

Music Seminar vs. Webinar: An Observation

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Abstract

The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught us that change is inevitable. The paper highlights the positive and negative aspects of Seminar vs. Webinar. As the times are changing we also need to adapt to the highly changing educational and personal atmosphere. The present research paper is focused on the following objective: Webinar as a derivative of seminars, Registration Criteria, Webinar and Paid Seminar, Knowledge and designation, Time Bound Approach, Attendance, Reach, Planning of Seminar / Webinar, Organizing Committee, Certificate Distribution, Adaptability to the advanced technology, Brochure Design & Advertisement, MCQ Conducted, Practical Demonstration etc.

Key words: Seminar, Webinar, Music, Pandemic, Web Tools

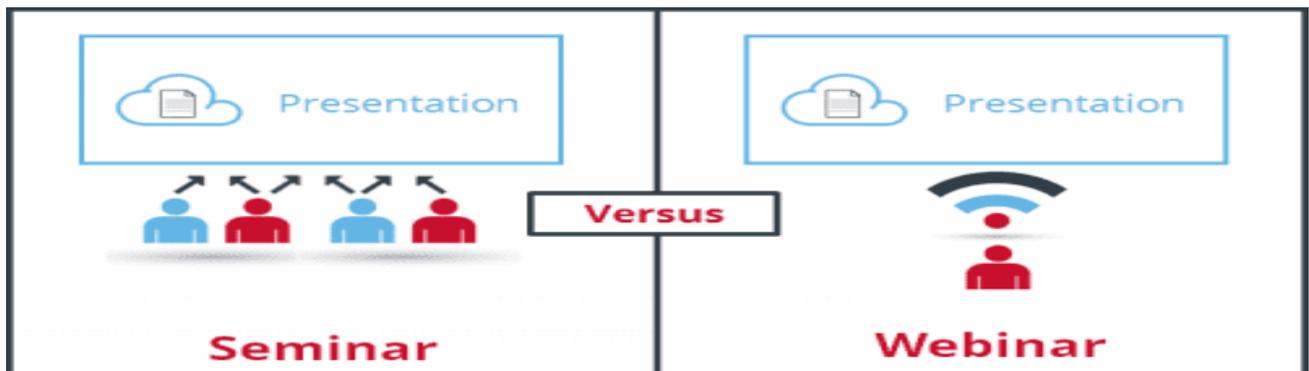


Figure 1: Louise Mulgrew

A seminar is outlined as a gathering of faculties for the purpose to discuss and exchange the information, content and data on the stated topic. Firstly, speakers explain about their

delineated topic after which the participants express their views followed by a Q&A session with the renowned speakers.

A Webinar means seminar conducted via world wide web or a live online educational demonstration using Web Tools (GMeet, Bluejeans, Zoom, MSTeams etc), where guest speaker/s share their views and content, videos, ppt via screen share and participants from different places, states and across the country can watch and participate in the live discussion.

Webinars have almost all the characteristics of a Seminar (except the handshakes and a few other similar formal gestures) rather it has given an opportunity to reach out to various horizons and is easily connected via the internet. Besides, it serves the purpose well by sharing information, knowledge and data throughout the country or even across the world. Although both the forms have its pros and cons but at the end of both (Seminar & Webinar), a Q&A session is held.

Registration Criteria:

In a Seminar, participants usually pay a registration fee by online or on the spot as various arrangements are involved may come at a price but in a Webinar there is no registration fee along with simple and automated registration.(In a Seminar, participants usually pay a registration fee through online mode or by on the spot payment system because there are various arrangements which come with a cost but in a Webinar usually there is no registration fee due to simple and automated registration procedure.

Webinar and Paid Seminar:

Seminar is usually a paid event and is a time consuming process with various arrangements like receiving guests and participant, hotel and guest house bookings for overnight stay, and other formalities. Whereas a webinar is a very simplified event and doesn't involve unnecessary arrangements and expenses with far reaching experience thus saving both the time and the cost.

Knowledge and designation:

Though the experience brings value in addition to the information and data being discussed and shared, it doesn't limit itself to a distinct speaker only as we all know that the fresh ideas, views

and thoughts can come from any talented speaker. While in Seminars usually highly designated Professors are invited but for expanded information exchange a talented newbie can also be as informative as a highly designated person can be because he or she may have fresh ideas to the subject being discussed. Webinars provide such a platform where an eminent professor, a highly distinguished person or an assistant professor are given the opportunity to speak and share their ideas and views on a common platform. The young and talented individuals are tech savvy and can manage various online social platforms like Facebook live page, WebEx, zoom app, Google class room etc. easily and therefore this attribute of the youngsters can be tapped for an enriching webinar experience.

Time Bound Approach:

During a Seminar, we can interact and share ideas with participants for an extended period of time but during a Webinar, interaction between speakers and participants is often limited and is time bound. Both mediums have their pluses and minuses. (merits and demerits)

Attendance:

In a Seminar and other events where the physical presence is a must, participants can take part even with a capacity of 50- 200 at a time and still the presentation will always stand out. Moreover, participants can comfortably exchange their views along with fully engaging face to face with a committed and sincere audience. An audience is commonly seen fully involved with such sessions.

