

**2007**

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(970/972) 2982700 :

(970/972) 2982710 :

diwan@pcbs.gov.ps :

<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> :





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<b>19</b>		:
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<b>27</b>		:
27		1.3
27		2.3
28		3.3
30		4.3
31		5.3
31		6.3
35		1.6.3
36		7.3
37		1.7.3
38		2.7.3
40	-	8.3
40		1.8.3
41		2.8.3
<b>45</b>		:
45		1.4
46		2.4
48		3.4
50		4.4
51		5.4
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<b>55</b>		:
55		1.5
56		2.5
57		3.5

61	4.5
64	5.5
65	6.5
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<b>71</b>	:
71	1.6
72	2.6
72	3.6
72	4.6
<b>73</b>	

<b>28</b>	2007		<b>:1</b>
<b>32</b>			<b>:2</b>
		2007	
<b>33</b>			<b>:3</b>
		2007	
<b>33</b>	2007		<b>:4</b>
<b>34</b>	2007		<b>:5</b>
<b>35</b>	2007		<b>:6</b>
<b>37</b>		( 10)	<b>:7</b>
		2007	
<b>38</b>		( 10)	<b>:8</b>
		2007	
<b>40</b>			<b>:9</b>
		2007	
<b>41</b>			<b>:10</b>
		2007	
<b>46</b>		( 10)	<b>:11</b>
		2007	
<b>47</b>	2007		<b>:12</b>
<b>48</b>			<b>:13</b>
		2007	
<b>50</b>		( 5)	<b>:14</b>
		2007	
<b>52</b>			<b>:15</b>
		2007 /	
<b>56</b>		( 10)	<b>:16</b>
		2007	

<b>58</b>	2007	(17-7)	<b>:17</b>
<b>59</b>	2007	(17-7)	<b>:18</b>
<b>60</b>	2007	(17-7)	<b>:19</b>
<b>60</b>	2007	(17-7)	<b>:20</b>
<b>61</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:21</b>
<b>62</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:22</b>
<b>63</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:23</b>
<b>64</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:24</b>
<b>65</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:25</b>
<b>66</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:26</b>
<b>67</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:27</b>
<b>68</b>		( 10) 2007	<b>:28</b>

<b>30</b>	2007		<b>:1</b>
<b>42</b>		(17-0)	<b>:2</b>
		2007	
<b>42</b>		(17-0)	<b>:3</b>
		2007	
<b>46</b>	(	10)	<b>:4</b>
		2007	
<b>49</b>			<b>:5</b>
		2007	
<b>51</b>		(17-5)	<b>:6</b>
		2007	
<b>56</b>	2008/2007		<b>:7</b>

103.1		2007			100
5.6	1997			2007	4.6
		2007	5.5		
%74.0	2007	%81.8			
.1997	%23.0	2007	%12.2	1997	
				%4.3 ( 19-15)	
			<sup>1</sup>	%1.7	
			( )		
280		392			146
		32			
		281,575		351,739	
			7,418	2,020	
(12 )		-	.2009-	.2009	<sup>1</sup>



	42,619	4,268				•
	%14.9					
					2008/2007	
				%5.3		•
						•
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2,929						•
		111				
		%33.7				
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52,228	55,557	107,785	/			•
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*		
4.2	17,230	1
10.4	43,035	2
10.0	41,627	3
12.6	52,123	4
14.3	59,367	5
14.8	61,290	6
12.6	52,080	7
9.0	37,294	8
5.5	22,940	9
3.1	12,886	10
3.5	14,621	+11
<b>100.0</b>	<b>414,493</b>	

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377,897  
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<b>%40.4</b>	<b>(14-0)</b>
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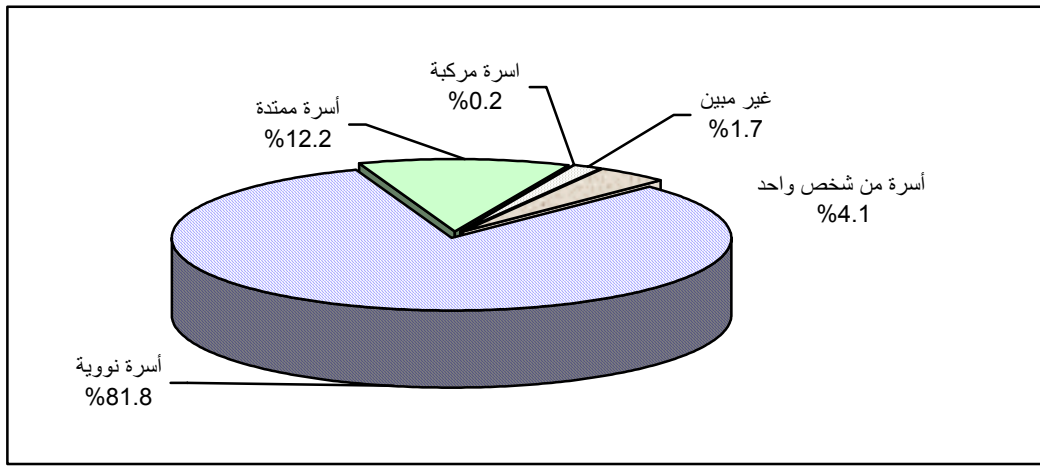
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294,841

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**	**			
5.4	44.6	32,616	40,532	
4.8	45.2	6,247	7,579	
5.0	45.0	21,552	26,292	
5.4	44.6	40,883	50,714	
7.6	42.4	10,715	14,540	
5.6	44.4	7,381	9,254	
5.1	44.9	33,049	40,503	
3.9	46.1	5,004	5,840	
5.6	44.4	37,657	47,030	*
5.9	44.1	21,122	26,807	
5.8	44.2	65,349	82,648	
<b>5.5</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>281,575</b>	<b>351,739</b>	

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**	**			
0.5	50.5	42,360	41,591	
0.4	50.4	8,105	7,968	
0.4	50.4	26,265	25,824	
0.4	50.4	54,792	53,958	
0.6	50.6	14,866	14,525	
0.5	50.5	10,153	9,944	
0.7	50.7	45,843	44,625	
0.9	50.9	6,642	6,420	
0.3	50.3	59,332	58,522	*
0.5	50.5	29,694	29,133	
1.0	51.0	88,843	85,437	
<b>0.6</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>386,895</b>	<b>377,947</b>	

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5,398

7,418

2,020

%78.6

2007

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**			
79.0	645	171	
87.1	155	23	
79.0	640	170	
79.1	1,130	298	
83.8	368	71	
84.7	211	38	
80.2	1,074	265	
70.9	183	75	
70.8	1,272	525	*
77.9	543	154	
83.9	1,197	230	
<b>78.6</b>	<b>7,418</b>	<b>2,020</b>	

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%87.1

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38,351                      42,619                      4,268

%90.9

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	2007		:(5)
**			
92.6	5,216	415	
93.3	947	68	
91.6	3,780	347	
91.7	7,141	644	
92.1	1,619	139	
90.6	1,205	125	
91.3	5,846	554	
92.3	757	63	
86.3	5,672	902	*
88.8	3,057	385	
92.2	7,379	626	
<b>90.9</b>	<b>42,619</b>	<b>4,268</b>	المجموع

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%86.3

%93.3

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1,799

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2,422

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**			
74.1	157	55	
85.5	47	8	
75.6	164	53	
74.7	183	62	
80.6	87	21	
81.7	76	17	
78.2	290	81	
75.8	47	15	
66.4	484	245	*
71.9	87	34	
84.7	177	32	
<b>74.3</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>623</b>	

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1.6.3

( 19-15)	%14.1
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19-15) .( ) (CRC) (18 )  
2008<sup>6</sup> .%14.1 (

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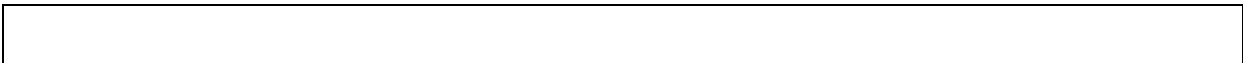
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**				
0	2	0	2	14-10
11.8	613	72	541	19-15
3.3	9,591	312	9,279	24-20
2.1	37,157	781	36,376	29-25
2.6	56,072	1,463	54,609	34-30
3.9	56,117	2,213	53,904	39-35
5.9	51,481	3,024	48,457	44-40
8.6	41,299	3,550	37,749	49-45
12.7	28,848	3,659	25,189	54-50
15.9	22,339	3,560	18,779	59-55
23.3	17,718	4,132	13,586	64-60
33.2	39,230	13,023	26,207	+65
<b>9.9</b>	<b>360,467</b>	<b>35,789</b>	<b>324,678</b>	

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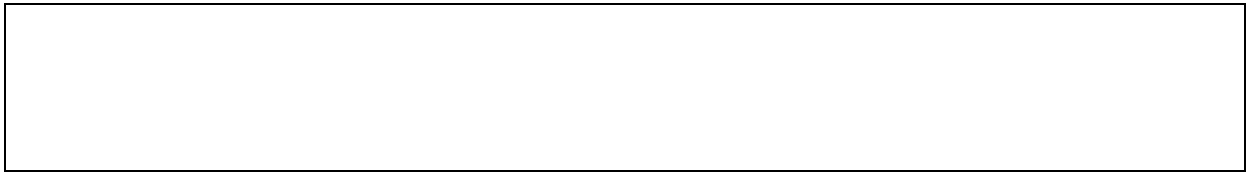
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## 2.7.3

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2007

**						
50.0	50.0	0	0	1	1	14-10
0.3	99.7	71	1	146	392	19-15
0.4	99.6	280	32	465	8,791	24-20
0.5	99.5	586	193	801	35,845	29-25
0.7	99.3	1,079	375	1,130	53,334	34-30
1.2	98.8	1,578	621	1,277	52,505	39-35
2.0	98.0	2,069	949	1,665	46,670	44-40
2.6	97.4	2,582	940	2,650	35,001	49-45
3.2	96.8	2,940	705	3,888	21,201	54-50
3.9	96.1	3,012	531	5,586	13,092	59-55
4.0	96.0	3,886	238	7,869	5,678	64-60
5.0	95.0	12,764	247	21,456	4,708	+65
<b>1.7</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>30,847</b>	<b>4,832</b>	<b>46,934</b>	<b>276,858</b>	

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217 ((8) )  
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**		
22.5	83,000	
92.0	339,841	
65.0	240,188	
3.8	14,104	
34.7	128,402	
96.9	358,381	/
25.3	93,605	
89.7	331,722	
20.0	74,335	
69.2	255,935	/
93.1	344,348	
24.5	90,666	
81.4	300,964	
45.2	166,975	

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%90

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2007 \* :(10)

**		
33.7	124,782	
46.3	171,082	
0.35	1,309	
1.30	4,810	
0.43	1,587	
16.38	60,560	
0.79	2,929	

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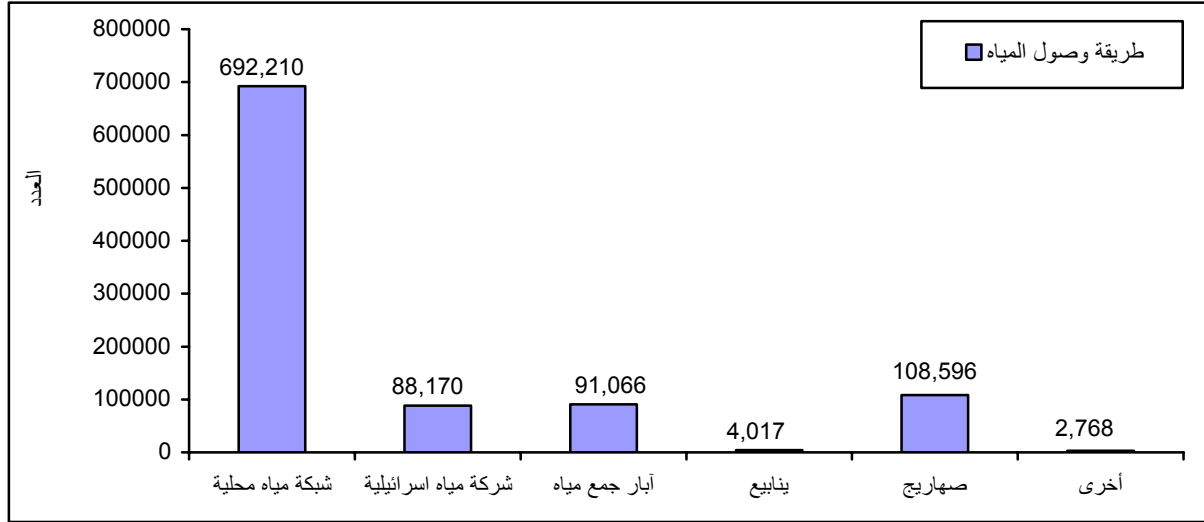
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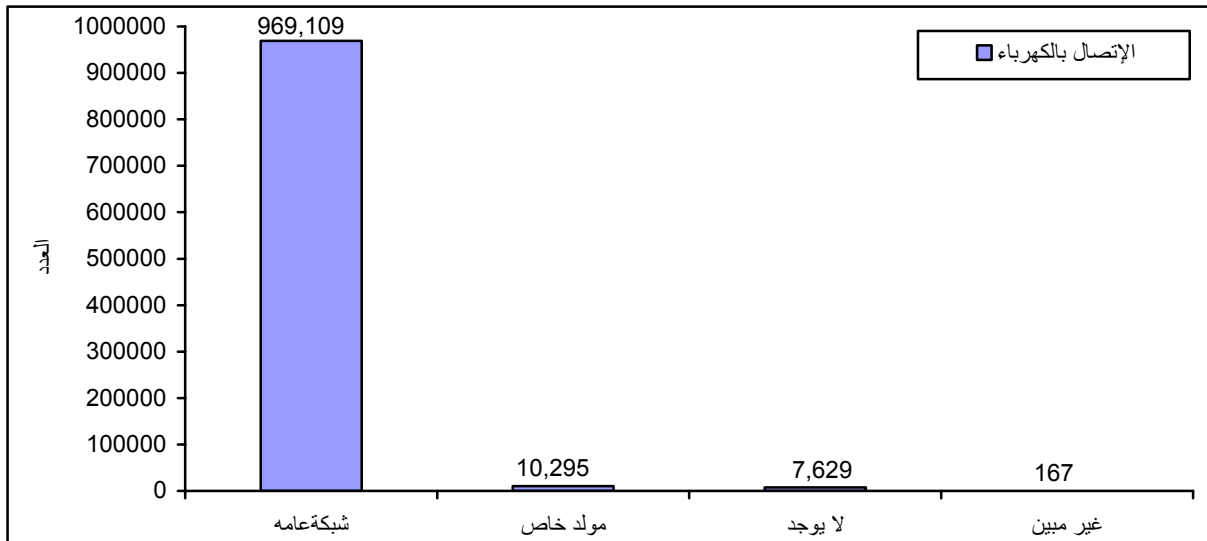
2007 \* (17-0) :(2)



- .2007 2010 : \*  
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) 206,496 ( ) %20.9 . ( ) .(

2007 \* (17-0) :(3)



- .2007 2010 : \*  
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18,091

%1.8



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2007 \* ( 10 ) : (11)

92,324	69,648	22,676	
213,482	105,753	107,729	
393,289	185,981	207,308	
456,754	216,922	239,832	
258,035	125,671	132,364	
66,661	33,210	33,451	
105,714	49,261	56,453	
1,996	648	1,348	
9,620	2,463	7,157	
2,655	295	2,360	
2,893	1,543	1,350	
<b>1,603,423</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	

.2007- .2008 :

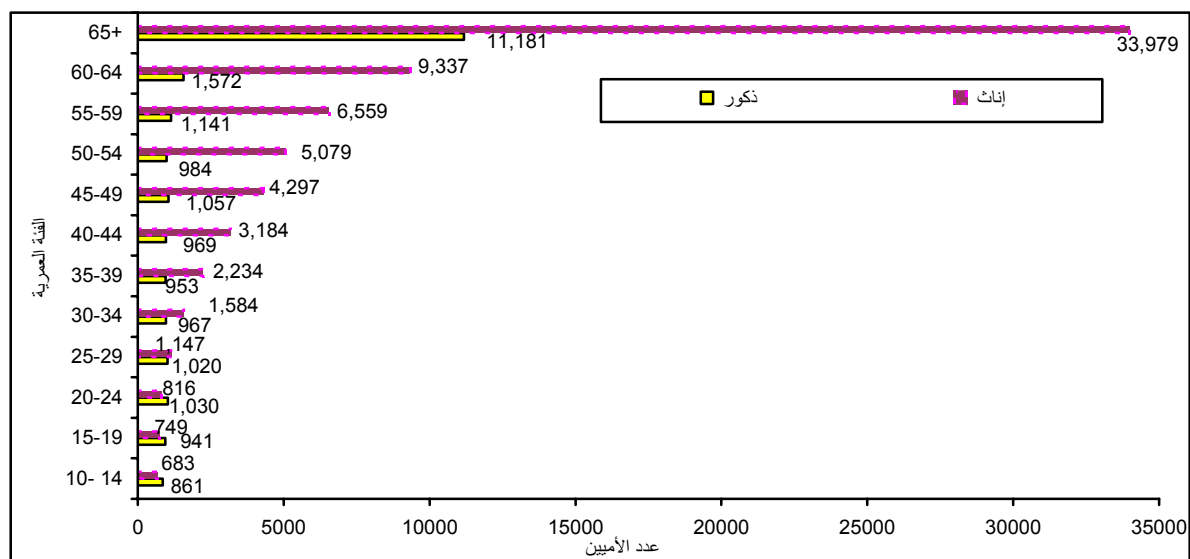
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69,648 22,676

