H.E. Ms. Awad, Highlights the Situation of the Palestinian Women on the Eve of the International Women's Day, 08/03/2019.

H.E. Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, on Thursday 07/03/2019, highlighted the situation of the Palestinian women on the eve of the International Women's Day, 08/03/2019.

Women epresent half of the Palestinian society

The population[1] in Palestine estimated 4.98 million in mid 2019, including 2.53 million males (51%) and 2.45 million females (49%), whereas the sex ratio stood at 103.5, which means that there are 103.5 males for every 100 females.

Region	Males	Females	Both Sexes
Palestine	**2,530,966**	**2,445,718**	**4,976,684**
West Bank	1,522,334	1,464,380	**2,986,714**
Gaza Strip	1,008,632	981,338	**1,989,970**

More than one-tenth of the Palestinian households are headed by women

Data of Labor Force Survey, 2018 showed that the percentage of women-headed households in Palestine was 11% (12% in the West Bank and 9% in Gaza Strip)**.**

Significant decrease in the percentage of early marriage in Palestine

There is a decline in the percentage of early marriage (for those under the age of 18) for both sexes, where it reached 20% of the females' registered marriages in 2017 (19% in the West Bank and 21% in Gaza Strip) of the total number of married females in the same year compared with 24% in 2010, while the percentage was 1% of males' registered marriages of the total number of married males in the same year, compared to 1.5% in 2010.

The highest percentage of female early marriage in the West Bank was in Hebron governorate at 38%, and the lowest was in Jericho and Al Aghwar at 1% of the total number of married women in the West Bank. In Gaza Strip, the highest percentage of early marriage for females was 42% in Gaza governorate, while the lowest percentage was in Dier Al Balah governorate at 8% of the total number of married women in Gaza Strip in 2017.

About two third of women (18 years and above) are married

According to the Labor Force Survey 2018, the percentage of married women of total number of women aged 18 years and above was 64%, 28% never married, 6% widows and 2% divorced.

Women with disabilities

According to Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017 Final Results, Disability[2] percentages in Gaza Strip were higher than those in the West Bank for both sexes; The number of Persons with Disability was 27 thousand with (2.9%) of total for males and 21 thousand with (2.3%) of total for females in Gaza Strip, compared to 24 thousand with (1.9%) of total for males and 20 thousand with (1.6%) of total females in the West Bank.

[1] Based on the revised estimates depending on the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017

2 Disability: Individuals with a lot of difficulties and who can't at all. It includes difficulties in (seeing, hearing, mobility, remembering and concentration, and communication).

Number of persons with disability by region and sex, 2017

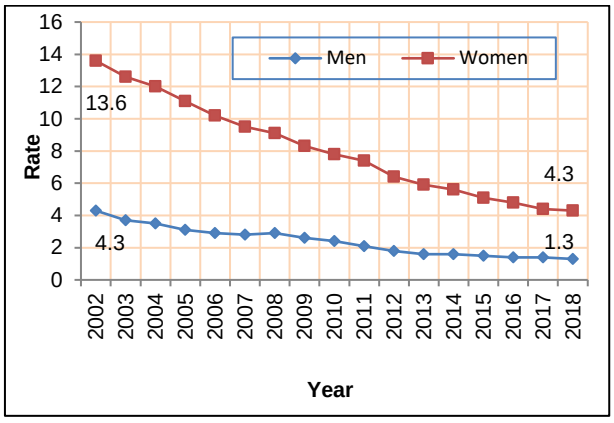
Region	Males	Females	Both Sexes
Palestine*	**51,693**	**41,017**	**92,710**
West Bank*	24,440	20,130	**44,570**
Gaza Strip	27,253	20,887	**48,140**

***:** Data excluded those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli Occupation in 1967.

Significant decrease in the rates of illiteracy among women

Despite the decline in illiteracy rate of women over the past decade, there is still a gap, where the illiteracy rate among women was 4% compared to 1% for men according to the Labor Force Survey 2018.

