

**The Impact of information Technologies on the Persian Gulf  
Region: Peaceful or Agonal Dialogue**

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**Abstract**

Globalization is a complex phenomenon that brings a new form of social relations while at the same time causing its own limitations. Although the west is the major beneficiary of information technologies of globalization, it seems that the majority of people in different parts of the world, especially in the Persian Gulf, have not benefited in spite of numerous development programs and international human rights instrument and increasing concern about the raise of possibility of fair coexistence on the national and trans-national levels.

This limitation is basically the result of the uneven distribution of information technologies and unequal social relations between governments of the region on one side, and governments and the people on the other.

By consideration of the new premises of globalization under the information technologies and taking into account that the potential of technology increases the potential for dialogue, this paper tries to answer the following question: to what extent can we expect the possibility of establishing a fair dialogue in the Persian Gulf on the basis of mutual understanding?

The intention of this paper is to examine the effect of information technologies on the cultural dialogues in the Persian Gulf region within the context of globalization.

**Key words:** Information technology; globalization; Persian Gulf, cross-cultural dialogue

### **Introduction**

Humanity enters the 21st century having achieved tremendous and comprehensive progress in its technological and scientific capabilities. Information technology by creating a virtual and digital environment has created a compact world which affects the different aspects of individual and social life. Meanwhile, the political, economical and cultural effects have received significant importance. The rapid development in communication arena, has made the world unprecedented compact and small. What flows in this massive communication networks, is the wide range of information which has been raised during last two decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century. This compact and massive volume of producing, distributing and consuming information has changed the current world to an information oriented world.

Change is occurring in nearly every area of human existence and affecting the underlying structure of most types of organizations. But such vast potential for productive capabilities have not been transformed into factors of improvement of the Socio-Political conditions people in Persian Gulf countries in various sectors. Most of the governments in the region are wrestling with their particular direction in this era of Globalization.

Although technical change in general and information technology in particular, are now widely accepted as being important determinants of peaceful and fair coexistence within particular countries, their effects on the cross-cultural dialogue in the Persian Gulf have yet to be analyzed.

In attempting this task, our goal is not at all, to conclude that technology is the sole influence over the patterns of regional integration. Our argument is rather, that if Gulf countries are to exploit the advantages afforded by information technology for integrating themselves more fully into the characteristics and the resulting impulses that it is likely to propagate.

Stunning developments and the variable and extensive evolutions in communications and the emergence of cyberspace, have brought a massive change in international discourse produced in the international arena. Analyzing the dialogue generated in

international organizations such as UNESCO obviously shows these changes (Unesco,2005).

Thus, while we fully acknowledge the wide range of influences –sociological, political and economic of information technology, we also feel that there is something to be gained by simplifying this hugely complex pattern of relationships and focusing instead on a narrower and comparatively neglected set of issues that will be of considerable relevance to politicians and other officials in the Persian Gulf countries which are entrusted with the formulation of policy towards information technology. Indeed, we argue that why the Persian Gulf countries, have not been successful in exploiting the advantages of information technologies.

While recognizing the importance of a wide range of influences on current patterns of globalization, this paper focuses on the Persian Gulf countries and role played by information technologies on cross-cultural Dialogue.

The question the present paper seeks to answer is: what are the effects of the information technology on the status and possibility of dialogue between cultures of the Persian Gulf countries. Do these technologies provide a suitable base for interactions of these cultures in globalization era? or disrupt and restrict these discourses?

This paper does not deny the positive effects of information technology believing that the information technology has provided many facilities for such discourses. The main emphasize of this study is mostly the restricting effects of information technology on Persian Gulf region .This paper claims that although cyberspace is a wide virtual public sphere that rises socialization and coexistence, but some of these specifications restrict and alter the dialogue between cultures in Persian Gulf region.

To enter the subject, it is necessary , to define the key concepts presented in the hypothesis before considering the relation between information technology and cultural dialogue in Persian Gulf region.

