

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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EMPOWERING WOMEN TO CREATE SPACE WORKFORCE IN NEPAL

Abstract

In a country where education for women is still a big issue, producing an army of female space leader is one of the biggest challenges. But yes, it's the education that eradicates the traditional thoughts and takes the future toward the new direction. The very low number of women interested in space science is what drew my attention towards this subject. Being a part of different space related activities brought me an idea to encourage ladies through recognition. As for a result, I along with my team from Nepal Astronomical Society (NASO) started NASO Women in Science Award in 2017. Our initiation was highly praised by UN and UNOOSA. Apart, we had our very first female science teachers meet and greet session from the government schools and universities and women journalists which has already started creating a good number of space taskforce. My paper will present the initiation of Women in Science Award (WiSA), its influence in the new and younger generations. The need of felicitating the female science teachers and journalists to encourage them and to reach to a fresh group will be presented. Also, the influence of our initiation in forming new groups of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) field especially science will also be discussed in detail.