

Abstract

Tourism and Recreation in the District of Ramallah and Al-Bireh .

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Studies on tourism and recreational areas in the district of Ramallah and Al-Bireh and their role the Palestinian economy are few if not rare. Studies concentrate on such subjects are though important to support the tourism activities in the district.

The objectives of this study are to explore the tourism and recreational and activities in the district of Ramallah and Al-Bireh in order to high light different tourism and recreational attraction factors, in addition to reveal the natural and traditional characteristics of the district. Besides, the study will focus on exploring the importance of historical and religious studies.

Data on the study area was obtained from literatures, interviews with some officials and employers in tourism sector, especially those in private parks.

Data was also obtained through formulation and filling questionnaire from a random sample of the parks visitors in 2006. The questionnaire was filled during the normal weakly vacation (Fridays and Sundays). The data was analyzed quantitatively using SPSS utilizing cross tabulation and correlation matrices between different variables.

The study showed that most of the visitors are those belonging to persons aging 45 years or less. Married visitors comprised the highest proportion or about (70%). 54% of the families visiting the parks have five members or less. Concerning the monthly income, the study revealed that 58% of the

sample earn a monthly income of less than 1000 US \$. And they are mostly public and governmental employees.

58% of the sample was also using their private cars, indicating that they are living close to the area. 79% of the sample stay less than 12 hours and return back to their homes. finally the analysis showed that 59% of the visitors are coming with the aim of spending their vacation for recreation and enjoyment.