### **Globalization, Dialogue and Information Technology**

We can say that the “Second Era of Globalization,” begun from 1990, featuring the technological revolution and the end of the Cold War, integrated greater technology and faster communication.

The terms Globalization and the information technology have become prevalent in academia, business circles, and even in the popular media (Harvey, 2001). However, they are often ill defined and may evoke quite different images. Thus, it is important to start by discussing definitions of Globalization and the information technology, as well as Dialogue to help clarify understanding of the issues and use of the terms.

### **Globalization**

Despite the widespread use of the word Globalization in more than one last decade, its meaning and concept is still controversial depending on what angle you approach it and it has different meaning and concept depends on the attitude by which it has been defined (Scholte, 2005). As a result of these disagreements, some of the societies and individuals regard the globalization as a totally positive phenomenon that includes many opportunities for societies, while a group of communities and individuals concern it as a negative phenomenon which is designed by power seizers for their own benefits.

Regardless of the disagreement, globalization is a pluralistic and multi dimensional phenomenon. This concept is perhaps emphasizing on the economic dimensions (Legrain,, 2002). In economic arena, the discussions are mostly concentrated on globalization effects such as increasing trade of goods and services, movements of human resources, developing investments transfers, strengthening the influence of multinational corporations and international organizations,, the impact of technology and increasing interdependence in international system .

Globalization has also generated an important evolution in political field (Held, McGrew, Goldblatt, and Perraton ,1999). Traditionally, each country's policies has been designed in the framework of its domestic political systems and national governments have the ultimate responsibility to maintain the security and prosperity of the citizens and protection of human rights and the environment within their boundaries. The changes resulting from globalization process have made the national political decisions somehow closer to the functioning of the international system and made the role of the

international organizations and institutions so important that in somehow has led to the erosion of national sovereignty .

Today the cultural dimension of globalization is also very important. Technological innovation in the cultural field, such as Internet, fax, satellite televisions and cable network and the emergence of global media has led to cultural boundaries to be inundated (Held , McGrew, Goldblatt, and Perraton ,1999).

Science, wisdom and morality are three concepts that can make a suitable base for globalization. These three concepts can be named as main components of the globalization. Since these three concepts have world-wide subjective and confirmable sources, they are actually considered as three sides are cultural globalization.. It means that scientific, wisdom and moral concepts are not restricted to historical and geographical factors due to their consist on natural, global and inborn principles. Hence ,being native and non-native, traditional and modern, eastern or western and ... about these three concepts has no relevance.

Nurturing these three domains in cultural discourse of the world-wide people and propelling and adapting the politicians and decision-makers with this discourse in an optimum conditions can be a way to advance the globalization process where , all the countries , first of all, be able to have an active presence and participation. secondly a coordinated structures be generated without eliminating variable diversities in ethnic, racial, national, lingual, religious and, ... domains. Thirdly, the economically weak countries not only do not get weaker in this structure but also believe that their improvements will be reached through interactions with this new construction. Some experts believe that globalization can be usefully conceived as a process that can be divided up into four types of change (Held , McGrew, Goldblatt, and Perraton ,2002).

In domestic sphere, software movement and science generating perhaps can make the Persian Gulf region a pioneer in formation of this global society relying on moral instructions and developing the subjective and practical wisdom in all social areas.

### **Dialogue of Civilizations**

Today, every nation is affected by the ever boosting information technology. Due to the steadily growing information, the world is entering into new phenomena in the new form of competition supported by modern information and communication infrastructure. Technological advances are rapidly blurring traditional boundaries and enabling global interaction. Nations need to adopt the new technology in which the communication and trading could be easily accessible. With the rapid growth of distributed information technology, development of mechanisms to interconnect the nations becomes necessary. In the Persian Gulf, dialogue is the best means to reach this aim.

Every culture, irrespective of being small or big serves as a bridge between others and as an instrument of interaction which is humanly universal. Dialogue in Information Age in the sphere of Globalization is based on the premise that globalization can be shaped into a direction that promotes peace, democracy and social justice. It addresses. Politicians, government officials as well as civil society. However, the impact of the information technology on dialogue is still unclear. Some experts argue that technological change drives cooperative growth through a process of creative Dialogue. But at the same time, some critics argue that it destroys the feasibility of earlier ones. Thus any impact dialogue is dependent on the nature of the issue, and the extent of it.

