



## THE ROLE OF NURSERIES AT THE HOLY SHRINES IN DEVELOPING RECREATIONAL TOURISM (A STUDY OF A SAMPLE OF VISITORS TO THE NURSERIES OF THE HUSSEIN AND ABBASID SHRINES)

**Taha Mahdi Mahmood**

Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University / Technical Institute Karbala / Department of Tourism and Hotel Technology  
Taha.mahmood@student.atu.edu.iq

Article history:	Abstract:
<p><b>Received:</b> August 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> September 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 <b>Published:</b> October 21<sup>ST</sup> 2023</p>	<p>City dwellers perform expensive tasks that are often routine and repetitive, which causes many of them to feel isolated and thus suffer from one of the most important diseases of the era (boredom and alienation). They are deprived of opportunities to communicate and interact with natural resources due to the lack of free time and the distance of natural and recreational resources from their permanent residence and work.</p> <p>Karbala today, after its growth and increase in population, and the continuous tourism and number of permanent visitors throughout the year, which includes main tourist patterns, the most important of which are religious, archaeological, and entertainment, which visitors have begun to pay great attention to as a result of the increase in sites and recreational components that have started to attract them remarkably, most notably the projects of the holy shrines in The city of Karbala, especially the nurseries, has become a significant outlet and worthy of being visited and viewed by a large group of visitors.</p> <p>This research sheds light on a group of concepts that draw a clear picture of their connection, as the first section included research methodology. The second section defined the theoretical side of the research, which included the main concepts and terms (the idea of nurseries, development, tourism development, tourism Entertainment), while the third section had the practical side of the research, which was presented by a brief explanation of the nurseries of the holy shrines in Karbala, then the practical side, where the research population and sample were presented and analyzed, and finally with conclusions and recommendations.</p>

**Keywords:** nursery, holy shrines, tourism development, recreational tourism.

### PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

The research problem emerges through the following:

- Is there a role for the nurseries of the holy shrines in developing recreational tourism?
- Is there actual interest in developing tourism in general?
- Did nurseries contribute to establishing their secondary tourist attraction position ahead of other recreational sites in Holy Karbala?

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The importance of the research lies in studying the extent of the role played by the nurseries of the holy shrines in Karbala to increase tourism development.

Research objectives: The research aims to:

- Identifying the main research variables concepts: Atabat nurseries and recreational tourism.
  - Identify the concepts of terminology (development, tourism development).
  - Shedding light on the role of nurseries in developing recreational tourism in Karbala.
- How to benefit from nurseries to support the tourism sector in Karbala.

**METHODOLOGY** This research uses descriptive and field survey methods (questionnaires).

### RESEARCH POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The researchers identified the study population as the arboretums of the holy shrines of Al-Hussein and Al-Abbas in Karbala, and (50 visitors) were selected as a sample for the research.

### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

There are two research hypotheses:

- There is no statistically significant correlation between Atabat nurseries and tourism development.
- There is no statistically significant correlation between Atabat nurseries and the development of recreational tourism

The theoretical aspect of research

First: The concept of the nursery:

A nursery is a place that produces small plants planted in gardens, fields, and orchards. The plants grown by the nursery vary between ornamental plants and flowers, fruit and vegetable plants, and forest trees (Munir: 12:2020).

A nursery is an area of protected agricultural land designated for the reproduction, care, and production of plant seedlings, where seeds or cuttings of some varieties are planted to produce seedlings (Sharar: 34: 2021).

It is also known as a place designated and appropriate for the propagation of plant species and their tree, vegetable, and herbaceous varieties in large quantities and raising them to the right size for planting them on permanent land for production (Al-Salem: 16: 2018).

Second: The importance of nurseries (Karim: 33: 2019):

The importance of nursery products comes from the increasing interest of citizens in them by offering green gifts to be placed on or inside the balconies of homes or planted in the garden of the house or building. This is in cities, but in the suburbs, Where spaces are more significant, or in the countryside, Where there are extensive agricultural lands, there is a great deal of interest in afforestation operations.

