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Ms. Khitam Al-Bizreh (Child Statistics Program) led the efforts aiming at selecting the indicators included in this report as well as developing the general framework of its chapters. She supervised the preparation of the report material, coupled with editing and finalization.

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The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics thankfully acknowledges the efforts of all parties participated in leading, managing and bringing this report into light.

¹ On September 28th 2000, Ariel Sharon, presently Prime Minister of Israel, entered the sanctified area of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to antagonize the Palestinian population. The response by the Palestinian community was *Al-Aqsa Intifada* that continues to this date.

Preface

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is pleased to introduce its fourth annual report on the socio-economic reality of the Palestinian child, as a part of the activities of the Child Statistics Program. This report is of a significant importance as it is issued after six years of PNA inception. We attempt through statistics to give specialists, concerned parties and decision makers an opportunity to identify the extent of progress we achieved as a PNA, local and international NGOs, and private sector in providing care, protection and development for our children in the Palestinian Territory.

The report presents available statistics on the socio-economic environment of the Palestinian child and sheds light on the immediate deficiencies and gaps in the child reality, especially in the fields of health, education, culture, recreation, poverty, and child labor.

Developing the reality of the child status and commitment to enforce child rights can not be attained without the accumulation of the efforts of all parties interested in childhood. It is worthy to point that the database we are intending to construct is based-in terms of framework and content-on the nature of our own understanding of the monitoring role assigned to us by the principles of collective participation in defining work priorities. This effort is to be enhanced in coordination with Palestinian, regional and international institutions in a way that is in harmony with the tools used in measuring indicators pertinent to child rights, as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in a way that fulfills these requirements in light of the peculiarities of the Palestinian reality and the unique conditions of our children.

The PCBS hopes that this report be utilized in planning, policy making and strategic decision-making on the child sector in Palestine. No doubt, the continuous flow of data on the main indicators about children is one of the basic pillars for monitoring changes in this regard.

December, 2001

Hasan Abu-Libdeh, Ph.D
President

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Executive Summary

The 4th Annual Report is of a special importance. It is being prepared in parallel with the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Children intended to be held in September 2001 to monitor the performance and develop the conditions of childhood in Palestine through measurement of statistical indicators and pertinent changes and gaps throughout the years. In doing so, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics relied upon the Child Rights Convention endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 and the Palestinian National Child Plan. The main objectives of the report include an overview of the objectives defined in the past decade along with a discussion of the tasks related to future children that will be assumed to assure honoring child rights through commitment to implement a set of main objectives for the coming decade to assure optimal interests for the child.

To this end, the basic objectives of the fourth annual statistical report were formulated by defining a set of selected basic indicators on the Palestinian child reality in an attempt to develop a Palestinian vision on the reality of child in Palestine.

The report involves a set of selected basic indicators on child reality. These indicators make it possible to measure the reality of child status in accordance with the Child Rights Convention and the Palestinian National Child Plan.

The various selected indicators addressed in this report include indicators on the social and economic reality; child health; educational, cultural and recreational reality of the child; children in need of special protection from the household and the society and potentials of providing this protection to vulnerable groups such as juveniles, orphans and poor children. Another indicator included in this report is relating to employed children in addition to a special chapter discussing our children in the Intifada, as there is an urgent need to formulate a group of steps and programs to harness the impacts of these events on childhood.

We hope this report constitutes an effective and valuable tool that would enable beneficiaries to understand the reality of the Palestinian child and his\ her needs in order to be able to draw a Palestinian vision and enhance levels of planning, coupled with developing constructive developmental programs that meet the needs of our children in Palestine.

Socio-Economic Reality

- The Palestinian society is considered a young society. The percentage of Palestinian population aged less than 18 years in mid 2001 amounted to 53.1% of the total de facto population in the Palestinian Territory, about 1.678 million children.
- Maternal mortality rate for the age group (15–19 years) amounted to 93 death cases per 100,000 live births for 1995.
- The percentage of females' participation in the total fertility rate for the age group (15–19 years) dropped from 9.4 % in 1995 to 6.5% in 1999.
- The findings of the health survey 2000 indicate that the total fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 5.93 births distributed by 6.81 births in Gaza Strip and 5.52 births in the West Bank.
- Data obtained from Marriage and Divorce Reports for the period 1996–1999 show that the early marriage phenomenon is prevailing especially among females. Median age at first



marriage amounted to 18.4 years for females and 23.5 years for males in the period 1996–1999.

- In the year 1995, there was 7.7% of the Palestinian households headed by females compared to 8.8% in the year 2000.
- According to the findings of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 1997, the percentage of child refugees below 18 years of age amounted to 42% of the de facto Palestinian children living in the Palestinian Territory, distributed by 15.5% in the West Bank and 26.5% in Gaza Strip.
- The Palestinian society in Palestinian communities abroad is a young society. The percentage of individuals aged under 15 years in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq amounts to 43%, 43.2%, 44% and 40%, respectively.
- The per capita GDP in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was estimated to US\$ 1,222 in 1994 as compared to US\$ 1,641 in 1999.
- The per capita GDP in Jerusalem was estimated to US\$ 1,419 in 1994 as compared to US\$ 1,498 in 1999.

Health Reality

- Infant mortality rate dropped from 27.3 per 1,000 live births in the period 1990–1994 to 25.5 per 1,000 live births in the period 1995–1999.
- Under-five child mortality rate dropped from 33.2 per 1,000 live births in the period 1990–1994 to 28.7 per 1,000 live births in the period 1995–1999.
- Respiratory Tract Infections constituted the major leading cause of under-five child mortality in the West Bank, the percentage of which amounted to 19.7% in 1999 as compared to 28.5% in 1996. The second leading cause of under five-child mortality in the West Bank is congenital anomalies, which accounts for 16.6% of total child mortalities in 1999 as compared to 12.5% in 1996. Under five-child mortality resulting from Road Traffic Accidents increased from 7.3% in 1996 to 11.7% in 1999.
- In 1999, Road Traffic Accidents and Cerebral Palsy constituted the major leading cause of child mortality in Gaza Strip, the percentage of which amounted to 12.5%, followed by congenital anomalies which accounted for 11.0% of the child mortality in the same year. Nevertheless, child mortality resulting from respiratory tract infections diseases dropped by 9.9% in 1999, (i.e. dropped from 16.1% in 1996 to 6.2% in 1999).
- Congenital anomalies constituted the major leading cause of infants' mortalities in the West Bank, the percentage of which amounted to 24.9% in 1999. In Gaza Strip, prematurity and Low birth weight constituted the major leading cause of infant mortality, 24.9% in 1999.
- 7.5% of children under five years suffered from stunting in 2000 as compared to 7.2% in 1996.
- There is still a clear gap between the coverage of Tuberculosis and Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines as compared to other vaccines, which amounted to 73.0% and 74.7%, respectively in 2000. Discrepancy still exists between the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the coverage of Tuberculosis, in particular.



- Coverage of polio vaccine increased from 95.7% in 1996 to 98.3% in 2000 whereas the Diphtheria, Pertusis and Tetanus vaccine coverage increased from 96.3% to 98.7% for the same period.
- Low coverage of tetanus vaccination rate, of which 27.5% of women delivered one year preceding health survey 2000 received tetanus vaccine as compared to 49.9% in 1996 health survey received the vaccine during the last two deliveries.
- 95.6% of women received Antenatal care in 2000 as compared to 94.6% in 1996, (i.e. an increase of 1.1%).
- 96.8% of deliveries were assisted by a qualified health cadre in 2000 as compared 93% in 1996, (i.e. an increase of 4.09%).
- Women tendency to receive postnatal care is still low albeit the increase in the percentage of women who received postnatal care, which increased from 19.5% in 1996 to 26.3% in 2000.
- There is an increase in primary health care centers supervised by the Ministry of Health including maternal and child health centers which increased from 209 centers in 1996 to 341 centers in 2000.
- 97.2% of infants (last birth) received breastfeeding in 2000 as compared to 96.0% in 1996. The average breastfeeding period was 11.1 months in both years.

Educational Reality

- The number of children enrolled in kindergartens increased from 69,134 students in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 77,402 students in the scholastic year 1999/2000, the number of children in kindergartens increased by 12.0% for the period of 1995/1996-1999/2000, which is much less than the increasing percentage of population corresponding age group in kindergartens 20.5% during the same period.
- The number of students enrolled in schools increased from 662,627 students in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 865,540 students in the scholastic year 1999/2000.
- Total enrollment rate for males' students in the basic stage increased from 92% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 96% in the scholastic year 1999/2000.
- Total enrollment rate for females' students in the basic stage increased from 91% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 98% in the scholastic year 1999/2000.
- Repetition rate in the basic stage dropped from 4.7% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 2.5% in the scholastic year 1998/1999. This rate dropped from 5% to 3% among males and from 4.4% to 2.3% among females for the same period.
- Drop out rate in the basic stage dropped from 2.5% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 1.6% in the scholastic year 1998/1999. This rate dropped from 2.6% to 1.8% among males and from 2.4% to 1.4% among females for the same period.
- In governmental schools, the average number of students per teacher (student/teacher ratio) in the basic and secondary stages dropped from 30.4 in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 28.7 students per teacher in the scholastic year 1999/2000.



- In the private schools, the average number of student per teacher in the basic and secondary stages dropped from 18.6 in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 18.0 in the scholastic year 1999/2000.
- In UNRWA schools, the average number of student per teacher in the basic and secondary stages increased from 37.5 students per teacher in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 39.5 students per teacher in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Child Cultural and Recreational Reality

The following indicators were delivered from the findings of the Time Use Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the period May 1999 to May 2000.

- 48% of the Palestinian children's time for daily activities spent on personal and self-care activities, 20% of the daily activities in education, 12% in social and cultural activities, 11% in mass media, and 5% in household and housekeeping activities.
- 92% of children in the age group 10–17 years use mass media, 88% practice social and cultural activities, 66% practice education related activities.
- 44% of children in the age group 10–17 years wanted to practice (but have not practiced) cultural activities during their free time, 44% of which reported that the main reason for not practicing such activities is basically due to the unavailability of cultural institutions, 20% reported that the main reason is having no enough time, 10% reported that the not having enough money is the main reason for not practicing such activities, 5% of which in this age group reported that the main reason is lack of information, and 4% of those children attributed not practicing any cultural related activities to lack of personal motivation, and 3% of children in this age group reported that the main reason for not practicing such activities is basically due to transportation difficulties.
- The number of child libraries in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 97 libraries in 1998.
- The percentage of kindergartens allocating a room for a library increased from 7% in the scholastic year 1996/1997 to 13% in the scholastic year 1999/ 2000.
- The average number of books per student in governmental schools in Gaza Strip amounted to 0.8 books per student as compared to 3.3 per student in governmental schools in the West Bank in the scholastic year 1996/1997.
- A survey of governmental schools conducted by the Ministry of Education in 2000 indicated that 57% of students in governmental schools reported that the school educational system does not encourage scientific research as compared to 68% who reported that there are no incentives that encourage reading inside schools.
- 88.7% of children under 18 years reported that their households did not own personal computer in 2000.
- 23.0% of children in the age group 6–17 years use the computer, mostly for entertainment and recreational purposes.
- 6.9% of children under 18 years reported that their households did not own T.V in 2000.
- T.V Programs directed for children presented by the Palestinian Broadcast Corporation, whether educational cultural or cartoons, are limited to 6% of the total broadcasting hours, which is around 3,877 hours, in 1999.



- Radio Programs directed to children presented by the Palestinian Broadcast Corporation, whether educational cultural or cartoons, are limited to 1.0% of the total broadcasting hours, which is around 6,944 hours, in 1999.
- 94% of children in the age group 6–17 years watch T.V programs as compared to 11% of children who watch videotapes programs. On the other hand, 32% of children in the age group 6–17 years listen to radio programs in 2000.
- 68% of the Palestinian households adopt a quality control policy regarding the programs directed to children aged 10–17 years on a permanent basis. Moreover, 18% of the Palestinian households adopt such a quality control policy from time to time. On the other hand, 14% of the Palestinian households do not adopt such a quality control policy in 2000.
- 61% of the Palestinian households reported that they follow up the number of daily T.V watching hours on a permanent basis. Moreover, 19% of the Palestinian households adopt such a policy from time to time. On the other hand, 20% of the Palestinian households do not follow up the number of daily child T.V watching hours in 2000.
- 21.8% of children in the age group 6–17 years read newspapers as compared to 26% reading magazines in 2000.

Children in Need of Special Protection

This chapter involves an overview of orphans, disabled children, and special protection cases dealt with by the Ministry of Social Affairs, employed children and children below poverty line.

Orphans

- In 1999, the number of children living in orphanages witnessed a considerable drop as compared to 1998. This number dropped from 1,980 to 1,714 orphans. This is due to the policy of child re-integration in their household adopted by the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- The number of orphanages increased from 22 orphanages in the year 1998 to 26 orphanages in the year 2000. The increase was concentrated in the West Bank (including Jerusalem). The number of orphanages in Gaza Strip remained on the level of 3 orphanages in 2000.
- In the period 1998 and 2000, the percentage of males children living in orphanages constituted 55% of the total number of children living in orphanages. In 1999, the percentage of females' children living in orphanages constituted 55% of the total number of children living in orphanages.
- Data provided by the Health Survey, 2000 indicated that 4.4% of the total number of children lives with one of the two parents.
- In 1999, the Ministry of Social Affairs dealt with 3,817 children in need of special protection, which is one fold higher than the total number of cases that have been dealt with in 1998 and 2000.

Juvenile Delinquents

- The total number of convicted children in the Palestinian Territory during 1996–1999 amounted to 5,486.



- The highest percentage of convicted juveniles in the period 1998–1999 were concentrated in the age group 16–18 years, 57.6% and 55.2% of the total number of convicted children in both years, respectively.
- In 1998, the total number of children institutionalized in rehabilitation centers was the highest of all, 53.8% of the total number of convicted children in that year.

Child Labor Reality (10-17 years)

- 34,061 children in the age group 10–17 years were classified inside labor force in 1999 (i.e. 5.9% of the total number of children in the same age group) as compared to 33,297 children in 2000 (i.e. 5.5% of the total number of children in the same age group).
- In 1999, the percentage of employed children in the age group 10–17 years amounted to 89.9% in 1999 compared to 82.3% in 2000. The percentage of children looking for and ready to work was 11.1% in 1999 as compared to 17.7% in 2000.
- 28,645 children in 1999 were engaged in the labor market, i.e. 5.0% of the total number of children in the age group 10–17 years in 1999 as compared to 27,404 children in 2000, i.e. 4.5% of the total number of children in the same age group.
- 73.2% of employed children work for more than 6 hours a day in 1999 and 2000.
- The economic factor is among the decisive factors in child labor. Lack of financial resources causes the households to have their children engaged in the labor market to assist in meeting the basic needs of the household. Moreover, there is a similarity between the labor activities of the fathers and the children in terms of low wage.
- The percentage of unpaid female family members increased from 68.8% in 1999 to 74.4% in 2000.
- The percentage of children employed in Israel and Israeli settlements dropped from 16.7% in 1999 to 13.7% in 2000.

Children and Poverty

The PCBS currently is working on estimations for the poverty line and its rates according to a comprehensive and objective methodology through the consumption and expenditure for Palestinians household survey.

- Compared to the estimated poverty line for the year 2000 (1,622 NIS for a household composed of two adults and four children) the results of the survey on the impact of the Israeli measures on the economic conditions of Palestinian households, which was conducted by the PCBS during the period 10/3/2001-5/4/2001, indicates that 64.2% of the Palestinian households are living below poverty line. This percent was distributed for the West Bank and Gaza Strip with 55.7% and 81.4% respectively.

Our Children and the Intifada

- The total number of injuries during the period 29/9/2000–25/1/2001 amounted to 12,904 injuries, 54.0% and 38.1% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, respectively.
- Injuries among children aged under 18 years amounted to 47.0% of the total number of injuries.



- During the period from the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada to 28/4/2001, the number of child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory had amounted to 116 martyrs, 62 martyrs in the West Bank (i.e. 53.4% of the total number of child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory) and 54 martyrs in Gaza Strip (i.e. 46.6% of the total number of child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory).
- The mass majority of child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory concentrated in the age group 15–17 years, 61.2% distributed to 35.3% in the West Bank and 25.9% in Gaza Strip.
- As for the percentage of martyrs in the age group 12–14 years, it amounted to 25.9% of the total child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory, distributed as 9.5% and 16.4% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, respectively.
- The percentage of martyrs below 12 years of age amounted to 12.9% of the total child martyrs in the Palestinian Territory.
- The percentage of child martyrs who were shot in the head amounted to 38.8% of the total number of child martyrs. Moreover, percentage of child martyrs who were shot in the chest and neck amounted to 31.0% of the total number of child martyrs.
- The excessive use of force by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people, especially and basically against children, has left serious and negative consequences to the psychology of the child. 84.9% of the Palestinians reported that the Israeli violence created psychological disorders and neuropathy among their children (Opinion poll conducted by Development Studies Program).
- The siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities since the breakout of Al-Aqsa Intifada has caused interruptions in the educational process in many schools due to the inability of considerable numbers of students to reach their schools and basically due to the inability of teachers to reach schools because of the checkpoints and closure of roads for a period of consecutive 80 days. Lack of teacher varied between 10% to 90% of the total number of original teachers in every school.
- The number of cumulative student martyrs to the period 23/4/2001 was 77 martyrs, 39 martyrs in the West Bank and 38 martyrs in Gaza Strip.
- Available data indicate that 53.2% of martyrs among students were shot in the head whereas the percentage of martyrs shot in the chest and the neck was 39.0%.
- The number of injured students during the period 29/9–29/11/2000 amounted to 1,740 students, i.e. 17.4% of the total number of victims injured in the Intifada during the same period.
- As for the distribution of injured students by tools causing injury, available data indicate that the mass majority was injured by rubber-coated bullets (45.1% of total injuries) followed by metal bullets from light firearms (32.6% of total injuries). As for the percentage of injuries caused by inhaling poisonous gas and tear gas, it amounted to 8.2% of total injuries. The percentage of injuries resulting from students' exposure to physical attacks and beating amounted to 4.8% of total injuries.



Chapter 1

Demographic Reality

The demography of the Palestinian children is special since the political and social changes have left their impacts on the Palestinian society. Such changes underlined the state of children in the society. Moreover, the demography of Palestinian children is connected to the traditions of the Palestinian society.

The aim of analyzing, presenting, and evaluating statistics is to develop a national working mechanism to monitor the state of the Palestinian children and the extent of fulfilling their rights. It also aims at raising the level of awareness about the importance of planning, legislation, prioritizing, and fulfilling needs among decision makers, planners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and those who lobby for the rights of the child.

This Chapter covers a list of significant demographic indicators. It is generally in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. It is also specifically in line with the National Work Plan of the Palestinian Child of 1995.

A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. (Child's Rights Convention, Article 1)

Population Growth

Time series of population growth of 1997-2000 show an increase in the growth of the population due to natural growth and high childbirths and relative drop in infant mortality. The population of the Palestinian Territory was 3.2 millions, in mid 2000, of which 63.9% in the West Bank (2.012 millions) and 36.1% in the Gaza Strip (1.138 millions). The population of the Palestinian Territory increased from 2.2 millions in mid 1997 to 3.2 millions in mid 2000. The natural growth of the Palestinian population (3.6%) is considered among the highest rates in the Arab world (average rate in the Arab World is 2.4%). The natural growth in the Palestinian Territory is 1.2 percent higher than the natural growth in the Arab world in 2000, while the world annual population growth is 1.4%.

State Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

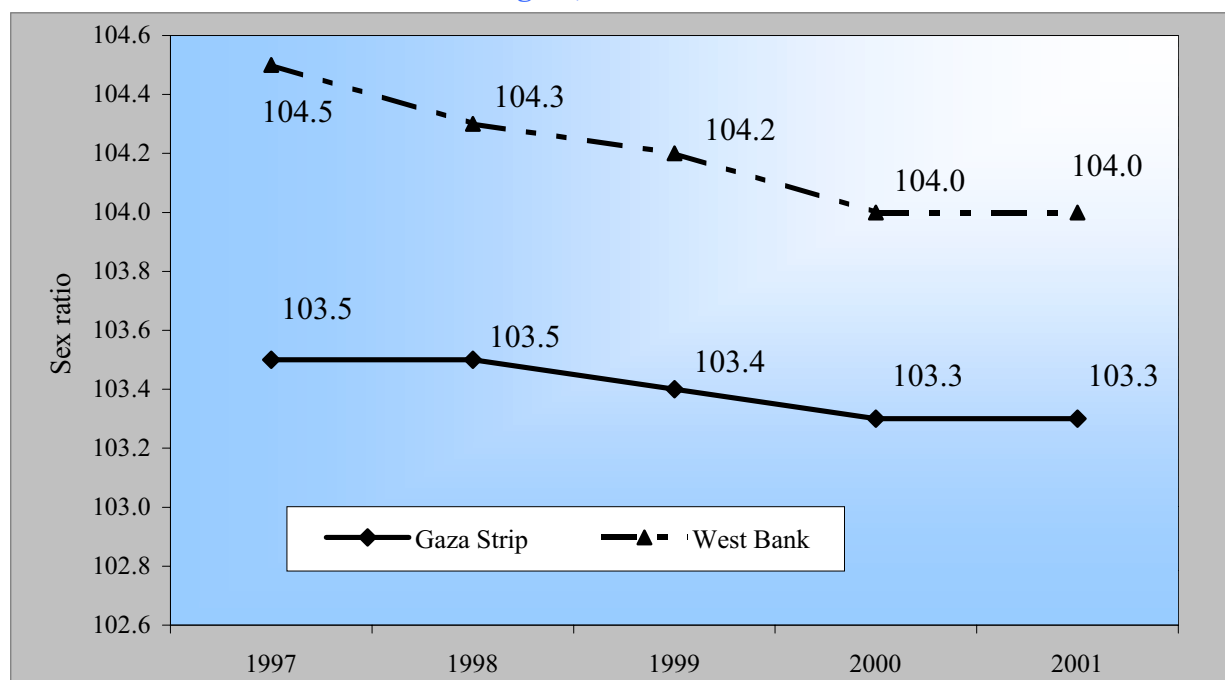
(Child's Rights Convention, Article 2)

Child Gender

Population estimates of the Palestinian Territory for mid 2000 show a little increase in the number of males below the age of 18 years. The number of males below the age of 18 years in mid 2000 was 854,004. However, the number of females below the age of 18 years in mid 2000 was 823,003 at sex ratio of 103.0 compared to 757,000 males and 727,000 females at sex ratio of 104.1 in mid 1997. There has not been a major change in the sex ratio of children below 18 years of age from 1997 to 2000. In the West Bank, the number of males below the age of 18 years was estimated at 525,009, whereas, the number of females below the age of 18 years was estimated at 505,006 at sex ratio of 104.0. In Gaza Strip, the number of males

was estimated at 328,004, whereas, the number of females was estimated at 317,008 at sex ratio of 103.3.

Figure (1-1): Sex Ratio for Children (under 18 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Region, 1997-2001



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025*. Ramallah-Palestine.

More than half of the Palestinians (53.3%) were children below the age of 18 years in 2000

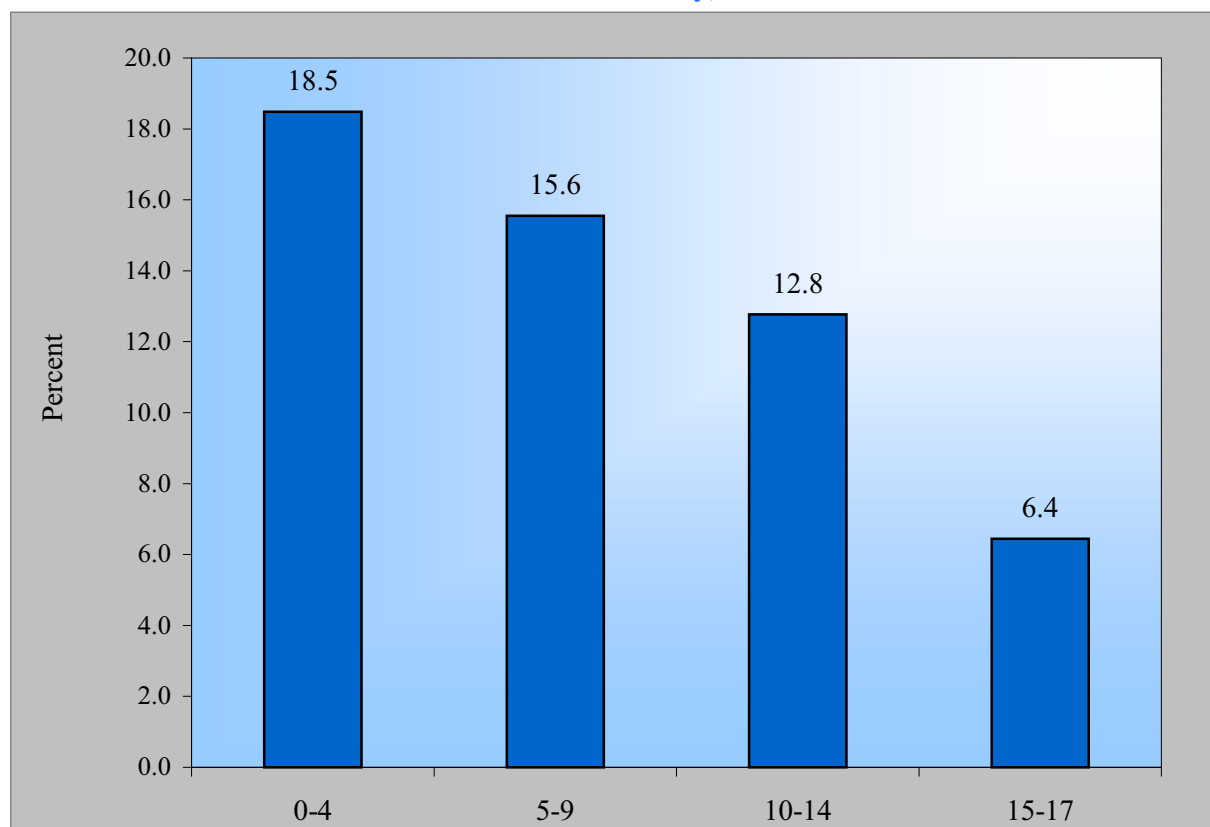
The study of the childhood age structure is significant since high rate of childbirths means an increase of burdens to the parents and the state. It also reflects the rights of the children and their needs that the parents and the society must fulfill. A child undergoes several stages of growth during the early years after birth, school years, and becoming a teenager until he/she become an adult who can be independent. In the mid of 2000, the Palestinian society in the Palestinian Territory was young; the number of individuals whom aged less than 18 years was estimated with 53.3% of the total Palestinian population of the Palestinian Territory (1.678 millions).

Children aged (0-4 years) were 18.5% of the total Palestinian population living in the Palestinian Territory in 2000. Children at such age need protection against physical harm. They also need sufficient nutrition and healthcare. Their parents require assistance in educating their children on how to understand the world around them and to take care of themselves. Children aged (5-9 years) were 15.6% of the total population. Children at this stage start preparing for primary school and they require fulfillment of the aforementioned needs. They also need opportunities to develop their physical skills; moreover, they need encouragement to develop their language skills, which can be done through reading. They also need encouragement to cooperate, help others, participate, and express themselves. Children aged 10-14 years were 12.8% of the total population. At this stage, children need



strong grounds to stand on in order to explore the self and face mistakes. They also need such grounds for expressing their opinions through taking part in different activities. Children aged (15-17 years) were approximately 6.4% of the Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory. This stage is the final stage of childhood and children become more independent and responsible.

Figure (1-2): Percent of Children (under 18 years) of the Total Population in the Palestinian Territory, 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Fertility

Fertility rate is influenced by social habits, marriage age, women attitude towards having children, the use of contraception, and the countries' family planning policies. The Health Survey, 2000 indicates that fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory is 5.9 children. There is a clear distinction in fertility rate of the West Bank at 5.5 children and Gaza Strip at 6.8 children. However, there are evidences that fertility rate started to drop at the start of the last decade of the past century. The contribution of females aged 15-19 to the total fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory dropped from 9.4% in 1995 to 6.5% in 1999. Fertility rate of the Palestinian Territory is very high when compared to fertility rate in other countries of the world. In Arab countries, for instance, fertility rate reached 4.4 children in 2000. Such rate reflects the developing countries' attitude towards having children.



Birth Rate

The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article

Several direct and indirect factors can influence birth rate. The most prominent of these factors include: the levels of fertility, advanced health services, the care that the state provides for mothers and children, and the low mortality rates. The number of children below 18 years rose in the middle of the past decade from 1.3 millions to 1.7 millions in the middle of 2000. PCBS' estimates indicate a drop in the Crude birth rate in the past decade. It was estimated at 42.7 per 1000 people in 1997; however, it dropped to 40.7 in 2000. The crude birth rate of the Palestinian Territory is higher than the crude birth rate of all Arab countries, which stood at 29.1 in 2000. It is expected that the crude birth rate will drop to 34.9 in 2010; such drop is related to a drop in fertility rate as well as the success of the health programs towards birth.

Mortality

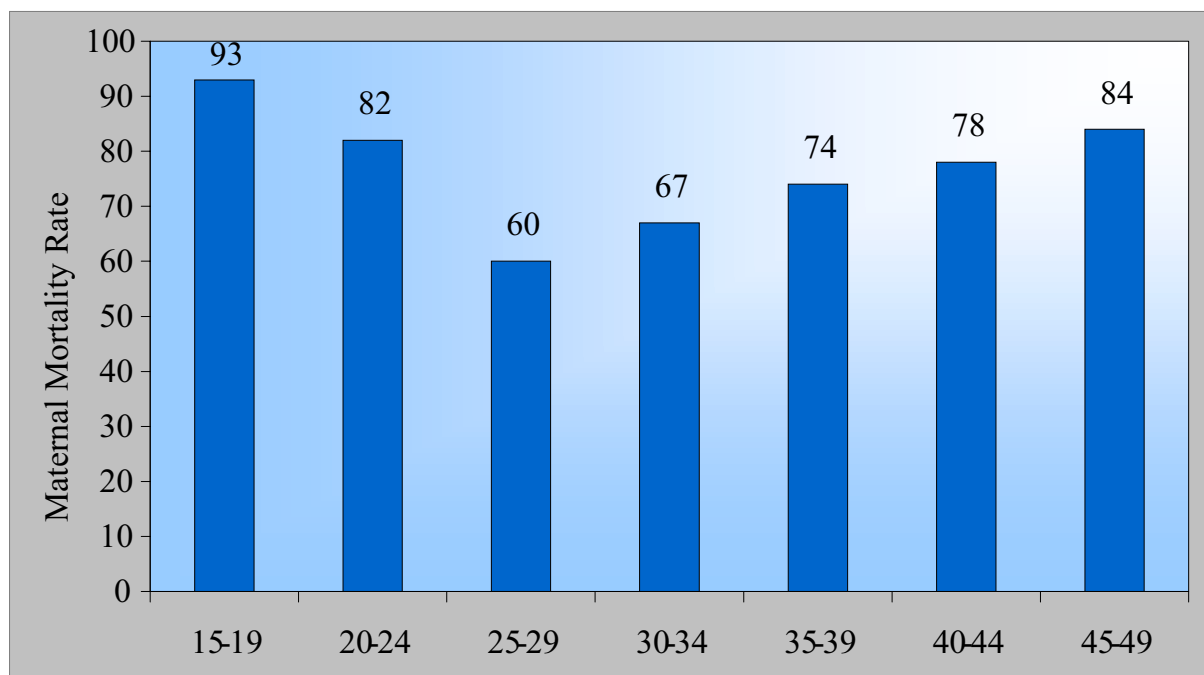
State Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. State Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right to access to such health care services.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 24)

Mortality rate reflects the extent of advancement of health and medicine of a state, whether preventive or curative. The rise in the infant mortality rate, especially death amongst the newly born, is related to bad pregnancy timing, low birth weight, and premature birth. The mortality rates in the Palestinian Territory in general are dropping because of the plans that support health care, health awareness among people, the aim to provide health insurance and health services for the residents, as well as paying attention to necessary inoculation. The mortality rate dropped specifically among infants at the start of the past decade. Crude death rate totaled 4.78 per 1000 people in 1997 and kept dropping towards the end of the decade. The mortality rate among infants also dropped from 27.3 between 1990 and 1994 to 25.5 per 1000 births in 1995-1999. Henceforth, life expectancy in the Palestinian Territory increased to 70.3 for males and 73.4 years for females in 2000. Life expectancy at the Palestinian Territory figure (72.0) is higher than that of the Arab countries, which stood at 67.6 years in 2000. It is expected that life expectancy in the Palestinian Territory will keep rising to reach 73.8 for males and 76.7 years for females in 2025.



Figure (1-3): Crude Birth and Death Rates in the Palestinian Territory, 1997- 2025



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025* Ramallah-Palestine.

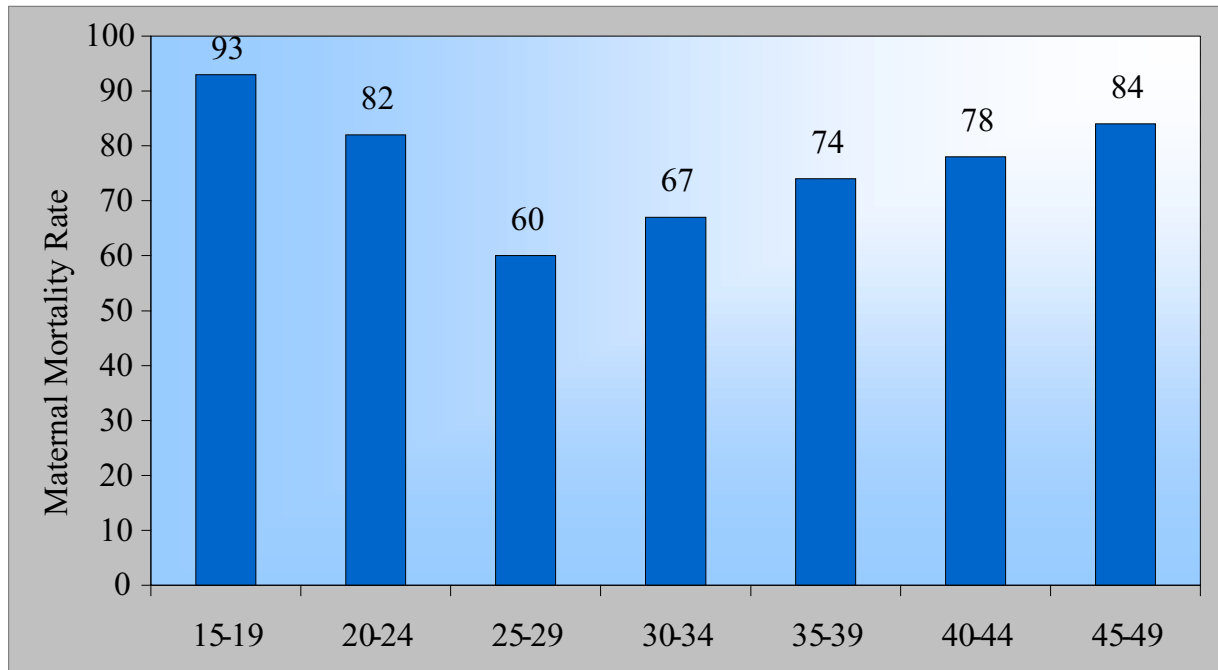
Maternal Mortality

Skillful care during pregnancy and birth plays a crucial role in limiting death and sickness among mothers

Maternal mortality rate in the Palestinian Territory ranged from 70-80 deaths per 100,000 births, in 1995. It is higher among mothers aged 15-19 at 93. Mothers' sickness during pregnancy has negative impact on the fetus, which could become sick, disable, or die. Therefore, mothers' obtainment of their rights to health and education as well as other rights improves the health and education standards of the children.