Nevertheless, dialogue helps foster relationships at the Political level, which is the key factor in encouraging information exchange. It also helps personal relationships - getting people in the room to work together and get to know one another on the human level. It also helps people to get trained in secure methods of data exchange.

Dialogue of civilizations can be considered as an general debate at the international level which is open for everyone to attends. This debate can be about any subject provided that it results in a mutual understanding and ends to an agreement based on the consensus. Dialogue provides an ample ground for different human societies with different cultures, civilizations and views to get familiar with each other and help each other to evolve, and grow Dialogue may bring our views closer, rise our common points and clarify our conflicts .It helps us to find out the common and conflict points. Culture and civilization have a mutual effect on each other and the culture is concerned as a

bedrock of civilization. In this mutual effect, if the technology development is considered as a civilization evidence, we will find that this device, with the arrival of it in other countries, in addition to material aspect, has inevitably an effect on their native culture.

Different societies are always affected by cultural and civilization processes. The culture and civilization are also influenced by historical and social functions in their long history. So any social change and mobility including exchange and interactions of cultures will be fulfilled by civilization and cultural processes. Each civilization during its flourishing, gradually creates major cultural, political, social, economic and scientific organizations institutions.

So the culture and civilization are intertwined and as such, due to the new developments some kind of partial disparity in their prosperity has emerged bringing a gap between them. Consequently, for solving the problems resulting from global civilization, there is no way other than taking the advantage of constructive values of cultures. Therefore when we discuss the dialogue of civilization, self-analyses and self examining are the first step of this discourse.

Essential provisions of Dialogue in the Persian Gulf:

The most important provisions for Dialogue are:

- 1- preparedness,
- 2- desire and interaction,
- 3- defining the nature, purpose, subject and logic of dialogue of culture and civilization,
- 4- accurate recognition of common characteristics, differences and the strengths and weaknesses of the culture of the parties,
- 5- Presence of qualified individuals representing their intellectual and cultural bases,
- 6- obtaining truthfulness of the parties,
- 7- avoiding politicization of issues to be discussed in order to facilitate constructive dialogue,
- 8- move based on principles of consensus; dialogue must work respecting the understood principles,

- 9- Having practical or intellectual effect. Dialogue shall have a practical or intellectual effect .There is no meaning for discourse about unreal assumptions,
- 10- avoiding of frightening and making a fearful condition.

### **Information technology**

Information is a non-rival good. This means that it can be distributed infinitely without diminishing in any way the original value. Information, unlike most tangible goods can be processed by more than one person at the same time. Moreover, when information is communicated from one party to another, the transferor only loses possession to the receiver by operation of law. It is also clear the property concept of physical possession has little application to information. This lack of absolute possession underlines the essential characteristic that information is global. Communication technology and electronic networks enable instantaneous transfers of information across national borders. Therefore, the use, creation and processing of information can be accomplished in several countries simultaneously. More and more companies regard the world as their marketplaces.

The information technology refers to technologies that provide necessary facilities for gathering, accumulating, processing and distribution of information. The stimulus of this technology is computer and telecommunications. Basically, the computers accumulate and process the information and the telecommunications make distribution of these information possible in a large scale. Information technology includes four basic factors , namely, human, mechanism, tools, structure through which the information flows via a valuable chain of these factors and always consider the development and rising of organization. Recently the digital information and new shape of information technology has attracted the attention of our community. There are many significant developments in the last three decades in the world .Most of these evolutions were affected by information technology. Since all the sciences and technologies are dealing with information, everyone concerning the information from her/his point of view.

The process of globalization is simultaneously driven and facilitated by radical new developments in information technologies. The new technologies are not being developed coincidentally at this particular period in history. In fact, they are the result of a significant increase in investment in research and development of new information and communications technologies and in the sciences that support them.



