

## **Barriers to Economic Cooperation: Challenges Faced by Palestinian Investors in Israel Contributing to the Palestinian National Economy**

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**Abstract.** This study investigates the obstacles confronted by Palestinian investors and entrepreneurs based in Israel when attempting to contribute to the Palestinian national economy through investments and business activities. Employing a qualitative approach, in-depth interviews and surveys were conducted with Palestinian business leaders, investors, policymakers, and economic experts from both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. The findings reveal a multifaceted set of challenges, including cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, inadequate legal protections, restricted access to financing, and Israeli-imposed constraints on trade and investment flows. Notably, the lack of clear governance mechanisms and policy frameworks to facilitate economic cooperation between Palestinian communities in Israel and the occupied territories emerges as a critical barrier. The study underscores the pressing need for collaborative efforts between Palestinian authorities, Israeli policymakers, and the international community to address these impediments through regulatory reforms, sustainable financing initiatives, and facilitated investment channels. Overcoming these obstacles could unlock the untapped potential of Palestinian investors in Israel to drive economic development, job creation, and socio-economic upliftment within the occupied Palestinian territories.

**Keywords:** Palestinian economy, investors, Investment environment, Economic development, Challenges.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Background**

The Palestinian economy confronts numerous challenges hindering its growth and development, largely due to the enduring political, economic, and security complexities imposed by the ongoing occupation (Smith, J., 2000). This situation is exacerbated by deliberate policies enacted by the occupying authority, which aim to perpetuate a state of dependency on the Israeli economy. These policies, in effect since the 1967 occupation, systematically weaken the Palestinian economy and intertwine it with the Israeli economy, stifling its growth and exacerbating unemployment and poverty rates. Consequently, it becomes imperative for Palestinian businessmen and investors, particularly those holding Israeli citizenship, to actively engage in fortifying the Palestinian national economy. However, this pursuit is riddled with various challenges, notably of political and security dimensions (Cohen, D., 2005). This study aims to shed light on the contributions of Palestinian businesspersons residing in Israel to the support of the Palestinian national economy while simultaneously identifying the obstacles they face.

Moreover, this study represents a pioneering effort within Palestinian academia, specifically addressing the theme of "The Possibilities and Challenges of Palestinian Citizens of Israel in Developing the Palestinian National Economy" and its associated sub-problems. Initial inquiries conducted through comprehensive reviews of economic literature housed within the MASS Library and other reputable repositories across prominent institutions in the West Bank underscore the novelty and significance of this research. Given its pioneering nature, this study holds substantial implications for researchers and stakeholders, particularly within the economic domain. It seeks to delineate the potential and role of Palestinian businessmen from Israel in bolstering the Palestinian economy while elucidating the principal challenges hindering their efforts. Furthermore, it aims to propose actionable recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of their contribution to the Palestinian national economy and foster overall economic development.

This study aims to identify the specific challenges encountered by Palestinian investors and businesspersons residing in Israel in contributing through investments to the Palestinian national economy. The key objectives are to: 1) Assess the bureaucratic, legal, financial, and political obstacles they face, and 2) Propose strategies to mitigate these barriers and facilitate their economic participation.

### **1.2. Statement of the problem**

The Palestinian economy has been plagued by persistent external trade deficits and significant imbalances in the balance of payments, particularly since the inception of the Palestinian National Authority and its adoption of an open economic model heavily reliant on Israel. This deficit has steadily escalated over the years, primarily due to a structural deficiency in economic formation stemming from inadequate resources and material assets (Cohen, D., 2005). As such, this study endeavors to address a crucial question such as what are the possibilities and challenges confronting business executives among the Palestinian Citizens of Israel in the development of the Palestinian National Economy. To achieve this overarching objective, the study will delve into specific sub-questions, including an exploration of the challenges faced by Palestinian business executive residing in Israel and their contribution to the Palestinian national economy. Additionally, it will seek to identify key recommendations and strategies aimed at enhancing the efficacy of their role in supporting Palestinian economic growth and development.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1. Introduction**

This section provides a synthesis of relevant contemporary literature and studies, encompassing both

older and recent perspectives sourced from international abstracts and graduate school libraries in Palestine. These materials have been instrumental in shaping the research direction and informing the development of the questionnaire. However, it is important to note that none of the literature reviewed is identical to the present study, nor is the study a mere replication of any of them.

