

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Ignition - Primary Space Education (1)

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## A CALL TO EMPHASIZE ON EARLY EXPOSURE TO SCIENCE LITERACY

**Abstract**

It obvious that while significant progress has been made in the sciences over generations of research there has been a gap with regards to the individual. At the grass roots level, most people don't quite engage with the sciences as best as they should, eyeing it instead as just a poster for the academics.

People in the developing world often shy away from sciences because it is seen as having no bearing on their day to day life as it may be. This is partly the problem of bodies that "practice" science as they are not inclusive of this majority of people and their needs.

But this problem is not so easy to tackle as statistics show that as children age, they tend to lose interest in the fundamental sciences. This means few grow up into being key decision makers in the field and thus effecting any change.

My proposal is thus coming up with ways that can deliberately target the young ones as early as primary, develop and nurture that interest well into adulthood.

This will also mean literacy education for the parents who are guardians and first point of contact for most of these children.