

Abstract

This study titled *The Immigration of Christian Arabs from the Palestinian Central Mountains Abroad: Ramallah & Al-Bireh – A Case Study* seeks to detect the real motives, mechanisms, patterns, trends, and phases of Christian Arabs' immigration in the period extending from the Late Ottoman Period to the post-second uprising (intifada) – 1880- 2010.

This study focuses on the Christian communities living within Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, namely Al-Bireh city, Taybeh town, Birzeit town, Abud village, Jifna village, and 'Ein 'Arik village considering that this governorate is ranked the third after Jerusalem and Bethlehem as the largest community of Christian Arabs in the West Bank.

In order to achieve the intended goals, this study is based on four research methods; the descriptive, analytical, field, and comparative methods. The study utilizes many tools for collecting required data; the most important of which are personal interviews conducted with returning emigrants and two questionnaires formulated by the researcher herself. The purpose of conducting the personal interviews was to measure the real motives of the Christian Arabs' emigration as well as the mechanisms and extent of their integration in the immigration countries. The purpose of formulating the questionnaires was to measure the outcomes of the immigration of the Christian Arabs abroad as well as the intention of the other members of the emigrants' families to immigrate and join emigrant family members.

The aforementioned tools were applied on a selective, purposive and rolling sample consisting of 145 respondents; 95 emigrants, 40 Christian families living in the region covered by the study, and 10 returning emigrant Christians.

The most important conclusions the study comes to are first that there are many motives for Christian Arabs to immigrate, the most notable of which are political and economic. Second, the study concludes that there are many patterns for immigration; the most significant are forced and mass immigration in the wake of 1948 and 1967 wars, labor immigration, and brain drain. The immigrants mostly immigrated to the United States of America, Europe, Australia, and Canada respectively. It is evident that immigration was an uncontrollable bleeding throughout the periods of study.

The researcher recommends accordingly the concerned ecclesiastical institutions, public institutions, educators, immigrating individuals, and Christian families to mitigate the risk of immigration on the Palestinian community.