Illiteracy rates for men and women population aged 15 years and above, 2002-2018



Rise in enrollment rates of females in secondary stage and higher education

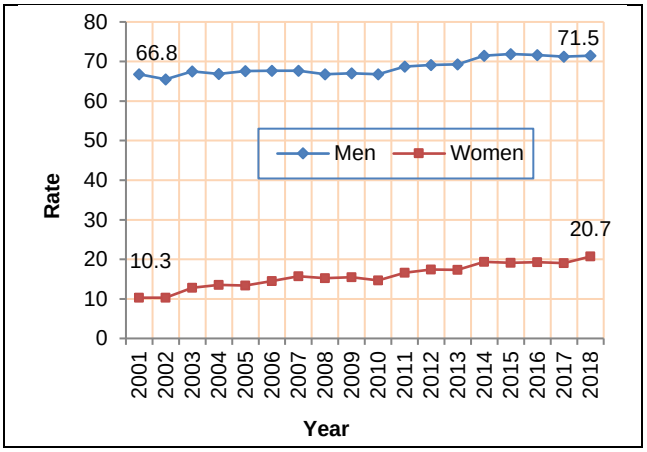
Data of Ministry of Education and Higher Education, for the scholastic year 2017/2018 showed that male enrollment in secondary stage[3] was 71%, compared to female enrollment, which was 91%. As for the percentage of female students enrolled in the Palestinian higher education institutions reached 60% of the total number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education.

A gap in the participation rate in the labour force and average daily wage between women and men

Despite the increase in participation of women in the labour force in previous years, still, it is very low compared to men, where women participation rate was 21% of the total women at work age in 2018, compared to 10% in 2001, while the men participation rate was 72% in 2018. There was also a gap in the average daily wages between men and women (the average daily wage for women was 92 NIS compared to 129 NIS for men).

[3] In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the secondary stage includes grades 10th,11th and 12th, based on the new education law issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education that considers the tenth grade in secondary stage.

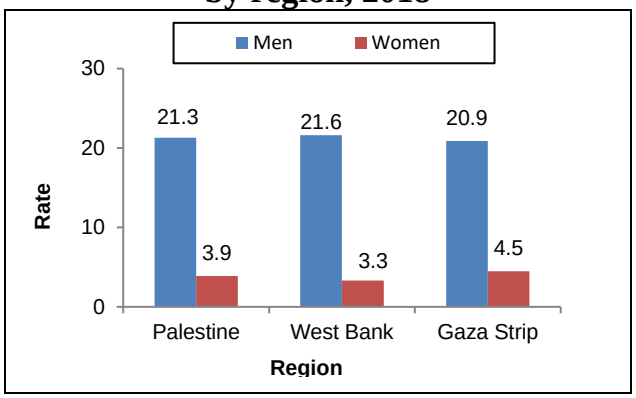
Labour force participation rate of women and men (15 years and above) in Palestine, 2001- 2018



The gap in labour force participation between women and men with disabilities is deepening

According to the Labour Force Survey 2018 data, women with disabilities participation rate in labour force in Palestine was only 4% of the total women with disabilities compared to 21% of the total number of men with disabilities.

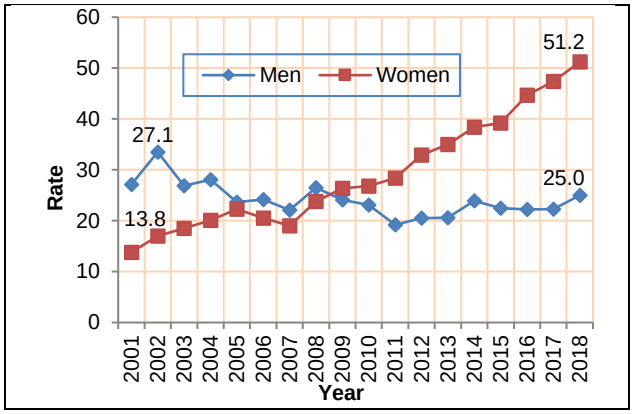
Participation rate in labour force for women and men with disabilities (15 Years and Above) by region, 2018



High unemployment rates among women; and more than half of women with 13 schooling years and above are unemployed

The unemployment rate among participated women in the labour force was 51% compared to 25% for men. Unemployment rate among women with 13 schooling years and above reached 54% of women in this group.

Unemployment rate among participated women and men in the labour force (15 years and above) 2001-2018



Households headed by women are poorer

The percentage of poverty among individuals in households headed by women in Gaza Strip was 54%, while it was 19% in the West Bank. This is based on the main results of living standards in Palestine (expenditure, consumption, and poverty), 2017.

Percentage of poverty among individuals based on monthly consumption patterns by region and sex of head of household, 2017



Palestinian women in public life

Women's participation in public life remained limited compared with men, where 82% of judges were men, compared to 18% for women, while 73% of registered lawyers were men, compared to 27% for women and 80% of prosecutors were men, compared to 20% for women. Women represented 25% of registered engineers with the Union of Engineers while men represented 75%. On the other hand, in 2017, 31% of members of students councils in the West Bank universities were females, compared to 69% for males.

In the public sector, women represented 43% of the employees in civil public sector, compared to 57% for men. In the civil public sector, women represented 12% of the general directors and higher, compared to 88% for men in the same category.