

**Paper-environmental education**

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## **SEMINAR METHOD**

The seminar method is the most modern and advanced method of teaching. A seminar is an advanced group technique which is usually used in higher education. It is an instructional technique it involves generating a situation for a group to have a guided interaction among themselves on a theme. It refers to a structured group discussion what usually follows a formal lecture or lectures often in the form of an essay or a paper presentation on a theme.

This seminar method is employed to realize the higher objectives of cognitive & affective domains. The higher learning process requires the interactive and integrated methodologies based on the psychological principles. The seminar method applies such technique of human interaction / intervention with the learning and teaching experiences.

### **Aim & Objectives of Seminar Method:**

This seminar method is utilized to realize the higher objectives of cognitive and affective domains.

### **Cognitive objectives**

- i. To develop higher cognitive abilities.
- ii. To develop the ability of responding in this manner would involve higher cognitive actions.
- iii. To develop the ability of keen observation of experience, feelings and
- iv. To develop the ability to seek clarification and defend the ideas of others effectively.

### **Affective objectives**

- i. To develop the feeling of tolerance to the opposite ideas of others.

ii. To develop the feelings of co-operation with other colleagues and respect of the ideas and feelings of others.

iii. To develop the emotional ability among the participants of the seminar.

iv. To acquire the good manners of putting questions and answering the questions of others effectively.

The human interaction under this technique develops the good manners and skills among the participants. Provide a good learning and scholastic experience to the participants of seminar.

### **Pre-requisites (Basic Principles) to be included in the seminar:**

- This seminar method depends with the lingual, social and emotional instances and its maturity level.
- The complex and undefined concept or article must be read and discussed for the meaningful learning experiences and new concept.
- Group discussion is emphasized. The kernel of seminar is stressed.
- The value and success of the seminar depends on the path of the learner and their learning experiences through the discussion. The learner can advocate and interact in group discussion with his experiences and concept derived. Both the group and learner can transform their ideas and to derive a new conclusion also be anticipated.
- In the lower level of learning experiences the concepts are explanatory but in this higher level of learning experience the theme or concept centered and need more evidences and explanations through the discussion.
- The interactions in this method develop observation and questioning skills, evaluation skills using their own learning experience.

### **Advantages and special features of Seminar Method.**

- This seminar method gives good motivation and learning experience.
- Help to evaluate the learn-ability of learners.
- Regulate the creating and organizing of facts and information.
- Dissemination and retrieval of information is scientifically managed.

- Develop the self reliance and self confidence.
- Also inculcates the responsibility and cooperative nature.
- This method is the best for socialization.
- Students' interaction is possible in participation and production of teaching learning process.
- Traditional monotony is abolished in this method.
- Ensures the understandability and enhances the capability of the students learning.
- Seminar is always subject / theme specific, so that sufficient knowledge about the concerned subject can be developed.
- The presenter or the reader of the article can get further clarifications in his subject.
- Develop the questioning skills.
- The data processing and analysis also play a vital role in this method.
- This makes teaching and learning process lively.
- The student receives good information from his teacher and the fellow students.
- A seminar does not end in the premises after the completion of discussion, the group in smaller groups carries on the discussion in informal settings in off campus. This is certainly a strong advantage of using seminar method.

## **Types of Seminar**

Seminars are conducted in various stages. Based on the size and organizational aspects the seminars can be classified in to four types.

1. Mini seminar
2. Major seminar
3. National seminar
4. International seminar

### **Mini seminar:**

Its coverage and scope are small and simple. A small population is enough to hold this seminar. A discussion held over the topic taught or to be taught

with the students is known as Group discussion. Such group discussions held in an organized way within a class room, it is called mini seminar. This mini seminar gives the students training in questioning skills, organizing the information and presentation skills of seminar. A mini seminar is felt necessary because it gives good experience to conduct a major seminar at Institutional level.

### **Major seminar:**

The seminar conducted at an institutional or departmental level for a specific topic or subject is known as Major seminar. Usually students and teachers are participating in this type of seminar. This major seminar can be organized at department level for every month. A specific topic or subject is selected for the theme of the seminar.

### **National seminar:**

An association of any kind particularly with academic or professional interest or an organization (Government, Firm, etc.,) conducts the seminar at National level is called National seminar. The subject experts are invited to the seminar for discussion. The Secretary of the seminar prepares the schedule and functionaries for seminar.

### **International seminar:**

Usually the seminar conducted by an international organization or agency is known as International seminar. Theme of this seminar has wider aspects. Globalization, Renovation, Atomic energy agreements, Policies implementation and modification etc., are examples for themes of International seminars. A Nation or its body can conduct or organize the international seminar.

### **Seminar Committee:**

Seminar is conducted or organized by the committee proposed for this purpose only. This committee constitutes a chairperson, Organizing Secretary and subject experts who are expertise in the theme proposed for seminar. The organizing committee guides and helps with the functions of

Chair person and organizing secretary. Usually a seminar has been conducted with the following team of organizing body.

### **1. Chairperson or President / Convenor of Seminar**

Naturally, She/he may be the apex person of the Institution / Department / Government / Firm / Policy maker of the concerned body or agency.

### **2. Organizing Secretary of Seminar**

Usually he is nominated by the Chair person or President of the Seminar committee. S/he must be a good administrator and subject expert in the field proposed theme of the seminar. He must be the person of tolerance and capable of doing things in right time with right persons.

### **3. Chairperson of the Technical Session of seminar**

S/he must be the person with expertise in the theme proposed for the seminar. S/he would have a good experience to perform all the activities of technical session which is vital to the seminar.

### **4. Speaker of Seminar**

S/he is the active participant of seminar presenting his / her paper among the other participants in the presence of Chair Person of Technical session of seminar.

### **5. Participants / Paper presenters of seminar**

The people who are presenting papers and observing the paper presentation by participating in the seminar are termed as Paper presenters and Participants of the seminar.

### **Merits of Seminar method:**

- Naturally, the spontaneous learning can be achieved effectively in this method.
- Seminar is usually learner centered.

- Information seeking and retrieval behavior is encouraged very much in this method.
- The learner himself prepares and compiles his own paper for the seminar gives readiness of mind and learning becomes structured.
- Learning by doing is encouraged in this method.
- The paper presenter / participant receive a reinforced learning experience from the Group discussion.
- Learning experiences is highly structured by the learner himself.
- The teacher or chair person of technical session only plays the Guidance and instructional role.
- Develops cognitive, affective domains based learning.
- Norms of behavior is developed and reinforced.
- Develops open mindedness, suppress the subjective ideas from the learners.
- The interactions and interrogations develops the spirit of information seeking behaviors (norms of behavior)
- The data processing skills, compilation skills, communication skill are easily inculcated in this method.
- Learner gets in-depth knowledge of the subject he presented.
- This method built better social values and fault tolerance levels in the minds of learner.

## **Limitations of Seminar method**

- Setting up of a seminar for every topic in the Text is not feasible.
- The subject area to be taught must be relevant to the theme of the seminar.
- The seminar themes must conform the learning experiences to be inculcated to the students.
- This method found fit for higher learning only.
- Implementation of this method for lower classes is cumbersome.
- Only matured and balanced minded teachers can make this method successful.
- The teacher must be resourceful (both in academic and administrative) in nature.
- Time management is some what difficult.