

ABSTRACT

Population and Environment in the Jordanian Badia:

Movement and Settlement Interaction

Abdel Aziz Ali Daifallah Al Khazali

This is a study of the factors affecting the social structure in the Badiya (desert) region in Jordan, such as ecological, economic, and political factors. The study shed light on the units of the social structure in that region, as well as the mutual influences between the inhabitants and the environment in both the historical and the contemporary contexts. Thus, it points out social changes such as change of place of residence, change in population density, change in occupations and economic activities, and, furthermore, changes in the conception of the members of the study sample of the future of their children compared to their own present situation.

The study used different sources and employed various methods, i.e. official records and reports and bulletins, as well as open interviews with informants, in addition to direct observation and photographic documentation. Moreover, a research questionnaire was distributed. The size of the study sample was 728 heads of families, which constitute 49% of the heads of families in the study community living in the village and settlements which belong to the Program for Research and Development of the Badiya region, and the number of which is 34 residential communities.

The study showed that 70% of the interviewees settled at their recent societies after 1960. The study also demonstrated that there was a transformation in the economic activity among them from nomadic style toward the public sector and military service. About 91% of the interviewees stated that they hope their followers to join such economic activities.