

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Education Outreach (3)

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SPACE SCIENCE-REACHING THE STUDENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL BY THE STUDENTS OF
UNDERGRADUATE

Abstract

This paper presents the new routes through which the space education can reach to the high school and pre high school students by the Undergraduate students. It has been done many times in our college (National Institute of Technology Karnataka) where we the members of an amateur Astronomy and Space science club called 'Star Gazing Club' conducted practical and theoretical workshops for the children of age group 10 to 17, whose main aim is to provide the basic and a good amount of knowledge of the so called neglected subject in India, Space science. The workshops are divided into 3 parts probably depending on the time we get from the schools. The first part is a lecture series on some of the topics of Space sciences and Basic Astronomy using the videos and power points by us. These lectures provide a bank of knowledge for the students. Second part is practical workshop where we take them outdoor and do practical things. And third part is the most important part where we take the students along with their parents to the open night sky place, where we use our Telescopes and digital star maps to show them a vast and essential sky objects in that particular night. Another important aim is to get the children involved in the space activities by telling them to do a mini project kind of thing which can be easily done by using the equipments available in their schools. Here we insist them for working in teams through several group competitions, which are essential for students in future. Through these workshops, we undergraduates can also learn the Space applications. As parents are also involved in the activity, we try to get back the interest in them which is lost after their education. As, a student is learning from a student here the effect of the learning is very different. We have experienced a very good response from the schools. As of now we are considering the schools nearby our college surroundings. In future we are planning to implement a small planetarium in our college campus which will give a better practical experience for the students. Being young professionals we should take into account that our today children will manage the world tomorrow, and therefore, it is our duty to promote new generation of scientists, enthusiastic, open minded people by spreading the knowledge we know.