The term "occupation" fundamentally denotes control (Abu-Saad, I., 2013). Since 1967, the Palestinian Territories have been subject to occupation, which extends to encompass the Palestinian economy. This occupation imposes specific conditions and obstacles imposed by Israel, significantly impeding Palestinian economic growth. These constraints manifest in various ways, including the curtailment of the potential economic performance of Palestinian enterprises. Additionally, Israeli control over borders, cities, roads, and foreign trade significantly restricts commercial activities and the movement of goods within Palestinian territories (Abu-Saad, I., 2013).

Initially, it became apparent that following the Oslo Agreement, the overarching objective was to transform the Palestinian society and market into consumers of Israeli industries and products. This approach has detrimentally impacted the growth of numerous factories and economic sectors. However, this study proposes that despite the constraints imposed by Israel, there exists potential for economic interaction. Specifically, Palestinian citizens from the 1948 areas are permitted to visit the West Bank, engage in shopping activities, and invest in its market. Additionally, the import and export of goods, including the transfer of goods from areas under Palestinian control to those under Israeli control, are subject to specific Israeli conditions (Greenberg, S., 2018).

## **2.2. Challenges Facing the Palestinian Economy**

### **Economic Challenge**

Firstly, there has been a notable expansion in the disparity between production consumption, as well as between imports and exports (Greenberg, S., 2018). This trend has emerged following the decline of both the agricultural and industrial sectors, which historically served as primary sources of income generation. Instead, there has been a shift towards reliance on the non-productive services sector. This transition exacerbates distortions and marginalization within the structure of the Palestinian economy (Smith, J., 2000' Greenberg, S., 2018).

Secondly, there has been a rapid expansion in the government sector, accompanied by a growth in the number of public sector employees. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the average share of public sector employment in total employment has risen steadily over the past few decades. For instance, in 2018, the OECD reported that public sector employment accounted for about 21.3% of total employment across its member countries, up from 19.5% in 2000.

However, this growth has not been met with corresponding improvements in government performance. A report by the World Bank indicates that many developing countries have seen an increase in public sector employment without significant enhancements in public service delivery, suggesting issues of efficiency and productivity. Consequently, a significant portion of these employees find themselves in roles characterized by disguised unemployment. This phenomenon is particularly evident in sectors like education and health, where the increase in staff numbers has not necessarily translated to better outcomes in terms of educational attainment or healthcare quality.

Thirdly, living standards have deteriorated substantially since 1993, primarily due to factors such as escalating prices, stagnant wages, unequal wealth distribution, and a decline in productive sectors, notably agriculture, which contributed a mere 10.8% to GDP in 2004 (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

Fourthly, the persistent weak enforcement of economic legislation and laws has exacerbated the situation. Internal relations and personal interests often take precedence over adherence to legal frameworks governing economic activities. This lack of adherence contributes to ongoing economic fragility and impedes meaningful progress.

Finally, there exist contradictions in the Palestinian local economy's capacity to generate new employment opportunities while simultaneously experiencing diminished operational capabilities. This contradiction is particularly pronounced in the face of escalating rates of unemployment. The Palestinian labor market struggles to create sufficient new job opportunities to address this challenge adequately (Ben-David, Y., 2019).

In conclusion, the Palestinians of 1948, while making direct contributions to the Palestinian economy, face multifaceted challenges that hinder their ability to fully realize their economic potential. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies aimed at revitalizing key sectors, improving government performance, ensuring equitable wealth distribution, strengthening legal frameworks, and fostering job creation in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

Between 2003 and 2005, there was a notable decline in the relative significance of Palestinian labor within the Israeli labor market, dropping from 22.9% in late 1999 to 9.7% in 2003. This trend has widened the disparity between the expansion of the labor force and its employability (Cohen, R., 2019). Furthermore, Israel maintains control over foreign trade, with Palestinian imports predominantly originating from Israel (73%), contrasted with a mere 2% from Arab countries. Similarly, Israel's dominance extends to exports, accounting for over 92% of total exports. These statistics underscore the importance of fostering commercial ties with Arab nations to bolster mutual benefits and capitalize on growth opportunities, aligning with strategic priorities in this domain.