Information phenomenon is fully inclusive and accessible in different dimensions and levels that were not imaginable in the past. There is no escape from the need for endless information that we can not imagine an end for this phenomenon and no stop for its growth. With population growth and complication of human societies, information production and human being needs to information also raised. By reaching new devices for transferring the information, new shapes of information developed that could be transferred. Respectively, demand for information raised which demanded other means of transformation of information. Thus, the behavior related to information production and information needs will also require new approaches (Ingold, 1996). The new technology increased significantly the effect of information on the human life. Discovering new ways to store and retrieve information, resulted in new methods for obtaining information. These new potentials of controlling information helped to increase information. These new capabilities to increase the possibility of transferring and using more information raised the assumption of more need for information. This excitement penetrated not only in business world and society, but also in academic society in which the scholars of computer sciences, cognitive sciences, and social sciences are thinking of information and social impacts of information technology with new methods. This context put a new challenge in front of the information science.

### **Information Technology Impacts**

We need technology information to lead to globalization Dialogue in the Persian Gulf to reframe the disputes in shared rather than adversarial terms. Rather than initiating a conversation, the peaceful approach should invite participants to collectively establish these boundaries through dialogue. Decision maker are invited to act as the dialogue facilitators through necessary and appropriate means.

#### **A. Information Technology to Promote Regional Dialogue**

The conditions and factors of development are unevenly distributed in the Persian Gulf, which makes the achievement of development conditioned by various missing forms of integration. The intra-regional relations are very low in contrast with relations of Gulf countries with other regions especially with the developed Western countries. Also, the political relations between the Persian Gulf countries are experiencing a lot of tensions, divisions and separations, which makes the potential for real integration very difficult.

Other characteristic has to do with the fact of the plurality of the Gulf States and the existence of huge differences among them. If development under current conditions require large economic structures and wide markets, most the Persian Gulf countries do not have the necessary conditions to engage in a successful developmental process if they are left alone, but they collectively possess many factors to allow the process of development to succeed. Some states have enormous oil wealth, but they lack population. Other states are large, have great agricultural capabilities, but they lack capital. Others yet, small and medium sized that might have human resources, economic experience but lack other elements.

Unless Persian Gulf countries become full actors in the global information revolution, the gap between them will widen, opening the possibility to increased misunderstanding (Dutta, El-Hage, Sobbagh, and Tarazi,, 2002) The gap will increase the likelihood of cultural, religious and tribal ghettos leading to regional and international conflicts.

#### **B. Information Technology to Promote National Dialogue**

Communications are built mainly on power and trust. The experience of living together in a globalized world, armed with new technologies, has brought a new scenario of 'haves' and 'have nots' in a digital divide. It is, therefore, necessary to give a clear expression not only to the rights of individuals but also to the duties of all and the obligations of State and international forums, so as to lead to a 'holistic' understanding of the information Society as such.

In contemporary societies, we need space to exercise our basic human right to imperfection. Large-scale centralized systems, as visualized in an analogy of 'global village', require rationalization and efficiency. The all embracing *nature* of communication may seem abstract and timeless and applicable in all cultures and all social systems. But communication in everyday reality cannot work in isolation, it is dependent upon the social conditions which determine the limits of what communication has the potential to be. In this situation, information technology can be considered as a universal means.

The world at large has become more conscious of the issues concerning communication technology, information explosion, and so on. With the spread of technological mediation in everyday communications depriving individuals from one's own primary,

personal, practical experience, one loses the self-reflecting processes of checks and balances, threatening the society as a community of communicating individuals which could ultimately lead to the denial of 'true' community. Accessibility of users to information technology i.e. the possessions of a means of communication and the content can lead to exploitation of people by the government.

How to counter the apparent domination trend of Political elite-accessibility at the mass level? The question that needs to be projected is how to generate necessary competence in the individual to withstand the pressures of media in the hand the Gulf governments. In other word, how the individual can be the real master of the new vistas opening up through the intensive use of technology in communication. The transcending interests of human kind require developing infrastructures and frameworks for a dialogue among cross-sections of the society so as to ensure appropriate/ desirable expansion of new communication technologies.

