**Interview 7**

**Demographic Data**

* Gender: Female
* Age Group: 36-45
* Job Title: Director of Innovations and Advanced Technologies
* Department:Administration of Innovations and Advanced Technologies
* Experience:started in 2005 (more than 10 years)
* Academic Qualification: Master's Degree in Security University of Bahrain

**2-Questions and Answers**

1-What are the challenges that affect the performance of Open Government Data in the Kingdom of Bahrain?

**There are multiple challenges like Quality of data, Accessibility of data, and getting data when it’s needed is a big challenge. The purpose of Open data is to be available for the public and private sectors to use and analyze to make decisions. For example, Merchants could use Open Data to know the people's nature in the Kingdom of Bahrain, what the customers need and so on, so we have to have this kind of data available, this is considered one of the challenges related to accuracy and accessibility of data. Time is important so one of the challenges is to have live data, in the past it was ok to have the data of the last two years but today we should have data on time. We see that the following matters are important for the future of Open Government Data: availability of live data, security and sharing data, and data privacy. One of the regulations that we have to align with is the Al Bahrain Personnel Privacy law. Also, integrating data that is available with different owners and multiple stack holders is a challenge.**

2-You mentioned that data should be updated. What is the status of the current data is it updated?

**To be honest, I have no idea, what I know is that every two years they give data. I think that with the open data portal, it could be updated in shorter periods. However, we now talk about live, up-to-date, and systematic data means that it’s in the system and analyzed. But currently, the data we have is collected years before.**

3-What I know is that data is collected from the Statistics sector this process takes time for sure. Is this step a primary step that will be changed with time?

**To be honest I’m not the Owner of this process, I don’t know how long this process will take in the future, but we have to have this data on time automatically to reach a point that we have data for one hour before no tone year before.**

4-What are the domains that have the opportunity to leverage Open Government Data to drive innovation?

**As I mentioned before domains that are related to data about citizens and residents all these kinds of data is important, data like the number of schools and hospitals could also help the government to make better decisions.**

5-How does technological innovation like AI and machine learning support the performance of Open Government Data?

**When we talk about open data and innovation we should talk about the increase in transparency as the data is available for everyone, data also will be available to merchants and any decision-maker, so improving the efficiency of our work. Data is the power of any AI engine of any system that needs to make decisions and increasing efficiency will increase citizens' engagement because when you have the right data you will make the right decisions besides enhancing service delivery of government services and the citizens will be happy. Also, the collaboration between private and public sectors will be beneficial in building an innovative ecosystem. Cybersecurity and data privacy also will be improved.**

6-How do you measure the performance of Open Government Data ,especially in your field?

**We have a lot of metrics to use in measurement like download and access rates of data, how many downloads happened, monitoring API requests, completeness of data to measure data quality, timelines of data available, and public feedback. In the end, we have to know if the service is good or not through our customers, we could know that by public feedback and media to know if the service needs improvements or not. Also, the impact on the economy and the number of innovations by analyzing the number of applications developed, and according to this data we have startups and businesses that utilize this data, this is considered as one of the measurements. the economic estimated value is generated from the Open Government Data. All these kinds of measurements will help us to know if the data is good or needs improvements with time.**

7-We can know from APIs the data usage but in the case of startups or companies what I know is that data is given to them by affording a subscription how can you measure the feedback in this case?

**We in the Open Data Portal don’t have any subscription system all the data is free even for the researchers outside The Kingdom of Bahrain.**

8-Is there is a way to track the developer when using data besides APIs ?

**Even if they take these data they need the updated data they have to take it again and again and every time they hit the open source to take the data we can measure that in case they didn’t take the new data they will stop there as it will be an out of date data.**

9-What are the future trends in AI and advanced technology?

**I think AI, Blockchain, and Machine learning. For example, data analysis and insights obtained by using AI, chatbots, virtual assistant, and live data. Also, blockchain and data sharing are trending beside IOTs and smart cities. Smart cities are on our planning agenda for the coming years. All of these technologies are in the pipeline but something about the technology that you cannot future foresighted in the long term because it’s changing. Last year we were talking about AI now we talking about generative AI, so the technology is changing, and the good thing about future foresight is that we keep updated research about what is in the market. So, we have part of the directorate research and development section to just look to the market what is trending there what we have in the market and align it with the needs of the government.**

10-The innovation department is not old, right?

**No, it’s almost one year, we started in October 2023**

11-We are studying technological innovation because it grows fast, so the purpose of the innovation department is to keep updated with the new technologies in the market, right?

**As I mentioned before we have a section that works as R & D to discover the new technologies in the market that is why we are active in hackathons and attend frequently. So, when we face any challenge, we look at the market to see if any new technology could be applied to solve this challenge and make sure that it fits the government's needs.**