



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Palestinian Youth Survey, 2015

Main Findings

Population and Households

The population aging (15-29 years) reached mid 2015 in Palestine around 1.404 million people of which 716,000 males and 688,000 females making a ratio of 104.1 males per every 100 females. Population aging (15-29 years) reached 862,000 in the West Bank of which 441,000 males and 421,000 females with a ratio of 104.8 males per every 100 females. The population of the same age group represented 542,000 in Gaza Strip of which 275,000 males and 267,000 females with a ratio of 103.0 males per every 100 females.

The age structure of the Palestinian society is young with the age group (0-14 years) constituting 39.4% of the total population of Palestine mid-2015. The percentage of the population aging (15-29 years) represented 30.0% of the total population whereas the age group 60 years and above constituted only 4.5%.

Data from 2015 show that the percentage of the refugee population in Palestine reached 41.5% of the total Palestinian population living in Palestine. Data also show that 24.4% of the West Bank population are refugees while 68.5% of Gaza Strip population are refugees.

Data also show that 43.1% of people aging (12 years and over) have never married, 1.6% are engaged for the first time, while the percentage of married people constituted 51.6%. Other percentages distributed 2.8% widows and 0.9% divorced or separated.

The average size of Palestinian households was 5.2 person in Palestine in 2015, with 5.0 in the West Bank and 5.7 in Gaza Strip. The percentage of households headed by a young person (15-29 years) reached 14.0%, being 12.6% in the West Bank and 16.6% in Gaza Strip. Data also showed that 71.8% of households have at least one young person; 70.9% in the West Bank and 73.6% in Gaza Strip.

Education

Findings showed that 36.9% of youth (15-29 years) are currently attended in the education; with 36.3% in the West Bank and 37.9% in Gaza Strip with clear gender disparity. The young males attended in education represented 32.1% compared to 42.0% females.

Findings also showed that the percentage of youth (15-29 years) who have completed university education with a BA or higher reached 12.7% (11.2% males compared to 14.3% females). The percentage was 13.7% in the West Bank and 11.1% in Gaza Strip.

Findings also showed that 88.2% of youth aged (17-29 years) have previously attended in higher education in Palestine and that they have chosen their university or college. On the other hand, for 5.8% of them, their families chose the university for them. For about 6.0%, their general certificate score was the reason behind choosing the university or college. On another note, 89.6% of young males reported they had selected their college or university compared to 87.2% of young females who reported the same.

39.9% of youth (15-29 years) reported they were enrolled in education that they have missed one day of school at least for reasons other than strikes or work suspension, being 33.3% in the West Bank and 49.8% in Gaza Strip. 42.7% of young males reported absent classes compared to 37.6% of young females.

5.2% of youth (15-29 years) in Palestine reported having school disruption for a period exceeding four months during their enrollment in education. The percentage was 4.9% in the West Bank compared to 5.8% in Gaza Strip.

Findings also showed that 35.0% of youth (15-29 years) wish to register for post-graduate studies (MA or Ph.D). The percentage was 27.6% in the West Bank and 46.2% in Gaza Strip. From gender perspective, the percentage was 38.9% males and 31.9% females. The percentage of youth (15-29 years) who were satisfied with an academic qualification below high school was only 1% of the Palestinian youth.

84.2% of youth (15-29 years) reported they were satisfied with their education compared to 10.5% who said they were not satisfied. Females were more satisfied than males with 88.2% of females satisfied compared to 80.3% of males. About reasons of lack of satisfaction, they reported difficulty in studying, lack of jobs post-graduation with 37.2% and 17.9% respectively.

Labour

The data showed that 30.2% of youth (15-29 years) who declared that they were unemployed (25.0% males and 60.4% females). Data also showed huge discrepancies in unemployment rate among youth according to region. It was 51.5% in Gaza Strip and 18.2% in the West Bank.

