

Video conferencing technologies

video conferencing also called video teleconferencing is setup using both audio and video equipments for transmission as well as reception from separate locations. This setup allows student to see the teacher and his/her presentation and interact with him/her.

video conferencing systems can be divided broadly into two types as shown in following figure

video conferencing technologies

One-way video and two way audio conferencing

(Usually through satellite, cable)

Two way audio video conferencing

(Microwave, Desk top video)

One-way video and two way audio-conferencing —

In this type of conference, as the name indicates video is seen only one way. Students (Participants) at multiple sites can see the teacher, but the teacher can not see them except those physically present in the location (Studio). Such teleconferences are used when instructions are to be provided at multiple locations across a wide geographical area. Distance learning through this kind of conference needs a teaching end studio equipped with video cameras, microphones and other mixing equipment. Final studio signals are transmitted to satellite for broadcast or to a cable network system. Audio interaction with teacher is provided by the use of an audio bridge at the teaching end and telephone lines at remote classrooms.

Two-way audio video conferencing

In this type of conference audio and video signals are exchanged between teaching studio and receiving centre can receive pictures and audio from other centres.

Advantages of video technologies

- ① Allow both audio and video communication. Hence it is suitable for teaching that involves demonstration.
- ② Encourage interactive learning.

Disadvantage

- ① It is expensive.
- ② Required teachers trained to teach through this technology and requires a crew with camera men and other technical experts.