

Space science Education: Challenges and Prospects in Africa

O. Latinwo

Department of Pure and Applied Physics, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria.(ckgbenga@yahoo.co.uk / +234-8060224195)

Space Science is a multidisciplinary subject, the study of which is crucial to the survival and well being of humans. In view of the significance of space science and its contribution to the present day global development ,this paper outlines many of the challenges of space science education in developing countries of Africa, with a reference to Nigeria. The way space science is typically being introduced and taught in pre-collegiate level is reconsidered if we are to provide those students who have chosen to study this science with a rich and rewarding experience. Moreover one of the highlighted practical initiatives, i.e. well planned and appropriate educational program to correct misconceptions, stimulate interest and foster understanding among pre-collegiate students. Reference is moreover made to the Basic Space Science outreach which commenced in 1995 in central Nigeria, as one of the first pilot projects launched.