

Three observations on the changes in the occupational structure in Bodros are relevant here: (1) Migration of younger sons for the purpose of receiving higher education abroad has become a major form of investment by the parents, (2) the two highest branches of external employment were the armed forces (30% of total) and unskilled workers (25%), (3) the village did not seem to support one single family from full time involvement in the family farm (Yacoub, 1967:31-32).

Of equal importance to the loss of land in triggering emigration has been the loss of agricultural markets and employment opportunities in the coastal regions (Lutfiyyeh, 1966:124). But beyond these above observations it seems difficult to generalize on the causes and impact of emigration for the West Bank as a whole without considering inter-regional differences. Here it is important to consider the general wealth of the community (and the ability of its migrant members to sustain extended searches for work abroad; its connections abroad (the ability to receive emigrants and accommodate their needs during periods of search); the local viability of agriculture (thus we note lower rates of migration in the Nablus district with its richer agriculture, than in Ramallah and Hebron districts); and even the religion of the village (Christians, possibly due to their earlier exposure to secular education by missionary school, have had higher rates of migration). Equally important to regional differentiation are various responses to migration patterns within village households.

Migration and Household Status

Lutfiyyeh's claim that the earliest migrations took place among the poorest households and the landless (1965:122) is not supported by the evidence. It is more likely that lower status households with some