ICT Relief Program

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Introduction

This is story of how ICT heals trauma in a society

in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

After the tragic earthquake in the city of Bam (Iran) in December 2003, Science and Arts Foundation conducted an ICT relief program, which in a short term program achieved successfully.

The dream of a permanent program will be accomplished in near future.

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City of Bam

190 Km. to the S.E. of the city of Kerman, in the midst of the vast, endless, grey deserts, lies the ever-green city of Bam, the Emerald of the desert.

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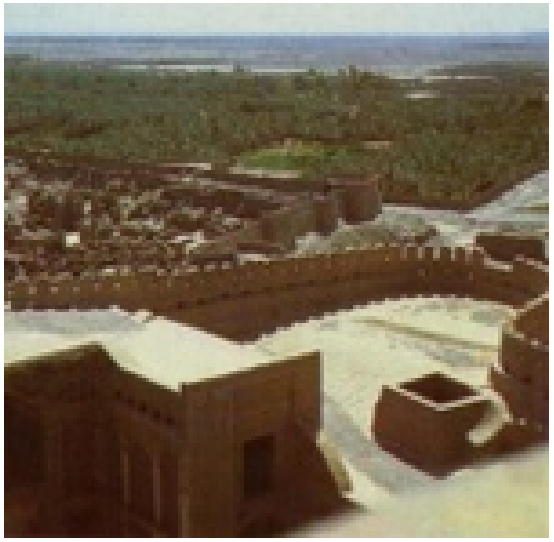

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Bam with its extensive palm groves and citrus gardens, used to be a city full of life.

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At 5:26 AM on December 26, 2003, an earthquake with magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale destroyed the city of Bam.

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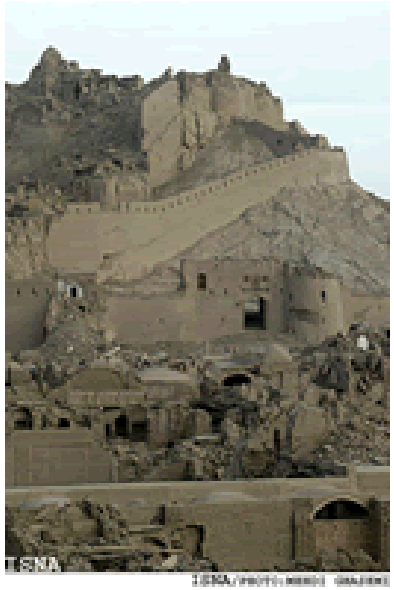

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- The city was almost destroyed

- About 40,000 people killed

- 30,000 injured

- Up to 75,000 left homeless

- 10,000 students left without school

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- National and international governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) started the relief work

- Temporary housing, field hospitals were provided

- Students were called to register to start school in pre-fabricated class rooms

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- SAF developed an ICT-Art relief program
- A computer site was launched
- A Paint Shop was initiated towards Art-Therapy program

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GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP Sharing Knowledge • Building Partnerships

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Outcome:

-The children largely welcomed the ICT and Paint Shop program

-They were heart warmed by the world's kind support

- The black and white picture of life in Bam gradually absorbed color by the joy of life again

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A Dream Emerged!

Developing a permanent ICT Center

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DEZA DIREKTION FÜR ENTWICKLUNG UND ZUSAMMENARBEIT
DDC DIRECTION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT ET DE LA COOPÉRATION
DSC DIREZIONE DELLO SVILUPPO E DELLA COOPERAZIONE
SDC SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION
COSUDE AGENCIA SUIZA PARA EL DESARROLLO Y LA COOPERACIÓN

SDC Stepped in and supported construction of a permanent ICT center. CPC, an Iranian NGO also supported extension of the project.

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Goals of Bam ICT Center

1. Training toward entrepreneurship

2. IT Services for professionals

3. Empowering youth

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The emergence of Information Society has caused social inclusion based on “network effect” and “globalization”.

