Mission of Women in The Scope of E-government in Iraq

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E-government is a positive situation prevalent in most developed and developing countries in order to provide the best possible service to citizens and keep time and effort and reduce the waste of public money (Al-Dabbagh, 2011). Based on view of literature in some countries, problems faced in the establishment of e-government are located within the same geographic region surround Iraq as well as countries from other spot in the world.

In light of the lack of studies on women's participation in information and communication technology in the world and especially in the Arab region and highlights so clearly in Iraq, which generates our idea of the rareness of women's participation according to (Reade-Fong and Gorman, 2005) "while new information technology has given women the opportunity to share information and interact on a scale that was hard to imagine, in terms of political, economic and social participation, women's worldwide presence in information technology remains low".

Keywords: e-government; technology; country; information; women

Introduction

E-government indicate to use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in term of provide better communication between the government and its employees, citizens, business, non-profit partners and other agencies by developing access and delivery of government information and services (Durickovic & Kovacevic, 2011). Information Communication Technology has become the infrastructure of modern society (M. M. F. Khasawneh and H. B. H. Ibrahim, 2008). ICT drive economy, reduce efforts, help human rights, and it is the bridge from the current situation to the case of the best. In fact ICT simulate every part in contemporary life starting from health care to education, employment, and social connections.

In our society at the present time ICT is the most effective tool in the hands of citizen specially the women to enabling them to extend their participation in a variety of productive fields and providing them with an avenue to express the development of their personalities and capacities (Huyer & Sikoska, 2003).

50% of the world's population is female, and they are playing an increasingly significant role as economic drivers. According to Ernst & Young, through future several years, the effect of women on the universal economy, as producers, entrepreneurs, employees and consumers, will be at least as important as that of China's or India's one billion plus populations, if not greater. Women's sheer economic influence, coupled with the fact that an estimated 9 out of 10 future jobs will require ICT skills According to (The European Network for Women in Leadership [WIL], 2013).

Background

In June 2004 - The United Nations appealed to the international community to help the new Iraqi government in order to create the foundations of e-government, therefore Iraqi government signed with the Italian government memorandum of understanding to develop this sector, by the Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology and Italian Ministry of Innovation and Technology, therefore provided financial and technical support for the establishment of an internal network to connect Iraqi ministries with each other (Al-Dabbagh, 2011).

After 2008 few Iraqi ministries starting using some of e-government signs such as Ministry of Interior (MOI) and Ministry of municipalities and Public Works (MMPW). To be more detailed, (MOI) provided a passports

system and driver licenses, as well as (MMPW) provided Human resources System. As well as the state Ministry for Women Affairs (www.smwa.gov.iq) has an active role in Iraqi society in stimulating the participation of women in government sectors and civil society organizations and ICT.

Also the women reached the centers of decision-making and to the summit of Iraq's political, such as the position of Member of Parliament, furthermore representation of women in government sectors (parliament and local governments) are by no less than 25% after 2005, according to the Iraqi constitution (UN Iraq, 2013). In light of all this still features the participation of Iraqi women in the establishment of e-government is blurry vision.

Problem Statement

Most Arab countries except Iraq and Libya have a clear strategy for the establishment of e-government (El Gody, 2003).

We noticed from researched and published studies on women's participation in e-government in general around the world there are weakness and lack of clarity about the participation rates of women in this area, and this case applies to Iraq more clearly and more severe because of the bad conditions of security and political in Iraq, and the high cost of access to ICT, due to the obstacles different in Iraq, making difficult the participation of women and lack of clarity of her real role in establishment of e-government, despite her arrival to the decision-making centers.

Research Question:
        What is the role of women in construction E-government in Iraq?

Literature Review

In developing countries, usually there are no accurate statistics show women's participation in information and communication technology, but there are studies conducted in developed countries suggest good ratios on the turnout of women in the use of information and communication technology, according to (Sandy's (2005)) found some disparities in some countries like China and Nigeria. The study found China as one of the few countries that collect gender specific ICT statistics. It also discovered that in

these countries, including Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Hong Kong, Thailand and the United States, the percentage of female Internet users as a percentage of total Internet users is 45% or more. On the other hand, in most African countries, like Nigeria, where such data is not collected by official statistics sources, estimates of female Internet use as a percentage of total use are 25% or less.

For India turnout, even few women but it is considered a good rate compared to other developing countries which 21% of the total workforce in the field of ICT which is higher than the rate of women's participation in the national economy of India which 13% (NASSCOM, 2005). It is clear from this that ease of participation of women in the field ICT, bigger than the rest of the governmental and non-governmental organizations, and women's participation in computer technology industry and teleworking in Malaysia and India (Gothoskar, 2000; Kelkar, 2002; Mitter and Sen, 2000; Ng, 2001) showed that it led to an increase in family income and the overall situation has improved.

Despite progress in many areas of the Arab countries are still women lag behind men in the field of information technology and this creates a digital divide between genders, while that the participation rate of women up to 4% of Internet users in the Arab countries and this percentage represents the lowest rates in the world in terms of ratio.

Except Gulf states, most Arab countries suffer from lack of Internet users, while Oman is less gulf countries using the Internet, women are at risk of marginalized from information technology society by male domination on this sector that lead to unequal opportunities to get training, high internet connectivity cost (Elnaggar, A. ,2007).

The objectives

The main purpose of this study is to determine the role of women in e-government in Iraq, and the proportion of their actual contribution in activation of the work of the E-government and to clarify the blurred vision about the role of women in information and communication technology and use it in their daily lives.

Expected deliverables

In this study we will try to prove that determine of expected obstacles such as the elimination of administrative corruption and the creation of infrastructure and preparing efficient cadres to work on the applications of e-government and enact laws on legislation work of the E-government through our hypothesis using a questionnaire to prove the results of this hypothesis that contribute to establishment integrated and effective E-government.

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