Countries have also begun to pay great attention to the afforestation process, as hundreds of thousands of seedlings are distributed annually to plant them on public property lands. As for private property, citizens are forced to buy their seedlings from specialized merchants.

At the individual level or the level of civil organizations such as environmental associations, specialized clubs, municipalities, and enlightened people, interest in the natural green color has increased, as has the desire to fill spaces inside and outside homes with plants, shrubs, or even trees that give places, a unique elegance and beauty that any other decoration cannot replace. It may be a fruitful tree in the garden of an earthen house, giving the place a new life and enjoyment for those interested in it, including great psychological and educational benefits.

Third: Objectives of nurseries:

Nurseries are considered one of the most important reasons for the success and progress of the agricultural renaissance, as they depend on the application of various advanced scientific methods and the use of greenhouses of different types in the field of propagation and production of seedlings, seedlings of ornamental plants, forest seedlings, etc., and the objectives of establishing nurseries can be determined as follows (Salama: 24: 2020 ):

1. Providing appropriate environmental conditions for propagating seedlings using seeds or vegetative parts and distributing the seedlings needed for agriculture within cities.
2. Producing good seedlings of excellent varieties and seedlings of large plants.
3. Paying attention to highly productive mothers, as they are suitable for environmental conditions and are free from diseases and insects so that they represent the first basis for the spread of species, their preservation, and the expansion of their cultivation by increasing the resulting numbers through vegetative propagation.
4. Employing the workforce and increasing experience through practice and training.
5. Providing controlled environmental conditions, especially for conducting agricultural experiments and research to determine the optimal means of planting, caring for, and servicing nurseries to increase production and improve the quality of horticultural crops.
6. Providing gardens with seedlings and plants necessary for planting at specific times, as well as compensating for the shortage of damaged and dead garden plants and replacing them with new plants quickly.

Fourth: Types of nurseries:

Nurseries are generally classified according to the following types (Al-Waleed: 6: 2012):

1. Permanent agricultural nurseries for the public sector, where fruitful, forestry, ornamental, and pastoral tree seedlings are produced according to a specific program to supply afforestation and afforestation projects on state-owned lands and farms.
2. Private sector agricultural nurseries specializing in producing various seedlings to supply agricultural projects for planting fruit trees, ornamental plants, and windbreaks on private lands.
3. Temporary and mobile nurseries are established in the locations of agricultural projects for a specific period by the afforestation plan and its type approved by the state.
4. Forestry nurseries specialized in producing conifers and leaf litter necessary for afforestation projects in the private and public sectors.

The classification of nurseries, in particular, is as follows:

1. Private nurseries: The nursery is attached to the private garden to provide the plants with various needs and thus eliminates the garden owner from having to buy all his supplies of seeds or seedlings.

2. Public nurseries: These large nurseries supply many gardens with plant supplies. They are owned by large bodies and institutions such as agricultural colleges and government departments related to agriculture.

3. Commercial nurseries: These are spread in large cities and are owned by individuals for commercial purposes, such as selling and trading the products of these nurseries by selling them as flower shops.

Fifth: Conditions for selecting nursery land:

The nature of the soil and its various specifications are the primary and decisive factors for obtaining excellent plants with sound vegetative and root systems, and the required conditions can be summarized as follows (Raouf: 54: 2017):

1. The nursery land must be located in the center of the afforestation area, close to public roads, railways, and populated areas to provide skilled labor. It must have electricity, irrigation water, and other supplies.

2. Its area should be sufficient to accommodate the nursery's sections and fields and be adjacent without significant breaks or spaces between them.

3. To exclude areas that are very high above sea level and characterized by climatic conditions unsuitable for plant growth and development. Also, shallow areas are not ideal for establishing nurseries due to the high humidity of their soil, which leads to delayed vegetative growth of plants, their exposure to frost and cold, and suffocation of their roots. The height of the groundwater level must be at most 1-2 m from the ground surface, whether after irrigation or heavy rain.

