

The Palestinian Strategic Report

2014 – 2015

Ch.7



The Palestinian Educational Indicators in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

2014 – 2015



The Palestinian Educational Indicators in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 2014–2015¹

Third: Educational Indicators in the WB and GS

Despite the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, education remains one of its concerns and it is pursued as one of the tools of steadfastness and expression of national identity in a creative and positive way. This section of the chapter casts light on the most important Palestinian educational indicators in WB and GS in 2014 and 2015.

1. The General Educational and Cultural Situation

Palestinians in the WB and GS represent one of the most educationally advanced groups in the Arab world, with an illiteracy rate of 3.6% and 3.3% and a literacy rate that reached 96.4% and 96.7% in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The latter is the second highest in the Arab world after Qatar. The educational attendance of individuals in the age group 6–11 years from both sexes reached 98.9% in 2013.²

As for tools of information and communications technology at home, 2014 figures show that 97.8% of families in the WB and GS have mobile phones, 39.8% have telephone lines, 97.1% have TV sets, 99.8% have satellite dishes, 78.2% have computers, 51% have smart phones while 48.3% have access to the internet.³

In addition, 2014 figures show that there are 2,859 mosques in the WB and GS (1,892 in the WB and 967 in GS). Moreover, according to 2015 figures there are 596 cultural centers in the WB and GS (515 in the WB and 81 in the GS), 31 museums and 12 theaters.⁴ It is important to remember here that the Palestinians are people living under occupation and suffering the destruction of their

¹ This study is the approved English translation of the Educational Indicators, which is the third section of chapter seven of *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2014–2015*, edited by Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh. It is a statistical and analytical study of various educational indicators in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2014–2015. The Arabic version of this Report was released in 2016, and the draft of this section of this chapter was written by editorial team at al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations.

² PCBS, *Palestine in Figures 2015* (Ramallah: PCBS, March 2016), <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2188.pdf>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

infrastructure and the inability to develop their capacities, except within the conditions set by the occupation authorities. Based on this context, the above figures highlight the keenness of the Palestinian people to learn and achieve including through media and cultural exchange. The figures also reveal Palestinian success in the educational battle of wills within such a destructive, frustrating environment.

2. Basic and Secondary Education

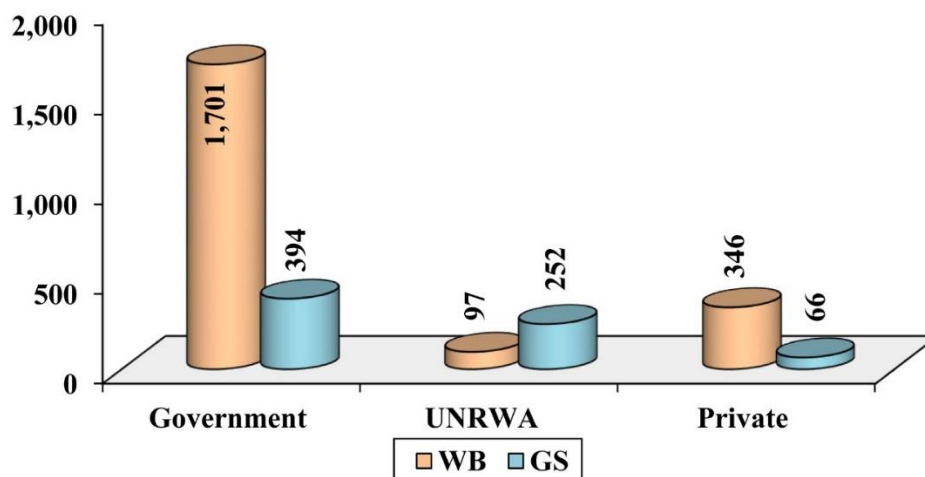
There were 2,856 Palestinian schools covering basic (elementary and intermediate) and secondary education in the academic year 2014/2015, including 2,144 schools in the WB and 712 schools in the GS, i.e., around 75.1% of schools are in the WB and 24.9% in the GS. Most government schools are in the WB, which is home to 1,701 schools comprising 81.2% of government schools compared to 394 schools in the GS comprising 18.8%. The scarcity of government schools in the GS is relatively compensated for by the presence of UNRWA-run schools that amount to 252 schools compared to 97 similar schools in the WB. Taking into consideration the fact that there are 2.899 million people in the WB, compared to 1.851 million in the GS (i.e., 61% in the WB compared to 39% in the GS), the number of schools in the WB is higher than the number of schools in GS when compared to their populations. This is probably because the population in the WB is distributed over a larger area of land and among more cities and villages, and thus requires more schools. In addition, the higher number of UNRWA schools in the GS reflects the high level of poverty suffered by most of the population in GS (see tables 1/7 and 26/7).