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2007 \* ( 10 ) : (4)



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33,979      11,181      65  
(19-15)                          (4)

46,972      (      )  
105,753      17,729  
2007      1,976      1997

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*		
47.9	21,327	
40.7	22,910	
48.7	6,693	
49.8	241	
46.6	7,192	
32.5	700	
25.6	4,694	
11.1	2,065	

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16,490	8,743	
1,289	837	
13,261	10,404	
7,854	8,796	
710	1,213	
13,162	20,275	
766	2,802	
1,155	575	
2,163	2,118	
2,275	1,701	
3,360	4,807	
1,173	9,753	
188	313	
1,243	5,950	
241	1,460	
23	203	
7,763	8,917	
101	51	
827	548	
36	356	
42	55	
2	270	
<b>74,124</b>	<b>90,147</b>	

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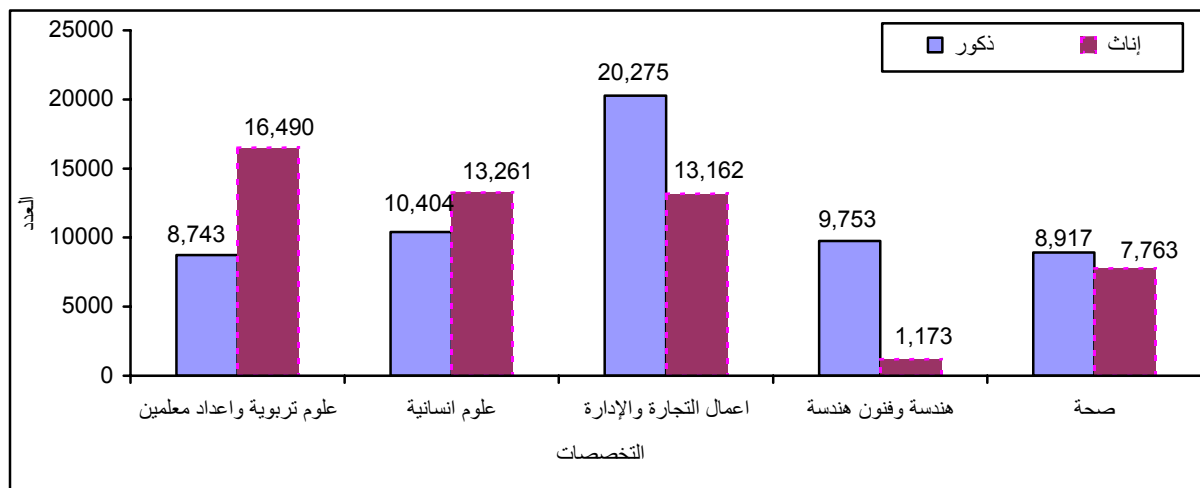
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2007

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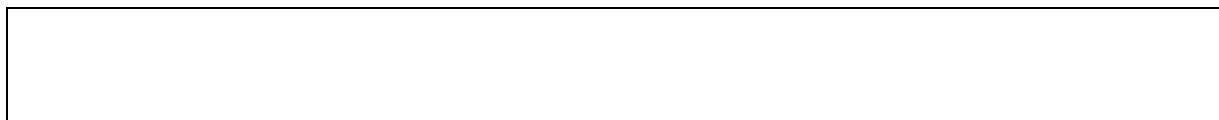
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2007 ( 5 ) :(14)

<b>43.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>945,731</b>	<b>972,921</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>534,212</b>	<b>560,034</b>	<b>409,087</b>	<b>410,415</b>	
43.3	42.5	105,747	108,753	213	218	59,703	62,300	45,831	46,235	
44.8	43.4	20,026	20,503	8	9	11,044	11,598	8,974	8,896	
43.0	43.2	67,184	68,247	63	26	38,199	38,742	28,922	29,479	
42.0	41.1	134,353	137,357	149	120	77,716	80,778	56,488	56,459	
44.2	43.8	36,419	38,572	72	73	20,264	21,605	16,083	16,894	
45.9	45.6	24,633	25,403	25	14	13,311	13,813	11,297	11,576	
41.7	41.9	110,342	111,224	260	271	64,016	65,148	46,066	45,805	
39.7	38.8	16,648	16,550	78	88	9,968	10,041	6,602	6,421	
41.3	40.1	141,737	146,222	1,069	1,236	82,072	86,337	58,596	58,649	*
44.1	41.9	70,232	72,964	134	105	39,156	42,321	30,942	30,538	
45.5	43.8	218,410	227,126	361	312	118,763	127,351	99,286	99,463	

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410,415

534,212

،%42.2

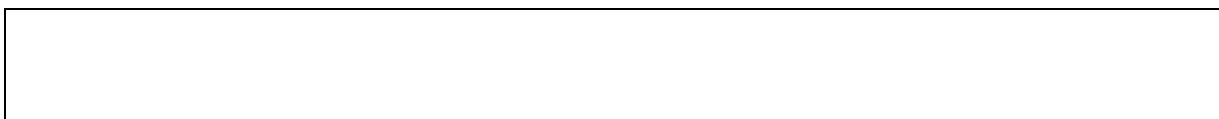
409,087

2,472

%43.3

560,034

2,432



2008 (17-10) (12 )  
 2008 %20.0  
 %3.7 ( ) (17-10)  
 .2008 %1.2 %5.3  
 .2008 %25.6

**%25.6**

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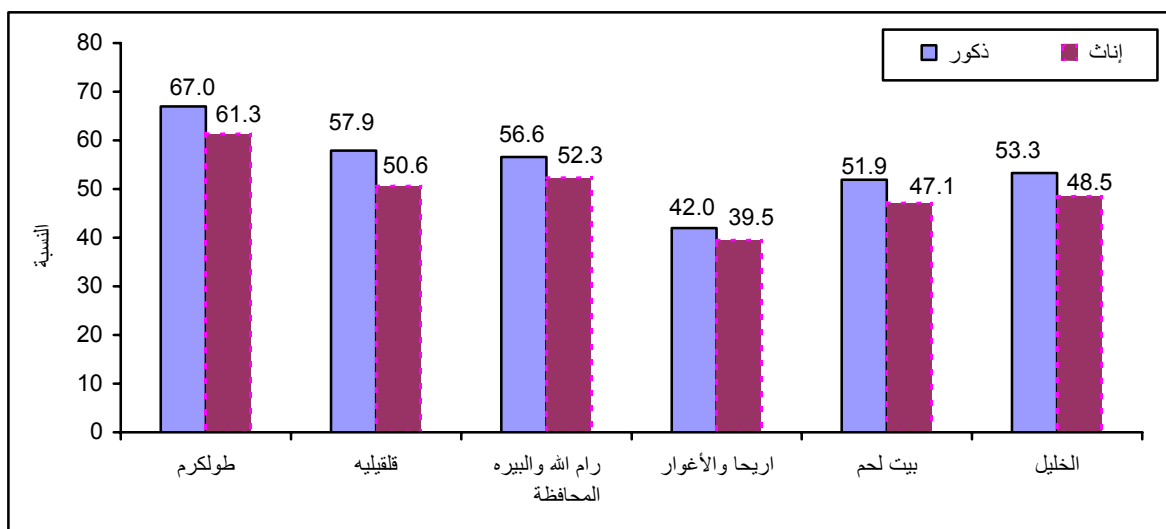
%45.9 %45.6  
 %45.5 %43.8

**5.4**

**2007**

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2007 / \* / :(15)

			/
30,479	29,562	60,041	
14,310	14,348	28,658	
22,136	20,045	42,181	
6,882	7,899	14,781	
6,786	8,173	14,959	
<b>80,593</b>	<b>80,027</b>	<b>160,620</b>	/

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<b>100,000</b>
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2007 \* ( 10) :(16)

<b>79,906</b>	<b>456,448</b>	
67,568	392,322	
3,559	32,726	
8,779	31,400	
<b>709,453</b>	<b>352,341</b>	
278,245	272,259	/
377,897	1,155	
42,917	52,212	/ /
2,774	8,398	/
7,620	18,317	
<b>2,036</b>	<b>3,239</b>	
<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	

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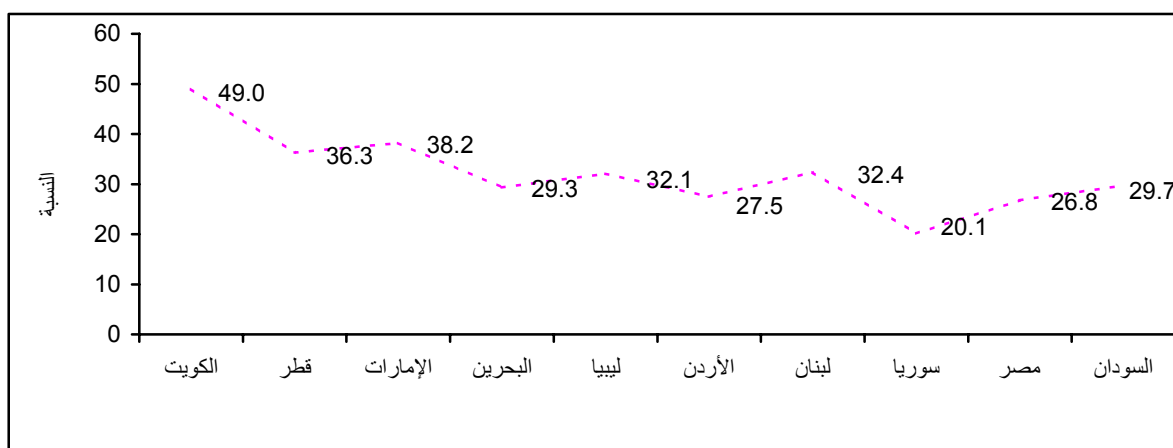
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<b>966</b>	354	10	214	202	179	2	5	
<b>394</b>	135	0	21	188	46	3	1	
<b>548</b>	192	15	158	67	111	1	4	
<b>1,802</b>	583	45	685	85	386	3	15	
<b>412</b>	101	12	148	72	75	3	1	
<b>243</b>	53	18	95	36	40	0	1	
<b>1,176</b>	348	36	400	97	272	13	10	
<b>504</b>	242	2	25	192	43	0	0	
<b>456</b>	148	15	161	16	106	4	6	*
<b>513</b>	165	36	202	13	92	2	3	
<b>2,992</b>	845	223	1,005	210	688	7	14	
<b>10,006</b>	<b>3,166</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>60</b>	

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<b>904</b>	353	9	211	153	171	2	5	
<b>329</b>	128	0	21	131	45	3	1	
<b>530</b>	190	15	155	60	106	1	3	
<b>1,762</b>	573	43	667	80	382	2	15	
<b>388</b>	101	11	135	66	72	2	1	
<b>220</b>	51	17	89	26	36	0	1	
<b>1,135</b>	346	36	387	80	264	12	10	
<b>364</b>	185	2	20	115	42	0	0	
<b>450</b>	146	15	160	16	103	4	6	*
<b>507</b>	164	36	200	11	92	2	2	
<b>2,951</b>	843	221	986	203	680	6	12	
<b>9,540</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>	

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<b>62</b>	1	1	3	49	8	0	0	
<b>65</b>	7	0	0	57	1	0	0	
<b>18</b>	2	0	3	7	5	0	1	
<b>40</b>	10	2	18	5	4	1	0	
<b>24</b>	0	1	13	6	3	1	0	
<b>23</b>	2	1	6	10	4	0	0	
<b>41</b>	2	0	13	17	8	1	0	
<b>140</b>	57	0	5	77	1	0	0	
<b>6</b>	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	*
<b>6</b>	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	
<b>41</b>	2	2	19	7	8	1	2	
<b>466</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	

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309	1,728	2,037	
89	2,181	2,092	
1	2,268	2,269	
42	2,709	2,751	
1	279	280	
0	77	77	
14	151	165	
<b>456</b>	<b>9,304</b>	<b>9,760</b>	

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8.3	56.1	89,286	91,613	7,420	51,353	
12.7	57.5	16,955	17,214	2,148	9,901	
10.7	55.1	57,461	57,989	6,137	31,945	
10.5	58.1	113,834	115,937	11,967	67,409	
9.3	56.3	30,523	32,334	2,833	18,203	
12.7	55.2	20,842	21,330	2,643	11,779	
13.7	57.5	94,291	94,484	12,898	54,356	
15.2	61.4	13,919	13,727	2,121	8,426	
10.3	55.6	114,948	118,377	11,873	65,797	*
11.2	56.1	59,303	61,542	6,621	34,548	
7.4	54.8	180,033	187,481	13,245	102,731	
<b>10.1</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>79,906</b>	<b>456,448</b>	

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6.8	46.7	89,286	91,613	6,072	42,816	
10.5	52.2	16,955	17,214	1,786	8,988	
8.7	46.9	57,461	57,989	4,990	27,189	
8.5	51.2	113,834	115,937	9,675	59,333	
8.2	48.6	30,523	32,334	2,503	15,569	
10.1	47.2	20,842	21,330	2,110	10,072	
12.0	51.2	94,291	94,484	11,331	48,407	
13.9	56.1	13,919	13,727	1,933	7,696	
9.4	48.5	114,948	118,377	10,771	57,375	*
9.7	46.1	59,303	61,542	5,778	28,379	
5.9	46.1	180,033	187,481	10,619	86,498	
<b>8.5</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>67,568</b>	<b>392,322</b>	

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0.4	4.4	89,286	91,613	316	4,032	
0.8	3.4	16,955	17,214	138	580	
0.5	4.4	57,461	57,989	296	2,569	
0.6	3.9	113,834	115,937	657	4,521	
0.3	4.3	30,523	32,334	97	1,375	
0.8	4.6	20,842	21,330	164	982	
0.6	3.8	94,291	94,484	609	3,618	
0.7	3.1	13,919	13,727	94	428	
0.3	2.7	114,948	118,377	311	3,148	*
0.5	6.5	59,303	61,542	316	4,008	
0.4	4.0	180,033	187,481	561	7,465	
<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>32,726</b>	

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1.2	4.9	89,286	91,613	1,032	4,505	
1.3	1.9	16,955	17,214	224	333	
1.5	1.5	57,461	57,989	851	2,187	
1.4	3.1	113,834	115,937	1,635	3,555	
0.8	3.9	30,523	32,334	233	1,259	
1.8	3.4	20,842	21,330	369	725	
1.0	2.5	94,291	94,484	958	2,331	
0.7	2.2	13,919	13,727	94	302	
0.7	4.5	114,948	118,377	791	5,274	*
1.3	3.5	59,303	61,542	527	2,161	
1.1	4.7	180,033	187,481	2,065	8,768	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>8,779</b>	<b>31,400</b>	

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0.4	1.1	89,286	91,613	339	976	
0.5	1.4	16,955	17,214	77	236	
0.5	1.3	57,461	57,989	306	750	
0.5	1.1	113,834	115,937	528	1,320	
0.2	0.9	30,523	32,334	67	283	
0.4	1.0	20,842	21,330	73	215	
0.6	1.7	94,291	94,484	524	1,580	
0.3	1.2	13,919	13,727	47	165	
0.1	0.4	114,948	118,377	142	529	*
0.3	0.9	59,303	61,542	202	565	
0.3	0.9	180,033	187,481	469	1,779	
<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>8,398</b>	

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18.0	82.0	14,703	2,645	12,058	
42.1	57.9	62,540	26,328	36,212	
38.7	61.3	33,133	12,818	20,315	
40.2	59.8	14,879	5,979	8,900	
8.2	91.8	88,796	7,264	81,532	
13.1	86.9	17,856	2,332	15,524	
5.8	94.2	113,700	6,570	107,130	
1.3	98.7	40,611	542	40,069	
4.8	95.2	97,214	4,689	92,525	
<b>14.3</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>483,432</b>	<b>69,167</b>	<b>414,265</b>	

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10.9	89.1	3,337	27,300	30,637	
0	100	0	8	8	
0.2	99.8	5	2,153	2,158	
11.6	88.4	7,786	59,218	67,004	
2.9	97.1	47	1,562	1,609	
0.3	99.7	329	105,130	105,459	
5.3	94.7	4,494	79,612	84,106	
2.9	97.1	357	12,023	12,380	
2.9	97.1	790	26,361	27,151	
26.5	73.5	1,426	3,946	5,372	
18.0	82.0	2,032	9,282	11,314	
12.6	87.4	5,693	39,381	45,074	
54.3	45.7	28,551	24,061	52,612	
42.5	57.5	7,415	10,047	17,462	
30.1	69.9	4,447	10,323	14,770	
69.0	31.0	310	139	449	
39.4	60.6	1,909	2,939	4,848	
<b>14.3</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>68,928</b>	<b>413,485</b>	<b>482,413</b>	

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56	343	140	66	476	858		
26	91	21	13	136	141		
74	408	114	63	432	905		
168	1,007	418	260	750	1,217		
18	179	49	29	129	597		
12	207	28	7	162	429		
232	1,669	551	509	682	1,159		
31	277	28	27	69	98		
1,081	544	191	258	614	630	*	
99	373	227	78	427	604		
112	595	265	116	617	1,148		
<b>1,909</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>7,786</b>		

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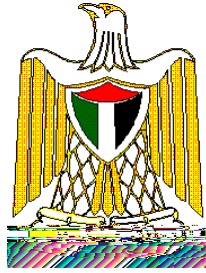
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**Palestinian National Authority  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**Gender Gaps in the West Bank**  
according to the data of the Population, Housing and  
Establishment Census, 2007

**Prepared by:  
Sama Aweidah**

**February, 2010**

PAGE NUMBERS OF ENGLISH TEXT ARE PRINTED IN SQUARE BRACKETS.  
TABLES ARE PRINTED IN THE ARABIC ORDER (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT).