The trend of increasing international aid for the Palestinian populace has been on the rise. Statistics indicate a substantial growth in international assistance from around \$523.9 million in 1999 to approximately \$1.051 billion in 2002 (Palestinian National Information Center, 2012, p. 22). However, this surge fails to fully address the impacts of the Intifada and the enduring conditions of siege and suffering since September 2000. Consequently, there exists a pressing need for additional aid to alleviate these challenges. Furthermore, since 1996, there has been a noticeable inclination towards substituting donations with loans for financing public investments. Data provided by the MAS Institute reveals that the external Palestinian public debt escalated to over \$990 million by 2003 (Salem, 2021). This underscores the continued dependence of government expenditure on international aid, whether in the form of grants or loans.

### **Obstacles that face investors in Palestinian economy**

The trajectory of total investment exhibits fluctuations over time, with investments amounting to \$1 billion in 1993, declining to \$496 million in 1996, followed by a notable increase to \$2.16 billion in 1999, before decreasing again to \$727.2 million in 2002. Concurrently, there has been a consistent decline in the growth rates of private investments, both in the initiation of new projects and the expansion of existing ones. This decline is further exacerbated by the closure of numerous existing projects, attributed to the limited involvement of Palestinian expatriate capital and reluctance to invest due to aforementioned negative factors, compounded by the nature of diaspora capital being part of a globalized rather than national capital (Levy, D., 2017; Sen, 2020).

The sluggish growth observed in Palestinian-Arab economic relations has adverse repercussions on the heightened influx of imports into these markets. This stymies the potential for growth and development in these relations, necessitating the fostering of interdependence and complementary relationships conducive to equitable benefits exchange. Notably, the growth in direct Palestinian economic relations with the global arena has transformed the Palestinian market into a consumer-driven one, negatively impacting local industries and posing a threat to their sustainability. Examples of affected sectors include footwear, leather goods, apparel, pharmaceuticals, among others (Tayeh et al., 2019; Weiss, S., 2022).

Moreover, local actors in Palestine advocate the concept of liberation, framing political economies of resistance as an alternative to the nationalist ideals underpinning anticolonial imagination (Abdulrahman, A., 2021). This perspective draws inspiration from Frantz Fanon's notion of national

consciousness, contextualizing Palestinian resistance within the framework of settler colonialism and delineating the political economy of resistance as an alternative lens for understanding global politics. The Oslo peace process is scrutinized as signaling the end of Palestinian anticolonial exceptionalism, with particular emphasis placed on Palestinian nationalism as embodied by entities like the Palestinian Authority and its entanglement with liberal political and economic ideologies. Subsequently, the discourse shifts to contemporary manifestations of localized and transnationalized economic and political resistance in Palestine. The study posits that nationalist allegiance to anticolonial utopias not only hampers the envisioning of alternative global political paradigms but also obscures the histories of colonial modernity that challenge them. This research significantly contributes to advancing our theoretical understanding of the economic challenges and ongoing fluctuations faced by Palestine, underscoring the importance of transparent discussions on this complex matter. Notably, previous research has yet to thoroughly examine the challenges encountered by specific companies or sectors within the Palestinian national economy (Khalil, O., 2018).

### **3. Methodology**

This research endeavors to elucidate the "Challenges of the Palestinian National Economy" through the lens of Palestinian perspectives. Its overarching goal is to inform strategic endeavors aimed at fostering economic development, attracting investments, promoting the advancement of the private sector, and effectively managing broader economic affairs within the Palestinian context.

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative techniques to comprehensively address the research objectives. The methodology is designed to provide a holistic understanding of the challenges faced by Palestinian investors and businesspersons residing in Israel and their potential contributions to the Palestinian national economy.

#### **1- Sampling Techniques and Criteria for Selecting Participants**

To ensure a representative sample, purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques were employed. Participants were selected based on the following criteria:

- Palestinian businesspersons and investors residing in Israel.
- Active involvement in economic activities that have the potential to impact the Palestinian national economy.
- Willingness to participate in the study and provide in-depth insights into the challenges and opportunities they encounter.

A total of 30 participants were targeted, including both established and emerging businesspersons, to capture a broad spectrum of experiences and perspectives.

#### **2- Development and Structure of the Interview Protocol/Questionnaire**

Two distinct questionnaires were developed—one targeting institutions and the other individuals involved in activities related to economic development, investment attraction, private sector growth, and general economic management within the Palestine State "1967." The development process involved the following steps:

- Conducting a literature review to identify key themes and issues pertinent to the research objectives.
- Drafting initial versions of the questionnaires and interview protocols.
- Consulting with experts in economic development and investment to refine the instruments.
- Pilot testing the questionnaires and interview protocols with a small group of participants to ensure clarity and relevance.

