

The background is a collage of four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a stack of white papers on a purple background. The top-right quadrant shows a clock face on a pink background. The bottom-left quadrant shows a stack of papers on a green background. The bottom-right quadrant shows a clock face on a yellow background. A large black-bordered box is centered over the top two quadrants, containing the title. A smaller black-bordered box is centered over the bottom two quadrants, containing the author's name.

Elections and Transparency in the Gulf Arab Countries

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Media and Election

- Both reflect and aim to:
- Freedom
- Pluralism
- Democracy



Media and Elections

- Elections without Free, and Independent Media can not be:
- Fair
- Free
- Transparent



Elections and Media

- The Role of Media in the elections:
- Balanced, fair, and transparent coverage.
- Making news stories relevant to people's life.
- Monitoring elections (watch dog)



Media and elections

- Telling the Truth
- Debate Forum
- Independent Forum
- Public Forum



Media and Elections

- Media to cover Elections needs:
- Access to Information
- No censorship
- No interference
- Independence



Media and Elections

- Media's ownership in the Gulf:
- Government
- Business people
- Powerful Royal members
- No public media



Media and Elections

- Elections in the Gulf:
- Limited information sources
- Official (government)
- No Monitoring organizations
- No right or equal and rights for candidates in media time or space



Media and Elections

- Governmental Media do not offer free space or time for all candidates
- Propaganda for people close to government
- Government employees who run use positions to influence voters

Media and Elections

- Officials might use power for relative candidates.
- Use of religion
- Use of women
- Buying votes
- Tribal loyalty





Media and Elections

- Media during Elections:
- Mostly start late coverage
- Mostly without long term plan
- Do not offer a public forum
- Take positions
- Give opinion not Analysis



Media and Elections

- Steps To Free Media and Elections:
- Increase people's participation: make election relevant to people
- Insure Transparency and Fairness: Free Media (Alliances-lobbying)
- Support women candidates



Media and Elections

- Educate women voters about:
- Elections
- Religion
- Male domination and tribal thinking
- Representation right
- Women issues in elections

Media and Elections

- Gulf countries should establish:
- Independent Committees or foundations without executive branch's supervision
- Elections Laws which are clear and transparent
- Civil society Monitoring
- International Monitoring
- Positive Media Coverage.





Media and Elections

- Questions?
- Thoughts?
- Objections?
- Free Discussion?