

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.21353770

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS IN MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS OF ORPHANED CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF FAMILY CARE IN PALESTINE

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Received: 10/04/2026

Accepted: 10/05/2026

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to examine the effectiveness of residential social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children with no family living in Palestine, due to the significant increase in the number of orphan children in Palestine as a result of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the ethnic cleansing in the West Bank. The author conducted a descriptive study that utilized a quantitative methodology approach using a comprehensive social survey. A probability sample selection method was used to randomly select participants for the study. The sample consisted of 140 orphaned children from birth through age 18, with no family who were living in public or private residential social welfare institutions in Palestine. The study's findings showed that residential social welfare institutions for orphaned children in Palestine were, in general, more effective at meeting the orphan children's material, nutritional, health, educational, and recreational needs than at addressing their psychological, social, and cognitive needs. The study suggests several recommendations. The most notable recommendation was that the Ministry of Social Development work to develop a framework for the care of orphaned children in social institutions to improve the level of services and the management of social, psychological, and educational activities, particularly through the provision of material and moral support to social welfare institutions caring for orphaned children.

KEYWORDS: Orphans, Residential Social Welfare Institutions, Basic Needs, Palestine.

1. INTRODUCTION

Orphaned children are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a child under the age of eighteen who has lost one or both parents is defined as an orphan. Similarly, a child whose parents are still alive but are unable to care for him or her is referred to as a social orphan. Factors that may render a child a social orphan include poverty, disability, incarceration, neglect, hatred and rejection, and parental drug addiction (Alam & Sajid, 2022; Priyadarshini & Rathnasabapathy, 2021). According to the latest global data released by UNICEF, there are an estimated 400 million orphaned children worldwide, and reports indicate that thousands of children become orphans every day, with the number often cited as reaching 10,000 or more per day (UNICEF, 2025; MOHID, 2026; Shafiq, et al., 2020; Dilawar, et al., 2023; Das, et al., 2024). Every 2.2 seconds, a child loses a parent somewhere in the world (Sahrawat, 2024).

In Palestine, estimates during the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip revealed that, as of October 7, 2025, approximately 58,554 children had lost one or both parents, including nearly 17,000 children living unaccompanied or separated from their families. Data indicates that 55,861 children lost one parent (49,758 lost their father, and 6,103 lost their mother), while 2,693 children lost both parents, leaving them to face life alone under extremely harsh conditions and a complete lack of care. These children live in tragic conditions, with many forced to take refuge in torn tents or ruined homes, amid an almost complete absence of social care and psychological support. However, their suffering is not limited to the loss of family and shelter; it extends to severe psychological and social crises. They suffer from deep psychological disorders, such as depression, isolation, and chronic fear, in the absence of security and proper guidance, in addition to impaired learning and social development, leaving them vulnerable to child labor or exploitation in a harsh and unforgiving environment (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025).

Many orphaned children are placed in childcare facilities due to their vulnerable circumstances such as being orphaned or coming from homes where violence prevails. Additionally, there are other factors that increase their vulnerability, including a parent or caregiver suffering from a severe chronic illness, poverty, hunger, lack of services, inadequate clothing or shelter, overcrowding in child-care facilities, lack of

care, and factors specific to the child, such as disability, direct exposure to physical or sexual violence, or severe chronic illness (Mawila-Chauke & Munongi, 2025). Estimates indicate that only between 10 and 15 million children currently live in institutions, residential institutions, or childcare facilities around the world. Although these figures are significant, they still fall short of the true scale of the problem, as many children at risk remain unaccounted for in official statistics, and countless others face exploitation, human trafficking, homelessness, or involvement in armed conflicts (Kyaruzi, 2022). In the West Bank, reports and data released by the Ministry of Social Development in Ramallah indicate that the number of orphaned children receiving residential social care in institutions has reached 377, while the number of orphaned children under the care of social welfare institutions stands at approximately 5,381 (Ministry of Social Development, 2026).

Millions of children in the world today live in residential institutions, deprived of their families' love and support. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), approximately 8 million children spend their lives in these institutions. Family life plays a crucial role in children's psychological and behavioral development and research has shown that children living in these institutions suffer from various psychological development issues due to the absence of a family environment. Additionally, another study demonstrated that residential institutions provide a poor environment for these children, as they hinder their emotional stability and growth. Residential institutions cannot compete with the outside world socially and emotionally and the impact on children, particularly those who enter them at a young age, will affect their entire lives, making their lives more difficult compared to their peers. While children raised in residential institutions receive clothing, food, education, and shelter, these residential institutions have a negative impact on children's psychological development (Alkhelaiwi, 2018; Raheem & Kadhim, 2024).

The Problem and Theoretical Framework of the Study:

Childhood is considered one of the most important stages of human development, as it is during this period that an individual's personality is shaped by the psychological and social conditions in which they are raised. During this time, individuals acquire traits and habits that will remain with them throughout their lives. Hence, psychologists and

social workers have termed this the formative period, during which a person's intelligence is determined and they undergo integrated, balanced development that enables them to achieve self-actualization in the future (Yousef & Ruqaya, 2023; Al-Ubaidi, 2017). Thus, the childhood years are extremely important in a person's life, as the experiences and events a child goes through leave a lasting impact on their future personal development.