Figure (1-4): Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 Births) in the Palestinian Territory by Age Groups, 1995



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *The Demographic Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Final Results.* Ramallah- Palestine.

Refugee Status

State Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties. (Child's Rights Convention, Article 22)

Refugee status refers to Palestinians who were forced out of their lands, which Israeli occupied in 1948 including their sons and grandchildren. The final results of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census of 1997 show that 41.4% of the Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory are refugees; 26.5% in the West Bank and 65.1% in Gaza Strip. 42.0% of Palestinian children below 18 years living in the Palestinian Territory are refugees; 37.0% in the West Bank and 63.0% in Gaza Strip. Those children require care and protection and special family and society's assistance. Assisting refugee children is part of the national efforts and international cooperation.

The Children of Diaspora

Children of Diaspora refer to children living outside their homeland, Palestine, due to their parents' emigration for one or another reason, to other countries. The number of Palestinian refugee children registered with the UNRWA in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip totaled 3.74 in mid 2000 (UNRWA statistics.) The study of the living standards of Palestinian refugees in Diaspora in different years show that Palestinian communities in Diaspora are young; the percentages of those under the age of 15 years were as follows: 43.0% for Jordan in 1996, 43.2% for Syria in 1995, 41.1% for Lebanon in 1995, and 40.0%



for Iraq in 1989, the figures match the figures of the developing countries. The sex ratio of boys below 15 years in Syria and Lebanon were 105.0 and 106.0 respectively per 100 females. Infant mortality rates were similar to the rates of the developing countries at 32.0 per 1000 births in Lebanon in 2000 and 23.9 per 1000 births in Jordan in 1990-1994.

Early Marriage

Marriage in any society has social and economic dimensions as well as dimensions reflecting the degree of civilization. Data on marriage and divorce in the Palestinian Territory in 1997-2000 show a widespread phenomenon of early marriage especially among females. According to data, the average age of females at first marriage was 19 years, whereas, it was 24 years for men. Moreover, average age of females at first marriage was 19.0 years, whereas, it was 24.5 years for men in 2000 in the West Bank. The figures for Gaza Strip are 18.7 years for females and 23.6 years for males. The average age of marriage among females who have a BA or higher degrees was 24.2 years and 27.2 years for males in the Palestinian Territory in 2000. This reflects the role of education in limiting early marriage among Palestinians. The average age of marriage for those who have junior high school certificate as a minimum was 17.0 for females and 22.9 for males. 36.0% of Palestinian females who got married were below the age of 18 years; whereas, 2.2% of Palestinian males who got married were below the age of 18 years in 2000. The percentage among West Bank's females was 34.9% and it was 1.7% among males. In Gaza Strip, however, the percentage was 37.9% among females and 3.0% among males.

Sex of Head of Household

The findings of the Health Survey of 2000 indicate that female's head 9.7% of the total Palestinian households. Moreover, findings indicate that the average size of households headed by females was 3.2 whereas the average size for households headed by males was 6.4. Matriarchal families emerge when the male head of the family dies and the children are still young or when a husband leaves his wife and in the cases of divorce and having no male to head the family.

Living Conditions

Living conditions have psychological and health impacts on children. Labor Force Survey of 1999 shows that 28.2% of Palestinians live in 1-2 bedroom houses; 26.4% in the West Bank and 31.8% in Gaza Strip. The same Survey shows that 12.7% of Palestinians live in five or more bedroom houses.

Housing density indicator (average number of persons in one room) is an indicator that should be studied in order to discover its impacts on the education and health of the child. Labor Force Survey of 1999 shows that the average population density in the Palestinian Territory was 2.0 persons per room. The average for Gaza Strip was 2.2 including 2.3 persons per room in refugee camps and 2.1 persons per room in urban areas. For the West Bank, the figures were as follows, 1.9 persons per room; 2.0 in refugee camps and 1.8 for urban areas. The data of the same Survey show that 30.0% of Gaza Strip's households live in high-density housing units (3 or more persons per room,) however, in the West Bank the figure stood at 20.4%.

Household Energy Survey, 1999 showed that 97.2% of Palestinian households were connected to the electric power network; 98.1% in the West Bank and 95.4% in Gaza Strip. The data of the Health Survey of 2000 showed that 43.9% of Palestinian households are connected to the public sewers network; 36.5% in the West Bank and 59.3% in Gaza Strip. The data of the same Survey show that 96.2% of Palestinians living in the Palestinian



Territory have a safe source of drinking water; 94.9% in the West Bank and 98.6% in Gaza Strip.



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Chapter 2

Child Health

State Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. State Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right to access to such health care services.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 24-1)

Child's health can be measured through using indicators such as infants mortality rate (or child mortality rate) contagious diseases rate among children under 5 years, and the nutritional status of the children. The children's health can also be influenced by some direct limits or factors including (the factors related to the mother's education, age at giving birth, and other background characteristics. It can also be affected by indirect factors such as (the socioeconomic status of the family and accessibility of health services.)

The significance of monitoring the rights of child reflects the advancement made on the child's health level and exploring the remaining gaps as well as to ensure a better future for children. Monitoring of the rights of child also allows implementation of the policies and programs that aim at improving the child and developing his or her situation in all areas especially health whether locally or internationally.

Monitoring of the child's rights include investigating the achievement of the mid and end decade goals (1990-2000) which emphasized improving the state of the child's health by reducing diarrhea cases, respiratory infections, reducing infant and child mortality rates. It also includes indicators showing full immunization and other related indicators.

The concern in Palestinian children's health stems from the fact that they suffered terribly in the past decades. In fact, they are still suffering difficult living conditions due to the Israeli occupation. Henceforth, as part of the efforts aiming at improving the socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian children, the PNA sought since it took control to prepare a national strategic program for child's health. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was considered the general framework of a group of children's services. The national health plan of 1994 encouraged advanced medical care especially concerning mother and child. And reducing the existing gaps between the child's health indicators such as mortalities, diseases, and full immunization. The national strategic health plan 1999-2003 emphasized the need for improving the quality for widespread health services provided for mothers and children.

This chapter presents the most important developments in child's health. It also discusses the changes in the indicators of the aims of the end of the decade especially mortalities, nutrition, immunization, and other related indicators. The chapter discusses the following topics: child mortality, causes of death among infants and children under five years of age. It also discusses the indicators of child's survival such as mother's health, breastfeeding, nutritional status, immunization, childhood diseases, and the distribution of mother and child health care centers.

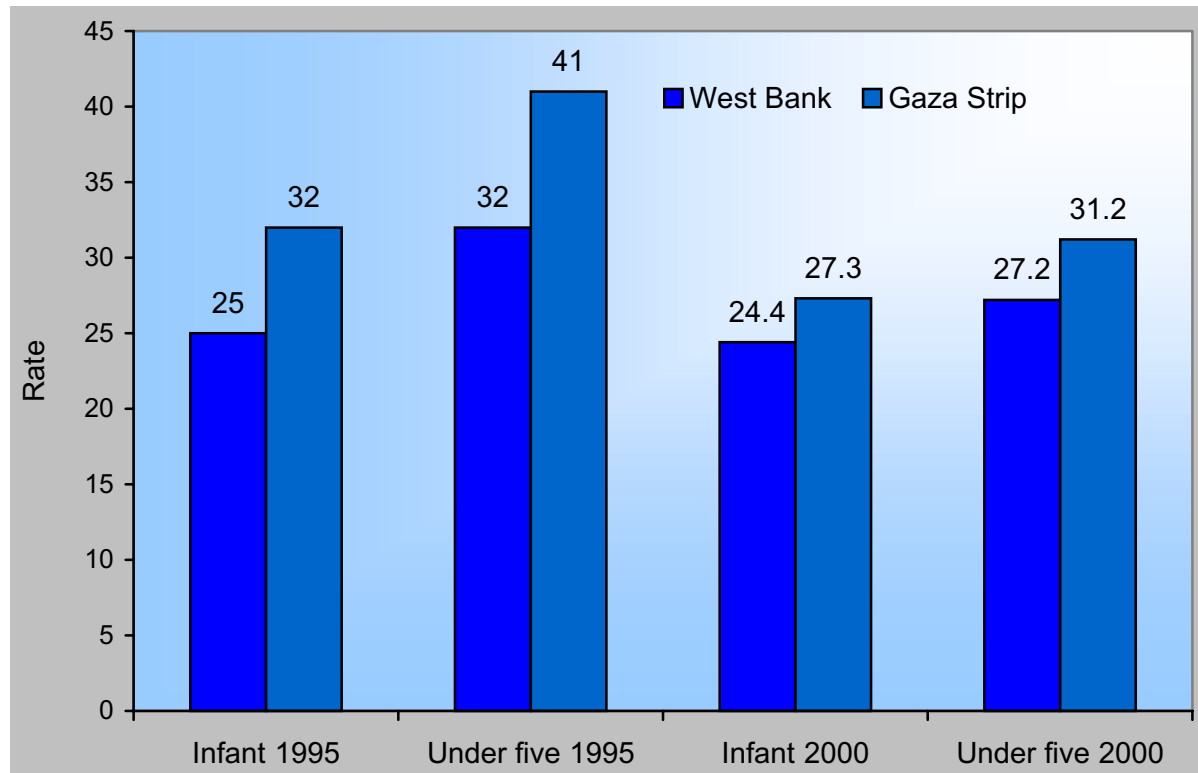


Child Mortality Rate

State Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures to diminish infant and child mortality.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 24-2)

Figure (2-1): Infants and Child Mortality Rates by Region, 1995-2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1996. *The Demographic Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Final Results.* Ramallah- Palestine.

Figure (2-1) indicates that the mortality rate among infants dropped from 27.3 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 25.5 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. Child mortality rate also dropped from 33.2 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 28.7 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999.

Such advancement occurred in a relatively short period of time (during the past five years). It has been the result of efforts of the concerned parties in the health sector, whether public or private, paid to providing healthcare programs for children and mothers in the various Palestinian localities (refugee camps, rural, and urban areas.) Many of these programs emphasized increase in health education and awareness of the household. The works of the PNA and the UNRWA in creating a national immunization program for all children below three years were the most prominent. Additionally, there were other health programs such as health education and increase of maternal and child health care centers. However, the advancement is below the required level since the national health plan of 1994 stipulated that with the coming of 2000, mortality rate would drop by 30% and what has been achieved was a drop by 6.6% only. That could have been caused by failure to draw attention to the quality of care provided to mother and child as well as failure to search deep into the causes of death



and deal with them accordingly. The rates show differences in infants and child mortality in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Data reveal that infant mortality in the West Bank dropped from 25.0 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 24.4 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. There was also a marked drop in child mortality from 32.0 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 27.2 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999.

Gaza Strip witnessed an evident drop in such rates mostly among child mortality, which dropped from 41.0 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 31.2 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. Infant mortality also dropped from 32.0 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 27.3 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999.

Infant mortality among males in the Palestinian Territory dropped from 30.3 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 25.3 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. However, infant mortality among females rose from 24.0 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 25.6 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999.

Under 5 years child mortality rate dropped among male children from 36.7 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 29.1 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. On the other hand, the drop in mortality rate among female children under five years was less significant since it dropped from 29.3 per 1000 births between 1990 and 1994 to 28.3 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999. Such findings require deep analysis and research in order to reduce the figures.

Causes of Infant Mortality

Congenital anomalies are the first cause of infants' mortality in the West Bank, however, there has been an increase in sudden death syndrome

The data on the causes of death among infants and children under five years is based on the data available at the records of the Ministry of Health. Since there is no unified classification between the West Bank and Gaza Strip in registering deaths according to cause, we find out that there is a clear difference between the data. Henceforth, the data quality is low when compared to reality.

The data of the annual report of the Ministry of Health, 2000 states that the most important causes of infant mortality in the West Bank in 1999 were congenital anomalies (24.8%), respiratory system diseases including infection (19.7%), and sudden death syndrome (11.1%). The first and second causes were the main causes of infant mortality in 1996, which were 18.0% and 18.6% respectively. Respiratory system diseases remained one of the main causes of death among infants, which indicates that there has not been any real progress in reducing the percentages. There has been a rise in the percentage of deaths caused by congenital anomalies and sudden death syndrome.

In Gaza Strip, the infants mortality caused by prematurity and low birth weight remained the first and foremost causes of infant mortality (23.8%), whereas, the 1996 figure was 22.5%. Deaths caused by congenital anomalies slightly dropped from 17.3% in 1996 to 14.3% in 1999.



Prematurely and low birth weight remained the first and foremost causes of infant mortality in Gaza Strip. However, there has been a sharp drop in the percentage of deaths caused by respiratory system infections.

Data show that the deaths caused by respiratory system infections in Gaza Strip dropped from 21.6% in 1996 to 2.0% in 1999. However, there has not been a sharp drop in deaths caused by sudden death syndrome, which was 6.3% in 1996 and dropped to 6.0% in 1999.

Despite the fact that there are a high percentage of women who receive antenatal care in Gaza Strip, deaths caused by premature birth remain the first cause of infant mortality, which raises several questions.

There has also been a sharp drop in the deaths caused by respiratory system infections in Gaza Strip, which could have resulted from advanced maternal, and child health care services, use of available health resources, and mothers' awareness.

The most prominent achievements of the past period is probably eradicating causes of infant mortality resulting from diseases of the digestive system and dehydration as well as deaths caused by birth complications.

Causes of Under- Five Child Mortality

Respiratory system diseases are the main cause of death among children under five years in the West Bank. On the other hand, road traffic accidents and cerebral are the main causes of death among children in the Gaza Strip.

Respiratory System diseases were the main causes of death among children under the age of five in the West Bank in 1999 at 19.7%, which is a significant drop from the 1996 figure of 28.5%. Congenital anomalies rose from 12.6% in 1996 to 16.6% in 1999, moreover, deaths caused by road traffic accidents rose from 7.3% in 1996 to 11.7% in 1999.

Evidently respiratory system infections and congenital anomalies are major causes of deaths among children under five years in the West Bank.

However, in Gaza Strip, road traffic accidents and cerebral palsy were in 1999 the main causes of death among children under 5 years at 12.5% each. Congenital anomalies came second at 11.0% (11.1% in 1996). Deaths caused by Respiratory System diseases dropped from 16.1% in 1996 to 6.2% in 1999. Deaths caused by septicemia rose from 1.0% in 1996 to 4.8% in 1999.

Causes of Children's Mortality by Age Group

According to the records of Ministry of Health, most deaths, occurred to children aged 0-4 at 82.3% in 1997 with a rise to 84.5% in 1999. This fact calls for concentrating on children at that age to limit the causes of mortality. As for other age groups (5-9 years), child mortality rates dropped from 9.5% in 1997 to 7.8% in 1999, and among children aged 10-14 and 15-17, the rates dropped from 8.2% in 1997 to 7.7% in 1999.



Differential Indicators of Infant's Survival (*Indicators related to Mothers' Health*)

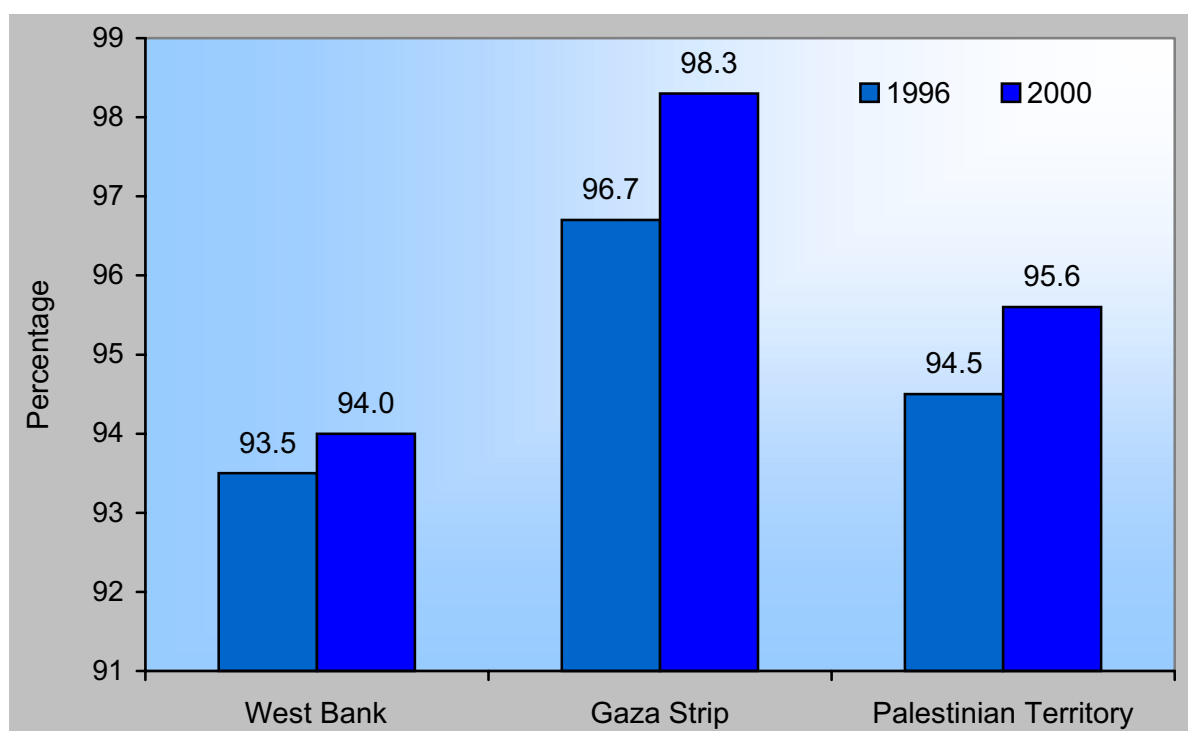
Antenatal Care

Antenatal care can uncover the health problems that may accompany pregnancy or might have occurred before it, but became more complicated during pregnancy. Health care can also determine which pregnant women require special attention and follow up during pregnancy and at birth for reasons that could affect mother and child's health.

The Health Survey 2000 indicates that 95.6% of pregnant women received antenatal care, whereas, the Health Survey 1996 showed that 94.6% of pregnant women received antenatal care. Figure (2-3) shows that 96.7% of pregnant women in Gaza Strip received antenatal care in 1996 and rose to 98.3% in 2000. In the West Bank, the figures were 93.5% in 1996 and 94.0% in 2000.

A noticeable progress has been made in the percentage of women who receive antenatal care in the past period; however, such progress has not been sufficient because the national health plan of 1994 aimed at raising the percentage to 100% in 2000. This could have been caused by lack of efficient promotion of the importance of antenatal care during health awareness programs. 65.0% of pregnant women covered by the Health Survey 2000, who did not receive antenatal care, stated that the reason for not seeking healthcare was not having any complications during pregnancy. More evidently, antenatal care for rural pregnant women (93.9%) is less than that of urban women (96.2%) and refugee women (96.6%). Therefore, there is a need to pay more attention to increasing maternal and child health centers and health education programs.

Figure (2-2): Percentage of Women Who Received Antenatal Care by Region, 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine



Tetanus Toxoid Vaccination

95.6% of women received antenatal care in 2000; however, only 27.5% of them received tetanus Toxoid Vaccination

Tetanus toxoid is one of the main causes that lead to mothers and infants' mortality. No tetanus deaths have been recorded among Palestinian children at this stage. The findings of the Health Survey 2000 showed that 27.5% of women who gave birth during the year preceding the Survey received injection against the disease; the percentage was 23.0% for the West Bank and 35.7% for Gaza Strip. The Health Survey 1996 showed that 49.9% of mothers received shots against tetanus during the last two pregnancies, including 41.0% in the West Bank and 67.4% in Gaza strip. In any case, the percentage of women who received such shots against tetanus during 1996 and 2000 is rather low when compared to the births whose mothers received antenatal care. Vaccination against tetanus has not reached the level set forth in the 1994 health plan, which aimed for 100%. The reason for that could be caused by a defect in following a clear policy towards making the private sector comply with urging women, who receive antenatal care, to get shots against the disease at health centers of the Ministry of Health, (47.5% of women received antenatal care at private clinics in 2000.)

Health Problems during Pregnancy

About 24.3% of pregnant women covered by the Health Survey 2000 stated that they suffered from urinary tract infections during pregnancy. The 1996 figure was 33.4%, moreover 7.6% of pregnant women covered by the same survey complained of high blood pressure, whereas in 1996 Health Survey, 19.6% of pregnant women complained of high blood pressure. 4.5% of pregnant women suffered bleeding during pregnancy in 2000, on the other hand, 5.2% of them complained of bleeding during pregnancy in 1996.

The findings of the Health Survey 2000 showed that 2.3% of pregnant women suffered eclampsia. Previous data on this indicator are not available. This percentage is a serious indicator since this problem leads to serious complications upon mother and fetus.

The Health Survey 1996 showed 38.8% of interviewed pregnant women complained of persistent headache, which could indicate suffering from anemia and its negative impact on the mother and fetus health. A study in 1997 revealed that 54% of urban women (15-49) year in Gaza Strip suffered from anemia, whereas, 72% of rural women had the same problem¹. 75.8% of pregnant women received iron tablets and 44.3% of them received folic acid in 2000. On the other hand, according to the 1996 Health Survey, 71.3% of pregnant women received iron tablets and 61.3% received folic acid.

PCBS' 1999 qualitative study showed that the majority of Palestinian women in the Palestinian Territory undergo anemia test during pregnancy. They receive iron tablets in case of anemia. Therefore, a tiny portion of women suffering from anemia do not receive treatment, however, levels of having anemia are still high among women.²

¹ The Situation of Palestinian Children in the WB and GS, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. An Assessment Based on the UN convention on the right of child. 2000.

² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Palestinian Maternal and Child Health. A qualitative National Study, 1999. Ramallah-Palestine.



Natal Care

Data reveal that the percentage of birth occurred at health facilities rose from 87.1% in 1996 to 92.3% in 2000 in the West Bank. In Gaza Strip, however, the percentage increased from 95.9% in 1996 to 99.2% in 2000. The widespread of UNRWA and private clinics in Gaza Strip could be the reason for the increase in numbers of births occurred at health facilities.

The percentage of births occurred under supervision of health skilled medical cadre rose from 93.0% in 1996 to 96.8% in 2000, which reflects a good sign of health care follow up.

Postnatal Care

26.3% of women received postnatal care in 2000, an increase of 6.8% from 1996

PCBS' qualitative study of 1999 on the mother and child's health showed that many women did not receive postnatal cares and did not realize its importance.

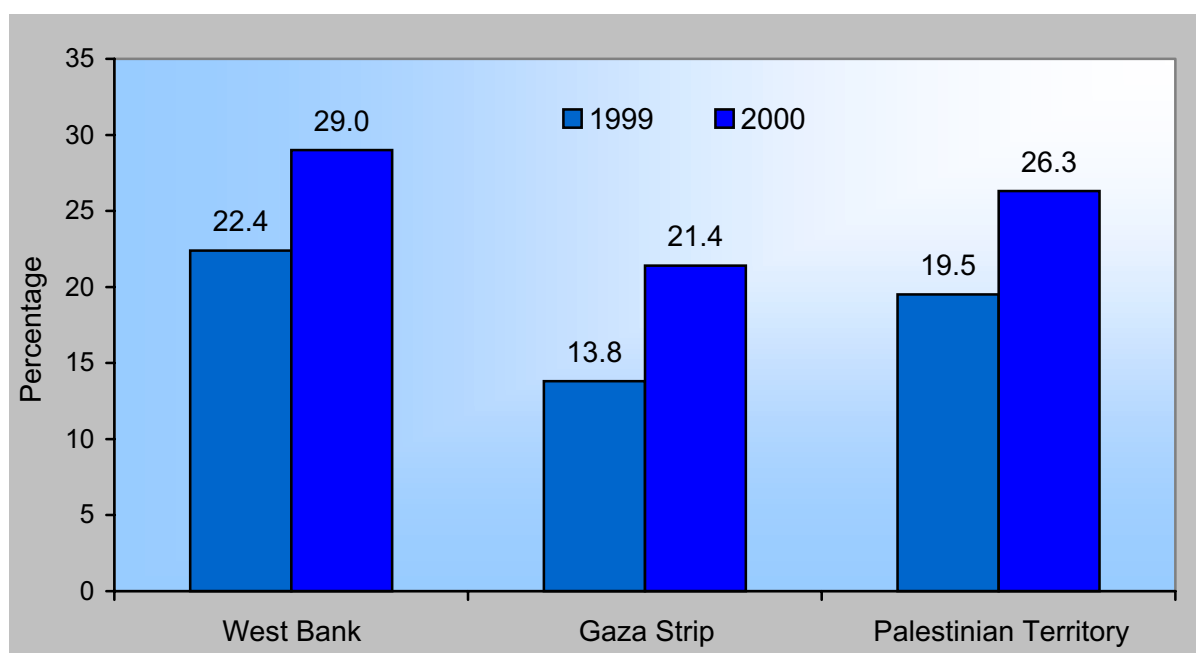
Figure (2-4) shows that the percentage of women who received postnatal care increased from 19.5% in 1996 to 26.3% in 2000. In the West Bank, the percentage increased from 22.9% to 29.0% while in Gaza Strip, it increased from 13.8% to 21.4% at the same period.

The national strategic health plan 1999-2003 aims at increasing the use of health services by 50% including postnatal care. However, the increase reached 34.8% in 2000.

PCBS' qualitative study of 1999 showed that the main obstacle in raising the figures of postnatal care was that many women did not consider it necessary as long as they felt fine and had no health problems.



Figure (2-3): Percentage of Women Who received Postnatal Care by Region, 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah -Palestine.

The findings of the 1996 Health Survey showed that 73.0% of cesareans received postnatal care while only 15% of normal births received the same care. Additionally, according to the Health Survey - 2000, 48.0% of women who delivered at hospitals stated that they received health education about the importance of medical follow up after delivery.

Breastfeeding

State Parties ...shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breast-feeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 24-2-h)

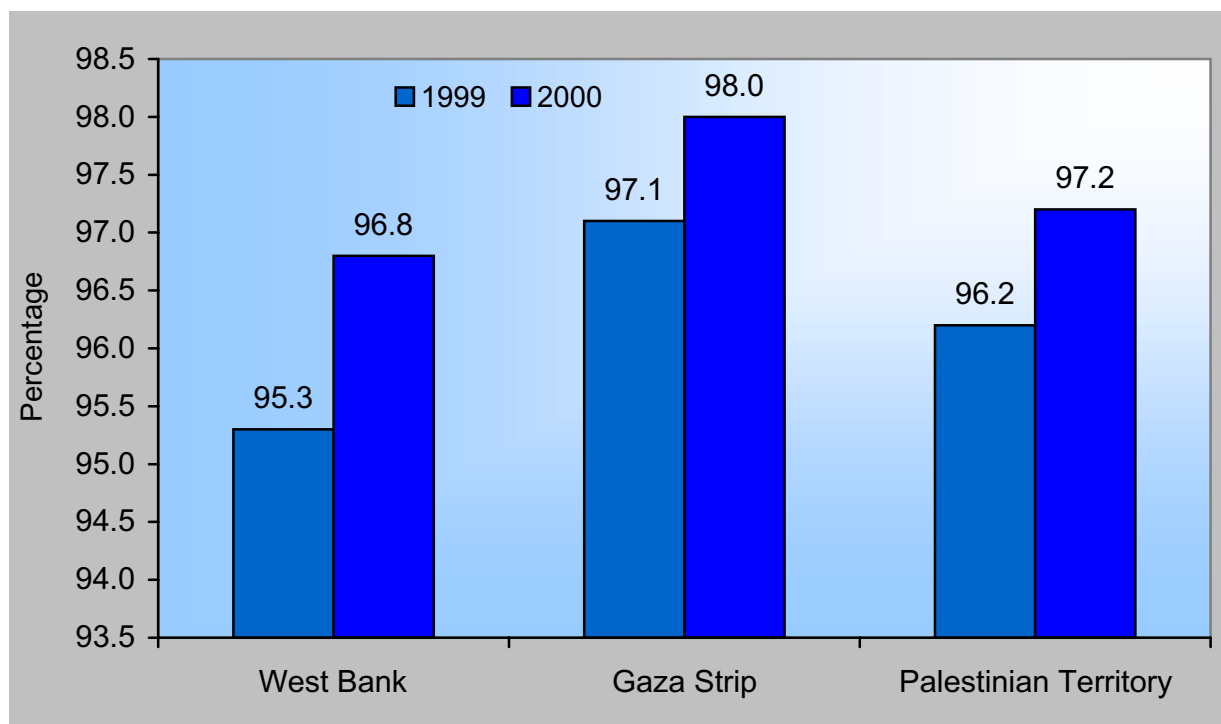
Exclusive Breastfeeding

PCBS' Health Survey of 1996 did not provide any data on exclusive breastfeeding. However, the qualitative study about the mothers' health, which was carried out by PCBS in 1999, assured that mothers do not exclusively breastfeed for sufficient periods. The data of the main reports of the Health Survey 2000 show that 28.5% of infants aged 0-3 months were exclusively breastfed; 27.5% in the West Bank and 30.8% in Gaza Strip. In any case, the available data are not sufficient to measure this indicator, which requires more efforts in this field.



Breastfeeding Prevalence

Figure (2-4): Percentage of Children (last child) Who were Breastfed by Region in 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.*
Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

The data show that the percentage of children (last child born during the period 1997-2000) who were Breastfed increased from 96.2% in 1996 to 97.2% in 2000. Data also show that the percentage of children in the West Bank who were breastfed increased from 95.3% in 1996 to 96.8% in 2000 and in Gaza Strip whom were increased from 97.1% in 1996 to 98.0% in 2000.

The above indicates that the percentages of breastfeeding in the Palestinian Territory are good. However, duration of breastfeeding in 1996 and 2000 did not change and stayed at 11.1 months. The Health Survey 2000 show that 50.3% of children were breastfed during the first hour of birth and 15.8% were breastfed after six hours or more. On the other hand, the 1996 Health Survey showed that percentages were 25.4% and 24.0% respectively. The reason for delaying breastfeeding for more than six hours could be the state of the mother's health or the birth itself. For instance, a previous study stated that cesareans cause delays in breastfeeding.³ Weaning during the first three months of birth is still prevailing phenomenon. According to the Health Survey 2000, 14.0% of children (last child) were weaned during the first three months of birth. The percentage in the 1996 Health Survey was 7.8%. Main reasons for weaning were; insufficient breast milk at 36.3% for 1996 and 45.8% for 2000 and the child's rejection of breastfeeding at 23.1% for 1996 and 25.5% for 2000.

³ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Palestinian Maternal and Child Health. A qualitative National Study, 1999.* Ramallah-Palestine.



Nutritional Status

Nutritional status is one of the most important indicators of the children's well being. The quantity and quality of food the child consumes and the method of preparing such food influences the nutritional status. The frequent catching of diseases among children also influences it.

7.5% of children under five years suffered from stunting and 8.6% of children weighed less than 2.5 kilograms in 2000.

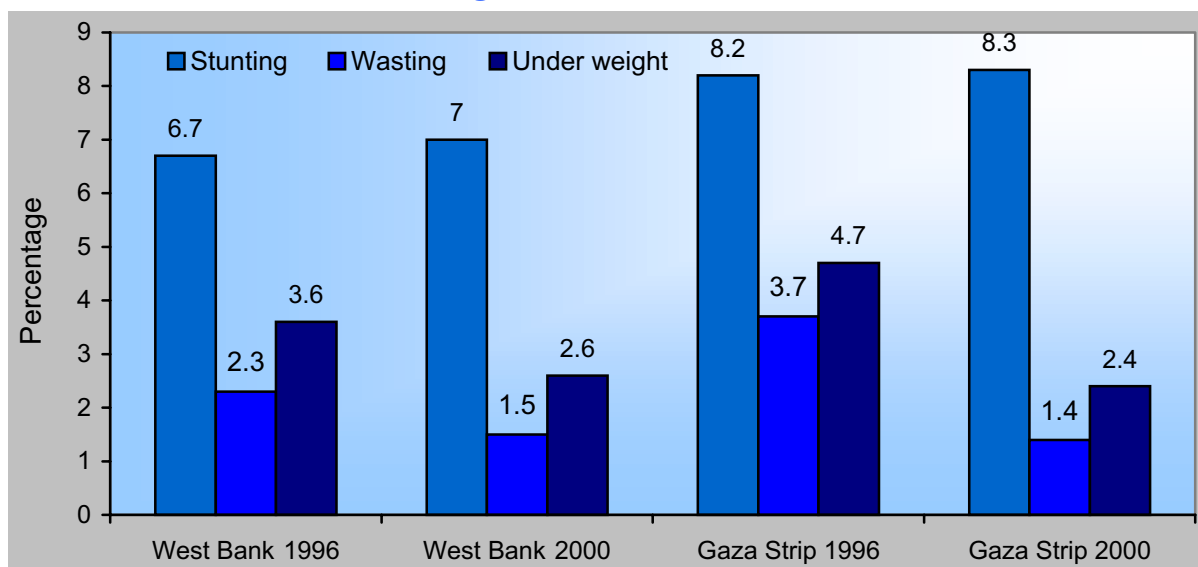
Stunting is the most common problem among children under five years since no progress was made between 1996 and 2000. The Health Survey 1996 indicated that 7.2% of children were stunted and the Health Survey 2000 showed that 7.5% of children had the same problem. The quality of food could be a reason in rising or reducing the percentage of stunted children, however, this requires studying. However, the percentage of wasted children dropped from 2.7% in 1996 to 1.4% in 2000 and the percentage of underweight dropped from 4.4% in 1996 to 2.5% in 2000.

