

Final Review Report ISVSej_12.03.04_Abrar
Compiled from Two Reviews

Please use this number to identify the revision.

Title of paper: Globalization and Architectural Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities in Preserving Identity in Bahrain

General

This paper examines an issue related to the ways in which forces of globalization have affected traditional settings that are considered to define the identity of the people of Bahrain. The paper is reasonably well written. It has some issues that need to be resolved.

Title: The title needs revision. Following title is suggested: **The Impact of Globalization on the Architectural Identity of Bahrain: Challenges and Opportunities in Preserving Heritage.**

Justification for this revision: current title implies that identity can be preserved, whereas what can be preserved is cultural heritage. That heritage may indeed contribute to the definition of identity. Therefore, instead of talking about the impact of globalization on the heritage through which identity is affected, it is best to make the connection direct. Since it also deals with the impact, this should be also in the title.

Language: Language is reasonably good. However, there are some issues of language in terms of grammar. Definite and indefinite articles are not properly used. Use short and meaningful sentences and construct a narrative, which is not happening well now.

Formatting: This paper has no major issues in formatting. However, the abstract must be indented from both sides as per the template. Lists must also be indented from the left. It is suggested that sub titles are made bold. Some sub titles are not 12 points. Some of them are too long. Do not write sentences as sub titles. A sub title is a short phrase. Text within the tables must be arial narrow 10 points and left justified. Reduce the spaces before and after the text in the table. There should be no spaces between the sub title and the text below. In the references, years must be within brackets. Do not mention Vol. and pp. Instead, cite the volume and the page numbers as '63(6), 23-47'. Follow the template to the last dot.

Abstract

Abstract is reasonably well-written. However, there are some issues related to the contents. First paragraph must introduce the issue of how Bahrain can modernize without erasing its architectural roots. Although the title says that the study is focused on a globalization, the introduction in the abstract does not make this point clear.

Moreover, an abstract must not say what it 'aims' but say what the research examines. It must say what is examined at the end of the first paragraph and not the aims. Second paragraph must be about the research methods and the third paragraph must be about the conclusions.

Current second paragraph does not explain the research methods well. This research employs case studies and document analysis as well as administration of a questionnaire. Don't say what the method does, but how the method was used to gather data. Please explain how data was gathered in reasonable detail.

Last paragraph implies a 'co-relation' between globalization and heritage which does not make sense, because this research did not establish such a correlation. Be cautious with the words: comment on what could be ascribed to a result of globalization. Please mention the specific conclusions derived based on data if such specific conclusions have been derived.

Paper

1. **The introduction:** Introduction is written poor particularly in terms of introducing the issue. It deviates from what was said in the title. According to the title and the abstract, the introduction should introduce the broader issue of globalization and its impact on Bahrain. The abstract says that the paper responds to the “concerns over the potential loss of cultural distinctiveness and raises the question of how Bahrain can modernize without erasing its architectural roots.” However, this introduction is more about globalization. It refers to heritage buildings that appear to have been conserved in the past, but does not tie the argument together.

An introduction must introduce the issue as related to the title, and as claimed in the abstract. It must then say what this research examines, followed by the aims and objectives. In the current writing, the aim is not clear; it talks about objectives in detail, and there are too many of them there.

Please note that aims are noble, unmeasurable, long term, almost-impossible-to-fully-achieve expectations while objectives are practical, measurable, short term, achievable intentions. Objectives must be always listed starting with ‘To’. The introduction must end with them.

2. **Theoretical Framework:** This paper does not present any theoretical framework for the study which is essential in any research. Since it examines specific issues, it should offer a discussion about “globalization”, ‘identity’, and ‘heritage’, defining the terms and finally establishing their interrelationships. More critically, a theoretical framework must be produced employing the voice of the authors with statements such as ‘according to Godman (1999), or Lawrence (2000) argues, instead of the authors making statements and putting references within brackets. The authors of this paper cannot theorize because they are not theoreticians. Currently, there is none. Please produce a proper theoretical framework by referring to the most outstanding theoreticians. Define the terms first and then discuss how they relate to each other.

3. **Review of Literature:** There is also no proper review. In any research, a review of literature should discuss the major research that have examined the issue previously to show the status of current knowledge, and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. The issue here is ‘loss of cultural distinctiveness in the process of modernization and the erasure of the architectural roots.’ However, no research is being critically reviewed, although the sub title exists and there is some theoretical discussion which should be placed under that title. The review should critically examine previous research that have examined manifestations of globalization in general and how that has affected the heritage buildings and the identity derived from architecture in the world first and then in Bahrain. A review of literature must be produced employing the voice of the authors with statements such as ‘according to Oliver (1999), or Rapoport (2000) points out, instead of the authors making statements and putting references within brackets. It should be a ‘critical review’.

