



# Remote Learning and Education Gaps

February 2021

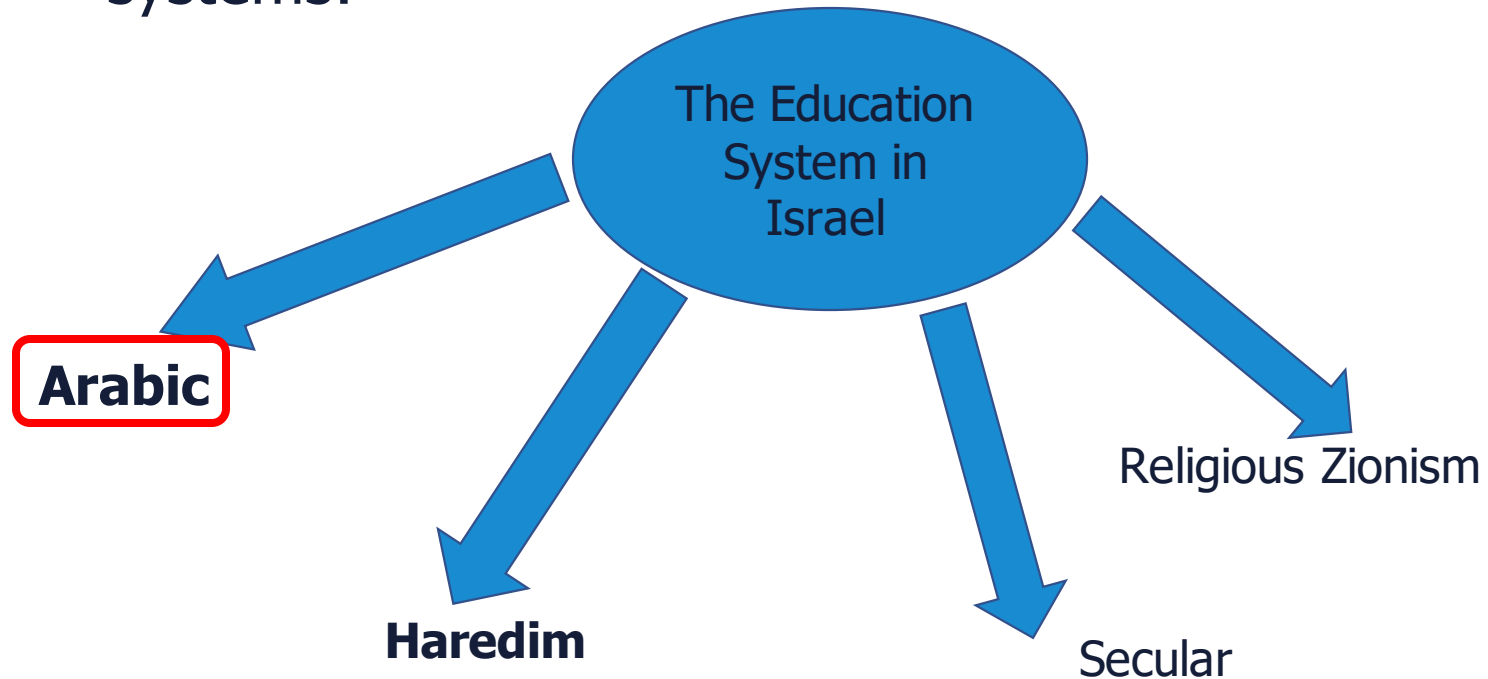
Nasreen Haddad Haj-Yahya

# The Arab Citizens of Israel

- The Arab society constitutes 20% of the Israeli population
- Over 50% of the Arabs in Israel live under the poverty line
- 2 out of 3 children in Israel grow up in poverty
- 90% of the Arab population live in separate communities
- The numbers have risen since the COVID-19 outbreak

# The Education System in Israel

— Students in Israel study in 4 separate education systems:

