

Although Table 9:9 is unsatisfactory as an indicator of class polarity in that, aside from the unreliability of income data gathered in village surveys, it does not incorporate "hidden income" (i.e., land rent, remittances, etc.), we use it here, nevertheless, to illustrate the significant disparities that exist, at least in self-estimation of material wealth, between households.

Natufa differs in this respect from Ras el-Tin and neighbouring poorer villages in that the category of peasant-worker has been a minor phenomenon, and employment in Israel, by wage workers, has been secondary. Among heads of households, currently employed, the majority (49 percent) work inside Natufa, while 37 percent work in other areas of the West Bank, and only 10 percent in Israel (NHS, 1974:13). But as in Ras el-Tin, both cultivation and landholding have constituted a limited, and probably declining, source of this class mobility. What is peculiar to Natufa, so far, is the selective impact of emigration and the transformation of occupational structure brought about by educational attainment.

So far, emigration has had the expected consequence of creating limited polarization between those residents with richer relatives abroad sending money back, and those who do not have emigrant kin. But with the tendency of migrants, since 1967, to move out of the village with their nuclear households entirely, the significance of remittances as a decisive factor in indigenous mobility has declined. Unfortunately, we cannot verify this position empirically since responses to questions concerning changing sources of family income, even indirect ones in this case, tend to be highly unreliable. Furthermore, there is the category of returning emigrants, especially those who chose to retire in Natufa, about which we know very little.