# E-Solha: Peacebuilding in Information Technology Age in Afghanistan

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**Abstract**

Violence is the greatest challenge for Afghanistan in particular and the world in general. Both Afghan government and people want to promote peace and tranquility which could be possible with the tools offered by information communication technologies (ICTs). This study proposes an ICT based solution for peace building and conflict mitigation namely "e-Solha". The purpose of this system is to promote brotherhood, unity and trust amongst Afghan masses. The prominent features of e-Solha include: (i)information sharing procedure; (ii)platform for humanitarian community; (iii)wider collaboration between various organization; (iv)policy-oriented environment for conflict prevention and peace operation;(v) e-dialogue for peace;(vi) foresee potential capacity etc. Moreover, this system could provide customized portal for sharing information such as news, books, maps, magazines, print media, radio and video, articles etc. The encouragement of using social media as a tool for enhance peace, conflict prevention among people, violence prevention etc. This system will appeal users through providing services with better quality across the country. This environment enables people to extend unity and peace building relationships among the people and role of social media about Peacebuilding as national and international across the world. Indeed, e-Solha will accelerate the peace environment with efficiently and smoothly to remote area in Afghanistan.


**Keywords**: Communication Media; platform for humanitarian environment; e-dialogue; Information Communication Technology*;* e-Solha;

**Introduction**

The last couple of years has been devastating for Afghanistan and surrounding areas. It is also one of the unfortunate countries that lack a peace. The number of conflict has increased massively since 30 years' war in Afghanistan. After the overthrow of the Taliban regime in the late 2001, Afghanistan appealed to the international donors for rebuilding the Afghan society and enhance Peacebuilding among Afghans due to various approach. Afghan government and people are willing to provide peaceful environment for citizens and to involve citizens for keeping peace. Moreover, involving social activities to enhance social capacities among citizens for ending and avoiding violent conflict and for management of peaceful conflict is the aim of Afghan government (Smith, 2004). Most of the scholars, practioners, international and regional organizations are attempting to institutionalizes picture of peacebuilding across the world (Michael Barnett, 2007). UN Secretary-Genearal Kofi Annan's proposed a peacebuilding commission, supportive office for peacebuilding, budget etc to institutionalize the peacebuilding at the very highest level to increase incentives ideas for cooperation with peacebuilding (Michael Barnett, 2007). Meanwhile, international and domestic scholars, actors, etc have strong interest to contribute peace in various part of land (Michael Barnett, 2007). The Afghan government priorities long-term peace for citizens acorss the country.

This study proposes an ICT-based solution for Peacebuilding and conflict mitigation namely "e-Solha: Peacebuilding in Information Technology Age in Afghanistan". The purpose of this system is to promote brotherhood, unity and trust amongst Afghan masses. The prominent features of e-Solha includes: (i) information sharing procedure; (ii) platform for humanitarian community; (iii) wider collaboration between various organization; (iv) policy-oriented environment for conflict prevention and peace operation;(v) e-dialogue for peace culture;(vi) foresee potential capacity etc. Moreover, this system will offer a customized portal for sharing information such as news, books, maps, magazines, print media, radio and video, articles etc. among citizens. The aim of the stated system is not only to create peace culture across the country, but also offers a comprehensive package to improve reconciliation, community dialogue between different people, increase human rights across the country, promoting environmental awareness, creating bridges between different communities in Afghanistan (Michael Barnett, 2007). Indeed, e-Solha merging various knowledge especially generalized knowledge with specific circumstances on the land scape to offer an outstanding recommendation (Michael Barnett, 2007) in term of information and communication technology and most of the scholars, policymakers monitor the Peacebuilding approach to being institutionalized and attempt to ensure that this is the understanding way of keeping peace culture across the world. Globally, more people have the opportunity to actively participate in social networks and offer useful ICTs tools to impact the process of peace culture among citizens in Afghanistan even across the world (Larrauri, 2013). In addition, the Afghan government has a wide vision to provide a peace keeping infrastructure among people especially new generation and to overcome the atrocities which destroy a community through different ways such as devastating effects on physical and emotional trauma (Ngwenyama, 2010).

## 1. e-Solha

Over the past couple of years various states, local and international organizations, public and private organizations dedicated more resources and developed more ICTs based system to offer peace keeping possible solutions to existing issues across the world.(Barnett, 2006). Meanwhile, the mentioned organizations are willing to replace the old-fashioned media (radio, TV, print, journalism etc.) although the noticed media playing vital role in providing information and shape general view of the society to citizenry (Igwe, 2013). ICTs usage expanding faster in the developing countries even in the world and ICTs tools provide the opportunity to participants to share their valuable ideas to engage new ways or possible solutions for Peacebuilding culture (Larrauri, 2013) between people. At the present, new technology has vital role in term of peace keeping and new technology will empower the people to manage conflicts and reduce the gap between conflicts.Moreover, to offer an innovation and opportunities through using new technology (Larrauri, 2013). In addition, new technology innovations have provided opportunities and outlets through which communication and information flows accelerated and new space opened up for different communities to play a vital role in reducing conflicts (Igwe, 2013).