On the other hand, we face common technical issues during webinar sessions like that of poor internet connection etc. Sometimes we have problems like voice breaking, slides not moving or even the internet disconnections although there are no limitations for the number of participants. In the Zoom App, we can connect with thousands of people together. But one demerit of webinars is that some people make themselves online and unmute, hide video and sleep or do other work .They register them only for the sake of certificate. Some people log in once, then after putting their attendance in the chat box, go offline. But few universities who have ICT Centres keep a proper attendance sheet accordingly (log in and log out) time, for example Mizoram University (A Central University), Aizawl.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	Yes	Prof. K.R.S. Sambas	vc@mzu.edu.in	Jun 05, 2020 15:06:	Jun 05, 2020 15:21:	16	India						
11	Yes	Prof. K.R.S. Sambas	vc@mzu.edu.in	Jun 05, 2020 15:25:	Jun 05, 2020 15:54:	30	India						
12	Yes	Prof. K.R.S. Sambas	vc@mzu.edu.in	Jun 05, 2020 15:24:	Jun 05, 2020 15:26:	3	India						
13	Yes	Dr. Arati Mishra	rt.bhu85@gmail.com	Jun 05, 2020 13:14:	Jun 05, 2020 13:27:	14	India						
14	Yes	Dr. Arati Mishra	rt.bhu85@gmail.com	Jun 05, 2020 13:28:	Jun 05, 2020 15:56:	148	India						
15	Yes	Dr. Arati Mishra	rt.bhu85@gmail.com	Jun 05, 2020 13:10:	Jun 05, 2020 13:13:	4	India						
16	Yes	Prof. K. Shashi kuma	sashimusic@gmail.c	Jun 05, 2020 13:38:	Jun 05, 2020 13:41:	4	India						
17	Yes	Prof. K. Shashi kuma	sashimusic@gmail.c	Jun 05, 2020 13:52:	Jun 05, 2020 15:34:	102	India						
18	Yes	suraj	laursingh@gmail.com	Jun 05, 2020 13:30:	Jun 05, 2020 13:31:	1	India						
19	Attendee Details												
20	Attended	First Name	Last Name	Email	City	Country/Region	Organization	Registration Time	Approval Status	Join Time	Leave Time	Time in Session (min)	Profession
21	Yes	Bitu	Pathak	bitupathak1@gmail.c	Guwahati	IN	Govt. Shilshan Mah	Jun 03, 2020 23:55:	approved	Jun 05, 2020 14:03:	Jun 05, 2020 15:47:	105	Student
22	Yes	Bitu	Pathak	bitupathak1@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 15:47:	Jun 05, 2020 15:56:	9	
23	Yes	Mohit	Verma	cheolavkya321@g	Lucknow	IN	Bhalkhande Vidyape	Jun 03, 2020 15:26:	approved	Jun 05, 2020 15:33:	Jun 05, 2020 15:55:	23	Student
24	Yes	realme		3 jyoti001mishra@gme	Sagar	IN	Harj Singh Gaur vish	Jun 03, 2020 20:07:	approved	Jun 05, 2020 13:23:	Jun 05, 2020 13:24:	2	Student
25	Yes	realme		3 jyoti001mishra@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 13:42:	Jun 05, 2020 15:11:	90	
26	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@	Gaya	IN	Central university of	Jun 02, 2020 12:43:	approved	Jun 05, 2020 14:02:	Jun 05, 2020 14:12:	10	Student
27	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 15:15:	Jun 05, 2020 15:23:	9	
28	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 14:17:	Jun 05, 2020 14:24:	7	
29	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 14:24:	Jun 05, 2020 15:14:	50	
30	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 15:14:	Jun 05, 2020 15:14:	1	
31	Yes	Manish	Kumar	Kumamanish79158@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 15:23:	Jun 05, 2020 15:55:	33	
32	Yes	Sumati	Rajkumar	sumati.r6@gmail.c	Imphal West	IN	G.P. Women's Colleg	Jun 05, 2020 7:41:3	approved	Jun 05, 2020 15:38:	Jun 05, 2020 15:41:	3	Teacher
33	Yes	Sumati	Rajkumar	sumati.r6@gmail.com						Jun 05, 2020 15:41:	Jun 05, 2020 15:56:	15	
34	Yes	Bitu	Pathak	bitupathak1@gmail.c	Guwahati	IN	Central University of	Jun 03, 2020 15:05:	approved	Jun 05, 2020 13:37:	Jun 05, 2020 13:37:	17	Student

Figure 3: Information and communication technology, Mizoram University (A central University), Aizawl.

