

Study Abstract:

The present study aims at exploring a number of issues in order to identifying the attitudes and knowledge of children with regard to original place of inhabitation of their displaced families and their lifestyle at that place. It also relates to the source by which they were introduced to this original place in addition to their feeling toward living in the camp and their belief of their prospect of going back to this place. It also addresses their knowledge and awareness of the UN resolution 194. Furthermore, it aims to explore the extent of the children knowledge from outside the camp of the original name of the place where their families were displaced. The purpose is to revive memories in the minds of the children and intensify their compassion towards return. It also seeks to identify the impact of a number of social and economic variables on the knowledge of the original place, interest, longing and the belief in the prospect of returning to it.

This study used the qualitative level of survey to collect data by means of face to face interviews which are divided into two sections: open and close end questions. The first section formed some background knowledge about the child and his/her family demographically and socially. On the other hand, the second section consisted of thirteen open questions measuring the children attitudes and knowledge in Bethlehem governorate camps regarding place of living of their displaced families and the prospect of returning to it. The study on nonrandom sample of fifty (male and female) children from the age group of 14 – 20 years. who live in the “Aida refugee camp, and the Bethlehem city”.

The study results show that all studied children (100%) knew the names of the villages and cities of their families they were displaced from in 1948; there are no differences at the level of knowledge regarding the name of the original place between the children who live in the camp and those who live outside. there have at 72% of the proportion of the sample examined, knowledge of the original place where the displaced families came from. 86% of know (a lot and little) about the reality of their families’ life and its past history with the displaced villages and cities. The study shows that 86% of the children are interested in returning to the original place of residence of their ancestors. However, the study showed that lesser percentages. 48% of the sample believes that there is a possibility for return to the original villages and cities compared with 34% of them who lost faith in this. 18% of the children are not sure of the possibility of return. 60% of the children heard about the UN 194 resolution. 52% of the researched sample stressed that the

right of return means return to the original place without any reference to other details.

The study results indicate that there was not an impact for the economic level regarding interest and nostalgia for return. However there was an impact of gender, place of residence regarding the knowledge of the original place and the belief in the prospect of return. It is worth mentioning that only independent variables – gender, place of residence had an impact on the knowledge of the original place and the belief in the prospect of return while the remaining independent variables did not have any statistical significance.