



Dept. of Education, Patna University
INNOVATIVE TEACHING - LEARNING

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GROUP DISCUSSION

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INTRODUCTION

- Group discussion is an important activity in academic, business and administrative spheres.
- It is a systematic and purposeful interactive oral process.
- Here the exchange of ideas, thoughts and feelings takes place through oral communication.

OBJECTIVES

After going through this topic, student shall be able to:

- Explain the concept of Group discussion.
- Discuss the structure of group discussion.
- Point out the need for group discussion in learning.

Definition of group discussion

According to **GULLY** - "Discussion takes place when a group of individuals comes together face to face and exchange information or take decisions on a group problem.

On the above the definition it can be said that

- Meaning of discussion as the learning skills or learning methods among students-
 - On relating to any problematic topic/title discuss or
 - On relating to any subject matter to talk to all sorts of problematic topic/title.
 - there by develop/improve the learning and may also solve the problem.

Steps of group discussion in classroom.

1. Initiation/ pre-planning
2. Conduct the discussion/the central phase of discussion
3. Summarization/ conclusion.

Above steps are already discussed in previous topic, which was discussion strategy.

Four major areas of group discussion.

1. Subject knowledge.
2. Oral communication skills.
3. Leadership skills and
4. Team behavior

1. SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE

- Participants must possess a thorough understanding of the topic on which they are supposed to speak.
- Participants must prepare yourself to talk on a wide range of subjects.
- As a member of the group, participants are expected to contribute substantially to the discussion.
- The originality of participants ideas, knowledge and initiative and approach to the topic or case contribute to success in the group discussion.
- The best way to equip yourself is to read daily newspapers, good magazines, national and international journals and also watch new bulletins and informative programmes on the television.
- The greater your knowledge of the subject, the more enthusiastic and confident you will be during the discussion.
- Once you have understood the topic or issue, you should be able to generate ideas as well as organize them so that participants present well

2. ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Good communications skills include –
 - a. Active listening.
 - b. Clarity of thought and expression.
 - c. Apt language and.
 - d. Proper non verbal clues

i. LISTENING SKILLS

- Listening is as important as speaking in a GD, unless you listen, you cannot contribute to the stated purpose of communication.

ii. CLARITY OF GOOD THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION

- Clarity is the art of making yourself clear to the audience.
- Only when your expressions are clear, you can convince your team.
- You should not be too loud or too soft.
- A lively and cheerful voice with appropriate modulations will attract the audience.
- Proper articulation of words, achieved through phonetic accuracy is very essential slang, and artificial accents are to be avoided.

iii. APT LANGUAGE

- The flow of language must be smooth.
- Use simple language and avoid long winding sentences.
- Appropriateness of language demands that there should be no errors of grammar.
- Do not use unfamiliar phrases and flowery language.
- Be precise.
- Be polite and courteous.

iv. PROPER NON VERBAL CLUES

- Non verbal clues include eye contact, body movements, gestures and facial expression.
- Group generally evaluate the body language cues of the team to determine personality factors such as nervousness, co-operation, frustration, weakness, insecurity, self confidence, defensiveness, etc.
- A confident posture, appropriate facial expressions and meaningful eye contact with the team will create a good expression.

3. LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- A good leader should neither be very authoritative nor submissive but must be democratic.
- Assertiveness,(bold) emotional stability, objectivity, self-confidence, decision making, discretion,(intelligence) initiative, good communication skills, patience, persuasiveness and adaptability are some of the leadership qualities that are immensely useful in proving oneself as a natural leader in GD.

4. TEAM BEHAVIOR

- Your group behavior is reflected in your ability to interact with the other members of the group.
- You must be mature enough to not lose your temper even if you are proved wrong.
- You must be patient and balanced.
- Your success in a GD depends on how well you play the role of initiator, information seeker, information giver, procedure facilitator, opinion seeker, opinion giver, clarifier, summarizer, social-supporter, tension reliever, compromiser, attacker, humorist and dominator.

ADVANTAGE OF GROUP DISCUSSION

- Ideas can be generated, shared and tried out.
- Groups provide a support and growth for any endeavor.
- Combine talents to provide innovative solutions.

WHAT TO DO IN GROUP DISCUSSION

- Speaking is important; do not sit silently.
- Speak freely.
- Do not monopolize the conversation or talk too much.
- Give everyone a chance to speak.
- Maintain eye contact with everyone in the group.
- Show active listening skills.
- Do not interrupt anyone while they are speaking.
- Keep the topic on track and don't be irrelevant.
- Encourage someone who is silent to talk.
- Do not argue with anyone.
- Do not debate with anyone, while the group looks on.
- Do not repeat what has been said; be attentive; try to develop on ideas expressed or give out new ideas.
- Clarify your doubts and then proceed.
- Be brief.
- Do not commit grammatical errors while talking.

KEYWORDS

- Assertive - bold
- Endeavor - to try hard, an attempt to do something.

SELF CHECK QUESTIONS

1. What is group discussions?
2. Describe the major areas of group discussion.
3. Group discussion is beneficial in active learning how?
4. What are the points that we should keep in mind for a group discussion?

SUGGESTED READINGS/ REFERENCE LINKS:

https://www.sastra.edu/npTEL/download/Prof%20GPRagini/pdf_New/Unit%2026.pdf

TOPIC(S) FOR NEXT CLASS

Debate and panel discussions

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