

cent (over 50 per cent of men). Among the countries included in the international comparison of participation rates prepared by Kuznetz there is only one (Puerto Rico) where the rate was less than 30 per cent. Even if unpaid family members are excluded, the labor force proportion is still generally higher than among Israeli Arabs.

The main reason for the low ratio among the Israeli Arabs is the age structure.... The Arab population in Israel today is one of the youngest in the world, especially in comparison with the old countries of Europe (illustrated by Denmark in the table). Israeli Arabs are younger than Israeli Jews today, and they are also younger than the Arabs of Palestine were in 1931. A relatively large part of the Arab population is outside the working ages; and a large proportion of the over-14 population is in the younger working-age groups, with a low rate of participation."

Comparing the labor force participation of Arabs, Asian-African immigrants, and the rest of the Israeli Jews, Ben Porath identifies the following features:

"...(a) the participation rate of all men is roughly the same in the three population groups; (b) at age 14-34, the rate is higher for Arab than for Jewish men; (c) at 35 and over, the rates are higher for Jews than for Arabs, the difference increasing with age; (d) the participation rate of Arab women is lower than that of Jewish women. In most of these comparisons the group of Jews from Asia-Africa stands midway between all Jews and Arabs."

He also interprets these differential participation rates: As far as men are concerned, the participation rate of youths (aged 14-17) is not exceptionally high in comparison with other countries, but it is much higher than among Jews. It complements the low percentage of students of this age among the Arab population (23 percent for boys and 11 percent for girls in 1961, as compared with 58 percent for both sexes among the Jewish population.  
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tion.

In the 18-34 age group the difference in school still exists, and in addition, the Jews serve in the army, while Arabs do not, and this also con-