

**Abstract**

The two-phase study aims to identify the Palestinian perceptions about the methods of subordination of woman. It depends on four case studies from four Palestinian villages. It depended on an ethnographic approach to qualitative research. It also depended on the site-validation theory. The first part was conducted without reference to specific theories where general questions were asked in regard of the perceptions of Palestinian perceptions about the methods of subordination of woman. The study sample included nine study cases, which were very close to the researcher, to verify the credibility of the data as much as possible. The methods included the dominant masculine discourse, the authority of the community, violence, and economic punishment.

According to the respondents, both masculine discourse and authority of the community derive their power from Islam that gives men additional advantages over women. However, there was a remarkable contradiction; the respondents consider this religious discrimination as a positive aspect. They are thus satisfied with it and maintain high regard in obedience to God. As for social power, customs and traditions, however, they tend to strongly reject the manners which they accepted when they talked about religion. This contradiction was the core of the second phase of the study which included six study cases. The study attempted to find an explanation for this contradiction and it was found out that it was caused by fear of exclusion from religious discourse which was very powerful in the Palestinian society. Therefore, any talk against religious tradition was inconsistent with religion and hence a person doing this would find himself in a deeper and more dangerous conflict than just a subordination of woman.