The family is the primary social institution in which a child grows up and through which they learn the standards of right and wrong. It is one of the most important educational environments that contributes to a child's upbringing and seeks to foster their psychological, cognitive, behavioral, and moral development, while also supporting their mental health. The loss of one or both parents negatively impacts the child's healthy upbringing. This highlights the importance of the family's role in a child's life and in shaping his or her personality; this role begins at birth—and perhaps even before—and continues throughout the child's development. Consequently, if a child grows up in an environment that does not provide tenderness, compassion, love, and acceptance, and instead makes them feel rejected, treated inconsistently, or deprived of love and tenderness, this can lead to feelings of psychological loneliness and an inability to engage in healthy social interaction with others in society (Jabah, 2023; Salima, 2021).

The problems faced by families in societies around the world, such as death, family breakdown, disintegration, separation from the normal family context, and other issues that effectively undermine the foundations of the natural family, are among the most serious factors that can damage a child's social, psychological, cultural, and moral development. For these and other reasons, a child may be removed from their parental home and be placed in residential social institutions or may move between more than one foster family (Al-Aboudi, 2015; Isnaeni et al., 2021). In these situations, community-based approaches to addressing the problems arising from the deprivation of natural family care come to the fore, and we find that human societies, throughout their history, have developed many such approaches, the most important of which are two main methods. The first is alternative care provided by a family or by another person serving as a surrogate father or mother, and the second is care provided by an institution with legal personality (Al-Ramadin, 2023).

Orphaned children are considered victims of circumstances beyond their control due to the loss of one or both parents; they lead lives that differ from

those of their peers, especially in today's world, which is characterized by increasing demands and challenges. Deprivation of parents or of the child's natural environment and setting may deprive the child of the strong bond that provides love, security, and care, thereby hindering their natural development and creating a somewhat unstable and volatile personality. Further, a child who has lost both parents is deprived of any support, however weak, that would enable them to proceed smoothly on their path to healthy and sound development. They are also dominated by an atmosphere of anxiety and tension that hinders his growth and harms him more than any physical illness would, and the child's susceptibility to certain psychological problems increases (Al-Juhaini, 2025; Jawal & Bazqarri, 2013). Consequently, their need for love, comfort, compassion, self-confidence, and self-affirmation is magnified, and their problems are more pronounced compared to those of ordinary children. They face behavioral and emotional difficulties and disturbances in their lives. They face numerous behavioral problems that affect their mental health and behavior, due to the absence of the family—the primary community that nurtures the child and in which they spend the early years of their life, where they find stability, support, appreciation, love, and the fulfillment of their needs. The loss of parents means the loss of psychological security, role models, and the experience necessary for healthy psychological development (Jabah & Al-Zaghalil, 2021; Al-Malham, 2022).

Additionally, orphaned children living in care facilities typically face many more challenges and difficulties than their peers who live with their families, such as overcrowding, physical punishment, poor health, lack of personal care, attachment disorders, poor social skills, and social stigma. In addition, they suffer from a lack of affection, frequent moves, and discrimination at school, in the future workplace, and when seeking a life partner, making them more vulnerable to psychological problems, the effects of which may not appear until years later (Anbar, et al., 2023; Maglica, et al., 2020). Furthermore, the nature of life within social welfare institutions means that orphaned children are deprived of a natural family environment and its characteristics, and the environment is characterized by adherence to and compliance with the rules imposed by the functional nature of these institutions. As a result, the child feels lonely and isolated, lacking the essentials for healthy development: love, affection, and appreciation; psychological security and stability; a sense of

belonging, freedom, individual independence, and privacy; and the acquisition of new experiences and other needs that constitute a healthy personality. This negatively impacts the social adaptation and stability of these disadvantaged children (Al-Attar, 2019; Al-Otaibi, 2014). Thus, if a child fails to receive parental care and experiences unpleasant childhood experiences—such as social isolation, abandonment, loss, or abuse by non-parental caregivers in the case of orphans—we will observe significant signs of regression in that individual's life (Karim & Farhan, 2021; Ahmed & Shaaban, 2018). Accordingly, children residing in social welfare institutions may exhibit a number of characteristics that can hinder their social interaction, such as aggression, impulsive behavior, and a lack of trust in others, as well as a lack of social skills and empathy toward others; consequently, they are more prone to isolation, introversion, and anxiety (Al-Zahabi & Al-Sabab, 2025; Ghazou, 2020).

Consequently, the care of children, especially those who, for whatever reason, have been deprived of parental care, is a matter of the utmost humanitarian importance. Without their parents or guardians, these children are unable to provide themselves with normal family care or have their needs met, making them vulnerable to deprivation and delinquency, which leads to their ruin and poses a danger to their society. Therefore, it has become of the utmost importance to emphasize comprehensive care for orphans. Care that does not merely address the orphan's physical needs, as some who establish projects under the guise of "sponsoring orphans" may understand it, but also addresses their self, spirit, character, religion, aspirations, and social relationships; it involves shaping a vision of their future in their imagination from childhood onward and developing all aspects of their personality, while also addressing their livelihood, housing, and clothing (Abu Hammad, 2015; Al-Rimawi, 2017).

There is no doubt that the unique political nature of the Palestinian situation, coupled with the repercussions of the occupation and the repeated, protracted wars, has created a large population of orphans who are in dire and urgent need of a guardian to extend a helping hand, offer support, and lift them out of the cycle of poverty and destitution resulting from the loss of a breadwinner. To protect this segment of society from falling into the quagmire of futile social problems, numerous local and international organizations have emerged that work in this field to provide appropriate services and alleviate the suffering of this segment of society (Al-Shurfa & Ghattas, 2017).

