

Abstract

Debate about the demographic conflict between the indigenous Palestinians and the Israeli settler colonialists represents a fertile ground for numerous researches conducted by Israeli as well as western scholars in the recent years amidst an incessant form of struggle for land and water in Palestine. A large number of studies and articles tackled different aspects of what's called the political demographic conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Nevertheless, none of those studies ever touched upon the individual orientations of the people towards their fertility and its connection with the struggle. Therefore, the present study aims at investigating the relationship between the political conflict and fertility rates at the individual level among a random sample of 147 women from Yamoun Town west of Jenin city, using the survey questionnaire method.

The results indicate that only 10% of the women themselves support the demographic struggle with the Israelis, and 24% stated that their husbands support that struggle. Also, the only association that is found between all the various dimensions of the demographic conflict and the actual and desired fertility is between the husband's support for the demographic struggle and fertility. Those women who said their husbands support the demographic struggle have more children than those who said their husbands do not support such struggle. Thus, the fertility rates(actual and desired ones) in the Yamoun town do not only have no connection with the political conflict, but also represent a stark contradiction to both the Israeli and western studies which insists on connecting the Palestinian high fertility with the political conflict (e.g., Rozenmann 1999, Safir 2001 , Hertzilia convention ,Bni Morris 2003 , Fargues 2000).

The question of demographic political conflict in Palestine needs

further and deeper studies. It is my hope that this modest study on a limited sample of people points to the need for more research on a representative sample from all Palestinians in historic Palestine in order to arrive at a more scientifically based picture of Palestinian fertility and its relation to the political conflict with Israel, which is continuously attempting to displace them.