THE PREFERRED LEARNING STYLES AMONG THE STUDENTS OF SAUDI UNIVERSITIES REALITY AND AMBITION

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ABSTRACT  This study seeks to explore the learning styles most preferred by Saudi University students. To achieve this goal, a sample has been chosen from students registered in courses offered by the Faculty of Education at the University of Hail through the cluster random method. To answer the study questions, the Index of learning styles (ILS) developed by Felder and Solomon was used. The results of the study show that the most preferred learning style among Saudi students is the visual-verbal style followed by the sensing-intuitive. The study also reveals that there are statistically significant differences (α≤0.05) for the visual-verbal style according to the students’ year of study (first, second, third or fourth) in favor of the first year, while there are no statistically significant differences in relation to gender. This study is important but limited in scope. Thus, the researchers recommend that there is a strong need for future studies that take samples from various Saudi universities to explore the relationship between the most preferred learning styles and the teaching strategies which lead to effective learning.

KEY WORDS: Learning styles, Felder and Solomon model.