

# Scope for Citizen Science and Public Outreach Projects in the Developing World

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**Abstract.** Both science public outreach and citizen science projects have gained immense momentum in the western world in recent years. This work aims to outline some ongoing and possible future projects in the developing world on this front. Cooperation and collaboration with IAU-OAD is envisaged.

**Keywords.** Public Outreach, Citizen Science, Developing World, Science Projects

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## 1. Brief Introduction

The potential and scope for more science public outreach projects in the developing world is simply astronomical! There are various possibilities for such projects at multiple levels namely global, national, state and local levels.

## 2. Engagement with Public - Multiple Levels

### 2.1. *Mega Science CERN India Exhibition - Global Level*

An initiative was taken from the Indian side to bring CERN travelling exhibition to our country. This exhibition aims to reach 100,000s of Indian students and general public next year. Top agencies of Govt of India have agreed to support this project.

### 2.2. *Remote Telescope Observations - Global Level*

Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network provides opportunities to school students in EU and US to do short remote observing projects. In near future, the idea is to extend this opportunity to many school students in India.

### 2.3. *Citizen Science and Data Mining - National Level*

Embracing citizen science projects through Indian partners is aiming for young students, amateur astronomers and ordinary Indian citizens to identify and discover new astronomical objects using extensive observational databases and data mining techniques.

### 2.4. *School Visits to Observatories and Research Institutes - Local Level*

Opportunities are being given to students from tribal and rural school backgrounds to visit world class observatories and research institutes in order to instill scientific spirit and excitement in them.

### **3. Summary and Discussion**

Such projects at multiple levels eventually lead to creation of budding stars in astronomy! Moreover such efforts aim to address the substantial gender and diversity gap issues of STEM subjects in the long run.