4. Avoid steep slopes and ground hollows that increase soil erosion and hinder the use of agricultural mechanization.

5. It is not spread by biting animals, harmful worms, fungi, harmful insects, grasses, etc.

6. It must accept sterilization using steam, chemicals, or other materials without harming it.

7. Areas free of strong winds, with homogeneous and moderately moist soil and a low slope, are preferred to facilitate water drainage and avoid the accumulation of cold air. As for the direction of the hill, this depends on the climate. In cold areas, the focus is south; in moderate temperatures, it is south-easterly; and in warm and hot regions. In summer, it is located in the northeast or west to avoid the effects of drought and hot solar blasts.

8. The soil must be deep, fertile, and loose. Salty clay and sandy lands covered with dense, perennial grasses (such as grass and rosemary) are considered unsuitable because it is poor and has poor physical properties for well-drained, light, and loose soils with moderate pH and balanced in nutrient elements, such as sandy, red, chestnut, and soft and medium clays, whether agricultural or forestry, they have good aeration and drainage and sufficient moisture to ensure excellent and robust growth of the root group. The complex, impermeable soil is not suitable for establishing a nursery due to its poor drainage of water, as well as the gravel soil. Because it is very draining, the soil should generally be heavy in physical composition in areas characterized by low humidity. Lightweight in wet areas. It should be well-fertilized annually with fermented local fertilizer and appropriate nitrogenous, phosphate, and potash fertilizers. And mix well with the soil.

Sixth: Basic and additional nursery facilities:

It includes the following buildings and artistic installations (Abdul Halim: 22: 2021):

1. Administration buildings include administration and technician offices and rest areas close to the main entrance and parking lot.

2. Material and production requirements warehouse buildings include machinery and maintenance parking lots and warehouses for fertilizers and pesticides. And rooms for storing seeds and growth and reproduction regulators.

3. Production and marketing buildings, which include:

- Work and production facilities for preparing cuttings, seeds, and agricultural media, including tubs and containers, and sorting and classifying seedlings and roots.

- Propagation and breeding facilities: These include glass greenhouses, plastic greenhouses, plastic tunnels, fireplaces, canopies, and others.

**PLANTING AND STORAGE SERVICE FACILITIES:** These include root trimming, root pruning, classification, and packing. As for storage or wintering of seedlings, it is done in different ways: cold storage, wintering rooms (basements), or landfilling.

- Sales and marketing facilities and the nursery are protected with a metal fence equipped with doors and entrances that allow easy movement of machinery and service devices.

4. Agricultural mechanisms, devices, and tools: The most important of them are agricultural tractors, soil preparation and leveling mechanisms, weed removal, preparation and packaging of farming media, means of transportation and irrigation devices, soil sterilization devices, preservation of seeds and vegetable parts, screens, saws, scissors, brackets and various means of fastening, tools for pruning, uprooting plants and removing leaves, planter bundles, etc.

Seventh: Definition of tourism development:

Tourism development expresses "various programs that aim to achieve a continuous, balanced increase in tourism resources and deepen and rationalize productivity in the tourism sector" (Abdel Moati: 2013: 9).

It was defined as "activities and events that aim to satisfy human needs directly or indirectly by investing in available tourism resources to ensure an increasing pace of growth" (Al-Khoury: 1985: 17).

It also defined "one of the important means of developing regions and places with tourist attractions, economically, socially and architecturally, especially regions that do not have effective components compared to the tourist

components they possess if their development is planned and invested rationally to raise the standard of living of the members of that society" (Al-Zahawi: 4: 2001).

It was also defined as "the process of intentional change that aims to increase tourism awareness and attract the largest possible number of tourists in an advanced and continuous manner, through optimal investment of tourism resources" (Abdul Karim: 4: 2002).

It was defined as "exploiting natural and human potentials, together or individually, and distributing them to achieve the regional budget and cover the existing internal and external tourism demand" (Abdul Wahab: 142: 1988).

In a comprehensive definition of tourism development, it is a series of extensive processes and procedures that aim to invest the resources (human, economic, natural, scientific, cultural, media, and urban) of the governmental and private sectors and employ them according to organized, strategic planning to achieve a comprehensive change in the tourism sector and improve the standard of living of the individual. And society, according to a specific period.