**This document is prepared in accordance with the standard  
procedures stated in the Code of Practice for Palestine  
Official Statistics 2006**

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**All correspondence should be directed to:  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics  
P.O. Box 1647 Ramallah, Palestine.**

Tel: (972/970) 2982700  
Fax: (972/970) 2982710  
E-mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps  
web-site: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

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## **Project Team**

- **Report Preparation**  
Sama Aweidah
- **Graphical Design**  
Ahamad Sawalmeh
- **Dissemination Standard**  
Hanan Janajreh
- **Prelimination Review**  
Ashraf Hamdan  
Faten Abu-Qara  
Khaled Abu-Khaled  
Mustafa Khawaja  
Mohammed Al-Omari
- **Final Review & Overall Supervision**  
Mahmoud Jaradat  
Ola Awad Acting President



## **Preface**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) has been committed to provide the statistical framework through which women issues can be studied and monitored to ensure sustainable development. These efforts complement the national efforts to empower both women and men to fully participate in the development process.

PCBS has since 1996, through its Gender Statistics Program, developed comprehensive database on a set of gender relevant indicators in Palestine, and disseminated series of annual reports to shed lights on the status of women, men, and children to serve planners and decision makers.

This report aims to elaborate, through statistical descriptive framework, on the existing gaps on the status of women, men, and children. Such framework furnishes all interested parties in the Palestinian society with the needed data to intervene to empower women better advocate gender issues through policies and initiatives.

This report on the status of Gender gaps based on data from the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2007, and its importance stems from the fact that it represents an essential reference as well as important statistical document for policy making at the national level. In addition, the report facilitates comparison of the status of women and children from international perspectives taking into consideration the international declaration on the rights of children, Beijing Declaration, and the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This report discuss the gender gaps in the West Bank through focusing on the main gender indicators such as the distribution of population, Labour market, and the education indicators as well.

PCBS hopes that this document constitutes an effective tool in strengthening the availability of statistical indicators on women, men, and children as basis to raise awareness among policy makers and interested researchers.

**February, 2010**

**Ola Awad  
Acting President**





## **Special Remarks**

- The opinions stated in this study are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).
- The researcher based her analysis on data provided by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in addition to other sources. PCBS does not bear any responsibilities in case of any errors in the analysis of the data.



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## Executive Summary

- The results of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2007 indicate that the sex ratio in the West Bank is 103.1 male for every 100 female.
- The results also show a low fertility rate compared with census 1997; where it has declined from 5.6 births to 4.6 in year 2007. This decline brings with it an opportunity to improve women's reproductive health. In the same context, the low fertility rate usually leads to improvement of the status of children in the family, which means more attention to children with respect to nutrition, health care, education and other. Such conditions lead to less work for women as the caretaker, taking into consideration the traditional division of roles in the family.
- The average household size reached 5.5 persons. Still however, more than one third of Palestinian households have a household size that exceeds six persons in 2007, and this is considered high compared with many other countries.
- The percentage of nuclear households has reached 81.8% in 2007 compared with 74.0% in 1997. This result indicates a continuous shift from extended to nuclear households, and that has both positive and negative implications on the lives of women and children.
- The results also show the continuing phenomena of female's early marriage, where the percentage of married women aged (15-19 years) reached 4.3% of females. This phenomena indicates the presence of young females being at risk resulting from pregnancy and births at early age. The findings show that 1.7% of females in the same age group had become pregnant in the first child; in addition to the risk resulting from the denial of these young mothers of access to health, educational, economic, and recreational resources to enable them to live in dignity and freedom as well as to enjoy equity.
- Men are still the principal head of the majority of households. Women usually head households in limited conditions often due to the absence of men. The interesting finding is the number of children-headed households as there were 392 households headed by economically active children, compared with 146 households headed by not economically active children. Also, the results show that 32 households were headed by not economically active female children compared with 280 households headed by not economically active female children. These findings point to the possible economic and social risks that threaten these households.
- There are 351,739 unmarried men compared to 281,575 unmarried women. In the same context, the number of married women exceeds the number of married men which is an indication of polygamy. On the other hand, the number of divorced men reached 2,020 compared to 7,418 divorced women. This reflects the continued perception of inferiority against divorced women taking into consideration that divorced men are able to marry again easily as opposed to divorced women. On the other hand, the number of widowed men amounted to 4,268 compared to 42,619 widowed women.
- The percentage of economically active females in the labor market reached 14.9% of all economically active persons, and this is the lowest percentage in the Arab countries according to the Arab Development Report. Women's participation is concentrated in specific economic activities such as administrative jobs, education, and health services. Although these results point out to gender based division of employment; however,



a number of women were able to enter non-traditional jobs such as financial intermediation and real estate activities that had been formerly known as male professions.

- The employment of children in the West Bank reached 5.3%, the majority are males. Such findings point out to the difficult economic conditions that force a child to enter the labor market prematurely.
- There is still a gap in the specialization fields of males and females. Girls still seek specialties that are not demanded in the labor market and that reduces their employment opportunities after graduation compared to male graduates. Such direction is influenced by the traditional division of roles and of the prevailing value system that define permissible areas of work for girls.
- Regarding the use of computers, there is almost no gap between both sexes. In this respect, statistics show favorable Palestinian situation compared with other developing countries.
- Regarding basic services, there are still 2,929 housing unit not connected to water, electricity, and sewage networks; while still 111 housing unit connected to sewage network only. The results show that only 33.7% of housing units connected to the three basic services (water, electricity, and sewage networks); while 46.7% of housing units connected to water and electricity networks only. Such conditions reflect negatively on women and children since they often stay at home more than others.
- The total number of persons with difficulties/disabilities has reached 107,785 distributed as 55,557 male and 52,228 female. These include; difficulties in seeing, hearing, movement, understanding, cognition, and communication. Reasons for the higher number of cases among males could include non-congenital disability as a result of Israeli measures, road accidents, work accidents. Such conditions require policies and plans to response properly to their special needs.

## Chapter One

### **Introduction**

Women's issues such as enjoyment rights, participation in the development process, roles and nature of these roles in development, reasons prevent full participation or exercising of rights, the responsiveness of state's policies and legislations to these rights, and impact of women's participation in development on themselves, their families, and society are still controversial in most societies, particularly in developing countries. The development issues in these countries are still of great interest due to the inability to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, and consequently its inability in varying levels to achieve economic and social security.

Many parties that are specialized in development or human rights issues at both international and local levels, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, have developed many theories most of which supports the importance of the human element in development. This conclusion has attracted greater focus on human development as one of the important factors, if not the most important one, to address the different issues and problems of development. To work on such development, there is a need to study the conditions and problems of population groups and societal sectors in order to be able to target participative groups and beneficiaries in various development relevant processes. To target these different groups in a tailored manner, it is important to study and identify their specific needs and competencies. These groups can be segmented into these categories:

- Age groups.
- Gender(identify from social, economic, religious, political and historical perspectives)
- Disabilities.
- Geographical distribution (i.e. urban, rural, camps, north, south, and middle of the West Bank).

Customized indicators were developed to measure the responsiveness of developmental plans to the needs of these categories. Failing to address the needs of these groups attentively would lead to inaccurate and unfair development, and this would lead to increasing isolation of the disadvantaged groups and minimize their involvement in society. Accordingly, the involvement of the different societal groups in the development processes in a responsive manner has become of increasing priority with greater focus on equity and justice (i.e. identification of causal factors that lead to isolation because of gender). Different approaches within the concept of "Engagement of gender in development" have been proposed to ensure indiscriminant acts based on gender. These approaches can also be customized to ensure equity and justice for other disadvantaged groups (i.e. discriminate acts based on age or disability) in society by studying needs and identifying specific approaches to engage these groups as participants or beneficiaries in the different developmental processes.

Palestine is committed to some of the international agreements and declaration that call for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) and children (Children's rights). Accordingly, the task of engaging and targeting women and children in development become a national obligation where the government will be held accountable.

The identification of the different gaps that prevent participation of these groups in development is prerequisite for proper intervention. For example, a low participation of women in the labor market indicates a gender gap that must be studied to identify causal factors and

then design and implement the suitable intervention. In the same context, a relative decline in the percentage of enrolled children of specific age group and specific geographical areas indicates a gap that requires identifications of causal reasons and application of appropriate intervention measures. Such conditions highlight the need for accurate and detailed statistics (i.e. age, sex, geographical distribution, disability) where the role of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics become vital.

This report utilized the data of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census – 2007, and applied gender based analysis to identify significant gender variations to accurately delineate possible gaps and propose interventions. The same approach to analyze data relevant to children aged less than 18 years. However, the findings of this report along with other studies on gender and children constitute sufficient references to address the needs of women and children.

The report covers analysis relevant to the distribution of the population including fertility rate, average household size, housing density, nationality, refugee status, and marital status. It also included other indicators relevant to gender and children. The report sheds light on the characteristics of heads of households including age group distribution from gender perspectives. In regards to economic status, the report focus on selected indicators as durable goods owned by households, relation to labor force, and different occupations from gender perspectives. In addition, data relevant to education was analyzed including indicators that cover education status, enrollment, and computer usage. Then, the report presents analysis on the impact of disability on women and children based on the data from the Population, Housing and Establishment Census – 2007.

At the end of the report, recommendations were presented that we find it appropriate as basis for planning future interventions to contribute to the improvement of the status of women and children.

## Chapter Two

### Concepts and Definitions

**Household:**

One person or a group of persons with or without a household relationship, who live in the same housing unit, share meals and make joint provision of food and other essentials of living.

**Nuclear household:**

It refers to the living household comprised of a couple only; a couple and a son or a daughter (own not adopted son or daughter) or more; or a male head of a household with a son or a daughter or more; or a female head of a household with a son or a daughter or more. It is worthy to note that no other relatives or non – relatives live with this household.

**Extended Family:**

A family of at least one nuclear family together with other relatives.

**Head of the household:**

It refers to the person who usually lives within the household and is considered as the head of the household by its other members. Often, he\she is the main decision-maker and responsible for financial support and economic welfare of the household.

**Age in Completed Years:**

The completed age in years of the person enumerated, which is the difference between the date of birth and the survey reference period.

**Collective Households:**

It refers to the place constructed for the residence of a group of individuals, who live therein and benefit from the services it provides. The collective household; it may be comprised of one building or more or one housing unit or more. Examples of collective households include hotels, hostels, elderly and orphans homes, psycho-therapy clinics and hospitals, collective households for university students, collective living quarters (camps) at the passages, and housing units of priests and nuns in the monasteries and churches (who do not have other households).

**Main source of water:**

The method that is used by the household in most of the times. The relevant data was collected on the level of the household.

**Users of the Internet:**

Includes main usages of the internet either from home or outside including visiting web sites, reading newspapers, downloading files and software.

**Computer users:**

Includes main usages like operating the computer (turning on the computer), retrieving files, creating or exporting/importing files and folders regardless of the objective (entertainment, recreational or work)

**Educational Attendance:**

Attendance means registering the person in any formal education stage irrespective of whether it took the form of continuous attendance or distance learning. Formal education stages include the elementary stage, preparatory stage, (both of which are referred to as the basic stage), secondary stage, and higher education stage (universities, colleges, vocational institutes, etc.).

Enrollment categories are as follows:

1. **Attending:** It applies if the person is currently enrolled in a regular education stage.
2. **Attended and left:** It applies if the person unsuccessfully left a regular education stage, i.e., without obtaining any degree.
3. **Attended and graduated:** It applies if the person successfully graduated from a regular education stage and did not enroll in any stage after that.
4. **Never attended:** It applies if the person is not currently enrolled and was never enrolled in any regular education stage.

**Educational Attainment:** It refers to the highest successfully completed educational attainment level. The educational level for persons aged 10 years and over .

**Illiterate:** It applies to persons unable to read or write in any language and who were never awarded a certificate from any formal education system.

**Can Read and Write:** It applies to persons who are able to read and write without completing any of the educational stages. Such persons are generally able to read and write simple sentences.

**Qualification (The highest successfully completed educational attainment):**

It refers to the highest educational attainment level (elementary and higher) the person successfully completed. **Elementary** is the educational level for persons who successfully completed the sixth elementary grade. Those who successfully completed the ninth grade shall be classified under the **preparatory** level. Likewise, persons who successfully completed the general secondary certificate examination shall be classified under the **secondary** level. As for the rest of levels, they are as follows: Associate diploma, bachelor degree (BA/BS), higher diploma, masters degree (MA/MS), doctorate (Ph.D)

**Original Nationality:**

It refers to the political identity of the individuals, as Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Brazilian, French, etc.

**Handicapped and Disabled:**

The disabled is defined as the person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months.

**Refugee Status:**

This status relates to the Palestinians who were forced to leave their land in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1948. It applies to their male sons and grandchildren.

**Employed:**

Persons who were at work at least one hour during the reference period, whether for their own account or for others paid or unpaid, or in the interest of the household. Employees classified according to the number of weekly working hours of the workers (1-14) hours, workers (15-34) hours, workers 35 hours or more.

**Main Occupation:**

The main job or type of work performed by the employed person or used to be performed by the unemployed ever worked person. The occupation refers to the activity in which the employee works more than half of his/her working hours or the most frequent job during the last three months prior to the enumeration night

**Main Economic Activity:**

Economic activity refers to the activity of the establishment in which an employed person worked during the reference period, or last worked if unemployed. This activity is defined in terms of the kind of goods produced or services supplied by the unit in which the person works. Economic activities are classified according to the unified commodity classification in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is based on the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev3).

**Marital Status:**

The status of those 12 years old and over in terms of marriage traditions and laws in the country. May be one of the following cases:

1. **Never married:** It applies if the person aged 12 years and over has not been married or legally engaged (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country).
2. **Legally engaged:** It applies if the person aged 12 years and over has an official marriage document (issued by a competent court) but has not been actually married yet according to customs and traditions applicable in the country. The divorced, widowed, and married twice do not belong to this category.
3. **Married:** It applies if the person aged 12 years and over is actually and officially married (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country) irrespective of his / her past marital status as well as of whether the couple were together during the reference period or not. The person married to more than one wife is classified as married.
4. **Divorced:** The person aged 12 years and over who previously married and legally divorced but was not married again.
5. **Widowed:** The married person aged 12 years and over whose marriage was ended by the death of the spouse and was not married again.
6. **Separated:** The individual 12 years old and over who was married, but his/her marriage was revoked for some reason without any legal or official registration, and he/she did not marry again.

**Definitions of Jerusalem J1&J2:**

Given the geographical and political situations in the Jerusalem governorate, it has been divided into two parts (J1, and J2).

For mere statistical purposes, the Jerusalem Governorate was divided into two parts.

**The first part (J1)** includes that part of Jerusalem, which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967. This part includes the following localities: (Beit Hanina, Shu'fat Refugees Camp, Shu'fat, Al' Isawiya, Jerusalem "Al - Quds"( Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi Al - Joz, Bab Al - Sahira, As Suwwana, At - Tur, Ash - Shayyah, Ras Al - Amud), Silwan, Ath - Thuri, Jabal Al - Mukabbir, As - SawahiraAl - Gharbiya, Beit Safafa, Sharafat, Sur Bahir, and Um Tuba and Kufr A'qab).

