

20. Use of Visual Aids

BVPT-104: English & Communication

Unit 5: Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

Topic: Use of Visual Aids - Enhancing Presentations with Appropriate Visuals

□ What Are Visual Aids?

Visual aids are tools that use images, graphics, or objects to support a speaker's message. They **enhance understanding, improve attention**, and make presentations **more memorable**.

For example:

- A **diagram of the human spine** while explaining postural alignment
- A **bar graph** showing muscle recovery rates
- A **video** of an exercise being performed correctly

□ Why Use Visual Aids?

Benefit	How It Helps
Improves clarity	Visuals make abstract or complex ideas easier to understand
Increases retention	People remember pictures and graphs more than plain words
Engages the audience	Keeps attention focused; breaks monotony of long speeches
Saves time	A single chart can explain what takes minutes to describe verbally
Supports different learners	Visual learners benefit from diagrams and images

□ Types of Visual Aids in Presentations

Type	Example Usage
PowerPoint Slides	Most common format - used to show key points, charts, and photos
Posters/Charts	Helpful in physical demonstrations or health awareness camps
Diagrams	E.g., Musculoskeletal anatomy, posture alignment visuals
Graphs & Tables	Show comparison data (like pain scores before/after therapy)
Videos	Demonstrate exercise technique, therapy session, or patient instructions
Props/Models	Using a joint model or elastic band during live demonstration
Whiteboard/Chalkboard	Draw during explanation; useful for live illustrations

□ Designing Effective PowerPoint Slides

Use the 6 x 6 Rule:

- No more than **6 words per bullet**
- No more than **6 bullets per slide**



Font:

- Use minimum **24-point** font for easy readability
- Prefer **Sans-serif** fonts (like Arial, Calibri)

Colors:

- High **contrast** (dark text on light background or vice versa)
- Use **2-3 colors** maximum per slide

Images:

- Choose **clear, relevant** images
- Avoid pixelated or distracting graphics
- Add **captions** where necessary

Charts/Graphs:

- Use **bar or pie charts** for comparison
- Keep **labels visible**
- Avoid overloading with data—keep it simple!

□ Best Practices When Using Visual Aids

Do's

Face the audience, not the screen
Explain the visual, don't just show
Use a **pointer** or laser for clarity
Test your visuals before presenting

Don'ts

Don't read the slide word-for-word
Don't overload slides with too much text
Avoid distracting transitions/animations
Don't rely on visuals if tech might fail

□ Example - For a Physiotherapy Presentation

Topic: Gait Analysis in Stroke Patients

Content

Suggested Visual Aid

Stages of gait cycle	Diagram of gait phases
Muscle activation during stance	Animated video or motion graph
Before-and-after treatment	Bar chart showing gait score improvement
Home exercise plan	Photos or video of exercise with labels

□ Tools You Can Use

- **Microsoft PowerPoint** or **Google Slides** – for slide-based presentations
- **Canva** – for easy infographics and posters
- **YouTube** or **custom videos** – for dynamic explanations
- **Models (bones/joints)** – in classroom or demo sessions
- **Laser pointer** or **touchscreen** – to highlight parts during live talks



□ Self-Check Questions

1. What is the ideal number of bullet points per slide to maintain audience attention?
 2. Why is it important to use contrasting colors in visuals?
 3. Name two visual aids you can use while demonstrating physiotherapy exercises.
 4. What should you **never do** when showing a PowerPoint slide?
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□ Key Takeaways

- Visual aids **support**, not **replace**, your speech—use them wisely.
 - Choose visuals that are **simple, clear, and directly related** to your topic.
 - Practice with your visuals to ensure smooth delivery and explanation.
 - Remember: A powerful image + clear words = unforgettable message!
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