Figure 2: <https://www.eztalks.com/webinars/difference-between-seminar-and-webinar.html>

Reach:

With the help of technology, a webinar can reach a wider audience due to the ability to overcome geographical limitations. As long as a participant can access the audio-visual conferencing equipment required, they are good to go. On the contrary, a seminar can only be attended by people proximal to the



venue of the seminar. The farther you are from the venue, the higher are the chances that you won't take part in the seminar.

Planning of Seminar / Webinar & Organizing Committee:

In a seminar, we have to plan for a proper venue according to the strength of the audience and need to ensure the availability of the venue or auditorium on the said date.

- *Preparation of checklist and various committees
- * on the spot registration committee
- * kit distribution committee
- * food court and food coupons committee
- * guests reception committee
- * organizing committee
- * Certificate preparation and distribution committee etc.

Though to conduct a Webinar, it has a very simplified process and can be arranged remotely without much of arrangements. Only to take care of the speakers, participants and the technology part.

नाच विभाग, संगीत एवं मंच कला संकाय
काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय
लय- ताल प्रज्ञा प्रवाह व्याख्यान माला

5 जून 2020, सायं 4 बजे से

विषय -
ताल के लक्ष्य लक्षण के स्वरूप में एकरूपता

विद्वान
डॉ० वसुधा सक्सेना
एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर,
राजस्थान संगीत संस्थान, जयपुर

तबला विषय की पुस्तक एवं लेखों की समीक्षा : तकनीक एवं स्वरूप

डॉ० अमित वर्मा
संपादक-संगीत गैलेक्सी, शास्त्रीय संगीत विभाग,
विश्वभारती विश्वविद्यालय, शान्तिनिकेतन,
कोलकाता

प्रो० प्रवीण उद्दव
संयोजक/सूत्रधार, वाद्य विभाग,
संगीत एवं मंच कला संकाय

प्रो० संगीता सिंह
विभागाध्यक्ष, वाद्य विभाग,
संगीत एवं मंच कला संकाय

प्रो० राजेश शाह
संकाय प्रमुख,
संगीत एवं मंच कला संकाय

facebook.com/Faculty of Performing Arts Official
Meeting ID - 81713195476 Password - fopa123

Brochure Designing & Advertising:

Earlier we had to design brochures and after printing, the brochures had to be sent to various universities to intimate about the seminar but nowadays, designed softcopies of brochures are uploaded on Facebook, WhatsApp and mail etc and can be shared in seconds to the remotest corners of the country.

Certificate Distribution:

In a Seminar, names and topics of the seminar have to be written individually on the certificates. It takes time to distribute the hard copy of the certificate also but in a webinar, just through a feedback form, information may be collected and an automated E-certificate can be generated.

Screen Share facility:

In a Seminar, if there is a PPT presentation or Data sharing requirement, then a participant has to ensure that the organizers have arranged the facility of a projector. But on the other hand, in a webinar, a participant can easily share or download additional digital material at any time. Besides the participants can also easily take screenshots of slides during the webinar.

MCQ Conducted:

Seminars usually do not require any examination to be conducted but the scenario is different in case of Webinars. To ensure that each participant is involved and listening to the information being shared online, an online MCQ questionnaire may be asked to be submitted to complete the process and certificates may be issued only to those who may clear the MCQ test.

Practical Demonstration:

Performance or practical demonstration and listening to music both can provide a feeling of well-being, especially during such a crisis, a much needed reason to keep everyone involved with music. Sometimes the poor sound quality in online gatherings is frustrating. “It’s more exhausting to deliver online music demonstration, especially for group Music workshop, which requires a lot of extra planning. It takes much more mental energy to communicate and compensate for all the lost nuances that are part of normal interaction.”

Virtual classes can never be “a cup of tea” because a lot goes into making them productive and interactive. It’s easy to know and understand a participant’s response in a physical classroom, but at the online platforms, there are a lot of drawbacks like if a speaker demonstrates any raga and if he/she wants to know if participants could comprehend, it is quite difficult to find who is not capable to gain.

A Speaker tries to create an interactive environment in the webinar by randomly asking questions to participants by taking their names as mentioned in chat. Most of them do answer but there are few who do not even respond. We miss the clarity of sound and interaction like *kan*, *khataka*, *murki* etc. During online demonstration, participants are not able to clarify doubts, which an offline seminar provides.

Conclusion:

The distinctions are clear between a seminar and a webinar, and depending on one's situation and the topic we are dealing with, whether it is theoretical or practical, one can either be at an advantage or a disadvantage. If you have to choose between the two, your decision will greatly be influenced by the different above-mentioned aspects. Both a Webinar and a Seminar are powerful mediums of information exchange and are very important in their own way but both have its pros and cons. As the saying goes, "the information and knowledge is such a wealth which only increases when we share it".

Webliography:

1. *Louise Mulgrew*, <https://www.iris.co.uk/blog/the-webinar-versus-the-seminar/>
2. Information and communication technology, Mizoram University (A central University), Aizawl.
3. <https://www.eztalks.com/webinars/difference-between-seminar-and-webinar.html>