Table 26/7: Basic and Secondary Schools in the WB and GS by Supervising Authority 2010/2011–2014/2015⁵

Statement		Government	UNRWA	Private	Total
2010/2011	WB	1,573	98	304	1,975
	GS	399	238	40	677
	WB & GS	1,972	336	344	2,652
2011/2012	WB	1,609	99	311	2,019
	GS	396	244	48	688
	WB & GS	2,005	343	359	2,707
2012/2013	WB	1,639	99	321	2,059
	GS	399	245	50	694
	WB & GS	2,038	344	371	2,753
2013/2014	WB	1,668	97	329	2,094
	GS	395	245	50	690
	WB & GS	2,063	342	379	2,784
2014/2015	WB	1,701	97	346	2,144
	GS	394	252	66	712
	WB & GS	2,095	349	412	2,856

Basic and Secondary Schools in the WB and GS by Supervising Authority 2014/2015



⁵ For the years 2010/2011–2013/2014, see Statistics on Education – General Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, <http://www.mohe.gov.ps/ShowArticle.aspx?ID=335> (in Arabic).

As for the academic year 2014/2015, see Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015* (Ramallah: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2015),

<http://www.mohe.gov.ps/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4zS-Bss5cZQ%3d&tabid=314&portalid=0&mid=974&language=ar-JO&forcedownload=true> (in Arabic).

Students in basic and secondary schools in the academic year 2014/2015 numbered 1.172 million, including 581,095 males and 590,501 females, a 1.7% increase when compared to 2013/2014. The number of teachers in these schools amounted to 65,175 in the academic year 2014/2015 compared to 63,017 in 2013/2014. Teachers were comprised of 26,155 males and 39,020 females in the academic year 2014/2015 compared to 25,756 males and 37,261 females in 2013/2014. There were an almost equal number of male and female student sections amounting to around 15 thousand sections for each in the academic year 2014/2015, while mixed sections for the same academic year reached 8,331 (see table 27/7).

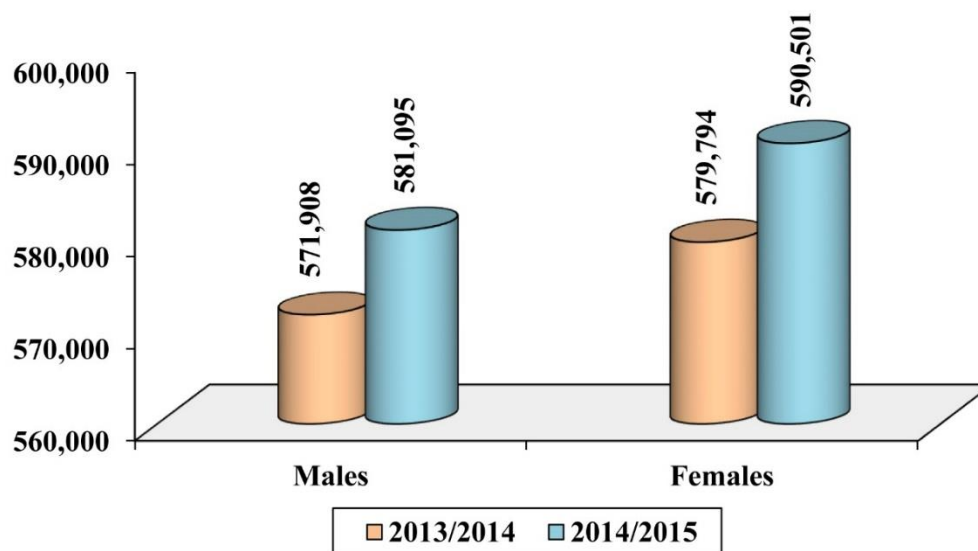
Table 27/7: Number of Schools, Students, Teachers and Sections in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015⁶

