

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Lift Off: Primary and Secondary Education (1)

Author: Mr. Ratnesh Mishra
India

Mrs. Manvi Dhawan
India

Mr. Ravishankar Kumar
India

ANTARIKSH GYAAN ABHIYAAN:
A MISSION TO IGNITE SPACE DREAMS OF YOUNG MINDS FROM UNDERPRIVILEGED
COMMUNITIES

Abstract

‘Antariksh Gyaan Abhiyaan’ is a 36 days space education mission conducted for the students up to the age of 18, of Chhattisgarh state, India from 2nd October to 7th November, 2023. The mission aimed to create awareness and ignite curiosity among young minds about limitless opportunities in the space sector for the advancements of humanity.

This roadshow was planned to make it interactive and comprehensible for kids of all age groups. A vehicle was custom designed with space theme, carrying meticulous models of space science, to provoke curiosity among young minds. This 3400 Kilometers (2113 Miles) expedition ignited dreams of more than 20000 students in 30 districts, completing an overall 104 sessions at different locations including government, public, private schools, hostels, child homes, orphanages, schools for specially-abled children, bal sudhar griha (schools for rescued children), public grounds and housing societies. The sessions included informative lectures by space domain experts, exciting practical experiments, engaging virtual reality shows, showcasing space inspired movies, exhibitions about current satellite and rocket technologies followed by evening astronomy and sky gazing sessions.

The main motive behind this initiative was to understand the biggest challenges faced by the current education system in many developing and underdeveloped countries. Chhattisgarh state is one of those underprivileged communities, where kids are struggling with lack of inspiration and availability of resources and opportunities. Such communities have immense potential in students but require the right set of nurturing and ignition of dreams. This paper represents many such challenges and the ways to overcome them, portrayed with the help of stories and incidents filled with enriched emotions and their positive attitude. This paper also highlights the impact of the mission and learnings by the team which will be helpful to support future missions in other parts of India and world.

This entire mission is organized under Igniting Dreams of Young Minds (IDYM), a registered non-profit organization under Government of India. IDYM is affiliated with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) as a ‘Space Tutor’ for playing a vibrant role for nearly 4 years, ensuring the dissemination of the enriched knowledge in the space domain. Through this paper, IDYM team hopes to inspire the readers towards building space communities and creating the much needed environment for kids, in not only urban but rural, tribal and marginalized communities from the remotest parts of the world.