

# Nobel laureate Ada Yonath tells woman scientists to never give up on research

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**Pune:** "Science is a challenge. It is demanding, hard and difficult. But never stop researching because science is also a luxury," Nobel Prize-winning Israeli crystallographer **Ada E Yonath** told Indian women researchers.

On the occasion of National Science Day on Thursday, Yonath, known for her work on the structure of ribosome, interacted with students of Vishwakarma University in Pune. Yonath told TOI that during her course of work she has faced many a difficult moment and always questioned herself on her research that led to her winning Nobel

Prize in chemistry in 2009, but never stopped research.

Yonath hailed from a poor family which struggled to make ends meet. But her living conditions could never dampen her curiosity for science and she felt that teachers have a big role in ensuring that curiosity is nurtured in children.

"Schools should emphasise on teaching mathematics and science. Most of the time, subjects like chemistry are taught in a way that makes it boring for students. This should not happen because children love things that are interesting," said Yonath.



While there have been reports about how motherhood affects women scientists, Yonath said that research should never be stopped. "Science is a challenge. It is demanding, it is difficult ...

but women scientists should not stop. There should never be a period where you are not researching, because coming back is not an option. Instead, enjoy motherhood but never stop researching," said Yonath.

For Yonath, science was a hobby and she had the good fortune to finally work in the same field. But her experiments on structure and function of ribosomes, the prote-

in synthesizers in cells and her work on understanding how antibiotics work, were not devoid of problems.

"When I doubted too much, I would just get up and go to the movies to clear my head. There were difficult moments. I would think I had new ideas only to see them fail. There will always be something to throw your research off balance at every stage but the important thing is to keep researching and never give up," added Yonath.

Regarding the #metoo movement in the science fraternity, she said that "people in power tend to take advantage of that power and this can be both men and women."