



The 3rd International Conference on Learning and Teaching in the Digital World



"The Future of Education in the era of post COVID-19"

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on School and Learning in Extremely Vulnerable Areas of Jerusalem

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Introduction and Background

Life of people has changed dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, particularly the children and adolescents.

The pandemic generally, and particularly the actions adopted by governments to limit risks, have had a considerable consequence on the lives of children and adolescents.

Isolation and social distancing measures have been used over the world to protect against the possibility of COVID-19 infection (Shen et al., 2020).



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Introduction and Background

As the COVID-19 spreads over the world, vulnerable populations in nations with poor health and socioeconomic systems are very risky of being affected the hardest.

IOAs have closed a number of COVID-19 testing centers that served Palestinians in east Jerusalem (Alser et al., 2021).

Approximately a third of all Palestinian cases recorded in Jerusalem, where IOAs disrupted preventive initiatives, medical missions, and equipment (Hamamra, Uebel, & Abu Samra, 2021).



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Context of the Study

East Jerusalem was occupied by IOAs in 1967, and it was governed by the Military Directorate of the West Bank. East Jerusalem was rapidly conquered and included into the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem.

Israeli government is responsible to provide social and economic benefits including health-care services to the people in the East Jerusalem area.



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The neighborhoods of East Jerusalem are suffering from occupation, deprecation, poverty, and trouble (Spielberg, Dajani, & Abdallah, 2016) and

They suffer from congestion, long-term neglect, and damaged infrastructure and services, such as sewage overflows, crumbling walkways, a lack of public transit, and insufficient garbage collection (Avni, Brenner, Miodownik, & Rosen, 2021).



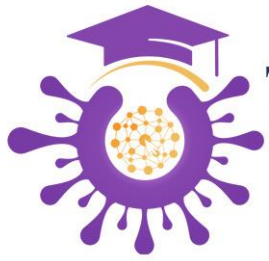
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School in East Jerusalem

Israel as the occupying power, is obligated to administer and manage education via the municipal education system, the Palestinian Authority retains control over the school curriculum and examination process (O'Connor, Larkin, Nasasra, & Shanks, 2020).

Due to the Covid-19 spread in the East Jerusalem in March 2020 the schools and learning model is transferred to virtual classrooms, in accordance containment measures so that students retain their right to gain knowledge while remaining secure at home.



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Objective of the Study

The purpose of this research is to look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school and learning on school and learning in very vulnerable area of Jerusalem.

Particularly, this research aims to learn more about the environmental and personal aspects that were introduced during school closures, as well as their impact on learning perspectives among children and adolescents in in the extremely politically unstable area of east Jerusalem.



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Conceptual Framework

According to social cognitive theory of Bandura (1986) human behavior is the product of a combination of personal and environmental variables.

COVID-19 Pandemic which causes changes in the living environment and personal factors would affect the learning behavior of children and adolescents.

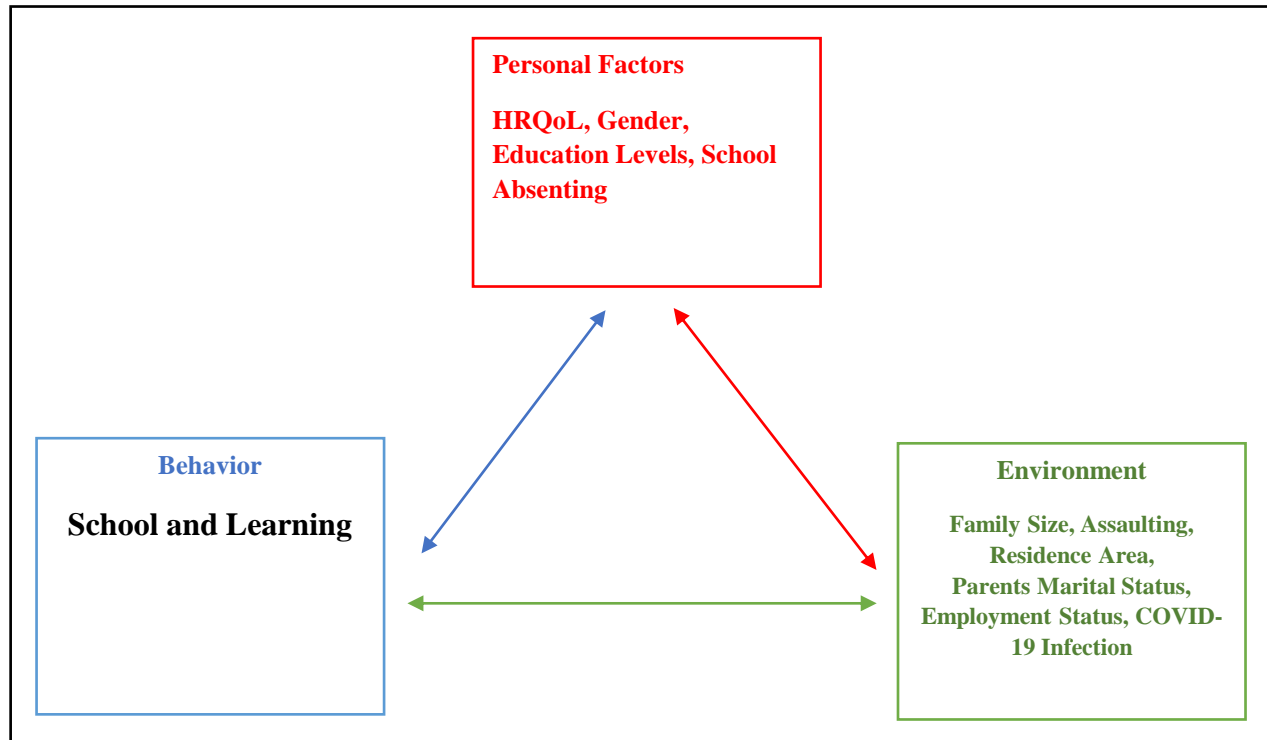
Thus, it would be hypothesizing that the environment and personal factors affects the school and learning of children and adolescents in east Jerusalem.



