

Astronomy Education Outreach in India - A Possibility

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About 10000 schools in India act for astronomy education with science subjects and geography. From upper primary level astronomy is taught with these subjects but according to syllabus students do not know what astronomy is. A few schools teach astronomy to their students after school hour with taking help of some astronomy educators and amateur astronomers. Traditionally a rudimentary knowledge of the celestial sphere is common. Amateur astronomers are trying to enhance interest on astronomy among students as well as common people. There are about 12000 telescopes of aperture not less than 15 cm, assembled by amateur astronomers, which are the basic tools to popularize astronomy. This effort is increasing scientific temper in society. Patrick Moore states in a book ‘ Go outdoors on a dark, clear night and look forward; you will realize at once that the stars become much more fascinating when you know which is which’. This paper will try to explore the status of astronomy in India and the method to be followed to popularize astronomy in school level and among common people. It is well known that school level is the basic level when students start to learn any subject. So, if observational astronomy is taught in school premises after school hour and day time astronomy is included, it may be fruitful for future generation. The exact plan to implement this program is to train amateur astronomers as educators and induce school teachers. As an oldest knowledge of the world, astronomy should be taught in every school from where future astronomers will bloom. For this hard job institutions should be formed for easy access to every person interested in astronomy.

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