

Youth and Mapping Poverty in Palestine

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Poverty methodology in Palestine was set for the first time in 1998, this methodology depends on a combination between absolute and relative characteristics on the poverty line which is based on household consumption. Based on that methodology a new technique was used in order to understand poverty more and shed light on small areas poverty rates which was Mapping Poverty, this technique had multi phases in order to reach poverty estimation on small area level. First level, imputation model finding the appropriate model to impute consumption, then simulation the consumption using the imputation model on Census data.

Youth as major sector of Palestinian population (30%) is needed to be studied as to determining the factors that influence poverty in their localities. Defining needed policies toward improving their levels of living in the localities will be addressed in this study.

A story about Palestinian youth and their localities would be captured through this paper.

Key words: POV-MAP software, imputation model, simulation consumption, absolute and relative poverty line.

1. Introduction:

Youth is the main power of every society development process. Political makers should pay attention to the youth needs and rehabilitation them in multiple and different areas for the sake of society advancement.

In light of the challenges and changes that exist today in neighborhood countries, and in order to involve youth and activate their contributions in the construction process of society, a careful look should be taken to the youth situation.

Young people is a large segment in Palestinian society today, and if this segment suffers from poverty and marginalization, problems and obstacles to achieve their ambitions and aspirations of the community utmost development is missed and actions should be carried out toward this issue.

A spot light on this paper will be shed on reality of Palestinian youth especially on poverty among them, as Poverty is one of the most indicator that evaluate the reality of any society and the most important indicators of socio-economic aspects of a country.

2. Methodology

The calculated poverty statistics in Palestine are based on a poverty line definition which was first developed in 1998 (based on expenditure and consumption survey PECS). The definition combines the concepts of both absolute and relative poverty and is based on a basic needs budget for a household of five people (two adults and three children). In addition to food, clothing, and housing, the basic needs also include other necessities, including health care, education, transportation, personal care, and housekeeping supplies. The poverty line is adjusted to reflect the specific consumption needs of households based on their composition (household size and the number of children).

The mapping poverty was an extraordinary achievement on the national level, reaching to the small areas was an ambition by PCBS and to many users as researchers, political makers, and others. The selection of the specific poverty mapping methodology is critical; numerous methods are available and have been documented by Bigman

and Deichmann (2000). A Small Area Estimation (SAE) method developed by Elbers et al. (2003) (henceforth referred to as ELL) has gained wide popularity amongst development practitioners around the world.

The SAE method developed by ELL in this poverty map and used to impute consumption into census households (2007 as the latest census year) based on a consumption model estimated from the household survey (2009 as the closest year to the census). The consumption model includes many variables and indicators (household and individual characteristics) that are available in both the census and the survey. By applying the estimated coefficients to the “common” variables from the census data, consumption expenditures of census households are imputed. Poverty main indicator (poverty rate) for small areas are then calculated with the imputed consumption of census households. This method is not only estimates poverty incidence but also estimates standard errors of poverty estimates.

The census collects information on many basic variables for every single household in the country but without collecting information about consumption which is the base on poverty calculations. In the other hand, PECS survey collects information about consumption but only for the households among the survey sample.

The methodology calls for the creation of a consumption model using the household survey (PECS). This model regresses consumption on a number of variables that are common to the household survey as well as the census. This step involves identifying variables that are correlates of poverty and by how much (coefficients). On arriving at a satisfactory model, the variables from the census are then inserted into the model to impute consumption levels for all the households covered by the census. This imputed consumption is then aggregated at the desired level which could be locality or numeration area or even the household itself, in our case it was the locality, to calculate poverty rates. Therefore, combining the depth of information, particularly consumption, from a household survey with the extensive coverage of a population census, this methodology uses robust simulation methods to yield highly disaggregated poverty data.