Information technology can be an instrument of power, a revolutionary weapon, a commercial product or a means of education; it can serve the ends of either liberation or of oppression, of either the growth of individual personality or drilling human beings into uniformity (Straub, Loch, and Hill. 2001).

In Persian Gulf region, while the governments are allowing individual, local entrepreneurs and non governmental organizations to "fast forward" into the information future but it is not more than a pretension since in reality the governments stand in the way of reform .

On the other hand, equity and freedom of speech and information may be considered to be basic rights in western society, but this is not the case the Persian Gulf, in which Islam plays a major role. What will happen to these cultures once they are exposed to the diverse and abundant information available on the Internet?

Most of the governments on the region feel that their sovereignty is threatened by the global information infrastructure. When information communication flow freely across national borders, the governments find it to enforce the law, and think that their sovereignty may be greatly reduced. On the other hand, many people in the region are sceptical about the ability of nations to survive the challenges that their governments represent.

The growth of economic and political power of the Persian Gulf states on the information infrastructures are so great that it impacts on the privacy of individuals to a great extent. The challenge for governments is to impose controls in support of their interests without equity of access to information to the individuals.

In a society that claims to offer equality of opportunity, there is a need for equity of access to information, and hence to the infrastructure whereby information is accessed. Now a day, the world-wide webs are accessible for relatively low costs. But the question arises here is that whether a form of 'universal service' emerged in the region which everyone enjoyed? Not only it did not emerge in the Persian Gulf countries but the critical aspects of the information infrastructure are restricted to the people.

The information gathered and made available by governments only to punish people having different ideas and requesting their rights. The information infrastructure comprises many components, including national capacity in using sites. The communications protocols need to respect a sufficiently common set of sufficiently advanced standards and protocols that inter-operability can be achieved but in the region the scheme is intrinsically governmental rather than just national. Concerns also arise about the impact of technology information on individual rights. The laws do not protect national consumer in the area defined by the governments.

#### **Inefficiency of Information technology in making and strengthening Dialogue**

As mentioned before, there are many reasons for inefficiency of information technology in the Persian Gulf region. Limitation of Information Technology on the Persian Gulf can be explained as bellow:

There are two sets of factors causing inefficiency of the information technology on dialogue between cultures in the region. The first are prerequisites of dialogue in information technology sphere and the second relates to the process of dialogue in this region.

**I- Lack the necessary prerequisites for dialogue:**

The first prerequisite for dialogue is equal presence of cultures in public sphere but the existing cultures do not have an equal presence in cyberspace (Kitchin , 2000). Thus some of the culture are being heard and some of them are not. This limitation is due to two main reasons:

A- lack of necessary means and facilities: To enter into the public sphere, the advanced tools and facilities are required. Practically, these facilities and tools are not fairly and equally distributed among the countries and based on political, geographical, classes and gender disparities at national, regional and global levels, they do not possess equal facilities and tools to enter the public sphere. Inaccessibility to the necessary tools not only prevent their effective presence on discourse but also puts a negative effect on the negotiation process providing more positive presence for the countries with advanced tools and facilities in cyberspace. This issue lessens or vanishes other cultures. The distribution of this disparity is very complicated but in general, this disparity is based on geographical, gender, political, economic and cultural fraction helping advanced and wealthy countries to play a decisive role to enter this CYBERSPACE since access to this sphere depends completely on more advanced means and facilities.

B- Conversance of entering the cyberspace: if we assume that everyone is able to enter that the cyberspace with the assumption of equal distribution, the skills for using this sphere is very essential. In globalization era, the skills of using virtual public sphere is unequally distributed leading to unequal presence. This issue will have a negative effect on the presence of the cultures in this sphere making the cultural dialogue impossible. Enjoying information technology requires some specifications such as language and trainings for entering the cyberspace. In technology arena these skills are specially surrounded by western countries due to ability of producing the tools. As a result, the domination of western culture is more considerable and observable disseminating the western culture over other cultures (Wheeler ,2001).Therefore the equal access of different cultures including Persian Gulf countries to the cyberspace is being limited.

