

Although emigration has not ceased to be a decisive factor in social structural transformation, it did stabilize into a new threshold. Fewer families send their male sons alone to emigrate. Resident relatives have become more distant kin and, therefore, less likely to receive substantial aid from the emigrants. The vagaries of the occupation have made it more difficult for those who accumulated capital to invest in businesses whose future, under Israeli rule, is uncertain. In two areas, however, emigration and indigenous investment in Natufa continue to strengthen each other: residential construction, and the higher education of children. There is no doubt that higher education in Natufa, including female education, has been responsible for the dramatic enhancement of the upward mobility of whole families. Our data indicate that the village has surpassed both urban and rural averages for the West in those standards, with literacy levels including 82 percent of all male breadwinners (NHS, 1974:11).

A crucial indicator of intergenerational mobility is the differences in educational attainment between heads of households and their eldest children. Although illiteracy declined by a small measure only (from 18 to 15 percent) we find that 62 percent of the eldest children have finished at least nine years of schooling (as opposed to 37.6 percent for their fathers); 44 percent finished 12 years of schooling (compared to 26 percent); and -- most significantly -- 12 percent hold university degrees, compared to 2.3 percent in the father's generation (NHS, 1974:11;29).⁵ It is in this latter category, which marks a five-fold increase in one generation, that is responsible for the significant increase in professional and semi-professional occupational categories in the village, subsumed in Table 9:8 under salaried employment. Paradoxically, it is this category which continues to carry the highest inducement for individual migration since