

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Occasion of the eighth of March, The International Women's Day 2011

About half of the Palestinian society are females

The estimated population at end of 2010 was 4.1 million of whom 2.1 million are males and 2.0 million females. In addition, males comprise 50.8% of total population compared to 49.8% females. In other words; for every 100 person, there are 49 females. The sex ratio was 103.1 at end of 2010.

More than half of the females aged 15 years and above are married

Of every 10 females aged 15 years and above there are 6 married.

Decline in the illiteracy rates of women

During 2010, about 8 out of every 100 females aged 15 years and above are illiterate; which is four times higher compared with males in the same age group. In the same context, the gender gap has decreased during the past 10 years where the percent increase in the literacy rates of females 15 years or above is about four times higher than that of males during the period 2000-2010. However, literacy rate among males still higher than the literacy rate of females.

Limited participation of women in the labor force

Despite the rise in the participation rate of women in the labor force during the past ten years, still the rate is considered low; 15% in 2010 compared to 10% in 2001. Participation rate of men in the labor force is still four times higher than that of females.

Higher unemployment rate:

Participation of women in the labor force is considered important for sustainable development. but the rate of increase in unemployment rates between 2001 and 2010 was 91%. Although unemployment rate among men and women increased in general, the gender gap decreased in 2010 compared to 2001. The real average daily wage for women was 73 NIS compared to 60 NIS for men in 2010, with a discrepancy by 13 shekels for men.

Poverty rates are higher among households headed by men

In 2009, the poverty rate among households headed by women are lower than households headed by men; 20.2%, 22.7% respectively. A high incidence of extreme poverty among households headed by men compared to households headed by women was reported, and this is due to the fact that, the humanitarian aids go to the households headed by females and the average household size among households headed by females is less than households headed by males.

Palestinian women: Partners in the struggle for liberation

There are 34 Palestinian women in Israeli jails including 20 under sentenced terms (5 under life sentence), 12 are still waiting for trial and 2 in administrative detention.

Palestinian Women: Part of the decision making process

The participation of women in the political life and in the decision making have witnessed development as they started to compete with men and occupy high level positions in the institutions of the PNA.

There are 5 female ministers out of 22 ministers in the Palestinian cabinet; one female member in 2009 in the executive committee for the Palestinian Liberation Organization; first female president of Stock Exchange Authority, first female governor for Ramallah and Al-Bireh; and first female as president of non ministerial government institution. These appointments reflect the success of Palestinian women in leading large institutions in effective and professional manner.

Palestinian Women: Less opportunities to reach high positions in the public sector

The presentation of women as decision makers in the general administration of the PNA is still marginal. Females occupy about 4% of Assistant Undersecretary positions in the ministries of the PNA compared to 32% of positions with grade 1-10. Females represent about 31% of total employees in the public sector.