

Abstract:

This study deals with the present and future of services sector in the Metropolitan area of Ramallah – Al- Bireh – Beituniya, Al Am'ari and Qaddura refugee camps as well as the villages of Beitin, Surda, Rafat, 'Ein 'Arik, Kafr 'Aqab and 'Ein Qiniya.

In this study different research tools were used including GIS (ArcGis\ArcMap-9.3), remote sensing (ERDASE Imagine V 8.3), maps of different scales, air photos, statistical analysis program SPSS twelfth edition, spectrum-rapid program and field interviews.

The research problem is the failure of the existing services to meet the needs of the population. This was mainly created by the very rapid growth of the population of the study area that exceeded the growth of services and infrastructural facilities.

The main two aims of the study are first to collect and analyse the data about the different services sectors, which helps in giving a thorough knowledge of the situation of the services distribution.

The second aim is to design a plan for improving the services to meet the needs of the growing population in the coming decades.

The methodology used included the historical, descriptive and quantitative methodologies as well as all extensive field work.

The main findings of the study are:

- A great increase of the population due to natural increase as well as internal immigration to the study area.
- The population increase created great pressure on the existing services and infrastructure, which led to the decline of the services standards in many sectors.
- The long time turbulent political and security situation led to the prevention of real efficient urban development.

The main recommendations of this study are:

- In the short run: instant need to remedy the deficiencies in the services sector.
- In the long run: the need to carry out detailed studies on the different services sectors, and produce and execute comprehensive plans that meet the population needs.