



PATNA UNIVERSITY  
Dept. of Education  
E-CONTENT  
COURSE CC8

Semester : 2<sup>th</sup>  
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*Innovative Teaching-Learning*  
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Unit III : Group Controlled Instructional Techniques/Methods  
**SYMPOSIUM & CONFERENCE**

**Objectives :** *After going through this topic, students will be able to understand:*

- Awareness of how to use values in improving one's own professionalism.
- Learning about personal and communication styles for team building.
- Demonstrate good character as participants promote the values of unity freedom, justice, democracy and opportunity for all.
- Engage in thought- provoking sessions and hand -on learning opportunities.

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# 1 SYMPOSIUM

## 1.1 Introduction

A symposium is generally defined as a meeting organized so that experts in a given field can meet, present papers, and discuss issues and trends or make recommendations for a certain course of action. Some definitions of symposium include a degree of audience participation that is less than that of a forum, thus implying a greater structure to the meeting format.

## 1.2 Format of the symposium

- Welcome remarks delivered by the hosts/organizers of the symposium. Introduction of a moderator for the symposium who will in turn introduce the keynote speaker and the panelists, pose questions, and facilitate discussion.
- A keynote speaker who will deliver remarks on the overall theme of the symposium. The keynote speech is typically presented before the panel discussion or during or after a luncheon.
- During the panel discussion, the moderator introduces each presenter with a brief biography. The speaker will have a few minutes to speak on the topic and may give an overview plus his or her personal or professional perspective.
- After the individual presentations, the moderator guides a roundtable discussion among the panelists, often with pre-selected questions that have been sent to the panelists in advance.

The symposium generally concludes with a question and answer period. Often, the hosts simply take microphones into the audience. For a more structured environment, questions can be submitted in writing and read by the moderator.

## 1.3 Characteristics of symposium

The symposium has the following main characteristics:

- It provides the broad understanding of a topic or a problem.
- The opportunity is provided to the listeners to take decision about the problem.
- It is used for higher classes to specific theme and problem.
- It develops the feeling of co-operation and adjustment. The objectives as synthesis and evaluation are achieved by employing the symposium.

## 1.4 Advantages/Limitations

### 1.4.1 Advantages of Symposium

- Present new material in a concise and logical way.

- Gives a fair analysis of several sides of a controversial issue.
- Comprehensive coverage of subject is possible.
- Audience alert because of discussion.

#### **1.4.2 Limitations of Symposium:**

- To develops the higher cognitive abilities that is analysis, synthesis and evaluation.
- It provides inadequate opportunity for all participate actively.
- The speech is limited to 15-20 minutes.
- It ha limited audience participation.
- question and answer limited to only 3-4 minutes.
- It has possibility of overlapping of subjects.
- The chairmen has no control over the speakers as they have full freedom to prepare the theme for discussion.They can present any aspect of the theme or problem.

## 2 CONFERENCE

### 2.1 Introduction

A conference is generally understood as a meeting of several people to discuss a particular topic. It is often confused with a convention, colloquia or symposium. While a conference differs from the others in terms of size and purpose, the term can be used to cover the general concept. A convention is larger than a conference; it is a gathering of delegates representing several groups.

### 2.2 Purpose of conference

At a conference, innovative ideas are thrown about and new information is exchanged among experts. Its purpose could be one of the following:

- An academic conference is a gathering of scientists or academicians, where research findings are presented or a workshop is conducted.
- A business conference is held for people working in the same company or industry. They come together to discuss new trends and opportunities pertaining to the business
- A trade conference takes place on a larger scale. Besides businessmen, there are members of the public who come to network with vendors and made new connections. Such a conference consists of workshops and white paper presentations.
- An un conference differs from the traditional conference, since it avoids the high costs, top-down organizational hierarchy and sponsored presentations. All attendees are equally knowledgeable about the topic and the discussion follows an open mode; usually without a single speaker addressing the gathering.

### 2.3 Objectives of Conference

#### 2.3.1 Cognitive Objectives

- To develop analysis, synthesis and evaluation or creative abilities of the participants.
- To develop reasoning and critical abilities.
- To develop reasoning and critical abilities.
- To develop the abilities to study in depth of facts, concepts and problem.

### **2.3.2 Affective objective**

- To develop the tendency to study a fact or concept in broader perspective.
- To develop the tendency to emotional balance.
- To respect and tolerate anti- ideas and criticism by others.  
By participating the conference, behavioural skills and good cultural manners start developed among the participants. They are trained to present and defend ideas. they learn how to put questions and how to answer the questions and how the clarification is sought.

## **2.4 Advantages/Limitations**

### **2.4.1 Advantages of Conference**

- Ability of problem- solving is developed among the participants.
- Capacity of tolerance of anti-ideas of others is also developed.
- Ability of expressing ideas and feelings is developed by attending a conference.
- Good manners for asking questions, seeking clarification, presenting own point of view and defending others ideas are developed.

### **2.4.2 Limitations of Conference**

- Generally the nature of topic is broad, hence discussion is confined to specific issues.
- It is hard to predict attendance. Advance arrangements must be made for conference facilities and housing accommodation.

### 3 Difference between Seminar, Symposium and Conference

<i>Characteristics</i>	<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Symposium</b>	<b>Conference</b>
<i>Session</i>	Small Duration	Long Duration	Long Duration
<i>Problem Orientation</i>	Broad Area	Specific	Specific
<i>Nature (Theoretical/Practical)</i>	Theoretical	Theoretical	Theoretical
<i>Representation</i>	One way	Both Way	One Way

## References

- [1] eVenues.com Event planning guide, [*What is a Symposium?*]  
<https://evenues.com/event-planning-guide/what-is-a-symposium>
- [2] U.G. Al Haque, [*Techniques of Higher Learning- Conference, Seminar, Symposium, Workshop*]  
<https://www.slideshare.net/ILUV2LUV/techniques-of-higher-learning-conference-seminar-symposium-workshop>

## Self check questions

1. What is Symposium? Write brief notes on educational objectives of Symposium
2. Describe purpose and characteristics of Symposium.
3. What is conference? Discuss the purpose of conference.
4. Write the educational objectives of conference.
5. Explain the difference between seminar, symposium and conference.

## Topic for next class

*paper c.c 6, Implications for subject combinations initial teacher preparation.*

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