Colonization of Planet Mars vs. the Moon

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A pervasive change in climate, diminishing resources and the rapid increase in population make it necessary for humanity to find an alternative habitat. According to Fisher and Ryland (2012) planet Mars and the Moon are the two most viable alternative habitats for human beings. Scientists have conducted extensive research on the two alternatives, and there are hopes of human survival both. Choosing between which of the two options to colonize first is a tough decision that requires critical analysis of many factors. *Despite the fact that planet Mars is a planet with its own gravity, humanity should consider colonizing the moon first for it is closer to planet earth, and there is scientific evidence that humans can survive there.*

Communication and transport between earth and the moon are easy since the moon is closer to the earth. It takes only three earth days to make a trip from earth to the moon while it would take six months to Mars. Trips from earth to Mars also face other restrictions since these two planets align only once per two years. When they align a two weeks launch period is created. Humanity has to launch any trips to Mars during this two-week period. In case they fail they have to wait for another two years. Fisher and Ryland (2012) also state that communications between planet earth and Mars will also face 24 minutes delay. Trips to the moon do not face such travel and communication restrictions. Easier communication and transport to the moon justifies its colonization by humanity before Mars.

Mankind has made successful trips to the moon and survived there, but no successful human trips to Mars have been made yet. Astronauts have been to the moon severally and survived with slight life modifications. Crawford and Cockell (2010) confirm that the main challenges with survival on the moon are a lack of adequate gravitational pull, lack of water and oxygen. Human survival is possible on the moon with the provision of only water and oxygen. Mars, on the other hand, is still a mysterious planet since humanity has not landed there yet. The scientific information available about planet Mars was recorded by satellite Cameras. Mankind should consider inhabiting moon first since human survival has been possible there in the past.

On a contrary opinion, some scientists argue that humanity should consider colonizing mars first because it is a planet with its own gravity just like earth. Gravity is essential for the functioning of most scientific innovations. Physical structures such as building and roads all depend on gravity, and transport technology such as planes and ships depend on gravity. Even the human body requires adequate gravity to efficiently function. Fisher and Ryland (2012) state that nobody knows with certainty how strong the force of gravity on planet Mars is. Too much gravity would also be a challenge to the technology listed above and the human body. Humanity, therefore, should consider life on the moon first despite an insignificant gravitational pull.

In conclusion, it is more logical for humanity to consider colonizing the moon before planet Mars. Humanity knows enough about the moon to justify colonization, yet little is known about mars. Transport and communication with mars would face numerous challenges. Since man has been able to survive on the moon, it should be made the priority. Claims about the presence of gravity on the moon are misleading since there is no certainty about the intensity of this gravitational pull. It more rational to invest in colonizing what is already known by mankind.

References

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