Sex	Schools		Students		Teachers*		Sections	
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015	2013/2014	2014/2015
Males	992	1,015	571,908	581,095	25,756	26,155	15,053	15,279
Females	933	945	579,794	590,501	37,261	39,020	15,355	15,535
Mixed**	859	896					7,756	8,331
Total	2,784	2,856	1,151,702	1,171,596	63,017	65,175	38,164	39,145

* Teachers: All teaching and non-teaching staff in school except employees and janitors.

** The number of students and teachers in mixed schools is added to the males and females numbers.

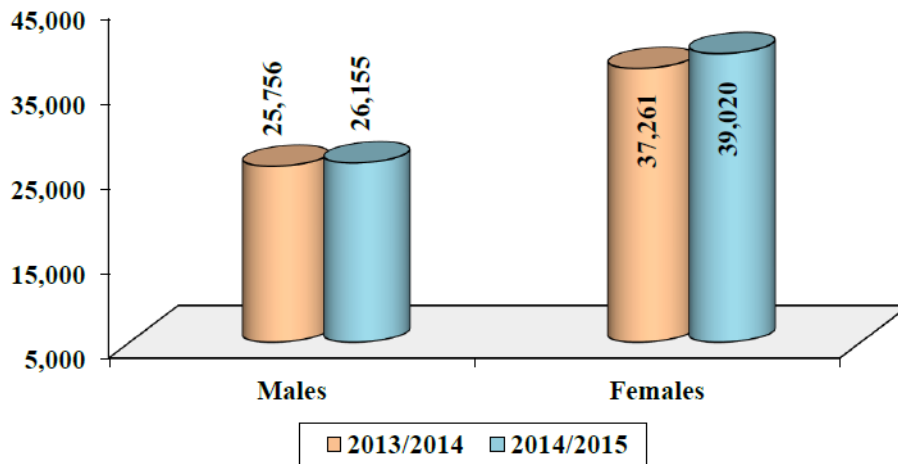
Number of Students in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015



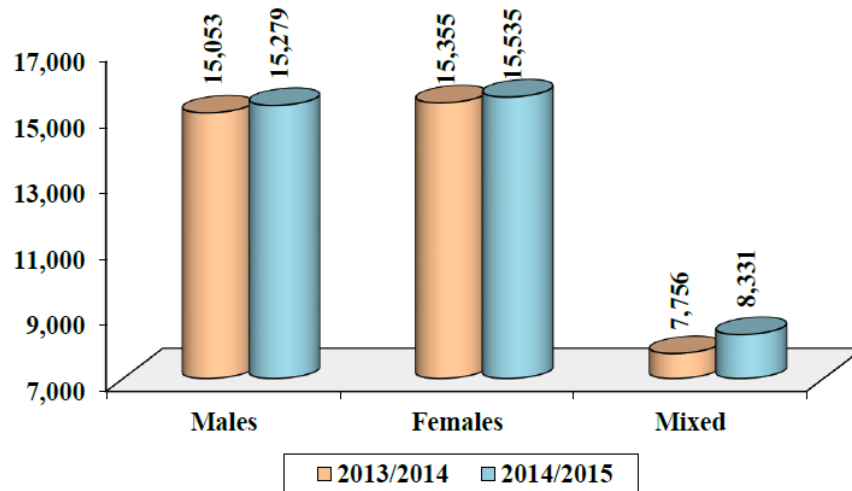
⁶ See Statistics on Education – General Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015*.