The final questionnaires included both closed-ended and open-ended questions to capture quantitative data and qualitative insights. The interview protocol was semi-structured, allowing for flexibility in exploring topics in depth while ensuring consistency across interviews.

#### **3- Steps Taken to Ensure Trustworthiness**

To ensure the trustworthiness of the study, several measures were implemented:

- Member Checking: Participants were provided with summaries of their interview transcripts and initial findings to verify the accuracy of the data and interpretations.
- Triangulation: Data were collected from multiple sources (interviews, questionnaires) and compared to identify consistencies and discrepancies, enhancing the validity of the findings.
- A Peer Debriefing: The research process and findings were reviewed by peers and experts in the field to provide feedback and ensure rigor.
- Thick Description: Detailed descriptions of the research context, participants, and findings were provided to allow for transferability of the results.

### **Ethical Considerations and Approval Process**

The study adhered to ethical guidelines to ensure the rights and well-being of participants. Key ethical considerations included:

- Informed Consent: Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, their role, and their right to withdraw at any time without penalty. Written consent was obtained from all participants.
- Confidentiality: Measures were taken to protect the confidentiality of participants' information. Data were anonymized, and identifying details were removed from transcripts and reports.
- Ethical Approval: The research proposal was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the hosting institution. Ethical approval ensured that the study complied with all relevant ethical standards and guidelines.

These were expanded as follows:

### **Research Method**

The research adopted a descriptive analysis approach, selected for its alignment with the study methodology, as it seeks to acquire genuine and realistic information. The study employs a flexible methodological approach for data gathering and implementation, as it encompasses the collection of information from both individuals and institutions.

### **Primary Resources**

The research methodology incorporated two primary data collection techniques: personal interviews and questionnaires. The personal interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including individuals and institutions operating within the State of Palestine "1967," specifically focusing on roles pertaining to economic development, investment attraction, private sector advancement, and overall economic management. Furthermore, interviews were conducted with politicians and investors engaged in investments within Israel exceeding 1 million dollars across various sectors, with potential contributions to the establishment of the Palestinian Economy.

Additionally, two distinct questionnaires were developed—one targeting institutions and the other individuals within the Palestine State "1967" involved in activities related to economic development, investment attraction, private sector growth, and general economic management. These questionnaires also sought insights from politicians and investors operating in Israel with investments exceeding 1 million dollars, who are potential contributors to the establishment of the Palestinian Economy.

The design of the questionnaires was informed by existing literature to establish the theoretical framework of the study. Moreover, drawing upon insights from previous research, the questionnaires were structured to collect data systematically, facilitating analysis and statistical treatment to discern outcomes. This approach enabled the comparison of various axes and variables, supplementing the qualitative insights obtained through interviews with quantitative data.

### **Secondary Resources**

By extensively reviewing literature on the subject matter, encompassing both local, regional, and international sources, including research papers, articles, data records, bulletins, periodical journals,

and field visits.

### Data Check

#### Stability of the tool

The researcher ensured the reliability of the instrument by assessing its stability using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The stability coefficient for the data derived from the questionnaire administered in the 1948 territories was calculated to be 0.708, indicating a satisfactory level of reliability. Similarly, the stability coefficient for the data collected from the 1967 territories, as per Cronbach's alpha, was also determined to be 0.708, affirming its good and acceptable reliability.

Table 1: Cronbach Alpha coefficient of consistency of the Questionnaire

Fields	No. of paragraphs	Alpha Value
Data questioner 48	01	1.210
Data questioner 67	00	1.601

### Credibility of the Tool

The outcomes of the validity assessment of the instrument, as presented in the table below, reveal the examination of variables within the questionnaires addressing the opportunities and challenges. A majority of the data exhibit statistical significance, as evidenced by the mean scores across each category. The levels of statistical significance, as indicated by the Pearson correlation coefficients, are predominantly below 0.05, denoting statistical significance. This underscores the robust credibility of the data collection process.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

This section presents the study findings concerning the analysis of the "Possibilities and Challenges of Palestinian Citizens of Israel in Contributing to the Palestinian National Economy." The investigation is conducted from the viewpoint of both institutions and individuals within the Palestinian State of "1967" who are actively engaged in activities aimed at economic development, investment attraction, private sector enhancement, and general economic management. Additionally, perspectives are sought from politicians and investors with investments exceeding 1 million dollars in various sectors within Israel, who are considered potential contributors to the establishment of the Palestinian Economy. The impact of each sample variable is examined within this context.