The poverty rates among individuals in each locality is available through this method, and it will be used in this paper to figure out the relation between youth characteristics and poverty in the society, so the characteristic of the youth in each locality will be linked to the main poverty indicator (poverty rate). A spot light on Youth situation will be handled from different aspects and a concentration will be on poverty among youth segment in the Palestinian society in order to determine what factors influence youth poverty. Mapping will be the tool to present the results, latest data presented in this paper as these indicators were checked on 2009 as this year is the reference year for mapping poverty among localities.

Results:

Palestinian Society is a Youth Society, as the estimated population in Palestine totaled 4.29 million in mid-2012 (50.8% male and 49.2% female) with a ratio of 103.2 males per 100 females. Youth represents 29.8% of the total population: 40.2% of them are adolescents and 60.4% are youth. Palestinian society is a youth society as 70% of its people are under 30 years old.

Youth is under the Burden of Marriage Responsibilities, According to the 2011 database of registered marriages and divorces, 92.3% of females were in the age group of 15-29 years were married compared to 81.0% of males, and this statistics show the majority of male youth hold the burden of responsibility on its households as male usually are the head of the household.

In 2011, 44.8% of youth aged 15-29 years was enrolled in education; 84.9% in the age group of 15-17 years, 50.8% in the age group of 18-22 years, and 11.9% in the age group of 23-29 years. In general, the enrollment rates among youth are high in comparison with other neighborhood countries. In addition, 8.6% of males aged 15-29 years hold a university degree compared to 11.1% of females in the same age group. A further 3.5% of males had not completed any educational stage compared to 1.7% of females in the age group of 15-29 years. Furthermore, 0.7% of youth aged 15-29 years are illiterate; 0.8% males and 0.6% females.

The majority of youth uses Computer, Data on information technology during previous years indicated that there had been a remarkable development in indicators regarding accessing and using of information and communication technology among young people in the age group of 15-29 years. The data reported in 2011 showed that the proportion of young people who use computer was 67.5% in the Palestine (70.4% in the West Bank and 62.7% in Gaza Strip), compared with 47.6% in 2004. The gap among both sexes in using of computers narrowed to 69.8% among males compared to 65.0% among females in 2011.

More than a third of youth was unemployed in 2012, The data of labor force survey of 2012 showed that 37.4% of youth aged 15-29 years is economically active (employed and unemployed). The youth unemployment rate totaled in the Palestine at 35.2%, the highest unemployment rate was 41.2% in the age group of 20-24 years compared with 29.3% for the age group of 25-29 years. In addition, 43.7% of those unemployed had completed at least 13 schooling years.

Being a graduate (first university degree BA) in Palestine is not a condition to be employed, as getting more schooling years getting more risky to be unemployed as this table shows:

Unemployment rate among Youth according Schooling Years in 2012

Schooling Years	2012
0	19.4
1-6	33.8
7-9	30.7
10-12	28.7
13-16	45.7
+17	34.2
Total	35.2

More than a quarter of youth in Palestine suffered from poverty during the year of 2011, 27.4% of Palestinian youth was poor in 2011 (19.2% in West Bank and 41% in Gaza Strip). This rate was higher Among youth than the general average which was 25.8%.

Poverty Percentages among Youth (15-29) in Palestine, 2009-2011

Poverty Percentages	Palestine		West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009
Poverty	27.4	26.7	19.2	19.0	40.9	39.4
Deep Poverty	13.3	14.0	8.2	8.5	21.7	23.0

Poverty rate among employed youth was 26.3%, this could refer to low wages that was paid to employed youth, and youth would accepted low wages as preferable choice than being unemployed, it should be mentioned that the law of minimum wages had implemented in the beginning of 2013. The low set 8.5 NIS per hour and 1450 NIS per month, one of the obstacles that faces implemented the law wages is the limitation on controlling all Palestinian lands especially areas classified as area C (which is under control of Israeli Occupation), which makes **monitoring to the institutions and small businesses there as out of reach**. On the other hand, the unemployed youth had poverty rate among them reached to 38.0% (28.5% in West Bank and 47% in Gaza Strip). Unemployment increased poverty rate by 43%.