Number of Teachers in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015



Number of Sections in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015



Reports of academic year 2014/2015 show that government schools, which numbered 2,095, represented 73.4% of total schools in the WB and GS. Students in government schools, who amounted to 772,929, represented 66% of total students in the WB and GS. Government school teachers numbered 45,519, constituting 69.8% of WB and GS teachers. Sections in government schools amounted to 26,326 representing 67.3% of total sections in the WB and GS. These indicators showed that education by the government comprised more than two thirds of the educational process in basic and secondary schools. If we take into account the UNRWA-run schools, we notice that most students depended on low-costing education provided by these schools compared to limited number of students who received private education (see tables 27/7 and 28/7).

Table 28/7: Number of Schools, Students, Teachers and Sections in Government Schools in PA Territories 2010/2011–2014/2015⁷

Academic year	Schools	Students	Teachers*	Sections
2010/2011	1,972	766,234	42,339	25,223
2011/2012	2,005	761,691	42,961	25,323
2012/2013	2,038	762,499	43,814	25,679
2013/2014	2,063	764,219	44,391	25,933
2014/2015	2,095	772,929	45,519	26,326

* Teachers: All teaching and non-teaching staff in school except services employees and janitors.

3. University Education

Several Palestinian universities in the WB and GS provide traditional education to their students. An-Najah National University in Nablus is the largest among these universities and had 21,859 students in the academic year 2014/2015. It was followed by Al-Aqsa University in Gaza with 20,081 students, then the Islamic University of Gaza with 19,432 students. There were a total of 132,449 university students in the same academic year in the WB and GS, including 74,453 students in the WB and 57,996 in the GS. This meant that students in GS represent around 43.8% of total students in the WB and GS, taking into account that Gazans represent 39% of total population in the WB and GS (see tables 2/7 and 29/7).

In addition, female students outnumber their male counterparts, as they reached 78,874 in universities providing traditional education compared to 53,575 male students in the academic year 2014/2015, which meant that female students constituted 59.6% compared to 40.4% male students.

This phenomenon is no longer deemed strange in the Arab world and, while there is no room to analyze it here, it shows in some of its aspects the success of the Palestinian woman in assuming her position side by side with her male peers. It also shows that Palestinian female students have better chances to finish their university education while male students generally have to leave school and join the job market to help their families with the struggle to afford the costs of living, or even leave home to pursue higher education abroad (see table 29/7).

It should be noted here that male faculty members still outnumbered their female counterparts, with 5,269 male teachers (78.8%) compared to 1,414 females

⁷ For the years 2010/2011–2013/2014, see Statistics on Education – General Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

As for the academic year 2014/2015, see Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015*.



(21.2%) in the academic year 2014/2015. This means that it is still too early for the high percentage of female students in universities to be reflected in faculties. The number of faculty members includes all teachers in universities and colleges other than community colleges. Ultimately, quite a large number of female university graduates do not join the labor market and work instead as housewives, which explains the high percentage of males in labor market.⁸