It has been noticed that urban children suffer from wasting more than other children. Rural children suffer from underweight and stunting.

When compared to the children of the developing countries, the children of Palestine in general enjoy good nutritional status. However, the progress in reducing the indicators of malnutrition is connected to the extent of implementing the national nutrition plan of the 1994 national health plan.



Figure (2-5): Percentage of Children Suffering Stunting, Wasting, and Underweight by Region in 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

The data of the Health Survey 2000 did not show a clear-cut distinction in malnutrition and stunting between males and females as the Health Survey 1996 did.

A 1998 study⁴ of Palestinian refugee children aged 0-3 years registered in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan showed that 75% of Gazan children and 50% of the West Bank children suffer from anemia. Another recent study about deficiency of iodine indicated that there was a widespread of first and second stages of goiter in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The findings showed that 14.9% of children in the Palestinian Territory have goiter; 14.3% for male children and 15.5% for female children.⁵

The Health Survey 2000 assured that 37.4% of households consume iodized salt; 47.3% in the West Bank and 16.6% in Gaza Strip. The Survey also showed that 8.6% of children were less than 2.5 kilograms at birth including 9.3% female infants and 7.9% male infants. While the percentage was 6.0% according to mother perceived opinion in 1996.

Immunization

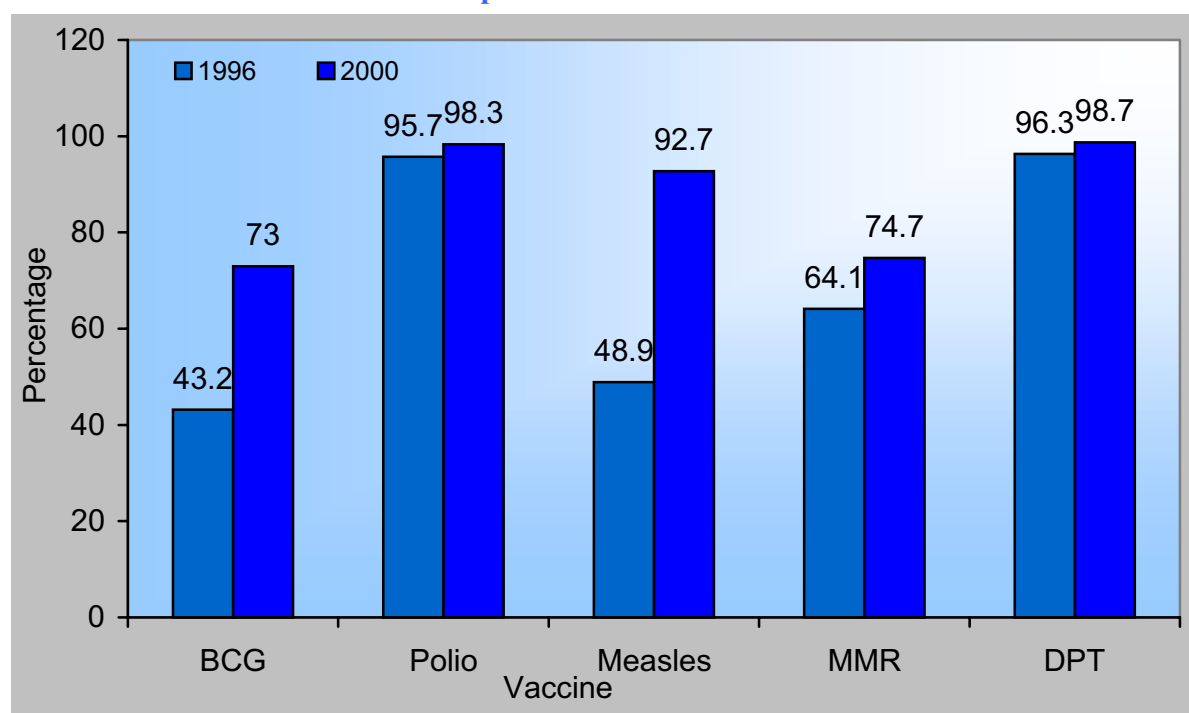
Immunization against Tuberculosis, Mumps/ Measles, and Rubella in Palestine is still low and there is still a clear distinction between vaccination against tuberculosis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Health Survey 2000 revealed that 100% of Gazan children aged (12-23 months) were immunized against tuberculosis, whereas, 55.4% of West Bank children were immunized against tuberculosis (of them 57.2% females and 53.6% males). The figures in the Health Survey 1996 were 21.6% in the West Bank and 90.5% in Gaza Strip.

⁴The Situation of Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. *An assessment based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 2000

⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Annual Report. Palestinian Children, Issues and Statistics, Series (2)*. Ramallah-Palestine.



Figure (2-6): Percentage of Children (aged 12-23 months) Whose Health Cards were Seen and Received Specific Immunization in 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine

The reason for the distinction between tuberculosis immunization between Gaza Strip and the West Bank could be the result of introducing such vaccine in 1999 as part of the immunization program of the Ministry of Health. In any case, the UNRWA introduced tuberculosis immunization to its clinics and health centers before that. Additionally, Jerusalem children did not receive this type of vaccine. Moreover, there is still a distinction between the use of measles immunization between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which could be caused by the fact that the Ministry of Health introduced this vaccine to its programs in 1996, which deprived non-refugee children in the West Bank from this immunization at a time refugee children got it at UNRWA health centers. Immunization against measles in the West Bank rose from 28.7% in 1996 to 89.1% in 2000. In Gaza Strip, however, the percentage increased from 93.2% in 1996 to 98.2% in 2000. Vaccination against polio in the Palestinian Territory rose from 95.7% and 96.3% in 1996 to 98.3% and 98.7% in 2000. Inoculation against mumps, measles, and rubella is still low at 74.7%; 77.6% for male children and 71.8% for female children.

It seems that there is still a difference between immunization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip especially when it comes to inoculation against tuberculosis and measles, which requires the Ministry of Health to review its policy of immunization and to activate its national immunization program in a better way.

Childhood Diseases

The rate of spread of contagious diseases among children is an indicator of children well being and of the health environment where they live. It could also be an indicator of the social environment of the households. The following presents some of children diseases:

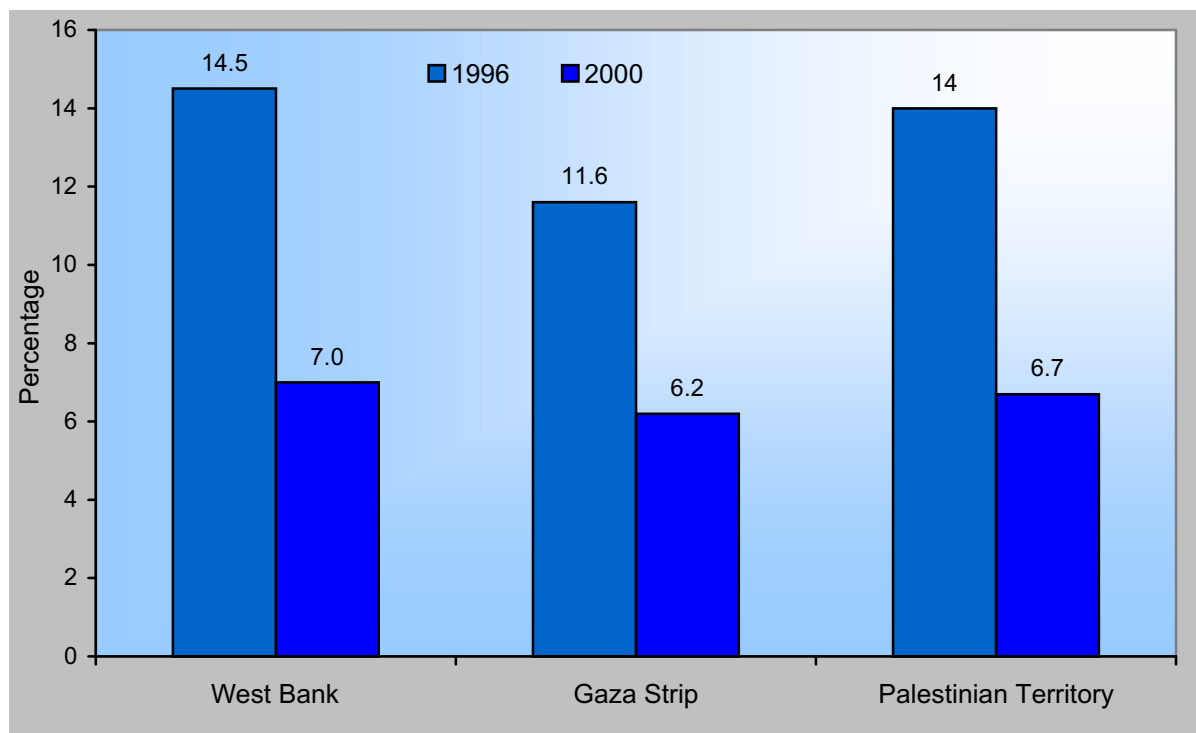


Diarrhea

There has been a significant drop between the cases of diarrhea registered in the June 1996 Health Survey of 14.0% and the April 2000 Health Survey of 6.7%.

As for regions, West Bank children are more susceptible to diarrhea than Gazan children. In 1996, 14.5% of West Bank Children had diarrhea whereas 11.6% of Gazan children caught the disease. The figures dropped in 2000 to 7.0% for the West Bank and 6.2% for Gaza Strip. Moreover, infants aged 6-11 months were more susceptible to diarrhea than other children. This could be caused by the reason that infants start receiving family food or manufactured baby food at that age.

Figure (2-7): Percentage of Children (under 5 years) Who had Diarrhea During the Two Weeks Preceding the Survey by Region, 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine

Data of the Health Survey 2000 indicate that 99.1% of children who came down with diarrhea received treatment. Most importantly, the Ministry of Health dropped dehydration and digestive system diseases from its records of fatal diseases among infants and children under the age of five.



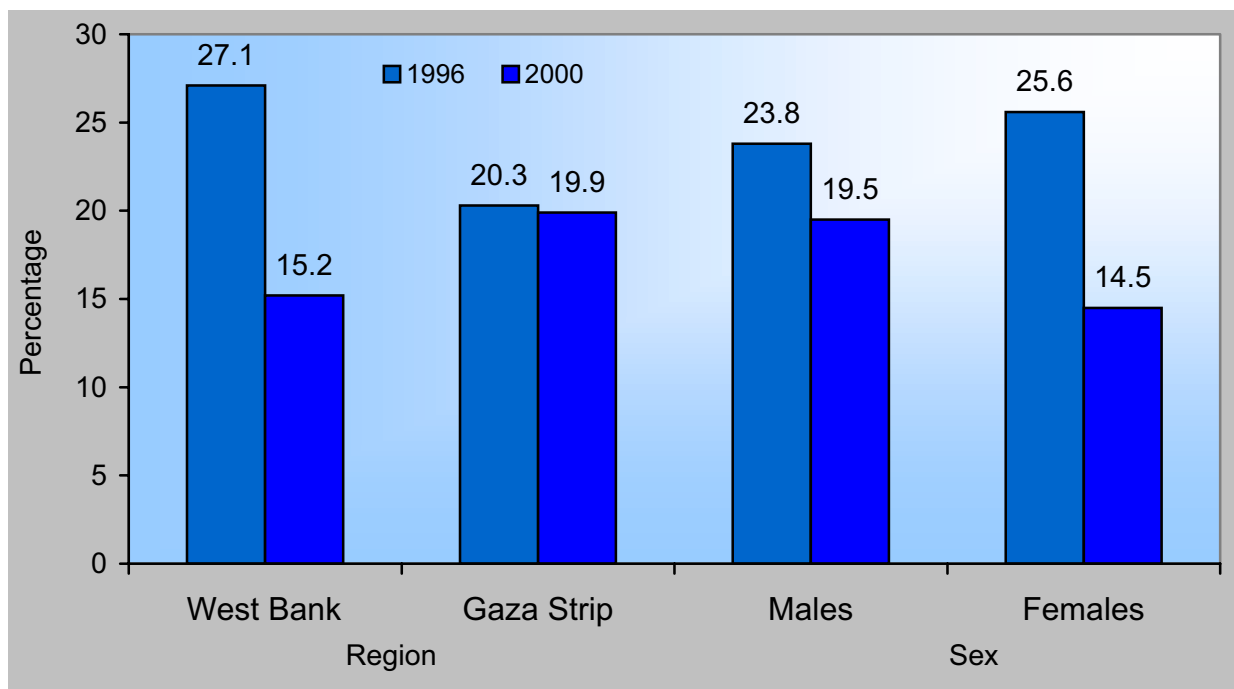
Respiratory Tract Infections

The percentage of respiratory tract infections among children under five years dropped by 30.7% in 2000 (17.1%) whereas it was 24.7% in 1996.

Data show that the percentage of respiratory tract infections among children under five years dropped from 24.7% in 1996 to 17.1% in 2000. However, the method of calculating the percentage of children coming down with respiratory tract infections in 2000 differed from that of 1996. In 1996, children who suffered from cough and cold were considered as children with respiratory tract infections whereas in 2000, children who suffered from cough and fast breathing were considered as children with respiratory tract infections.

In the West Bank, respiratory tract infections dropped from 27.1% in 1996 to 15.2% in 2000. Among female children, the percentage dropped from 25.6% to 14.5% in the same period. In Gaza Strip, the percentage dropped from 20.3% in 1996 to 19.9% in 2000.

Figure (2-8): Percentage of Children Who had Respiratory Tract Infections during the Two Weeks Preceding the Survey by Region, 1996 and 2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey, 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1996. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine



Despite the drop in the percentage of children having respiratory tract infections in the West Bank, the problems remain the main cause of death among children under five years. This could be related to the fact that cough alone is not an indicator to respiratory tract infections. Therefore, there is a need for more studies to the causes that lead to such respiratory tract infections such as fast breathing and malnutrition and other causes.

Maternal and Child Health Centers

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Health 1999, shows that the number of primary health care centers run by the Ministry are 341; of which 302 centers in the West Bank and 39 centers in Gaza Strip. The 1996 figures were 178 in the West Bank and 31 in Gaza Strip. Clearly, there had been an increase in the number of health care centers but there is still a need to pay more attention to the quality of services.



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Chapter 3

Children Educational Reality¹

States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

A- Make elementary education compulsory and available free to all;

B- Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need.

Child's Rights Convention, (Article 28-1)

The educational sector is one of the most important sectors in the society, which gets governments' special attention since it represents real investment in the future of the nations. Educational indicators are used to measure the government and society's performance in providing suitable environment for children and youths' right to education.

Educating children occupied a high priority in many national, regional, and international conferences such as Jumentian Conference on Societal Education in 1990, Dakar Conference on Evaluating Education for all in 2000, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, which is the most comprehensive convention in the world on human rights. Moreover, human rights conventions have all emphasized providing quality education to children and gave such matter high priority.

Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulate that "State Parties shall make primary education compulsory and available free to all" and that "education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential." Therefore, joining school and receiving good quality education are main factors to achieving such goal. Moreover, four more Articles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child reinforce the comprehensive legal principles of the child's education including Article 2, which stipulates that "State Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind," Article 3, which states, "The best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration," Article 6 states, "That every child has the inherent right to life...survival and development," and Article 12, which stipulates, "The child who is capable of forming his or her own views (has) the right to express those views freely."²

There has been an increasing care for educating children in Palestine since all school age children have the right to primary free education regardless of their beliefs and socioeconomic background and because education is the base for social and democratic development.

¹ Indicators in this chapter do not include data on the schools supervised by Israeli Ministry of Education and Israeli Municipality in that part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in 1967.

² UNICEF, *Education for All*, 1999



Such care has an unequivocal impact on bridging the educational gap between male and female students in basic and secondary education stages since both have recorded approximate comprehensive joining of basic school (from first grade to tenth grade.) Compulsory education has been expanded from six years to ten years and the new Palestinian curriculum was gradually introduced in the scholastic year 2000/2001. There has also been widening of educational facilities, which have reached areas where they were never available before.

Despite the achievements in children education, we cannot underestimate the future challenges of the educational process. It is expected that 100,000 pupils will join the first grade every year, which requires setting forth future educational plans in order to provide new educational environment and capacity to accommodate all of them.

This Chapter deals with the state of children education in Palestine through comparing important educational indicators over the past five years. Such indicators include the basic components of the educational process including, pupils, schools, teachers, and classrooms.

Students

In the out set of the Scholastic year 1999/2000, the average number of students enrolled in the basic, secondary stage and Kindergartens amounted to 942,942 Students. Female Students constitute around 49.4% of the total number of them. Female percentage varies from one stage to another. While the percentage of female students amounted to 49.5% in the basic education stage, and it amounted to 50.7% in the secondary education stage.

In the scholastic year 1999/2000, we notice that 7.7% of the total number of students enrolled in the secondary education stage, while 84.1% of them enrolled in the basic stage and 8.2% of them enrolled in kindergartens. Around 59.9% of the total number of the students enrolled in the basic education stage in the West Bank as compared to 40.1% in Gaza Strip. As for students enrolled in the secondary education stage, this percentage amounted to 57.9% in the West Bank and 42.1% in Gaza Strip.

When taking the supervising authority into account, we notice that 62.2% of total students were enrolled in governmental school (586,908 students), 23.7% were enrolled in UNRWA schools (223,085 students), and 14.1% of them were enrolled in kindergartens and Private schools (132,949 students). The data clearly show that most of the burden of education is to the Ministry of Education with a distinction of students distribution according to supervising body between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The relatively large number of refugee students in Gaza Strip made the educational task of the UNRWA in Gaza Strip bigger than its task in the West Bank.³

There was a steady increase in the numbers of school students during 1995/1996 and 1999/2000 to a degree that exceeded the expected natural growth. Such increase might have been expected since thousands of Palestinian families returned to the Palestinian Territory from Arab and Gulf States during and after the Gulf War and with the coming of the PNA to the Palestinian Territory. Whereas the percentage increases in the basic and secondary education stage was 30.6% in the period 1995/1996 and 1999/2000 this percentage increase amounted to 34.4% in Gaza Strip and 28.2% in the West Bank.

³ 53.2% of basic education stage in Gaza Strip enrolled in UNRWA schools while 11.3% in basic education stage students in the West Bank enrolled in UNRWA schools during the scholastic year 1999/2000



Enrollment in Kindergartens

Kindergartens are run by the private sector excluding three kindergartens, which are run by the Ministry of Education. One third of children aged 4-5 joined kindergartens in the scholastic year 1999/2000

Kindergartens are run by the private sector excluding three Kindergartens, which are run by the Ministry of Education. However, according to effective rules and regulations, Kindergartens must receive the permission of the Ministry of Education.

The number of children at Kindergartens rose from 69,134 in scholastic year 1996/1997 to 77,402 in scholastic year 1999/2000 at an increase of 12.0%. The percentage of females at Kindergartens according to region did not vary a lot. They formed 47.4% in the West Bank and 47.9% in Gaza Strip during school year 1999/2000. This shows that families do not discriminate a lot between boys and girls' education at this stage.

While the net enrollment rate in kindergartens is increasing in the West Bank from 32.5% to 34.9% in the scholastic years 1996/1997 and 1999/2000 respectively, its trend is decreasing in Gaza Strip (from 35.0% to 28.1% in the same period). Moreover, enrollment rate among males remained higher than among females.

There were several reasons that caused a relative drop in the averages of children enrolled in kindergartens in the Palestinian Territory. For instance, 21,295 children aged five years enrolled in first grade (based on a decision by the Ministry of Education⁴ to accept children aged five years and eight months in first grade in the scholastic year 1999/2000). Moreover, some families might not have been able to pay kindergartens fees especially that the GDP per capita is rather low in the Palestinian Territory. Another reason could have been that parents doubted the quality of educational programs and therefore preferred that their children stayed at home or they might have taken other child-caring steps. Additionally, women are 12.3% of the Palestinian labor force⁵, henceforth; most of Palestinian women are housekeepers dedicating all of their time to care for their children.

Palestine report on Education –General Evaluation 2000- indicated that the educational achievements of the early childhood lack integration and educational activities that could play part in the development of the child's personality and urge him/her to continue and to master the language. Children education is still instructional, educational approaches and activities vary from one educational institution to another, they also lack curricular programs. Consequently, the aim to build the child's capacities, help the child absorb and develop skills, assist the child in understanding social values, and help the child to communicate with others and socialize are absent. Moreover, the aim to develop the child's mental capacities and know how skills and use of modern technology is absent, too.

The Report also explains that the Ministry of Education seeks to increase its role in developing kindergartens; however, it faces several problems such as financing, lack of appropriate policies and legislations, and lack of appropriate rules and regulations. Despite the

⁴ Ministry of Education's Decision Number 1439/27/1 of March 9, 1999

⁵ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, *Palestinian Labor Force Survey, the Annual Report*, Ramallah-Palestine, 2000



difficulties, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with other concerned parties, is working on removing all obstacles.

Enrollment in Basic Education Stage

There were 98 female students per 100 male students in basic education stage in the scholastic year 1999/2000

The number of students at basic stage increased from 611,857 in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 792,990 in the scholastic year 1999/2000 at an increase of 29.6% including 49.4% female students and 50.6% male students. Female students constituted 48.7% of the total number of basic stage' students and male students constituted 51.3% of the total number of basic stage' students during the scholastic year 1995/1996. The percentage of females at basic stage according to region in the scholastic year 1999/2000 did not significantly vary between the West Bank at (49.5%) and Gaza Strip at (49.4%).

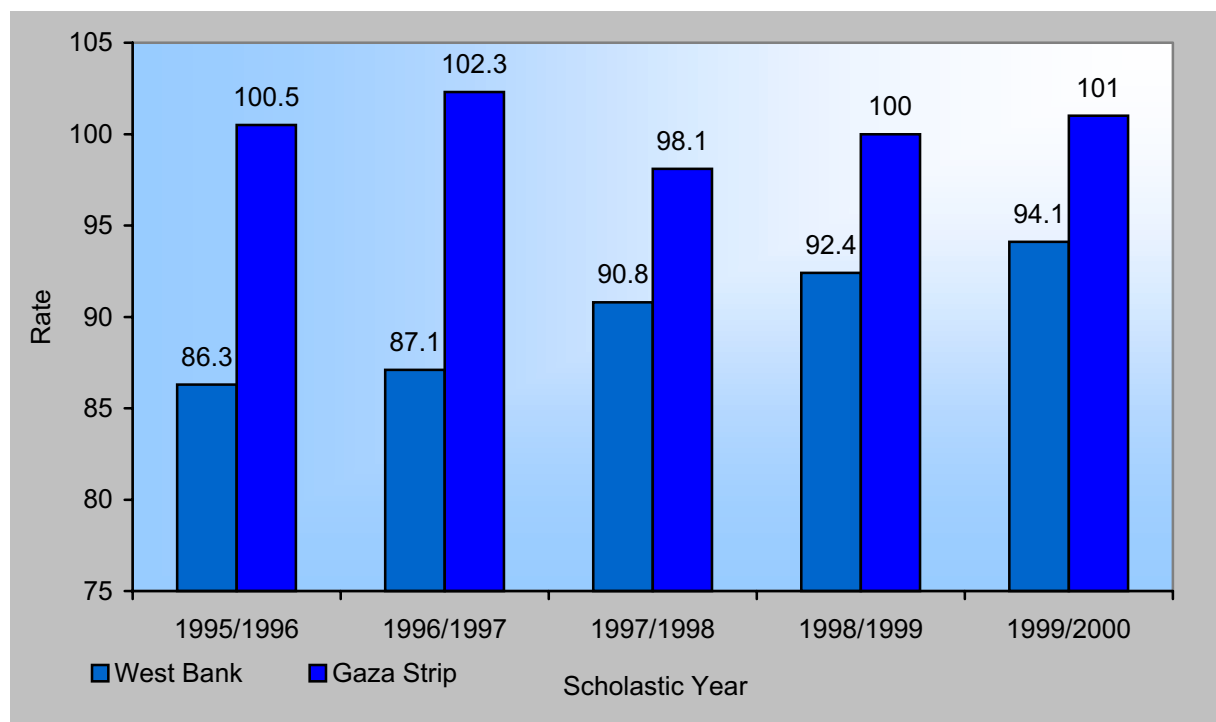
Examining the enrollment rate and their variation in the basic education stage and in the scholastic year 1999/2000, we notice that there were 98 female students per 100 male students in the West Bank schools compared to 97 female students per 100 male students in the Gaza Strip.

Gross and net enrollment rate are indicators of internal sufficiency of the educational system since they reflect phenomena like older age, repetition, and drop out. The varying between the averages during the years 1995/1996-1999/2000 show that gross and net total of enrollment in basic stage increase from one year to another. The gross rose from 91.4% in 1995/1996 to 96.8% in 1999/2000. Moreover, the net enrollment rose from 86.9% to 96.8% in the same period. Gross enrollment in basic stage in Gaza Strip is higher than that of the West Bank (101.0% in Gaza Strip and 94.1% in the West Bank in 1999/2000). The same goes for the net enrollment at 96.8% for Gaza Strip and 89.3% for the West Bank for the same scholastic year. Furthermore, girls' net enrollment in the basic stage is higher than those for boys in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

The difference in gross and net enrollment indicates that there are children below and over the official age of joining basic education in basic education stage. This could be the result of various factors such as there are children aged five joining schools, which is one year less than the official age and having students who failed grades, which raises the number of students who are above the official age.

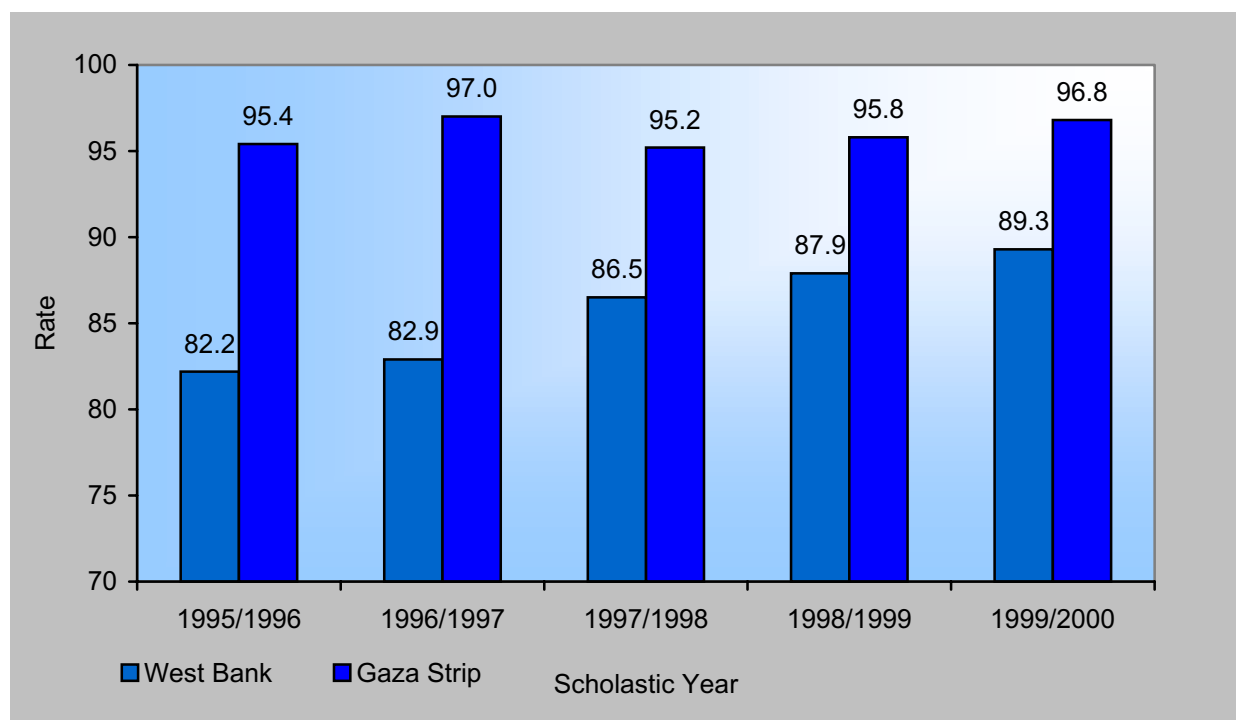


Figure (3-1): Gross Enrollment Rate in the Basic Stage by Region for the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2001. *Statistical Extracts*. (Unpublished data)

Figure (3-2): Net Enrollment Rate in the Basic Stage by Region for the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2001. *Statistical Extracts*. (Unpublished data).



There has been a great achievement in basic education stage during school years 1995/1996-1999/2000. However, it has not reached the required level especially for grades 7-10. Therefore, the five-year strategy of the Ministry of Education⁶ for joining elementary education has to include opportunities for children joining grades 1-10 and to provide opportunities for returnees' children joining grades 1-12. Moreover, the plan must increase the number of children joining grades 7-10 to 100% and improve the rates of joining grades 1-10 for all children in areas of insufficient services.

Secondary Stage Education

There were 104 female students per 100 male students in secondary stage in the scholastic year 1999/2000

The number of students at secondary education stage increased from 50,770 to 72,550 students during the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000, at an increase of 42.9%. From gender point of view, female students represented 51% of total number students in the secondary stage in the scholastic year 1999/2000, while they represented 46.4% in 1995/1996.

Female students constituted 46.4% of the total number of students in the secondary stage, and male students constituted 53.6% of the total number of students in the secondary stage in the scholastic year 1995/1996. The percentage of females at secondary stage according to region in the scholastic year 1999/2000 varied between the West Bank at 52.1% and Gaza Strip at 49.4%.

There were 104 female students for every 100 male students in high school in 1999/2000 in the West Bank and 98 female students for every 100 male students at high schools in Gaza Strip. The percentages of joining high school reflect improvement in equality between males and females in high school education. There were significant increases in joining high school in the past five years at 86%, 91%, 94%, 100%, and 104% in the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000 respectively.

Academic education is still more attractive than vocational education. The number of students enrolled in vocational high school reached 2,873 in the scholastic year 1999/2000 or 4% of the total number of high school students. Female students constituted only 23.0% of vocational high school students. On the other hand, they constituted 52.0% of academic high school student. As we follow up the percentages of female and male students in the scholastic years 1995/1996 to 1999/2000, we realize that the percentage of male students joining vocational high schools did not change. The same goes for female students (the percentage of female students joining vocational high school of the total number of high school female students.) There were no changes also in the past five years.

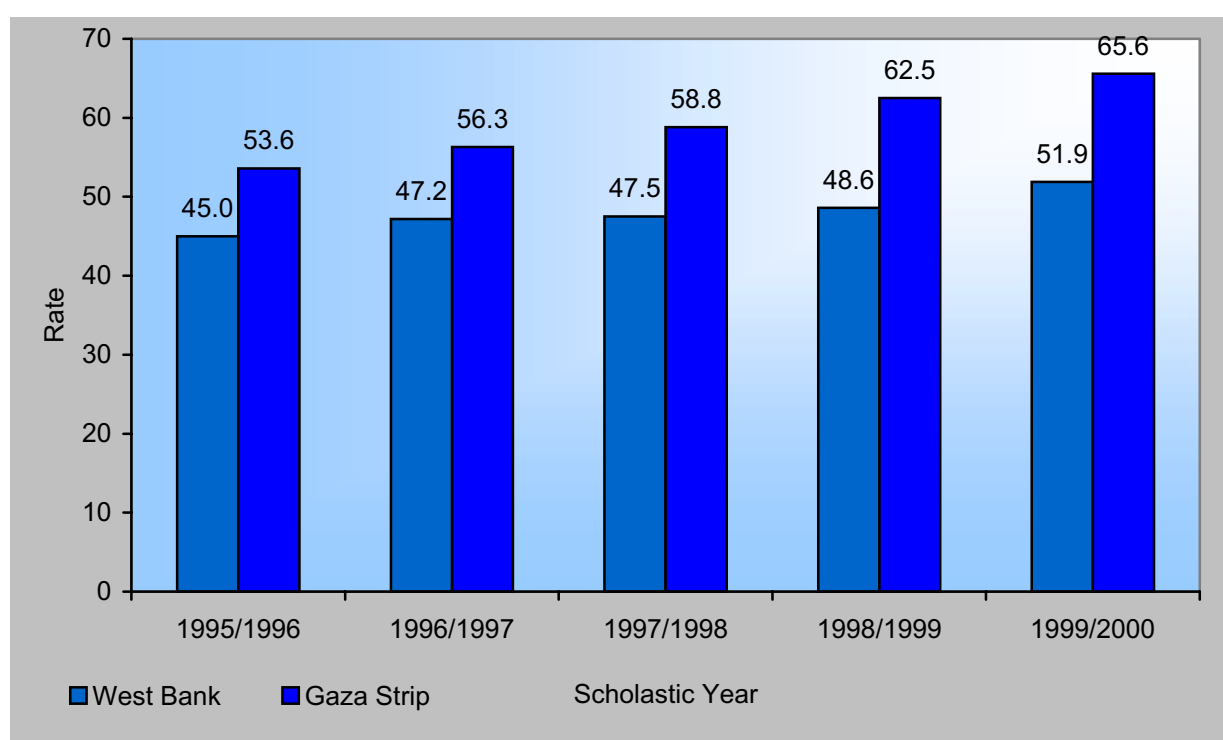
Educational policies in Palestine have not achieved the required goals in raising the levels of students joining vocational education yet despite the urging of the Ministry of Education of students to do so.

⁶ Palestinian Ministry of Education, 2001. *The Five Year Plan for Education in Palestine (2001-2005)*, Ramallah-Palestine.



