

IMPORTANCE AND OBSTACLES OF USING TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION AS PERCEIVED BY STUDENT TEACHERS AT NAJRAN UNIVERSITY

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***ABSTRACT_** The study aimed to identify how important it is for student teachers to use technology in education while practicing the teaching process at schools. It also aimed to identify the most important obstacles that hinder the effective use of technology means in education. Furthermore, it tried to explore to what extent these students suffer from this use. It also sought to detect whether there were statistically significant differences in participants' degree of suffering due to gender, specialization and academic level. The descriptive approach was adopted and the questionnaire was the study main instrument that was administered to (118) students. The most prominent findings showed that (70 %) of participants expressed their willingness to use technology in education while teaching. In addition, (86 %) believed that using technology in education was very important inside classroom. Findings also revealed that student teachers' degree of suffering while using technology was high. The most important obstacles were the fear and dread of using technology innovations in education, the lack of training programs specific for using technology in education, lack of ability to run educational devices, lack of a digital library and modern devices, and being not allowed to use school's computers. Results also showed that there was a significant difference between participants' responses regarding the obstacles of technology use in education due to specialization, whereas there were no significant differences due to gender and academic level.*

Key words: Technology, Technology in Education, student- teachers, Practicum.