

patriarchal oppression, imprisoned in household servitude and subsistence or semi-subsistence production, are now set free; "free" to sell their labor power to the Israeli-Jewish capitalist and even to be smuggled in as seasonal cash-croppers on Jewish agricultural plantations and as modern wage workers in Israeli textile and food-processing factories.

These women who have been historically subjugated to the traditional extended-family norms such as el-Sharaf and el-Ard (the honor of the family) are now, in response to economic necessity, being released. Women from the Arab villages in pre-1967 Israel have promoted accumulation of Jewish capital in Israel indirectly, through their traditional role in terms of reproduction of male labor power already directly engaged in Israeli capitalist production. This is particularly true of females in rural working class families, simply because of capital relation to domestic labor.¹³⁵ This point is nicely elaborated by Carmen Deere. In her words:

"Rural women's subsistence production in the capitalist periphery allows semi-proletarian male workers to sell their labor power to capitalist units of production for less than the subsistence familial wage. Thus women's contribution towards the maintenance and reproduction of labor power within the rural labor reserve permits the non-capitalist mode of production [the pre-capitalist social formation] to absorb the costs of production and reproduction of labor power. The division of labor by sex, based on the articulation between modes of production, serves to lower the value of labor power for capital, enhancing the relative rate of surplus value for peripheral capital accumulation." 136

Nowadays, Palestinian-Arab women, in addition, not instead, are engaged also directly in Israeli capitalist production. According to Emile Touma, more than 14,000 of the Israeli-Arab women are now modern wage workers.¹³⁷

In the period between 1967-1972, 7,000 Arab women entered industrial work.¹³⁸ A typical example of female recruitment is the large Gibour nylon