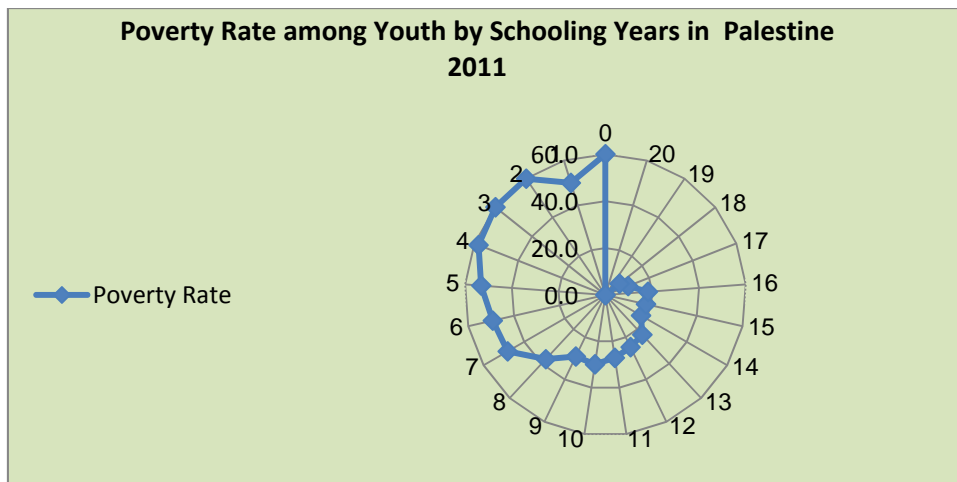
Poverty Percentages among Youth (15-29) in Palestine, 2009-2011

Poverty Percentages	Palestine		West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009
Employed	26.3		18.4		40.0	
Unemployed	37.5		28.5		46.5	

Poverty rate among youth according to the schooling years shows a clear relationship, as years of schooling increases the poverty rate decreases, but when the years of schooling reach to 15 years (collage degree) the rate was 17.7% and increased to 18.2% to whom finished 16 schooling years (first university degree, BA), while it was