**The second part Jerusalem (J2)** Includes Jerusalem governorate except that part of Jerusalem which was forcefully Annexed by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967. This part includes the following localities: Rafat, Mikhmas, Qalandya Refugees Camp, the Bedouin Community - Jaba', Qalandya, Beit Duqqu, Jaba', Al - Judeira, Beit Anan, Al - Ram, Dahiat Al - Pareed, Al Al - Jib, Bir Nabala, Beit Ijza, Al - Qubeiba, Khirbet Um Al - Lahem, Biddu, An - Nabi Samu'eil, Hezma, Beit Hanina Al Balad, Qatanna, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa, A'nata, Al Ka'abina (the Bedouin Community – Al - Khan Al - Ahmar), Arab al Jahalin (the Bedouin Communitites, Al - Eizariya and Abu Deis), Az Za'eem, Al - Sawahreh Al - Sharqiyeh and Ash - Sheikh Sa'd.

## Population and Population Distribution

### 3.1 Sex ratio

**The sex ratio amounted to 103.1 male for every 100 female, and that indicates the need to invest equally in both sexes**

Available statistics show that the sex ratio in the Palestinian Territory is 103.1 male for every 100 female. This finding is comforting since it negates any increase in the customs of getting rid of female fetus as it is the case in other countries. In the same context, this finding may not lead to any doubts about getting rid of females due to a number of reasons namely Palestinian religious values that forbid killings and the absence of family planning policies that limit births as the case in China where policies limit the number of permitted births to only one and this led to the killing of female fetus or newborns. This had led the Chinese authorities to change this policy by allowing a second birth in case the first one was a female – but this policy did not work as planned. This finding also negates the calls for polygamy as an excuse to reduce the rate of spinsterhood among women relying on falsely social beliefs that the number of females largely exceed the number of males.

### 3.2 Fertility rate

The findings of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census – 2007 indicate that the fertility rate has declined from 5.6 birth in 1997 to 4.6 in 2007 distributed as 4.1 births in the West Bank and 5.2 in Gaza Strip.

**The decline in the fertility rate is a positive indicator on woman's reproductive health**

A decline in the fertility indicator conveys positive reproductive health for women since a decline in the number of births is internationally considered as a positive indicator to measure progress in the development of women's reproductive health. On the other hand, the decline in the number of births (at least theoretically) means lesser time for housework and childcare. This gives women more free time for recreational activities or participation in the labor market and this would be (or presumed) reflected positively on the overall health of women.

A decline in fertility represents positive indicator of children's health, since this would permit the family to devote sufficient time for child's care and provide the child with longer breastfeeding period.

**Early marriage negatively affect woman and child's health**

On the other hand, and as indicated by the report on Palestine's children<sup>2</sup>, the percentage of females who became mothers in the age group (15-19) years in the Palestinian Territory reached 4.3% and 1.7% became first time pregnant. Although these findings are considered relatively low, they represent a threat on these young mothers and their children.

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<sup>2</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Annual Report 2009. Palestine Children- Issues and Statistics. Child statistics Series No. (12). Ramallah - Palestine.



### 3.3 Average Household Size

**Percentage of nuclear households has increased as opposed to a decrease in the percentage of extended households**

The findings of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 indicate that the average household size in the West Bank reached 5.5 persons, and the percentage of nuclear households has increased to 81.8% compared to 74.0% in 1997. The increase in the nuclear households has been on the account of extended households. The findings also show there are variations in the average household size from one area to another; where the highest was in Hebron governorate with an average size of 6.1 while the lowest was in Jerusalem with 5.2 persons. These variations are due to various factors including social, economic, cultural and others.

**Table (1): Percentage distribution of private households by the number of household members, 2007**

Number of household members	Number of households	% of households
1	17,230	4.2
2	43,035	10.4
3	41,627	10.0
4	52,123	12.6
5	59,367	14.3
6	61,290	14.8
7	52,080	12.6
8	37,294	9.0
9	22,940	5.5
10	12,886	3.1
11+	14,621	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,493</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Census Final Results – population Report- West Bank. Ramallah - Palestine.

The Percentage of households in the West Bank. With more than six members is about 33.7%.

#### **Effects of household type and size on women**

An increase in household size leads to more burden on women (as they are the caretakers or the reproductive role), and this is reflected through the percentage of children aged (0-14) years that reached 40.4% compared with a decrease of 3.8% compared with census-1997. Mothers are the primary caretakers of children in this age group and this is supported by the fact that the number of women who are classified as housewives in census-2007 reached 377,897 compared with 1,155 men and that means greater burden on women.

In addition, an increase in the household size creates a barrier to the participation of women in the labor market, and this could be one of the reasons for lower women participation in the labor market. The occupation of women in housework could explain the deteriorating health of women due to increased burdens as well as minimize women's opportunities to reach health, recreational, and training resources.

The transformation of Palestinian society in the household structure with increase in the nuclear households on the account of extended or composite ones would certainly lead to changes to economic and social relations, and this in turn would lead to cultural changes as well.

The pivotal issue that requires greater focus is the economic roles of the caretakers of nuclear households (father and mother); particularly to rehabilitate either one to lead the household, and to increase their capabilities to ensure economic contribution to the household. This direction ensures the availability of the minimal household requirements that include qualified woman capable of participating in society and able to work not for economic reasons only but takes her role in all societal areas.

### **Effects of household type and size on children:**

**The percentage of children in the age group (0-14) years reached 40.4% and that necessitates larger care taking that brings with it more burden on women.**

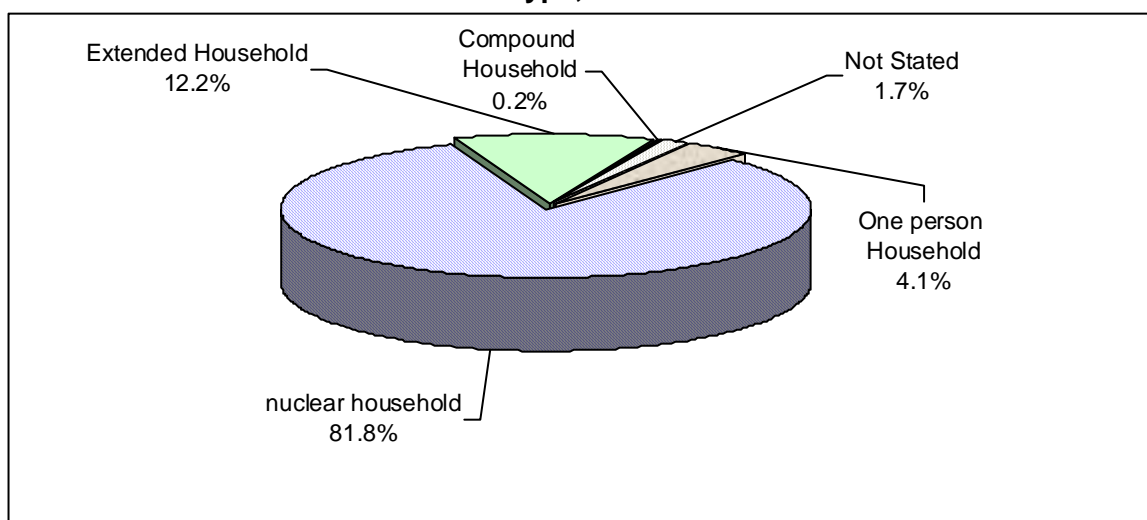
The presence of a child in a large household means less care is given to this child (child caring is distributed to all household members); whereas in poor household this could mean deprivation of adequate nutrition or access to sufficient health and education services. The impact on female children could be more since Palestinian household still provide male children with more care. This argument is supported by the findings of the Family Health Survey<sup>3</sup> where Neonatal Mortality Rate is the highest among infants 18.1 per 1000 live births during 2005-2006; and this rate becomes higher for males in Gaza Strip. Regarding under-5 Mortality, it reached 7.5 cases per 1000 live births with an increase among female children in Gaza Strip. The increase in mortality rate in Gaza Strip could be explained by the prevailing economic conditions, the population density, and the number of children per household. Regarding male infant mortality, the rate is comparable with international one and this is due to the biological composition of females as being stronger than for males. Regarding the increase Under-5 Mortality of female, reasons are associated with greater attention given to male children and their larger accessibility to nutrition and health facilities due to prevailing culture (males in the household are more important than females). As the size of household increases, lesser attention is given per child and often on the account of female children.

On the other hand, the increase in household size means denial of access to needed goods and services to ensure healthy, mental, and emotional growth. In addition, this also could lead to denial of privacy inside the house and lack of adequate space to play, study and other things. In contrast, the presence of children in nucleus households means more bonding and stronger relationship with parents. Although this is a positive indication, still could deprive the child from the adequate care (in case mother is young) or adequate support (in case father is unemployed or not present for any reason). However, there is always a substitute for this caretaker in extended families as opposed to nucleus ones.

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<sup>3</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007. Palestinian Family Health Survey, 2006. Final Report. Ramallah - Palestine

**Figure (1): Percentage distribution of households in the West Bank by household type, 2007**



**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Census Final Results – population Report- West Bank. Ramallah - Palestine.

### 3.4 Housing density

The findings of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2007 indicate a decline in the average housing density (average number of persons in the room) from 1.9 in census 1997 to 1.6 persons/room. This decline indicates improved health conditions that benefit women more than men considering that women spent more time at home. The decline in the average housing density gives women more privacy at home and more facilitates the administering of house and family matters that are usually women's tasks.

The decline in the average housing density positively affect the psychological health of children since it allows more privacy and extra space for playing and studying especially in houses that lack yards or gardens. However, female children benefit more from lower average housing density since the house is the principal place for playing as opposed to male children who can play in the available public stadiums or in the street.

### 3.5 Refugee status

The number males as registered refugees amounted to 294,841 compared to 286,889 female registered refugee. On the other hand, the number of females as non-registered refugees exceeds the number of males as the findings of the census 2007 indicates 21,930 and 20,407 respectively.

#### Refugee status for children:

The percentage of refugee children amounted to 37.7% of all children in the West Bank compared with 62.3% of all refugees<sup>4</sup> in Gaza Strip. This high percentage has numerous affects on children as permanent feeling of injustice for being uprooted from their villages and cities.

This feeling deepens with the deteriorating economic conditions of their families especially for those who live in refugee camps with the worst population density, the worst economic

<sup>4</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Annual Report 2009. Palestine Children- Issues and Statistics. Child statistics Series No. (12). Ramallah - Palestine.

and social conditions, the deprivation from adequate play areas, and scarcity of other conditions that contribute to children's prosperity and well-being.

On the other hand, the negative discrimination against refugees from specific social classes with special interest increases feelings of prejudice and inequity among refugee children. The larger participation of refugee children in national activities with the risk involved reflect their feeling of exclusion and unfairness to the conditions of their families who were displaced from their land.

### 3.6 Marital status

The findings of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2007 indicate that the number of unmarried males amounted to 351,739 compared to 281,575 unmarried females. Thus, the percentage of unmarried females constitute 44.5% of total unmarried persons (males and females). However, this percentage does not reflect the sex ratio of 103 males for every 100 females.

**Table (2): Distribution of unmarried persons in the West Bank by governorate, gender gap and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Number of unmarried males	Number of unmarried females	% of females from total unmarried persons**	Gender gap**
Jenin	40,532	32,616	44.6	5.4
Tubas	7,579	6,247	45.2	4.8
Tulkarm	26,292	21,552	45.0	5.0
Nablus	50,714	40,883	44.6	5.4
Qalqilya	14,540	10,715	42.4	7.6
Salfit	9,254	7,381	44.4	5.6
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	40,503	33,049	44.9	5.1
Jericho and Al Aghwar	5,840	5,004	46.1	3.9
Jerusalem*	47,030	37,657	44.4	5.6
Bethlehem	26,807	21,122	44.1	5.9
Hebron	82,648	65,349	44.2	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>351,739</b>	<b>281,575</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

These results show that the percentage of unmarried females is marginally higher than for males in all areas in the West Bank; whereas the highest was in the governorate of Jericho and Al-Aghwar (46.1%) and the lowest in Qalqilya governorate (42.4%). This shows culture semi homogeneity in all governorates.

Additionally, the number of married males amounted to 377,947 compared to 386,895 married females with a difference of 8,948. This difference is due to any or all of the following factors:

**The increase in the number of married females as compared to married males is due to Polygamy among other reasons.**

1. Polygamy: It is still possible, although at small percentages, for a man to be married to more than one woman at the same time in the Palestinian Territory; whereas the majority of the Palestinian society have Islam as their religion which permits Polygamy as it is the case with the Personal Status Law. This is supported by the report on marriages and divorces in the Palestinian Territory<sup>1</sup> where marriage contracts for men who ever got married reached 1,514 in 1997, 1,500 in 1998, and 2,025 in 2007. However, Polygamy violates the agreement on the elimination of all discriminate forms against women, **mainly item (16) where Palestine** was obliged to abide by this agreement. Polygamy is still a problematic issue in the Islamic religion.
2. The migration of husbands to work abroad once such an opportunity becomes available. Although such migration results in leaving wives back home; yet, husbands pursue it for the purpose of improving the economic conditions of the family.

It should be noted here that Palestinian married prisoners in Israeli prisons are included in the stated figures.

**Table (3): Distribution of married persons in the West Bank by governorate, gender gap and sex, 2007**

Governorate	married males	married females	% of married females from the total**	Gender gap**
Jenin	41,591	42,360	50.5	0.5
Tubas	7,968	8,105	50.4	0.4
Tulkarm	25,824	26,265	50.4	0.4
Nablus	53,958	54,792	50.4	0.4
Qalqilya	14,525	14,866	50.6	0.6
Salfit	9,944	10,153	50.5	0.5
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	44,625	45,843	50.7	0.7
Jericho and Al Aghwar	6,420	6,642	50.9	0.9
Jerusalem*	58,522	59,332	50.3	0.3
Bethlehem	29,133	29,694	50.5	0.5
Hebron	85,437	88,843	51.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>377,947</b>	<b>386,895</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

<sup>1</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2010. Database on Marriages and divorces in the Palestinian Territory. Ramallah - Palestine.

**There disparity in the number of divorced males compared to divorced females. This indicates higher chances for divorced males to marry once again as opposed to divorced females.**

The total number of divorced men reached 2,020 compared to 7,418 divorced women with a difference of 5,398. The percentage of divorced women constitutes about 78.6% of all divorced persons. These findings reiterate the prevailing culture against divorced women.

**Table (4): Distribution of divorced persons in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Number of divorced males	Number of divorced females	% of divorced females from all divorced persons**
Jenin	171	645	79.0
Tubas	23	155	87.1
Tulkarm	170	640	79.0
Nablus	298	1,130	79.1
Qalqilya	71	368	83.8
Salfit	38	211	84.7
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	265	1,074	80.2
Jericho and Al Aghwar	75	183	70.9
Jerusalem*	525	1,272	70.8
Bethlehem	154	543	77.9
Hebron	230	1,197	83.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>7,418</b>	<b>78.6</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

The largest percentage of divorced women is in Tubas governorate with 87.1% of all divorced persons; whereas the lowest percentage is in Jerusalem governorate with 70.8%.

The number of widowed men reached 4,268 compared to 42,619 widowed women with a difference of 38,351 according to the findings of the census 2007. In other words, widowed women comprises about 90.9% of all widowed persons. As women advance in age, chances of getting married again decreases as opposed to men. The prevailing traditions encourage widowed men, regardless of their age, to marry again for reasons namely rebalancing of roles for both sexes and care taking of men at home. On the other side, a widowed woman is required to adapt with the new circumstances and to sacrifice for the sake of her children and the memories of her dead husband. This culture, as explained shortly, explains the cases of females as head of households where the majority of these females are widowed. As the poverty report 1998 released by the Ministry of Planning and UNDP indicates, poverty is more common in households headed by widowed females who were prepared to be dependent rather than breadwinner. Consequently, these widowed females must take on the role of both the dependent and the breadwinner.

**Table (5): Distribution of windowed persons in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Number of windowed males	Number of windowed females	% of divorced females from all windowed persons**
Jenin	415	5,216	92.6
Tubas	68	947	93.3
Tulkarm	347	3,780	91.6
Nablus	644	7,141	91.7
Qalqilya	139	1,619	92.1
Salfit	125	1,205	90.6
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	554	5,846	91.3
Jericho and Al Aghwar	63	757	92.3
Jerusalem*	902	5,672	86.3
Bethlehem	385	3,057	88.8
Hebron	626	7,379	92.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,268</b>	<b>42,619</b>	<b>90.9</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

The highest percentage of widowed females was in Tubas governorate with 93.3% while the lowest in Jerusalem with 86.3%. Reasons for such distribution could be tied to different cultural factors that could not be investigated further based on the available data. Regarding cases of separation, the number of separated persons reached 2,422 distributing to 623 separated man and 1,799 separated woman. This is due to three main factors:

1. Current legislation and laws that permit separated men to marry again while separated women remain unmarried. Although Israeli legislations and laws applied in Jerusalem prevent polygamy or unjustified divorce, still the number of separated women is higher than separated men in Jerusalem governorate.
2. A social factor that makes women prefer separated status rather than divorced one due to society's negative look at divorced women. However, the main cause for the gap is explained by the ability of separated men to marry again as opposed to separated women.
3. The migration factor that forces men to seek employment abroad and sometimes they choose to settle there; consequently, their wives request separation. This explains the high percentage of separation in Ramallah and Al-Bireh (290) because of higher migration abroad.