The reality of Palestinian society differs significantly from that of other Arab societies in terms of internal and external conditions as a result of the political, social, economic, and other events it has experienced and continues to face. These circumstances and the challenges it has faced have led to a focus of social and institutional services on the care of the families of martyrs and detainees, as well as institutions for the disabled and orphans (Awad & Hijazi, 2013). Due to the difficult living conditions in Palestine, orphans face dire humanitarian conditions due to the lack of community resources. Thus, the Palestinian government is attempting to take appropriate measures to care for, protect, and support orphans, with the aim of empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups in society that pay special attention to children (Ismail, 2009; Abu Rahma et al., 2021). Even with these efforts, orphaned children who enter residential care facilities, whether government-run or private, experience many social and psychological needs, though they are provided with services that primarily consist of good material and recreational support. The nature of residential care facilities is insufficient to meet many of these needs, given that the methods used to care for residents in these facilities differ from those in a natural family environment (Al-Masdar, 2024).

Accordingly, the research problem is articulated in the following main question: How effective are public and private social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine? A series of sub-questions stem from the main question, as follows:

1. What are the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine with regard to material and nutritional needs?
2. What are the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine with regard to psychological and social needs?
3. What are the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine regarding cognitive needs?
4. How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine regarding health care?
5. How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine regarding educational care?

6. How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine regarding recreational care?

Objectives of the Study:

This study sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify the basic material and nutritional needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.
2. To identify the psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.
3. To identify the cognitive needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.
4. To assess the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the healthcare needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.
5. To determine the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the educational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.
6. To determine the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.

Significance of the Study:

The significance of this study stems from the scarcity of scientific research on the effectiveness of residential social welfare institutions for orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine. This study looks to address a gap in the literature regarding the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine and the effectiveness of residential social welfare institutions and their role in meeting the diverse needs of these children. It also looks to provide recommendations to decision-makers and official and non-official bodies to work on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of these institutions in providing a social care umbrella for orphaned children. Furthermore, the study aims to provide libraries and graduate students with a body of scientific literature on social care for orphaned children, raise their awareness, and enhance their skills by encouraging them to conduct future studies and research on the subject to improve the quality of social care provided to orphaned children.

Study Scope:

The study was conducted in the West Bank in Palestine with orphaned children deprived of family care and residing in public or private residential social welfare institutions. Data was collected from the study participants during the period from February to May 2026.

Study Concepts:

Orphans (singular: orphan):

An orphan is defined as a child who has lost one or both parents before reaching puberty (Abu Hammad, 2015). An orphan can also be an individual who has been abandoned, or who has been separated from his or her parents by a court order. Such an individual is known in care settings as a social orphan (Nassar & Banat, 2017). An orphan is also defined as a child whose parents have died but who still receives family support or children whose parents intentionally left them in residential institutions, because they are unable to provide care for them (Alkhelaiwi, 2018). Additionally, it is worth noting that there are different types of orphaned children: some are born out of wedlock, others have an unknown father or mother, and still others have lost only their mother, only their father, or both. All of these groups must receive comprehensive and adequate care so that they can feel secure and safe (Baron, 2011; Al-Mahdar, 2023).

Thus, orphaned children are defined as those deprived of full family care because of the loss of both parents or one of them, or the absence of a legal guardian to care for them, as well as children from families facing social circumstances that necessitate their placement in care facilities (Jabah, 2023). Meanwhile, guardianship of an orphan is defined as the act of an individual or a private or government institution taking on the responsibility of raising and caring for the orphan until he or she reaches the age of majority (Mohsen, 2008).

For the purpose of this study, orphans are defined as children from birth through age 18 who are deprived of full family care as a result of the loss of both parents or one of them, as well as children from families facing social and economic circumstances that necessitate their placement in residential social care facilities. This may be due to the family's poor economic situation, family breakdown, illness of a parent, a parent's incarceration, or children in special social circumstances (such as children of unknown parentage or children born out of wedlock).

Residential Social Welfare Institutions:

Residential social welfare institutions are

defined as organizations that aim to help individuals meet their personal and social needs; these organizations are based on the provision of social welfare services through government and nongovernmental agencies and institutions (Mohsen, 2008). They are also known as organizations that take in orphaned children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing them with comprehensive, non-profit care services that meet their basic needs and prepare them to become active members of society, free from exploitation, and capable of taking on responsibilities to contribute to the community (Ramadan, 2022). Further, residential care facilities are defined as institutions designed to house children deprived of family care due to difficult social circumstances that have prevented them from continuing to live within their natural families, such as children of unknown parentage, homeless children, and orphans, as well as those affected by family breakdown, illness, or the disability of a parent (Shahin & Bilalou, 2021). Care programs in these institutions include the provision of shelter, food, drink, clothing, and health care, in addition to some extracurricular and recreational activities (Nassar & Banat, 2017).

For the purpose of this study, residential social welfare institutions are defined as public or private institutions that take in orphaned children and those with special social needs, providing them with comprehensive care services on a non-profit basis to meet their basic living needs and prepare them to become active members of society, free from exploitation, and capable of taking on responsibilities to contribute effectively to society.

Basic Needs:

Abraham Maslow defined needs as basic physiological needs such as food, air, water, and shelter; the need for security, peace of mind, and protection from danger; the need for social belonging, such as love, a sense of belonging, and acceptance by others; the need for self-esteem, self-confidence, and the achievement of goals; the need for self-actualization, achieved through feeling society's appreciation for one's services and efforts, and by expressing one's inner thoughts to affirm one's sense of existence and value in society. In later stages, Maslow added the need for knowledge and aesthetic needs (Khalaf, 2026).

