

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Lift Off - Secondary Space Education (2)

Author: Ms. Nonofu Mogopodi
Space Foundation, Botswana, nmogopodi@yahoo.com

SPACE LEARNING, THE KEY TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
LEARNER

Abstract

According to Trends in International Math And Science Study (TIMSS) 2015, presented by Botswana Examinations Council (the International Standard Classification of Education), Botswana continues to be one of the least performing countries in Mathematics and Science internationally (Mmegi, October 2017). This is because Science does not make sense to students as a result of teachers having poor conceptual understanding of Science process skills (Emereole 2009). Having Space STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) clubs, Friday/Saturday of Space and participating in Space contests sparked interest in students and motivated them to keep researching on Space Science. This resulted in getting positive results from both students and teachers because teachers learn a lot from students who participate from the club/program. The Objective of this research is to get students excited about studying Space/STEM subjects. It is intended to raise awareness and advocate for the upgrade of existing Curriculum for better understanding of science thereby contributing to better results and later the economy of Botswana. This is also to provide leeway for Space activities in Botswana by creating Space Education Programs in schools, community outreach and capacity building. This will develop both teachers and students and creating opportunities for space technology, space leaders, and politicians and literally everyone since Space is inclusive.