At the present, Afghan government spending more resouces to reduce conflicts and crisises across the country through different ways such as dialouge, ICTs, social media etc. In essence, the governement has responsibility to provide sustained basis to citizenry which is the foundation of growth, development etc of the society (Igwe, 2013). The Afghan government has long-term argue with Taliban to empower and enable Afghan society through creation of efficient and effective ways, and to promote peacebuilding culture among Afghan citizenry. The lack of a systematic approach for conflict prevention is the main reason of Afghan society. At the same time, UN programes, NGOs, donor agenices are appealing to support Afghan government to promot Peacebuilding culture across the country. It means that there is and urgent need for coherence, international and local networks, sustainable long-term infrastructure and durable outstanding planning to improve peace in Afghanistan (Tobi P.Dress, 2005).

With the accelerating pace of using diverse range of communication tools to change communication among people. The authors of this study proposes a framework to enhance peacekeeping thorugh ICTs called *e-Solha.* The stated system considered as a driver of social conflict and making peacebuilding through ICTs (Igwe, 2013) as self-communication druing usage of internet or wireless communication networks. e-Solha will follow the bottom-up approach to involve individuals and whole communitites to create opportunities for greater self-sufficiency during crisis and conflict (Igwe, 2013). At the same time, this study recognize the social media and other communication ways could be strong elements of staibility, rebuilding, long-term development, peacebuilding etc (Igwe, 2013) and the authors are thinking systemic to replace the current fragmentation in term of conflict. Moreover, the mentioned study will reduce the vis-à-vis conflict and eruption of conflicts in the targeted area and design a Peacebuilding infrastructure to overcome conflict in Afghanistan, promote linkages between gaps (Tobi P.Dress, 2005). The other essential approach to improve peace culture among people are inter-disciplinary such as human rights, development economics and democracy (Tobi P.Dress, 2005).

## 1.1 Framework

E-Solha framework combines two parts: server responsiveness capacity and client request capacity (*see Figure 1*). The client request capacity side has general interface to access the mentioned system easily with outstanding features such as (i)policy-oriented environment for conflict prevention and peace operation;(ii) e-dialogue for peace culture;(iii) foresee potential capacity etc. . The mentioned framework uses different technologies such as AJAX, PHP, JavaScript, Database etc. to provide services such as accessing, searching, sharing, etc. to people related to Peacebuilding.
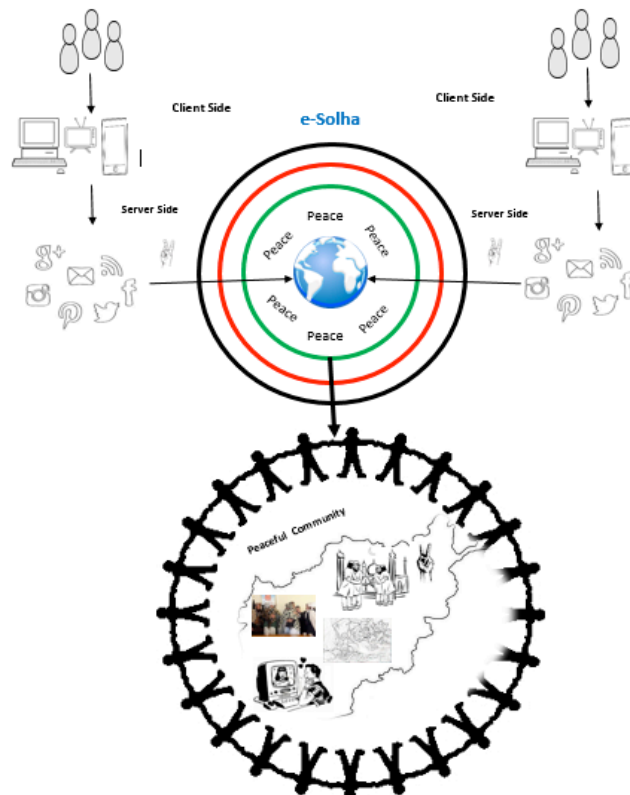


