

Audio Conferencing Technologies

These technologies can be further classified depending on medium used as audio, audio graphic and phone-in radio.

Audio Conferencing Technologies

Audio Conferencing Audio graphic Conferencing phone-in radio

Audio Conferencing -

Simple conversation on telephone by more than two persons may be treated as 'Audio Conferencing'.

Such conference facilities can be used in distance teaching ~~etc~~ easily as they are simple to set up.

Audio-graphic Conferencing

Audio conferencing can be improved by value addition by way of sending picture / data along with voice communication.

The picture/data information can be sent in advance for use at the time of audio conferencing or it can be sent over a telephone line itself. Graphic scanner, electronic white board/electronic tablets with appropriate software can be used to transmit graphics, sketches etc.

phone-in Radio

phone-in radio is very popular nowadays. Everyone in the vicinity of FM broadcast might have heard one or the other phone-in programme. In phone-in radio, the communication is point to multipoint by radio broadcast to the learners and the interaction is through a simple telephone line. Teachers at the studio of the broadcasting station teach and answer the queries raised by learners, who dial into the studio telephone numbers using ordinary telephone.

Merits and Demerits of Audio Technologies

MERITS

- ① Equipment required to set up audio conference is simple and less expensive.
- ② Options for selecting telephone or speaker phones and telephone networks are many.
- ③ Students can participate in the conference from anywhere.
- ④ Audio conference can be easily recorded by the students themselves for reference.

DEMERITS

- ① Difficult to explain abstract concepts on audio conference due to lack of visual information.
- ② It is difficult to learn through audio information only.
- ③ Since eye contact is not possible it is difficult to retain attention of students.