

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

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SPACE ECO LITERACY : A VITAL SUSTAINABLE MEANS FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Abstract

Dynamic changes in the present day quality of life and quality of environment are greatly influenced by the space sciences and technology. Notwithstanding the dual use of space technology the irreversible impacts on health, resources and ecology for each abuse of finite resources are alarming. Over two decades of development reviewed by UN Systems during 1970-90s reveal that Participation is the key to Sustainability at Community Levels. Space vision of a stewardship for the present generation to sustain a healthy and safe Space ship are challenging (UNCED,1992). The next two decades after Rio'92 have also provided ample break through Space Education Out Reach activities all over the globe. Few such are Bharath Jana Vigyaan Jatha – Indian People Science March (1987), Earth Day Network(1972) and Clean Up the World(2000) Campaigns to name a few and thousands of Community Empowerment Models which have started providing the Tunnel Effect as a societal catalyst. Thus, these living through role eco literacy models enrich and add value to the Space Education and Outreach initiatives.. Space Eco Literacy Model (Jagannatha, COSPAR 2012) provides one such simple Space Education Tool for empowering community for sustainable Development.

UNESCO/UNEP/IEEP 1977 Tbilisi conference provided historical mandates for nations to embark on formal and informal environmental education. Objectives of Environmental Education for individuals and community as awareness, attitude, knowledge, skills and participation have lived through the Rio Earth Summit-1992. Pro-active role of nations are vital to address and show case compliance to United Nations mandates. Public outreach activities need to be networked with various diversified activities aimed at space eco-literacy both at Individual and Community Levels. An EESS – Ecological Environmental Studies by Students model developed in 1987 is one such Eco education Model which was cited as one of the 20 Best Eco Education Models.(Earth Day Network, 2000).

In this presentation, genesis and process of development of EESS, 1987 and Space Eco-literacy, 2011 models in the backdrop of People Science Movement in India with over 35 years is captured from the Space Situational Awareness (SSA) point of view. A community eco literacy drive during 2000-2010 on the banks of Kukkarahally lake, Mysore, India for over 320 Sundays with 4500 man-hours 300 volunteers including all the authors provided the backdrop for Space Eco Literacy Campaign.. Later the effort culminated in to a Sunday Space Eco Literacy model which was developed during April-June 2011 and are discussed..