

Abstract:

This research was conducted to examine the role of Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the mental health sector. It has examined the impact of these organizations, that have received funding from donor states, in shaping Palestinian subjectivities in the colonial context of Israeli colonial occupation and oppressive practices against the Palestinian People. The changes in such organizations has occurred in the context of post-Oslo agreement. This was dominated in providing the so called “Psychological immunity” for the Palestinian individuals, suffering from the Israeli Military aggression and Israeli political violence.

In this research, the nature of the psychological health services and the use of therapeutic approaches were investigated. In addition, this thesis has explored the psychological discourse that formed such services, and its effects on the production of subjectivities of the Palestinians who have received such services.

The research’s case study was The Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC) and presented in four chapters: Chapter (I) has outlined the scope of The Research, its importance, and the theoretical framework. Chapter (II) has described the methodology and its tools employed in the data collection. Chapter (III) was devoted to data analysis and comprised in seven sections: the definition of the organization; the historical contradictions regarding the development of the organization; funding issues the organization’s working; the psychological approaches; the psychological impact of the organization; anti-colonialism; and the has resulted of colonial discourse, and its impact on the psychological health of beneficiaries. Chapter (IV) has revealed the results, recommendations and conclusions.

The researcher has utilized a qualitative methodology to study a Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization. They have worked to promote psychological/mental health wellness. A range of instruments were used in data collection, such as interviews with TRC employees (psychologists) and TRC heads of departments. The researcher had also used participant observation and content analysis of

literature published by the center to identify how certain features of Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations work in the psychological health services marginalize, and/or ignore, and/or undermine concepts and values of resistance. Via focusing on the 'treatment' and 'rehabilitation' of victims of violence, and torture, ignoraning and/or marginalizing the national liberation/resistance dimensions from the work as an inspiring motive for tortured survivors.

The research has concluded that Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations have offered psychological health services related to treatment and rehabilitation of Palestinian individuals, after being exposed to violence and torture by the Israeli occupation, have revealed and produced an image of the Palestinian individual as a passive victim of torture. This image entirely has adopted the liberal perspective of traditional psychological treatment which, in turn, has denied the psychological structure of resistance and resilience. Thus such organizations have worked (through their programs) on converting and emptying Palestinian subjectivities from the national liberation resistance, and put/set them in the mold of victim – a subjectivity/self deprived of will. This has occurred through a need to construct the elements that have met donor targets. The actual role of such non-governmental organizations therefore have involved the "marketing and commoditization" of Palestinian subjectivities to the requirements of donor states in the colonial context.

This approach of Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations, working in psychological health sector, has aimed (intentionally or unintentionally) to join the colonial market, and apply the psychological individual humanistic modality purely away from the national militant resistant context, in which they reinforced and created fake "psychological health" in its colonial face. Thus has resulted in creating and "obtrusion" new values, whereas the national, anti colonial resistant. Resilience values have not fit the reality of the collusion and cooperation of the donors with expansive colonial Zionist project. As long as these collusion powers cannot eliminate or accommodate the national militant resistance subjectivity will be necessary to invent a new way through their deliberate funding. To support Palestinian in working in psychological health centers, and

through brilliant implementation of traditional psychological curriculum, it will be mainly created to serve the ideological orientations of the colonial entity and its global system that denies the people rights to struggle for freedom, independence and emancipation.