Eighth: Tourism development objectives:

Tourism development goals are divided into two parts: general plans and specific goals:

1. General objectives: General objectives express everything that tourism development in the country works to achieve in general, and examples of them include (Fouad: 10: 2008):

A- Achieving balanced tourism growth so that it does not disrupt the national economy.

B- Maintaining the development of the state's share of tourism markets in the face of international competition.

C- Significant increase in total income.

D- Creating economic prosperity through tourism spending and the resulting job opportunities.

E- Obtaining the most significant foreign currencies necessary to advance comprehensive development and provide hard currencies.

It provided that these goals are comprehensive of all the results intended to be achieved, realistic and can be realized and gained through the optimal use of available resources (technical, material, and human), and flexible to contain any urgent problem that was not taken into account when developing the development plan (Abdul Muti: 37: 2013).

2. Special goals specify the general purposes by setting percentages required to be achieved annually every half year or less. Examples include (Fouad: 11: AD):

A- Increase the volume of international tourism traffic during the five-year plan by an annual rate of no less than (15%).

B- Increase the daily spending rate of foreign tourists by (10%).

C- Increase the residency rate for each nationality by a rate of no less than (7.5%) annually.

D- Increase the total tourism income by no less than (20%) annually.

There are a group of essential pillars that put public and private tourism development goals on the right track to keep pace with the comprehensive development process in all sectors of the state, and these pillars include (Al-Ansari: 99: 2008):

A- Sound scientific planning for tourism development.

B- Optimal exploitation of natural and human resources, respect for the environment, and protection from destruction and pollution.

C- A set of environmental conditions must be met for each tourism project so that tourism development is environmentally friendly, including:

- Each tourism project identifies and evaluates the positive and negative environmental impact.

- Develop assets and solutions for how to advance and protect the environment.

- Develop designs related to the environment that reflects its authenticity.

D- Benefiting from economies of scale, this is done by grouping the projects that belong to each new tourist center or complex within the framework of a company in which project owners within the center contribute so that the company is responsible for:

- Implementing all basic tourism projects for the center and its attached facilities.

- The Center comprehensively manages and maintains its projects.

- Availability and training of workers to benefit all the center's projects.

- External marketing of the center as a whole and marketing of its tourism services.

E- The economic and social goals of tourism development are achieved through:

- Finding new cultural centers.

- Increasing the urban area.

- Providing new employment opportunities and eliminating unemployment.

- Not providing the opportunity for non-serious investors to trade in lands in tourist areas.

- Availability of the required balance between the size of tourist and hotel housing to stimulate annual incoming domestic tourism with foreign tourism.

Ninth: The concept of leisure tourism:

It is one of the most important types of tourism in all countries. It has a mass character linked to holidays, spring or summer vacations, or weekends. The flexibility of their practice governs these holidays in terms of time and place, and their prices range from cheap to expensive depending on the type of means of transportation and the location of the destination.

It is defined as visiting strong attractions all year round, incredibly distinctive places such as sandy beaches and beautiful landscapes, and sites with rare qualities, such as "volcanoes, waterfalls, caves, natural plants, and wild animals" (Al-Jallad: 13: 2009).

It can be defined in its most general form as the movement of people in their free time to other areas close or relatively far away to regain mental and physical resources.

It is a system of managing natural and artificial resources that can meet the needs of tourists for recreation, leisure, and recreation.

As some specialists define it, it is changing one's place of residence for one day to enjoy and entertain oneself and not for any other purpose (Al-Sisi: 52: 2000).

Recreational resources are the basis of recreation and tourism if the place has something that will help a person regain at least some strength after work.

It is also known as restoring the vitality of the vital organs' mind, thought, and physiological functions. A person can be inside buildings or outside in nature through recreation and entertainment. For others, entertainment is an activity and practice that includes various recreational sporting activities.

Recreation: a type with a particular form of activity for amusement and of its various types, that is, activities that are not intended only for play but also include such as drawing, photography, music, theatre, etc., or every activity in which there is freedom when practiced, especially creative activity according to experience and that satisfies a specific desire (Al-Jallad: 28: M.S.).