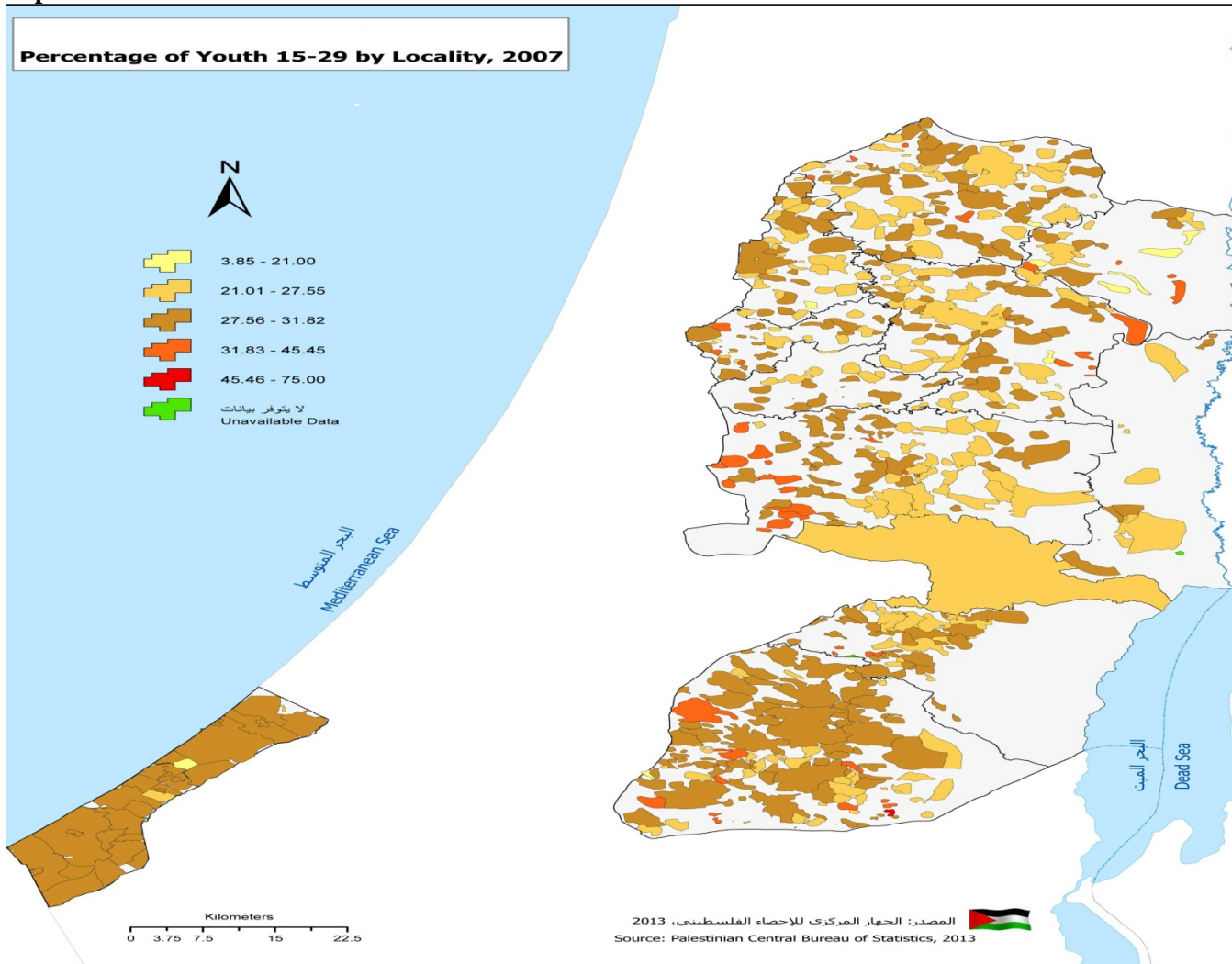
decreasing as schooling years increasing as the poverty rate was 60% among youth who finished 0 schooling years and it kept going down with getting more years at school till it reached its lowest peak at 17.5% for whom finished 14 schooling years, and after that the twisting happened for whom finished 15 and 16 schooling years and that going along with increase in the unemployment rate for this segment of youth.

Figure1:



As it shown in Map3, the majority of localities sharing almost the same percentage of youth and it is between two categories (second and third categories).

Map3:

