

mosque (Fig. II.7) the Princess Zuhra mosque, carries the name of its Kuwaiti donor, reflecting the externally-oriented relations that the villagers of Deir Ghassaneh have with the world today. The old village mosque has been used as a kindergarten for the last four years.

As the old centre of the village lost its functional role and meaning, a new village centre has appeared to replace the old one (Fig. II.8). This new male gathering point is located next to the village main "commercial centre". The village main shop, two billiard saloons, a chicken shop, and a coffee-shop form the boundary of the new centre. In contrast with the well-contained introverted old village centre, the new centre is located along the main road, which connects the village to the world outside.



Fig. II.8: The new village centre located along the main road

With the decline of the old village centre, the whole "traditional" nucleus of the village has also gradually lost its importance. As figure II.9 illustrates, most of the village old quarters, particularly the Barghouthi quarter, are extensively run down and physically dilapidated. Today, most parts of the old village are deserted in favour of the newer sections along the main roads (fig. II.10). Data gathered from the field show that the old part of the village houses older age groups and the poorer section of the village population. Today the old core is associated with tradition and poverty while the new sections are associated with modernity and wealth.