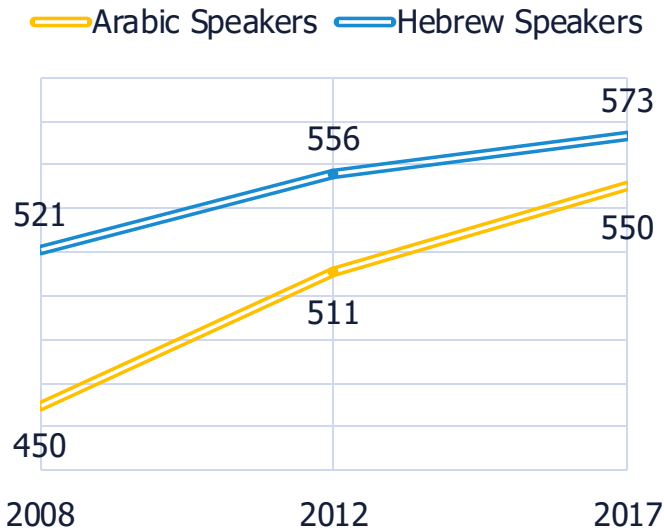


# Difficulties

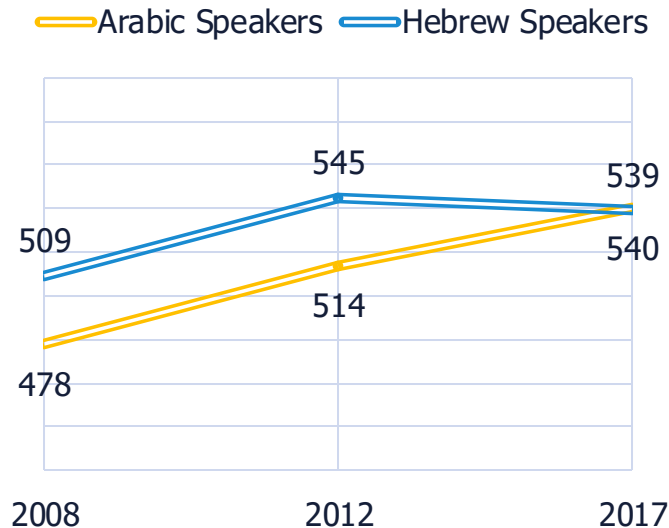
- The Israeli education system is characterized by national and economic disparities
- Despite the additional budget allocated in recent years, there are still significant gaps in resource allocation between the Arab and Jewish education systems
- Gaps in student achievements

# Meitzav Test Achievements: 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

## Math

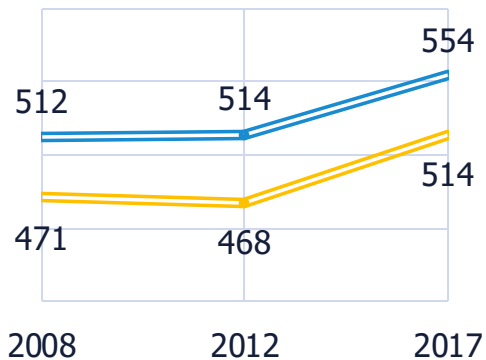


## English

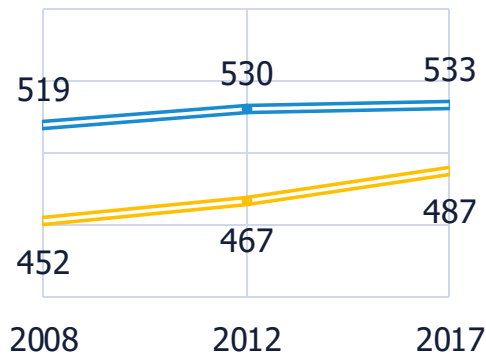


# Meitzav Test Achievements: 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

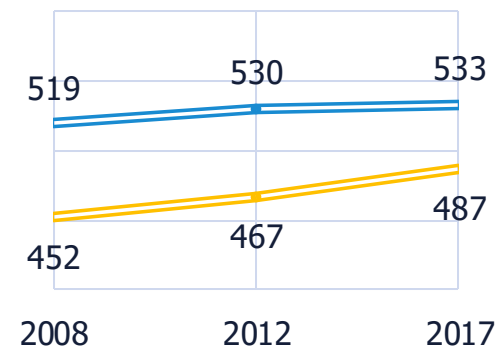
## Math




## English



## Science and Technology



 Arabic Speakers  
 Hebrew Speakers

# “Bagrut” Matriculation Eligibility

- Increase in Bagrut eligibility for both female and male Arab students
- The gap between Arab and Jewish students has narrowed drastically among females but remained wide among males
- Nevertheless, female Jewish students still have better scores on their high school diploma, academically speaking

# School Dropout

	Arab		Jewish	
Year	Females	Males	Females	Males
2005	4.8	10.2	2.4	5.9
2013	2.8	6.7	1.7	3.8
2018	1.9	4.5	1.0	3.3



# Budget and Infrastructure

- The Arab education system suffers from great budget disparities
- In recent years, the government has acknowledged the importance of investing in Arab education, and is gradually implementing steps for differential budgeting
- Yet, disparities in budgets from the ministry of education, the local authorities, parents and civil society organizations result in very big resource gaps between the Arab and Israeli education

# Infrastructure

- Deficiency in classrooms and slow pace of classroom construction
- Crowded classrooms or studying in portable buildings
- East Jerusalem- 2500 classrooms are lacking
- Gaps between the Arab and Jewish education in the computers, libraries and sports facilities per student

# Education in Times of Corona

- All the previous data was collected before the outbreak of covid19, which added and uncovered additional difficulties and disparities
- Among which, the subject of remote learning was prominent



# Remote Learning in The Arab Society

# Difficulties in Remote Learning

- Severe shortage of computers (140,000-150,000)
- Internet connection
- Lacking high speed internet
- Low levels of digital proficiency
- Lack of contents in Arabic for remote learning
- Weak local Arab authorities

# Challenges

- Need to map infrastructure and equipment needs
- Allocation of resources for closing the gaps in remote learning – short and long term
- Creating a discourse and a work process between the government and the Arab society in order to find the most suitable solutions

# Short Term Solutions

- Upgrading infrastructure to meet the basic needs
- Supplying computers and other necessary equipment
- Training teachers in digital proficiency
- Instructing parents and students in remote learning
- Providing content in Arabic

# Long Term Solutions

- Construction of necessary infrastructure
- Reinforcement of the education departments in Arab authorities
- Strengthening the level of digital literacy
- Content in Arabic for remote learning



# Possible Initiatives

- Appointing a national project manager for education in Arab society
- Providing digital equipment with internet connection in public buildings for the use of students
- Personal mentoring for students who do not have a computer at home
- Broadcasting courses in Arabic on a dedicated television channel
- Providing simple cellphones for remote learning using audio
- Developing learning applications that will be accessible through smartphones, or using existing applications

# Opportunities

- Strengthening the Arab education system
- Narrowing the gaps between the Arabs Jews in education and employment in Israel
- Strengthening the relations between the state, the education system and Arab society