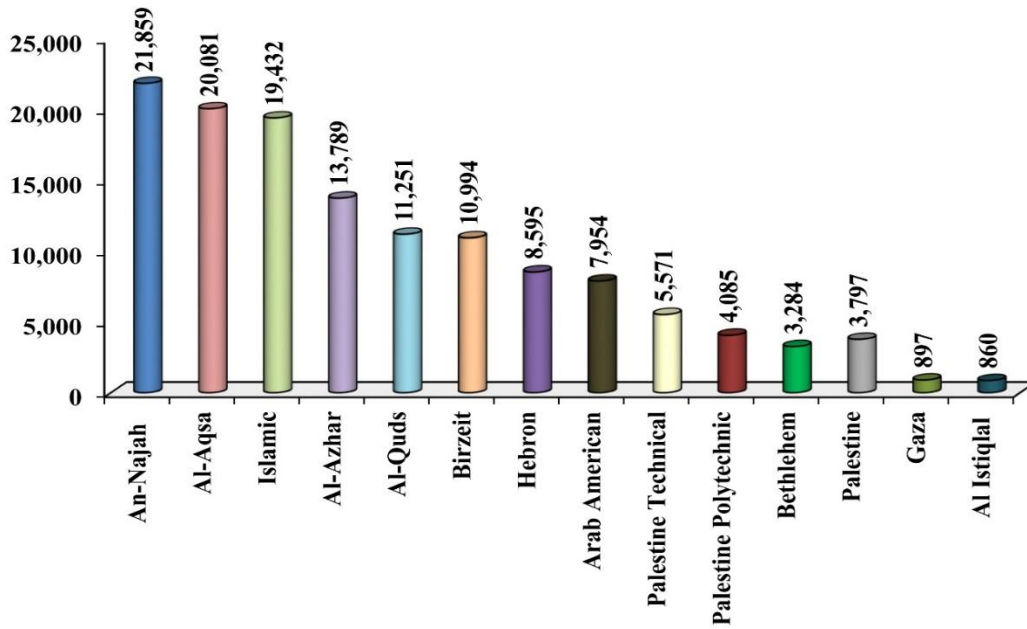
Table 29/7: Number of Students in Traditional Universities in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015⁹

University	Enrolled students 2013/2014			Enrolled students 2014/2015		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
An-Najah National	9,042	12,681	21,723	8,816	13,043	21,859
Al-Quds	5,494	6,012	11,506	5,292	5,959	11,251
Birzeit	3,147	5,835	8,982	3,902	7,092	10,994
Hebron	2,063	6,039	8,102	2,157	6,438	8,595
Arab American	3,566	3,616	7,182	3,717	4,237	7,954
Palestine Technical-Kadoorie	2,255	2,297	4,552	2,859	2,712	5,571
Palestine Polytechnic	2,194	1,802	3,996	2,237	1,848	4,085
Bethlehem	791	2,442	3,233	761	2,523	3,284
Al Istiqlal (The Palestinian Academy for Security Sciences)	644	149	793	697	163	860
Islamic-Gaza	7,632	11,641	19,273	7,644	11,788	19,432
Al-Aqsa-Gaza	5,398	13,329	18,727	5,541	14,540	20,081
Al-Azhar-Gaza	6,825	7,628	14,453	6,326	7,463	13,789
Palestine-Gaza	2,562	585	3,147	3,080	717	3,797
Gaza	340	284	624	546	351	897
Total	51,953	74,340	126,293	53,575	78,874	132,449

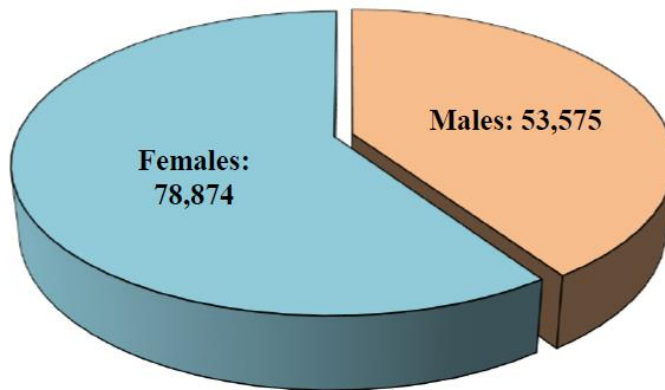
⁸ See Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015* (Ramallah: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, April 2015), <http://www.mohe.pna.ps/services/statistics>

⁹ See *Ibid.*; and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2013/2014* (Ramallah: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, June 2014).

