

TO WHAT EXTENT CAN ELECTRONIC PARLIAMENT BE APPLIED IN JORDAN

Victor Setrag George Soutanian

Finance and Management Department AlBalqa Applied University, Jordan, Aqaba

Abstract

The paper aimed to investigate the extent of application use of electronic Parliament techniques in Jordan and identifying the most important requirements and difficulties that face the application of this technology. The paper concluded that the infrastructure is available for the application of this technique and that the majority of parliament are able to deal with this technique efficiently, but there are some difficulties that hinder such represented by acceptance of other's opinion and their willingness to adapt with this technique.

Keywords: Parliament, Technology, Government, Electronic, Internet, Process

Introduction

Citizens were used in the past to vote for parliament nominees and to help them to be the parliament members without a legal accountability or without questioning them what they are intending to do when they win, but they confine themselves just by looking and reading their own agenda regarding their election campaign.

As for this period and due to the development of technology, e-business and due to situation in the region, including the so-called Arab Spring, that cause large turn for most political and governmental actions, since electronic democracy helped the citizens to participate in political processes and accountability by providing adequate information regarding all activities carried out by the government via the Internet and different technology. One of the issued that has been applied is citizens' participation in elections via the Internet and networks. Moreover, there are electronic discussion forums dedicated for interested citizens who want to give their opinion in the political government and electronic political campaigns, surveying peoples electronically regarding issues of concern, publishing and documenting government and parliamentary meetings through the Internet.

In this topic we are interested in parliamentary actions run by the House of Representatives, where electronic parliamentary work is classified as Electronic Business democracy because it includes acts freedom to express opinion and to accept other's opinion regarding topics of interest to the community. The community in this paper can be divided into two main components: the first component is: the government and the second element is the House of Representatives, which is formed on behalf of the people.

To day, government in democratic societies takes political decisions. The implementation of such decisions depends the approval of the lower house and the upper house as will. This in turn led to a partial democratic process rather than total. In order to be full democratic process there is a need fort individuals or people indirect participation via the Internet or one of the websites devoted to it.

Electronic parliament project provides a unified and integrated platform that allow all users with an access to all functions, information and data through one system interface according to each one job and powers .It provides the user with an access to correct and accurate information easily and rapidly as well as automating and standardizing working procedures regarding parliament in and out correspondences and provide more efficient and effective environment work. in addition to search, refer to the archived correspondence when needed it easily.

The study indicates that the site keeps members informed regarding all necessary data and information to pursue their work duties and meetings around the clock and from any place, whether they are at home or in the parliament or through their mobile phones. Members can also use the system during the sessions which would have a significant impact in enriching discussions and members. Interventions

Study Problem

Electronic democracy in the political process is a target that all peoples are looking for since politics and political decisions are in the hands decisions makers without others participation because there is no contact between the government and the people in all standards regardless of the tactics and methods used to narrow this gap between the two parties. More over our governments are not accustomed to such democracy that would contribute in building a democratic and civilized society based on. participation in decision-making process

Among the topics we are interested in this research is the work of parliaments, since he is preparing for a parliamentary session without the participation of any other person of

the those who have elected him, or he may negotiate with other members or even the government without asking any other part who its goal is democracy for the interest of all.

This problem requires knowledge the reality use of electronic democracy in parliamentary works and what are the main reasons behind the lack of use by answering the following questions:

1. Is the infrastructure available for electronic parliamentary works.
2. Do members of the House of Representatives know the requirements for using these technologies.
3. What is the mechanism to be adopted for communication between parliament and the citizen.
4. Are there laws and regulations or legislation that limit dealing between the parties in this way (electronically).

Study importance

1. Determine certain level of using e-works in the parliament.
2. To help citizens to have an access to the House of Representatives through their own sites.
3. To help citizens in participation and placing suggestions, complaints, managerial and political decisions with parliament member to be presented in today session or the next day.
4. To support, encourage and motivate citizens and parliament members to use e-Parliament.
5. To reveal parliament member efficiency.
6. To be considered as a reference for suggestions and decisions throughout the session.
7. To open discussions and dialogues about the theme of the session before and after and to reach the best suggestions and results.

Definition of e-parliament

E-Parliament Is a way of communicating between the citizen and the member or people and the member through using modern communication mechanisms such as computer networks and software and multimedia text of images, graphics, research mechanics, archiving and e-mail through online.

In this study we must differentiate between the action mechanism of e-Parliament and internal e-Parliament in the Council itself. In the latter there will be a communication between the members and House management, and the government and internal procedures between them. Our concern is concentrated on the first case, that is an parliament member e-site with people and their and communication mechanisms.

How electronic parliament works

Each parliament member should have his special site each, and can be accessed through the main web site of the electronic parliament. The interaction between the

parliament member or his representative and the citizen through this web site. Server should be available for E- parliament, it should inside the Parliament and has the required staff to store information received from citizens and how to communicate with them through their e-mails.

The method of interaction between the two parties easy and simple after the infrastructure construction by House technical management.

Each member should has dialogues, discussion and comments that member or his representative can read the individual messages related to their own problems or regarding the next session, The information has to be available on the site if there is any direct dialogue, otherwise all dialogues or comments shall be send to parliament member personal e- mail for review, and obtaining the appropriate information to take it in consideration in the session devoted to this topic or to reply later. This the side part of the parliament member, but with respect to the citizen, he should has the right to review the next session topic, and after the meeting he is entitled to know the topics that are addressed by the parliament member regarding the designated topic that has been discussed in the meeting between the parliament member and the citizen, also the citizen should know if his comments or his conversations were reviewed by the concerned parliament member or his representative.

Information that should be available at each parliament member site

1. Logo or e-advertising propaganda that authorized him to enter the parliament, the candidate's photo. The next meeting title should be on the front page of the site.
2. Personal and experience information for each candidate.
3. A special page with the next meeting title should be available and the possibility of interference and involvement of citizens in the next session and give their opinion and suggestions through the provision of a special form indicating the name of the citizen and the session title, his comments and e-mail.
4. Provide a full page for live discussions within the topic of the scheduled session where the can participate with the parliament member and between the citizens on the same session topic.
5. Providing index library contains information archive for the previous sessions and laws instructions and regulations archive.
6. E-mail for both parties is the focal point for inquiries and answer questions when necessary.
7. A page should be available for interviews, historical debates and comments between

various parties about political or managerial topics that intended to be discussed in parliament or had been discussed.

To answer the raised questions at the beginning of the study, we recommend the following:

The possibility of implementing a program on the Internet, with an address of e-parliament, which should provide transparency and credibility for all parties because of the low cost of the required infrastructure for this type of software along with the necessary hardware and internet connection, networks and computerized programs such as (HTML, DHTML, JAVASCRIPT, FLASH, ADOBE) and a staff that can work on it.

In the case of how the parliament member can continue in communicating with the people, there should be several persons or one person who is authorized by the parliament member to answer all public inquiries. As for the laws and regulations there is no law that prevent the interaction and participation in the decision between the parliament member and the public.

Conclusions

The paper concluded a set of conclusions that can be summarized as follows:

- The needed infrastructure for applying electronic Parliament technology in Jordan is

Available- The majority of parliament members realize the importance of this technology in establishing democratic approach

- There is a bad need to clarify this technique through the available media either for the normal citizen or the parliament member

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