The averages of students joining high school are going down sharply when compared to the very high levels in elementary education. We notice from examining those averages during the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000 that gross and net enrollment in high school increase from one year to another. For instance, total rate rose from 48.0% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 56.9% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. Moreover, the net total rose from 37.0% in school year 1995/1996 to 44.5% in school year 1999/2000. Gross enrollment rate in secondary school for the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000 in Gaza Strip is a lot higher than that of the West Bank at 65.6% in Gaza Strip and 51.9% in the West Bank in 1999/2000⁷. The same goes for the net average at 49.3% for Gaza Strip and 41.7% for the West Bank for the same scholastic year. Furthermore, females' enrollments in secondary schools are higher than those for males in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Figure (3-3): Gross Enrollment Rates in Secondary Schools by Region in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000

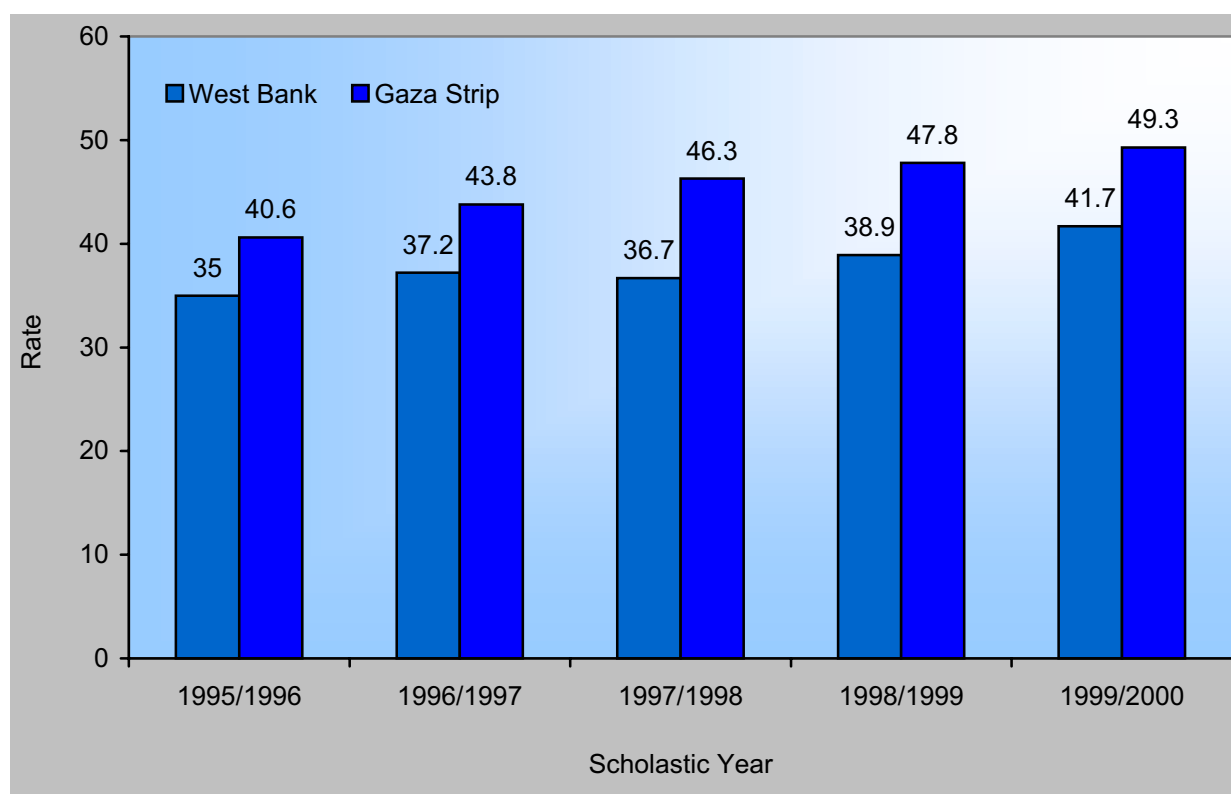


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Statistical Extracts*. (Unpublished data)

⁷ Ministry of Education is seeking to increase the gross enrollment in Secondary school to 68.0% in the scholastic year 2004/2005. Ministry of Education, 2001. *The Five Year Plan of Education in Palestine (2001-2005)*. Ramallah-Palestine.



Figure (3-4): Net Enrollment Rates in Secondary Schools by Region in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Statistical Extracts*. (Unpublished data).

Students with Special Needs

The percentage of children not enrolled in schools increases with the increase in age irrespective of gender. It seems that children with special needs in the West Bank have better educational opportunities than those of Gaza Strip. As for disabled females, their enrollment in schools is less than it should be at only 40% of disabled children at schools.

The data of the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census of 1997 indicate that 41.7% of the children of special needs in the Palestinian Territory are in schools. However, the percentage increases with the increase in age irrespective of gender. It seems that children with special needs in the West Bank have better educational opportunities than those of Gaza Strip. As for disabled females, their enrollment in schools is less than it should be at only 40% of disabled children at schools.

The available data do not distinguish between disabled children at schools according to their disabilities. Additionally, the data are not clear when it comes to types of schools and whether the schools are ordinary schools or specialized institutions. However, it is possible to say that mostly specialized institutions carry out the services provided for children with special needs because disabled children have not been *accommodated* properly, as it is preferred, at governmental schools. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs run two different programs for children with special needs. The program of the Ministry of Social Affairs is based on separating children with special needs from other students. On the other



hand, the program of the Ministry of Education is based on accommodating some of the children with special needs with the systematic education (program of comprehensive education.)

Repetition

The percentages of repetition among male and female students at basic and secondary stages in the Palestinian Territory have significantly dropped in the scholastic years 1994/1995-1998/1999.

The percentage of repetition at basic stage in the scholastic year 1998/1999 in the Palestinian Territory was 2.8% for boys and 2.3% for girls. However, at secondary stage, the percentage was 1.5% for boys and 0.7% for girls in the same year.

When the percentages of repetition at basic and secondary stages of male and female students according to region in the scholastic year 1998/1999 are compared, we find out that the percentages of repetition for male and female in the basic stage in Gaza Strip is higher than that of the West Bank. On the other hand, the percentages of repetition for male and female in the West Bank are higher than that of Gaza Strip.

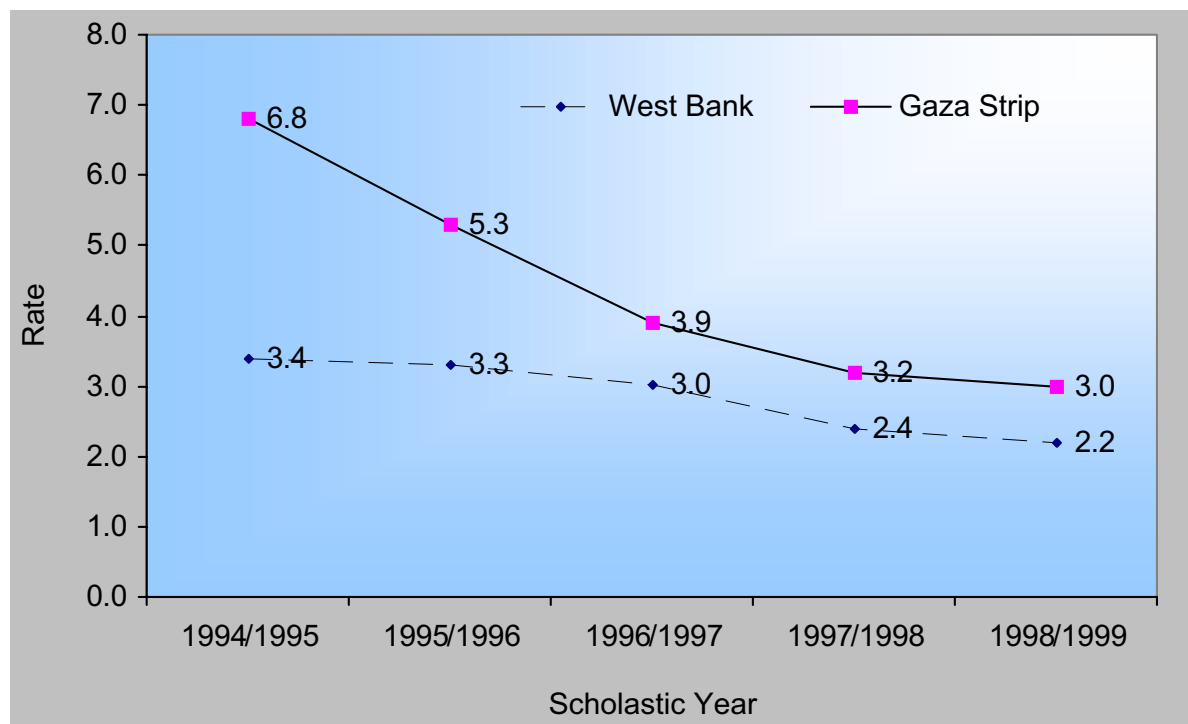
The percentages of repetition among male and female students at basic and secondary in the Palestinian Territory have significantly dropped during the scholastic years 1994/1995-1998/1999. For instance, female students who failed during basic stage dropped from 4.4% in 1994/1995 to 2.3% in 1998/1999 at 47.7%. At secondary stage, female students who failed during secondary stage years dropped from 1.3% in 1994/1995 to 0.7% in 1998/1999 at 46.2%.

When we follow up the percentages of repeating classes at basic and secondary during the scholastic years 1994/1995-1998/1999, we discover that they drop from one year to another except an increase in repetition at secondary in 1998/1999 from that of the scholastic year 1997/1998. The percentages in Gaza Strip remain higher than those of the West Bank in the basic grades of the scholastic years 1994/1995-1998/1999. Nevertheless, the percentages of Gaza Strip remain lower than those of the West Bank in 1996/1997-1998/1999 though they were higher in 1994/1995 and 1995/1996.

We need to be careful when examining the decrease in the percentages of repetition at school since the educational system has certain limitations to failing such as students are allowed to repeat class twice and repetition starts at grade four. Also, repetition has been limited to 0.5% per class.

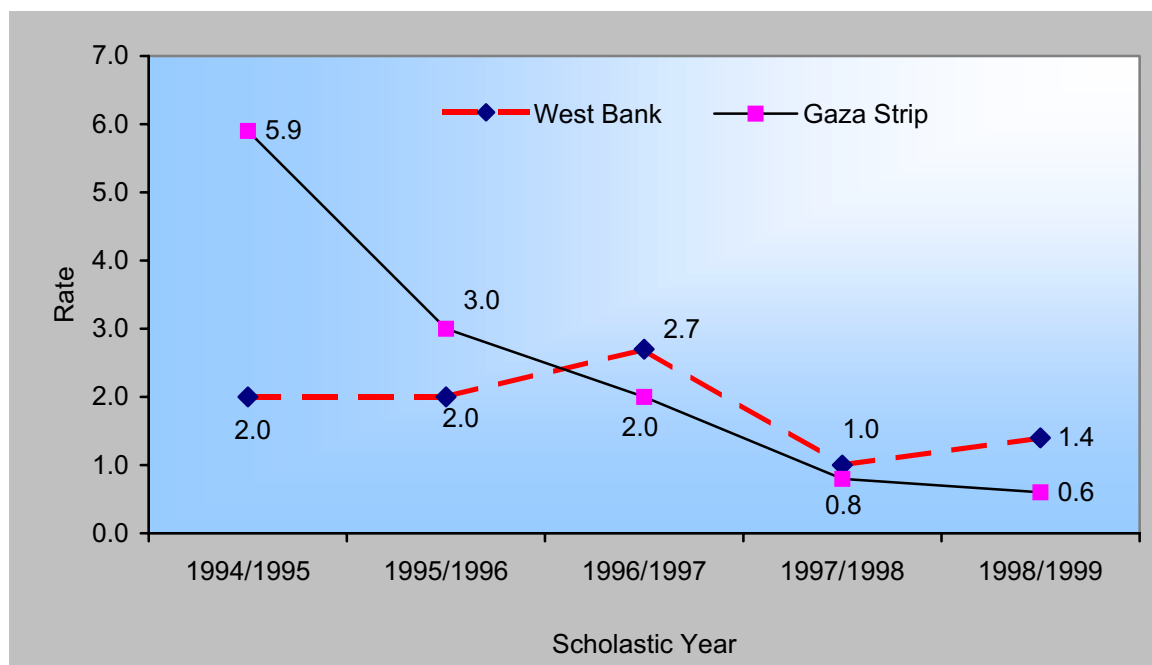


Table (3-5): Repetition Rate in the Basic Stage by Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Education Survey Database* (several years).
Ministry of Education, 2001. *Education Database 1999/2000*. (Unpublished data)

Table (3-6): Repetition Rate in the Secondary Stage by Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Education Survey Database* (several years).
Ministry of Education, 2001. *Education Database 1999/2000*. (Unpublished data)



Drop Out

Female drop out rates at basic and secondary stages in the Palestinian Territory dropped significantly in the scholastic year 1994/1995-1998/1999

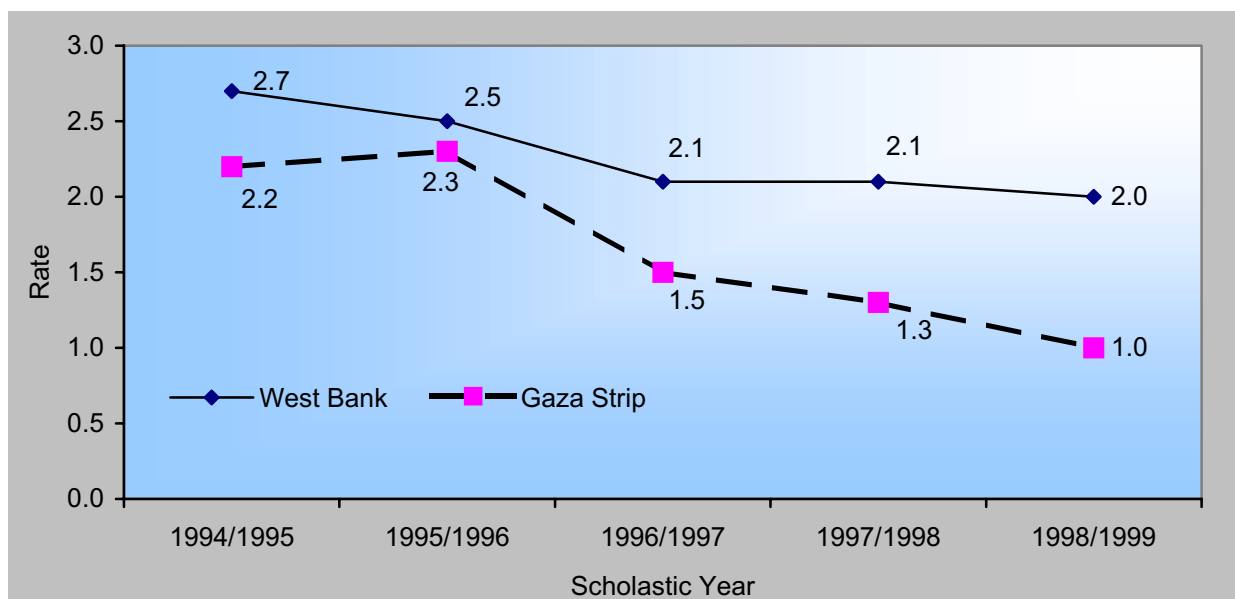
The rate of drop out at basic stage in the scholastic year 1998/1999 in the Palestinian Territory was 1.8% for male students and 1.4% for female students. At secondary stage, the rates were 4.0% for males and 6.6% for females.

The drop out rate among female secondary stage students in the past five years (1994/1995-1998/1999) was higher than the male drop out. The reasons for that might have been economic since hard economic situations force girls to stay at home and help their mothers, or it could have been caused by traditions, which force girls to stay at home and limit their movement. Social beliefs play a role in drop out rates of female students because they do not value girls' education as girls would marry at an early age and stay at home instead of joining the labor force. Negative social habits such as early marriage play another part. In any case, such drop out rates are not noticed at basic stages and males' drop out rates at basic stage are higher than those of females.

When drop out rates of girls in basic and secondary stages according to region in 1998/1999 are compared, we realize that the rates in the West Bank are higher than the rates in Gaza Strip at 1.7% and 0.8% respectively. The drop out rates in the secondary stage were 9.4% for the West Bank and 2.5% for Gaza Strip.

Female drop out rates at basic and secondary stages in the Palestinian Territory dropped significantly during 1994/1995-1998/1999. They dropped from 2.4% in 1994/1995 to 1.4% in 1998/1999 at 41.7% in the basic education stage, while at secondary stage the rates dropped from 9.7% in 1994/1995 to 6.6% in 1998/1999 at 32.0%.

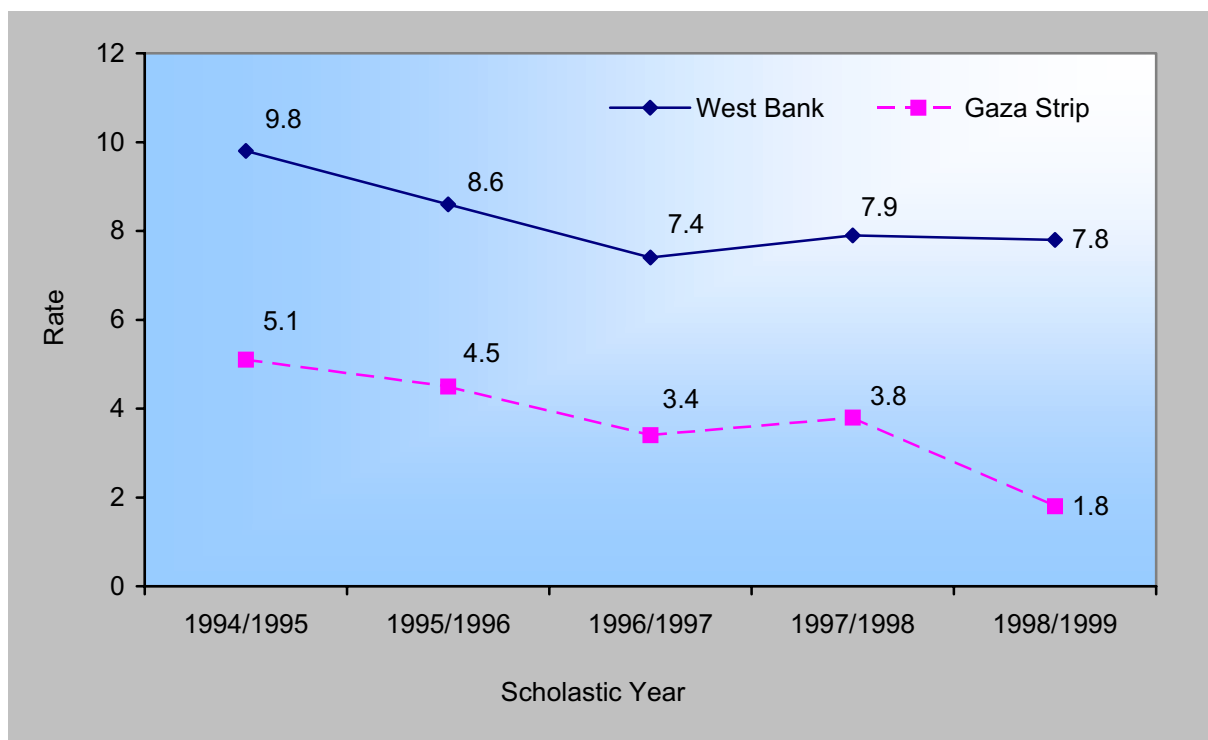
Table (3-7): Drop out Rates in the Basic Stage by Region for the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Education Survey Database* (several years).
Ministry of Education, 2001. *Education Database 1999/2000*. (Unpublished data)



Table (3-8): Drop out Rates in the Secondary Stage by Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Education Survey Database* (several years).
Ministry of Education, 2001. *Education Database 1999/2000*. (Unpublished data)

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs have been carrying out serious efforts to deal with the drop-out problem.

Schools

Despite building new schools and enlarging existing facilities, public and UNRWA schools still run two-shift system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to absorb the ever increasing number of students

The number of schools and kindergartens totaled 2,610 in 1999/2000 including 843 kindergartens, 1,259 basic stages, and 508 secondary. 75.4% (1,968) schools and kindergartens are in the West Bank and 24.6% (642) are in Gaza Strip.

Governmental schools constituted 49.4% of schools and kindergartens in 1999/2000, UNRWA run schools and kindergartens constituted 10.1%, and private schools and kindergartens constituted 40.5% including 8.2% schools and 32.3% kindergartens.

The number of schools increased since the PNA took control over education in 1994. There has been an emphasis on increasing schools capacity to accommodate more students. The number of schools in 1999/2000 was 1,259, whereas the number of schools in 1995/1996 was 1,098. The number of high schools in 1999/2000 was 508, whereas the number of schools in 1995/1996 was 372⁸.

⁸ Including schools that have both basic education and secondary school education as well as secondary schools.



The data of the scholastic year 1999/2000 show that the number of co-educational schools drops at higher elementary grades and high school at 62.5% for elementary schools and 77.2% for high schools.

The percentage of public and UNRWA schools drops as the years go by. For instance, public schools dropped from 53.5% in 1995/1996 to 49.4% in 1999/2000. Furthermore, UNRWA schools dropped from 12.6% in 1995/1996 to 10.1% in 1999/2000 because the number of private schools and kindergartens rose. It has also been noticed that the rate of students joining elementary private schools rose from 5.9% in 1995/1996 to 6.5% in 1999/2000.

Educational Environment

The environment of education is one of the influential factors in the process of education. It is not providing school buildings, offices, disks, and textbooks only, but rather creating the safe healthy environment as well. It also includes providing the right infrastructure such as electricity, heating, and health facilities since they all play major role in providing the right educational climate and influence the results of the educational process. Building walls around schools is also important since they reduce the risks and threats of road accidents especially at schools inside the cities where the movement of traffic is heavy.

According to 1999/2000 data, most schools enjoy connection to the electricity network and the public sewers system; however, heating is only available to 6.7% of students at governmental schools and for 3.8% of UNRWA school students. 51.7% of private school students enjoy central heating and 42.7% of nursery schools' children have central heating in their kindergartens. Walls surround 94.2% of schools.

Classroom density is (number of students per classroom) ; is a good indicator to having the right educational environment. The average number of students per classroom in the scholastic year 1999/2000 was 37.5 at basic stage and 30.3 at secondary stage.

There has not been any improvement in classroom density at basic and secondary stages in the past five years (1996/1996-1999/2000). In the scholastic year 1999/2000 the density was 37.5 at basic stage and 30.3 at secondary stage. This indicates that the efforts to reduce classroom density have not reached the goal yet.

When classroom density according to region is compared, we notice that in the past five years (1995/1996-1999/2000) classroom density at elementary schools is higher in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (45.8 students per classroom in Gaza Strip and 33.5 students per classroom in the West Bank in 1999/2000). The same goes for secondary stage at (39.1 in Gaza Strip and 26.0 in the West Bank in 1999/2000). This signals that the educational environment concerning classroom density in Gaza Strip is worse than that of the West Bank.

The case worsens at UNRWA schools where 47.7 students sit in one classroom whereas 36.0 students sit in one classroom at governmental schools. However, the figure for private schools is 26.0 students per classroom in 1999/2000, (UNRWA does not provide secondary stage education). To make things worse, a significant rise in classroom density at UNRWA schools in the past five scholastic years (1995/1996-1999/2000) from 44.5 to 47.7. This indicates that UNRWA is unable to add more classrooms to accommodate the natural increase in the numbers of students who go to its schools.



Computer and Education

Availability of computers at schools and kindergartens is an indicator of having modern technical educational methods. Computers develop children's knowledge and create the right environment for learning skills.

In the scholastic year 1999/2000, about 27.8% of kindergartens in the Palestinian Territory had computers including (30.5% in the West Bank and 20.7% in Gaza Strip). The increase in the percentage of having computers at kindergartens rose by 91.7% during the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000.

Computers are available at 61.6% of schools in the Palestinian Territory (60.5% in the West Bank and 65.2% in Gaza Strip). The percentage of availability of computers at schools increased from 30.2% to 61.6% during the scholastic year 1996/2000 respectively, at an increase of 104%

The improvement in introducing PCs to schools has been the result of the policy of the Ministry of Education and its encouragement of private schools to do the same thing. There are plans to introduce computers to all governmental schools.

In any case, there are problems facing introducing modern technical methods of education to Palestine such as educational problems, socio-economic problems. Educational problems include lack of equal educational programs for all educational institutions and that teachers are reluctant to introduce the required changes. The social problems include society's slow response to assist in creating social changes. And the economic problems include the expenses of introducing modern technical educational methods. Evidently, the most important problem is the absence of perfect use of such methods by teachers; for instance, Palestinian schools are not prepared to provide more than 30 minutes per week per student to use a computer at school.⁹

Teachers

The number of teachers at schools and kindergartens reached 32,060 in the scholastic year 1999/2000 (14,550 or 45.4% male teachers and 17,510 or 54.6 female teachers). About 65.8% of teachers are in the West Bank and 34.2% of them are in Gaza Strip.

About 49.8% (or 14,535) of basic and secondary teachers are men, whereas, 50.2% (or 14,651) are women. At kindergartens, teachers are all women excluding 15 male teachers (2,874 male and female teachers.)

About 63.8% of teachers teach at governmental schools, 17.6% of them teach at UNRWA schools, 9.6% teach at private schools, and 9.0% work at kindergartens.

The number of governmental and UNRWA schools' teachers dropped in the past five scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000 when compared to the total number of teachers. The number of governmental schools' teachers dropped from 64.0% to 63.7%, in UNRWA, schools' teachers dropped from 20.2% to 17.6% during the scholastic years 1994/1995-1999/2000. While at private schools, however, the number increases year by year, which means that there has been an increase in seeking education at private schools.

⁹The Palestinian Ministry of Education, *The Five Year Plan for Education in Palestine (2001-2005)*. Ramallah, Palestine, 2001



In the scholastic year 1999/2000, the number of students per teacher for all grades reached 29.4. However, a slight drop occurred in such number during scholastic years 1995/1996 and 1999/2000 since it dropped from 30.7 in 1995/1996 to 29.4 in 1999/2000.

The number of students per teacher at governmental schools was 28.7 in 1999/2000, as for UNRWA schools, the figure was 39.5; on the other hand, the number at private school was 18.0 while 26.9 at kindergartens.

The number of students per teacher in the past five school years rose at UNRWA schools from 37.5 in 1995/1996 to 39.5 in 1999/2000.

Clearly, the highest number of students per teacher was in Gaza Strip. It rose from 39.1 in 1995/1996 to 41.3 in 1999/2000.

In 1999/2000 data indicate that 44.0% of teachers at basic and secondary schools have middle diploma and 52.2% of them have a BA degree (including 11.0% who have a BA degree and a diploma in education.) 0.4% of them have high diploma, 1.9% have a high school diploma, and 1.5% have Master degree or higher.

About 59.0% of female teachers at basic and secondary schools in the scholastic year 1999/2000 have high school diploma or lower, whereas 56.7% of those who have lower diploma are female teachers. 45.4% of teachers who have BA degree are female teachers. Female teachers with higher diploma constituted 32.2% and 20.9% had MA degree and higher.

The percentage of teachers who have middle diploma dropped from 55.2% in 1995/1996 to 44.0% in 1999/2000. Furthermore, the percentage of teachers who have higher diploma or lower dropped from 3.6% in 1995/1996 to 1.9% in 1999/2000, on the other hand, the percentage of teachers who have BA degree or higher increased from 41.2% in 1995/1996 to 54.1% in 1999/2000.

The percentage of male teachers who have higher diploma is lower than that of female teachers. However, such percentage dropped during 1995/1996-1999/2000 more among male teachers than female teachers. High diploma teachers increased in 1997/1998 and dropped sharply in 1999/2000. The number of teachers who have MA degree increased. It seemed that teachers realized that an MA degree is better than higher diploma.

Noticeably, the number of male teachers who have BA degree is higher than that of those male teachers who have lower diploma. Female teachers have the opposite case. However, in 1999/2000, the number of male teachers who have BA degree, MA degree, or higher diploma totaled 8,742 while female teachers were 7,045.

Inexperienced people usually run kindergartens. The Ministry of Education has been strengthening its role in training women who run kindergartens and developing communication among them. The Ministry is currently cooperating with local and international institutions to implement a three-year project that aims at improving and facilitating child's transfer from kindergartens to first grade and to motivate the society to be part of the educational process.



The Ministry of Education aims to recruit university graduates until they become 80% of teachers and the rest to be lower diploma teachers. The recruiting system of the Ministry of Education does not discriminate between female and male teachers. And the aim of the Ministry is to increase the numbers of teachers who have BA degrees. The Ministry of Education also encourages teachers, who do not have university degrees; to join universities and become university graduates. The Ministry aims also to have available other standards additional to university degrees in the future to give teaching licenses.



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Chapter 4

Child Cultural and Recreational Reality

- 1. State Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.*
- 2. State Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.*

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 31)

Evidently, children are the corner stones of the new society and the future world. Therefore, the concern in human rights in general and in child's rights in particular, which include cultural and recreational rights marked the past twenty.

The significance of the child's culture and monitoring the child's cultural and recreational rights is the corner stone of building the child's personality since they constitute the child's feelings toward beauty, love, and life. They develop the child's taste of art and beauty and love and belonging to the society and homeland.

Understanding the world of beauty is a major part of the culture of the society. It finds a place in educational and cultural institutions whether locally, regionally, or internationally. Such understanding created the cultural and recreational rights of the child in the Palestinian national plan of the Palestinian child, which was prepared by the national committee and endorsed by the PNA in 1995 to go in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989.

This Chapter discusses the Status of Child's Education, Culture, and Entertainment through shedding light on the important cultural issues in the life of the child presented in the role of the family and the society as well as the cultural activities of the child.

Family Role in the Child's Culture and Recreation

Family is the base of the society and it is the place where children learn various cultures depending on the education of the family and its economic situation. Families that have cultural and recreational facilities such as home libraries, TVs, PCs, and Internet connection play a greater role in the status of child's education, culture, and entertainment than the families who lack such facilities. The families' cultural concerns such as visiting cultural institutions and festivals and art exhibitions, also play a role in the status of child's education, culture, and entertainment.

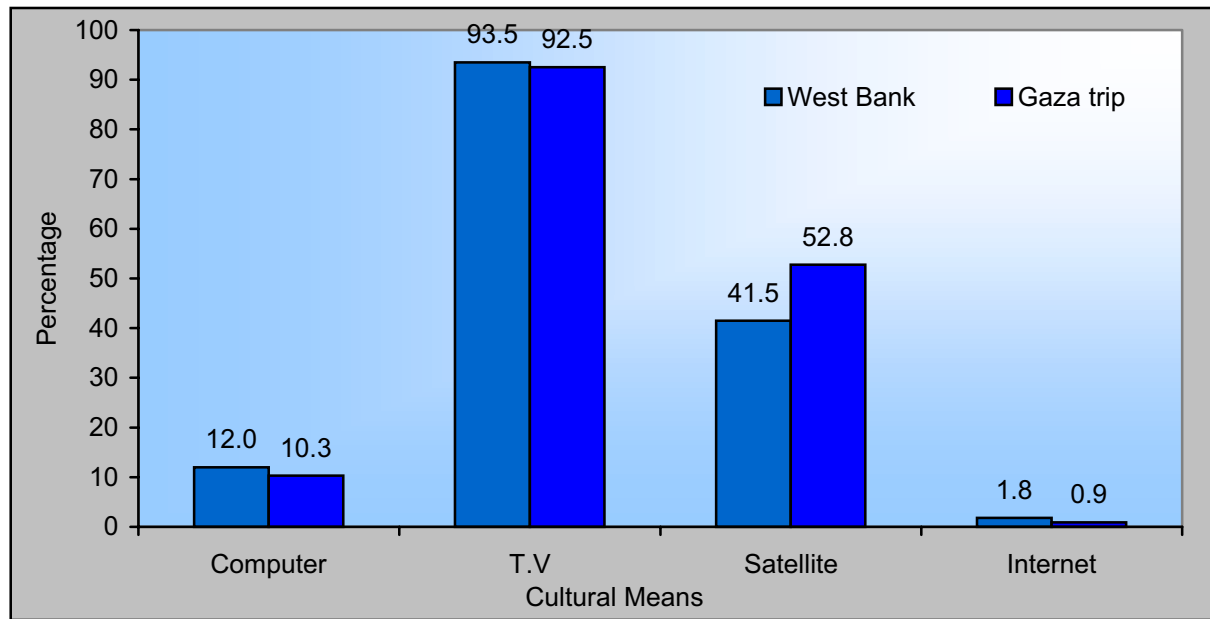


Ownership of the Child's Family of Cultural Means

88.7% of children below 18 years live in families who do not have computers, 6.9% of children belong to families that do not have TV sets, 54.0% belong to families that do not have a satellite dish, and 98.6% of the children live with families without access to the Internet.

Availability of means of knowledge in the family is an important factor in providing the child with culture and entertainment as long as they are used in the best positive manner.

Figure (4-1): Percentage of Children (under 18 years) by Availability of Cultural Means



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Media Survey 2000 Database*.

The findings of *Media Survey 2000* show that 11.3% of the children below 18 living in the Palestinian Territory have computers available at their homes compared to 3.6% in 1997. The data also showed that computers are less available at the homes of the children in Gaza Strip than the West Bank for the same period (10.3% and 12.0% respectively).

Data show that only 1.4% of households where children below 18 years had computers had Internet connection in the year 2000. The percentage varies between the West Bank and Gaza Strip; for instance, in the West Bank the figure is 1.8% whereas in Gaza Strip the figure is 0.9%.

A nation's development is measured by the ability of its members to use computers. Having a computer and Internet connection provide a motive for the child to explore knowledge and to learn. They also entertain the child and develop the basic skills to use the computer, which has become one of life's basic necessities in this modern world.

In 2000, about 93.1% of children under 18 years in the Palestinian Territory live in households that possess TV sets compared to 87.9% in 1997 (which means that there has been an increase of 6.0 %.) Such figures do not significantly vary between the West Bank (93.5%) and Gaza Strip (92.5%).



As for possessing a satellite dish, the findings of the *Media Survey 2000* show that 46.0% of the children live in households with satellite dish. Data also show that there are more satellite dishes available for the children of the Gaza Strip (52.8%) than those of the West Bank (41.5%).

Availability of means of knowledge, excluding televisions, at children's households is still low in the Palestinian society. Moreover, such availability does not fulfill the child's cultural and recreational rights, which encourage providing equal and appropriate opportunities of cultural and entertaining activities as Paragraph 2 of Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates. The findings of the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census of 1997 show that the percentage of children below 18 years whose families have home library was 12.8% including 14.8% in the West Bank and 9.9% in Gaza Strip.

Entertaining and Educating Games

Modern theories of education consider playing as an important learning method especially for children at kindergartens. Palestinian children play inherited traditional games and play games classified in the education and entertainment. However, there is a shortage in information and studies that discuss children's games that can evaluate such games and how the Palestinian child benefits from them. Henceforth, there is a need for studies on the children's games since child's plays are part of child's rights. Information indicates that the Ministry of Education is seeking to strengthen introduction of games to kindergartens and basic schools.

