



ISATOU CEESAY



Isatou Ceesay

EARLY LIFE

Isatou Ceesay was born in 1972 in N'jau, a small village in the Gambia, West Africa. She grew up in a close-knit community where people depended on farming and natural resources for their daily lives. As a young girl, Isatou was very observant and cared deeply about her surroundings.

THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC

When Isatou was growing up, people in her village began using plastic bags. These bags replaced traditional woven baskets made from natural materials. At first, the plastic bags seemed useful, but they soon became a problem. People threw them away after using them, and they piled up everywhere. The plastic polluted the environment and harmed animals that ate it.

A BRILLIANT IDEA

Isatou wanted to solve this problem. She started thinking of ways to recycle the plastic waste. In 1997, she and a group of women from her village began collecting discarded plastic bags. They washed the bags, cut them into strips, and wove them into colourful purses and other useful items. The group sold these items to make money for their families.

HELPING WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Isatou's project did more than just clean up her village. It also gave women the chance to earn a living. Many women in the Gambia face financial struggles, but Isatou's work showed that they could support themselves and their families by recycling. Her efforts helped improve the environment and inspired other communities to do the same.

RECOGNITION AND LEGACY

Today, Isatou Ceesay is often called "The Queen of Recycling". She has received recognition from organisations around the world for her work in protecting the environment. Her story teaches us the importance of caring for nature and finding creative solutions to big problems.

A ROLE MODEL FOR EVERYONE

Isatou's life shows how one person can make a difference. Through determination and teamwork, she turned a problem into an opportunity. Her story encourages us all to take action to protect the environment and help our communities.



FIND OUT MORE...

Isatou Ceesay - Science for Kids

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Where and when was Isatou Ceesay born?
2. What problem did plastic bags cause in Isatou's village?
3. How did Isatou and the women in her village recycle the plastic bags?
4. In what ways did Isatou's project help the women in her community?
5. Why is Isatou Ceesay called "The Queen of Recycling"?