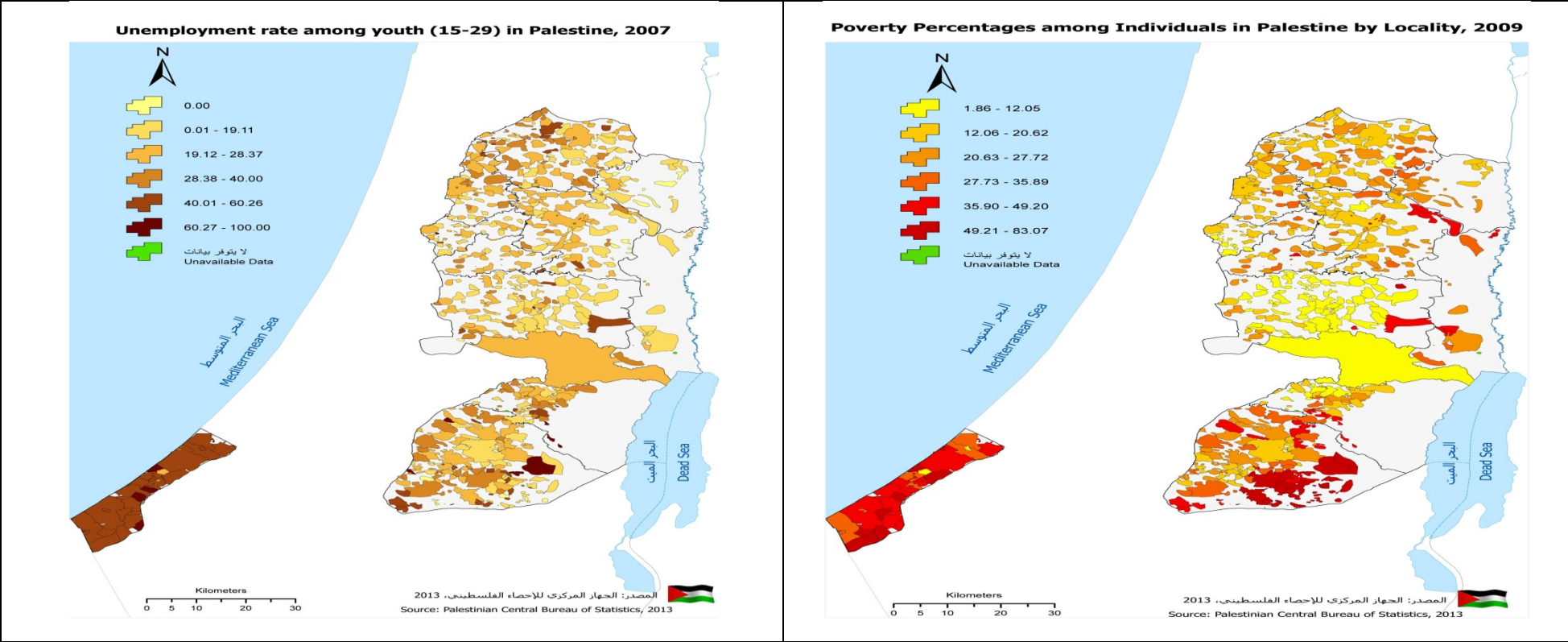


Poverty rate among individuals by localities as indicated in this map where the locality getting darker , poverty rate getting higher, the same about unemployment in localities. By taking a look to the map of poverty rate and compare it with unemployment rate among youth, a strong relationship in most localities appeared especially in areas like south east of West Bank and in Gaza Strip.

In some localities especially agricultural localities, as it appears in low unemployment rate but still in higher poverty rate comparing to other localities, in this case the employment especially in agricultural sector is enough risky for individuals to fell under poverty line due to the fact that most employees in this sector are unpaid family member and due to the low wages and low revenues referring to Israeli limitations on importing raw materials, and Israeli restrictions on accessing outside markets.

The yellow middle spot in the middle is Jerusalem governorate, it appears as one block because the model could not predict the factors that determine consumption among its localities according to huge variances between its localities because of its especial political situation as part of it completely under Israeli Occupation and under Israeli economy, so according the national poverty line, its being among the lowest poverty rates while its youth suffering from high unemployment rates. In the same time, according to Israeli statistics, Jerusalem governorate had the highest poverty rate and amounted up to more than 78% depending on Israeli poverty line.

Map4:



3. Results and Conclusions:

It should be noted that the elimination of poverty in the Palestinian territories is linked to lack in access and in management the natural sources, markets, borders because of existing of Israeli occupation. As it shown previously the strong relation between poverty and unemployment especially among educated youth who faced limitation in job opportunities as there is limitation on investments and on industries.

In addition to political instability and the continuing Israeli occupation and its policies of movement restrictions on West Bank and imposing a closure on Gaza Strip which keep possibilities to developing Palestinian economy and fighting against poverty so limited, , the Strategy to be followed to combat poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip must be part of a comprehensive development strategy aimed at economic independence and building an independent national economy .

Establishing a pattern of higher education, flexible to graduate capable qualified youth, rather than just learners in order to cope with market requirements.

Building up a protection system that protect and empower the poor especially, as an important segment of society, the largest provider of assistance and aid in Palestine to the poor is the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), MOSA according to limitation of the funding , the implemented system is a relief one, this kind of a system is not protecting poor but protecting them continuing to be poor. Empowerment projects are urgently need for this segment of the poor to left them up out of poverty as these projects will shrink unemployment and generate sustainable income. And this system will serve other segments in society as majority of the youth are responsible for caring for other members of their households.

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