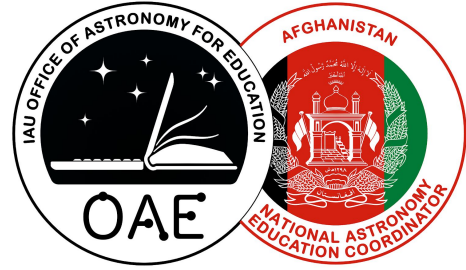


Astronomy Education in Afghanistan



This overview is part of the project "Astronomy Education Worldwide" of the International Astronomical Union's Office of Astronomy for Education.

More information: <https://astro4edu.org/worldwide>

Structure of education: Most children in Afghanistan start public school at the age of 7. They then complete six years of primary education. High school is compulsory for four years and compulsory all subjects offered by the school for the first three years. The other three years are higher education or high school. After 12 years of study, students must take national and national entrance exams to enter universities. During the Taliban regime, girls were banned from schools and only a small number of boys were included in public and religious schools, which greatly hurt a generation of Afghans. But in recent years, there have been approximately 14,000 active schools across the country, with 8,100,000 students, 38% of whom are girls, with 175,000 teachers. Schools are taught in both Persian and Pashto and are taught in Arabic religious schools. Private schools are much better in quality than public schools. The curriculum of these schools is the same as the government curriculum, but they have changed in many subjects and have performed better in the areas of Internet access, art, sports, etc. and their teachers have bachelor's degrees. There are approximately 775 official religious schools in the country, of which 614 religious schools are, 58 are DarulUloom, and 104 are Darul-Hifz. These schools have traditionally existed in this country for a long time. Approximately 46,000 students are educated in technical and vocational schools and there are 145 schools of this type, 40 of which are institutes.

Education facilities: There are between 20 and 60 students in each public school classroom, with schools in some provinces having three shifts a day. The subjects are all taught in theory and in writing, and even for subjects such as science, art and technology, there is no practical possibility! Not all schools have access to running water, electricity and internet connections. In some areas, students study for less than nine months and schools close with the onset of the cold season. Lack of adequate transportation and security and distance for many students in this country is a problem in the way of education and especially girls in many provinces cannot finish 12 years of school. The problem of the absence of a number of other students is the school building itself, which is still studying under tents and in very poor health and safety conditions! Even in some provinces the number of teachers is very low and one teacher may teach several subjects. Religious, ethnic, linguistic, and gender discrimination has been reported in many schools, and corruption has been reported in student admissions.

Governance and organisation: Public schools are run by the Ministry of Education, the curriculum is set by the same ministry in Kabul, And after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, curricula were updated once, but there are still many problems with these books that the government He has promised to fix it next year. Many ethnic and religious minorities believe that the subjects of human rights and equality of citizens, etc. For example, 30 schools have been set on fire by the Taliban in one year, and as a

result of insecurity across the country, nearly 500 schools have been closed and 400,000 students have been barred from attending school.

Teacher Training: School teachers (elementary, secondary and high school) are mostly taught in associate degrees at the Teacher Training Center, and in most schools, 12th grade graduates teach as teachers, and in most schools in the country, there are no teachers for sports, art, and technology and so on. There is corruption in teacher recruitment in some provinces, and hired teachers are dissatisfied with the salaries they receive and are often deprived of other facilities. Especially teachers who do not have access to teaching and study resources and are also deprived of the Internet and teach in insecure and unsafe provinces.

Astronomy in the curriculum: There is no specialized training course in astronomy. Instead, the content of astronomy can be found in the studies of biology, general sciences (years 1-8 of elementary and high school) and physics (years 9-12) of high school. In elementary school, students are taught to know the earth, the sun, the moon, and the planets of the solar system. In the following years, when it is high school, objects learn the depths of the sky and know the planets, their orbits, and solar and lunar eclipses. In high school or high school about gravity, changing atmospheric conditions and the life belt, etc., introduces basic cosmology.

Astronomy education outside the classroom: There is no center for scientific or astronomical achievement! Even the Afghan Academy of Sciences has no chair for astronomy! In disciplines such as physics and biology, only a semester of basic and general astronomy is taught at the university, and even at the American university where we went to teach. The people of this country have long considered astronomy to be purely astrological, and their astronomical beliefs are closer to the time of *Abu Rihan al-Biruni* than the new knowledge of astronomy! We do not know any person in this country who has been trained in astronomy even outside Afghanistan, only two or three famous astronomers in the country have traditionally inherited astronomy from their fathers! (*Sheikh Ahmadfakour, Abdullah Kandahari, Abdul Qudus Khan*). Astronomy is very popular among young people, but due to lack of access to education and lack of facilities, after a while, they become discouraged and turn to other sciences. In this country, only an amateur astronomy association has been established with a small number of members, but if there are possibilities, there are many astronomy enthusiasts.

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