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Space Expectations: Involving the Public in Space Activities (2)

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SPACE EXPECTATIONS OF YOUNG INDIANS

Abstract

Since the very beginning, Space has inspired all of the human populace in multitudinous aspects. Some look up at space to predict their future, some look at space to build their future and some look at space as their only future. Thereby, space and the future of mankind are entwined in every step. Thus, to space, as some say, there is definitely more than meets the eye.

This paper intends to expose the results of a survey conducted to gauge the space expectations of students in the age group of 17 to 25 in India. Taking inspiration from the Space Expectations survey conducted by Commission VI of the International Academy of Astronautics on the impact of space activities upon the society, our survey is centered on students, who we believe are the main contributors to the field of space research and exploration in the near future. We have gathered the thoughts of the respondents with regard to various topics ranging from basic expectations from missions to outer space, to possible colonization of near celestial objects. The results have been presented in a pragmatic manner and are aimed at providing guidelines to Space Programmes of the various Space Faring nations.