Child's Usual Daily Activities

A Palestinian child spends 47.8% of his/her day in personal care and self-maintenance, 19.6% of the day in learning, and 12.3% of the day in cultural and social activities. 10.5% of the day goes to the media and 4.9% goes to in house activities

The data of the Time Use Survey 1999/2000 indicate that social and cultural activities, use of media, and personal care were the most common activities among children aged 10-17 years. The findings showed that all children aged 10-17 practice personal care and protection, followed by using media at 91.5%, cultural and social activities at 88.8%, and learning at 66.2%. There has not been any significant difference between the percentage of males and females in carrying out such activities. However, according to data, the percentage of male children who carry out chores is 44.8% and for female children it is 83.1%. Data also showed that 25.2% of female children aged 10-17 look after children and elderly and sick people, whereas, 8.6% of male children carry out similar tasks. Such figures show the role the society imposes on children from a young age.

The data of the Time Use Survey indicate that a Palestinian child spends 47.8% of his/ her day time (688 minutes) on personal care and self- maintenance; 19.6% (282 minutes) on learning; 12.3% (177 minutes) on cultural and social activities; 10.5% (151 minutes) on media; and 4.9% (71 minutes) on chores and shopping for the house.

There is a significant difference, however, between males and females in the time spent on chores and shopping. A girl, for instance, spends 7.6% or 110 minutes a day on chores and shopping, whereas, a boy spends 2.2% or 32 minutes on such tasks. The findings of the survey also reveal that males spend more time in cultural and social activities than females at 14.4% or 208 minutes a day for males and 10.1% or 145 minutes for females.



Such results are justifiable since males usually accompany families in social occasions whereas females, according to social traditions that limit their movement, stay at home.

The Role of the School in the Status of Child's Education, Culture and Entertainment

Since schools play important roles in developing the children's cultural interests, they significantly contribute to enhancing talents and hobbies and tastes of the children. Such factors enforce the child's right to social upbringing, identity, and social belonging.

Educating and Entertaining Tools at Kindergartens and Schools

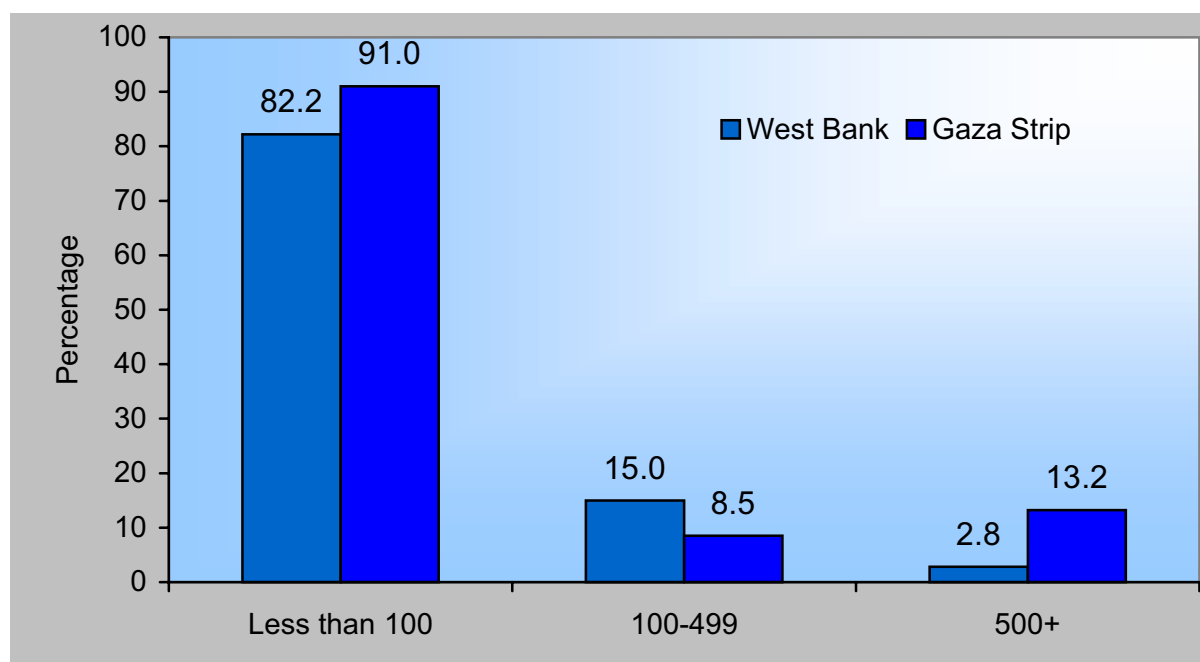
It is essential to have educating and entertaining tools at nursery schools and schools so that they may carry out their role in developing the cultural interests of the children effectively and to provide them with the right environment to carry out such activities.

Kindergartens' Libraries

There has been a small rise in the number of kindergartens, which have special rooms for libraries between 1996/1997 and 1999/2000. The percentage rose from 6.5% in 1996/1997 to 12.6% in 1999/2000

There is no much information about the libraries of the kindergartens, however, 1996/1997 information reveal that 99.0% of them have libraries. Furthermore, there are no many studies about the children's use of such libraries and how they benefit from them. Furthermore, most kindergartens in the Palestinian Territory in the scholastic year 1996/1997 had libraries; 84.5% of them had less than 100 books and 2.2% of them contained 500 or more books. This shows the necessity of investing in children's libraries and in conducting more researches to identify how children benefit from libraries.

Figure (4-2): The Percentage Distribution of Kindergartens, which have Libraries by Number of Books in 1996/1997



Source: The Ministry of Education. *School Library Database*, 1997.



Despite availability of books (irrespective to their kind) at kindergartens, most of them do not have special rooms allocated for libraries. The books are placed on shelves in classrooms, at teachers' rooms, or at the principal's office. The books are not usually classified.

The statistics of the scholastic year 1999/2000 show that 12.6% of the kindergartens in the Palestinian Territory have rooms allocated for libraries, of which 10.6% in the West Bank and 17.7% in Gaza Strip. There has been a small rise in the number of kindergartens, which have special rooms for libraries between 1996/1997 and 1999/2000, (the percentage increased from 6.5% in the scholastic year 1996/1997 to 12.6% in the scholastic year 1999/2000).

School's Libraries

42.3% of public schools, which have libraries, in the West Bank, have more than 1,000 books in their libraries compared to 12.0% in Gaza Strip.

In the scholastic year 1996/1997, all Palestinian schools had libraries except seven schools. However, the number of books varies from one library to another. Books are usually found in libraries, the principal's office, the corridors, or in classrooms.

The database of the Education Survey of 1996/1997 show that 43.7% of the schools of the Palestinian Territory have more than 1,000 books in their libraries, 20.8% of them have 500-999 books, 15.0% of them have less than 100 books, and 20.5% of them have 100-499 books. More than three quarters of UNRWA schools have more than 1,000 books in their libraries, whereas, 37.7% of the public schools and 30.6% of the private schools have such number of books in their libraries.

There is a large gap in the number of books between the public schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The average number of books for every school in Gaza Strip is 633, which is 488 books less than the number of books at West Bank school (1,121 books).

There is 0.8 book per student in Gaza Strip Schools, while there is 3.3 books per student in the West Bank Schools.

In the scholastic year 1999/2000, about 43.6% of the schools in the Palestinian Territory had libraries (special room allocated for library); 39.0% in the West Bank and 59.3% in Gaza Strip. There has been a significant improvement in allocating special rooms for libraries. The percentage of schools, which have library rooms increased from 27.3% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 43.6% in the scholastic year 1999/2000 at an increase of 59.7%.

56.6% of public schools students stated that the schools' educational system does not encourage scientific research and 68.0% stated that there were no incentives to encourage students to read inside schools

According to studies in 2000¹, 37.4% of public schools students visit school library and 49.9% of students borrow books from them. Students usually borrow books once or twice a week, 61.8% of students find it easy to find information at libraries, 66.5% of students indicated that the books at the school library were not sufficient to fulfill their needs, 83.5%

¹ Ministry of Education. *Students Leaving Reading: Causes and Cure. Survey Study of Public Schools*, 2000.



of students said they did not find time at school for optional reading, 56.6% of governmental schools students stated that the schools' educational system does not encourage scientific research and 68.0% stated that there were no incentives to encourage students to read inside schools. As for librarians, 87.6% of them stated that the number of classes allocated for them were not sufficient to activate the libraries.

Technological Means of Education and Entertainment at Schools

Availability of computers at schools increased from 30.2% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 61.6% in the scholastic year 1999/2000 at an increase of 104%.

Technological means of education and entertainment at schools and kindergartens facilitate obtaining knowledge and culture. Such means, which are available at schools and kindergartens, include computers, TVs, VCRs, and cassette players.

In 1999/2000, 27.8% of kindergartens had computers, (30.5% in the West Bank and 20.7% in Gaza Strip). There has been an increase of computers at 91.7% during 1995/1996 through 1999/2000. 61.6% of schools have computers, of which 60.5% in the West Bank and 65.2% in Gaza Strip. The percentage increased from 30.2% in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 61.6% in the scholastic year 1999/2000 with an increase of 104%.

Extracurricular Activities

Schools arrange extracurricular activities annually. They include cultural, social, scientific, and sportive activities that help developing the child's upbringing.

There were 189 cultural activities in the governmental schools during the scholastic years 1995/1996-1999/2000, including 57 cultural competitions, 5 cultural festivals, and 127 activities celebrating social and national anniversaries. Scientific competitions totaled 21 at an average of 4-5 annually.

Governmental school organized 56 music competitions including 14 in the scholastic year 1999/2000 as well as organizing 4,000 school trips in the same scholastic year.

The Ministry of Education carried out 244 summer camps in the scholastic year 1999/2000, with the participation of 37,775 students. In the scholastic year 1995/1996, about 46 summer camps were organized and 6,685 students took part in them.

The number of Male Scout groups increased from 357 in the scholastic year 1995/1996 to 961 in the scholastic year 1999/2000, of which 749 in the West Bank and 212 in Gaza Strip.

Thirty sports competitions (15 for males and 15 for females) were held in the scholastic year 1999/2000, while 44 sports competitions were held in 1995/1996 (22 for males and 22 for females.)

The Role of the Social Environment in Child's Education and Entertainment

The role of the social environment in child's education and entertainment is as important as the role of the family in this regard. Children's participation in culture and sport centers, their visiting of art exhibitions and museums as well as practicing hobbies such as painting and playing music, give children the opportunity to be part of cultural, recreational, and artistic life.



Children Watching Television Programs

The Media Survey, June 17-July 15, 2000, which was conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, showed that 94.0% of the children watch television, with no significant difference according to gender or region. 92.8% of children aged 6-17 watch children's programs, 90.8% watch entertaining programs, 85.3% watch music programs, 66.1% watch sports, 8.8% watch business programs, and 13.9% watch political programs.

Findings of the survey also show that 38.3% of the children who watch TV prefer to watch it from 2 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., 27.6% prefer to watch it between 6.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m., and 5.2% of them prefer to watch TV between 9.00 p.m. and midnight.

About 49.3% of children, who watched TV, spend 1-2 hours a day watching television, 38.5% spend 3-4 hours, and 12.2% spend more than five hours. There is no significant difference according to gender or region.

About 68.0% of the Palestinian families monitor the quality of TV programs their 6-17 aged children watch, 18.3% of the families do sometimes monitor the quality of the TV shows their children watch and 13.7% do not do that.

61.2% of the Palestinian families regularly monitor the number of hours their children spend before television, 18.7% do sometimes monitor the number of hours their children spend before television and 20.% of the households do not do that. The percentage of Palestinian families that monitor the time their children spend before television is higher in Gaza Strip than the West Bank at 72.5% and 54.4% respectively.

It is important to monitor the quality of TV programs children watch because it directs children toward useful programs and distances them from bad ones. It is also important to monitor the number of hours children spend before television so that the child might not forget about school and learning.

Children Watching Video Films

About 11.2% of children aged 6-17 in the Palestinian Territory watched videos in 2000. There were more children watching videos in the West Bank (14.6%) than Gaza Strip (5.6%). 32.7% of children watch videos every week for an average of one hour, 40.2% of them watch videos for two hours a week, 16.0% spend three hours, 3.5% spend four hours, and 7.6% spend more than five hours.

Children Listening to the Radio

According to the Media Survey 2000, 31.7% of Palestinian children aged 6-17 in the Palestinian Territory listen to the radio (28.5% males and 35.1% females). The difference between the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not significant.

Data show that 54.0% of children listen to the radio every day for an average of one hour, 31.3% of them spend two hours listening to the radio, 7.4% spend three hours, 4.1% spend four hours, and 3.2% spend more than five hours.

Also, the data showed that 29.1% of the children, who listen to the radio, prefer to listen to it from 2 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., 19.4% prefer to listen between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m., 19.5% prefer to listen between 10.00 a.m. and midday, and 4.5% of the children prefer to listen to the radio between 9.00 p.m. and midnight.



Television Programs

The children programs on the Voice of Palestine, whether educational, cultural, or cartoons, did not exceed 5.9% of the total annual broadcasting hours of 3,877 in 1999

Radio Programs

The children programs on the Palestine Radio, whether educational or cultural, did not exceed 1.0% of the total annual broadcasting hours of 6,944 in 1999

Newspapers and Magazines

21.8% of children aged 6-17 read the papers and 25.6% of them read magazines

The Media Survey 2000 showed that 21.8% of children in the Palestinian Territory read newspapers, of which 26.9% in the West Bank and 13.5% in Gaza Strip. However, the difference between girls and boys in reading newspapers and magazines is not significant. 25.6% of children read magazines with a significant difference between males and females (21.7% for males and 29.6% for females). 31.1% of West Bank children read magazines whereas 16.7% of Gazan children read magazines.

About 25.6% of children read magazines with a significant difference between males and females at 21.7% for males and 29.6% for females. 31.1% of West Bank children read magazines whereas 16.7% of Gazan children read magazines. However, there are not much information about how much children benefit from reading newspapers and magazines, which requires studies to identify how appropriate and beneficial they are for children.

The data of the Time Use Survey indicate that a Palestinian child spends 10.5% of his/her day (or 151 minutes) on media. Watching TV and videos comes in the first place (89.4% or 135 minutes), listening to music and the radio comes second (5.3%), and on reading, which comes in the third place (4.0%).

Children Libraries

A survey titled "The State of Palestinian Children's Libraries" by the Ministry of Culture in 1998² revealed that there were 97 children libraries in the Palestinian Territory; 52.6% of them were independent and 45.4% were part of public libraries. The survey showed that 61.0% of the libraries were established after 1990.

The major number of children libraries (60-66%) provide lending facilities of books, paintings, and train children to use libraries, followed by reading inside them (95.8%). 32.0% of libraries show films and hold exhibitions.

Children Books

There are no studies on evaluation of the contents of the books children read. Most of the books children read are either translated from foreign languages or written by Arab writers. The number of children books, which were written by Palestinian authors since the start of the 20th century to 1996 is not more than 867 books including 377 stories, 89 poetry books for

² A group of Palestinian librarians, *The State of Children's Libraries in Palestine*, a Survey, 1998



children, 106 plays, and the rest are on general culture and on textbooks. The number of books Palestinians translated totaled 44 books during the same period³.

Children Using Computers

23.0% of children aged 6-17 use computers mostly for entertainment

The Media Survey 2000 showed that approximately one quarter (23.0%) of children aged 10-17 use computers. The percentage varies between males and females at 26.4% and 19.5% respectively. The percentage of children who use computers for the West Bank is 25.5% and 18.9% for Gaza Strip.

Data also showed that home is the place where computers are mostly used at 44.4% followed by school at 30.6%, friends' homes at 10.9% and Internet cafes at 3.9%. 10.3% use computers in other places. 59.2% of children who use computers use them for entertainment and 28.8% of them use computers for learning purposes.

Children Practicing Cultural and Entertaining Activities

44.4% of children aged 10-17 in the Palestinian Territory are willing to be involved in cultural activities during their free time. However, the main reason that stops them from doing that is lack of public cultural facilities

Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes "the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts," for such activities play major role in developing the child's taste of arts.

The Time Use Survey indicated that 14.3% of children aged 10-17 write, 42.7% play sports, 33.4% paint, and 19.6% attend public lectures. In the West Bank, 32.4% of the children play sports, 13.6% attend public lectures, 26.8% paint. In Gaza Strip, 59.7% of the children play sports, 29.4% attend public lectures, 44.4% paint. The percentage of West Bank children who participate in music and dance troupes is higher than that of Gaza Strip. Girls play less sports (28.9%) than boys (56.0%).

44.4% of children aged 10-17 in the Palestinian Territory are willing to be involved in cultural activities during their free time but failed to do so. The percentage does not significantly vary between the males and the females (42.2% and 44.5% respectively).

However, 43.8% of the children said that the main reason that stopped them from carrying out cultural activities was lack of public cultural facilities, 26.3% said they did not have the time, 10.1% blamed it on lack of money, 4.9% did not have any information about cultural activities, 4.1% blamed it on lack of personal motivation, and 2.9% blamed transportation. There is no significant difference between males and females' attitudes in this regard.

In the West Bank, 52.3% of children said that the main reason that stopped them from carrying out cultural activities was lack of public cultural facilities, 19.5% said they did not have the time, 12.3% blamed it on lack of money, 4.3% did not have any information about

³Mary Fasha, *The Palestinian Bibliography of Children's Books*, Tamer Institution



cultural activities, 4.2% blamed it on lack of personal motivation, and 3.0% blamed transportation. In Gaza Strip, 32.3% of children said that the main reason that prevented them from carrying out cultural activities was the insufficient number of public cultural facilities. 35.4% said they did not have the time, 7.2% did not have enough money, 5.7% did not have any information about cultural activities at their disposal, 3.9% were not sufficiently interested, and 2.8% blamed it on transportation.

The above data show that children aged 10-17 are motivated to carry out cultural activities but they lack the facilities where they could carry out such activities.

The data is not in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which calls for full participation in cultural and artistic aspects of life and encourages appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural and recreational activities.

Summer Camps

Summer camps are the most common recreational activity. Thousands of children participate in them. They aim at using the children's time in a constructive manner and to raise children's awareness in social, cultural, and environmental issues.

The Ministry of Youth organized 134 summer camps in 1998. 42,000 children, including 15,000 in the West Bank and 27,000 in Gaza Strip took part in such summer camps. They included several cultural activities such as radio programs and magazines for notice boards. They represented destroyed Palestinian villages, martyrs...etc. The artistic activities included painting, sculpture, folklore art, acting, folklore dance, and handcrafts. Sport activities and trips were also included as well as lectures on national, historic, geographic, religious, and health issues.



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Chapter 5

Children in Need of Special Protection

The Palestinian children whom are in need of special protection refer to specific age groups of children who are below 18 years of age and are considered to be “in danger” or “in need,” or “vulnerable” to rough life. These groups are usually identified according to the type of difficulty they encounter. They represent children separated from their parents, disabled children, poor children, employed children, children exploited to use, children affected by violence and armed conflicts, and children in need of special protection (physical, sexual and emotional abuse). Furthermore, there is difference between the living conditions of such children and the way they are treated. It is rather difficult to determine the way such conditions influence the child in qualitative and quantitative manners.

Children in Social and Health Care Institutions

A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

Child's Rights Convention, Article 20-1)

Articles 9,10, 20, and 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child address specific issues about the rights of those children separated from their parents, deprived from family environment or family reunion temporarily or permanently, and the adopted children

Within the Palestinian Territory, there are 26 special centers, in the Palestinian Territory, providing care for orphans and disadvantaged children (15 centers in the West Bank, 3 centers in Gaza Strip, and 7 in Jerusalem). In the year 2000, the available data showed that the total number of children residing in these centers was 1,951 children (52.8% of them were in the West Bank centers, 9.2% of them in Gaza Strip centers, while 38.0% of them were in Jerusalem centers).

Available data from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) files and records showed that there were 5,336 children live in 17 out of 23 orphanages in the year 1995. However, the records did not tell whether the children were orphans or separated from their families¹. The MOSA's records showed that 2,000 orphans received weekly assistance and care from orphanages in 1995, meaning that they go home for the weekend. Orphanages provide assistance to many children who suffer poverty or family conflicts and orphans. The 1999 data show that 1,714 children live in 21 orphanages in the Palestinian Territory. Two of the orphanages serve 107 orphaned children in Gaza Strip, seven orphanages accommodate 638 children in Jerusalem, and 11 orphanages serve 969 children in the West Bank². Noticeably, a significant drop in the number of children living in the care institutions took place in the past four years. The drop reflects the achievements of the Ministry of Social Affairs by returning children to their families and studying their situations fully before placing them in institutional care as well as seeking to find alternative ways of care if possible.

¹ The Ministry of Social Affairs. *Orphaned Children at Risk inside Households*, July, 1995, p. 5

² The Ministry of Social Affairs. Annual Reports of the Household and Childhood Department.

**Table (5-1): Children (under 18 years) living in orphanages by Sex and Region, 1998-2000**

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Region</i>			
	West Bank (excluding Jerusalem)	Gaza Strip	Jerusalem	Total
1998				
Number of orphanages	12	3	7	22
Males	501	75	519	1,095
Females	620	43	222	885
Total	1,121	118	741	1,980
1999				
Number of orphanages	12	3	7	22
Males	470	74	226	770
Females	499	33	412	944
Total	969	107	638	1,714
2000				
Number of orphanages	15	3	8	26
Males	538	115	420	1,073
Females	493	64	321	878
Total	1,031	179	741	1,951

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs, 2001. Annual Report of the Household and Childhood Department. Activities and Accomplishments. (Selected years)

The survey also indicates that 81% of orphanages provide care for children aged 11-14 and 54% including children below five years in their services. All orphanages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip provide places for sleeping. However, 71% of the orphanages provide health services (physical and psychological healthcare), 62% provide counseling and education, 24% provide vocational training. The orphanages that do not provide schooling or vocational training provide services for children below the age of five, however they look for institutions that would provide teaching and training for the orphans.

Despite the fact that the available data do not provide evaluation of the services orphanages provide, they showed that 8% of children aged (15-18 years) are at school age and they were mostly males and 48% of children at orphanages suffer from social, psychological, and behavioral problems.

The reasons for having children at orphanages can be due to death of parents, negligence, separation, divorce, disability, and lack of resources. Though the main reason for accommodating children in orphanages is death of the parents, the economic pressures are in many cases could lead to placing children in such institutions. Most children in orphanages belong to marginalized impoverished families.

Children Deprived of Normal Family Life

The Health Survey 2000, conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, reveals that 4.4% of children live with either one of the parents (about 73,069 children), and 75.0% of them live with their mothers. On the other hand, 16,606 children do not live with any of their parents³. While in 1997, according to the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census,

³ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Health Survey Database*. (Unpublished data)



3.1% of children lived with either one of the parents, and 92.5% of those children lived with their mothers.⁴

Furthermore, the health survey reveals that 48,159 children belonged to families where one of the parents or both of them is dead, while 34,874 lived with families where the father is dead, 11,625 lived with families where the mother is dead, and 1,660 children belonged to families where both parents are dead.

Disabled Children

State Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions, which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community. (Child's Rights Convention, Article 23-1)

Disability among children is being unable to move or use the limbs and inability to use the senses or to talk. It also includes weak mental health and incapacity to realize and be aware of the senses. Undoubtedly, lack of means to study and inspect and lack of diagnosis mechanisms of the disabled especially disabled children in Palestine disrupted the attempts to obtain objective and qualitative data on the number of disabled children and the type, severity, and causes of their disability.

In 1997, UNICEF placed estimates that there were 36,500 disabled children in Palestine.⁵ However, the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census of 1997 showed that there were 15,567 disabled children in Palestine.⁶

The findings of various studies showed that:

- _ Disabled male children are more than disabled female children
- _ Large numbers of disabilities can be prevented through proper studies and researches as well as care and supervision
- _ Physical disability is the most common among children
- _ The majority of disabled children do not receive sufficient health, educational, and social services
- _ Disabilities resulting from road accidents and accidents at homes are on the rise
- _ The number of institutions that provide services to handicapped children is not sufficient

⁴ Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Annual Report 1999, Palestinian Children: Issues and Statistics. Series 2*, Ramallah- Palestine, 2000.

⁵ UNICEF, *The State of Children and Women in Palestine*, p. 55

⁶ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Population, Housing, and Establishments Census, 1997*.



Juvenile Delinquents

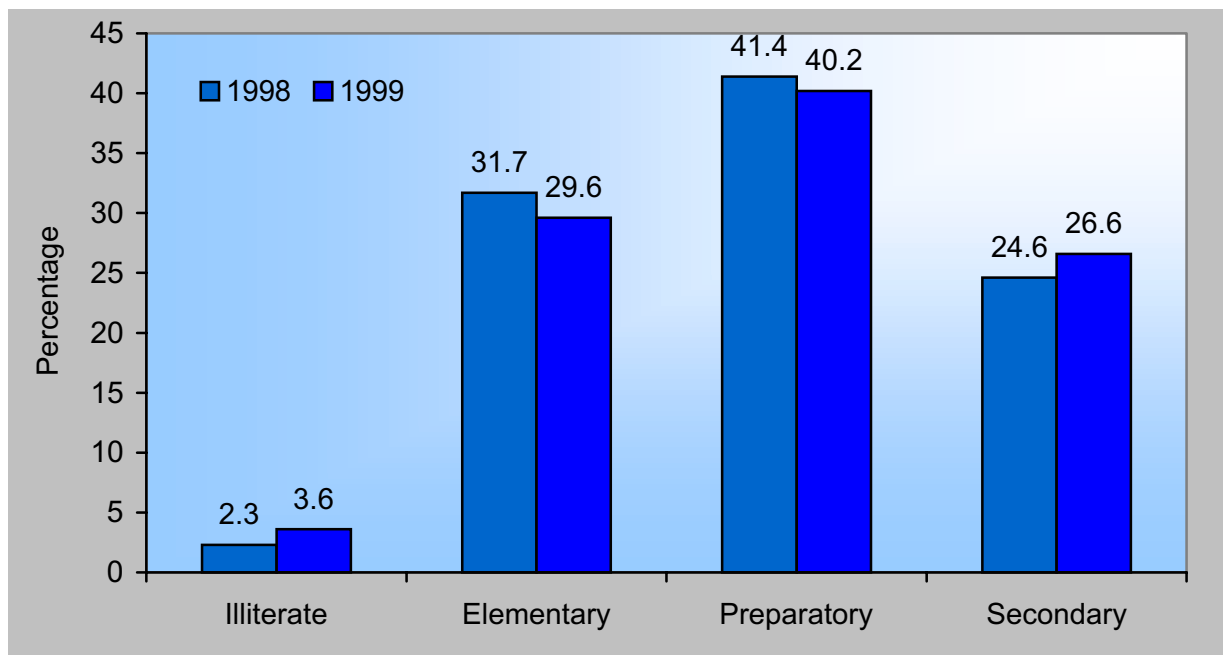
State Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.

Child's Rights Convention, Article (40-1)

The available data showed that there was 1,154 juvenile delinquents in 1996, 1,469 in 1997, 1,460 in 1998, and 1,404 in 1998⁷. The difference between the old reports and the recent ones could be caused by the actual reported offences. Recent data are more accurate since they represent comprehensive data from the various districts of the West bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, old reports did not contain notes from regional investigating offices. The majority of the reported offences include physical assaults on people and/or property, followed by theft, and immoral offences.

During the period 1996-1999, 5,486 children were charged with offence of which 21.0% in 1996, 26.8% in 1997, 26.6% in 1998, and 25.6% in 1999. The percentage of female children accused of committing offences between 1998-1999 was 3.0% of the total juvenile delinquents⁸. Most juvenile delinquents who were charged with offences were aged 16-18 (57.6% in 1998 and 55.2% in 1999).

Figure (5-1): Percentage Distribution of Children who were charged with Offence by Child's Educational Level, 1998-1999



Source: Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics. *Crime and Victim Statistics Annual Reports*. (Selected years)

⁷ Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Annual Report 2000, Palestinian Children: Issues and Statistics. Series (3)*. Ramallah- Palestine.

⁸ Ibid



The highest percentage of accused children during 1998 and 1999 was among children who finished secondary school (41.4% and 40.2% respectively). Obviously, the relation between juvenile delinquents and educational achievement is not clear since data show higher offences with higher educational achievements at junior high school's level and they drop at high school⁹.

The numbers of juvenile delinquents who were placed in correctional institutions were 411 in 1997, 786 in 1998, and 587 in 1999. 1998 represents the highest percent of accused children (53.8%) who were placed in correctional institutions, while it was 28.0% in 1997 and 41.8% in 1999.

There are three correctional institutions for juvenile delinquents in the Palestinian Territory including: Dar Al Rabee' in Gaza Strip for male juvenile delinquents, Dar Al-Amal in Ramallah for male juvenile delinquents, and Girls Care House in Beit Jala for female juvenile delinquents. Though children must be placed in correctional institutions by a court order or by an order from the judicial system, many juvenile delinquents are placed in them by instructions from the police and those who monitor behavior. This problem is clear in the Girls Care House in Beit Jala, which also accommodates female victims of violence and negligence. Such deviation leads to mixing of victims with juvenile delinquents. Moreover, data show that there is no separation inside the correctional centers between accused juvenile delinquents and those who have not been charged yet.

Despite the text of Article (40-3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates "State Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized of having infringed the penal law," an independent judiciary for juvenile delinquents still does not exist in the Palestinian Territory. And there is no separation between juvenile judiciary and normal judiciary. Moreover, juvenile delinquents are tried by the judges of the district court in places other than the places where courts are usually held or even at the judge's office and at a time other than the time of usual trials. Having an independent juvenile judicial system means giving the opportunity for special juvenile courts and for special committees to try juvenile cases where legal terms have less impact on the juveniles and they can be more flexible in trying the cases of the juvenile delinquents¹⁰.

Table (5-2): Juvenile Delinquents in the Palestinian Territory by Age and Region, 1998-1999

Age group	1998			1999		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Below 13	72	38	110	53	89	142
13-15 years	222	287	509	232	255	487
16-18 years	412	429	841	445	330	775
Total	706	754	1,460	730	674	1,404

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Crime and Victim Statistics. Annual Reports.* (Selected years)

⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, *Crime and Victim Statistics, Annual Report*, selected years.

¹⁰ International Movement for defense of Children, Palestine Branch, *Juvenile Judiciary in the West Bank and Gaza Strip- Law and Legislations*



Abused and Neglected Children

State Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual abuse.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 34)

State Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 36)

During 1999, the Ministry of Social Affairs protection workers handled the largest number of children encountering different problems, which was 3,817 cases compared to 919 cases in 1999 and 1,511 cases in 2000.

Chronic disease and disability were the highest cases of special protection among children, which were dealt with in 1998-2000 (24.4% in 1998, 49% in 1999, and 34.3% in 2000).

The reason for the increase of the chronic disease and disability cases among children, which were dealt with, when compared to other cases, was first and foremost caused by individuals' inclination to look for medical and material services rather than psychological counseling and social services. Such issue is related to the development of social and psychological counseling and to the level of development among people themselves, which makes them aware of the importance of social and psychological counseling.

The numbers of the cases of special protection, which the Ministry of Social Affairs dealt with, do not represent the actual number of children who live in dire straits. This is the result of not having an effective system to reach for children living in hardship in addition to the fact that some matters are considered sensitive or natural by the dominating culture. Moreover, this could also be the result of having no laws to deal with such issues. For instance, the number of special protection cases of sexual abuse of children was 12 in 2000 whereas they were 21 in 1998. It is believed that the number might not be the actual number of cases of child sexual abuse, but because traditions consider the matter sensitive, people fail to report such attacks.

Children living below Poverty Line¹¹

In 1998, about 23.3% of the population of the Palestinian Territory lived below poverty line. 24.0% of the children of the Palestinian Territory suffered from poverty in 1998 (4.4% of the number of poor), of which 50.5% of them were male children and 49.5% of them were female children. The percentage of poor male children is slightly higher than poor female children.

Table (5-3): Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years) in the Palestinian Territory, 1996-1998

Region	1996		1997		1998	
	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty
West Bank	17.1	8.8	16.8	10.1	16.1	9.8
Gaza Strip	45.5	31.2	41.5	29.0	37.2	24.6
Total	27.1	16.7	25.6	16.8	24.0	15.3

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Poverty in the Palestinian Territory*. (Selected years)

¹¹ the "poor child" is defined as the child who belongs to a poor family whose consumption is lower than the national poverty line drawn in the reference year.



Table (5-4): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Sex, 1996-1998

Sex	1996	1997	1998
Males	26.9	25.0	23.2
Females	27.3	26.2	24.9
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Poverty in the Palestinian Territory*. (Selected years)

The preliminary findings of the Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Well Being of the Palestinian Child, Woman, and Household survey, *which was carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics during April 11th-May 15th 2001*, showed that 10.7% of the Palestinian households completely lost their source of income, 49.2% lost more than half of their monthly income, 81% reduced their expenditures, 35.9% borrowed money in order to adapt to the current economic situation. Moreover, the results showed that 30.8% of the households reassured their need for aid but did not receive, and 48.1% received social aid. Food aid was the biggest type of aid (78.7%) followed by financial cash aid (20.5%) and health insurance, clothes, and medicine (0.8%).

The data of the survey, in comparison with the equivalent poverty line of 2000 (estimated at 1,622 NIS for a family of 6 persons “two adults and 4 children”,) show that 64.2% of the Palestinian households live below the poverty line including 55.7% in the West Bank and 81.4% in Gaza Strip.¹²

Child Labour¹³

Size of the Child Labour

About 33,297 children in the Palestinian Territory are in the labour force, 27,404 are employed and 5,893 are ready for and seeking employment.

The total number of children aged (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory was estimated to 577,305 children in mid of 1999 (19.1% of the population)¹⁴ compared to 605,409 children in mid 2000 (19.2% of the population). While the number of children aged 10-14 years was estimated to 382,666 children in mid of 1999, compared to 402,417 children in mid of 2000.

The percentage of children aged (10-17 years) and participating in the labour force was 5.9% in 1999 and 5.5% in 2000. In the West Bank, the percentage decreased from 7.3% to 6.5%, and in Gaza Strip, the percentage increased from 3.6% to 3.8% in the same period.

On the other hand, the percentage of children aged (10-14 years) and participating in the labour force was 2.1% of the total number of working children in that age group in 1999 and 1.8% in 2000. In the West Bank, the percentage decreased from 2.7% in 1999 to 2.3% in 2000. In the middle of the West Bank, the percentage decreased from 1.3% to 0.5%, and in

¹² Households were classified according to their place below the poverty line based on the information given by the household about their income.