**ENTERTAINMENT:** It includes walking in open green areas, playing sports, watching movies, etc. It means the essence of any experience through which a person can reach pleasure, contentment, and happiness. It is a flexible activity chosen voluntarily for oneself under the influence of natural and human factors. It is practiced over time—emptiness, whether individual or collective, results in social and economic impacts for the individual and society.

Tenth: Objectives of recreational tourism:

Naturally, every type of tourism provides entertainment for tourists, but it comes as a complementary goal to other goals. For example, economic goals are combined with recreational goals and religious and recreational goals. However, as in recreational tourism, the primary purpose behind the trip or excursion is to achieve entertainment, and therefore, this type of tourism is called authentic tourism. What is meant by joy is that the tourist trip is recreation and comfort for tourists, and it is achieved through the tourist site that provides this comfort through a set of conditions and factors that perform the desired comfort for the body and mind (Al-Houry and Al-Dabbagh: 89: 2001).

Therefore, it is considered "one of the oldest and most widespread types of tourism, as the percentage of international tourism has reached (80%). The countries of the Mediterranean basin are considered among the regions most attractive to the recreational tourism movement because of the many elements it enjoys, such as a moderate climate and the picturesque beaches, from which other types have branched." Such as sports and medical tourism.

Recreational tourism is for enjoyment and entertainment for oneself and not for any other purpose; other types of tourism are practiced with it and are called hobbies here, such as fishing, diving underwater, sliding, and going to desert, mountainous, and agricultural areas" (Mu'min: 82: M.S.).

Eleventh: The importance of recreational tourism:

Recreational tourism has great importance in human life, and even if some people think otherwise, the benefits accruing to societies from entertainment are equal to those from work and development. Work and leisure are two sides of the same coin, aiming to improve the quality of individuals' lives and balance the various dimensions of the individual's personality. Perhaps the importance of undertaking recreational tourism and its activities lies in the following (Al-Haramleh: 22: 2019):

1. Achieving happiness, human balance, and improving the quality of life: Entertainment is an effective way to entertain people and relieve their daily pressures and problems. Many studies indicate that recreational activities - of all kinds - contribute significantly to releasing pent-up emotions. In individuals, it reduces anxiety and psychological tension and gives individuals a feeling of happiness, satisfaction, and joy. These activities also restore lost energy as the pace of life accelerates. These factors combined increase an individual's ability to adapt to societal conditions. Thus, entertainment is an effective means of saving individuals - especially young people - from the pressures of life and the resulting tensions. Entertainment also plays a pivotal role in achieving happiness by creating more balance between work, responsibility, and routine on the one hand and adventure and entertainment on the other hand. This reflects positively on the individual's quality of life and happiness. With entertainment, life is more varied, exciting, and routine.

2. Preventing diseases and supporting public health: Recreational tourism has a positive impact on the lives of young people and individuals in general. It works to satisfy a large proportion of their physical needs by practicing recreational activities, especially sports, scientifically and effectively. Regular physical exercise will stimulate blood circulation and give the body a minimum level of physical fitness, in addition to gaining motor skills, a moderate figure, and a good appearance. Exercising also eliminates toxins and waste inside the human body and improves digestion and breathing. Sport contributes to reducing stress and nervous and psychological disorders and works to achieve emotional stability.

3. Personality development and self-development: Recreational tourism plays a vital role in personality development and is essential in bringing about positive change in a person's life. Acquiring many skills and knowledge that allow

him to practice various recreational activities helps a person adapt and adjust to the changes occurring in contemporary life. Entertainment is also a means of gaining social status and status, whether on the individual or group level, mainly since most recreational activities are carried out collectively. Which helps the individual gain team spirit, cooperation, harmony, and the ability to adapt to others. Recreational activities also contribute to the individual's acquisition and development of many moral and social traits, such as strengthening relationships between individuals and between the individual and the group, respect for others, affection, friendship, brotherhood, trust in others, loyalty to society, self-denial, cooperation, love of work, and performance of duty. And he was volunteering for social services. Entertainment in childhood and youth is the primary means of connecting with the world, exploring it, and growing. This is why entertainment is a window for children and young people to various planets, including a wealth of experiences and knowledge. In a related context, we cannot ignore the role of entertainment in developing talent and preparing for creativity and innovation. Young people's practice of some recreational activities may be a motivating factor for developing a future profession through developing their skills and abilities, which may begin with a hobby that the individual practices daily and then grow and develop. Until it ends with a profession that he will master in the future of his life.