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Conceptual Framework



Conceptual Framework based on social cognitive theory of Bandura (1986).



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Research Methodology

This study focus on the vulnerable area of Jerusalem particularly, the Old City, Jabal al Mukabber, Silwan, Issawiya, Sheikh Jarrah, and Shu'fat refugee camp.

Demographic information of the participants ware collected.

Before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, the KIDSCREEN-10 was used to assess the HRQoL of children and adolescents in east Jerusalem,



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The six dimensions of the KIDSCREEN-52 were used to assess school and learning for children and adolescents in east Jerusalem during the Covid-19 epidemic.

The survey was developed in English before being translated and conducted in Arabic.



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Cluster purposive sampling was used to select children and adolescents from areas of the study in east Jerusalem.

An independent sample t-test, a paired samples t-test, and one-way ANOVA tests were performed for variables of interest as well as Multiple regression were used in the empirical testing of the current study.



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Summary Statistics

Data was collected from 274 respondent in the study area of east Jerusalem from December 2021, to February 2022. The final sample elements included $n = 271$ respondent.

Of these effective surveys 129 ware from adolescents and 142 from parents. The respondents' ages varied from 6 to 18 years old ($M = 12.11$, $SD = 3.04$).



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Summary Statistics

Variables	Item	Frequency	Percent
Residence Area	Silwan	73	26.9
	Shu'fat refugee camp	63	23.2
	Sheikh Jarrah	11	4.1
	Jabal al Mukabber	28	10.3
	Issawiya	35	12.9
	The Old City.	60	22.1
Parents Marital Status	Married/Living as couple /live with parents	243	89.7
	Divorced/Separated/ parents separated	13	4.8
	Widowed/ Orphan father or mother	12	4.4
	Other	2	.7
Employment Status	Not Working	47	17.3
	Working	206	76.0
	Other	16	5.9

Variables	Item	Frequency	Percent
Family Size	1 to 4 People	43	15.9
	More than 4 People	227	83.8
Education Levels	1st Grade to 4th Grade	85	31.4
	5th Grade to 8th Grade	111	41.0
	9th Grade to 12th Grade	73	26.9
Gender	Male	189	69.7
	Female	81	29.9
COVID-19 Infection	Yes	97	35.8
	No	173	63.8
	I don't know	23	8.5
IOAs	NO	116	42.8
Assaulting	Yes	154	56.8
School Absenting	Never	89	32.8
	Rarely	182	67.2



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Results: A paired samples t-test

These results revealed that that children and adolescents in the area of study had worse HRQoL of during COVID-19 pandemic than before.

These results indicating that school and learning of children and adolescents in Jerusalem was worse during COVID-19 pandemic than before.



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Results: An independent-samples t-test

The results indicate that the female children and adolescents have better school and learning than male children and adolescents.

The results indicate that the small families of children and adolescents have better school and learning than big size families of children and adolescents.

The results indicate that the children and adolescents who never get assaulted by IOAs or settlers have better school and learning than who get assaulted by IOAs or settlers.

The results indicate that the children and adolescents who never absent from the e-learning (school) have better school and learning than who absent from the e-learning (school).



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Results: One-way ANOVA

The results indicate that the children and adolescents living in **Jabal al Mukabber have better school** and learning than other areas. On the contrary, the result of the study revealed that children and adolescents living in **Shu'fat refugee camp have the worst school** and learning environment than other areas.

The results suggest that the that parent's marital status of children and **adolescents is not a crucial** factor regarding the school and learning environment in east Jerusalem.

The results suggest that the that school and learning **is not deferent based on the family head employment status** in east Jerusalem.



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Results: One-way ANOVA

The results indicate that the children in level 1 (first grade to fourth grade) have significantly better school and learning than older levels (Level 2: fifth grade to eighth grade; and Levels 3: ninth grade to twelfth grade).

The results suggest that the that children, adolescents and their parent's infection with COVID-19 which may affect the physical health is not important factor regarding the school and learning environment in east Jerusalem.



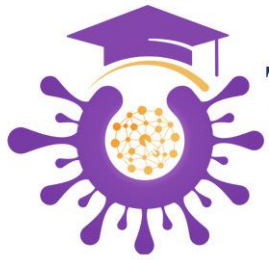
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Regression analysis of environmental and personal factors; and school and learning.

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.469	.408		3.601	.000*
Residence Area	.057	.017	.166	3.328	.001**
Parents Marital Status	-.030	.065	-.023	-.466	.641
Employment Status	-.172	.067	-.121	-2.557	.011**
Family Size	-.193	.089	-.103	-2.176	.030**
Education Level	-.095	.042	-.108	-2.247	.026**
Gender	.249	.068	.174	3.662	.000*
COVID-19 Infection	.078	.052	.073	1.516	.131
IOAs Assaulting	-.213	.069	-.151	-3.068	.002**
School Absenting	-.134	.070	-.093	-1.913	.057***
HRQoL	.745	.063	.588	11.877	.000*

Dependent Variable: school and learning *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels, respectively.



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Conclusion

COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affects the HRQoL and school and learning of children and adolescents in the most vulnerable areas of Jerusalem.

An important finding of this study is that COVID-19 infection in children, adolescents, and their parents, which might have a negative impact on physical health, is not a significant influence in the school and learning in east Jerusalem.

In a nutshell, this public health disaster reveals major inadequacies in the political and social structures of conflict-affected areas of east Jerusalem.



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Thank You