¹³ The findings presented in this section are derived mainly from PCBS' Labour Force Survey.

¹⁴ Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics, *Annual Report 2000, Palestinian Children, Issues and Statistics. Child Statistics Series (3)*. Ramallah-Palestine.



the south of the West Bank, the percentage decreased from 2.3% to 1.6% but in the northern governorates, the percentage increased from 4.3% to 4.4%, while the percentage in Gaza Strip didn't change during the same period.

The percentage of children aged (15-17 years) and participating in the labour force in the Palestinian Territory decreased from 13.5% in 1999 to 12.3% in 2000, and from 16.1% to 14.2% in the West Bank, while the percentage increased from 9.0% to 9.1% in Gaza Strip in the same period.

Moreover, the percentage of children aged (10-17 years) and participating in the labour force in Jerusalem governorate decreased from 4.7% to 3.1% during the same period. Additionally, the participation rate of male children aged (10-17 years) in the labor force decreased from 10.8% to 6.3% and the participation rate of female children of the same age group decreased from 10.8% to 6.3% in the same period.

However, the percentage of employed children aged (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory decreased from 84.1% in 1999 to 82.3% in 2000. In the West Bank, the percentage decreased from 87.0% to 84.9%, but the percentage increased from 74.3% to 75.2% in Gaza Strip during the period.

It is important to distinguish between age groups (10-14) and (15-17) for several reasons including that employed children aged (10-14 years) is a violation of the Labour Law, which prohibits employing children who are less than 15 years of age. They are also more deprived of their rights than employed children aged (15-17 years). It was noticed that there was an increase in the percentage of employed children aged (10-14 years) in the Palestinian Territory and those participating in the labor force from 89.9% in 1999 to 93.6% in 2000. The percentage increase also in the West Bank from 93.2% to 94.7% and in Gaza Strip, it increased from 75.9% to 89.4% for the same period.

Factors Underlying Child Labour

Education-Related Factors

When children join work, they usually lose their schooling. This deprives a child of education and knowledge that may help in life. Education and its expenses are direct social factors that force low-income families to push children to the labor market. Families' unawareness of the value of education, since it does not make fast revenues and because training does not guarantee jobs immediately, and the children's failing at school push children to the labor market. Data showed that 38.3% of employed children are not at school since working is *an appropriate alternative* for leaving school. This deprives children of their rights to education, development, health, recreation, etc... It also creates a generation of uneducated and unskilled parents who will not be able to raise their children properly.

Educational factor is an important factor that pushes children towards the labor market since it lacks counseling services, badly adapts children to school, failing and weak school achievement, drop-out, fear, as well as relying on the memorizing approach in teaching¹⁵. Data showed an increase in the percentage of employed children aged (10-17 years) who finished elementary school (1st – 6th grade) from 35.4% in 1999 to 29.0% in 2000. On the

¹⁵ *Researches on the Arab Childhood Needs, Analytical Reading*, Arab Council on Childhood and Development in cooperation with Arab Research Center in Cairo, 1996.



other hand, the percentage of the employed children who finished 7th and 9th grade increase from 49.5% to 52.5% during the same period of time.

77.9% of employed children in the 4th quarter of 2000 were not at school

The percentage of employed children who were not at school decreased from 73.6% in 1999 to 69.9% in 2000, from 70.1% to 67.0% in West Bank, and from 87.5% to 79.3% in Gaza Strip.

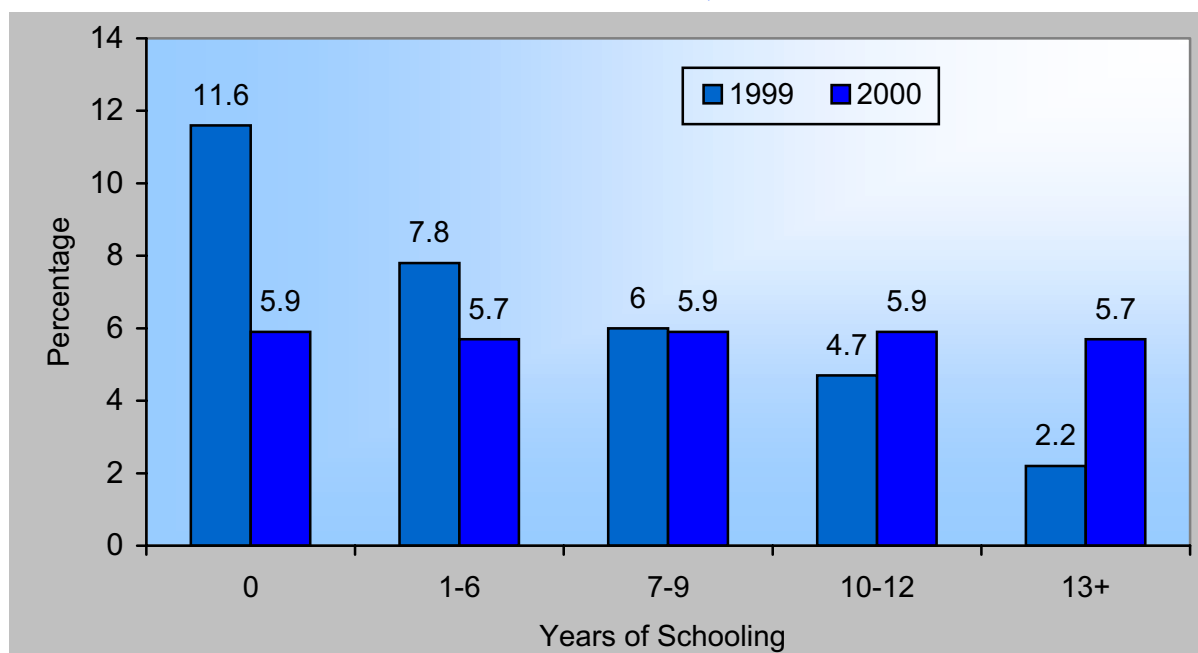
When the findings of the third and the fourth quarter of 2000 are compared, the findings show an increase in the percentage of children inside the labor force and out of their schools. The percentage increased from 58.5% in the third quarter to 86.5% in the fourth quarter. Moreover, the percentage of working children who were out of their schools increase from 55.3% to 77.9% during the same period. This increase was due to the increase in working children of the West Bank, which increased from 52.5% to 77.7%, and the increase in Gaza Strip from 63.5% to 79.1% for the same period.

Reasons for the Child's Employment

Educational Level of the Head of Household

There is a strong correlation between the educational level of head of household and child labor. When the years of schooling of the head of the household increase, the child's involvement in the labor market decreases. There is also a connection between the level of education of the head of household and the level of education of the working child. Data show that the percentage of children in the labor force whose fathers did not receive any education decreased from 11.6% in 1999 to 5.9% in 2000.

Figure (5-2): Children aged (10-17 years) in the Labour Force by Years of Schooling of the Head of the Household, 1999-2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000* (Unpublished data)



Wages of the Head of Household

The economic factor is one of the most important factors that make families push their children to the labor market in order to increase their income so as to reduce the suffering. It was noticed that the percentage of employed children whose fathers get NIS 70-99 a day increase from 5.2% in 1999 to 16.5% in 2000. There was also an increase in the percentage of working children whose fathers get NIS 100-120 a day from 4.9% in 1999 to 25.3% in 2000. Such wages are low considering the high cost of living in the Palestinian Territory as a result of incorporating Palestinian economy in the Israeli economy thus reducing the purchasing capacity of the population.

Occupation of the Head of Household

The Majority of employed children belong to families where fathers have primary jobs and that their income does not fulfill the living needs. It was also noticed that children have jobs similar to their fathers' jobs of low income. It was also noticed that the percentage of working children in the Palestinian Territory whose fathers carry out jobs involving operating machines increase from 4.2% in 1999 to 5.5% in 2000. On the other hand, there was a decrease in the percentage of working children whose fathers have jobs in agriculture and fishing from 13.2% in 1999 to 5.4% in 2000. When such rates are compared to the spread of poverty, we notice how poverty influences child labor. The percentage of working children whose fathers get paid wages below the equivalent poverty line, which is NIS 1,622, was 62.8% in 2000.

Nature and Conditions of Child Labour

Distribution of Working Children by Employment Status

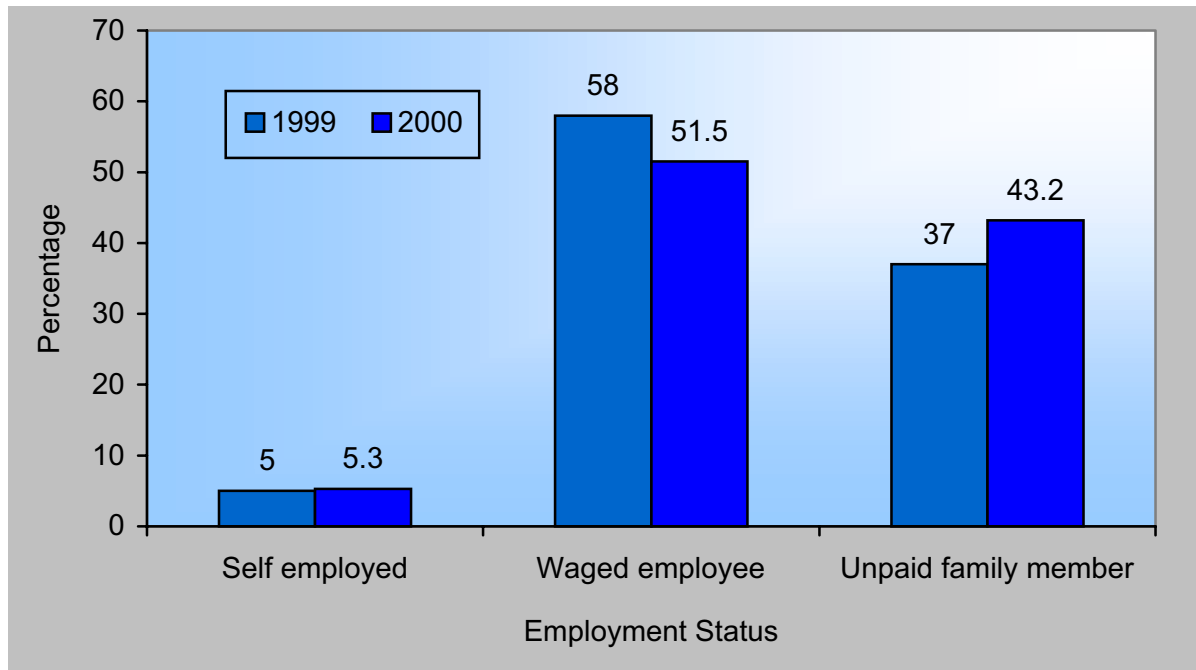
The great majority of employed children in the Palestinian Territory are waged employees, (57.9% of employed children aged 10-17 years in 1999 were paid employees), which reflects the bad living conditions of the households and their need for additional income. In 1999, the percentage of male children classified as waged employees was 60.9% compared to 33.6% for children employed in family enterprises.

On the other hand, the percentage of children classified as waged employees in the Palestinian Territory in 2000 amounted to 51.5%. The percentage of male children classified wage employees was 53.8% compared to 40.5% for male children employed in family enterprise. The data indicated that the majority of female children were unpaid family members (68.8% in 1999 to 74.4% in 2000).

The percentage of Palestinian children from the Palestinian Territory who are employed in Israel and in Israeli settlements decreased from 16.7% to 13.7% in the years 1999 and 2000 respectively.

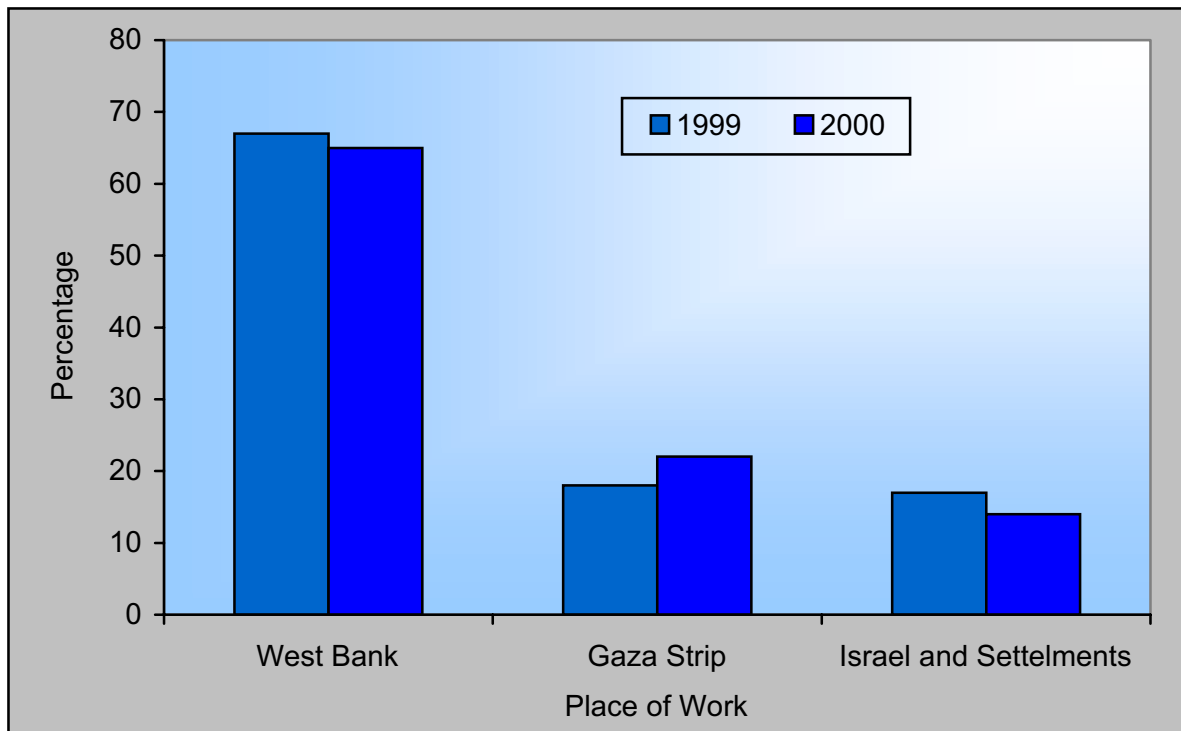


Figure (5-3): Percentage Distribution of Children aged (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Employment Status, 1999-2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data)

Figure (5-4): Percentage Distribution of Children aged (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Work Place, 1999-2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data)



Employed Children by Economic Activity

Child labor in 1999 was concentrated in commerce and restaurants (26.6%), mining and manufacturing (26.4%), and agriculture (24.0%). While in 2000, the child labor was concentrated in agriculture (30.4%), commerce and restaurants (24.0%), mining and manufacturing (20.0%), and construction (18.0%).

Employed Children by Occupation

In the year 2000, the highest percentage of working children was reported in elementary occupations (32.9%), followed by agriculture and fishing (25.8%) and handicrafts (24.3%).

Wages and Working Hours

There is a clear variation between the wages of children according to child's age. The wages also vary from one region to another, for instance, in Gaza Strip; the daily wages of working children are lower than the wages of the working children in the West Bank and the wages paid for those working in Israel and Israeli settlements, although the weekly working hours and monthly working days are more in Gaza Strip.

The daily wage in Gaza Strip in 1999 for children aged 10-14 years was NIS 16.4 compared to NIS 22.4 for those who worked in the West Bank and NIS 60.4 for those who worked in Israel or Israeli settlements. In 2000, the daily wages decreased to NIS 15.0 in Gaza Strip and to NIS 59.5 in Israel but increase to NIS 30.6 in the West Bank.

On the other hand, the daily wages in Gaza Strip in 2000 for employed children aged 15-17 years was NIS 25.0 and NIS 46.0 in the West Bank. However, while the daily wages for those who worked in Israel and Israeli settlements were NIS 71.2.

Weekly Working Hours

International and local laws stipulate that a child must not spend more than six hours of work a day. Long working hours breach the Labor Law and exhaust the child physically and mentally. Findings showed a high number of working hours for children, which could be due to the fact that employers prefer to employ children because children are not aware of their legal rights and get low payments for long working hours, besides, employers are not held accountable for what happens to working children.

Findings also reveal that the percentage of children who work more than 35 hours a week in the Palestinian Territory remained the same (73.2%) for 1999 and 2000. The percentage increase in the West bank from 70.1% in 1999 to 71.4% in 2000, while decreased in Gaza Strip from 85.5% to 79.0%. This shows the extent of using children and how laws are breached in regard to working hours stated in the child labor law.



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Chapter 6

Palestinian Children and the Intifada

State Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts, which are relevant to the child.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 38-1)

All Palestinian children living in Palestine are within the system of Israeli occupation. This is the primary basis of children's violations within Palestine. Children's and adults most basic human rights including protection against discrimination and the protection of their civil and political rights are put in immediate jeopardy due to the nature of their existence under occupation. The violations become more extensive and can be found permeate all aspects of their lives if one also takes into account the absence of protection of their rights to social, economic and cultural development.

Israeli occupation forces have committed grave violations of the rights of the Palestinian children. Palestinian children and Palestinian people are being subject to grave violations of the rights international conventions granted for them especially the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of civilian population during times of armed conflicts since the start of the Israeli occupation. In the Israeli vicious onslaught, the Palestinian children are the first victims as Israeli violations breached the Palestinian children's right to education, well being, life, and other rights.

Education Status

The Israeli occupation has since 1967 used all means at their avail to halt the Palestinian educational process. They have closed down schools and prevented teachers and students from reaching them. Such means have always been used as a tactic by the occupying forces to prevent the Palestinian population from becoming educated and knowledgeable. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation has followed a systematic policy of limiting the development of educational institutions. The latest measures of closure and siege of the Palestinian Territory and banning students from arriving to their schools as well as shelling school buildings are parts of such policy.

There are currently 1,767 schools in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), 275 of these schools (15.6% of all schools) are located within 500 meters of confrontation and clash points with Israeli forces. Hence, 118,500 Palestinian students come and go to school at risk of being shot at by Israeli soldiers and settlers. Hundreds of children have been caught up in the crossfire and have been permanently injured and disabled simply while trying to exercise their basic right to education.

Since September 2000, the State of Israel has imposed an illegal closure on the OPT. They have cut the OPT into over 40 different enclaves and have made travel to and from cities, villages and camps an impossibility. This restriction on travel has severely affected students and teachers abilities to reach their schools. School attendance has decreased substantially due to these closures. Many students and teachers now have to travel for long periods of time to reach their schools (i.e. traveling through hills and valleys on foot and animal sometimes). Teacher absenteeism has increased drastically due to this situation and the Ministry of Education has noted that different schools have had teacher absenteeism rates ranging



between 10% to 90% in the 2000/2001 scholastic year. This naturally has resulted in lowered student achievement rates across the board.

The siege the Israeli occupation authorities imposed on the Palestinian Territory since the beginning of the *Al-Aqsa Intifada* caused malfunction in school attendance as many students and teachers were unable to reach their schools especially during the eighty days of continuous closure and siege. The shortage in schoolteachers due to the siege was 10% to 90%.

The take over and occupation of schools as military posts is another Israeli measure that has had a negative impact on the state of child's education and their overall well being. Such measures are also not new and are considered as part of the ongoing violations practiced by Israel against Palestinians. This practice was quite common during the first Intifada (1987-1994) when Israeli troops occupied Palestinian schools and turned them into detention centers and military outposts. During the *Al-Aqsa Intifada*, the Israeli occupation forces attacked 45 schools in different places in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These schools were forcefully and illegally broken into, teargas and bullets were used against students, and the premises were then bombed. Such measures have made these schools unsuitable for use by students. The damage to them has been estimated at US \$400,000¹. During periods of renovations many students were unable to attend other schools because they were either overcrowded to begin with or students could not reach these other schools due to territorial closures. Many schools were subjected to frequent attacks such as the schools of the Palestinian villages of Silat Al Thahir, Huwara, Al Khader, and Taqou'a, and many students were injured in such attacks.

The preliminary findings of the Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Well Being of the Palestinian Child, Woman, and Household Survey, which was carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics during April 11 to May 15, 2001, show that about 126 thousand students (14% of the total number of students 5-17 years of age) reported that their schools were exposed to Israeli attacks (closures of schools, bombarding), 542,000 (60% of students) were absent from their schools for at least one day, 22,000 students (2.4% of students) changed their schools, and about five thousands dropped out. Also, the survey revealed that 0.5% of pupils was beaten by Israeli occupation forces and Jewish settlers. Moreover, 2.2% of pupils were stopped at checkpoints and 1.6% was shot at during the scholastic year 2000/1.

Health Status

Since September 2000, the Israeli siege prevented medical staff and technicians at hospitals and medical centers from arriving at their work places, which disrupted work and service provided for the patients, paralyzed transportation of medical aid and equipment from one place to another especially oxygen, which is essential in operation theatres and incubators because of *dismembering* and isolating the Palestinian governorates. Furthermore, the siege prevented medical teams from carrying out primary healthcare programs such as inoculation/vaccination of children, maternal deliveries and inspection of water, many pregnant women failed to benefit from pregnancy care on time. Giving birth at hospitals was severely disrupted as pregnant women were prevented from reaching hospitals, which caused bad health impacts on mothers and babies. According to this siege, 19.6% of pregnant

¹The Ministry of Education, *Al-Aqsa Intifada Database*, 2001



women did not receive antenatal care (an increase of 450% compared to pre-September 2000) and 76.6% of the women did not receive tetanus shots for the same reason.²

Martyred and Injured Children³

The right to life is the first and foremost right, which governments must safeguard. Nevertheless, data show that the Israeli government uses all of its might to violate the Palestinian children's right to life. Israeli forces use all types of weaponry against Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian Territory. The force used against a civilian population is excessively exaggerated. The actual force used is what would be appropriate if they were confronting a well-equipped army. This disproportionate amount of force has resulted in a large number of Palestinian children and adults being either martyred, injured and/or disabled.

Between September 2000 and August 31, 2001, Israeli Forces and settlers killed 151 Palestinian children. 38% of them were shot in head, 36% were shot in chest and 26% were shot in other parts of the body. This clearly supports indications that Israeli troops shoot to kill Palestinian children. *Those who died are considered as fortunate martyrs. Although they experienced beatings, severe injuries and bled to death but at least their torture ended. The survivors are enduring untold suffering; they are being hit by machine gunfire from helicopters, with live ammunition, dum-dum bullets that are internationally banned.*

During *Al-Aqsa Intifada*, 15,442 persons were injured 3,170 injuries were the result of bullet wounds, 5,318 were the result of rubber-coated bullets, 4,594 were result of teargas, and 2,360 as a result of other tools. The reality seems to be much worse, the brutality of the Israeli forces is escalating, the death toll is rising and the children are terrified. For them surviving the day is the hope for tomorrow.

As a result of Israeli assaults since September 2000, 32% of the individuals whom were exposed to Israeli assaults were children and 54% of those whom were exposed to injuries were children. About 9.4% of injuries were in head; of them 7% were children, 1.7% in the chest; of them 13% were children, 2.3% in the abdomen; of them 52% were children, and 18.8% in the limbs; of them 37% were children.⁴

The majority of the martyred children were in the age group 15-18 years at 39 or 50.6% of the total number of martyred children. 37.7% of the martyred children were aged 12-14 and 11.7% were below 12 years. Data show that 53.2% were shot in the head, 40.2% were shot in the chest, and 6.6% were shot in other parts of the body. The above figures mean that most fatal injuries were in the upper part of the body, which means that Israeli occupation troops shot to kill Palestinian children.

The distribution of martyred children according to school stage is as follows: 75.3% for the elementary stage (48.3% in the West Bank and 51.7% in Gaza Strip). 24.7% for high school including 47.4% in the West Bank and 52.6% in Gaza Strip.

² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *The Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Well-being of the Palestinian Child, Woman, and Household Survey*.

³ The Ministry of Education, 2001. *The Impact of the Israeli Procedures on the State of Education: September 29, 2000- August 31, 2001*.

⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *The Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Well-being of the Palestinian Child, Woman, and Household Survey*.



Detained Children⁵

No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 37-b)

Israeli occupation authorities have been carrying out arbitrary detention campaigns since the beginning of the occupation against Palestinian people. About 700 Palestinians were arrested in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between 29 September 2000 and January 15, 2001. There are 250 detained children below 18 years. They constitute 35.7% of the total number of prisoners, 150 children from Jerusalem were imprisoned, which means that 60.0% of the detained children of the OPT are from Jerusalem.

Israeli occupation authorities' arrests of Palestinian children are grave violations of the rights of the child. Such arrests are illegal and arbitrary and mostly carried out without pressing charges. They are not carried out in conformity with the international detention standards, which require an arrest warrant and a bill of indictment before carrying out an arrest. The arrests are based on official notices supported by military laws, which the occupation authorities invented to serve their purposes. The conditions inside prisons are also violations of the child's rights.

Palestinian children are arrested in a terrorizing manner by Special Forces of the Israeli army (known as *Mustaribeen*: Israeli special agents disguised as Arabs.) They beat up their victims in a cruel way. Army troops and intelligent agents also carry out the arrests; they carry out their arrests after midnight. They break into homes in a terrorizing way, creating fear in the hearts of people especially children. Then the arrested person would be handcuffed, blindfolded, and taken to interrogation. Israeli interrogators do not distinguish between Palestinian children and Palestinian adults and the same interrogators interrogate both men and children.

International conventions ban torture and maltreatment in prisons and detention centers including:

- *No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.* (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 5)
- *Each State Party shall ensure that all acts of torture are offences under its criminal law. The same shall apply to an attempt to commit torture and to an act by any person, which constitutes complicity or participation in torture.* (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article 4-a)
- *No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political in stability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.* (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Article 2-2)

⁵International Movement in Defense of Children, Palestine Branch. Press Release, January 15th 2001.



- *No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age.*

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 37-a)

Despite the above texts of international conventions, which ban torture and consider it a crime, the Israeli occupation authorities, as usual disregard all international conventions and standards and subject Palestinian detained children to all forms of physical and psychological torture. Some of the methods Israeli intelligence people use to torture detained children include:

- Covering the head and the face with a stinking bag, which distorts the mind and disrupts breathing;
- *Shabih*, where a child is forced to stand up or sit down in painful contorted positions for long periods of time;
- Deprivation of sleep or going to the toilet for long periods of time;
- Deprivation of food and drink for long periods of time, then bad food would be provided and the detainee would not be given sufficient time to finish it;
- Beating including slapping, kicking, strangling, beating on sensitive body areas;
- Subjecting detainees to cold air currents in winter and hot air currents in summer by using the *Shabih* in an open area;
- Threats including threatening detainees of imposing disabilities and threatening children of sexually assaulting him or her or any of his female relatives;
- Locking up detainees with collaborators who usually attack the detainees;
- Violent shaking: the interrogators grab the detainee and systematically shake him or her violently and shaking the neck and the chest, which causes the detainee to faint. This is a serious method of torture that could lead to death.

Despite the protests of human rights organizations and lawyers against the use of such cruel methods of torture, the Israeli government in November 1994 allowed the Israeli police and the *Shabak* (the Israeli intelligence service) to use rough methods to force detainees to confess. In many cases, lawyers are banned from seeing their clients under the pretext of not finishing interrogation. In other cases, lawyers are not allowed to see the prosecution evidence. Moreover, trials of children are carried out before military courts, where adults are tried. Jerusalem's detained children suffer from grave breaches of their rights as they are locked up with Jewish common criminals, which is a big threat to their lives.

Children receive harsh sentences when tried in Israeli courts. Such sentences are far harsher than their offences. For instance, a child accused of hurling rocks could receive 18 months imprisonment sentence. The sentence for hurling rocks used to be six months, which means that the Israeli judiciary is dependent on the political decision-makers. A Palestinian receives the harshest of the sentences for little offences whereas Jewish settlers, who kill children, are treated with leniency.

After the signing of the peace accord between the PNA and the government of Israel and the redeployment of the Israeli army from Palestinian towns, Palestinian prisoners were taken into Israel proper. Such step is a violation of Article 76 of the 4th Geneva Convention. It created a problem among detained Palestinian children whose families became unable to visit them.



Israeli prisons governors' decision worsened lately; they limit the persons allowed to visit prisoners to parents and brothers as long as they are below 14 years of age or above 40, which deprive prisoners of seeing their families. Such measures are a grave violation of Article 37 (c) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states "Every child deprived of liberty...shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits." And to make things worse, the Israeli high court decided in 1978 to deprive detained children of education.

Psychological Reflections on Children

Palestinian children live in conditions of Israeli violence reminiscent of periods of excessive violations and aggravations against children. Israeli occupation forces use all means of weaponry against Palestinian civilians including children. The harsh situation has its worst impact on children's psychology thus crippling their social development as well as their being subjected to direct, excessive physical Israeli violence. The degree of evident psychological disturbances due to crises varies from one child to another according to the child's experience and the impact of the incidents on him or her and the way people around deal with the incident.

Some of the psychological impacts on children include, absentmindedness, loss of memory and concentration, depression and sadness, restlessness, violence, disobedience, feeling unsafe thus staying with adults, wetting the bed, sleeplessness or sleeping a lot, nightmares, indigestion, loss of appetite. The Israeli violence has resulted in more children becoming obsessed with playing war games more and their drawings became more influenced by pictures of Israeli violence. 55.4% of children aged 5-17 are now afraid of darkness, 43.6% fear being alone, 43.6% have crying fits, 27.6% think more and more about death, 53.1% fear of loneliness, 33.6% feel hopelessness and frustration.⁶

Children who hear nothing but hails of bullet firing by the Israelis, and observe the funerals of martyrs and the big crowds mourning end up with long term mental and emotional disorders. The ongoing violence in the region and the danger they face knowing that the next bomb or firing bullet could target them or one of their beloved ones leaves them under constant trauma. They no longer sleep nor they dream, and if for a minute of serenity their spirits hope for a better life, the sounds of Israeli bullets and bombs firing away at them awakens them to a cruel reality which they have been forced to embrace since their birth.

⁶ The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *The Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Well-being of the Palestinian Child, Woman, and Household Survey*



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Annex (1): Glossary

Total Fertility Rate	Average number of live births per woman or group of women during their reproductive life by the age of specific fertility rate for a certain year. This rate is calculated by multiplying the age specific fertility rate by five.
Crude Birth Rate	Number of births per 1000 population in a certain year.
Crude Death Rate	Number of deaths per 1000 population in a certain year.
Growth Rate	The average increase or decrease in the number of population during a certain year, due to natural increase and net migration. It is expressed by a percentage of the base population
Age at Marriage	The age of the individual in years at the time of his\ her actual marriage.
Child Dependency Rate	Number of children below the age of 15 years per 100 persons in the work age (15 – 64 years).
¹GDP Per Capita	It refers to the individual person's share of the gross domestic product. This share is calculated through dividing the gross domestic product by the number of population.
Gross Domestic Product	A measurement of production in a certain period of time. The GDP represented the value of total outputs divided by the number of population.
Contraceptives (Family Planning Methods)	It is a methodology needed for delaying or stopping pregnancy.
Unemployment	This term refers to all persons in the work age who did not work at all during the reference period, who were not absent from a job and were available for work and actively seeking for work during the reference period in different ways, e.g. reading newspapers, registration in employment offices, asking friends or relatives ...etc.
Household	One person or a group of persons living together who make common provision for food or other essential for living. Household members may be related, unrelated or a combination of both.
Head of Household	The person who usually lives with the households and recognized as head of the household by its other members. Often, he \ she is the main decision-maker or responsible for financial support and welfare of the household.
House	The house is a housing unit built for the living of one household and is mainly established in one floor. The house could consist of two floors, each of which includes an apartment for one household only.

¹GDP: Gross Domestic Product



Apartment	The apartment is part of a house or a building, comprised of one room or more along with other facilities, e.g. kitchen, bathroom, water closet ...etc, all of which are connected with the outside world through one main door. It is occupied by one household and is often reached through stairs or a main road leading to the public road.
Illiterate	A person who can not read and write a short abstract about his \ her life in any known language and had not accredited any formal educational certificate.
Literate	A person who can read and write simple sentences without being accredited any formal educational certificate.
Health	A state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of diseases or infirmity.
Infant Mortality Rate	The number of infant deaths (aged less than one year) per 1,000 live born births in a certain year.
Under Five Years Child Mortality Rate	The number of death cases among children (aged less than five years) per 1,000 children in the age group 0 – 4 during a certain year.
Death Causes	A state of illness, infirmity, incidence, or poisoning that directly or indirectly leads to death. .
Breast-feeding	The child has received breast milk (direct from the breast or expressed)
Immunization	It is one of the sharpest tools for cutting into the vicious injections cycle and reducing the severity and frequency of setbacks to the normal development of the child in its formative years.
Immunization Coverage	Immunization coverage includes three dosages against measles or (measles, mumps and rubella), three dosages against the triple, and three dosages against polio.
Polio Vaccine	This vaccine is given in a form of drops through the mouth or through injection. This vaccine is given to the child at the same time he \ she is given the Triple vaccine, i.e. in the second, third, fourth, sixth and twelfth months of age.
Measles Vaccine	An injection given once in life at the ninth month of age and over according to the UNRWA vaccination schedule and at the fifteenth months, according to the governmental vaccination schedule.
Triple Vaccine	This vaccine is jointly given against three diseases, namely diphtheria, whooping cough, and Tetanus. This vaccine is given in a form of injection in the muscles in the age of two months, four months, six months and one year.



Stunting	Stunting refers to lack of height in comparison to weight. Chronic malnutrition constitutes one of the main causes leading to stunting and underweight. Other causes leading to stunting include hereditary factors, infectious diseases and socio – economic conditions.
Supplements Supplementary Feeding	Any liquid (including milk) or solid given while the child is still receiving breast milk.
Weaning	The process where the child becomes accustomed to take liquids or solids other than breast milk.
Weight	A measurement of the child's total body mass underside.
Acute Respiratory Disease Infections	Are the most common illness suffered by children, no matter where they live. ARIs are caused by a wide variety of disease agents. These include from the vaccine preventable tangent disease: diphtheria, pertusis and tuberculosis. ARIs are traditionally divided into two main categories: those of the upper respiratory tract (the common cold) and those of the lower respiratory tract (primarily pneumonia). Their principal transmission factors are: high population density, crowded conditions, and seasonal changes that favor the spread of disease.
Traffic Accidents	Accidents occurring for vehicles driven in the public road and result in casualties ...etc.
Diarrhea	A clear change in the number of excretion episodes (more than three times a day). Diarrhea is characterized with liquid – like stool. Fever and blood in the stool indicate severity of diarrhea episodes.
Health Care Provider	An individual or organization whose responsibilities involve on or more of the following: The provision, administration, teaching, development of health services, activities or supplies. The provider may have direct or indirect interest in the health industry.
Primary Health Care	Primary health care refers to primary check up and the comprehensive health care including basic or initial diagnosis and treatment, health supervision, management of chronic conditions and preventive health services. The provision of primary health care does not necessarily require highly sophisticated equipment or specialized resources.
Malnutrition	The term malnutrition is used to cover a multiplicity of disorders, ranging from deficiencies of specific micronutrients such as vitamins and minerals to gross starvation or obesity. This discussion is largely limited to protein and calorie malnutrition, which is manifested primarily by retardation of physical growth in terms of hight and weight.
Poor Child	The child belonging to a poor household (whose income is below the national poverty line).
Subsidies	The value of subsidies in kind or cash received by the household in the month, irrespective of whether they were provided by UNRWA, Ministry of Social Affairs, alms (Zakat) committees, charitable



societies, or other parties.

