**DISCUSSION**

Discussion is a format in which people of different opinions on a particular issue sit together with a purpose to reach at a logical or specific conclusion. The discussion is conducted by an anchorperson, or a compere.

**Types of discussion In Terms of Policy**

**a) Free Discussion**

Free discussion is a kind of discussion in which the conclusion is not set and the participants are free to reach at pragmatic and logical conclusion. Sometimes the conclusion is not drawn but left to the listeners.

**b) Controlled Discussion**

It is a kind of discussion in which the anchorperson and the participants are briefed prior to the discussion about the conclusion of the discussion. The conversation grows and develops to reach at pre-settled conclusion. In simple words in such a discussion the conclusion is defined.

**Types of discussion In Terms of Nature**

**a) Live Discussion**

Liver discussion goes on air direct and without any editing or censor. Such discussions are put on air on special occasions like matches and Election Transmission.

**b) Recorded Discussion**

This kind of discussion is first recorded in the studios and then is put on air.

**Types of discussion In Terms of Content**

**a) Social**

In such discussions social issues are brought under discussion. Some of the social issues are: Vanni – Karo Kari – Child Labour – New trends in Fashion etc.

**b) Political**

In such discussions political issues are discussed. Some of the political topics are: Government’s Policies – Projects – Controversial Issues e.g. Kala bagh Dam etc.

**c) Scientific**

Scientific topics, especially controversial ones, are discussed. Such as Big Bang Theory, Theory of Evolution, etc.

**d) Religious**

Sectarianism, Interpretation of Islamic Law, etc. kind of topics which are based upon religious teachings and thought are made the points of discussion in religious discussions.

**e) Art & literature**

New trends in art and literature, imports from foreign literature, experiments in prose and poetry; realism, symbolism, abstracts, conservative movement, progressive movement are some kinds of topics to be made a point of this type of discussions.

**f) Business and commerce**

Topics related to business, commerce and trade, such as inflation; budget; poverty; tax system etc. are the hot topics of this kind of discussions.

**g) Current affairs**

The most important and widely listened discussions are on current affairs. Topics like War on terror, Middle East, Kashmir, Pakistan’s relations with other countries, etc. are some examples which the discussion can go round.

**DISCUSSION**

**Essentials of Producing Discussion**

**1. Selection of the Topic**

The very first step in the planning and production of a discussion is the selection of the topic. The topic may be assigned by the authorities, may be the demand of the situation, or conceived by the producer.

**2. Knowledge of the Topic**

Whatever the topic is, the very first thing after the selection of the topic is to get maximum available knowledge about the subject. Unless a producer has substantial knowledge about all possible aspects of the topic, he/she will not be able to produce a discussion of standard.

For instance the topic of the discussion is based upon foreign policy of Pakistan with respect to any particular country or countries. To produce such a discussion the producer first must know about the foreign policy to the following lines:

**What is Foreign Policy?**

**Determinants of Foreign Policy**

* + National Interest
	+ Economics
	+ Geography
	+ Security
	+ Pakistan’s foreign policy regarding different countries, e.g., India, USA, UK, Iran, China, Afghanistan
	+ Pakistan’s stand point on different International Issues such as Kashmir issue, Palestine issue, Iraq-America war, war on terror
1. **Narrowing down the topic**

Selection of one topic is not enough to make a discussion program. One topic, as a matter of fact, represents the whole subject that has many aspects and shades to be discussed. Every shade and every aspect requires a separate discussion program. Sometimes, to cover the maximum aspects pertaining to one topic, a series of discussions may also be scheduled.

The process of pin pointing one aspect of a subject is called narrowing down the topic. Following example will further explain the process of narrowing down a topic:

**Women Issues**

To talk about women is a topic but some of the issues and problems related to women may be counted as under:

* Women’s Education
* Women’s in Professions
* Problems of Working Women
* Women’s Rights

Let’s suppose that a producer decides to pick up Women’s rights as a topic of his discussion. This topic may further be narrowed down. When we talk about women’s rights the following aspects come in front of us:

* + Universal rights
	+ Social rights
	+ Rights given by law
	+ Rights guaranteed by religion
	+ Women rights are protected or not?
	+ Women’s misery --- Myth or Reality
	+ Right to Education
	+ Right to Cast Vote
	+ Right to Work
	+ Right to the Selection of Profession
	+ Right to get share in Inheritance
	+ Right to Marriage after her own choice
1. **Selection of Anchorperson**

The next step in the production of discussion is the selection of the anchorperson. Here again the producer has to be very much careful. The anchorpersons are of two kinds:

**a) Professional Anchorpersons**

These are the ones who have opted for being a compere or an anchorperson as their profession.

**b) Experts**

These are the ones who are the experts in their respective field or subject and in specialized topics they are offered to compere the discussion. For instance if the discussion is to evaluate the recently announced budget, the anchorperson must be an economist.

While selecting this kind of compere following points a producer must keep in his/her mind:

* Area of specialization of the compere must be related to the topic.
* Must be a good & effective communicator.
* Must be spontaneous, witty and sober yet pleasant.

Since while conducting the discussion as a compere he/she is representing radio as well so he/she must have:

* Clear voice
* Accurate pronunciation

Besides all the above said features a compere must not get detached from the whole course of the discussion and must appear involved in the conversation. Another important thing, that he must not be biased or partial and his tilt of mind must not be noticeable at all.

**5. Selection of participants**

The number of the participants of a discussion must not be more than 4 and less than 2 depending upon the duration of the discussion program.

The participants must be:

* experts in their field
* professionals
* good communicators
* preferably known to people
* well-reputed
* representing different schools of thought or opinions

**Model Discussion Programs**

**Topic ---- Government’s Policies to improve Agriculture in Pakistan & Benefits to Farmers Compere**

 The compere must know:

* Important crops
* Sowing season
* Harvesting season
* Farmers’ problems
* Irrigation system
* Government’s different policies
* Land reforms if having been introduced
* Rates of different crops
* Fertilizers
* Diseases of the crops
* Insects
* Pesticides

**Participants**

In such discussion following participants may be invited:

* Minister of Agriculture – Federal or Provincial (If not, any government spokesman)
* Representative of farmers
* Representative of landlords
* Expert of Agricultural Issues

**Topic ---- Growing price hike in Pakistan**

**Compere**

An economist

**Participants**

* Market association's representative
* Consumers’ representative
* Price control committee’s chairman
* An economist
* Government’s representative