

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Press Release on
Conditions of the Graduates of
High Education and Vocational Training Survey
(December 2005-January, 2006)

Estimated number of diploma and above graduates of vocational education and training certificate was 300,000.
79.6% of Palestinian graduates graduated from Local Education Institutions.
The highest registered unemployment rate was among graduates of training/vocational education (34.8%).

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has conducted a survey about conditions of the graduates of high education and vocational training in the Palestinian Territory during the period 14/12/2005 and 19/1/2006. The survey covered a sample of 10,750 households were interviewed of which 3,668 households were interviewed and has at least one graduate of high education and vocational training, the total graduates number among the surveyed was 5,226 person . The main findings of the survey was as follows:

Educational Attendance

- The estimated number of persons aged 15 years and above currently attending education was 473 thousand person representing 22.8% of the total persons aged 15 years and above; of which 292 thousand in the West Bank 181 thousand in Gaza Strip; while females constitute 48.7% of total persons attending education.
- The results showed that the number of graduates persons 15 years and above holder of training certificate/vocational education were about 300 thousands at the end 2005, representing 14.5% of the total population aged 15 years and above.

Educational Qualification and Labour market

- The results showed that the highest labour force participation rate was among graduates persons aged 15 years and above in the Palestinian Territory was registered for persons their educational qualification bachelor degree and above at 89.2%; 88.2% in the West Bank and 90.7% in Gaza Strip.
- The results showed that the highest unemployment rate was among graduates persons holding vocational education and training certificate at 34.8%; 30.9% in the West Bank and 41.2% in Gaza Strip, while the lowest percentage of unemployment rate registered for persons holding bachelor degree and above at (22.1%), 18.1% in the West Bank 27.9% in the Gaza Strip.
- The results showed that the majority of graduates persons 15 years and above and their educational qualification was diploma and above worked as wage employee; 81.8% for persons holder of diploma certificate against 88.6% among persons holder of bachelor and above.

Graduates During the period 1987-2005

- The results showed 24.9% of Graduates received scholarship; 22.8% were in West Bank and 28.2% from Gaza strip. 25.1% of scholarships was offered to females and 24.7% for males. Also the results showed that 41.1% of scholarships were granted from universities or colleges; 39.6% in the West Bank 43.1% in Gaza Strip, followed by government corporate 14.8% of total scholarship ; 13.7% in the West Bank 16.2% in Gaza Strip.
- The results showed that 51.1% of graduates during 1987-2005 sought work directly after graduation; 51.5% of males and 50.6% of females, while 31.3% of graduates got a job directly after graduates; 35.3% were males and 26.5% were females. 10.6% indicated that they didn't work and didn't seek work; 2.6% were males 20.3% were females.
- the results showed that the average number of months seeking work for the graduates holders of vocational education training certificate and diploma was about 27 months compared with 16 months for bachelor degree holders and above. The main reason for being delayed in obtaining job opportunity as stated by graduates was the lack of demand on their specialty (82.4%) followed by the lack of capital to start personal project at (63.2%), then their limited personal relations at (51.8%).
- The results showed that 59.8% of graduates who got a job as wage employees the main enabling factor for that was their personal relations ,while 53.8% refer that to passing competence during the interview.
- The results indicated that 43.5% of graduates during 1987-2005 and worked as wage employees attended vocational training courses during work.

Work Advantages for graduates during 1987-2005:

- The results showed that 32.3% of wage employees graduates get increment in wages regularly against 45.3% get irregular increment, while 22.4% didn't get any increment.
- The results showed that 75.4% of graduates received paid vacations and 72.0% have health insurance , 69.6% of graduates have break time and 66.4%get pension while 48.7% declared that they got subsidized transportation /car.
- The results showed that weekly work hours decreases as the level of education increases, the average weekly working hours for graduates was 40.3 hour (39.3 hour for bachelor and above and 41.2 hour for associated diploma graduates against 43.4 weekly work hour for educational and vocational training graduates).

Characteristics of graduates first job 1987-2005:

- The results showed that 39.1% of graduates during 1987-2005 their first job was employed as wage employee in private sector against 34.8% at the public sector.
- Distribution of graduates by economic activity, the results showed that 35.9% of graduates were employed at governmental sector (national/foreign); 31.5% in the West Bank and 43.2% in Gaza Strip, while 32.9% were employed at Services and other branches; 33.9% in the West Bank 31.3% in Gaza Strip.

Education or vocational training graduates:

- The estimated number of persons aged (15-65) years who hold training certificate or vocational education were about 47 thousand person ; 31 thousand in the West Bank and 16 thousand in Gaza Strip.

- 40.2% from Educational or vocational training graduates stated that the reason for attending this kind of education was not having desire and ability in academic education.

Unions and employment office:

- 57.3% of unemployed graduates who registered at labour office (administered by Ministry of Labour) are still waiting for work against 12.9% of those registered and got a job, 29.8% didn't register at labour office, the main reason for not registering at 31.6% was due to not knowing about availability of labour offices, the second reason was that provided job opportunities were not suitable at (26.4%).
- 31.2% of graduates during 1987-2005 were affiliated to labour Unions or associations or clubs; 37.6% for males and 23.4% for females. The percentage of affiliation reached in both West Bank and Gaza Strip 25.4% and 40.6% respectively.