

### **PS43052T\_Unit -III\_Importance, Planning & Organization; Field trip and Excursion(B.Ed, Semester-III)**

Field trip is an educational procedure by which the learners obtain first hand information by observing places, objects, phenomena and processes in their natural setting. The word 'excursion' means a journey, trip, tour planned for social studies students in which the students actually visit places or site and has the first hand experience which excursion results in easy, interesting and effective learning. It provides ample opportunities to student for 'seeing' 'hearing' examining, gathering data, and asking questions, such excursion are most conducive to learning. Excursion method of teaching provides an opportunity to learners to visit different places across the world for their academic enhancement. Field trip, tour are the synonyms of excursion.

- Difference between excursion and field trip:

Excursion is defined as overnight stay either in-state or out-of-state. Field Trip - Classroom oriented co curricular learning experiences outside of the school campus that is no longer than one day called field trip.

- Characteristics of Educational Excursion and Field trips:

The following are the main characteristics of this technique of teaching:

- (i) It provides the real experiences and perception of learning.
- (ii) It is a psychological technique that involves more senses in learning situations.
- (iii) It makes history, geography, and other subjects more interesting and realistic.
- (iv) It provides freedom in learning or self-learning outside the classroom.
- (v) It provides first-hand information or knowledge about the teaching content and objects.
- (vi) It provides real experiences which are easily comprehended and retained for a longer time.
- (vii) It reduces the scope of rote memory and memorizes the social studies content.

- Field trip in history:

A trip by students to gain firsthand knowledge away from the classroom, as to a museum, factory, geological area, or environment of certain plants and animals. a trip by a scholar or researcher to gather data firsthand, as to a geological, archaeological, anthropological, or other site.

- Advantages and Disadvantages of Field trip and Excursion:

Field trips and excursion are a popular and well-established method of education. One of the advantages of field trips is these offer students the opportunity to learn about a subject in a more hands-on and immersive way than they can in the classroom. Educational excursions or tours are short trips by students, under the supervision of the school management. Students are taken to a place away from their usual routine environment.

The main aim of education is to impart knowledge. Imparting knowledge through a hands-on experience is one of the ways of making learning more interesting.

There are different methods through which schools and colleges try to deliver academic concepts. One of the most effective methods is by conducting educational tours.

Schools nowadays have made educational tours a part of their curriculum thereby making studying fascinating and engrossing.

The importance of educational excursions in schools is manifold. Here we have jotted down a comprehensive list of the benefits of school excursions. Though the list is not exhaustive, the key advantages are listed below.

**\*Importance of Excursions for Students -**

1. Practical Knowledge Is Better than Bookish Knowledge
2. Stress Buster
3. Educational tours build corporate attitudes amongst the students.
4. Interactive Sessions
5. Educational trips indirectly teach students discipline and control.
6. Added Information
7. More Memory Power Through Hands-On Experiences
8. Educational Excursions Make Students more Curious about the topic.
9. A Fun Time with Friends.
10. Two-Step Learning Process

**\*Disadvantages -**

However, field trips also have some potential drawbacks. For example, they can be expensive and logistically challenging to organize. Moreover, the ever-present risk that something will go wrong is also one of the disadvantages of field trip activities. But on balance, field trips can provide an invaluable educational experience for students of all ages. When used judiciously, they can help to bring the class material to life and foster a love of learning in even the most reluctant students.

- Importance of field trip and excursion in history teaching learning process:

Field trips provide alternative educational opportunities for children and can benefit the community if they include some type of community service. Field trips also provide students the opportunity to take a break from their normal routine and experience more hands-on learning to realise the past scenario of any historical situation and to relate the subject matter in present day context to understand the significance of the past event.

The field trips should be organized in such a way that the objectives of teaching-learning can be achieved. It should function as an effective technique for providing learning experiences or

real experiences outside the classroom. These should be planned and organized for achieving specific learning objectives.

The following five steps should be employed for organizing an effective field trip.

- (1) To prepare and motivate students for a field trip.
- (2) To organize field trips systematically.
- (3) Follow-up program should be used.
- (4) To test the students for which field trip will be organized.
- (5) To review the learning outcomes of the students.

- Conclusion

The outcome of an experience depends on a person's interests, motivation, life circumstances at that time, needs, and prior experiences and knowledge (Rennie, 2007). Field trips offer an opportunity to motivate and connect students to appreciate and understand classroom concepts, which increase a student's knowledge foundation, promoting further learning and higher level thinking strategies. With understanding comes confidence and intrinsic motivation.

A successful and quality field trip requires teacher preparation and interaction. Some factors should be addressed before the trip. The experience needs to be planned. The teacher should previsit the venue to meet the staff and arrange the activities, and then prepare the students by orienting them to the venue's layout, activities, and expectations. Student groupings should be set up prior to arrival at the venue. Chaperones need to be trained. The trip needs to connect to the curriculum, students should be actively engaged, and all students should be able to take part in the trip regardless of financial, physical or intellectual status. Teachers need to consider safety issues and should prepare to embrace the unexpected.

On the day of the field trip, the teacher may hand the program to the venue's staff, but the teacher should remain involved, participating with the activities and guiding students when necessary. Perhaps the teacher's most difficult task is to allow the students freedom to experience the activities. Back at the classroom, it is imperative that the teacher spend sufficient and quality time to reflect on the experiences and help students build connections to the curriculum concepts.

All aspects of the trip's success are directly or indirectly dependent on the teacher. Field trips have become less common due to limited funding and limited available time due to each school systems' focus on standardized testing. Non-traditional field trips are still quite possible. Campus field trips provide a cost-free alternative, while retaining the benefits of traditional field trips. Outside, students might explore around the school grounds, focused on a specific topic or concept. In the classroom, students might create their own classroom museum exhibits, or a local university or science museum might share mobile exhibits with the school. No matter whether the school is urban, suburban, or rural, ecology is everywhere. There is much to be learned from a vacant lot, the edge of a parking lot, a puddle, or a bush. Field trips can stimulate new learning, increased attitude towards science, trigger interest development, and provide many rewards to both the teacher and the students.