Poverty Gap	This indicator measures the volume of the total gap existing between the incomes of the poor and the poverty line (the total amount needed to promote the consumption levels of the poor to reach poverty line). It is recommended to calculate this indicator as a percentage of the total consumption value for the whole population, when the consumption level for each of them is equal to the poverty line.
Employed Child	The child performing a certain work for the other in return for a wage or for him \ herself, or unpaid family work.
Employer	A person who operates his\ her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more waged employees.
Self-Employed	A person operates his\ her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade and hired no employees.
Waged Employee	A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece rates or in kind ...etc. This item includes persons employed in governmental, non-governmental and private institutions along with those employed in a household enterprise in return for a specific remuneration.
Unpaid Family Member	A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise (farm, undertaking, etc...) operated by a related person living in the same household.
Occupation	Occupation refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the employed person, irrespective of the economic activity or employment status or the type of study or training the person received.
Economic Activity	Economic activity refers to the main activity of the establishment in which the employed person or the kind of work done previously if unemployed ever worked person. For persons employed outside the establishments, the activity
Work Hours	The duration of time spent in performing a certain work.
Average Daily Wage	The total net wage paid to all waged employees divided by the total number of workdays according to the average exchange rate for that month.
Violence	Unjustifiable use of force. Violence is not limited to the use of physical force; it even extends to forcing an individual to perform certain work through propaganda or threats. Thus, violence is of two types: A – Physical violence B – Spiritual violence
Work Injury	Any form of physical harm or damage encountering the persons while he is in work (i.e. during work hours), irrespective of the degree harm such as contusion, fractures, wounds ...etc.



Work Time	It could either be during the day or the night. Whereas the day refers to the duration starting from sunrise to sunset, the night refers to the duration between sunset to sunrise.
Household Library	A set of extracurricular books, magazines, or periodicals available to the household, which is used for developing the cultural or religious aspects, provided it is not comprised of less than 10 books magazines, or periodicals.
Radio and TV Programs	The program is a complete package by itself that has a title and transmitted (broadcast) through TV or radio in pre-announced periods.
Children Libraries	An organized set of books, magazines, periodicals, and drawings, audiovisual means that offer services and facilities to the children upon demand.
Cultural Institutions	Institutions equipped with instruments and equipment used in the different artistic and / or crafts activities, including games and sports. Such instruments and equipment facilitate the cultural activities in the broader sense.
TV Watching Habit	This term is used to describe the person who normally sets in front of the television to watch TV programs, irrespective of the type of the program, spent time and place of watching.
Reading Habit	This term is used to describe the person who regularly reads to enhance knowledge and awareness, regardless of whether the reading is part of the schooling or any other purpose and regardless of the material being read and the period spent in reading.
Handicapped Child	The child incapable of performing normal activities due to a disability or handicap that limits or undermine his ability to perform an activity, in comparison to another child in the same age and under the same circumstances.
Juvenile	This term refers to an offender below 18 years of age.
Orphan	The child who lost one or both parents as a result of death.
Stealing	Seizing the fixed or moveable properties with out the consent of the owner. It includes dwelling sneaking and invasion for the purpose and stealing cars. Minor offenses in the markets may and might not be classified under stealing.
School	Any educational institution other than kindergartens, irrespective of the number of students / pupils and grade structure, provided that the lowest grade is the first basic grade and the highest grade is the twelfth grade.
Kindergarten	Any educational institution licensed by the Ministry of Education to offer child education services two years prior to the basic stage (for 4 years old or 5 yeas old children). Kindergarten education is divided into two stages. First Grade: Offering educational services to four-year-old children & Second Grade: Offering educational services to five-year-old children



Governmental Schools	Any educational institution that is run by the Ministry of Education or any other ministries or governmental body.
UNRWA Schools	Any school run or supervised by UNRWA.
Private Schools	Any licensed local, foreign non – governmental educational institution that is established, headed, run or financed by a foreign or Palestinian individuals, societies or bodies.
Basic Stage	The first of ten scholastic years on which other educational stages depends.
Secondary Stage	The stage consisting of two scholastic years following the basic stage, (that is, years 11 and 12 of schooling).
Pupil / Student	Any one enrolled in an educational institution.
Teacher	A person with specialized qualification that is responsible for teaching students at an educational institution.
Gross Enrollment Rate	It refers to the percentage of pupils / students enrolled in a certain class to the total number of persons who are in the legal age for enrollment in that class.
Total Enrollment Rate	It refers to the total number of pupils / students enrolled in a certain class, whose ages are in the legal age designated for enrollment in that class as a percentage from the total number of persons in the society who are in the legal age for enrollment in that class.
Repetition	Repeating the same scholastic year for another year due to failure to accomplish the requirements necessary for promotion to next year.
Supervising Authority	The party responsible for schools from legal and administrative viewpoints, which could be either governmental, UNRWA or Private



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Annex 4: Selected Indicators

Indicator	West Bank	Jerusalem	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Population (in thousands) in 2001	2,102,360	367,003	1,196,591	3,298,951
Urban	1,105,480	287,820	759,330	1,864,810
Rural	876,850	71,400	64,129	940,979
Refugees	120,030	7,783	373,132	493,162
Children under 18 years of age in 2001				
Males	569,565	-	356,480	926,045
Females	547,858	-	345,036	892,894
Infant mortality rate for 1995-1999	24.4	-	27.3	25.5
Under Five Mortality rate for 1995-1999	27.2	-	31.2	28.7
Registration of births	99.3	-	99.9	99.5
Median age at first marriage in 2000				
Males	24.5	24.3	23.6	24.1
Females	19.0	18.7	18.7	18.9
Low birth weight in 2000 (less than 2.5 kg.)	8.6	-	8.5	8.6
Percentage of infants (last baby) who were breast fed in 2000	96.8	-	98.0	97.2
Percentage of children suffering malnutrition according to anthropometric measurements in 2000				
Wasting	1.5	0.4	1.4	1.4
Stunting	7.0	9.2	8.3	7.5
Under weight	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.5
Percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received specific Immunization in 2000:				
Tuberculosis	58.4	56.4	100.0	74.7
Polio	95.5	82.7	98.7	96.8
Measles	89.4	52.1	98.4	92.9
Measles/mumps/German measles	72.8	85.5	77.5	74.7
DPT	87.8	78.8	89.5	88.5
Children above (6 months of age) who got vitamin A supplements in 2000	56.6	-	36.8	49.5
Average continuation of breastfeeding for children (aged 9-12 months) in 2000	67.4	38.5	71.1	68.8
Percentage of women who received healthcare during pregnancy in 2000	94.0	96.1	98.3	95.6
Percentage of pregnant women who got tetanus shots in 2000	23.0	-	35.7	27.5
Percentage of women who received postnatal healthcare in 2000	29.0	-	21.4	26.3
Fertility rate for women aged 15-19 in 2000	79	-	72	77
Percentage of households consuming adequately iodized salt in 2000	47.3	-	16.6	37.4
Literate individuals (above 10) in 1997*				
Males	93.7	94.1	92.6	93.3
Females	82.4	85.8	84.6	83.2
Net enrollment rate at Kindergartens in 1999/2000	34.9	-	28.1	32.2
Gross enrollment rate in 1999/2000 at:				



Indicator	West Bank	Jerusalem	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Basic Stage	94.1	-	101.0	96.8
Secondary Stage	51.9	-	65.6	56.9
Net enrollment rate in 1999/2000 at:				
Basic Stage	89.3	-	96.8	92.2
Secondary Stage	41.7	-	49.3	44.5
Repetition Rate in the Basic Stage in 1999/2000				
Males	2.4	-	3.5	2.8
Females	2.1	-	2.6	2.3
Repetition Rate in the Secondary Stage in 1999/2000				
Males	1.9	-	1.0	1.5
Females	1.0	-	0.2	0.7
Drop Out Rate in the Basic Stage in 1999/2000				
Males	2.3	-	1.1	1.8
Females	1.7	-	0.8	1.4
DropOut Rate in the Secondary Stage in 1999/2000				
Males	6.1	-	1.3	4.0
Females	9.4	-	2.5	6.6
Average number of students per teacher in 1999/2000				
Kinergartens	27.4	-	26.0	26.9
Schools	26.9	-	35.1	29.7
Average number of students per class in 1999/2000				
Kinergartens	26.3	-	27.3	26.6
Basic Stage	33.5	-	45.8	37.5
Secondary Stage	26.0	-	39.1	30.3
Percentage of schools that have Computers in 1999/2000	60.5	-	65.2	61.6
Average daily hours spent on watching TV for children (6-17 years) who watch TV, 2000	2.89	2.90	2.78	2.85
Average daily hours spent on listening to the radio for children (6-17 years) who listen to radio, 2000	1.79	1.80	1.65	1.74
Percent of children (6-17 years) who use Computer , 2000	25.5	27.4	18.9	23.0
Percent of children (6-17 years) who read magazines, 2000	31.1	29.3	16.7	25.6
Percent of children (6-17 years) who read the papers, 2000	26.9	21.8	13.5	21.8
Percent of children (6-17 years) who watch TV, 2000	94.5	98.2	93.2	94.0
Percent of children (6-17 years) who watch videos, 2000	14.6	14.9	5.6	11.2
Percent of children (6-17 years) who listened to the radio, 2000	32.7	32.1	30.2	31.7
Number of children's public libraries in 1999	40	-	20	60
Number of orphaned children living in orphanages, 2000	1031	741	179	1951



Indicator	West Bank	Jerusalem	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Accused juvenile delinquents in 1999	730	-	674	1404
Child (10-17 years) labor averages in 2000	86.0	77.1	75.2	82.3
Distribution of working children (10-17 years) in the labor force in 2000	7.3	3.1	3.8	5.5
Distribution of working children (10-17 years) according to joining school in 2000				
Currently Enrolled in School	35.8	2.7	20.7	30.1
Not Enrolled in School	64.2	97.3	79.3	69.9
Average daily wages in NIS of working children (10-17 years) in 2000	34.8	56.7	31.2	36.8
Average daily working hours of working children (10-17 years) in 2000	46.8	44.6	43.7	45.5
Average household size in 2000	5.7	-	6.9	6.1
Percentage of households connected to the public water network in 2000	80.0	-	95.3	85.5
Percentage of households connected to the public sewage network in 2000	36.5	-	59.4	43.9

(-): Not Available

* Including actually counted people during December 10-24, 1997 excluding people living in J1 of Jerusalem and excluding population estimations not counted due to the results of the later study

- Jerusalem (J1): Those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israel in 1967.



Annex (5): Detailed Tables

Table (1-1): The Estimated Population of the Palestinian Territory by Region in Mid Year, 1997-2001

Year	Region		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
1997	1,787,562	995,522	2,783,084
1998	1,857,872	1,039,580	2,897,452
1999	1,932,637	1,087,067	3,019,704
2000	2,011,930	1,138,126	3,150,056
2001	2,102,360	1,196,591	3,298,951

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population of the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (1-2): The Estimated Population Growth of the Palestinian Territory by Region, 1997-2001

Year	Region		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
1997	3.81	4.26	3.97
1998	3.90	4.40	4.08
1999	3.99	4.53	4.18
2000	4.05	4.65	4.27
2001	4.72	5.35	4.95

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population of the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (1-3): The Estimated Population of the Palestinian Territory by Sex in Mid Year, 1997-2000

Age Groups	Palestinian Territory			
	Number		Percentage	
	Males	Females	Males	females
0-4	296,324	286,065	18.6	18.3
5-9	248,797	241,115	15.6	15.4
10-14	205,081	197,336	12.9	12.7
15-19	167,875	159,308	10.6	10.2
20-24	141,263	135,563	8.9	8.7
25-29	118,932	115,185	7.5	7.4
30-34	100,547	95,674	6.3	6.1
35-39	83,945	78,046	5.3	5.0
40-44	62,841	59,240	3.9	3.8
45-49	43,411	42,558	2.7	2.7
50-54	32,310	34,869	2.0	2.2
55-59	23,649	29,343	1.5	1.9
60-64	20,022	25,943	1.3	1.7
65-69	17,402	22,741	1.1	1.5
70-74	12,717	16,782	0.8	1.1
75-79	8,033	10,428	0.5	0.7
Total	7,796	8,915	0.5	0.6

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Population of the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025*. Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (1-4): Age Specific Fertility Rates by Region during the Year Preceding the Survey 1999

Age Groups	Region		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
15-19	79	79	77
20-24	285	285	311
25-29	290	290	300
30-34	244	244	268
35-39	158	158	169
40-44	41	41	57
45-49	7	7	4
Total Fertility Rate	5.52	5.52	5.93

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Health Survey of 2000, The Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (1-5): Indirect Estimation of Mortality Rates among Mothers by Age, 1995

Age Groups	Mortality Rates (Per 100,000 Birth)
15-19	93
20-24	82
25-29	60
30-34	67
35-39	74
40-44	78
45-49	84
50-54	140

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Demographic Survey of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1995. The Final Results.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (1-6): Average Age at Marriage by Sex and Region, 1997-2000

Region	Average Age							
	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
West Bank	23.0	18.0	24.2	18.8	24.4	18.9	24.5	19.0
Gaza Strip	23.0	18.0	23.4	18.5	23.5	18.7	23.6	18.7
Palestinian Territory	23.0	18.0	23.9	18.7	24.1	18.8	24.1	19.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Marriage and Divorce in the Palestinian Territory.* Ramallah- Palestine.



Table (1-7): Direct Estimations of Infants' Mortality Rates by Background Characteristics in the Five Years Preceding the Survey, 1995-1999

Background Characteristics	Newly born mortality	Late infant mortality	Infants' mortality	Mortality among children < 5 years
Sex				
Males	16.3	9.0	25.3	29.1
Females	14.1	11.5	25.6	28.3
Education				
High school and below	17.3	11.3	28.6	32.1
High school	11.6	7.4	18.9	22.2
More than high school	5.1	6.0	11.1	12.0
Community				
Urban	15.7	9.7	25.4	28.8
Rural	11.7	8.9	20.6	23.5
Refugee camp	20.1	14.1	34.2	37.5
Region				
West Bank	14.6	9.8	24.4	27.2
Gaza Strip	16.4	10.8	27.3	31.2
Palestinian Territory	15.3	10.2	25.5	28.7

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Health Survey, 2000. The Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (1-8): Palestinians Residing in the Palestinian Territory by Refugee Status and Region, 1997

Region	Refugee Status						
	Refugee	%	Non-refugee	%	Unknown	%	total
Remaining West Bank	423,147	26.5	1,161,980	72.8	11,972	0.7	1,597,099
Gaza Strip	651,571	65.1	345,227	34.5	3,719	0.4	1,000,517
Palestinian Territory*	1,074,718	41.4	1,507,207	58.0	15,691	0.6	2,597,616

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 1997.* Ramallah-Palestine.

* Remaining West Bank does not include that part of Jerusalem, which Israel annexed by force in its occupation of the Palestinian Territory in 1967.

Table (1-9): UNRWA Registered Palestinian Refugees by Country of Residence and Living Inside Refugee Camps, mid 2000

State/ region	Number of refugee camps	Registered refugees	Registered refugees inside refugee camps
Jordan	10	1,570,192	280,191
Lebanon	12	376,472	210,715
Syria	10	383,199	111,712
West Bank	19	583,009	157,676
Gaza Strip	8	824,622	451,186
Total	59	3,737,494	1,211,480

Source: UNRWA homepage. (www.un.org/UNRWA)



Table (1-10): Infant Mortality Rate among Palestinian Refugee and Dispossessed Children and Infants in Jordan

Period	Infant mortality	Mortality among children under five years
1980-1984	27.2	32.3
1985-1989	26.0	29.9
1990-1994	23.9	25.8

Source: Mary Arnburg. *Survey of the Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Jordan*. FAFO, 1997.

Table (2-1) Registered Infant Mortality in the Palestinian Territory by Cause and Region, 1996

Cause	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Pneumonia	84	15.6	115	13.3	199	16.5
Other respiratory system diseases	16	3.0	72	8.3	88	7.2
Digestive system diseases and dehydration	10	1.9	41	4.7	51	4.2
Congenital anomalies	97	18.0	124	14.3	221	18.3
hypothermia	39	7.3	17	2.0	56	4.6
Prematurity	-	-	195	22.5	-	-
Septicemia	51	9.5	49	5.7	100	8.3
Accidents, injuries, and poisoning	4	0.7	10	1.2	14	1.2
Un defined conditions	19	3.5	38	4.3	57	4.7
Sudden death syndrome	33	6.2	55	6.3	88	7.3
Meningitis	8	1.5	23	2.7	31	2.6
Others	176	32.8	128	14.7	304	25.1
Total	537	100	867	100	1209*	100

Source: Ministry of Health, 1996. *Annual Report 1996*. Gaza-Palestine.

(-): means not available. *195 cases in Gaza Strip were excluded due to lack of data on them in the West Bank.

Table (2-2): Registered Child Mortality in the Palestinian Territory by Cause and Region, 1996

Cause	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Pneumonia	50	24.2	26	13.1	76	18.7
Other respiratory system diseases	9	4.3	6	3.0	15	3.8
Digestive system diseases and dehydration	6	2.8	6	3.0	12	2.9
Congenital anomalies	26	12.6	22	11.1	48	11.8
Neoplasms	11	5.3	13	6.5	24	5.9
Septicemia	12	5.8	2	1.0	14	3.5
Road accidents	15	7.3	26	13.1	41	10.1
Other accidents and poisoning	17	8.2	27	13.6	44	10.8
Unknown causes	7	3.4	7	3.5	14	3.5
Meningitis	0	0	7	3.5	7	1.7
Others	54	26.1	57	28.6	111	27.3
Total	207	100	199	100	406	100

Source: Ministry of Health, 1996. *Annual Report 1996*. Gaza-Palestine.



Table (2-3): Registered Infant Mortality in the Palestinian Territory by Cause and Region, 1999

Cause	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lung infection	76	13.7	11	1.4	87	6.4
Other respiratory system diseases	33	6.0	5	0.6	38	2.8
Birth defect	137	24.8	140	17.3	277	20.3
Blood poisoning	18	3.3	3	0.4	21	1.5
Sudden death syndrome	61	11.1	49	6.0	110	8.1
Premature birth and low birth weight	60	10.8	193	23.8	253	18.6
Fatal bacteria	26	4.7	63	7.8	89	6.5
Gland disorder	23	4.2	0	0	23	1.7
Others	118	21.4	346	42.7	464	34.1
Total	552	100	810	100	1,362	100

Source: Ministry of Health, 1996. *Annual Report 1996*. Gaza-Palestine.

Table (2-4): Registered Child Mortality in the Palestinian Territory by Cause and Region, 1999

Cause	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lung infection	34	15.2	9	4.3	43	10.0
Other respiratory system diseases	10	4.5	4	1.9	14	3.2
Birth defect	37	16.6	23	11.0	60	13.9
Polio	9	4.2	26	12.5	35	8.1
Blood poisoning	7	3.1	10	4.8	17	3.9
Falling	7	3.1	7	3.4	14	3.2
Drowning	7	3.1	5	2.4	12	2.8
Gland disorder	10	4.5	1	0.5	11	2.6
Road accidents	26	11.7	26	12.5	52	12.1
Heart attack	7	3.1	2	1.0	9	2.1
Others	69	30.9	95	45.7	164	38.1
Total	223	100	208	100	431	100

Source: Ministry of Health, 1996. *Annual Report 1996*. Gaza-Palestine.

Table (2-5): Percentage of Women who Received Antenatal Care Pregnancy by Selected Background Characteristics, 1996 and 2000

Background Characteristics	Percentage of Women who Received Antenatal Care	
	1996	2000
Mothers' education		
None	86.5	87.1
Elementary	94.9	94.7
Preparatory	96.0	96.6
Secondary and above	98.1	98.3
Region		
West Bank	93.5	94.1
Gaza Strip	96.7	98.4
Palestinian Territory	94.6	95.6

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Health Survey of 2000, The Main Findings*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Maternal and Child Health Survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 1996, The Main Report*. Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (2-6): Percentage Distribution of Births (last two) whose Mothers Received Postnatal Care by Personnel Providing Postnatal Care and Selected Background Characteristics, 1996

Background Characteristics	Personnel Providing Postnatal Care				
	Physician	Midwife/Nurse	Others	None	Total
Mothers' education					
None	16.2	0.7	0.4	82.7	100.0
Elementary	15.0	0.9	0.7	83.4	100.0
Preparatory	17.3	0.6	0.4	81.7	100.0
Secondary and above	24.6	1.1	0.1	74.2	100.0
Region					
West Bank	21.0	0.8	0.6	77.6	100.0
Gaza Strip	13.0	0.8	0.0	86.2	100.0
Palestinian Territory	18.3	0.9	0.3	80.5	100.0

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Health Survey 1996. The Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (2-7): Percentage Distribution of Births (last two) whose Mothers Received Postnatal Care by Personnel Providing Postnatal Care and Selected Background Characteristics, 2000

Background Characteristics	Person provided Healthcare					
	General Practitioner	Specialist	Midwife/Nurse	Others	None	Total
Mothers' education						
None	3.3	17.0	1.7	0.9	77.1	100.0
Elementary	3.8	17.6	1.9	0.1	76.6	100.0
Preparatory	3.2	21.2	3.5	0.0	72.1	100.0
Secondary and above	3.0	21.9	3.3	0.0	71.8	100.0
Region						
West Bank	3.3	24.0	1.5	0.2	71.0	100.0
Gaza Strip	3.4	12.8	5.2	0.0	78.6	100.0
Palestinian Territory	3.3	20.1	2.8	0.1	73.7	100.0

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Health Survey 2000. The Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (2-8): Differentials in the Prevalence Breast-feeding among Children by Mothers' Education and Region, 1996

Background Characteristics	Percentage of breast-fed children		Percentage of children weaned during their first 3 month		Mean duration of breast-feeding
	Last child	All children	Last child	All children	
Mothers' education					
None	94.9	94.1	10.1	8.4	12
Elementary	96.0	96.6	7.2	6.9	12
Preparatory	97.1	96.5	6.2	6.4	11
Secondary and above	96.3	96.0	8.6	8.5	11
Region					
West Bank	95.7	95.5	9.3	8.8	11
Gaza Strip	97.1	97.0	4.7	4.9	12
Palestinian Territory	96.2	96.0	7.8	7.4	11

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. *Maternal and Child Health Survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 1996. The Main Report.* Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (2-9): Differentials in the Prevalence Breast-feeding among Children by Mothers' Education and Region, 2000

Background characteristics	Percentage of breast-fed children		Percentage of children weaned during their first 3 month		Mean duration of breast-feeding
	Last child	All children	Last child	All children	
Mothers' education					
None	96.6	96.3	12.8	12.6	11.6
Elementary	97.0	96.5	16.0	13.7	11.1
Preparatory	97.5	97.1	13.6	12.3	11.5
Secondary and above	97.5	96.7	13.3	13.1	10.4
Region					
West Bank	96.8	96.2	15.3	14.1	10.4
Gaza Strip	98.0	97.8	11.7	10.7	12.4
Palestinian Territory	97.2	96.8	14.0	12.9	11.1

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Health Survey 2000. The Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (2-10): Percentage of Children under five Who had Diarrhea in the Two Weeks preceding the Survey and Treated with ORS by Selected Background Characteristics, 1996 and 2000

Background Characteristics	Children who had Diarrhea		Treated with ORS	
	1996	2000	1996	2000
Sex				
Male	15.4	7.0	26.6	24.6
Female	13.6	6.3	27.2	15.9
Child's age				
Less than 6 months	19.4	7.3	28.8	17.9
6-11 months	35.2	15.6	30.0	29.4
12-23 months	24.7	11.9	28.6	15.9
24-35 months	10.5	4.8	20.2	16.4
36+	4.3	4.4	21.1	49.2
Total	14.5	6.7	26.9	20.6

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Health Survey 2000. Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *Maternal and Child Health Survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 1996. The Main Report.* Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (2-11): Children under five years Who are Undernourished by Selected Background Characteristics, 1996 and 2000

Background Characteristics	Weight for Age (Under weight)		Height for Age (Stunting)		Weight for Height (Wasting)	
	1996	2000	1996	2000	1996	2000
Sex						
Male	3.8	2.2	6.5	7.0	2.6	0.3
Female	5.0	2.8	8.0	8.1	2.9	0.3
Child's age						
Less than 6 months	2.1	1.9	2.0	3.4	2.2	0.6
6-11 months	6.7	3.0	4.6	3.5	6.9	0.3
12-23 months	5.6	2.9	7.1	10.5	5.4	0.3
24-35 months	4.3	2.6	7.3	7.4	2.1	0.4
36+	3.6	4.4	9.0	16.4	0.6	0.2
Region						
West Bank	3.9	2.6	6.7	7.0	2.2	0.3
Gaza Strip	4.7	2.4	8.2	8.3	3.7	0.2
Total	4.4	2.5	7.2	7.5	2.7	0.3

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Health Survey 2000: Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997. *The Health Survey 1996: Main Findings.* Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (2-12): Percentages of Children (aged 12-23 months) Whose Cards Were Seen and Received Specific Immunization by Region and Sex, 1996 and 2000

Background Characteristics	Children Received Specific Immunization							
	Polio			Measles	Measles/ Mumps/ Rubella	DPT		
	1	2	3			1	2	3
1996								
West Bank	98.6	98.1	94.9	28.7	82.1	98.2	97.6	95.8
Males	98.5	97.7	93.2	27.0	79.7	98.3	97.6	94.8
Females	98.6	98.6	96.6	30.4	84.5	98.1	97.6	96.8
Gaza Strip	98.3	97.5	97.5	93.2	82.1	98.3	97.9	97.5
Males	98.1	97.2	96.4	93.8	79.7	98.1	97.2	96.4
Females	98.5	97.7	96.4	92.7	84.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Palestinian Territory	98.5	97.9	48.9	48.9	84.6	98.2	97.7	96.4
Males	98.4	97.5	94.2	47.8	82.7	98.2	97.5	95.3
Females	98.6	98.3	97.2	50.1	86.4	98.3	97.9	97.4
2000								
West Bank	99.4	99.4	97.5	89.1	72.8	98.2	98.6	98.2
Males	99.2	99.2	97.4	89.2	75.3	98.2	98.7	98.7
Females	99.5	99.5	97.5	89.1	70.4	98.3	98.5	97.7
Gaza Strip	100.0	99.7	99.7	98.2	77.5	100.0	99.7	99.4
Males	100.0	99.3	99.3	99.0	81.2	100.0	99.3	99.3
Females	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.4	73.9	100.0	100.0	99.6
Palestinian Territory	99.6	99.5	98.3	92.7	74.7	98.9	99.0	98.7
Males	99.5	99.3	98.2	93.0	77.6	98.9	98.9	98.9
Females	99.7	99.7	98.5	92.3	71.8	98.9	99.1	98.5

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Health Survey 2000. The Main Findings*. Ramallah-Palestine.
 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *The Health Survey 1996. The Main Findings*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (3-1): Distribution of Schools by Supervising Authority, Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Supervising Authority and Scholastic Year	West Bank				Gaza Strip				Palestinian Territory			
	Males	Females	Mixed	Total	Males	Females	Mixed	Total	Males	Females	Mixed	Total
Public												
1994/1995	314	317	278	909	63	63	45	171	377	380	323	1,080
1999/2000**	382	399	288	1,069	83	85	52	220	465	484	340	1,289
UNRWA												
1994/1995	38	43	19	100	70	42	47	159	108	85	66	259
1999/2000**	36	43	17	96	67	42	59	168	103	85	76	264
Private												
1994/1995	17	15	95	127	1	0	7	8	18	15	102	135
1999/2000**	23	14	160	197	3	2	12	17	26	16	172	214
Total												
1994/1995	369	375	392	1,136	134	105	99	338	503	480	491	1,474
1999/2000**	441	456	465	1,362	153	129	123	405	594	585	588	1,767

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

** : Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6). Ramallah-West Bank.



Table (3-2): Distribution of Kindergartens by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank				Gaza Strip				Palestinian Territory			
	Males	Females	Mixed	Total	Males	Females	Mixed	Total	Males	Females	Mixed	Total
1994/1995	5	12	406	423	0	0	13	13	5	12	419	436
1999/2000**	3	7	596	606	0	0	237	237	3	7	833	843

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

** : Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6). Ramallah-West Bank.

Table (3-3): Distribution of Children at Kindergartens by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	18,619	17,149	30,768	504	557	1,061	19,123	17,706	36,829
1999/2000**	26,727	24,061	50,788	13,873	12,741	26,614	40,600	36,802	77,402

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

** : Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6). Ramallah-West Bank.

Table (3-4): Percentage of Female/Male Attending School by Stage and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	Basic	Secondary	Basic	Secondary	Basic	Secondary
1994/1995	95	85	95	82	95	84
1999/2000	98	109	97	98	98	104

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-5): Gross Enrollment Rate at the Basic Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	88.2	87.4	87.8	99.3	98.0	98.7	92.1	91.1	91.6
1999/2000	93.1	95.1	94.1	100.6	101.4	101.0	96.0	97.6	96.8

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-6): Gross Enrollment Rate at the Secondary Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	45.6	40.9	43.3	54.6	46.9	50.8	48.8	43.0	46.0
1999/2000	48.3	55.6	51.9	64.9	66.4	65.6	54.3	59.6	56.9

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-7): Net Enrollment Rate at Kindergartens by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1996/1997 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1996/1997	33.1	31.8	32.5	37.0	33.1	35.0	34.5	32.3	33.4
1999/2000**	36.2	33.4	34.9	29.1	27.0	28.1	33.5	30.9	32.2

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. (Unpublished data).

Note: 4-5 years has been considered the official child's age to join kindergartens.



Table (3-8): Net Enrollment Rate at Basic Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1996/1997 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	84.2	83.2	83.7	95.0	94.0	94.5	88.0	87.0	87.5
1999/2000	88.6	90.1	89.3	96.6	97.0	96.8	91.6	92.7	92.2

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-9): Net Enrollment Rate at Secondary Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	32.8	29.6	31.3	41.4	36.3	38.9	35.8	32.0	33.9
1999/2000	39.0	44.6	41.7	46.6	52.1	49.3	41.8	47.3	44.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-10): Repetition Rate in the Basic Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	3.5	3.3	3.4	7.5	6.1	6.8	5.0	4.4	4.7
1998/1999 **	2.4	2.1	2.2	3.5	2.6	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *Database of the Education Survey 1995-1996*. (unpublished data)

** : Ministry of Education. *The Education Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-11): Repetition Rate in the Secondary Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1998/1999

School Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	2.6	1.3	2.0	9.6	1.3	5.9	5.4	1.3	3.5
1998/1999 **	1.9	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.1

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *Database of the Education Survey 1995-1996*. (unpublished data)

** : Ministry of Education. *The Education Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-12): Drop-out Rates in the Basic Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.5
1998/1999 **	2.3	1.7	2.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.6

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *Database of the Education Survey 1995-1996*. (unpublished data)

** : Ministry of Education. *The Education Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data).



Table (3-13): Drop-out Rates in the Secondary Stage by Sex and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995	9.3	10.3	9.8	2.3	8.6	5.1	6.5	9.7	8.0
1998/1999 **	6.1	9.4	7.8	1.3	2.5	1.8	4.0	6.6	5.3

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *Database of the Education Survey 1995-1996*. (unpublished data)

** : Ministry of Education. *The Education Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-14): Classroom Density by Grade and Region in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Kindergartens	Basic	Secondary	Kindergartens	Basic	Secondary	Kindergartens	Basic	Secondary
1994/1995	28.6	33.4	25.9	29.5	45.2	40.6	28.6	37.1	30.2
1999/2000 **	26.3	33.5	26.0	27.3	45.8	39.1	26.6	37.5	30.3

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *Database of the Education Survey 1995-1996*. (unpublished data)

** : Ministry of Education. *The Education Database, 1999-2000*. (Unpublished data).

Table (3-15): Average Number of Students Per Teacher by Region and Supervising Authority in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank				Gaza Strip				Palestinian Territory			
	Public	UNRWA	Private	Kindergartens	Public	UNRWA	Private	Kindergartens	Public	UNRWA	Private	Kindergartens
1994/1995	29.9	32.9	19.1	30.3	34.0	38.7	25.4	33.2	30.9	36.9	19.5	30.4
1999/2000**	27.9	34.8	18.1	27.4	31.4	41.3	17.5	26.0	28.7	39.5	18.0	26.9

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

** : Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6), Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (3-16): Distribution of Teachers at Schools and Kindergartens in the Palestinian Territory by Degree, Supervising Authority and Sex in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995 and 1999/2000

Scholastic Year	Public			UNRWA			Private school			kindergarten		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1994/1995												
Secondary and below	167	157	324	126	137	263	59	169	228	0	533	533
Middle diploma	4,144	3,709	7,853	1,428	1,628	3,055	145	501	646	1	588	589
Bachelor degree	3,242	1,727	4,969	803	209	1,012	463	486	949	0	85	85
High diploma	247	63	310	20	2	22	17	36	53	0	1	1
Master and above	66	12	77	17	2	19	42	21	63	0	3	3
Total	7,865	5,668	13,533	2,393	1,977	4,370	726	1,213	1,939	1	1,210	1,211
1999/2000												
Secondary and below	58	78	136	122	99	221	51	156	207	10	1,389	1,399
Middle diploma	4,054	4,509	8,563	1,317	1,940	3,257	191	824	1,015	2	1,070	1,072
Bachelor degree	5,872	4,699	10,571	918	461	1,379	612	998	1,610	3	364	367
Bachelor or diploma	424	373	797	442	286	728	56	101	157	0	29	29
High diploma	53	31	84	11	1	12	14	5	19	0	5	5
Master and above	232	55	287	49	7	56	59	28	87	0	2	2
Total	10,693	9,745	20,438	2,859	2,794	5,653	983	2,112	3,095	15	2,859	2,874

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

** : Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6), Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (3-17): The Percentages of Schools and Kindergartens that have Computers, TV, VCR, and Cassette Player by Region in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996 and 1999/2000

Region and scholastic Year	Computer		TV		VCR		Cassette Player		# of Kindergarten	# of School
	Kindergarten	School	Kindergarten	School	Kindergarten	School	Kindergarten	School		
West Bank										
1995/1996	14.8	35.5	23.3	28.7	21.0	25.0	26.8	35.7	519	1,162
1999/2000	30.5	60.5	46.2	69.8	38.1	67.2	87.1	96.5	606	1,362
Gaza Strip										
1995/1996	0.0	10.1	0.0	9.7	0.0	9.1	0.0	17.9	13	308
1999/2000	20.7	65.2	29.5	51.9	22.4	49.1	68.4	95.3	237	405
Palestinian Territory										
1995/1996	14.5	30.2	22.7	24.8	20.5	21.6	26.1	32.0	532	1,470
1999/2000	27.8	61.6	41.5	65.7	33.7	63.0	81.9	96.2	843	1,767

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education, 1995. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1994/1995*. Number (1). Ramallah-West Bank.

****:** Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1999/2000*. Number (6), Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (4-1): Percentage of Children (under 18 years) Whose Families have Computers, TV, and Library by Age Group and Region, 1997

Age group	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Computer	TV	Library	Computer	TV	Library	Computer	TV	Library
0-4	3.4	88.9	13.9	2.0	84.2	9.5	2.9	86.9	12.1
5-9	4.3	90.5	14.9	2.4	85.4	9.8	3.5	88.4	12.8
10-14	5.1	90.8	15.4	2.8	85.7	10.2	4.2	88.8	13.4
15-17	5.7	90.7	16.5	3.4	85.3	10.9	4.8	88.6	14.3
Total	4.3	90.0	14.8	2.4	85.0	9.9	3.6	87.9	12.8

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 1997*¹.

Table (4-2): Percentage of Children (under 18 years) Whose Families have Computers, TV, Satellite Dish, and Connection to the Internet, 2000

Age group	West Bank				Gaza Strip				Palestinian Territory			
	Com-puter	TV	Sat. Dish	Inter-net	Com-puter	TV	Sat. Dish	Inter-net	Com-puter	TV	Sat. Dish	Inter-net
0-4	8.6	92.8	41.4	1.3	7.4	91.7	53.1	0.6	8.1	92.4	45.9	1.1
5-9	11.0	93.2	41.9	1.6	9.2	92.6	52.7	1.0	10.2	93.0	46.3	1.4
10-14	15.5	94.4	42.1	2.1	13.5	92.9	52.8	1.2	14.7	93.8	46.3	1.7
15-17	16.0	93.9	39.7	2.6	14.0	93.2	52.4	1.1	15.2	93.6	44.6	2.0
Total	12.0	93.5	41.5	1.8	10.3	92.5	52.8	0.9	11.3	93.1	46.0	1.4

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *The Database of the Media Survey*. Ramallah-Palestine.

¹ Including persons who were actually counted; population estimates of later study and population estimates of the part of Jerusalem that Israel forcefully annexed in 1967 are not included.



Table (4-3): The Percentage of Schools and Kindergartens that have Computers, TV, VCR, and Cassette Player by Region in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996 and 1999/2000

Region and Scholastic Year	PC		TV		VCR		Cassette Player		# of kindergartens	# of schools
	Kinder-garten	school	Kinder-garten	school	Kinder-garten	school	Kinder-garten	school		
West Bank										
1995/ 1996	14.8	35.5	23.3	28.7	21.0	25.0	26.8	35.7	519	1,162
1996/ 1997	20.8	42.7	31.7	40.2	26.9	37.3	71.1	94.4	505	1,193
1997/ 1998	20.2	46.5	38.8	45.6	33.7	42.8	81.8	94.5	570	1,244
1998/ 1999	24.5	51.2	40.7	51.8	35.2	49.7	84.4	96.4	617	1,308
1999/ 2000**	30.5	60.5	46.2	69.8	38.1	67.2	87.1	96.5	606	1,362
Gaza Strip										
1995/ 1996	0.0	10.1	0.0	9.7	0.0	9.1	0.0	17.9	13	308
1996/ 1997	8.5	51.6	18.0	15.0	12.0	13.9	52.5	93.8	200	339
1997/ 1998	11.4	55.3	23.7	24.5	14.6	22.1	66.2	94.8	219	367
1998/ 1999	19.4	64.8	28.2	28.2	22.3	26.4	77.2	93.0	206	383
1999/ 2000**	20.7	65.2	29.5	51.9	22.4	49.1	68.4	95.3	237	405
Palestinian Territory										
1995/ 1996	14.5	30.2	22.7	24.8	20.5	21.6	26.1	32.0	532	1,470
1996/ 1997	17.3	44.6	27.8	34.6	22.7	32.1	65.8	94.3	705	1,532
1997/ 1998	17.7	48.5	34.6	40.8	28.4	38.1	77.4	94.5	789	1,611
1998/ 1999	23.2	54.3	37.5	46.5	32.0	44.4	82.6	95.6	823	1,691
1999/ 2000**	27.8	61.6	41.5	65.7	33.7	63.0	81.9	96.2	843	1,767

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education, *The Annual Statistical Educational Book* (a number of years). Ramallah-West Bank

** The Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Report*. Number (6). Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (4-4): The Percentage of Schools and Kindergartens that have Libraries by Region in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996 and 1999/2000

Region and Scholastic Year	Kindergartens	Schools	# of Kindergartens	# of Schools
West Bank				
1995/1996	-	27.3	519	1,162
1996/1997	7.3	31.6	505	1,193
1997/1998	10.7	32.9	570	1,244
1998/1999	9.6	35.4	617	1,308
1999/2000**	10.6	39.0	606	1,362
Gaza Strip				
1995/1996	-	27.6	13	308
1996/1997	4.5	39.2	200	339
1997/1998	14.6	46.3	219	367
1998/1999	12.6	52.7	206	383
1999/2000**	17.7	59.3	237	405
Palestinian Territory				
1995/1996	-	27.3	532	1,470
1996/1997	6.5	33.3	705	1,532
1997/1998	11.8	35.9	789	1,611
1998/1999	10.3	39.3	823	1,691
1999/2000**	12.6	43.6	843	1,767

(-): Not Available

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education, *Annual Statistical Reports*, (various years). Ramallah-West Bank.

** Ministry of Education, 2000. *The Annual Statistical Report*, Number (6). Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (4-5): Percentage of Children (aged 10-17 years) Who Carried Out Activities by Type of Activity and Sex, (May 1999-May 2000)

Main Activities	Males	Females	Total
Working in establishments	15.5	0.9	8.3
Primary production (not in establishments)	10.0	2.3	6.2
Paid activities and production of goods (not in establishments)	5.9	1.2	3.6
Baby setting, taking care of the sick and elderly family members	44.8	83.1	63.6
Social services and helping other families	8.6	25.2	16.8
Education	8.5	7.8	8.2
Cultural and social activities	65.4	67.1	66.2
Using the mass media	92.2	85.3	88.8
Personal care	88.7	94.3	91.5
Other activities	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Time Use Database*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (4-6): The Percentage of Children (aged 10-17 years) Who are Members of Cultural Institutions by Type of Cultural Institutions, Region, and Sex, (May 1999-May 2000)

Cultural Institutions and Region	Males	Females	Total
West Bank			
Sports club	14.8	1.0	7.9
Cultural club	1.8	1.8	1.8
Public library	8.2	7.3	7.8
Charity	0.4	0.4	0.4
Gaza Strip			
Sports club	11.3	0.9	6.3
Cultural club	6.5	2.1	4.4
Public library	5.1	4.6	4.9
Charity	1.2	0.9	1.0
Palestinian Territory			
Sports club	13.4	1.0	7.3
Cultural club	3.6	1.9	2.8
Public library	7.0	6.3	6.7
Charity	0.7	0.6	0.6

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Time Use Database 1999-2000*.
Ramallah-Palestine. (Unpublished data)



Table (4-7): Percentage of Children (aged 10-17 years), Who carried out Cultural Activities by Type and Region, (May 1999-May 2000)

Region and Activities	Males	Females	Total
West Bank			
Writing	11.3	18.4	14.9
Playing a musical instrument	7.3	4.8	6.1
Club or society activities	18.4	10.1	14.2
Sport games	45.3	19.4	32.4
Dancing and music troupes	8.4	14.6	11.5
Attending symposiums and public lectures	12.1	15.1	13.6
Singing in bands	4.8	11.2	8.0
Drawing	25.6	28.0	26.8
Gaza Strip			
Writing	8.7	18.5	13.4
Playing a musical instrument	9.1	7.6	8.4
Club or society activities	31.0	13.1	22.4
Sport games	73.2	45.2	59.7
Dancing and music troupes	5.3	6.4	5.8
Attending symposiums and public lectures	32.7	25.9	29.4
Singing in bands	2.9	5.2	4.0
Drawing	44.2	44.6	44.4
Palestinian Territory			
Writing	10.3	18.4	14.3
Playing a musical instrument	8.0	5.9	7.0
Club or society activities	23.3	11.2	17.3
Sport games	56.0	28.9	42.7
Dancing and music troupes	7.2	11.6	9.4
Attending symposiums and public lectures	20.0	19.1	19.6
Singing in bands	4.1	9.0	6.5
Drawing	32.8	34.1	33.4

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. Time Use Database, 1999-2000.
Ramallah-Palestine. (Unpublished data)



Table (4-8): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 10-17 years) Who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activity During Free Time but did not by Activity Type, Region and Sex (May 1999-May 2000)

Region and Activities	Males	Females	Total
West Bank			
Writing	3.5	6.2	4.8
Playing a musical instrument	25.3	21.8	23.6
Club or society activities	7.1	8.7	7.8
Sport games	39.4	17.4	29.0
Dancing and music troupes	3.4	3.6	3.5
Attending symposiums and public lectures	2.0	4.2	3.0
Singing in bands	3.8	6.2	4.9
Drawing	7.1	12.2	9.6
Other hobbies	8.4	19.7	13.8
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	43.1	38.9	41.0
Gaza Strip			
Writing	3.2	10.4	7.0
Playing a musical instrument	6.5	6.1	6.3
Club or society activities	9.9	6.2	8.0
Sport games	37.8	13.6	25.2
Dancing and music troupes	2.4	3.4	2.9
Attending symposiums and public lectures	2.0	8.0	5.2
Singing in bands	3.5	4.0	3.7
Drawing	11.5	16.9	14.3
Other hobbies	23.2	31.4	27.4
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	46.1	54.0	49.9
Palestinian Territory			
Writing	3.4	8.1	5.7
Playing a musical instrument	17.8	14.8	16.3
Club or society activities	8.2	7.6	7.9
Sport games	38.7	15.7	27.4
Dancing and music troupes	3.0	3.5	3.3
Attending symposiums and public lectures	2.0	5.9	3.9
Singing in bands	3.7	5.2	4.4
Drawing	8.9	14.3	11.6
Other hobbies	14.3	24.9	19.5
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	44.2	44.5	44.4

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Time Use Database, 1999-2000*. Ramallah-Palestine.
(Unpublished data)



Table (4-9): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 10-17 years) Who were Willing to Carry Out Cultural Activities During Free Time but did not by Reason, Region and Sex (May 1999-May 2000)

Main Reason	Males	Females	Total
West Bank			
No time	18.3	20.8	19.5
Lack of information	5.5	3.1	4.3
Lack of money	14.6	9.8	12.3
Lack of public establishments	52.2	52.3	52.3
Lack of personal motive	2.8	5.7	4.2
Difficulties in transportation	3.3	2.6	3.0
Other reasons	3.3	5.7	4.4
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	43.1	38.9	41.0
Gaza Strip			
No time	33.6	37.1	35.4
Lack of information	4.7	6.7	5.7
Lack of money	7.7	6.7	7.2
Lack of public establishments	31.7	32.9	32.3
Lack of personal motive	4.9	2.9	3.9
Difficulties in transportation	4.1	1.7	2.8
Other reasons	13.3	12.0	12.7
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were Willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	46.1	54.0	49.9
Palestinian Territory			
No time	24.5	28.1	26.3
Lack of information	5.1	4.7	4.9
Lack of money	11.8	8.4	10.1
Lack of public establishments	44.0	43.6	43.8
Lack of personal motive	3.7	4.5	4.1
Difficulties in transportation	3.6	2.2	2.9
Other reasons	7.3	8.5	7.9
Total	100	100	100
Percentage of Children, who were willing to carry out Cultural Activities but did not	44.2	44.5	44.4

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Time Use Database, 1999-2000.*

Ramallah-Palestine. (Unpublished data)



Table (4-10): Percentage of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Watch TV by TV Program, Sex and Region, 2000

Program	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
News	32.5	30.5	31.5	30.8	24.6	27.8	31.9	28.3	30.1
Politics	15.7	12.0	13.9	15.2	12.7	14.0	15.5	12.3	13.9
Science/ Environment	53.8	53.5	53.6	44.3	41.6	42.9	50.2	48.9	49.6
Medical	25.0	34.6	29.7	24.4	32.5	28.4	24.8	33.8	29.2
Educational	37.1	46.8	41.9	30.2	32.5	31.4	34.5	41.3	37.9
Business	8.5	11.1	9.8	6.8	7.2	7.0	7.9	9.6	8.8
Family	22.3	38.8	30.4	23.4	35.3	29.3	22.7	37.4	30.0
Cultural	42.3	48.3	45.2	33.2	37.6	35.4	38.8	44.2	41.5
Religious	50.5	59.5	54.9	54.4	56.3	55.3	52.0	58.3	55.1
Entertaining	88.6	92.5	90.5	89.9	92.6	91.2	89.1	92.6	90.8
Music	82.1	91.9	86.9	78.7	86.5	82.6	80.9	89.8	85.3
Sports	83.0	48.1	65.8	83.3	49.6	66.6	83.1	48.6	66.1
Children	93.6	92.1	92.9	91.3	94.1	92.7	92.7	92.9	92.8

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-11): Percentage of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Use Computers by Use, Sex and Region, 2000

Use	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Entertainment	88.4	80.7	85.0	87.2	77.6	83.8	88.0	79.9	84.6
Windows	63.7	58.4	61.3	53.4	53.0	53.2	60.1	56.9	58.8
Education	73.8	72.8	73.4	66.1	67.7	66.7	71.1	71.4	71.2
Mailing	10.4	6.4	8.6	0.5	2.1	1.1	7.0	5.2	6.2
Internet	12.3	6.7	9.9	0.8	2.6	1.4	8.3	5.6	7.2

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-12): Percentage of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Use Computers by Place of Use, Sex and Region, 2000

Place of Use	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Home	42.8	50.1	46.0	53.2	41.3	48.9	46.4	47.7	46.9
School	57.3	55.1	56.3	35.0	47.7	39.6	49.6	53.1	51.0
Internet cafes	11.4	6.0	9.0	12.0	0.0	7.6	11.6	4.3	8.6
Friends' houses	32.3	17.6	25.9	27.4	22.5	25.7	30.7	19.0	25.8
Other places	17.8	13.9	16.1	14.1	7.1	11.5	16.5	12.0	14.6

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.



Table (4-13): Percentage Distribution of Households Who Monitor Type of TV Programs Their Children Watch and the Daily Hours Children Spend Watching TV, 2000

Indicator	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Monitoring type of TV Program			
Always	61.8	78.1	68.0
Sometimes	21.9	12.4	18.3
No	16.3	9.5	13.7
Total	100	100	100
Monitoring Daily TV Watching Hours			
Always	54.4	72.5	61.2
Sometimes	22.6	12.3	18.7
No	23.0	15.2	20.1
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-14): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Watch TV by Favorite Time, Sex and Region, 2000

Time	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
6:00-10:00	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.0	7.3	7.8	7.6	7.7
10:00-12:00	14.0	11.2	12.6	9.9	10.8	10.3	12.4	11.0	11.7
12:00-14:00	8.1	8.9	8.5	11.4	10.7	11.0	9.3	9.6	9.5
14:00-18:00	35.0	42.6	38.8	37.2	37.9	37.6	35.9	40.8	38.3
18:00-21:00	28.7	26.3	27.5	28.0	27.7	27.8	28.4	26.8	27.6
21:00-24:00	6.3	3.1	4.7	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.2	4.2	5.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-15): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Listen to Radio by Favorite Time, Sex and Region, 2000

Time	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
6:00-10:00	13.0	18.3	16.0	20.6	30.0	25.3	16.0	22.3	19.4
10:00-12:00	15.8	20.4	18.4	19.4	23.4	21.4	17.2	21.4	19.5
12:00-14:00	13.3	9.7	11.3	15.9	13.3	14.6	14.3	10.9	12.5
14:00-18:00	31.2	36.7	34.2	16.0	24.3	20.3	25.2	32.5	29.1
18:00-21:00	20.5	13.0	16.3	20.7	4.8	12.6	20.6	10.2	15.0
21:00-24:00	6.2	1.9	3.8	7.4	4.2	5.8	6.7	2.7	4.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.



Table (4-16): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Watch TV by Average Daily Hours Spent Watching TV, Sex and Region, 2000

Average Daily Hours Spent Watching TV	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1-2	48.6	48.1	48.4	51.7	50.0	50.8	49.7	48.8	49.3
3-4	38.2	39.9	39.0	39.2	35.9	37.6	38.6	38.4	38.5
5+	13.2	12.0	12.6	9.1	14.1	11.6	11.7	12.8	12.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-17): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Watch Videos by Average Weekly Hours Spent Watching Videos, Sex and Region, 2000

Average Daily Hours Spent Watching Video	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	33.3	38.1	35.8	18.1	22.9	19.9	29.6	35.9	32.7
2	40.7	42.0	41.4	29.8	45.2	35.5	38.2	42.5	40.2
3	12.9	13.6	13.3	26.2	29.6	27.4	16.1	15.9	16.0
4	5.5	2.1	3.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.7	2.1	3.5
5+	7.6	4.2	5.8	23.5	0.0	14.8	11.4	3.6	7.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-18): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Listen to the Radio by Average Daily Listening Hours, Sex and Region, 2000

Average Daily Hours Spent Listening to the Radio	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	52.9	46.9	49.5	64.5	59.3	61.9	57.5	51.2	54.0
2	35.6	36.4	36.0	21.8	24.2	23.0	30.2	32.2	31.3
3	6.3	8.1	7.3	7.1	7.7	7.4	6.6	8.0	7.4
4	2.5	5.3	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.2	4.8	4.1
5+	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.3	4.9	3.6	2.5	3.8	3.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-19): Percentage of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Watch TV by Favorite Program Language, Sex and Age, 2000

Favorite language	6-9			10-14			15-17		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Arabic	88.9	92.6	90.7	79.8	82.4	81.0	71.1	66.4	68.8
Subtitled foreign shows	2.3	0.5	1.4	8.1	4.5	6.3	14.7	5.8	10.3
Not Subtitled foreign shows	1.1	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.6	2.0	2.2	2.1
Dubbed into Arabic	1.9	4.4	3.1	2.8	7.8	5.3	1.8	9.5	5.6
All above	5.8	2.5	4.2	8.4	5.1	6.8	10.4	16.1	13.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000*. Ramallah- Palestine.



Table (4-20): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 6-17 years) Who Use Computers by Sex, Age and Region, 2000

Sex and age	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Males			
6-9	20.8	22.3	21.2
10-14	42.3	48.2	43.9
15-17	36.9	29.5	34.9
Total	100	100	100
Females			
6-9	22.1	27.7	24.0
10-14	45.6	47.4	46.2
15-17	32.3	24.9	29.8
Total	100	100	100
Both Sexes			
6-9	21.5	25.8	22.9
10-14	44.2	47.7	45.2
15-17	34.3	26.5	31.9
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000.*
Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-21): Selected Indicators for Children (aged 6-17 years) by Sex and Region, 2000

Indicator	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Reading newspapers	25.2	28.7	26.9	12.9	14.0	13.5	20.5	23.0	21.8
Reading magazines	27.3	35.1	31.1	12.7	20.9	16.7	21.7	29.6	25.6
Radio listening	28.1	37.5	32.7	29.0	31.4	30.2	28.5	35.1	31.7
TV watching	94.3	94.8	94.5	92.6	93.8	93.2	93.6	94.4	94.0
Video watching	13.7	15.5	14.6	7.0	4.3	5.6	11.1	11.2	11.2
Using computers	28.0	22.9	25.5	23.8	13.9	18.9	26.4	19.5	23.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Media Survey Database, 2000.* Ramallah- Palestine.

Table (4-22): Percentage Distribution of Nursery Schools that have Libraries by Region and Number of Books in the Scholastic Year 1996/1997

Region	Less than 100 books	100-499 books	More than 500 books	Total	# of kindergartens with libraries	Total
West Bank	81.9	15.3	2.8	100	498	505
Gaza Strip	91.0	8.5	0.5	100	200	200
Palestinian Territory	84.5	13.3	2.2	100	698	705

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1996/1997.* Ramallah-Palestine.



Table (4-23): Percentage Distribution of Schools that have Libraries by Region, Number of Books and Supervising Body in the Scholastic Year 1996/1997

Region and Supervising Body	Less than 100	100-499	500-999	1000+	Total	# of schools with libraries	Total
West Bank							
Public	12.0	21.8	23.9	42.3	100	944	946
UNRWA	19.6	6.2	10.3	63.9	100	97	100
Private	39.0	19.9	8.9	32.2	100	146	147
Gaza Strip							
Public	18.7	36.1	33.2	12.0	100	166	167
UNRWA	1.9	5.6	7.4	85.1	100	161	161
Private	45.4	36.4	9.1	9.1	100	11	11
Palestinian Territory							
Public	13.0	24.0	25.3	37.7	100	1,110	1,113
UNRWA	8.5	5.8	8.5	77.2	100	258	261
Private	39.5	21.0	8.9	30.6	100	157	158
Total	15.0	20.5	20.8	43.7	100	1,525	1,532

Sources: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. *The Annual Statistical Educational Book 1996/1997*. Ramallah-Palestine.

Table (4-24): Number of Books Per School and Average Number of Books Per Student at Public Schools by Region, 1996/1997

Region	# of books in thousands	Books per school	Books per student
West Bank	1060.2	1121	3.3
Gaza Strip	105.7	633	0.8
Palestinian Territory	1165.9	1048	2.4

Source: Ministry of Education, 1997. *School Library Database*.

Table (4-25): Preparation of Extracurricular Activities at Public Schools in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000

Activities	Scholastic Year				
	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000
Cultural activity					
Cultural competitions	8	13	16	11	9
Cultural festivals	1	1	1	1	1
Celebrating national, religious, social and health anniversaries	22	22	25	28	30
Science activity					
Science competitions	3	4	5	5	4
Music activity					
Music competitions	6	9	11	16	14
Social activity					
Parents' sessions	570	822	935	1,155	1,200
School trips	2,000	2,500	2,901	3,644	4,000

Source: The Ministry of Education. *Educational Activities and Students' Affairs Administration. Achievements Report in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000*.

Table (4-26): Number of Summer Clubs held by the Ministry of Education and the Number of Participating Students in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000

Summer Camps and Participating Students	Scholastic Year				
	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000
Number of summer clubs	46	50	57	74	244
Number of participating students	6,685	7,883	9,177	9,858	37,775

Source: The Ministry of Education. *Educational Activities and Students' Affairs Administration. Achievements Report in the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000*.



Table (4-27): Number of the Ministry of Education's Boy Scouts in the Scholastic Years 1995/1996-1999/2000

Region	Scholastic Year				
	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000
West Bank	215	452	531	497	749
Gaza Strip	142	174	189	213	212
Palestinian Territory	357	626	720	710	961

Source: The Ministry of Education. *Educational Activities and Students' Affairs Administration. Achievements Report in the Schoasticl Years 1994/1995-1999/2000.*

Table (4-28): Percentage Distribution of Children Libraries in the Palestinian Territory by Type, 1998

Type of library	Percentage
Independent children library	52.6
Children library is part of public library	45.4
No answer	2.0
Total	100

Source: Group of Specialist Librarians, 1998. *State of Children Libraries in Palestine.*

Table (4-29): Percentages of Children Libraries in the Palestinian Territory by Service Provided, 1998

Type of service	Percentage
Lending out books	65.9
Reading inside library	95.8
Showing films	28.1
Symposiums	61.1
Story telling	57.3
Drama and acting	40.6
Painting	62.5
Writing stories	46.3
Holding exhibitions	31.3
Training children to use library	60.4

Source: Group of Specialist Librarians, 1998. *State of Children Libraries in Palestine.*

Table (4-30): Number of Summer Camps and the Number of Participants by the Summer, 1998

Region	Children summer camps	Younger children summer camps	# of Participants	# of Trainers	# of Supervisors
West Bank	35	11	15,000	276	320
Gaza Strip	50	38	27,000	396	1,000
Palestinian Territory	85	49	42,000	672	1,320

Source: The Ministry of Youth and Sports, 1998. *Summer Camps Program Report.*

**Table (5-1): Children Living in Orphanages by Sex and Region, 1998-2000**

Sex	West Bank (excluding Jerusalem)	Gaza Strip	Jerusalem	Total
1998				
Number of orphanages	12	3	7	22
Males	501	75	519	1,095
Females	620	43	222	885
Total	1,121	118	741	1,980
1999				
Number of orphanages	12	3	7	22
Males	470	74	226	770
Females	499	33	412	944
Total	969	107	638	1,714
2000				
Number of orphanages	15	3	8	26
Males	538	115	420	1,073
Females	493	64	321	878
Total	1,031	179	741	1,951

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs. *The Annual Report of the Family and Child Department, Activities and Achievements, 1998-2000.*

Table (5-2): Juvenile Delinquents in the Palestinian Territory by Age, Education and Region, 1998-1999

Age	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Until 12 years	72	53	38	89	110	142
13-15	222	232	287	255	509	487
16-18	412	445	429	330	841	775
Total	706	730	754	674	1,460	1,404
Education						
None	26	42	7	8	33	50
Elementary	241	216	222	200	463	416
Junior high	228	283	316	281	604	564
High	151	189	209	185	360	374
Total	706	730	754	674	1,460	1,404
Females included	21	18	18	17	39	35

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Crime and Victim Statistics. Annual Reports, 1998-1999.*

Table (5-3): Juvenile Delinquents in the Palestinian Territory by Crime and Region, 1998-1999

Crime	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Palestinian Territory	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Murder/ attempted murder	8	14	3	7	11	21
Assaults	235	196	416	340	651	536
Theft	327	292	57	53	384	345
Sex assaults	39	60	41	30	80	40
Burglary	0	47	181	199	181	246
Arson	0	0	5	4	5	4
Other	97	121	51	41	148	162
Total	706	730	754	674	1,460	1,404

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Crime and Victim Statistics. Annual Reports, 1998-1999.*



Table (5-4): Number of Special Protection Cases the Ministry of Affairs Dealt with, 1998-2000

Case	1998	1999	2000
Sexual assaults	21	46	12
Physical assaults	54	112	49
Psychological problems	88	168	66
Chronic diseases/ disabilities	270	1,887	518
Drop out	85	117	91
Running from home	63	104	46
Parents' addiction/ chronic diseases	138	337	205
Others ²	200	1,046	524
Total	919	3,817	1,511

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs. *The Annual Report of the Family and Child Department, Activities and Achievements, 1998-2000*

Table (5-5): Children (aged 10-17 years) by Labor Status. Age and Region, 1999-2000

Labor Status	1999			2000		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
10-14 years						
In labor force	2.7	1.0	2.1	2.3	1.0	1.8
Out of labor force	97.3	99.0	97.9	97.7	99.0	98.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
10-17 years						
In labor force	7.3	3.6	5.9	6.5	3.8	5.5
Out of labor force	92.7	96.4	94.5	93.5	96.2	94.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (5-6): Children (aged 10-17 years) by Labor Status and Region, 1999-2000

Labor Status	1999			2000		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
10-14 years						
Working	93.2	75.9	89.8	94.7	89.4	93.5
Not working	6.8	24.1	10.2	5.3	10.6	6.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
10-17 years						
Working	87.0	74.3	84.1	84.9	75.2	82.3
Not working	13.0	25.7	15.9	15.1	24.8	17.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

²Including foundlings, sponsoring families, orphans, children from burnt or demolished homes, three twins, physical rehabilitation



Table (5-7): Percentage Distribution of Working Children by Region and Years Spent at School, 1999-2000

Years Spent at School	1999			2000		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
0	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.2	2.0	0.6
1-6	30.9	53.3	35.4	26.1	38.2	29.0
7-9	52.3	38.2	49.5	55.9	41.8	52.5
10-12	16.1	7.1	14.3	17.8	18.0	17.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (5-8): Percentage Distribution of Children (aged 10-17 years) by being at School and Region in 1999-2000

Status	1999			2000		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
At School	29.9	12.5	26.4	33.0	20.7	30.1
Not at school	70.1	87.5	73.6	67.0	79.3	69.9
Total	100	100	100	6.5	3.8	5.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (5-9): Children (aged 10-17 years) by Labor Status and the Occupation of the Head of Household, 1999-2000

Head of Family's Profession	Labor status 1999			Labor status 2000		
	In labor force	Out of labor force	Total	In labor force	Out of labor force	Total
Legislators and top managers	5.2	94.8	100	6.0	94.0	100
Clerks and specialists	2.2	97.8	100	5.0	95.0	100
Service providers and vendors	4.1	95.9	100	5.8	94.2	100
Skilled farmers and fishermen	13.2	86.7	100	5.4	94.6	100
Handcrafters	6.2	93.8	100	6.0	94.0	100
Machine operators and gatherers	4.2	95.8	100	5.5	94.5	100
Primary professions and others	6.3	93.7	100	5.4	94.6	100
Total	5.9	94.1	100	5.6	94.4	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (5-10): Working Children (aged 10-17 years) by Commercial Activity, 1999-2000

Commercial Activity	1999			2000		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Agriculture, fishing, and hunting	20.1	64.0	24.0	27.4	71.3	30.9
Metal molding, quarrying, and manufacturing	26.9	21.5	26.4	20.1	17.9	20.0
Construction	20.3	2.1	18.7	19.6	1.1	18.1
Trade and catering	28.3	9.8	26.6	26.0	1.4	24.0
Transport, storage, and telecommunication	0.9	-	0.9	1.4	-	1.3
Services and other branches	3.5	2.6	3.4	5.5	8.3	5.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*



Table (5-11): Wages and Working Hours of Children (aged 10-17 years), 1999-2000

Region	Average daily wages in Israeli shekels 1999		Average daily wages in Israeli shekels 2000		Average weekly working hours, 1999		Average weekly working hours, 2000	
	10-14 years	15-17 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	10-14 years	15-17 years
West Bank	22.4	46.0	30.6	43.2	42.0	46.0	42.8	45.1
Gaza Strip	16.4	25.0	15.0	25.6	41.0	46.0	47.7	41.8
Israel and settlements	60.4	71.2	59.5	79.2	46.0	43.0	40.2	41.7

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (5-12): Distribution of Working Children by Region and Number of Weekly Working Hours, 1999-2000

Weekly Working Hours	1999			2000		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
1-14	8.9	3.4	7.8	4.9	4.5	4.8
15-34	21.0	11.1	19.0	23.7	16.5	22.0
35+	70.1	85.5	73.2	71.4	79.0	73.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Labor Force Database, 1999-2000.*

Table (6-1): The Number of Children Martyred Between September 29th 2000 and May 26th 2001 by Age, Type of Injury and Region

Region and age	Type of Injury					Total
	Face and head	Neck and chest	Abdomen and pelvis	Several places	Others	
West Bank						
Below 12	3	2	0	3	4	12
12-14	5	5	1	0	0	11
15-17	15	16	1	8	1	41
Total	23	23	2	11	5	64
Gaza Strip						
Below 12	2	2	0	1	1	6
12-14	14	4	1	1	0	20
15-17	12	19	2	2	0	35
Total	28	25	3	4	1	61
Palestinian Territory						
Below 12	5	4	0	4	5	18
12-14	19	9	2	1	0	31
15-17	27	35	3	10	1	76
Total	51	48	5	15	6	125

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Martyrs Database, September 29th 1999 and May 26th 2001.*

A child aged 17 was killed in areas occupied in 1948 after being shot in the neck



Table (6-2): The Number of Children Martyred between September 29th 2000 and May 26th 2001 by Month and Region

Month	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
September, 2000	2	1	3
October, 2000	17	13	30
November, 2000	22	22	44
December, 2000	9	4	13
January, 2001	2	2	4
February, 2001	2	2	4
March, 2001	5	5	10
April, 2001	3	5	8
May, 2001	2	7	9
Total	64	61	125

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Martyrs Database, September 29th 1999 and May 26th 2001.*

Table (6-3): Children Martyred by Age, Weaponry and Region until December 31st 2000

Region and Age	Weaponry				
	Live bullets	Dumdum bullets	Rubber coated metal bullets	Missiles/shrapnel	Others
West Bank					
Below 12	1	0	0	0	4
12-14	6	1	1	1	0
15-17	24	10	0	2	1
Total	31	11	1	3	5
Gaza Strip					
Below 12	1	0	0	0	0
12-14	14	1	0	1	0
15-17	21	2	1	1	0
Total	36	3	1	2	0
Palestinian Territory					
Below 12	2	0	0	0	4
12-14	20	2	1	2	0
15-17	45	12	1	3	1
Total	67	14	2	5	5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Martyrs Database, September 29th 1999- May 26th 2001.*

A child aged 17 was killed in areas occupied in 1948 after being shot in the neck

Table (6-4): Children Injured during September 29th 2000 and March 12th 2001 by Type of Injury and Region

Type of injury	Gaza strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Head and neck	603	21.7	764	30.3	1,367	25.8
Chest	214	7.7	162	6.4	376	7.1
Abdomen and pelvis	162	5.8	101	4.0	263	5.0
Arms	327	11.8	391	15.5	718	13.5
Legs	814	29.3	540	21.5	1,354	25.6
Teargas inhalation	547	19.7	270	10.7	817	15.4
Teargas injuries	102	3.7	142	5.7	244	4.6
Others	9	0.3	148	5.9	157	3.0
Total	2778	100	2,518	100	5,296	100

Source: Ministry of Health. *Press Conference on March 12th 2001.*