**Table (6): Distribution of separated persons in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Number of separated males	Number of separated females	% of separated females from all separated persons**
Jenin	55	157	74.1
Tubas	8	47	85.5
Tulkarm	53	164	75.6
Nablus	62	183	74.7
Qalqilya	21	87	80.6
Salfit	17	76	81.7
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	81	290	78.2
Jericho and Al Aghwar	15	47	75.8
Jerusalem*	245	484	66.4
Bethlehem	34	87	71.9
Hebron	32	177	84.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>74.3</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

### 3.6.1 Children and the marital status

**14.1% of girls (15-19 years) old are married; which indicates the continuous phenomena of the early marriage.**

Despite the fact that the percentage of males exceeds that of females where the sex ratio amounted to 103 males for every 100 females; however, the number of married females exceeds the number of married males. The age of females at marriage shows the continuous phenomena of females getting married at an early age, and this is related to the traditional theory of distributions of roles between the two sexes.

The woman is looked upon as caretaker that is considered as instinctive for females as opposed to the role of a breadwinner that requires preparation and skills development. As a result, females can marry at younger age and perform the care taking roles naturally. When discussing the issue of children aged less than 18 years within the context of the Charter of Children's Rights, this theory become valid especially when considering the results of the study<sup>6</sup> about women and men – 2008 that shows the percentage of married females in the age group (15-19) years reached 14.1%. This study explained the consequences of the conflict in the Palestinian Territory, lengthy closures of educational institutions by Israeli authorities, curfews during the Intifada and the Gulf War, and the cultural speech in the Palestinian society.

Nowadays, supported by the findings of the above mentioned study, poverty and lower education levels contribute to early marriages that is spread among females with education level as preparatory or less; and among poor as well as large families.

Regardless of reasons behind early marriages of females, this phenomena brings with it health risks that could lead to:

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<sup>6</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Women and Men in Palestine, Issues & Statistics, 2008. Ramallah – Palestine.



1. Pregnancy and birth complications that may sometimes cause death since the body of the female is not yet ready for pregnancy and birth.
2. Scientific studies show that young females are more vulnerable for premature birth which brings with it negative implications on the health of the fetus.
3. Psychological implications on the health of the early-married child due from playing, and denial from enough the needed care as a child, and her inability to deal with and resolve her marriage problems.
4. Denial of educational and training opportunities for her self fulfillment and living in dignity.
5. Negative implications on children who will be under the responsibility of a caretaker who herself was deprived from the sufficient care and love to face all of the world's challenges.

### 3.7 Head of households

**The role as the head of the household is still confined to men except in their forced absence**

The majority of households in the Palestinian society are headed by males regardless of their age group. Women often take on the role as head of household at older age due to the forced absence of husbands (death, jail, migration).

**Table (7): Head of Palestinian households (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by age group, and sex of head, 2007**

Age group	Males	Females	Both Sexes	%of households headed by females**
10-14	2	0	2	0
15-19	541	72	613	11.8
20-24	9,279	312	9,591	3.3
25-29	36,376	781	37,157	2.1
30-34	54,609	1,463	56,072	2.6
35-39	53,904	2,213	56,117	3.9
40-44	48,457	3,024	51,481	5.9
45-49	37,749	3,550	41,299	8.6
50-54	25,189	3,659	28,848	12.7
55-59	18,779	3,560	22,339	15.9
60-64	13,586	4,132	17,718	23.3
65+	26,207	13,023	39,230	33.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>324,678</b>	<b>35,789</b>	<b>360,467</b>	<b>9.9</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

The number of households headed by males in the age group (10-29) years reached 46,198 households and that exceeds the total number of households headed by females in all age groups that amounted to 35,789 household. These findings indicate that young males (less than 30 years old) take on the role as head of households; however, older females are deprived from such roles. This reaffirms the continuous traditional divisions of the roles between the two sexes and giving more responsibilities to males.

The lack of confidence in women’s capabilities to head households reflect on the weak participation of women in the political life, and weak confidence of electors which will not be resolved without assignment of “women quota”. In addition, the denial of women’ rights to head households reflects negatively on women participation in the labor market.

### 3.7.1 Children as head of households

Data shows that children, especially males, take on the role of household heads at early ages. The findings indicate that 92 households are headed by male (less than 18 years old) compared to 13 households headed by females in the same age group. In this context, the gender gap is in favor of females. Males children take on the role as decision maker and household representation in case of the absence of the older male in the household. Such conditions deprive the child from his childhood and make him vulnerable to different risks. The number of households headed by children (either male or female) is troubling one considering living conditions of the household and the child himself who forcefully moved from childhood to maturity and that may harm the child now and in the future. This transition denies the child from many resources that he needs to secure dignified and indiscriminate life.

As a result to the prevailing social speech, children take on the role as head of household and thus deny them from their right to enjoy childhood. Households become at risk considering that the majority of these children are economically not active.

These findings signal that children are at risks that include psychological implications (development of child’s personality) and material risks (access to resources such as education, health care, health nutrition, healthy food, health fitness and sports).

### 3.7.2 Head of household and relation to labor force

**Table (8): Head of Palestinian households (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by age group, sex and relation to labor force, 2007**

Age group	Sex of head				% of economically active of total**	
	Males		Females		Males	Females
	Economically active	Economically inactive	Economically active	Economically inactive		
10-14	1	1	0	0	50.0	50.0
15-19	392	146	1	71	99.7	0.3
20-24	8,791	465	32	280	99.6	0.4
25-29	35,845	801	193	586	99.5	0.5
30-34	53,334	1,130	375	1,079	99.3	0.7
35-39	52,505	1,277	621	1,578	98.8	1.2
40-44	46,670	1,665	949	2,069	98.0	2.0
45-49	35,001	2,650	940	2,582	97.4	2.6
50-54	21,201	3,888	705	2,940	96.8	3.2
55-59	13,092	5,586	531	3,012	96.1	3.9
60-64	5,678	7,869	238	3,886	96.0	4.0
65+	4,708	21,456	247	12,764	95.0	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>276,858</b>	<b>46,934</b>	<b>4,832</b>	<b>30,847</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

Although women head households; still however, significant proportion of them are not able provide the needed support compared to men who are often more capable to do so. This raises the question of the relation between female heads of households and the support provided for these households. Female heads could be economically inactive and bear the economic responsibility of the household. This one of the explanations to the rise of poverty in households that are headed by women.

On the other hand there is harmony and agreement that the relation of the age group with dependency among males and females; where the degree of dependency reaches its peak among persons of age group (25-39) years and then starts to decrease, but more severely among females. One explanation could be the late entry of women into the labor market, taking into consideration that women participation in paid jobs is relatively recent. Historical legacy as well as current factors contribute to lack of women's participation in the labor market. These practices and perceptions include the absence of psychological rehabilitation of women, lack of employer's confidence in women, and inability of women to enter the labor market only under specific conditions that are acceptable to the surrounding community within the prevailing social culture.

### **The impact on children:**

As shown in (Table (8)), there are 217 households that are headed by economically inactive children, representing 33.7% of these households that are in extreme poverty; and 11.0% headed by female children.

Male children are more likely to find work, and more able to work in the streets taking into consideration the acceptance of society to such cases the psychological readiness of male children as they were raised to take on the role to support their families as opposed to what girls. In this case, the gender gap is in favor of females in relation to the carrying the dependency burden. However, once female children are forced to carry this burden because there is no alternative, the gender gap becomes in favor of males in the absence of political, economic and social system to provide the adequate protection.

On the other hand, households headed by women who are economically inactive causes deprivation of children from basic resources such as education, welfare, health care, good nutrition, ...etc.

The heading of households by economically active children also constitute a denial of their childhood and creates a great burden on them. All of these cases require attention, care, support, guidance, direction and good preparation.

## **3.8 Housing conditions – selected indicators**

### **3.8.1 Durable goods**

The data indicates that the housing conditions related to the availability of durable goods reflect a generally relevant description of the economic conditions for most households. At least 90% of households own basic goods that provide comfort and facilities especially for housewives, such as the refrigerator, washing machine, and the cooking stove.

**Table (9): Number and percentage of households in the West Bank\* by type of possessed durable goods, 2007**

Type of durable asset	Number of households that possess the durable asset	% of households that possess the durable asset of total households**
Car	83,000	22.5
Electrical refrigerator	339,841	92.0
Solar heater	240,188	65.0
Central heating	14,104	3.8
Electrical vacuum	128,402	34.7
Cooking stove (Electrical or Gas)	358,381	96.9
Microwave	93,605	25.3
Clothes washer	331,722	89.7
Home library	74,335	20.0
Radio/Recorder	255,935	69.2
TV set	344,348	93.1
Video set	90,666	24.5
Satellite dish	300,964	81.4
Telephone line	166,975	45.2

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

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\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher.

On the other hand, household's means of entertainment and literacy rely heavily on TV and satellite-based programs. There was a decline in the percentage of households that own home library and that indicates a somewhat lack of households' interest in the development of reading habit or because of the inability of households to provide it.

The data clearly shows that 45.2% (less than half of Palestinian households) own telephone lines and that indicates about more than half of households do not have access to the internet where the substitute becomes visiting public places that are more accessible to men and young people than to women or and female children.

Despite the poor transportation network with no fixed route schedules, still the number of households that own a private car is less than a quarter. Women and children are usually the most affected by the absence of transportation system and that affect their access to services such as health and education.

**The absence of regular public transportation leads to higher transportation cost, which makes it difficult for marginalized groups that are inactive economically to utilize this service to satisfy other needs.**

### **3.8.2 Health conditions from the perspective of available basic services.**

One of the important indicators to measure health environment is the connection of housing units to utility networks such as water, electricity, and sewage networks.

**Table (10): Inhibited housing units in the West Bank\* by connection to public water, electricity and sewage networks, 2007**

Networks	Number of housing units	% of service availability in housing units
Water, electricity, and sewage	124,782	33.7
Water and electricity only	171,082	46.3
Water and sewage	1,309	0.35
Electricity and sewage	4,810	1.30
Water only	1,587	0.43
Electricity only	60,560	16.38
Not connected to any service	2,929	0.79

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

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\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The results of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2007 in the West Bank indicated inadequate connection of housing units to water, electricity, and sewage networks. More than half of the inhibited housing units are not connected to water and electricity, and more than two third of housing units are not connected to water networks. These findings indicate that about half of the population do not have access to safe drinking water sources and these condition have an affect on the public health of the population.

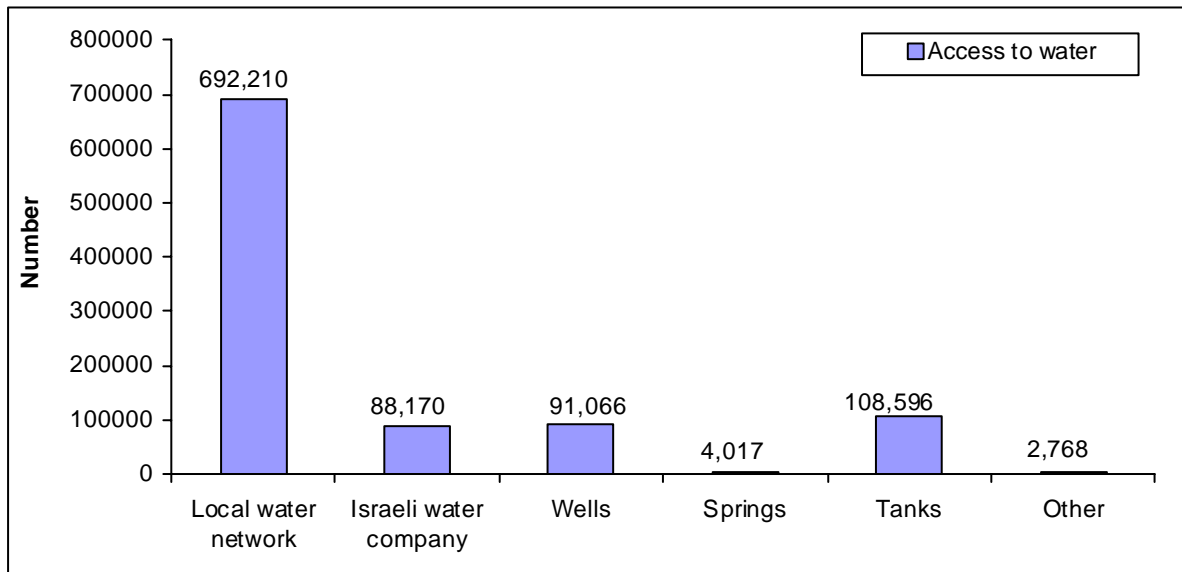
The unavailability of electricity networks to more than half of the population makes households rely more on generators to supply electricity for short hours (usually predetermined by responsible authorities such as local council or authority). These conditions reflect on the inability of households to store food safely, and to have sufficient time for reading and studying due to lack of electricity. In addition, households can not use many electrical appliances which contribute to the reduction of housework for the women in particular and the majority of housework is usually carried out during certain hours (hours of electricity).

**The lack of adequate and regular electricity and water services add additional burdens on women in particular as the caretaker of housework.**

The lack of sewage systems for more than two thirds of the housing units make homes rely on cesspits. To alleviate the cost burden of unloading these cesspits, households either open holes to vent fluid and that cause bad smell, or overflow fluid in the streets (especially in the days of winter).

Such conditions cause the spread of germs and possibility become a risk on children playing in the area or cause some leakage of these fluids to the wells used for drinking water. All of these cases contribute to the spread and transmission of infectious diseases that are transmitted through the digestive system.

**Figure (2): Total number of children (0-17) years in the West Bank\* by methods to access water, 2007**

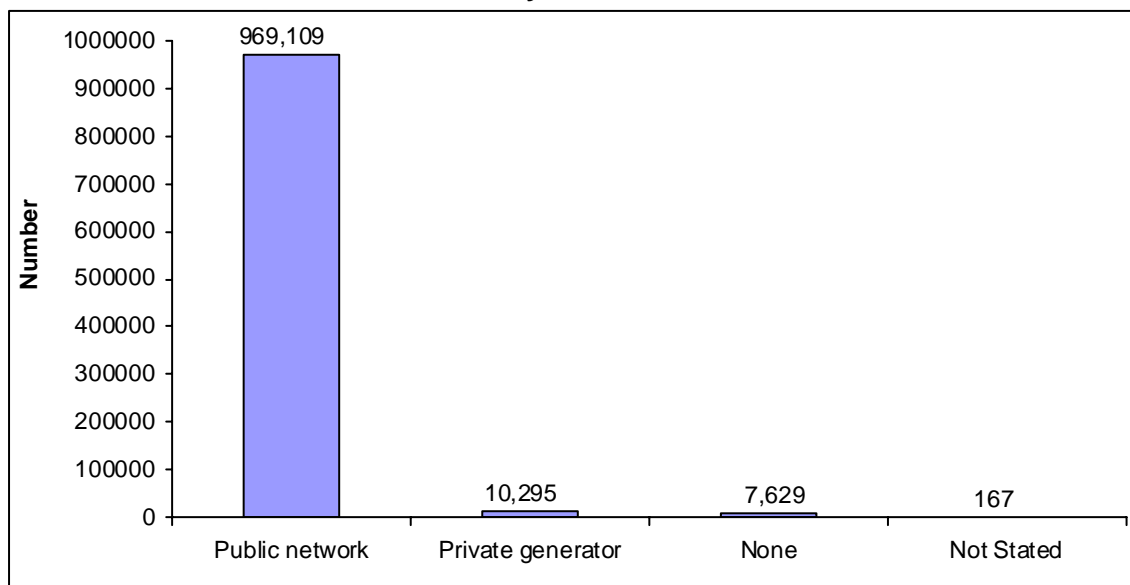


**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2010. Database of and Establishments Census-2007 in West Bank . Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

The figure above shows that there are 206,496 child (fifth of the children or 20.9%) with access to water from sources other than the networks (wells, springs, tanks, other) where the process of water transfer is not safe.

**Figure (3): Total number of children (0-17) years in the West Bank\* by availability of electricity network, 2007**



**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2010. Database of and Establishments Census-2007 in West Bank . Ramallah - Palestine.

Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

**Irregularity in source of supply of electricity means depriving children to enjoy appropriate means of communication, and that exclude these children from access to the means of modern knowledge.**

The previous figure indicates that there are 18,091 child (constitute about 1.8% of children) live either without electricity or with irregular source of electricity. These conditions lead to irregular study of children or the absence of different culture means as television and computer; or may cause a sense of inferiority or isolation from the rest of the children; or cause children to not being able to use the means of communication.

