

the wives and children of migrant household members to work on the family farm or in related family enterprises. It should be noted that the term "head of household" no longer applies exclusively to the patriarch, or even to the male head, since extended absences by husbands, brothers and fathers frequently leave women in command of household affairs.⁴

We leave aside here the impact of women seeking work outside the village (and the family farm) on the structure of the rural household, since the aggregate number of rural women involved in wage labour is too small to warrant generalization (less than 5% of the total - Israel Ministry of Labour, 1980:26, Table 12), while where there is an increase in female employment it seems to occur in the vicinity of refugee camps - that is, in areas of least access to family farms.

Rural Labour and Work in Israel

Arab workers from the occupied territories working in Israel are still, after almost 15 years of occupation, in their overwhelming majority unskilled (performing menial labour in construction, industry and the services, unorganized, and are therefore, unstable in their work tenure. Furthermore, considerable wage disparities continue to exist between Arab and Jewish workers within the same sectors amounting to 40% on the average (Farjoun, 1978:21).

Recent surveys of the Arab labour force in Israel show an uneven distribution of the work force by sector as well as by region. Over 40% of the labour force continues to work in construction, as against 25% in industry and 15% in services. There is an increasing tendency for young West Bank workers to take their first employment in Israel (55% of all workers in 1978). In the last few years there has been also a tendency of workers to stay longer in their jobs compared with the first decade of