



## Webinar is an online platform for the Professional Development

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### ABSTRACT

In the present era of technology, teacher's obligation is confined not only to acquire new knowledge and skills but to develop them continuously also. Professional development refers to the activities to enhance professional career growth of teachers to foster teachers growth. The term Webinar stands for interactive Web- based seminar cum virtual dialogue, a presentation, lecture or workshop that is transmitted over the web. Through the educational webinars presenters can reach education, academicians and others within no time and is also economical as it overcomes the travelling expense and other inconvenience. This paper discusses in brief webinar, its history, keys to select good webinar, major benefits of the webinar and for the professional development and also suggests the teachers, educationists, scholars to avail the virtual opportunity for their professional development at different levels.

### KEYWORDS

webinar, educational webinar, professional development.

### Introduction

Hon'ble President of India Pranab Mukherjee addressed, "To build India of our dreams, the first and foremost task before us to improve the quality of Education". Quality in education is not an ordinary term which is a factor that determines the social, economical, political, and cultural development of any state. To build India through quality education, teachers, educators and scholars are to keep alive fresh in subject and uphold professional development through lifelong learning. So that, the knowledge based society is possible nearer.

### Professional development and webinar

Teachers are key players in maintaining and improving the quality of education and training system. In the present era of technology, teacher's obligation is confined not only to acquire new knowledge and skills but to develop them continuously also. The education and professional development of every teacher needs to be seen as a lifelong task, and be structured and resourced accordingly. Professional development refers to the activities to enhance professional career growth of teachers to foster teachers growth. Professional development of teachers is to develop new insights into pedagogy and their own practices, and explore new or advanced understanding of contents and resources. To equip the teaching body with the skills and competences require continuous professional development programmes. Seminars, conferences, workshops and symposiums are set avenue to the teachers for their professional development, where, which serve a platform to share new ideas and principles with educationists, academicians and scholars. Participation of experts from various parts of the world is the primary advantage of the seminars and conferences. The technology innovation "Webinars" creates a platform for teachers, educators, academicians and scholars to deliberate and attain valuable and viable suggestions for professional development.

The term Webinar stands for interactive Web- based seminar cum virtual dialogue, a presentation, lecture or workshop that is transmitted over the web. Through the webinars presenters can reach education, academicians and others within no time and is also economical as it overcomes the travelling expense and other inconvenience. Webinars are collaborative and include polling, question and answer session to allow the full participation between the presenter and audience. The presenter can use his power point presentation, word document, streaming videos, white board and can also share his screen along with many other features to explain the subject to the

audience. Unlimited number of audience can interact and share their views and experiences among themselves and with the presenters through VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) or chat and can also resolve their queries immediately.

### Webinar

A webinar is an online "Virtual" seminar or equivalent event that usually involves a small or limited number of presenters and participants delivering and sharing their view of presentation such as a Power Point, documents to a large dispersed audience worldwide over the web. Most webinars offer interactive capabilities which allow for a two way communication between presenters and the audience allowing attendees to ask questions and interact with the presenter by using their computers and the Internet.

### History of webinar

Considering the trademark for the term of "webinar" it was registered in 1998 by Eric R. Korb but it was difficult to defend; it is currently assigned to Intercall. Earlier the Web based chat and instant messaging software appeared in the mid 1990.

### Educational webinar

Educational webinar differs from an online meeting because it is usually limited to one way transfer of audio(voice-over) from the instructor to audience to individual or small group of viewing from computers in geographic locations in anywhere in the world where access internet is available. Advance registration and email addresses will be required from the viewers. Access to the programme will be provided from a link which may connect directly to the webinar when opened or may also require an access code. Some programme requires a free software download. Content may be presented in the form of slide show, spread sheets, documents, video and interactive sessions.

### Key question and issues in selecting webinar

For the successful participation and utilization of the webinar, the participant better keep in mind the following questions.

- Who are organizing the webinar?
- What are the questions and issues driving the webinar?
- Who are going to present the key notes in the webinar?
- What has been done previously by this organizer in terms of webinar?
- What is the programme all about the webinar?
- Is the day and duration of the webinar suitable?
- Is it the registration fee? If yes, is it affordable?

**Requirements for webinar**

Ensuring the following will be cause for good webinar experience.

- Ensure the high speed internet facilities with web cam.
- Make arrangements through on line services precede for high level results.
- Choose standard set up and do certain changes electronically as needed for session.
- Inform participants in advance of computer system and high speed internet requirements.

**The major five benefits of the Webinar**

The following five are the remarkable advantages of webinar in the view of eminents.

**Convenience:** The most flexible advantage in the webinar is the presenter and participant take the occasion at their own place and own convenient for the same as the webinar provide the platform over the internet to share their views. So that, the opportunities for the professional development of teacher made much easier than ever before.

**Affordability:** As well the fact that there is no travel costs involved with attending a Webinar, the price of attending a webinar is typically much lower than other options. Additionally, multiple participants can train together by viewing the webinar at a single location and therefore pay for only one connection. An entire team can gather in one conference room to attend together and confer the webinar contents without having to invest time and money traveling to and from a physical seminar location.

**Efficiency:** Most of the webinars are designed to last around 90-120 minutes in length and are usually scheduled to fit the work day of busy professionals. Because of their short length, webinars typically pack a lot of information into a very short period of time.

**Long Term Value:** Many webinars offer the option to access the contents and materials/discussion again sometime after the event has ended. Because of this, participants can review the presentation multiple times, helping them revisit the materials/ discussion for reference and apply the contents as needed.

**Ease to Use:** Registering and attending Webinars is usually an easy process achieved over the Internet with a standard computer browser and requires no more skill than using the average email program. Most webinar applications are designed for ease-of-use and require very little additional downloading of software, if any.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, whatever the professional requirements may be, webinars present a very affordable and highly effective way of delivering the presentation, slide show, spread sheets, document, and video and so on. Additionally, depending on the subject or special area, webinars can also present opportunities to address key notes and issues that can spark new ideas, focused discussion and drive action. For this reason, webinar will serve as a virtual avenue and an online platform for the professional development of the teachers.