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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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The Perceptions of Administrators and Teachers in Utilizing Information Technology in Instruction, Administrative Work, Technology Planning and Information Technology Staff Development in Saudi Arabia

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The purpose of the research is to study the perception of teachers and administrators toward information technology in female and male high schools in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The study is the first study to discuss information technology in female schools, as well as the aspects of information technology in school environment, including information technology planning, information technology in instruction, teachers' and administrators' knowledge and skills in information technology, information technology in administrative work, staff development, and philosophy and methods of teaching and learning. The study included 178 teachers and administrators.

A two-way multivariate analysis (MANOVA) was used to examine the hypotheses. The results of the hypotheses were no significant interaction, P>05. The mean of information technology in instruction was 1.91, and the mean of information technology plans was 2.03. Consequently, teachers and administrators asserted that information technology planning is important for schools and in instruction. They emphasized that information technology plans should be implemented in schools.

The participants preferred using the computer rather that the Internet in the classroom as they feared cultural contamination via Internet. The majority of the participants (62.4%) had not taken computer or Internet courses. Most of the participants (98.3%) asserted that staff development in information technology is strongly needed to improve their knowledge and skills.

The participants are weak in many application programs, such as PowerPoint and software tools that aid in developing a web page. Overall, the participants did not have useful knowledge and skills in information technology. Most of the participants (81.5%) identified themselves as behaviorists. However, more female teachers and administrators suggested implementation of the principles of the constructivism theory to improve teaching and learning. The study recommends the Ministry of Education to develop comprehensive staff development and information technology plans that would play vital roles in the infusion of information technology in school activities.