhD, MPH
Director, Center for Innovation in Eye Care

Dr. Suzanne Gilbert is a leading expert and respected innovator in the field of international blindness prevention and sight restoration. A public health specialist with over 30 years experience, Dr. Gilbert has spent her career co-designing and implementing eye care service delivery systems for some of the world's poorest communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Gilbert is a cofounder of Seva Foundation, and currently serves as its Director of The Center for Innovation in Eye Care. The Center promotes new ways to address emerging issues in community eye care and works to develop sustainable eye care services based in locally owned and operated institutions across the globe.

Dr. Gilbert was first immersed in international health issues while studying Hindi-Urdu in India during the early 1970s. As a Fulbright Scholar in Nepal, she studied child survival and health systems correlates. Her graduate work in Health Behavior, Anthropology, and Epidemiology expanded the tools that she has been applying to the field of prevention of blindness for the past 30 years. She participated in the landmark *Nepal Blindness Survey* which demonstrated the overwhelming importance of cataract as a cause of blindness in the developing world.

A sought-after speaker on health policy, sustainability, and building lasting global partnerships, Dr. Gilbert coordinates the Human Resource Program Committee of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, and serves as a consultant to the Global Outreach Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Gilbert earned her Master's degree in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health and Health Education, 1975, at the University of Michigan, and holds a PhD in Health Behavior and Medical Anthropology, 1983, from the University of Michigan.