**II- Limitations on the process of dialogue:**

The second limitation is referred to the process of dialogue encompassing the following factors:

- A- Wide range: (infinite cultural variety): the cyberspace covers various forms of cultural elements due to information and communication technology. This does not mean that all cultures have the same effect in this sphere but includes infinite cultural variety. The cultural diversity requires the ability of processing the information to enter the diverse field. This issue creates a mutual problem. On one hand, the problems of information processing will cause problem in reaching people to the new and diverse cultural sphere. On the other hand, with the assumption of solving this problem, approaching the new and various sphere, will cause different clashes with different culture. To avoid these clashes, people usually enter to that spheres which are closer to theirs. Therefore a suitable base for cultural discourse will not be provided.
  
- B- The speed and coincidence of information: A dialogue means talking and listening. Dialogue requires an appropriate ground for exchange of the cultural signs, critical review of cultural variables and thinking of these signs. In this atmosphere, there is a possibility of exchanging different cultures in dialogue arena. But in digital space, the communication is established rapidly and simultaneously. In such a environment, the reaction is also rapid and simultaneous, and the chance of thinking and critical review is replaced by urgency in which the cultural signs are not transferred completely. This issue does not provide an appropriate atmosphere for dialogue and , therefore. does not finally result in cultural exchange compromise.
  
- C- Unlimited freedom: freedom is the necessary provision for any healthy and positive discourse. It means that people with different cultures should have the opportunity to talk freely. But in digital space, due to speed and concurrency , the freedom changes to a unfettered and unbridled freedom and therefore exit from its moral meaning. The most important outcome of unfettered freedom is absence of responsibility. Due to the wide range of virtual public sphere, individuals can use information technology,

performing their intentions and purposes without tracing of their symptom, in a manner unknown from any responsibility. Accordingly, based on this issue, the virtual public sphere will be changed to an area for extravagant demands without any cultural interchanges. Vice versa, instead of a dialogue, one sided demands will be expressed even by sacrificing the value of freedom . In such an atmosphere, abusing of freedom for imposing the demands and intentions blocks the way of dialogue.

### **Causes of Ineffectiveness of Information Technology in the Persian Gulf**

There are some key limitations in considering Information technology 's effect on Dialogue in the Persian Gulf. The first is that its approach is too broad in scope and highly interdisciplinary. It covers a lot of material and includes work in the disciplines of economics, history, sociology, political science, education and international relations. The second major limitation is that it is addressed more to the people than government. Many analysts also lament the problems of the inequality being generated by Globalization and the information technology.

Generally, Information technology has not been successful in bringing dialogue in the Persian Gulf. some of the causes can be summarized as follow:

1. Most of the Persian Gulf countries are the oil-rentier states having tremendous oil wealth, thus depending primarily as rentier states on oil. In the last decades the Persian Gulf has experienced an increase in the role of the state in the economy. Economic globalization decreased the role of the state, as for the oil-rentier states it suffered from a sharp drop in the oil prices resulted in budget deficits and therefore a decrease in its ability to redistribute the surplus rent to many groups in society. .This inevitably weakened the governments to provide protection to many segments of society, especially with the high population growth of some Arab world. That negatively affected the human development record especially social development in the region. The more the oil-rentier states suffered from decrease in the oil prices, they become more authoritarian using gun to react the internal demands(Dunning,, 2005) The gap between the governments and people were not filled by "dialogue" but the "Bullet".

2. Corruption is another field that leads to the hegemony of the Gulf government over information technology and vanishing of dialogue. The severe centralization of the state

and its institutions along with the backwardness of the administration, and the wide spread of corruption is linked with the wide spread of corruption. In the Arab world this issue is associated with the continuous use of the state by the ruling elite as basic means in political mobilization and the reproduction of power. Such practices decrease the state as a reflection of the public good and increase the rentier functions politically and economically (Brocard and Vallet, 2006). This characteristic makes corruption a very peculiar case in the Persian Gulf. The absence of an efficient public administration capable of implementing public policies and managing development not only hinders development but leads to the loss of efforts to cover the heavy cost of waste and corruption. Corruption is not a safe place for "dialogue".