## Chapter Four

### Education

#### 4.1 Introduction

Human development aims to empower people to enjoy freedom so that every person is able to reach and benefit from available different resources as well as live in dignity. However, people do not have same capability to reach needed resources. Poor people do not have access to essential resources such as food, education, and health services. The people with special needs also require specific arrangements to be able to reach needed resources and benefit from them. The same concept can be applied on people who live in armed conflict areas or who are discriminated against based on color or sex or others.

Education has been one of the important resources that contribute to the empowerment of people through providing them with knowledge and skills to be able to cope with every day's challenges including self achievement. Education enables people to reach economic resources that facilitate the fulfillment of other important needs and equip people with the needed skills to cope with globalization and interaction with other cultures and societies.

The second and third millennium development goals are related to education where the second goals calls for comprehensive elementary education and the third goal calls for gender equity in education and women empowerment to ensure equal opportunities in elementary and secondary education.

The subject of women's education is one of the most important components of Beijing's Declaration that was adopted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and one of the items in the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of which H.E Mahmoud Abbas obliged the PNA on March 8 (International Woman Day) to fully abide by it. Item twenty in this convention calls for equal rights in education through eight paragraphs that focus on equal conditions for vocational and employment guidance, curricula, examinations, and teaching faculties. In addition, these paragraphs also focus on the elimination of patterned concepts in different education levels including revision of school books, adaptation of teaching methods, equal opportunities to scholarships, continuing education, illiteracy programs, decrease of drop out rate of girls from schools, equal rights to reach educational information required for family health and welfare including family planning.



## 4.2 Education status

**Table (11): Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by education status and sex, 2007**

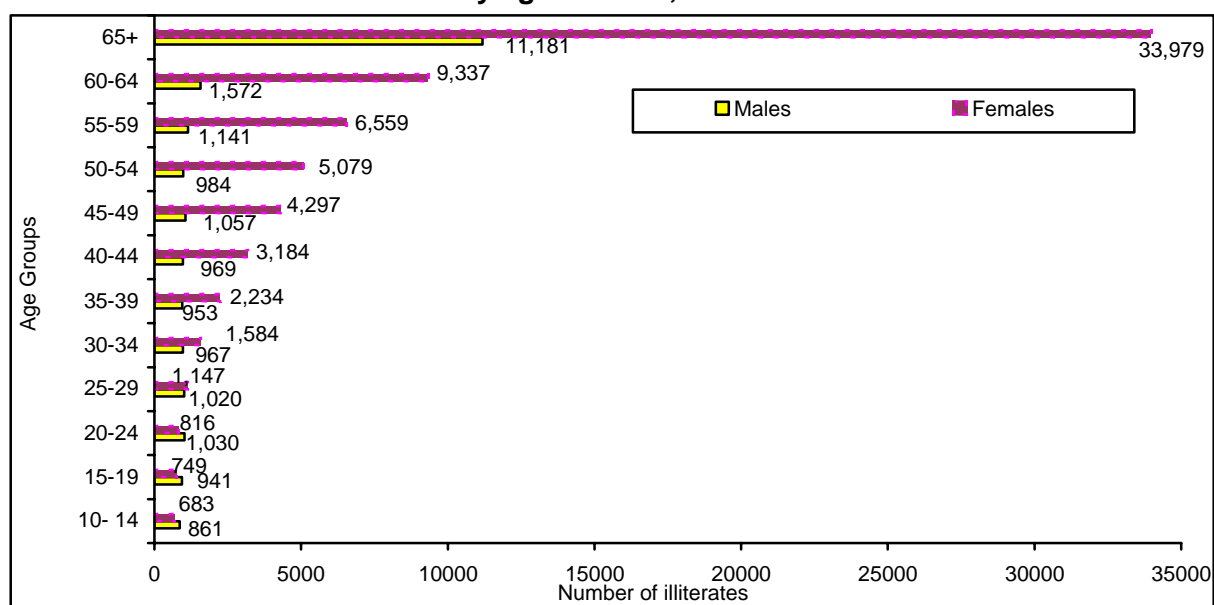
Education Status	Males	Females	Both sexes
Illiterate	22,676	69,648	92,324
Can read and write	107,729	105,753	213,482
Elementary	207,308	185,981	393,289
Preparatory	239,832	216,922	456,754
Secondary	132,364	125,671	258,035
Associate diploma	33,451	33,210	66,661
Bachelor	56,453	49,261	105,714
Higher diploma	1,348	648	1,996
Master	7,157	2,463	9,620
PhD	2,360	295	2,655
Not Stated	1,350	1,543	2,893
<b>Total</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>1,603,423</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

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Census results show that the number of illiterate males amount to 22,676 compared to 69,648 illiterate females. However, these findings do not reflect current trends where gender illiteracy gap is decreasing by time.

**Figure (4): Palestinian illiterate population (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by age and sex, 2007**



**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2007 Census Final Results in the West Bank. Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

**Data indicates that the current education status of females is lower than males due to historical inheritance that has been gradually decreasing by time.**

The majority of illiterate people belong to older age groups, and the gap is in favor of males where the number of illiterate males aged 65 years and over amount to 11,181 compared to 33,979 illiterate females in the same age group. However, the gap between the two sexes with respect to illiteracy decreases with lower age groups till we reach the age group (15-19) when the gap becomes in favor of females whereas the number of illiterate females become lower than the number of illiterate males. This reflect higher education opportunities for females as opposed to school drop out of males due to hard economic conditions or involvement of males in national work and consequently get arrested or runaway escaping arrests. Involvement of males in national work or early participation in labor market is a result of the division of traditional roles in line with the prevailing culture in society.

When investigating the number of persons who can read and write, the total gender gap becomes narrower. The number of males who can read and write amounts to 17,729 compared to 105,753 females. The gap has declined from 46,972 in year 1997 to 1,976 in year 2007. These results could be explained as more attendance in the elementary education or more attention is given to illiteracy programs that target both sexes.

**Table (12): Gender gap by education status, 2007**

Education Status	Number differences between males and females	% of females from the total*
Elementary stage	21,327	47.9
Preparatory stage	22,910	40.7
Secondary stage	6,693	48.7
Associated diploma stage	241	49.8
Bachelor stage	7,192	46.6
Higher diploma stage	700	32.5
Master stage	4,694	25.6
PhD stage	2,065	11.1

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The educational status of females does not reach 50% at its best; that is, the number of females with different degrees constitutes less than fifty percent. The interesting part in the results is the number of females with associated diploma as the highest as shown in table 12. Then, the number of females decreases as the number of females with PhD degrees constitutes only 11.1% of all persons with PhD.

Reasons behind such findings is similar to reasons behind the illiteracy gender gap that is tied to the division of traditional roles in line with the prevailing culture in society where girls' education was not highly valued. One of the explanations for the high percentage of females that hold associated diploma could be tied to historical period when there had been high demand in the gulf states for such degrees. As a result, education of females became an investment that carry an opportunity for females to work as teachers in the gulf states especially for females in refugee families. On the other hand, higher education such as Master

degree or above was not available in the region and was costly; thus, became limited only to advantaged males (with very few exceptions).

Until today, post graduate education is not considered desirable for females according to the prevailing view of society. Married women who are the principal care taker at home find it very hard to enroll in post graduate education due to time and external travel constrains. For unmarried female, this type of education could deprive her from marriage opportunities and could lead her to an age where marriage chances become very limited. In addition, men would not be brought to marry a woman with higher education who may threaten their power and status in the family.

### 4.3 Specialization in education

**The distribution of specialties between males and females refer to the traditional division in the distribution of roles between men and women from a gender perspective**

**Table (13): Palestinian population in the West Bank\* who completed associated diploma or above by specialization and sex, 2007**

Specialization	Males	Females
Education Science and Teacher Rehabilitation	8,743	16,490
Arts	837	1,289
Humanities	10,404	13,261
Social and behavioral science	8,796	7,854
Journalism and Information	1,213	710
Business and Administration	20,275	13,162
Law and Jurisprudence	2,802	766
Life Sciences Programs	575	1,155
Natural sciences	2,118	2,163
Mathematics and Statistics	1,701	2,275
Computing	4,807	3,360
Engineering and Engineering Occupation	9,753	1,173
Manufacturing and Processing	313	188
Architectural and Building	5,950	1,243
Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery	1,460	241
Veterinary	203	23
Health	8,917	7,763
Social Services	51	101
Personal Services	548	827
Transport Services	356	36
Environmental Protection	55	42
Security Services	270	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,147</b>	<b>74,124</b>

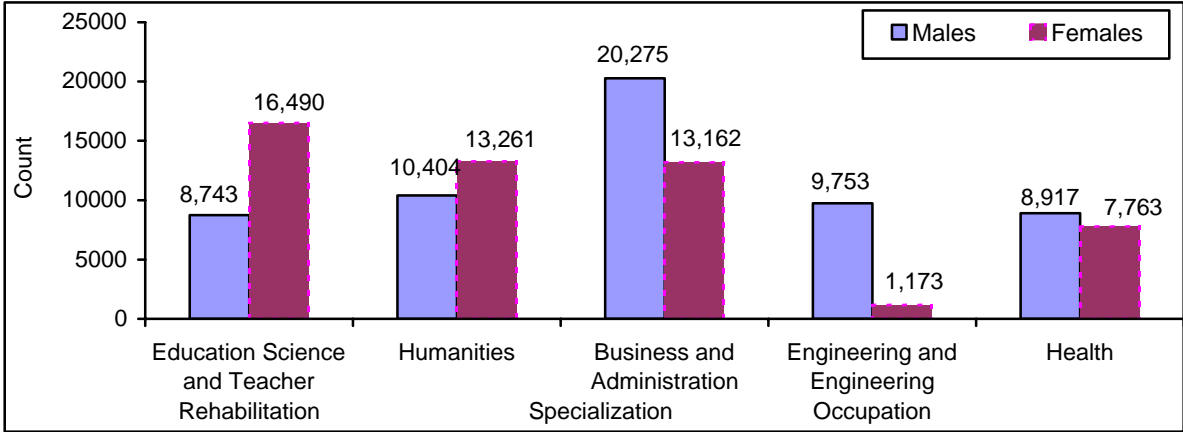
**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

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The distribution of specialties between males and females clearly reflects the stereotypical perception of society towards both males and females. The number of females exceeds the number of males in the following specializations: Education Science and Teacher Rehabilitation, arts, humanities, life sciences, mathematics and statistics, as well as personal services. These specialties clearly indicate the concentration of women and girls in every field related to the role of care taking, or is an extension of it (social sciences, life, humanities, and personal services). The working conditions associated with education as teaching profession is almost more appropriate to the role of care taking in terms of working hours and annual leaves.

Figures are almost equal in the natural sciences. If we take into account that the natural sciences are education professions, the above analysis is valid here as well. Specializations such as computer science is relatively recent while work in the field of statistics has been recently given higher attention; while less differences between males and females in the following specializations: law, engineering, art engineering, manufacturing and processing, architecture and building sciences, agriculture, forests, fisheries, veterinary services, transport, and security services.

**Figure (5): Palestinian population in the West Bank\* who completed associated diploma or above by selected specialization and sex, 2007**



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2010. Database from the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census–West Bank, 2007. Ramallah, Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

**The distribution of specialties between males and females in its current form act as barrier for women to enter the labor market, where most of the girls specialize in disciplines that are least popular in the labor market**

There is no doubt that the choice of specialization is largely influenced by gender roles as they are distributed in society, and within the stereotypes associated with gender, in terms of what can and can not each individual (man / woman) do.

These concepts are, to a large extent, dependent on the roles of males and females, and the extent of its relevancy to the values that society expects from each of the sexes. For example, society expects women and girls to act in private space, while men and boys to act in public one. In case women move to the public space, there are boundaries that delineate this space to allow females to reconcile between the role of care taking and the role of production; thus, the choice of specialties are selected accordingly.

There is no doubt that the restricted specializations act as barriers to employment opportunities for women and girls, and this is what we'll shed light on later when discussing the low participation of women and girls in the labor market as one of the fundamental factors that exclude females from competing opportunities in the labor market.

#### **4.4 Education enrollment**

**There is no real gap in the enrollment of both males and females, but even the marginal gap is in favor of females; and Palestine is distinct in this characteristic compared with other Arab countries.**

**Table (14) : Palestinian population (5 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate, sex and education enrollment, 2007**

Governorate	Education enrollment and sex						Total		Enrollment Rate	
	Enrolled		Not Enrolled		Not Stated					
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>410,415</b>	<b>409,087</b>	<b>560,034</b>	<b>534,212</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>972,921</b>	<b>945,731</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>43.3</b>
Jenin	46,235	45,831	62,300	59,703	218	213	108,753	105,747	42.5	43.3
Tubas	8,896	8,974	11,598	11,044	9	8	20,503	20,026	43.4	44.8
Tulkarm	29,479	28,922	38,742	38,199	26	63	68,247	67,184	43.2	43.0
Nablus	56,459	56,488	80,778	77,716	120	149	137,357	134,353	41.1	42.0
Qalqilya	16,894	16,083	21,605	20,264	73	72	38,572	36,419	43.8	44.2
Salfit	11,576	11,297	13,813	13,311	14	25	25,403	24,633	45.6	45.9
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	45,805	46,066	65,148	64,016	271	260	111,224	110,342	41.9	41.7
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	6,421	6,602	10,041	9,968	88	78	16,550	16,648	38.8	39.7
Jerusalem*	58,649	58,596	86,337	82,072	1,236	1,069	146,222	141,737	40.1	41.3
Bethlehem	30,538	30,942	42,321	39,156	105	134	72,964	70,232	41.9	44.1
Hebron	99,463	99,286	127,351	118,763	312	361	227,126	218,410	43.8	45.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

Census data shows that number of males (5 years and over) amounted to 410,415 males compared with 560,034 as non-enrolled and 2,472 as not stated. On the other hand, there was 409,087 enrolled female compared with 534,212 non-enrolled female, and 2,432 as not stated. This means that the percentage of enrolled males reached 42.2%, while the percentage of enrolled females reached 43.3% of the total females. This indicates that there is currently no real gender gap in education enrollment, and this itself is a positive sign.

**Given the traditional distribution of roles between the sexes, male children bear the responsibility of supporting their families and that deprive them from education enrollment opportunities; unlike female children who are not required to provide support for their families.**

The data shows that the enrollment rate of female is higher than enrollment rate of males in all governorates without exception. This may be due to the prevalence of child labor among boys because of the deteriorating economic conditions.

Given that the role of dependency is still associated with males regardless of age, where the data from Child Statistics Series (No. 12) indicates that children in the age group (10-17) years old in the Palestinian Territory account for 20.0% of the total population during 2008.

The results of the Labor Force Survey 2008 show that the percentage of children in the age group (10-17) years working either as paid or unpaid (family members not paid) amounted to 3.7% of the total number of children, with 5.3% in the West Bank and 1.2 % in Gaza Strip during the year 2008. While the same report indicates that 25.6% of working children are not enrolled in school in 2008.

**There are 25.6% of working children who are not enrolled in school**

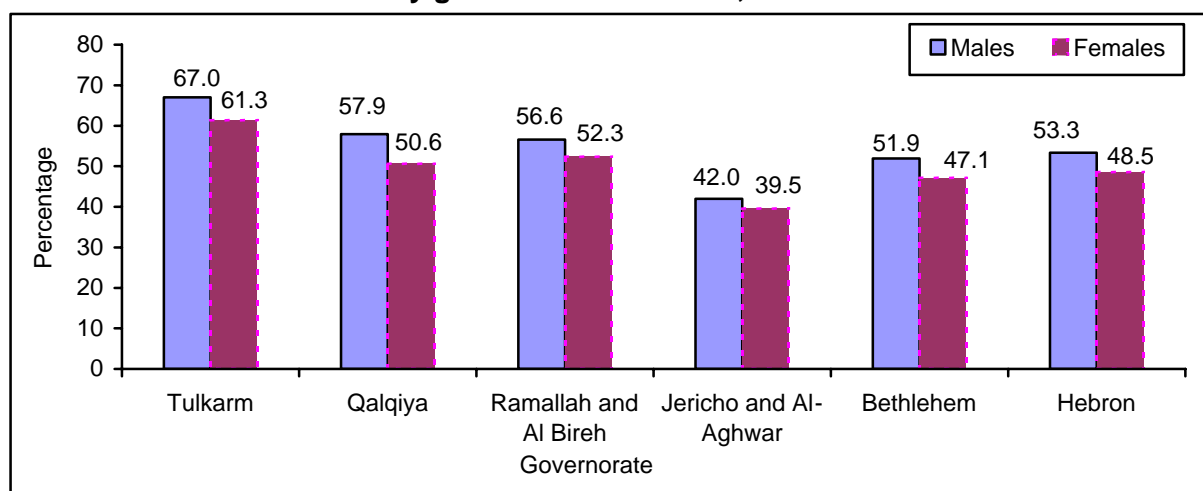
According to the census 2007, gaps in school enrollment in the various stages cannot be identified, and the data as set out in the census does not show disciplines, universities, or place of study (at home / outside the home).