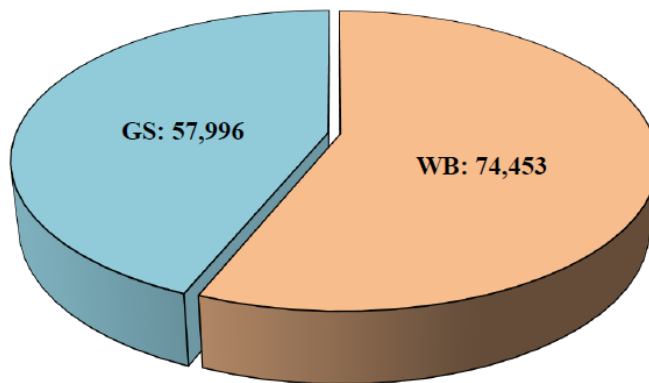
Number of Students in Traditional Universities in PA Territories 2014/2015



Number of Students in Traditional Universities in PA Territories by Sex 2014/2015



Number of Students in Traditional Universities in the WB and GS 2014/2015



Al-Quds Open University provided open education for 60,230 students in the academic year 2014/2015 including 20,262 males and 39,968 females. This university has 17 centers in the WB and 5 in the GS.¹⁰

Table 30/7: Number of Students Seeking Open Education in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015¹¹

University	Enrolled students 2013/2014			Enrolled students 2014/2015		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Al-Quds Open University	20,747	40,184	60,931	20,262	39,968	60,230

4. University and Community Colleges

There are 37 university and community colleges in the WB and GS (19 college universities and 18 community colleges). According to figures available from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, there were 35 university and community colleges providing education for 28,716 students in the academic year 2014/2015, including 17 college universities attended by 16,446 students, which award bachelor's degrees, and 18 community colleges attended by 12,270 students, which award intermediate diplomas.¹²

Table 31/7: Number of Students in University and Community Colleges in PA Territories by Sex 2013/2014–2014/2015¹³

Colleges	2013/2014				2014/2015			
	Number of Colleges	Males	Females	Total	Number of Colleges	Males	Females	Total
University	17	7,723	8,481	16,204	17	7,783	8,663	16,446
Community	17	5,691	5,432	11,123	18	6,413	5,857	12,270
Total	34	13,414	13,913	27,327	35	14,196	14,520	28,716

¹⁰ See Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015*.

¹¹ See *Ibid.*; and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2013/2014*.

¹² See Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2014/2015*.

¹³ See *Ibid.*; and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Statistical Yearbook 2013/2014*.

Conclusion

The general track of the Palestinian population has remained consistent over the past few years. Palestinians are distributed almost equally between historic Palestine and the Diaspora. Despite the fact that the natural growth rate of the Palestinian population remains high when compared to other populations, and the fact that the Palestinian community is considered to be young, there has been a gradual decrease in the natural growth rate in the past few years.

The analytical reading of the Palestinian economy in WB and GS does not reflect the true potential of the Palestinian people. Israel, which imposes a suffocating siege on GS and prevents its natural growth, waged a brutal war on GS in the summer of 2014, destroying its infrastructure and thousands of homes and means of production. At the same time, Israel continues its occupation of the WB and strangles its economy through the control of its borders, Judaization, settlement expansion, and through the checkpoints and Separation Wall. By these means, Israel has managed to make the Palestinian economy dependent on foreign grants and taxes collected by Israel. Moreover, most Palestinian trade is exchanged with Israel.

The educational arena reflects Palestinian steadfastness and fortitude, where education is a tool to face challenges, and a means to leverage liberation and independence. Consequently, the Palestinian people is considered one of the most educated Arab peoples and one of the most scientifically advanced.



التقرير الاستراتيجي الفلسطيني

2015-2014

الفصل السابع

المؤشرات التعليمية الفلسطينية

في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة

2015-2014