3- The main characteristic of Persian Gulf countries is the absence of the 'rule of law' known as the lack of democracy. Most of the states, particularly Arab states, share the elements of the absence of the principle of alteration of power, lack of political participation, the hegemony of the state as authoritarian machinery, disrespect of human and minority rights (Barakat, 1993). In spite of some gesture in political liberalization in Persian Gulf countries since the late 1980's, the intensity of political and social polarization increased threatening these states with civil wars and social disintegration especially with the increase growth of extreme violent and intolerant tendencies. This limited political opening is not more than an attempt to manage the crisis by the existing regimes and it is revocable as the phenomena of personification of authority, weak democratic and civic culture, and weak social and capable forces to support the democratic process.

Therefore, lack of democracy becomes an essential obstacle to the development in the Persian Gulf countries strongly producing irrational policies and deficiencies in the allocation of resources. The problem becomes more severe when the hegemony of the state over social life and civil society organizations forbids the free access of individuals to the information irrespective of their human rights. The exploitation of technologies by the government and having more access to the information, enables these governments to react to the rational demands irrationally mainly by force. There happens a dialogue not between the governments and the people but between "tongue" and "bullet".

4- About two thirds of the oil reserve in the world lies in the Persian Gulf which plays a significant role in the economic growth in the Persian Gulf countries. As a result of the



oil wealth there developed an accumulated monetary wealth in the Persian Gulf States especially after the increase of the oil prices in 1973, most of which has gone to finance security systems and purchasing of weapons. This tendency has increased the dangers of governments' intention to regain control over the people on one side and to compete for their supremacy in the region, on the other. This attitude has left no place for "dialogue".

5- The strategic location of the Persian Gulf and the long historical conflict of Gulf countries with the Zionist have affected the Gulf countries as it forced them to follow a pattern of militarization. Being unable to defend themselves, most of the Arab countries aim at the restructuring of the region in accordance with international balance of forces. Their integration in the new international order has intensified their dependency and increased the domination of the imperialist powers over their nationality to that extent that they have forgotten to dialogue with their neighboring countries in the region.

6- Principle of equality is one of the important bases of democracy and development. Although the principle of equality between men and women does not contradict the Islamic values, there are different problems that hinder the integration of women in society and their active participation in development in Arab world resulting different forms of discrimination against women, legally and practically (Rights & Reality, 2007). Therefore, almost half of the population are omitted from functioning in the system. An effective Political system is considered as a set of interconnected nodes in which relationships between them are asymmetrical, but they are all necessary for the functioning of the system. In a discriminated societies, there will not be a true dialogue.

Information technology, therefore, has not created a true environment in the globalization era for dialogue in the Persian Gulf. For the circulation of information technology those who remain inside have the opportunity to share and, over time, to increase their chances. Those who drop out, or become switched off, will see their chances vanish.

### **Dealing with the Problems**

Digital technologies are much more complex, and their impacts more profound it is not clear how governments need to take to protect their interests by taking the rights of

their civilians into consideration since the technology information is having its major impact on the larger communities to which people belong. If uncertainty exists, doubt arises as to whether governments can enforce contracts, and gain judgments against opposites. To have people as their main supporters, governments of the Persian Gulf need better interaction. This interaction takes place in the form of dialogue in order to ensure:

1-cultural integrity, and

2-national sovereignty.

It is urgently necessary to use information and communication technologies to empower humankind. The reintegration of social development and economic growth in the information age will require massive technological upgrading of countries around the world. It will take a dramatic investment in overhauling the educational system everywhere.

