

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Releases the Fifth Annual Report " Women and Men in Palestine, 2006"

Shabaneh : Participation rate of women in labour force decreased from 13.1% in the 4th quarter 2005 to 12.7% in the 1st quarter 2006 (the number decreased by 28 thousand woman)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has adopted the policy of using gender and development studies in monitoring the woman issues as a contribution to the national efforts in the domains of empowering women and men through the contribution in the activities of the comprehensive development process, and their benefit from these activities.

Since the monitoring process requires accurate and up-to-date statistics, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics takes on its shoulders the responsibility of providing these statistics including those related to gender issues by publishing all the statistics genderwise, which helps in planning and policy making to empower the woman and activate her role in the Palestinian society.

Shabaneh, briefed the main finding of the report as follows:

- **Population**

The estimated total number of population in the Palestinian Territory stood at 3.9 million in midyear of 2006, of which 1.92 million are females, and 1.97 million are males with sex ratio of 102.7. The percentage of males aged less than 15 years is 46.0% ,while it is 45.7% for females for the same age group. These high percentages may be explained by the high fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory.

- **Education**

Literacy rate for persons (15 years and over) among females increased from 83.9% in 2000 to 88.9% in 2005, while for males the percentage increased from 94.4% to 96.9% at the same period. The percentage of persons who have bachelor and above degrees increased from 3.6% for females in 2000 to 5.8% in 2005, whereas it was 7.6% for males in 2000 and increased to 9.2% in 2005.

- **Information Technology and Communication**

The percentage of persons who use the internet from total persons who use the computer was increased from 23.7% in 2004 for females to 27.9% in 2006, while the percentage for males increased from 40.7% to 42.5% at same period. Whereas, the percentage of females who read newspapers (41.5%) is lower than the percentage for males (48.6%). The percentage of females who read magazines (39.2%) is higher than the percentage for males (32.2%).

- **Labour Force**

Participation rate of women in labour force decreased from 13.1% in the 4th quarter 2005 to 12.7% in the 1st quarter 2006. The Services sector is the main sector for women work, 55.3% of employed women are working in this sector in the first quarter 2006. The highest percentage of unemployment rate is among females who completed 13 and above years of schooling which reached 31.2% in 1st quarter of the year 2006, while it reached 17.1% for males with the same level of education in the same period.

- **Al-Intifada and Public Life**

The highest percentage of martyrs was among males in the age group 18-29 years (54.4%), while 2.1% of martyrs were females aged less than 18 years. 89.0% of employees working in judiciary are men and 11.0% are women. The percentage of female Legislative Council Members increased to 12.9% in 2006 in compare to 5.7% in 1996, this increase is mainly due to the quota system used in 2006 elections.