



PNA
Pakistan National Assembly

STUDY GUIDE



TOPIC AREA: Accountability of the Rapidly Growing Academic Conferences in Pakistan

Academic conference

An **academic conference** is a conference for researchers (not always academics) to present and discuss their work. Along with academic or scientific journals, conferences provide an important channel for the exchange of information among experts.

Presentations are generally followed by discussions, in which participants exchange reactions and critiques. This exchange of ideas distinguishes the conference from other non-interactive forms of scholarly communication. Academic conferences are also places where scholars and professionals develop friendships and professional relationships. Today, developments in technology have begun to allow for Internet-based conferences.

Overview

Generally, a work is presented in the form of a short, concise presentation lasting about 10 to 30 minutes, which is usually followed by a discussion. The works may be collected, revised and published as the conference proceedings. Often conferences feature one or more keynote speakers (usually scholars of some standing), who's presentation can last from 15 minutes to an hour. Panel discussions, roundtable discussions on various issues, or workshops may be a part of the conference; in particular, conferences related to the performing arts feature workshops.

Prospective presenters are usually asked to submit a short abstract, which will be reviewed before the presentation is accepted for the meeting. Some disciplines require presenters to submit a paper of about 12-15 pages, which is peer reviewed by members of the program committee or referees chosen by them.

In some disciplines, such as English and other languages, it is common for presenters to read from a prepared text. In other disciplines such as the sciences, presenters may use visual presentations to display figures and diagrams.



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A large meeting will usually be called a conference, while a smaller meeting is termed a workshop. They might be *single track* or *multiple track*, where the former has only one session at a time, while a multiple track meeting has several parallel sessions with speakers in separate rooms speaking at the same time.

Depending on the theme of the conference, social or entertainment activities may also be offered. In a large enough conference, academic publishing houses may set up displays offering books at a discount. At larger conferences, business meetings for learned societies or interest groups might also take place.

Academic conferences fall into three categories:

- Theme-based conferences organized around a particular topic
- General conferences that feature sessions on a wide variety of topics. These conferences are often organized by regional, national, or international societies, and are held on a regular basis
- Professional conferences or any large conference not limited to academics, but with academically-related issues

Accountability

Accountability is an assurance that an individual or an organization will be evaluated on their performance or behavior related to something for which they are responsible.

The term is related to responsibility but seen more from the perspective of oversight. An employee may be responsible, for example, for ensuring that a response to an RFP (request for proposals) meets all the stipulated requirements. In the event that the task is not performed satisfactorily, there may or may not be consequences. Accountability, on the other hand, means that the employee is held responsible for successfully completing the task and will have to at least explain why they failed to do so.





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Corporate accountability involves being answerable to all an organization's stakeholders for all actions and results. Through performance and accountability reporting (PAR), for example, an organization compiles and documents factors that quantify its profitability, efficiency and adherence to budget, comparing actual results against original targets. The PAR process is usually carried out once per fiscal year, although in some cases it is done more often.

Corporate accountability also implies that an organization must be answerable for any deviations from its stated goals and values, which might be documented and made publicly available through a mission statement or vision statement. Beyond that, the concept of

corporate accountability is often broadened to imply a requirement for business to follow ethical, responsible and sustainable practices.

Accountability and transparency are generally considered the two main pillars of good corporate governance.

Organization

- Basis of organizing
- What idea led you to organize it
- What benefits are you and participant driving from it

Funds

- what funds and investments are made
- from where they are generated
- who is accountable to whom about the funds
- if profit is made where is it going and what is the distributing criteria
- what government intervention is needed to keep a check on it





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Participants

- what will be the criteria to select the participants of that particular conference
- what promises are made to them
- what are actually delivered
- who is supposed to check the quality of the session what are the criteria for feedbacks

Judges

- what will be the criteria for the selection of judges
- what will be the judging criteria
- check and balance on the biasness

Actions

- what actions will be taken against the conferences which are not up to the mark
- what and where these records will be taken
- will there be any government intervention if yes then what and what would be the framework for it

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