Please see ‘how to write a review of literature’ in the ISVS e-journal web site and follow suit. Write in the present tense because it discusses current knowledge. Sum up at the end and show the status of current knowledge and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. 12-15 references are needed. Currently, none exists.

4. **Research Methodology:** This is reasonably well written. This research employs ‘case studies among other techniques.’ However, the title refers to only “a case study” and then, there are two case studies presented. Please pay attention to minute details. Moreover, there are three types of data gathering techniques employed: some within the case studies and some general. For example, documentary research is general. Questionnaire is also general unless they were administered to the respondents within the case studies. On the other hand, case study analysis and documentation are techniques employed within the case studies. Please present the data gathering techniques and methods separately from analytical methods. After saying that the research employs case study as a method, explain the basis upon which the case studies were chosen. Same applies to the questionnaire survey. How were the respondents chosen? Given the fact that the case studies involve ‘observations’ rather than ‘critical analysis’, please explain how the observations were done.

Currently, things are mixed up. The techniques of data collection must be listed and each is explained. Provide details. What is needed is not theory or what data was gathered but how the techniques were implemented. Say what was employed (Case studies) (Use present tense nevertheless) and then the data gathering techniques. List them first and explain how each was carried out, with full details. They must be explained in such a way that another independent researcher can repeat them and see if they will get the same results. That is the test of science.

5. **Case studies:** At the beginning of the findings or before that, introduce the case studies where the actual research was conducted. Show the locations where research was conducted. Provide location plans and a general description to the case studies. This should be an introduction to the places.
6. **Findings:** Findings are reasonably well presented. However, there is no sub title as 'Findings'. Only findings should be presented after the research methodology. Provide an introduction to the issue and the data. Please produce the data from all the techniques as related to each of the data gathering techniques: document research, questionnaires and the case study analysis or observations.

Begin the findings with "case studies and document research", that offer insights in to the processes of globalization in Bahrain. Afterwards, present the findings from the questionnaires that articulate how the people feel about how globalization affects identity. Keep in mind the research issue and provide evidence to establish a clear 'impact' of globalization on identity.

Findings from the questionnaires have been presented poorly, although the pie charts are clear. To begin with, it says that the "survey explored the extent to which individuals feel about the effect of globalization on cultural heritage". This is not proper. This research was not about cultural heritage. In the findings, if you make a statement, provide evidence. A research paper is not an essay. Research needs data to substantiate the findings.

7. **Conclusions:** Conclusion is poor. It begins with an unsubstantiated claim: "This study significantly advances our understanding of the issue of identity in Bahrain". This is not true. This research did not simply examine the issue of identity but the impact of globalization on identity in Bahrain.

There is not a single conclusion about the impact of globalization on the identity of Bahrain, which this paper examined in particular. Please note that this paper can conclude on the findings only related to globalization and identity, not about cultural heritage. Case Study findings are not generalizable. That is a golden rule.

Please revisit the title of your paper "The Impact of Globalization on the Architectural Identity of Bahrain: Challenges and Opportunities in Preserving Heritage." The abstract says it is "concerned about the potential loss of cultural distinctiveness and raises the question of how Bahrain can modernize without erasing its architectural roots." Please respond to this at the end of the conclusion.

References: References are not done well. Year must be within brackets and there should be no dot afterwards. When there is more than one author, use '&' before the last name without a comma after the initials before that. No comma after the last initial of the last author too. Some of the page numbers are missing. Books require the place of publication and the publisher. Pay attention to details and be consistent. Use the Harvard system as per the template. Follow the template to the last dot.

Final Decision: Major Revisions

Summary of the overall observations of the paper:

This is a potentially very valuable paper that could make a significant contribution to knowledge about the impact of globalization on identity. It closely examines how this manifests in Bahrain. However, it needs major revisions to bring the argument to be cohesive supported by clear findings.

The abstract needs to be succinct but must have sufficient details to introduce the issue, the research methods and the specific conclusions. it is not well written; conclusions are problematic. In fact, the paper suffers from a lack of clarity and focus as to what it does.

Introduction needs to be presented articulating the issue mentioned in the title. It should end with proper focused aims and objectives in keeping with the issue. Introduce a proper theoretical framework defining what is 'globalization' and 'identity', including, heritage, culture and other theoretical notions relevant to the issue. Write a proper review of literature afterwards. The research methodology requires to be organized well with a list of techniques employed to gather data and explanations of

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how each was carried out. Introduce the case studies. Re-organize the findings to be meaningful and to show the main finding of how 'globalization has an impact on the identity of Bahrain.

The three case studies outside as well as the questionnaire findings must demonstrate how globalization has had any significant impact on the perception of identity in Bahrain. That is what this research is about. Discuss only the specific conclusions arising from the findings related to the case studies. Conclusions must be derived and substantiated by data.

Re-examine and reproduce the references to be compatible with the ISVS e-journal template.