The highest enrollment at the governorate level was in Salfit with 45.6% for males and 45.9% for females, followed by Hebron with 43.8% for males and 45.5% for females.

#### 4.5 Use of computers

There is no doubt that the use of computers nowadays constitutes one of the important indicators on the situation of education and culture, as it represents channels of access to knowledge and communication, to the extent that the lack of computer use is becoming kind of illiteracy.

**Figure (6) : Percentage of children (5-17) years who use computers in the West Bank by governorates and sex, 2007**



**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Census final results – Population report – The West Bank. Ramallah, Palestine.

The percentage of computer use among children is high as it is among males in all governorates; as boys are more able to gain access to the computer if it were not available at home. Internet services such as internet cafes are typically available for males more than females by traditions that often do not allow access of girls and women to these services. However, it is notable that the children of Jerusalem fall within the category of less fortunate children, despite the fact that Jerusalem is historically developed governorate in education. However, the current reality of Jerusalem gives the explanation for such situation since Jerusalem schools have been subjected to a policy of ignorance as well as children’s exclusion from their positive habits towards negative habits.

It is interesting to note the higher percentage of children use computers in the governorates of Tubas, Tulkarm, Nablus and Salfit than in Ramallah and Bethlehem. Reasons could be the lack of alternatives (variety of activities) for many children in these areas compared with Ramallah and Al Bireh.

## 4.6 Difficulties and disabilities

**Men spend greater amount of time outside the home, and thus more vulnerable to injuries from the occupation army, road accidents and accidents at work which make the percentage of disability among them more than among females.**

**Table (15): Difficulties and disabilities among Palestinian population in the West Bank\* by type of difficulty / disability and sex, 2007**

Difficulty/disability type	Both sexes	Males	Females
Seeing	60,041	29,562	30,479
Hearing	28,658	14,348	14,310
Movement	42,181	20,045	22,136
Understanding/awareness	14,781	7,899	6,882
Communication	14,959	8,173	6,786
<b>Total disabilities/difficulties</b>	<b>160,620</b>	<b>80,027</b>	<b>80,593</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

**More than 100,000 people suffer from various difficulties, which requires conscious planning to respond to their special needs**

Women with disabilities are often treated differently as they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, which may endanger the family "honor", and thus these women are subjected to more restricted movement. In contrast, men with disabilities can marry and raise children while such things are very difficult for women with disabilities because of the prevailing culture.

For children with disabilities, there is still a clear lack of supplementary services on the school level, thus depriving them or make it more difficult to benefit from educational process or practicing their different hobbies.

It is useful to classify these data according to age groups, to be able to identify and plan according to the needs of each age group in terms of access to education, training, recreation, protection, and appropriate health services.





## Chapter Five

### Labor Market

#### 5.1 Introduction

The planning of labor force is a continuous and organized process that aims to identify and estimate the human resources of the society to adequately classify, direct, and distribute these resources among the different economic sectors. Scientific data, both qualitative and quantitative, is essential to identify basic society needs for comprehensive development to achieve economic and social goals efficiently especially in education, knowledge, training, and rehabilitation.

The role of the human capital in the comprehensive development is still below possible level in most Arab states and sometimes the human capital becomes an obstacle to this development according to the Human Development Report that was prepared by the UNDP. Such conditions come as a result of the low participation of women in the economic activities and the increase of the dependency ratio (i.e. dependent group is larger than the labor force).

The Palestinian society is considered a young one, and naturally children below 18 years old are considered outside the dependency role. Thus, the burden of dependency becomes limited to small portion of the population excluding elderly, disabled people, and women. The investment in women becomes necessary to ensure children are able to reach needed resources such as education, playing, love, care, nutrition, and adequate health services. Such environment would provide children with adequate physical and psychological health that help them to cope with the challenges ahead.

In this chapter, we shall analyze the productive forces in the society, its impact on the labor market, and challenges facing women to be part of these productive forces. Also, this chapter presents analysis on the impact of the productive forces on children taking into account that children already part of these productive forces.

**5.2 Relation to labor force**

**Table (16): Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by relation to labor force and sex, 2007**

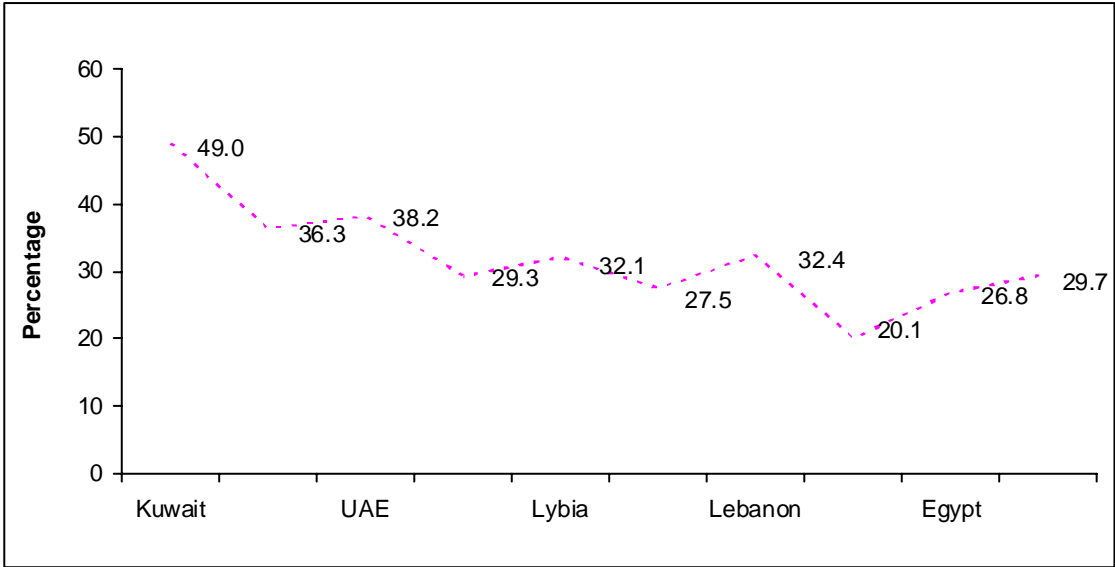
Relation to labor force	Sex	
	Males	Females
Economically active	<b>456,448</b>	<b>79,906</b>
Employed	392,322	67,568
unemployed ever worked	32,726	3,559
unemployed never worked	31,400	8,779
Not economically active	<b>352,341</b>	<b>709,453</b>
Studying/Training	272,259	278,245
Housewife	1,155	377,897
Weakness/elderly/illness	52,212	42,917
Availability of revenue/retired	8,398	2,774
Other	18,317	7,620
Not Stated	<b>3,239</b>	<b>2,036</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>791,395</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.  
 \* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

The distribution of the Palestinian population by relation to labor force indicates the continuous traditional gender based division of roles where males still constitute essentially the majority of this labor force; while females take the role of housewives. The percentage of women who are economically active reached 14.9% of all economically active population, and this is considered the lowest among other Arab States.

The following figure shows the contribution of women in the economic activity according to the Human Development Report in the Arab World

**Figure (7): Contribution rate of Arab women in the economic activity 2007/2008**



**Source:** Human Development report 2007/2008

As indicated by figure (7), the lowest contribution of women in the economic activity is in Palestine followed by Syria (20.1%).

The results of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census-2007 show that the employed women constitute about 14.7% of all unemployed persons. In addition, unemployed ever worked women constitute about 9.8% of all unemployed; while unemployed never worked women constitute about 21.8% of all unemployed persons. However, the percentage of males who take the role of housewife amounted to 0.3% only.

If we take into consideration the actual absence of women from the labor market, in a society where children under the age of ten constitutes about 40.4% of the population, and if we add to that the weak, elderly, sick, and pensioners; then we find that a very small category of adult males bears the role of family support (in theory). These adult males enjoy good health that enable them to work. These conditions are referred to as the real obstacles to development.

Women continue to represent that population category which is not able to rely on itself and with economic dependence on others. The results indicate that women could be considered as the poorest in the Palestinian society. Poverty in this context does not mean lack of access to material needs, but rather not being able to decide on these needs and control them.

The absence of women from the labor market is directly linked to lack of political roles for women. The inability of women to make decisions pertinent to their private lives inevitably reflect their inability to engage actively in the public sphere (engage in external roles on the level of the community or society) and influence it.

### 5.3 Labor force and children

**5.3% of children aged (10-17) years are working in the West Bank; the gap between males and females children is in favor of males from (being employed and have a job); but in favor of females from childhood and quality of life perspectives.**

According to Child Statistics Series (No. 12)<sup>7</sup>:

- The percentage of children aged (10-17) years who work amounted to 5.3% of all children in the West Bank.
- About 6.4% of male children were employed compared to 1.0% for female children.
- About 2.3% of children aged (10-14) years were employed compared with 6.3% in the age group (15-17) years.

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<sup>7</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2009. Annual Report 2009. Palestine Children- Issues and Statistics. Child statistics Series No. (12). Ramallah - Palestine.

**Table (17): Number of employed children (7-17) years by governorate and main occupation, 2007**

Governorate	Technicians	Clerks	Services and Sales Workers	Skilled workers	Crafts and Related Workers	Plant, Machine Operators and Assemblers	Elementary Occupations	Total
Jenin	5	2	179	202	214	10	354	966
Tubas	1	3	46	188	21	0	135	394
Tulkarm	4	1	111	67	158	15	192	548
Nablus	15	3	386	85	685	45	583	1,802
Qalqilya	1	3	75	72	148	12	101	412
Salfit	1	0	40	36	95	18	53	243
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	10	13	272	97	400	36	348	1,176
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	0	0	43	192	25	2	242	504
Jerusalem*	6	4	106	16	161	15	148	456
Bethlehem	3	2	92	13	202	36	165	513
Hebron	14	7	688	210	1,005	223	845	2,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>3,166</b>	<b>10,006</b>

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

Not stated: not added to the table

**Most professions involving children constitute a threat to them in terms of their presence in public places like streets and malls; while these jobs do not professionally qualify them to guarantee a good future.**

Table 17 clearly indicates the involvement of children in the labor market, particularly in occupations that do not require education or training so high, where the number of children decreases in the operating machinery occupation in the sense that this profession needs to some extent training or experience for several years while children could not fulfill such requirement due to their young age.

In addition, a significant decline in the number of children who work as technicians in the sense that this occupation needs sufficient training or experience; we also find that the number of children working as clerks is very low since this occupation requires education. Children are more concentrated in occupations that do not need training or experience such as sales and service workers, and craftsmen (craftsmen could require a simple preparation as well as occupation that is possible through short training) or in elementary occupations that usually does not need any preparation in advance.

The fundamental problem is that children are present primarily in low-income occupations, and dangerous ones because of these occupations may involve the presence of children in the street (sales at traffic lights and intersections). Some of these occupations are considered proportionate in severity in relevance to the age of child (work in welding, electricity, auto mechanics) with exposure to hazardous substances and dangerous tools. Such working environment might reflect negatively on the physical and psychological health of children. The situation even worsens when these children become vulnerable to violence from

employers, especially in the absence of any control over small workshops operated by private sector.

**Table (18): Number of employed male children (7-17) years by governorate and main occupation, 2007**

Governorate	Technicians	Clerks	Services and Sales Workers	Skilled workers	Crafts and Related Workers	Plant, Machine Operators and Assemblers	Elementary Occupations	Total
Jenin	5	2	171	153	211	9	353	<b>904</b>
Tubas	1	3	45	131	21	0	128	<b>329</b>
Tulkarm	3	1	106	60	155	15	190	<b>530</b>
Nablus	15	2	382	80	667	43	573	<b>1,762</b>
Qalqilya	1	2	72	66	135	11	101	<b>388</b>
Salfit	1	0	36	26	89	17	51	<b>220</b>
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	10	12	264	80	387	36	346	<b>1,135</b>
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	0	0	42	115	20	2	185	<b>364</b>
Jerusalem*	6	4	103	16	160	15	146	<b>450</b>
Bethlehem	2	2	92	11	200	36	164	<b>507</b>
Hebron	12	6	680	203	986	221	843	<b>2,951</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>9,540</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

Not stated: not added to the table

As the data indicates, the most children involved in the labor market are the male ones because of the division of roles between males and females and the acceptance to take a risk with male children more than with female ones in line with the concepts of "honor" prevailing in society as well as applying the concept of "putting children in real life hardship experiences" to shape them up and become "real men". However, restricting or confining girls in specific spheres does not necessarily protect them from exploitation and violence.

Many of the male children who are exposed to various types of violence in the labor market are not treated seriously by most people for several factors, notably:

1. The child is looked upon as a man of the future.
2. The male child who is subjected to violence shall gain strength and get used to cope with the risks as a future defender of the family, society and nation.
3. Unfortunately, these concepts do not take into consideration the psychological health of these children as a result to the degradation and loss of self respect and destruction of ambitions. In addition, these concepts fail to even consider the fact that this child as a victim of violence could later become the source of violence in the family and society.

**Table (19): Number of employed female children (7-17) years by governorate and main occupation, 2007**

Governorate	Technicians	Clerks	Services and Sales Workers	Skilled workers	Crafts and Related Workers	Plant, Machine Operators and Assemblers	Elementary Occupations	Total
Jenin	0	0	8	49	3	1	1	<b>62</b>
Tubas	0	0	1	57	0	0	7	<b>65</b>
Tulkarm	1	0	5	7	3	0	2	<b>18</b>
Nablus	0	1	4	5	18	2	10	<b>40</b>
Qalqilya	0	1	3	6	13	1	0	<b>24</b>
Salfit	0	0	4	10	6	1	2	<b>23</b>
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	0	1	8	17	13	0	2	<b>41</b>
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	0	0	1	77	5	0	57	<b>140</b>
Jerusalem*	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	<b>6</b>
Bethlehem	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	<b>6</b>
Hebron	2	1	8	7	19	2	2	<b>41</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>466</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

As a result of the prevailing concepts of inherited culture, girls are protected from the labor market and what they could be subjected to in these work places. However these young female children are not entirely far away from the labor market, as there are some families that fall below the poverty line which lead to forcing girls to enter the labor market. These conclusions are completely in line with previously stated analysis at the beginning of this report with respect to the existence of young female children as heads of households as a result of specific circumstances.

Girls have more presence in work areas that require skills as working in sewing factories where the presence of girls is viewed more acceptable, and also might be considered a more secured and far from the risks that face male children.

**Table (20): Number of employed children (7-17) years by economic activity and sex, 2007**

Economic activity	Both sexes	Males	Females
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	2,037	1,728	309
Manufacturing	2,092	2,181	89
Construction	2,269	2,268	1
Whole sale and Retail Trade	2,751	2,709	42
Hotels and Restaurants	280	279	1
Transport, Storage and Communication	77	77	0
Community Social and Personal Service Activities	165	151	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,760</b>	<b>9,304</b>	<b>456</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* differences in total between tables due to listing of not stated.

The participation rate of children (males and females) in agriculture and manufacturing industries is relatively high; while the wholesale and retail trade activity attracts a wider audience of children in particular males who work in the streets and shops. However, only limited number of girls practice such activities.

The hotel and restaurant sector represents work place for males only (one female child work in this sector), where the hotels are not safe work places for girls as considered in the society, or because hotels are found only in some cities. There is no single profession in which female workers exceed male ones.

**The distribution of male and female children by economic activity reflects the prevailing community values that allow and encourages males to be present in open spheres while girls in closed spheres.**

The presence of children in the labor market reflects economic necessity. Child labor, according to the report referred to above, also affects:

1. Physical growth, including the general health, consistency in organic development, strength, seeing, and hearing
2. Cognitive development, including the ability to read and write and do arithmetic, and collect the necessary knowledge for daily life
3. Emotional development, including self-esteem, family association, and feelings of love and acceptance of others
4. Social and moral development, including the feeling of belonging to the group, and the ability to collaborate with others and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.
5. The impact does not reach children alone, but extends to affect the whole society. A deterioration in the health of a child puts a strain on the health system, not to mention the failure to prepare these children for the real participation in the labor market.



## 5.4 Labor force by governorate

**Table (21): Economically active Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Economically active males	Economically active females	Total males	Total females	% of economically active males of all males	% of economically active females of all females
Jenin	51,353	7,420	91,613	89,286	56.1	8.3
Tubas	9,901	2,148	17,214	16,955	57.5	12.7
Tulkarm	31,945	6,137	57,989	57,461	55.1	10.7
Nablus	67,409	11,967	115,937	113,834	58.1	10.5
Qalqilya	18,203	2,833	32,334	30,523	56.3	9.3
Salfit	11,779	2,643	21,330	20,842	55.2	12.7
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	54,356	12,898	94,484	94,291	57.5	13.7
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	8,426	2,121	13,727	13,919	61.4	15.2
Jerusalem*	65,797	11,873	118,377	114,948	55.6	10.3
Bethlehem	34,548	6,621	61,542	59,303	56.1	11.2
Hebron	102,731	13,245	187,481	180,033	54.8	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>456,448</b>	<b>79,906</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The highest rate of female participation in the labor force was in Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate; while the lowest was in Hebron governorate. These results are consistent with the proportions of males in each governorate. Such findings reiterate that there are factors relevant to each governorate, in terms of employment opportunities and other factors that facilitate or obstruct economic activities.

