

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

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25 YEARS OF CELEBRATING WORLD SPACE WEEK: EVALUATING ANECDOTAL INDICATORS
OF THE IMPACT ON SPACE EDUCATION IN AFRICA.

Abstract

The paper aims to present the impact of the celebration of World Space Week (WSW) on space education in Africa, from its official declaration by the UN General Assembly in 1999 to the present. It seeks to demonstrate how participation in World Space Week events in schools serves as a catalyst for change among individuals and institutions across the African continent, by looking at case studies in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Employing the theory of change as a framework, this study reviews the experiences of different schools in their engagement with World Space Week, at both primary and secondary level, across the African continent. It considers anecdotal evidence over the years, including, but not limited to, testimonials and reports, to understand the motivations behind engaging with World Space Week and the intended or desired outcomes. These outcomes range from focusing on the development of collective or independent learners to achieving an increase in funding opportunities for academic institutions. Through this study, we intend to propose a model of how change due to World Space Week participation progresses, and how it impacts space education. This includes integrating space activities into students' lives and supporting the development of improved learning processes, curricula, and teaching practices. Keywords: World Space Week, Space Education, Africa, Anecdotal evidence.