

# HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN WEST BANK EDUCATION

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## **Abstract**

This article summarizes the status of education in the Palestinian territories during five historical stages: The Ottoman period, The British mandate, Education after the 1948 war, Education in the era of Israel and education under the Palestinian National Authority.

**Keywords:** education in Palestine, ottoman period, British mandate, Israeli period, Palestinian authority.

## **Introduction**

Education plays a fundamental and crucial role in fostering social and political change. Emancipatory approaches to education are a means to mobilise disenfranchised members and groups of society towards democratic engagement. Central to this view is that teaching and learning should enable critical thinking and facilitate meaningful knowledge building to indigenous populations (Giroux, 2011; McLaren, 1995). By raising awareness of the root causes of social marginalisation, economic inequalities and political exclusion, oppressed people are set free from fatalistic, irrational and deterministic mind sets and collectively

empowered to improve their living conditions. This is done through praxis, the ‘reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it’ (Freire, 1970, p. 51). Pedagogical tools include dialogue, reflection, collaboration and action; these serve to enhance individual and collective agency, and communal ties in preparation for strategic collective action. This contrasts with traditional education models that emphasise self-improvement through academic qualifications that promote individual opportunities and rely on transmission modes of teaching (Apple, 1979).

This article summarizes the historical stages experienced by the education in Palestine since the Ottoman period and even the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority through the description of the educational system for each stage in addition to some statistics.

#### **Under Ottoman rule**

It has been known that Palestine has never been an independent country that manages its affairs like the rest of the world. Like other Arab countries, it has been subject to Ottoman rule for almost four centuries. The education policy adopted by the Ottoman government, which was characterized by discouragement and lack of The class of the rich who are able to educate their children because of the high cost of education. In recent years, statistics on education in Palestine indicate that the largest burden of education was on Arab and Muslim citizens and societies. The following table shows the number of schools, students, and the number of teachers and students in the late Ottoman period.

Table (1)

**Number of schools, teachers and students year 1914/1915**

	Number of schools	Number of teachers	Number of students
<b>Government schools</b>	98	234	8248
<b>Private Schools</b>	37	471	8531
<b>Total</b>	135	705	16779

(Al-Qade 1994, p. 23)

It is clear from this table that the total number of public and private schools in Palestine was 135, and that the number of teachers was about 700, while the male and female students numbered only 17,000. Education is more than 250 thousand, or by 6.8% These figures confirm the following:

That the Ottoman rule did not pay attention to education as if it was fighting it and even prevent it through the educational regulations and laws enacted in this way in the Arab States. While in Turkey it was different

1 - Education was based on reading and writing and memorizing the Koran, by teachers in the library and of course there was no interest in modern science.

2. The few numbers of schools and students are representative of political, social and economic realities. The last years of Ottoman rule and the Ottoman Empire's entry into the world war depleted all resources in the Arab states. Priorities.

3. Since education in the Ottoman era was very limited, the illiteracy rate was expected to rise to more than 98%, so ignorance was evident and literacy was rare.

### **Education under British Mandate**

After the end of World War I in 1918 became Palestine under the British Mandate, which lasted until 1948, and this period saw serious political developments that formed the future of Palestine and the Palestinians.

However, the Palestinians did not relinquish British rule. Many revolutions took place, most notably the 1923 revolution and the 1936 revolution.

Britain worked to deprive the Palestinian people of education,  
Table 2.

### **Number of schools and students from 1940 - 1947**

Year	Number of Government schools	Number of students
1940 – 1941	403	54645
1941 – 1942	404	56558
1942 – 1943	403	58325
1943-1944	422	63141
1944-1945	478	71662
1945-1946	514	81043
1946-1947	535	93550

(Al-Amear 1996, p. 45)

In view of the previous table,

1. The number of schools and the number of students in Palestine until the end of the British mandate is very modest, reaching 535 schools only 93550

students, which is a small proportion of the number of students who were entitled to education and the population.

2. The increase in the number of students during the seven years was 38905 students at the rate of 5558 students per year, while the rate of increase during the first three years of 1940-1943 was 1227 students per year, which indicates the educational policy pursued by the Mandate government in the education of Palestinians. He was a minor of a certain category of the able and the able.

3. The number of schools in the first three years of the table did not increase from 1940 to 1943. The number of schools remained at 403 throughout this period. The other four years were 535 schools with 32 schools, 8 schools each year at the level of Palestine all of which. In light of the Palestinians' sense of ignorance and illiteracy, the institutions and NGOs sought to fill the gaps in the policy of the Mandate government and established Arab private schools in order to provide educational opportunities for the people and to instill patriotism among the pupils. Arab Civilization at the end of the mandate period (1944-1945). There are 317 schools in which 36,673 students study and 1,900 teachers work (Al-Qadi, 1994). The efforts of dedicated Palestinian educators, who are keen to teach reading, writing and arithmetic in the schools and mosques, To the people under the harsh circumstances that were going through it, considering that education is a right and a necessity for every Palestinian.

#### **Education in Palestine after the 1948 War:**

The Arab-Jewish war broke out in 1948 and led to the establishment of the State of Israel. In 1950, the Jericho Conference was held, in which the West Bank became part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jordanians are subject to the Jordanian laws and regulations, including the education system, while Egypt took

over the management of the Gaza Strip. Thus, education in the sector is subject to the Egyptian educational system.