Additionally, basic needs are also defined as those needs that sustain and strengthen the human being, enabling him or her to work and be productive; It is essential that these needs align with the requirements of time, place, and the economic

and social level of the environment surrounding the individual, because they live within a society on which they depend, with which they interact, and which influences and is influenced by them. Consequently, through the nature of these needs, they perceive themselves as active members of the society in which they live and to which they belong (Al-Sayyid, 2024). Further, the assessment of basic needs has been defined as the process of prioritizing social welfare, whether for specific groups or for society at large, identifying the types of services required, and determining urgent priorities, thereby contributing to the more effective use of allocated resources (Oweis et al., 2025).

For the purpose of this study, basic needs are defined as the needs of orphaned children residing in residential social care institutions, such as the need for food, water, and shelter; the need to feel secure, loved, and accepted by others; the need for empowerment and self-actualization; as well as needs related to health care, education, and recreation.

Theoretical Framework of the Research:

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

The hierarchy of needs, also known as Maslow's hierarchy of needs or Maslow's pyramid, is a psychological theory proposed by Abraham Maslow. The theory discusses the hierarchy of human needs and describes the motivations that drive human behavior. These needs can be summarized as follows; physiological needs, safety needs, social needs, the need for esteem, and the need for self-actualization. Maslow later added other needs, such as the needs for science and knowledge and aesthetic needs.

It is important to note that this theory has faced some criticism, which can be summarized as follows:

1. The theory assumes a hierarchy and sequence of needs. However, some people may prioritize these needs differently. For example, a creative person might begin the hierarchy with the need for self-actualization, while others might prioritize social needs.
2. Some people may insist on further satisfaction of a particular need even though it has already been satisfied. This is contrary to the theory's assumption that once a specific need is satisfied, one moves on to satisfying a higher need in the hierarchy.
3. The theory does not specify the degree of satisfaction required to move directly to the next higher need. Rather, it assumes that satisfaction occurs without specifying its extent.
4. The theory assumes that we move from

satisfying one need to satisfying another immediately upon satisfying the lower-level need. However, it can be argued that in reality we satisfy more than one need at the same time)Ammar, et al., 2025).

Study Methodology:

Type of Study:

This study falls under the category of descriptive studies, as this type of research involves current facts regarding the nature of a phenomenon, situation, group of people, set of units, or set of conditions (Al-Dulaimi, 2016). Furthermore, descriptive studies facilitate the quantitative and qualitative description of the opinions of a specific, defined-size research community regarding a particular service, problem, or need (Abu al-Nasr, 2017; Shata, 2009).

Research Methodology:

The current study adopted a quantitative

Table 1: Shows the distribution of institutions and their locations.

N	Name of the Institution	Location of the institution	Number of orphans
1	The Arab Orphan Home Association – The Red Crescent Society	Tulkarem	43
2	Islamic Charitable Society	Hebron	48
3	Industrial Islamic Orphanage School Foun	Jerusalem	12
4	Dar Al-Iman Orphan Care Institution	Qalqilya	21
5	Orphanage - Women's Union Association	Nablus	16
	Total		140

The researchers conducted this study using a random probability sampling method, with the study sample consisting of 140 orphaned children. The study relied on clear inclusion criteria: (1) the participant must be a Palestinian residing in the West Bank; (2) the participant must be an orphan from birth through age 18 and residing in residential social welfare institutions; (3) the participant must voluntarily agree to participate. Table 2 shows the demographic distribution of the study population according to its variables.

Table 2: The study population and its demographic characteristics according to the variables

The variable	Variable levels	Repetition	Percentage (%)
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approach utilizing a comprehensive social survey, with a probability sample selected at random. The social survey is based on describing and diagnosing a phenomenon, collecting data on it, and reporting its current status—that is, what actually exists in a segment of society—through structured interviews or questionnaires (Al-Mahmoudi, 2019). The aim is to obtain a set of data, interpret it, generalize it, and contextualize it, all for the purpose of scientific application (Daliou, 2023). Furthermore, a social survey is not merely a description or inventory of what actually exists but goes beyond that to include other processes such as analysis, interpretation, and comparison of the current situation with other levels (Al-Fartousi & Al-Maidani, 2023). Thus, it is suitable for this study both in terms of its subject matter and the adequacy of the data that can be collected.

Sample and data collection procedures:

Sample selection procedures:

The study population consisted of orphaned children deprived of family care in the West Bank of Palestine and residing in public or private residential social welfare institutions. Table 1 shows the distribution of these institutions and their locations as follows:

Gender	Male	70	50.0
	female	70	50.0
	Total	140	100.0
Age	Less than 8 years	38	27.1
	From 8 years old – under 10 years old	24	17.1
	From 10 years old – under 12 years old	18	12.9
	From 12 years and older	60	42.9
	Total	140	100.0
Number of brothers and sisters	I don't have any siblings	9	6.4
	One sibling	16	11.4
	Two siblings	15	10.7
	Three siblings	26	18.6
	Four or more siblings	74	52.9
	Total	140	100.0
Classroom	First Grade	10	7.1
	Second Grade	8	5.7
	Third Grade	8	5.7
	Fourth Grade	12	8.6
	Fifth Grade	14	10.0
	Sixth Grade	6	4.3
	Seventh grade and above	59	42.1
	Daycare or Preschool	23	16.4
	Total	140	100.0
Reason for presence / enrollment at the institution	The death of one or both parents	70	50.0
	Divorce / Parental Separation	61	43.6
	The family's poor financial situation	4	2.9
	Imprisonment of a parent	1	.7