The average of unemployed period for youth (15-29 years) reached 25.7 months, being 23.6 months in the West Bank and 27.0 months in Gaza Strip. It was 24.2 months for males compared to 29.4 months for females. Speaking of reasons for not working, youth reported that unavailable jobs were the main reason with 76.4% compared to 9.6% who reported that their job does not match their qualifications and experience.

85.0% of youth (15-29 years) are waged employees, being 84.9% in the West Bank and 85.8% in Gaza Strip. The percentage of male paid employees was 84.9% for males compared to 86.0% for the females of the total employed persons.

83.4% of youth (15-29 years) employed in the private sector, compared to 10.1% employed in the national institutions; the percentage of youth employed in the private sector reached 83.7% in the West Bank, compared to 82.3% in Gaza Strip.

Findings also showed that 20.9% of youth (15-29 years) tried to establish their own businesses with 14.9% in the West Bank, compared to 30.6% in Gaza Strip. There were clear gender variances with young males who attempted to create their own business representing 29.6%, compared to 11.9% females. Of the youth who tried to establish their own business, 16.1% had actually their own project, being 18.3% in the West Bank and 14.4% in Gaza Strip. Gender variance was 19.9% of males with their own projects of all those who attempted, compared to 4.6% of females with actual private project of the total females who tried to establish their own projects.

Migration

3.9% of youth (15-29 years) in Palestine have previously lived abroad, 3.8% in the West Bank and 4.1% in Gaza Strip. Gender distribution was 4.4% males compared to 3.4% females.

Findings also showed that 23.6% of youth (15-29 years) in Palestine desire to migrate abroad and that the prevailing conditions in Gaza Strip plays a major role in increasing the percentage of youth desire to migrate abroad. They represented 37.0% in Gaza Strip, compared to 15.2% in the West Bank.

It should be noted that young males men have more tendency to think of emigration compared to young females. The percentage reached 29.1% among males, compared to 17.8% among females.

Results also show that 62.5% of the youth (15-29 years) who wish to immigrate do not consider permanent emigration. They represented 72.9% in the West Bank and 55.8% in Gaza Strip. Females prefer temporary emigration, compared to males (61.7% of males, compared to 63.9% of females).

Economic conditions (40.8%) and lack of work opportunities (15.1%) were the major reasons that push youth (15-29 years) to consider emigrating. 12.5% reported they wanted to Migrate to receive education and training. The motives for emigration did not vary according to region.

It should be noted that the Arab Gulf Countries ranked first as a destination of emigration with 21.6%, followed by Sweden with 13.6%. At region level, youth (15-29 years) living in the West Bank reported that their primary choice would be the Gulf countries then USA whereas for Gaza Strip, it was Sweden and the Arab Gulf Countries.

46.1% of youth (15-29 years) reported they had previous emigration experience, with 40.2% in the West Bank and 60.6% in Gaza Strip. 13.0% of them reported they had a bad experience with 10.1% in the West Bank and 19.9% in Gaza Strip.

Marriage and Health

Findings showed that 67.5% of youth (15-29 years) have not been married before. 28.0% are married compared to 3.9% engaged and 0.6% widowed, divorced or separated. The percentage of married youth reached 25.6% in the West Bank, compared to 31.6% in Gaza Strip. The percentage of married males reached 15.6% compared to 40.8% females.

Youth (15-29 years) reported that the appropriate age at marriage for males is 25.4 years compared to 21.1 years for females. Youth living in the West Bank said that the appropriate age at marriage for males is 25.6 years compared to 21.2 years for females. Youth in Gaza Strip reported that the appropriate age at marriage is 25.0 years for males and 20.9 years for females.

On the ideal number of children, youth (15-29 years) reported that it would be 2.2 males compared to 1.8 females. It is noted that the numbers were noticeably equal between young males living in the West Bank and those in Gaza Strip. When distributed by gender, young males see the ideal number as 2.3 males and 1.7 females whereas young females consider it as 2.1 males and 1.9 females.