The efforts to ensure digital inclusion arouse hopes for economical development with the help of ICT as an empowering and equalizer tool.
Especially in the deprived area, with means such as:

1. **Training toward entrepreneurship**
2. **IT Services for professionals**
3. **Empowering youth**

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1. Training toward entrepreneurship

ICT training imposes such an expertise which could be considered as technical resources through the Internet around the globe.

It is time for:

Technopreneuship!

ICT training + Entrepreneurship

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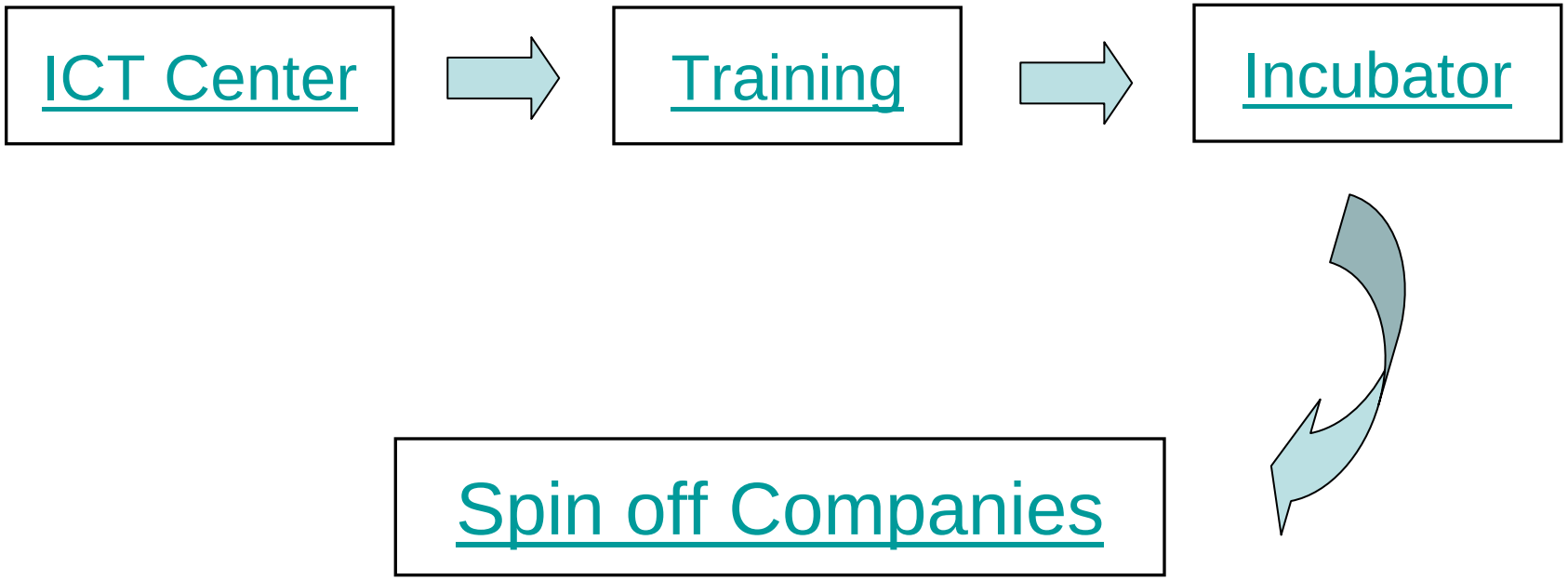
- **A Model**



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- **ICT Center**
  - Computer Sites
  - LAN, Internet access
  - LABs

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- **Training**
  - Introduction to ICT
  - Advanced topics:
    - Web design
    - Java, C++
    - J2EE
    - Linux

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- **Incubator**
  - Team work projects
  - Advancements
  - Advanced training
  - Project management

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Spin off Companies

Outsourcing !

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2. IT Services for professionals

IT services and e-Business over the Internet is another means of opportunity for development of deprived areas such as Bam.

To achieve this goal we will consider the “as is” situation, market analysis and considering other requirements are needed to conduct a model.