	Chronic disease	1	.7
	A child of unknown parentage	2	1.4
	A child born out of wedlock	1	.7
	Total	140	100.0
Length of time spent at the institution	Less than 4 years	88	62.9
	4 years – less than 8 years	44	31.4
	8 years or older	8	5.7
	Total	140	100.0
Household income	No income	60	42.9
	Pension for a parent	24	17.1
	Donations from generous people	27	19.3
	A brother's work	10	7.1
	I rely on the institution	19	13.6
	Total	140	100.0

Sampling Method and Response Rate:

The questionnaire (both paper and electronic versions) was distributed to approximately 377 orphaned children through the Social Development Directorates in the West Bank, of whom 140 responded and completed the questionnaire in full. The researchers collaborated with counselors at the Social Development Directorates in the West Bank to collect data from the orphaned children.

Ethical Procedures and Considerations:

The researchers adhered to internationally recognized principles of research ethics, such as respect for human dignity, informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, non-maleficence, beneficence, justice, transparency, and accountability. Given the exceptional circumstances in the West Bank governorates, the following procedures were followed:

1. **Informed Consent:** The questionnaire (both the paper version and the online link) included an introductory page explaining the research objectives and nature, as well as the participant's rights, while emphasizing that participation was entirely

voluntary and that participants had the right to withdraw at any time without any obligation.

2. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** No direct identifying information was collected, and all responses were stored in secure electronic files accessible only to the research team, with the data used strictly for scientific purposes in accordance with research standards.

3. **Non-harm:** The questionnaire was designed with the psychological and social well-being of the participants in mind, avoiding questions that might cause trauma or additional stress to the respondents.

4. **Benefit:** The research aims to document the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine, thereby contributing to the Palestinian community and decision-makers.

5. **Responsibility and Fairness:** The researchers made every effort to distribute the research instrument (the questionnaire) fairly among the various orphaned children residing in social welfare institutions in the West Bank, while ensuring that participation did not place an additional burden on the respondents given the difficult circumstances resulting from the ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing in the West Bank of Palestine.

It is worth noting that the researchers obtained approval from the Research Ethics Committee at Al-Istiqlal University. Subsequently, official correspondence took place between Al-Istiqlal University and the Minister of Social Development in the Ramallah Governorate. After obtaining the Minister of Social Development's approval, the number of residential social welfare institutions in the West Bank and the number of orphaned children residing was identified, and communication and coordination took place with these institutions to obtain their consent for the research and to interview the orphaned children. Subsequently, the questionnaire—both in paper and electronic formats—was distributed to orphan counselors at the Social Development Directorates in the West Bank governorates to assist in the data collection process. Interviews with orphaned children in residential social welfare institutions were conducted in collaboration with the counselors, particularly social workers and psychologists, as well as supervisors of orphaned children in these institutions. The researchers adhered to these general principles to ensure that the study was conducted in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

Research Tool:

The researchers used a questionnaire they had developed, after verifying its validity and reliability. The questionnaire included eight items on demographic data and six sections containing 75 statements regarding the basic needs of orphaned children and the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children. Thus, the total number of questionnaire items was 83. The questionnaire used Likert's five-point scale as follows: "Always" (5), "Mostly" (4), "Sometimes" (3), "Rarely" (2), and "Never" (1).

1. **Instrument Validity:** The researchers ensured the validity of the instrument by presenting it to a number of experienced and specialized reviewers in Palestine (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) as well as in other Arab countries. The experts and faculty members exchanged ideas and analyses regarding the reformulation of certain study items to ensure they covered all dimensions of the subject under study. Some adjustments were made to the wording of the items, and after the required modifications were implemented, the reviewers confirmed the validity of the study instrument.

2. **Instrument reliability:** The researchers assessed the reliability of the instrument using Cronbach's alpha, and the reliability coefficients for the instrument's subscales are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Study Reliability Coefficients Using Cronbach's Alpha.

N	Field	Cronbach's alpha coefficient
1	Material and nutritional needs	0.852
2	Psychological and social needs	0.842
3	Cognitive needs	0.854
Total score for the "Basic Needs of Orphaned Children" category		0.889
1	Effectiveness related to healthcare	0.817
2	Effectiveness related to educational care	0.804
3	Effectiveness related to recreational care	0.915
The total value of the social welfare institutions effectiveness axis		0.872
Overall Grade		0.906

Table 3 shows that the study's dimensions have high reliability coefficients with an overall reliability coefficient of 0.906, which is a high value. These results are sufficient for the purposes of the current study.

Statistical Analyses:

After transcribing the responses of the study sample, the data were coded and entered into a computer, and then statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The

statistical analyses included frequencies, arithmetic means, percentages, standard deviations, and Cronbach's alpha to calculate the reliability coefficient. To interpret the study results, the researchers used the following arithmetic means: less than 1.80 was very low, 1.81–2.60 was low, 2.61–3.40 was moderate, 3.41–4.20 was high, and 4.21–5.00 was very high.

Results

The preceding pages presented the theoretical and methodological aspects of the study. In the following section are the study's findings, organized according to the sequence of its research questions.

Basic Needs of Orphaned Children Deprived of Family Care in Social Welfare Institutions in Palestine

Answer to the first question, which reads: What are the material and nutritional needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine?