Data show that the percentage of young persons (15-29 years) faced difficulty/ disability was 3.6%, being 3.7% in the West Bank and 3.6% in Gaza Strip. The percentage of males with difficulty/ disability was 4.9% compared to 2.3% of females.

Young persons (15-29 years) reported that the major health issues they faced were diseases induced by improper behavior like smoking and mental problems at 50.0% and 27.4% respectively. There were no variances related to health issues between the West Bank and Gaza Strip or between males and females.

Data showed that 23.5% of youth smoked, being 29.5% in the West Bank and 14.0% in Gaza Strip. Gender variances were high with 40.9% of males smoking, compared to 5.4% of females.

Regarding daily exercising, 24.6% (almost a quarter of youth) reported they exercised daily for at least half an hour, 19.6% in the West Bank and 32.6% in Gaza Strip. Gender variance was high with 32.0% of males exercising compared to 17.0% of females.

Social Participation

Data showed that youth (15-29 years) who participated in volunteer work in the year before the survey reached 19.6%. 11.3% of youth participated in non-financial charity activities (helping the poor or hardship cases), while 7.1% of youth contribute in community development activities, 5.4% in educational activities, 5.5% in fundraising for donations and 1.1% in other volunteer work.

The percentage of participation of youth (15-29 years) in volunteer work in Gaza Strip was higher than among youth in the West Bank with 21.8% and 18.1% respectively. Young males participate more in volunteer work, compared to young females. The rates were 26.0% for males participation, compared to 12.8% for females participation.

7.6% of youth (15-29 years) reported looking for volunteer work opportunity, with 5.7% in the West Bank and 10.7% in Gaza Strip. Gender distribution was 9.1% for males and 6.2% for females.

Findings showed that 6.3% of youth (15-29 years) reported being members of sports clubs and centers (5.7% in the West Bank compared to 7.4% in Gaza Strip). The percentage of youth members of civil, cultural or non governmental associations was 3.0% (2.1% in the West Bank and 4.4% in Gaza Strip). Youth affiliated with political parties or movements reached 1.4% (0.9% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip). These rates are noticeably low for young females compared to young males. For instance, the percentage of young males

members of sports clubs was 10.6% compared to 1.6% for young females. The percentage of young males affiliated with civil and non governmental associations was 4.0% compared to 1.9% for young females.

Regarding the priorities of Palestinian youth, findings showed that 79.4% of youth (15-29 years) consider that ending the occupation and the building of Palestine is the top priority for the Palestinian people, followed by improving the standard of living, at the rate of 7.3%. It is noted that youth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and males and females are unanimous about these priorities.

Regarding participation in any elections, 39.9% of youth (15-29 years) reported they would participate (29.4% in the West Bank, compared to 56.8% in Gaza Strip). 29.4% reported they would probably participate while 12.6% said they would probably not participate and 18.1% said they definitely would not participate (16.4% in the West Bank and 20.7% in Gaza Strip).

Data showed that the percentage of youth (15-29 years) who used a computer reached 69.7% (74.8% in the West Bank, compared to 61.7% in Gaza Strip). The rate for males was 73.8% compared to 65.5% for females.

Regarding knowledge and use of the Internet, 69.7% of youth (15-29 years) reported they knew and used the Internet compared to 23.3% who were aware but did not use the Internet. The percentage of youth, not aware and not using this service reached 7.0% of the total Palestinian youth. The percentage of youth who know and use the Internet was 75.0% in the West Bank compared to 61.3% in Gaza Strip. The percentage was 74.6% for males, compared to 64.5% for females.

Regarding the places of use of the Internet, data showed that most youth (15-29 years) used the Internet at home (83.1%). 84.9% in the West Bank, compared to 79.6% in Gaza Strip.

Results also showed that 84.8% of Palestinian youth owned a mobile phone; 88.1% in the West Bank compared to 79.5% in Gaza Strip. The percentage was 91.9% for males compared to 77.3% for females.