Figure 1: e-Solha Framework

## 1.2 Product Scope

As above mentioned Peacebuilding is generally an external factor that is intended to overcome or reduce the existing issues that will erupt into or return to conflict in the society(Michael Barnett, 2007). This study hopes that e-Solha will offer a comprehensive product package to improve peacekeeping culture among citizenry in Afghanistan. The prominent features or products are include: (i) information sharing procedure; (ii) platform for humanitarian community; (iii) wider collaboration between various organization; (iv) policy-oriented environment for conflict prevention and peace operation;(v) e-dialogue for peace;(vi) foresee potential capacity etc. The stated features are not accidental, however that will be sustainable, well planned, well organized, and strategized for better improvement of the framework (Tobi P.Dress, 2005). The other feature of e-Solha is to reduce domestic voilence which has devastating impacts on women in Afghanistan (Ngwenyama, 2010). In this circumstance citizenry are obligated ot respect international law and fulfil the women

rights across the country (Tobi P.Dress, 2005). The main stackholders of Peacebuilding are women which e-Solha will involve to peacekeeping culture (Tobi P.Dress, 2005).The noted framework will utilized the Afghan social development in marginalized communities and explore the role of e-Solha in field of mediation and violence prevention (Ngwenyama, 2010). Furthermore, e-Solha offers a socialy communities to sustain the current socioeconomic inequalities within Afghan different communities (Rajendra Kumar, 2006). Protection facilities are the outcome of community mediation through ICTs (Ngwenyama, 2010) to overcome the the theft causes across the country which is the main part of e-Solha.

At the end, the presence of ICTs can provide opportunity to build and increase social inclusion and self-actualize inside a community to realize their hopes and goals (Ngwenyama, 2010). Informatin Technology can strengthen the reconciliation, acountability, truth-seeking etc processes to encourage citiznery of Afghanistan even global world (Hattotuwa, 2010) to promote peace culture among people through social media such as radio, television, internet, digital communication etc and demonstrat good practices.

## 1.3 Development Strategy

The authors use agile method for development of the system (see *figure 2*) to deliver a high quality system to address user requirements (Amran Hossain, 2013). The stated method is rapid and flexible to changes and it is an iterative approach to improve teamwork, collaboration among users and designer and receive valuable comments and feedback from users to improve the e-Solha framework with outstanding service to users.
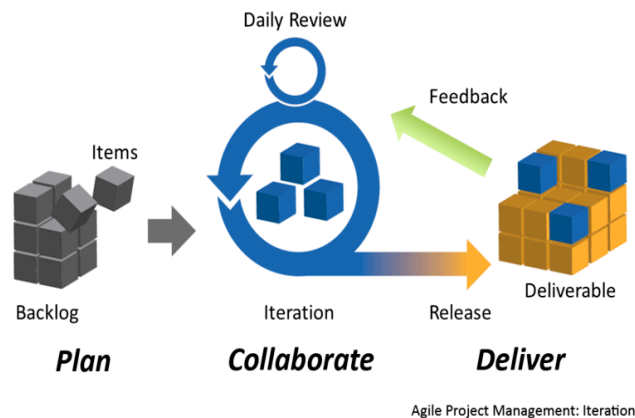


Figure 2: Agile method for system development

## 2. Evaluation Strategy

To ensure the end product will never display any functional or technical errors. E-Solha will be tested repeatedly in the Lab, expert-walk through and finally field test which will be carry out in Afghanistan with real users. Lab test will be preform in P*LAB at Kobe Institute of Computing that the stated lab members will interact certain duration with system and they will give us valuable comments and feedback to improve system prototype. After that we will go through expert-walk through, we will place the system prototype before experts to receive valuable comments, feedback and

green signal. After getting green signal from experts, the authors are going to field test which will be preform in Afghanistan with perspective users in the real environment.

## 3. Possible Limitations

Despite of the potential advantages of the e-Solha which stated above, new technologies do not work always as expected due to technical issues, complex architecture of information flow. Furthermore, usage of ICTs are the other limitation of the system. Because, ICTs are useful for those who know the usage of the technologies as effectively and understand the importance of the ICTs (radio, television, social media, magazines, mobile, internet etc.) (Dr.Choi Soon-Hong, 2011) because citizenry do not have the equal knowledge related to ICTs usage. Moreover, weak network infrastructure has negative effects on creating social network for citizenry. It means there is an urgent need to provide a sustainable infrastructure to implement the noticed framework. E-Solha system is trying to overcome the possible limitation in the future work.

## 4. Future work

This study, trying to focus on qualitative and quantitative point of views to overcome the future limitations of the system which are include of network infrastructure, skill of usage, implementational and operational issues etc. Furthermore, e-Solha will be used in the future to address users' need and provide services to users across the country. The authors are trying to extend the system to a comprehensive package to general users to promote peace keeping and building culture among new generation. Indeed, peace and Peacebuilding is the backbone of peaceful and educational society.

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