

## **Abstract**

The residents of Silwan village currently face continuous pressures from the Israeli government, aiming at forcibly depopulating them from their homes, and aiming also at making daily arguments with settlers who formed settler focal points, which became transfused within the social network of the village.

Therefore, they need to find the means and methods which will assist in strengthening their steadfastness, increasing their resilience, raising their determination and making them feel protected and secured at the community level; contributing therefore to preserving them from many problems at the psychological and social level in the future.

The research has answered the following key question: “What contributes the community resilience of Silwan’s community when facing threat and real house demolition under the political status quo which includes the continuous threat and harassment of the settlers and Israeli military forces?” using the qualitative research approach by holding interviews with families and community representatives of Silwan community, as well as personal participant observation during the research period.

The research has several conclusions including the relationship between the sense of community and the role of social relationships with the existence of a strong network of community relationships. Furthermore, integrating the Arabian traditional community relationships (i.e. extended families) has been highly supported and has had a positive influence; as such community network has played a positive role in raising the capacity of local communities.

Regarding the role of the economic factor, the increase of arrests and court penalties, lawyer fees, taxes, as well as actual loss of houses including properties, in addition to unemployment due to the crisis all constitute risk factors that render community resilience a very difficult and complicated task.

Also, religion in general and the unique spiritual relationship with Jerusalem, as being considered the holy city, are considered a fundamental part of the strong community feeling and the meaning of life, and they were also reasons for citizens’ resistance, steadfastness and survival against the Israeli plans of Judaizing the city.

The role of organizations and media represents one of the topics; as some organizations has had a positive role in raising awareness among people and providing financial support in some cases. Moreover, media institutions contributed to publish Silwan’s issue, and there was some criticism about such

institutions' inability to meet their goal as well as their commitment to certain agendas.

Concerning political, national and legal awareness, there has been a sort of responsibility towards national duties, particularly after awareness has improved in the legal aspect through previous experiences, despite of several Israeli attempts to deceit people and exploits certain categories of people because of Silwan citizens' need for personal benefits.

The last topic lies in physiological stability; despite of the existence of psychological affiliation to the region, it was obvious that there was a state of insecurity and fear from the future along with the existence of continuous Israeli provocations and arrests, which included both adults and children.