

## Abstract

The Palestinian urban fabric is characterized by dispersed and scattered pattern of configuration, this situation has led to an imbalanced distribution of population, jobs, services and economics between different agglomerations, and resulted in high concentration of development in specific large urban nodes, and the deprivation of the other smaller (rural) communities from the development opportunities.

Concurrently; the concept of polycentricity has appeared as an effective tool for increasing the competitiveness of regions and integrating dispersed and fragmented agglomerations, which impedes the quality of human and natural environment for the regions. Also, it seems to be an excellent way to increase regional cohesions, especially in regions with higher numbers of small and medium sized agglomerations. The concept of polycentric regional development is becoming increasingly popular and important as well, as it has found its way into key documents within the spatial planning agenda.

This research invokes the assumption that the application of polycentricity in the Palestinian context as a development tool will effectively contribute in more sustainable and balanced development. Consequently; an innovative methodology for the detailed analysis and application of polycentricity within the Palestinian context is developed for this thesis, in order to test the potential of the Palestinian regions to work as a polycentric region, through a developed theoretical analysis identifying polycentricity and relate this analysis to criteria.

The Analysis examines different scales and levels of polycentricity with the current scales of the urban agglomerations in the West Bank; and test whether it could be applied to a specific case study area (Ramallah Governorate), and then to be generalized for the other West Bank's regions.

**Keywords:** Polycentricity, Morphological Aspect, Functional Aspect, Ramallah Governorate.