Table 4: Material and Nutritional needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	10	The institution provides us with clean drinking water	4.71	.63	94.2	Very high
2	9	I feel at ease because the institutions is clean	4.60	.79	92.0	Very high
3	7	The institutions provides us with a healthy environment in terms of lighting and ventilation	4.54	.90	90.8	Very high
4	3	There are enough bathrooms for us at the institutions	4.52	.87	90.4	Very high
5	11	The institutions quickly fixes any malfunctions	4.52	.78	90.4	Very high
6	1	The institutions provides me with a healthy, balanced diet	4.51	.79	90.2	Very high
7	12	The institutions has comfortable furniture for us	4.50	1.00	90.0	Very high
8	5	The institutions provides us with heating in the winter	4.46	.96	89.2	Very high

9	4	The institutions provides me with appropriate clothing	4.42	.93	88.4	Very high
10	8	The institution has gardens and courtyards for us	4.30	1.09	86.0	Very high
11	6	The institutions has air conditioners for us to use during the summer	4.25	1.27	85.0	Very high
12	2	The institution provides me with suitable bedrooms	4.22	1.23	84.4	Very high
The overall score of the axis			4.46	.77	89.2	Very high

Table 4 shows that the items regarding the material and nutritional needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine scored very high, with arithmetic means ranging from 4.22 to 4.71. The item with the highest mean was item (10), which states, "The institution provides us with clean drinking water," with an arithmetic mean of (4.71) and a percentage of (94.2%). and the item with the lowest mean was item No. (2), which reads "The institution provides me with suitable bedrooms," with an arithmetic mean of (4.22) and a percentage of (84.4%), Consequently, this result indicates that the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine—specifically regarding

material and nutritional needs—were very high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had an mean of (4.46) and a percentage of (89.2%).

Researchers can explain this result in light of the social solidarity and human mutual support in Palestinian society, represented by the donations that these institutions receive from benefactors such as Zakat on wealth and grants, and especially sponsorships of orphaned children by members of the community.

The answer to the second question, which reads: What are the basic psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine?

Table 5: The psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	8	I receive respect and appreciation from the institution's administration	4.65	.75	93.0	Very high
2	6	The institution's psychologist holds counseling sessions for us	4.12	1.04	82.4	High

3	5	I have a desire to live among my family	4.03	1.23	80.6	High
4	12	I take the initiative to present my problems to the social worker at the institution	3.87	1.25	77.4	High
5	10	My relationship with the institution's management is strictly professional	3.46	1.31	69.2	High
6	1	My relatives don't ask about me at the institution	3.07	1.20	61.4	Medium
7	4	I don't like anyone to know that I'm affiliated with the institution	2.57	1.21	51.4	Low
8	7	Society looks down on me because I'm a resident of the institution	2.47	1.26	49.4	Low
9	3	I cannot rely on myself in the institution	2.46	1.10	49.2	Low
10	11	I feel uncomfortable because of the overcrowding in the institution	2.43	1.31	48.6	Low
11	2	I constantly feel afraid within the institution	2.05	.94	41.0	Low
12	9	The institution uses corporal punishment	1.87	.95	37.4	Low
The overall score of the axis			3.09	.51	61.8	Medium

Table 5 shows that the items regarding the psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine ranged from low to very high levels. as the arithmetic means for the items ranged from (1.87) to (4.65). The item with the highest mean was item (8), which states, "I receive respect and appreciation from the institution's administration," with a mean of (4.65) and a percentage of (93%). The item with the lowest mean was item (9), which reads "The

institution uses corporal punishment," with an mean of (1.87) and a percentage of (37.4%). Consequently, this result indicates that the basic psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine were medium, as indicated by the overall score, which had an arithmetic mean of 3.09 and a percentage of 61.8%.

This result can be explained by the fact that these institutions are concerned with providing basic social care for orphaned children, including food,

drink, education, health care, and suitable housing, compared to psychological and social support. Social and psychological specialists consider their presence in these institutions to be temporary until they obtain jobs in official government institutions to improve their professional status and achieve a better financial salary. As a result, this impacts their

efficiency in preparing activities that contribute to improving the psychological health of orphaned children and solving their various problems.

Answer to the third question, which reads: What are the cognitive needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine?

Table 6: The basic cognitive needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	12	The institution provides opportunities for social interaction with others	4.45	.90	89.0	Very high
2	11	The institution helps me act responsibly toward my community	4.37	.97	87.4	Very high
3	10	The institution provides books, magazines, and cultural films.	4.35	1.05	87.0	Very high
4	2	I would like to attend cultural seminars	3.77	1.02	75.4	Medium
5	8	I hope to find teachers who can help me with my studies	3.17	1.36	63.4	Medium
6	6	I can't find anyone who understands and appreciates my talents	2.53	1.18	50.6	Low
7	7	I am unable to participate in sports and various activities	2.48	1.22	49.6	Low
8	1	I do not wish to participate in the school's exchange visits	2.47	1.07	49.40	Low
9	3	I prefer isolation and not participating in parties	2.47	1.14	49.4	Low
10	5	I don't want to participate in competitions	2.32	1.12	46.4	Low

11	9	I can't find anyone to stand by me when problems arise at school	2.27	1.18	45.4	Low
12	4	Going to school is a burden on me	2.12	1.08	42.4	Low
The overall score of the axis			3.06	.58	61.2	Medium

Table 6 shows that the items regarding the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine, specifically those related to cognitive needs, ranged from low to very high levels. with the arithmetic means for the items ranging from (2.12) to (4.45). The item with the highest mean was item (12), which states, "The institution provides opportunities for social interaction with others," with a mean of (4.45) and a percentage of (89%). The item with the lowest mean was item No. (4), which reads "Going to school is a burden on me," with a mean of (2.12) and a percentage of (42.4%). Accordingly, this result indicates that the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions

in Palestine, as related to cognitive needs, were medium, as indicated by the overall score, which had an arithmetic mean of (3.06) and a percentage of (61.2%).