The percentage of children aged (0-14) years in Hebron governorate represent 44.7%; while in Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate the percentage amounts to 41.2% of the total population. These findings (excluding other factors) affects the health and welfare of children, in terms of the proportion of supporters to dependents as it is less in Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate than in Nablus.

**Table (22): Employed Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Employed males	Employed females	Total males	Total females	% of employed males of all males**	% of employed females of all females**
Jenin	42,816	6,072	91,613	89,286	46.7	6.8
Tubas	8,988	1,786	17,214	16,955	52.2	10.5
Tulkarm	27,189	4,990	57,989	57,461	46.9	8.7
Nablus	59,333	9,675	115,937	113,834	51.2	8.5
Qalqilya	15,569	2,503	32,334	30,523	48.6	8.2
Salfit	10,072	2,110	21,330	20,842	47.2	10.1
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	48,407	11,331	94,484	94,291	51.2	12.0
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	7,696	1,933	13,727	13,919	56.1	13.9
Jerusalem*	57,375	10,771	118,377	114,948	48.5	9.4
Bethlehem	28,379	5,778	61,542	59,303	46.1	9.7
Hebron	86,498	10,619	187,481	180,033	46.1	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>392,322</b>	<b>67,568</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The results indicate that the lowest percentage of employed females as well as employed males is in Hebron governorate, in contrast to Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate where the percentage of workers (male and female) is to the maximum followed by the Ramallah and Al-Bireh.

Two important factors are worthy to emphasize in this context. First, the proportion of children under 14 years to the total population, which is lower in Jericho and Al Aghwar, where the percentage of children (0-13) years amounts to 38.1%. The other factor, which we lack accurate data about, is related to population density. The agricultural land in Jericho and Al Aghwar is still there and was not destroyed by urban expansion and construction, as is the case in other areas. Agricultural land provides employment opportunity for both men and women. In addition, Israeli factories in the area of Khan Al-Ahmar provide jobs Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate.

**Table (23): Unemployed ever worked Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Unemployed males ever worked	Unemployed females ever worked	Total males	Total females	% of unemployed ever worked males of all males**	% of unemployed ever worked females of all females**
Jenin	4,032	316	91,613	89,286	4.4	0.4
Tubas	580	138	17,214	16,955	3.4	0.8
Tulkarm	2,569	296	57,989	57,461	4.4	0.5
Nablus	4,521	657	115,937	113,834	3.9	0.6
Qalqilya	1,375	97	32,334	30,523	4.3	0.3
Salfit	982	164	21,330	20,842	4.6	0.8
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	3,618	609	94,484	94,291	3.8	0.6
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	428	94	13,727	13,919	3.1	0.7
Jerusalem*	3,148	311	118,377	114,948	2.7	0.3
Bethlehem	4,008	316	61,542	59,303	6.5	0.5
Hebron	7,465	561	187,481	180,033	4.0	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,726</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The highest percentage of unemployed ever worked males was in the Bethlehem governorate, where it reached 6.5%, while the lowest in Jerusalem governorate. The highest percentage of unemployed ever worked females was in Tubas and Salfit governorates, while the lowest was in Jerusalem. In all cases, there is a significant gap between unemployed males and unemployed females, but certainly much less than the gap in employed persons, which mean once again that paid work is still a special role to men (either employed or unemployed) in contrast to females (either employed or not economically active). In addition, women are considered in very few cases, either by themselves or others, as unemployed as they are occupied with the role of caretaking and housewives.

The results indicate that the percentage of unemployed females in Jerusalem is low compared with other governorates and this is due to the Israeli labor market, and the possibility to work there, especially as women are forced to work in Jerusalem for the benefit of Israeli family fund as part of male addicts rehabilitation program (the wives of drug addicts being forced to work instead of the salary paid to their husbands, drug addicts).

## 5.5 Unemployed males and females

**Table (24): Unemployed never worked Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Unemployed males never worked	Unemployed females never worked	Total males	Total females	% of unemployed never worked males of all males**	% of unemployed never worked females of all females**
Jenin	4,505	1,032	91,613	89,286	4.9	1.2
Tubas	333	224	17,214	16,955	1.9	1.3
Tulkarm	2,187	851	57,989	57,461	1.5	1.5
Nablus	3,555	1,635	115,937	113,834	3.1	1.4
Qalqilya	1,259	233	32,334	30,523	3.9	0.8
Salfit	725	369	21,330	20,842	3.4	1.8
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	2,331	958	94,484	94,291	2.5	1.0
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	302	94	13,727	13,919	2.2	0.7
Jerusalem*	5,274	791	118,377	114,948	4.5	0.7
Bethlehem	2,161	527	61,542	59,303	3.5	1.3
Hebron	8,768	2,065	187,481	180,033	4.7	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>8,779</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

As the table reflects, the highest percentage of unemployed never worked males was in Jenin governorate, while the highest percentage of unemployed never worked females was in Salfit. The lowest percentage of unemployed never worked males was in Nablus, while the lowest percentage of females was in Jericho and Al Aghwar as well as in Jerusalem. The category of unemployed never worked persons usually revolve around college and university new graduates. We find that these percentages are affected by the total number of new graduates; but unfortunately, statistics on this category was not available in the census.

## 5.6 Retired males and females

**Table (25): Palestinian population (10 years and over) retired or have alternative income in the West Bank by governorate and sex, 2007**

Governorate	Male retiree	Female retiree	Total males	Total females	% of retired males of all males**	% of retired females of all females**
Jenin	976	339	91,613	89,286	1.1	0.4
Tubas	236	77	17,214	16,955	1.4	0.5
Tulkarm	750	306	57,989	57,461	1.3	0.5
Nablus	1,320	528	115,937	113,834	1.1	0.5
Qalqilya	283	67	32,334	30,523	0.9	0.2
Salfit	215	73	21,330	20,842	1.0	0.4
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	1,580	524	94,484	94,291	1.7	0.6
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	165	47	13,727	13,919	1.2	0.3
Jerusalem*	529	142	118,377	114,948	0.4	0.1
Bethlehem	565	202	61,542	59,303	0.9	0.3
Hebron	1,779	469	187,481	180,033	0.9	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,398</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>791,395</b>	<b>812,028</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The findings reflect on the percentage of unemployed persons who get either retirement income, rents or other. The share of males from these income sources in all governorates is larger than the share of females. One explanation could be that men had entered the labor market far before women, which means that great number of them are now in the retirement age and thus benefit from retirement income. In addition, property ownership is attached more to men and that means property rent revenues go to men rather than women. However, these ratios in both cases (the case of male and female) are low taking into consideration the employment history within the PNA, and also the fact that the private sector and civil work do not pay retirement allowance.

The sources of income are still more accessible to males than females with large differences, reinforcing women's dependence on men, which also strengthens the authority of men. This power is not limited to the authority at home, but the power within the public sphere as well. The access to public sphere requires materials, and relationships resources and both are linked to one another.

It is also clear the weak ratio between the support and dependent groups in society, which is an indication of the spread of poverty. This is an indicator of the inability of individuals, especially women and children, to access and enjoy various resources such as healthy food, housing, health services, and other important resources.

## 5.7 Main occupations

**Most available occupations are defined as more suitable for men than women in accordance with the prevailing culture of community.**

**Table (26): Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by main occupation and sex, 2007**

Main occupation	Males	Females	Both sexes	% males**	% females**
Legislators and Managers	12,058	2,645	14,703	82.0	18.0
Professionals	36,212	26,328	62,540	57.9	42.1
Technicians and Associate	20,315	12,818	33,133	61.3	38.7
Clerks	8,900	5,979	14,879	59.8	40.2
Services and Sales Workers	81,532	7,264	88,796	91.8	8.2
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	15,524	2,332	17,856	86.9	13.1
Crafts and Related Workers	107,130	6,570	113,700	94.2	5.8
Plant, Machine Operators and Assemblers	40,069	542	40,611	98.7	1.3
Elementary Occupations	92,525	4,689	97,214	95.2	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,265</b>	<b>69,167</b>	<b>483,432</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The results above highlight two indicators:

1. Low participation of women in all sectors, with the highest participation has not reached 50% in the best cases.
2. Women's occupations are still concentrated in administrative functions and specialized area of work and clerks; while still excluded from the occupations such as technical jobs, craft, and operating machinery. These facts are in line with the view of society towards women and concepts of femininity. In addition, skills in most occupations that are related to technical jobs and operating machinery are still acquired through practical experience in shops, which is still closed to women.

The findings explain the high proportion of employed males compared to employed females, as most occupations are still defined as occupations for males only.

**Table (27): Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank\* by economic activity and sex, 2007**

Main occupation	Both sexes**	Males	Females	% males***	% females***
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	30,637	27,300	3,337	89.1	10.9
Fishing	8	8	0	100	0
Mining and Quarrying	2,158	2,153	5	99.8	0.2
Manufacturing	67,004	59,218	7,786	88.4	11.6
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,609	1,562	47	97.1	2.9
Construction	105,459	105,130	329	99.7	0.3
Whole sale and Retail Trade	84,106	79,612	4,494	94.7	5.3
Hotels and Restaurants	12,380	12,023	357	97.1	2.9
Transport, Storage and Communication	27,151	26,361	790	97.1	2.9
Financial Intermediation	5,372	3,946	1,426	73.5	26.5
Real-estate, Renting and Business Activities	11,314	9,282	2,032	82.0	18.0
Public Administration and Defense	45,074	39,381	5,693	87.4	12.6
Education	52,612	24,061	28,551	45.7	54.3
Health and Social Work	17,462	10,047	7,415	57.5	42.5
Community Social and Personal service Activities	14,770	10,323	4,447	69.9	30.1
Private Households with Employed persons	449	139	310	31.0	69.0
Extraterritorial Organizations and Bodies	4,848	2,939	1,909	60.6	39.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>482,413</b>	<b>413,485</b>	<b>68,928</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

\*\* differences in total between tables due to listing of not stated.

\*\*\* Data was calculated by the researcher

The results show that most occupations are still limited to men, except for two occupations where women exceeds men mainly in education and working in private households. These two occupations are viewed by society as an extension to the role of "care taking" that is traditionally attached to women. In addition, women also have presence in occupations like health and social work, where female participation in this sector amounts to 42.5%. Similarly, these occupations are also linked to the view of society that attached the role of community-based care on women to a large extent especially nursing profession.

The work in extraterritorial organizations and bodies has opened a wide scope for women where the percentage of female workers in these organizations reached 39.4%. In addition, the field of social and psychological service has attracted females where the percentage of females in this occupation reached 30.1%. However, the low level of women participation in agriculture with only 10.9% is clearly due to definitions. That is, the work of women in agriculture is mostly in the family's agricultural land, which is not considered by the family itself as an "occupation".

The results also show that women were able to break into new occupations in promising rate, such as:

- Financial intermediation, where the percentage of females in this sector reached 26.5%, taking into consideration that the world of money had been restricted to men to some extent.
- Real estate as well as Renting activities, where the percentage of females had amounted to 18.0%.
- Manufacturing industries where the percentage of females reached 11.6%.

**The census' findings indicate that women were able to break into new occupations which were defined as being for men only, such as financial intermediation and real estate activities.**

**Table (28): Palestinian population (10 years and over) in the West Bank by governorate and selected economic activity, 2007**

Governorate	Manu- facturing	Whole sale and Retail Trade	Financial Interme- diation	Real-estate, Renting and Business Activities	Public Adminis- tration and Defense	Extraterritorial Organizations and Bodies
Jenin	858	476	66	140	343	56
Tubas	141	136	13	21	91	26
Tulkarm	905	432	63	114	408	74
Nablus	1,217	750	260	418	1,007	168
Qalqilya	597	129	29	49	179	18
Salfit	429	162	7	28	207	12
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	1,159	682	509	551	1,669	232
Jericho and Al-Aghwar	98	69	27	28	277	31
Jerusalem*	630	614	258	191	544	1,081
Bethlehem	604	427	78	227	373	99
Hebron	1,148	617	116	265	595	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>1,909</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 Census Final Results in The West Bank – Summary (Population and Housing). Ramallah - Palestine.

\* Data on Jerusalem does not include that part which was annexed by Israel in 1967.

Women with larger participation in manufacturing industries are concentrated in governorates with industrial nature as Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Hebron, and Tulkarm; while in the area of trade the order according to the size of women participation is Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Hebron, and Jerusalem respectively. This distribution is due to the fact that these four governorates are the largest commercial centers in the West Bank. This mean also that changes in women's entry into new occupations such as manufacturing and trade is due to general factors related to changes in the economic structure in the different governorates and not just a matter of changes in the perception of women.

The trend of women participation in the different industries geographically is also consistent with financial intermediation where the concentration is in Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron. The real estate market and rents is concentrated in Ramallah and Al Bireh, Nablus, and Bethlehem; however, Jerusalem was not within the top four governorates



because of Israeli restrictions in the area of real estate, specifically near the separation and annexation wall. Regarding public administration and defense, the results fit to a large extent with the size of public institutions in the governorates where the order is (Ramallah and Al Bireh, Nablus, Hebron, and Jerusalem). The ranking of Jerusalem within the top four governorates is as a result of the presence of Israeli institutions working in the field of social security and health. Furthermore, the order of extraterritorial organizations conforms with their distribution in the different governorates (i.e. Jerusalem, Ramallah and Al Bireh, Nablus and Hebron).

The economic and political changes in any area directly affects the social changes and specifically with regard to gender relations. The emerge of new job opportunities in new fields attract women for direct engagement as a result to the political conditions that necessitate the participation of women in the labor market as a result to the changes on the status of the household (Israeli policies that include restricted movement, isolated areas, the closure of the Israeli labor market to Palestinian workers).

The involvement of women in new professions contributes to reduction in the dependency ratio due to increase in the number of breadwinners in each household (fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters). These conditions lead to improved physical and psychological health of children. The greater involvement of women in the labor market means lesser involvement of children in this market due to better economic situation of the households. As poverty is more spread in households headed by women, or those that rely on single breadwinner, the opening of new job opportunities for women contributes to reducing poverty.

## Chapter Six

### Recommendations

The analysis of previous data provides many important indicators, some of which positive and others negative, or to be more precise indicators that are alarming sometimes, or a constant reminder of some of the unhealthy phenomena that affect justice and equality and thus serve to marginalize certain groups from benefiting of the different developmental processes.

This chapter outlines some recommendations that may be utilized by the concerned parties to improve the different levels of development in the Palestinian society.

#### 6.1 On the educational level

Although the data suggest a good education conditions compared to many developing countries, from relatively high enrollment ratio to an education system that is in favor of females as a whole, but there are many gaps that need actions specifically:

##### 1) Administratively

- Provision of school transportation system to be managed by education departments in each governorate to ensure remote villages and towns have access to schools.
- Develop facilities in schools, such as sports facilities, entertainment, and public libraries so as to create an incentive for students and to respond to the physical, intellectual and psychological needs of them.
- Develop social guidance departments in schools and develop a system to adequately deal with and follow up difficult cases for the best interests of the students from both sexes.
- Coordinate with all civil society organizations specialized in different fields in order to enrich extracurricular education in schools with greater focus on innovation and intellectual development of students from both sexes.

##### 2) Higher education

- Provide government support to universities to reduce higher education cost and to ensure accessibility to education by the poor.
- Develop education scholarship system to meet the needs of disadvantaged students from both sexes as well as distinguished ones.
- Develop special policies to ensure more participation of woman in labour force.
- Develop methods and contents of education in the different disciplines to suit the emerging developments in the labor market.

#### 6.2 Health

##### 1) Legally

- Raise and enforce the age of marriage to protect the mental and physical health of female children and to ensure healthier births.
- Develop laws and legislation to ensure non-violent life for women and children at home and in the streets.
- Develop laws to eliminate harassment and sexual assault against all children regardless of gender.

## **2) Administratively**

- Develop family planning services, and make them available in all residential areas with adequate government support and public awareness programs to ensure access for all women to these services.
- Engage and activate the role of the media in awareness programs on family planning.
- Develop water and sanitation networks as of government priorities.
- Develop and activate the health insurance systems, including housewives and working women and workers in the informal sector.

## **6.3 Socially**

- Developing a social system to deal with child-headed households especially female children so that these households are placed directly under the State auspices.
- Developing social services for poor households headed by females to connect them to education and health services.
- Develop safe houses for male and female children who do not receive adequate care within their households or being forced to work in the streets or exposed to violence within their households.
- Develop safe houses for women subjected to violence or threats of murder.
- Network with various media to correct the prevailing social culture.

## **6.4 Culturally**

- Activate the role of writers, artists and poets to come up with an alternative to the prevailing discriminatory speech.
- Develop various cultural centers to be under the supervision of government to attract women.
- Encourage cultural creativity to develop the value system..

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