



Shristi Astronomy

Clear Skies: An IAU-OAD Project

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FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction

The need

- To encourage rational thinking
- To inculcate scientific temper in students at an early age
- Using astronomy is an effective tool, as it attracts young minds
- it incorporates various disciplines in science and mathematics

Target Group and Schedule

- Schools (Students Teachers) from Shaikpet, Hyderabad and IZM School, Maula Ali. At Shaikpet, we worked with two batches of students from Class 6 7 (50 students, 12-13 years) and Class 8 9 (50 students, 14-15 years).
- We met the same students over a year: one session each batch each month on Second and Fourth Saturdays.
- We also had sessions with IZM School, Maula Ali.
- We also had some additional sessions other than those planned in the schedule (eclipse, sky shows, ZSD, etc.)

Some important details.....

- Language is linked to the social, cultural identity of people. In countries like India, the nonEnglish speaking population are cut off from the literary world.
- By using Hindi/Urdu/Telugu medium we want to bridge that gap and access a larger group of underprivileged students.
- Care was taken that at least 50
- We worked with schools with underprivileged students

2. Partners

- Kriti Social Initiatives (Sreelatha Chebrol) is a trust that funds school fees for about 500 students from the slums of an area called Shaikpet in Hyderabad. (<https://www.facebook.com/KritiSocialInitiatives/>)
- DoScience (Aparna Vishwanatham) is an NGO that has setup a science park in the city and is interested in Science Popularisation. (<http://www.doscience.co.in/>)
- Jana Vigyan Vedita (JVV)

Classroom sessions...



Kite Flying...Sankranti



Rocket Launching...Apollo missions...with USEFI



Optics



Telescope Making at the Planetarium ...



Telescope Making at School



Solar Eclipse 26 Dec 2019



3. The Road Ahead

Challenges and Lessons learned...

- KResults of Pilot Study: Optimum size 30-50 Organised activity Effective with same group Things worked out quite differently at ground level. Need to consider space, screens, plug-points.... Handling students so young and logistics were some issues. (discipline). Better in THEIR school, with THEIR teachers around More informal outdoor activities. Hands-on activities need to be planned carefully Follow-ups essential

Repository

- Our website <https://clearskies2019.wordpress.com/> has a clear description of the activities we conducted along with videos explaining concepts, ppts to be used, hand-outs to be given as well as quiz questions and activities associated to each topic.
- This is being built as a repository of such information that is growing with time.



The Future

Continuing our work with the same schools as well as more schools. Since lots of our resources and material is in place, and contact with various organisations has been made it is much easier to continue work. At present, due to COVID-19, we are doing a lot of online Zoom sessions and workshops from students and Teachers.