Researchers can explain this result in light of the books, magazines, and cultural films provided by the institution, the means of social interaction with members of the community, the empowerment of orphaned children to act responsibly towards society, and the promotion of their interaction in community activities.

Areas of Basic Needs for Orphaned Children Deprived of Family Care in Social Welfare Institutions in Palestine

Table 7: Illustrates the areas of basic needs for orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Field	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	1	Material and nutritional needs	4.46	.77	89.0	Very high
2	2	Psychological and social needs	3.09	.51	61.8	Medium
3	3	Cognitive needs	3.06	.58	61.2	Medium
The overall score of the axis			3.54	.38	70.8	high

Table 7 shows that the areas of basic needs for orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine ranged from medium to very high levels, with the arithmetic means for these areas ranging from 3.06 to 4.46. Material and nutritional needs ranked first, followed by psychological and social needs, and then cognitive needs. Accordingly, this result indicates that the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine were

high, as evidenced by the total score, which had a mean of (3.54) and a percentage of (70.8%).

The Effectiveness of Social Welfare Institutions in Meeting the Basic Needs of Orphaned Children Deprived of Family Care in Palestine

Answer to Question 4, which reads: How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic healthcare needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine?

Table 8: The effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic healthcare needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
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1	5	The institution provides first aid services	4.51	.77	90.2	Very high
2	9	I feel reassured knowing I have someone accompanying me when I go to the hospital	4.47	.90	89.4	Very high
3	8	The institution provides me with medications and vaccines if needed.	4.40	.92	88.0	Very high
4	2	I receive health services from the institution that suit me	4.33	.96	86.6	Very high
5	10	The institution implements health education programs for us.	4.25	1.01	85.0	Very high
6	7	The doctor is concerned with examining all the children of the institution	4.22	1.10	84.4	Very high
7	12	The institution provides me with health insurance	4.21	1.21	84.20	Very high
8	4	The institution is committed to providing us with regular medical check-ups	4.02	1.14	80.4	High
9	1	The institution provides us with physiotherapy sessions	3.45	1.23	69.0	highH
10	11	The doctor is assigned once a month	3.37	1.27	67.4	Medium
11	3	The doctor's office in the institution is often closed	3.25	1.30	65.0	Medium
12	13	The institution provides a full-time nurse to monitor	3.14	1.40	62.80	Medium

		the children in the institution				
13	6	I wished I could get checked out at a health clinic when I was tired	3.01	1.42	60.2	Medium
The overall score of the axis			3.90	.64	78.0	High

Table 8 shows that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic health care needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine ranged from medium to very high levels; with the arithmetic means for the items ranging from (3.01) to (4.51). The item with the highest mean was item (5), which states, "The institution provides first aid services," with a mean of (4.51) and a percentage of (90.2%). The item with the lowest mean was item (6), which read "I wished I could get checked out at a health clinic when I was tired," with a mean of 3.01 and a percentage of 60.2%. Consequently, this result indicates that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic healthcare needs of

orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had an arithmetic mean of (3.90) and a percentage of (78.0%).

Researchers attribute this to the health care and medical attention that orphaned children receive in social welfare institutions from the community, as many health and medical institutions provide their services free of charge to orphaned children on a voluntary basis as a religious and humanitarian duty.

Answer to Question 5, which reads: How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic educational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine?

Table 9: The effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic educational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	8	The institution provides appropriate educational resources	4.37	.96	87.40	Very high
2	6	The institution is keen to honor us when we excel academically	4.19	1.13	83.80	High
3	9	The institution provides private tutoring if the child needs it	4.05	1.19	81.00	High
4	13	The institution provides vocational and technical education for me	3.67	1.33	73.40	High
5	4	I would like my teachers to help me study	3.49	1.22	69.80	High

6	1	I find it difficult to benefit from the educational process	2.79	1.15	55.80	Medium
7	12	I feel discriminated against compared to my schoolmates	2.68	1.37	53.60	Medium
8	5	It is difficult to concentrate on studying within the institution	2.66	1.22	53.20	Medium
9	2	I wish to attend private schools like other ordinary children	2.60	1.37	52.00	Medium
10	11	The distance between the school and the institution is exhausting me	2.37	1.26	47.40	Low
11	10	The people around me don't encourage me to continue my education	2.36	1.23	47.20	Low
12	7	I have a feeling that continuing education is pointless	2.35	1.13	47.00	Low
13	3	My relationship with my teachers is not helping me succeed	2.28	1.08	45.60	Low
The overall score of the axis			3.06	.56	61.2	High

Table 9 shows that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic educational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine ranged from medium to very high levels. as the arithmetic means for the items ranged from (2.28) to (4.37). The item with the highest mean was item (8), which states, "The institution provides appropriate educational resources," with a mean of (4.37) and a percentage of (87.4%). and the item with the lowest mean was item No. (3), which reads "My relationship with my teachers is not helping me succeed," with a mean of (2.28) and a percentage of (45.6%). Consequently, this result indicates that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic educational needs of orphaned children

deprived of family care in Palestine was high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.06) and a percentage of (61.2%).