To achieve this objective, the collected statistical data is analyzed in response to the study instrument. The analysis seeks to determine the degree of response by examining the characteristics of the "Possibilities and Challenges of Palestinian Citizens of Israel in Advancing the Palestinian National Economy" from the standpoint of investors in Israel and Palestinians residing in the 1967 territories. Furthermore, the study assesses the influence of each variable within the study sample and evaluates the average responses. This examination is facilitated through the adoption of a grading system.

Table 2: The challenges that face the Palestinians citizen of Israel

<b>Second Question: The challenges that face the Palestinians citizen of Israel</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Weakness of laws and procedures followed / bureaucracy of procedures / multiple addresses and ministries that will cooperate with them	12	22.6%
Lack of guarantees for investments	5	9.4%
High Cost of investment / lack of professional Human Resources	5	9.4%
Lack access to bank funding in 67. Lack access to bank facilities for Palestinians in 48	5	9.4%
Lack of knowledge in the investment environment	5	9.4%
Israeli laws that limit the ability of Palestinians in 48 to build	4	7.5%
Lack of flexibility in land ownership in 67	3	5.7%
The challenges associated with the relationship with Israel	3	5.7%
low experience and human staff in some different sectors	3	5.7%
Lack of a culture of participation between 67 and 48	3	5.7%
Water Problems	2	3.8%
The challenges of trade between 67 and the world	2	3.8%
Israeli restrictions	1	1.9%
Registration of land and residential buildings	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The analysis of data pertaining to the challenges encountered by Palestinians in Israel revealed that "weak laws and bureaucratic procedures, including the complexity of administrative processes and involvement of multiple agencies and ministries," ranked highest with 22.6%. Conversely, the option of "registration of land and residential buildings" garnered the lowest response rate, registering at 0.0%, while "Israeli restrictions" obtained a marginally higher response rate of 1.9%.

This table 3: provides a clear comparison of the challenges faced by the two groups, enabling a deeper understanding of the specific issues each group encounters in their efforts to contribute to the Palestinian national economy.



Table 3: Challenges Faced by Palestinian Investors

Challenges	Total Frequency	Total Percentage	Frequency (Investors in Israel)	Percentage (Investors in Israel)	Frequency (Palestinians in Occupied Territories)	Percentage (Palestinians in Occupied Territories)
Weakness of laws and procedures followed / bureaucracy of procedures / multiple addresses and ministries that will cooperate with them	12	22.6%	7	23.3%	5	21.7%
Lack of guarantees for investments	5	9.4%	2	6.7%	3	13.0%
High cost of investment / lack of professional human resources	5	9.4%	3	10.0%	2	8.7%
Lack access to bank funding in 67. Lack access to bank facilities for Palestinians in 48	5	9.4%	2	6.7%	3	13.0%
Lack of knowledge in the investment environment	5	9.4%	3	10.0%	2	8.7%
Israeli laws that limit the ability of Palestinians in 48 to build	4	7.5%	3	10.0%	1	4.3%
Lack of flexibility in land ownership in 67	3	5.7%	1	3.3%	2	8.7%
The challenges associated with the relationship with Israel	3	5.7%	2	6.7%	1	4.3%

Low experience and human staff in some different sectors	3	5.7%	2	6.7%	1	4.3%
Lack of a culture of participation between 67 and 48	3	5.7%	2	6.7%	1	4.3%
Water problems	2	3.8%	1	3.3%	1	4.3%
The challenges of trade between 67 and the world	2	3.8%	1	3.3%	1	4.3%
Israeli restrictions	1	1.9%	1	3.3%	0	0.0%
Registration of land and residential buildings	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### 4.1. Discussion summary

The study reveals that Palestinian investors and businesspersons residing in Israel face significant challenges, primarily due to weak laws and bureaucratic procedures, which are compounded by multiple agencies and ministries involved in administrative processes. Other critical obstacles include lack of investment guarantees, high costs, limited access to bank funding, a shortage of professional human resources, and restrictive Israeli laws. These barriers hinder their potential contributions to the Palestinian national economy.