Interactive technologies, equipped with the advanced techniques connectivity and synchronization, could sustain and promote a sense of diasporic solidarity among the scattered groups across states and nations. The transition of the technology to one based on knowledge and information presents numerous opportunities for the Persian Gulf countries that are willing to address them strategically. These countries can move to strategically develop competitive advantages within this new era of globalization, based on their own specific histories and material conditions.

To have a true dialogue in the information technology arena, it is necessary to establish a development plan in the Persian Gulf having the following characteristics:

- 1- Access to information: The main characteristic of development is to improve the quality of life in the country. Indicators of success depend on the ability to increase the standards of living, accelerating social development, and stabilizing the legal and political system. A related need is means of ensuring that access to information is equitable, such that everyone has an opportunity to gather the knowledge and develop the skills needed to gain its aims.
- 2- Democratization of political system: The democratization of political life at the state and society level is a fundamental base for development(Wheeler, 2006),

This development is not only necessary to increase the popular participation but to enhance the political legitimacy of the regime too. The concept of participation takes more important dimensions in the sphere of social development as decentralization play a significant role in providing more efficient services and effective participation in development. The higher the level of participation of citizens in the decision making policies, the higher the legitimacy of the political system and the more stable it is.

- 3- Unitary Policy: To have development Plan, one should have one possible definition of development (Inayatullah, 1967). The developmental option must be a Persian Gulf integrative option that can efficiently use the available resources in an incorporated manner as opposed to the current divisions that cannot respond to the developmental needs.
- 4- Redefinition of the role of the state: It is necessary to redefine the role of state in the Persian Gulf in implementing social and economic policies to tackle poverty, and to manage food security and unemployment. The policy based on the participation of civil society enables the state to play an efficient, rational and economic role in providing the basic social services. Imposed, top-down development project are likely to fall because they do not command the enthusiastic support of the population (Sparks, 2007). self-reliance to satisfy local needs: By the help of development of research, decrease of dependency in essential needs by replacing the partial economic options with collaborative policies, integrating industrial development with a qualitative improvement in the conditions of the agriculture . Many western countries are now facing internal problems since Globalization has already wiped out much of the Western countries (Globalization, 2010).

### **Conclusion**

With all inhibiting factors, Information technology, if we like it or not, would be the rule of the 21st century and dialogue is the means of interaction. The rapidly growing information is affecting every country in the world, where Persian Gulf is not an exception. Globalization of Information technology has made the world smaller and opaque through digital and virtual reality of cyberspace. It is this technology that is revolting the verge of this millennium. Those who have the power to control information technology are those who are winning the race.

Given the richness of the Persian Gulf, this region will have the opportunity to participate in regional value, to increase their interests as well, beyond their national borders. It has not happened so far. In the Persian Gulf, it is government that has monopolized the information. Information technology has empowered only the Governments of the region to control their society by restricting the individuals generally and intellectuals in particular. Information Technology in the globalization era has not provided any dialogue in the region:

- a- The countries of Persian Gulf region did not benefit from the information technology in making and improving the dialogue in the region.
- b- The information technology have not provided an appropriate space for dialogue between the governments of Persian Gulf countries.
- c- the information technology has restricted and limited the discourse between nations and governments of Persian Gulf countries.

Considering the accelerated evolution of globalization era, particularly technological developments in information and communication, there is a possibility for establishing digital community at national and transnational levels. These digital community -such as internet Web logs- are a kind of digital para-civilization or infra-civilization societies which are capable of disrupting the as well as enriching the discourse. In an atmosphere that all nation-state are trying to obtain better position for existence and survival in future world, the governments of Persian Gulf region must try to avoid uni-mental understanding of their own cultural context and modify themselves multi-mental, based on the most variable semantic domains defined in their tradition. This policy undoubtedly requires restructuring of the political constructions in the Persian Gulf countries because relying on the variety of cultural patterns demands multi-mental models that legitimize the political structures. These are a set of the united necessities that are more understandable in discourse outlook. Any discourse between the Persian Gulf countries that aims to be monaural and tends to suppress the other informal voices, will not be a peaceful discourse but typically an polemical dialogue on national interests.

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