This result can be explained by the efficiency of these institutions in providing educational care for orphaned children and the facilities provided for them. This is illustrated by exemptions from tuition fees and securing the requirements of the educational process such as books, stationery and transportation, providing private lessons and honoring outstanding students.

Answer to Question 6, which reads: How effective are social welfare institutions in meeting the basic recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine?

Table 10: The effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	6	I am happy to participate in trips organized by the institution	4.48	.94	89.6	Very high
2	3	The institution organizes cultural activities and competitions	4.42	.96	88.4	Very high
3	4	The institution provides a suitable place for reading	4.42	.98	88.4	Very high
4	5	The institution provides a library with many books	4.40	1.02	88.0	Very high
5	10	The institution has office supplies for us	4.34	1.10	86.8	Very high
6	8	The institution provides us with computers	4.33	1.07	86.6	Very high
7	12	The institution provides me with a daily allowance to buy what I need	4.32	1.08	86.4	Very high
8	13	I participate in the activities offered by the social worker at the institution	4.27	1.10	85.4	Very high
9	1	The institution provides a sports field	4.21	1.16	84.2	Very high
10	9	The institution provided a suitable space for me to practice my hobbies	4.20	1.11	84.0	High
11	2	The institution provides a prayer room	4.19	1.23	83.8	High
12	7	The institution encourages me to	3.72	1.29	74.4	High

		participate with the school's music band				
13	11	The institution organizes birthday parties for us	3.67	1.39	73.4	High
The overall score of the axis			4.23	.78	84.6	Very high

Table 10 shows that the items assessing the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine scored between high and very high levels. as the arithmetic means for the items ranged from (3.67) to (4.48). The item with the highest mean was item (6), which reads, "I am happy to participate in trips organized by the institution," with a mean of (4.48) and a percentage of (89.6%). The statement with the lowest mean was statement No. (11), which reads, "The institution organizes birthday parties for us," with a mean of (3.67) and a percentage of (73.4%). Consequently, this result indicates that the effectiveness of social welfare

institutions in meeting the basic recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was very high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had a mean of (4.23) and a percentage of (84.6%).

This result can be explained by the recreational and cultural activities that the institution carries out for orphaned children such as scientific competitions and birthday parties, and the allocation of a library containing many books and computers, to develop various skills and practice different hobbies.

Areas of Effectiveness of Social Welfare Institutions in Meeting the Basic Needs of Orphaned Children Deprived of Family Care in Palestine

Table 11: Illustrates the areas of effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine.

Ranking	Number	Field	Mean	Standard dev.	percentage	Appreciation
1	2	Effectiveness related to healthcare	3.90	.64	78.0	high
2	3	Effectiveness related to educational care	3.06	.56	61.2	high
3	1	Effectiveness related to recreational care	4.23	.78	84.6	Very high
The overall score of the axis			3.73	.48	74.6	high

Table (11) shows that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine ranged from high to very high, with the arithmetic means for these areas ranging from 3.06 to 4.23. The area of effectiveness related to recreational care ranked first, followed by the area of effectiveness related to health care, and then the area of effectiveness related to educational care. Accordingly, this result indicates that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was high, as indicated by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.73) and a

percentage of (74.6%).

CONCLUSIONS

In light of the study's findings, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The study's findings indicated that the basic material and nutritional needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine were very high.
2. The study's results showed that the basic psychological and social needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine were moderate.
3. The study results indicated that the basic

cognitive needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in social welfare institutions in Palestine were moderate.

4. The study results revealed that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic healthcare needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was high.

5. The study results indicated that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic educational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was high.

6. The study results showed that the effectiveness of social welfare institutions in meeting the basic recreational needs of orphaned children deprived of family care in Palestine was very high.

Recommendations based on study's findings:

The Ministry of Social Development should work to develop a framework for the care of orphaned children in social institutions to improve the quality of services and the management of social, psychological, and educational activities, particularly by providing financial and moral support to social welfare institutions that care for orphaned children. The Ministry of Education and institutions involved in the care of orphaned children should organize conferences and seminars aimed at addressing the psychological, social, and educational needs of orphaned children. Efforts should be made to integrate orphaned children into society by helping them participate in community and recreational activities through civil society

organizations.

Develop educational, psychological, and preventive guidance programs for orphaned children in social welfare institutions to support them in navigating their path after entering the workforce. Organize periodic workshops among residential social welfare institutions for orphaned children to strengthen the principle of partnership and share expertise among them. Organize regular events and ongoing activities among orphaned children residing in social welfare institutions to strengthen communication and interaction among them.

Provide awareness and guidance courses for those responsible for caring for orphaned children within and outside social welfare institutions so that they can contribute to enhancing the mental health and self-actualization of orphaned children. Work to improve the professional development of staff at orphan care institutions, enhance their knowledge, and strengthen their professional performance by adopting new, high-quality programs.

Work to unify efforts and means of cooperation among social welfare institutions for orphaned children by creating shared databases. Work to identify the daily challenges faced by orphaned children in social welfare institutions and find appropriate solutions with the participation of qualified social workers and psychologists. Expand the participation of orphaned children and encourage them to engage in sports, artistic, and social activities, thereby motivating them to adapt to their social environment.

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