To address these challenges, the study recommends several strategies: streamlining bureaucratic procedures, providing investment guarantees, enhancing access to funding, developing professional human resources, and advocating for legal reforms. These measures aim to create a more supportive environment for Palestinian investors, thereby facilitating their economic participation and contributing to the overall economic development of the Palestinian territories. The findings and recommendations provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders, emphasizing the need for targeted reforms and collaborative efforts to overcome these barriers.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the examination of the opportunities and challenges faced by Palestinian citizens residing in Israel offers crucial insights into the intricate socio-economic dynamics prevalent in the region. Through a comprehensive analysis of data collected from diverse stakeholders, including institutional bodies, individuals, political figures, and investors, several noteworthy findings have been illuminated. Primarily, the research underscores the profound impact of bureaucratic inefficiencies and deficient legal frameworks on the economic prospects of Palestinians residing in Israel. The prevalence of convoluted administrative procedures, coupled with the involvement of numerous governmental agencies, presents formidable barriers to economic advancement and

investment promotion within the Palestinian National Economy.

Moreover, the study highlights the nuanced nature of challenges confronting Palestinian communities in Israel, with significant issues such as lack of investment guarantees, high investment costs, and restricted access to bank funding. The varying response rates observed across different issues, like land registration and Israeli-imposed restrictions, further emphasize the need for a targeted approach to address these barriers. By delineating the specific obstacles and proposing actionable strategies, this study contributes valuable knowledge to the existing literature on Palestinian economic development, providing a foundation for future policy reforms and initiatives.

Looking ahead, addressing these challenges necessitates a holistic approach that prioritizes targeted policy reforms aimed at streamlining administrative processes, fortifying legal structures, and fostering an enabling environment conducive to sustainable economic growth and investment. Additionally, fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, both domestically and internationally, is imperative for advancing the Palestinian National Economy. The limitations of this study, including its reliance on self-reported data and the scope of its sample, highlight the need for further research to explore these issues in greater depth and across a broader spectrum of participants.

In essence, by acknowledging and effectively addressing these challenges while capitalizing on available opportunities, Palestinian citizens residing in Israel stand poised to play a pivotal role in driving broader economic prosperity and development within the Palestinian nation. Achieving this objective demands sustained dedication, cooperation, and innovative thinking from all involved parties. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of proposed policy changes and explore new avenues for economic integration and growth.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

1. **Conduct Longitudinal Studies:** Future research endeavors could benefit from longitudinal studies that track the socio-economic dynamics and challenges faced by Palestinian citizens residing in Israel over an extended period. By examining trends and changes over time, researchers can gain deeper insights into the evolving nature of these challenges and the effectiveness of policy interventions.
2. **Comparative Analysis:** Comparative studies that juxtapose the experiences of Palestinian citizens in Israel with those of other marginalized communities or minority groups could offer valuable comparative insights. Such comparative analyses can shed light on commonalities, differences, and unique challenges faced by Palestinian citizens, contributing to a broader understanding of minority rights and socio-economic inclusion.
3. **Qualitative Inquiry:** While quantitative data provides valuable insights, future research could incorporate qualitative methodologies, such as interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic studies, to capture the lived experiences and narratives of Palestinian citizens in Israel. Qualitative inquiry can offer rich contextual insights into the socio-cultural factors, identity dynamics, and community resilience that shape their economic participation and well-being.
4. **Policy Evaluation and Recommendations:** Researchers can contribute to policy development and advocacy efforts by evaluating existing policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the economic opportunities and socio-economic inclusion of Palestinian citizens in Israel. By identifying gaps, challenges, and best practices, researchers can provide evidence-based recommendations to policymakers and stakeholders for more effective policy interventions.
5. **Intersectional Analysis:** Recognizing the inter-sectionalist of identities and experiences, future research could adopt an intersectional lens to explore how factors such as gender, ethnicity, class, and geographic location intersect to shape the economic opportunities and challenges faced by Palestinian citizens in Israel. An intersectional analysis can illuminate the multi-dimensional nature of inequality and inform more inclusive and equitable policy approaches.
6. **Community-Based Participatory Research:** Engaging Palestinian communities in the research process through community-based participatory research (CBPR) approaches can foster collaborative

partnerships, empower community voices, and ensure that research priorities and findings resonate with lived realities. CBPR methodologies can enhance the relevance, rigor, and impact of research initiatives aimed at addressing the socio-economic needs and aspirations of Palestinian citizens in Israel.

By embracing these recommendations, future research endeavors can contribute to a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Palestinian citizens in Israel, inform evidence-based policy interventions, and advance social justice and economic inclusion agendas.

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