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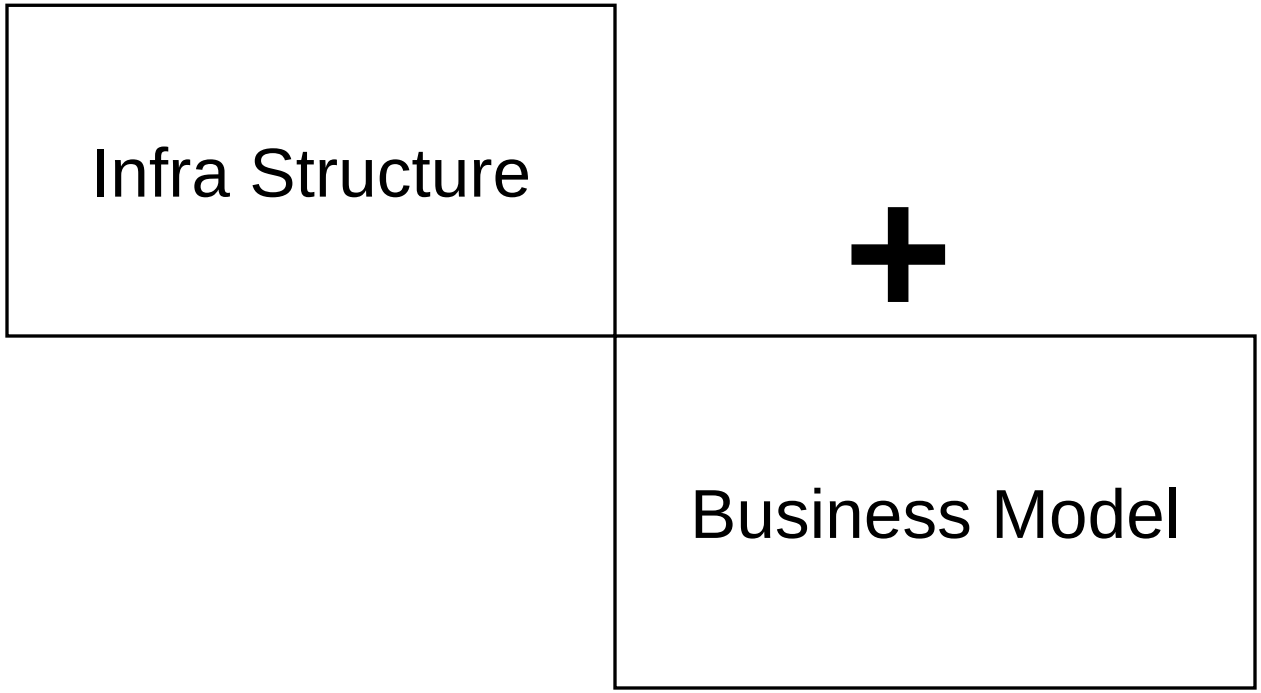
- **A Model**

Required model are in need of the following components.



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- **Infra Structure**

  - Internet access
  - Portal platform for e-Business

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3. Empowering youth

Empowering youth towards creativity and problem solving will be developed in the Discovery Section, In this section students and teachers will be active with the following main programs:

- Training elementary and advanced topics
- Team work projects
- Seminars, Contests, and etc.

This section could be host of bam.schoolnet.ir

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Sustainability and Structuring

Bam ICT center is in developing process and provisionally will be operated under supervision of the Science and Arts Foundation, to sustain the project, the center will be registered as an independent NGO under leadership of independent board of trustees including SAF's representative and local supporters.

Structuring the center also should be considered properly.

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Social Embededness of ICT

Social emebededness of ICT is needed to be recognized as a dynamic tool toward sustainable development, in this regards:

– ICT is not a simple tool but it is a “Sociotechnical” one
–A business model is not sufficient but an ecological view is needed
and the most important one:

– One-shot ICT implementation is not sufficient but should be considered that:

ICT implementations are ongoing process

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Bam greets a colourful future……

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Thank you

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