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ROLE OF CULTURE ON SPACE SCIENCES IN AFRICA

Abstract

Despite the accelerating level of human development and achievements in the field of Space science and technology in this modern time, which keeps making human lives much better and easier while transforming the entire globe as a whole becoming a global village and yet making distance impossibilities becoming visual realities just like translating fictional stories into real realities through space data applications , unfortunately the African cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are having extraordinary influences at present that are determining the level of development of these space science and technological education in this continent. So this research identifies the roles and influences of cultures, traditions and religious beliefs in respect of their influences in educational development of Space Science and Technology in Africa. Findings: This perception and practices in Africa is leading to the underdevelopment of the space science and technology education as a whole there by becoming an obstacle in the development of this branch of knowledge in Africa.

In view of the perception and practices it is always important when issues of promoting Space technology applications comes up relevant stakeholders like the religious and traditional leaders are included in the promotion processes for effective cooperation and development of this branch of knowledge in the continent.

Suggestions/Recommendations 1.United Nations UNESCO in collaboration with UNOOSA should partner to help include space science and technology education in the African school curriculums at both the elementary and the high school levels. 2.Access to space Science and technology data should be made easier for African institutions especially those operating within the sub-Saharan African countries such as Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Central Afrique, South Sudan etc through subsidizing the costs of obtaining Space data through sponsorship by major stakeholders in the Space science industries to be facilitated by UNOOSA. 3. Religious scholars especially the Muslim, Christian and the African traditional religious scholars should be included in raising awareness in the promotion of space science and technology education in THE continent, so as to attract their young promising potential future Space scientist and technologists in to studying the Space 4. The international space organizations like the NASA, ESA, and even the UNOOSA should be given scholarships to identified future space scientists in Africa that may not likely get the financial support to study the space sciences at their University levels.