

Economic empowerment of Palestinian women working in cooperative societies

(The Union of Cooperative Societies for Saving and Credit in the West Bank as a Case Study)

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Abstract

The study aimed to identify and reveal the reality of the economic empowerment of working women in Palestine in all governorates of the West Bank and clarifying the role played by The Union of Cooperative Societies for Saving and Credit in the West Bank (UCASC) in the economic empowerment of Palestinian women. It also aimed to identify the impact of legislation and laws prevailing in the economic empowerment of women, the response of national policies and strategies to the requirements of women's economic empowerment and to exit in the light of the achieved results by recommendations for the relevant authorities in order to enhance the role of (UCASC) in women's economic empowerment. The researcher used the quantitative approach in which the descriptive method was used in the study. The study population was determined by all the members of the UCASC in the West Bank governorates (4319), according to the data of (UCASC) 2018. The sample of the study consisted of (563) affiliated with the Union, representing 13% of the society of the study distributed among all the branches of the Union (11) branches covering all the governorates of the West Bank, of which 500 (11.5%) responded. The study found a number of important results: The existence of a very effective role to strengthen capacities as a form of economic empowerment for women working in the Union of Cooperative Societies for Saving and Credit, and an effective role for lending and saving as forms of economic empowerment for women working in the Cooperative Union for Saving and Credit, The existence of a moderately effective role for official policies and strategies for the economic empowerment of working women. The study also found a moderately effective role for the Union of Cooperative Societies for Saving and Credit in the economic empowerment of working women, and also a weak role of appropriate legislation and laws in force and economic empowerment of women.