**Education in the West Bank:**

The Jordanian government undertook the task of educating Palestinians in the West Bank in very difficult circumstances. It inherited from the British Mandate a weak educational structure and made efforts to provide educational opportunities for all. Education flourished from 1950 to 1967, So that this period constituted a turning point in Palestinian education.

Table ( 3 )

**Number of schools, students and teachers from 1950 - 1967**

Year	Number of schools	Number of students	Number of teachers
1949-1950	240	41825	1163
1966-1976	697	138891	4229

( Al-Qade 1994)

It is clear from this table that the number of schools and the number of students and teachers at the beginning of Jordanian supervision of education was very little, and the number of schools tripled, while the number of students increased (97066) with an annual increase rate of 6067. This is a good indicator for the annual increase in population While the number of teachers doubled four times. These indicators are consistent with the Jordanian Education Law of 1964 Which emphasized compulsory education until the end of the preparatory stage while compulsory for the first six years.

Education in the West Bank was not limited to general education at the elementary, preparatory and secondary levels. Education was similarly prosperous in university education, where high school graduates attended Jordanian

universities. And Arab universities in neighboring countries and some foreign countries, and contributed to this development in the creation of numerical employment opportunities in the Arab countries, especially the Gulf countries, which led to a similar prosperity in economic terms.

#### **Education in the Gaza Strip:**

With the end of the British mandate and the 1948 war, the situation in the Gaza Strip was bleak. In 1948, the number of students in the city of Gaza was 4026, with 24,800 residents in that year, with only 16.23%. The number of teachers was 74 teachers, In Gaza, one secondary school, the first three of whom choose to join the Arab College in Jerusalem to study the second and third secondary grades (Algede 1994, p. 35). After the end of the 1948 war, the Egyptian government took over the supervision of education in the Gaza Strip. It made great efforts to help the Palestinians in education. It established schools and encouraged education, particularly in university education, where Palestinian students treated the Egyptian students in the policy of admission and free education, But in university education and even postgraduate studies, and because of these encouraging conditions, the university education of the Palestinians has witnessed an unprecedented turnout which has led students in the general education stages, Secondary school to compete, and the social groups in the Gaza Strip were keen to enroll their children in Egyptian universities. While the number of secondary school students in the Gaza Strip, which has a population of 700,000 in 1948, is 56, Multiply many times

#### **During the Israeli period**

In 1967, Education in West Bank and Gaza Strip continued in the Jordanian curriculum in the West Bank and the Egyptian curriculum in the Gaza Strip until the end of 1994.

**The reality of Palestinian education under the Palestinian National Authority:**

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was established in 1993 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Its first action was to take responsibility for education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Ministry of Education received a destructive educational structure. To build new classrooms, to recruit the necessary teaching staff, to recruit teachers, to develop curricula, open new directorates, and to take care of educational and other techniques. The most important achievements of the Ministry are the establishment of a new system for the examination of secondary schools and the issuance of Palestinian secondary schools, and to take care of them and encourage them to honor the early ones. Therefore, educational life in Palestine has returned to better than it was, and the Ministry of Education workers are proud to have made education in the West Bank and The Gaza Strip is a Palestinian for the first time in the history of the Palestinian people.

In order to shed light on the reality of Palestinian education under the Palestinian National Authority, the following tables show the distribution of schools, students, teachers and managers according to 1997 statistics (Central Bureau of Statistics, 1997)

**Distribution of Schools by Supervising Authority and Sex**

Type of Supervisory Authority	male	female	mixed	Total
Govern ment	399	404	310	1113
UNR	103	85	73	261

WA				
Private	22	19	117	158
Kindergarten	4	11	690	705
Total	528	519	1190	2237

**Distribution of students by supervising authority and gender**

Type of Supervisory Authority	Male	Female	Total
Government	246394	235284	481678
UNRWA	92997	94521	187581
Private	24645	18979	43624
Kindergarten	36164	32970	69134
Total	400200	381754	781954

**Distribution of teachers by supervising authority and sex**

Type of Supervisory Authority	Male	Female	Total
Government	9204	7294	16498
UNRWA	2605	2340	4945

Private	858	1552	2410
Kindergarten	5	2372	2377
Total	1267	1355	26230
	2	8	

**Distribution of school principals by supervising authority and gender**

Type of Supervisory Authority	Male	Female	Total
Government	586	447	1033
UNRWA	108	146	254
Private	92	73	165
Kindergarten	17	561	578
Total	803	1227	2030

**Number of schools in West Bank and Gaza 2016**

Type of Supervisory Authority	Number of schools
Government	2135
UNRWA	353
Private	426
Total	2914

**Number of students and teachers in West Bank 2016**

Number of students	69316
	5
Number of teachers	43090

### Number of schools in West Bank and Gaza 2018/2019

Type of Supervisory Authority	Number of schools
Government	2212
UNRWA	377
Private	451
Total	3040

### Number of students and teachers in West Bank 2018/2019

Number of students	Nearly 750000
Number of teachers and administrators	68000

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