4. Reducing crime and behavioral deviation: The participation of youth and children in constructive recreational tourism activities contributes to reducing crime and behavioral variation on a large scale, as it is an effective safety valve in confronting the tendency towards corruption. Youth recreational activities are less likely to engage in such crimes, especially in communities with abundant and attractive recreational opportunities. Entertainment is a natural outlet for the desires of youth and children, and perhaps the testimonies of prison authorities in several studies are the best example that insufficient entertainment opportunities are one of the reasons for young people's tendency to commit crimes.

5. Achieving community solidarity: Forces in the modern era tend to separate people into distinct and often hostile groups based on differences in economic conditions, social status, race, creed, nationality, level of education, and cultural background. This would reinforce mutual hatred in society. Entertainment, in turn, provides a common ground and platform to mitigate and manage differences well. In this context, the task of joy in the lives of young people is not limited to playing games, being carefree, and having fun, although that represents a large part of it. However, it may include performing many purposeful and constructive works. For example, volunteer work can be intentional, serious, and socially helpful entertainment. Through it, one can satisfy a need and reveal a talent that can benefit society.

6. Spreading democratic culture: Democracy and entertainment are similar in spirit, and each tends to enhance and strengthen the other. Democracy is committed to giving every individual a full opportunity to grow entirely and freely, which makes it very similar to entertainment, which allows the individual to engage in recreational activities freely. Completely without coercion, democracy, with its enjoyment, offers the individual a real opportunity for true self-satisfaction, creative expression, and the development of powers, making individuals more effective and positive.

7. Supporting the educational process: The goals, methods, and programs of education and entertainment are often similar, although they are different. The educational process and entertainment are concerned with achieving the maximum possible development for the individual. However, entertainment tends to achieve immediate self-satisfaction instead of education, which aims to achieve long-term satisfaction across a long series of goals. Also, recreational activity lacks an element of coercion, unlike the educational process, which includes some coercion features. To achieve the desired goal. Entertainment programs are concerned with attaining academic growth in every entertainment experience, and in return, the educational process uses many entertainment methods to encourage young people to learn. Therefore, entertainment has an increasing role in formal education curricula and institutions' extracurricular programs.

8. Developing the economy: Business and industry leaders have long recognized that how employees spend their free hours affects their effectiveness in doing their jobs. This is why many institutions and companies are interested in supporting recreational activities for their employees. Countries also paid attention to this and sought to invest in and develop recreational facilities. For them to ensure that the work process does not stop as a result of pressure on individuals, the entertainment industry is also huge and growing. Therefore, they may be a good source of jobs that support the economy and provide young people with decent work.

Twelfth: Components of entertainment services:

The components of entertainment services are mainly divided into the following (Al-Jalad: 40: M.S.):

1. Components allocated entirely for public uses, including parks, squares, squares, and wooded streets at the center, sector, and neighborhood levels and entertainment centers in the surrounding areas.
2. Components partially allocated for public uses, including sports stadiums at the center and sector levels, botanical gardens, and zoological gardens.

Thirteenth: Types of recreational resources (Al-Sisi: 73: M.S.):

Recreational resources are all types of resources that can be used to satisfy the population's needs in leisure and tourism. On their basis, industries specialized in leisure services can be organized.

Recreational resources generally include the following:

9. Natural resources (climate, water, plants and animals).
10. Cultural and historical monuments.
11. The region's economic potential, including infrastructure, infrastructure and human resources.

An entertainment resource can be any place that meets two criteria:

1. The place differs from the usual human habitat.
2. Represented by a combination of two or more naturally different environments.

Recreational resources are classified in particular:

1. According to the original.
2. By type of recreational use.
3. Depletion rate.
4. Economic renewal, if possible.
5. Possible substitution for some other resource.
6. Possible self-healing and transplantation.

Participation in recreational resources during leisure activities can be different:

1. Seen visually - landscapes, tourist objects.
2. Use without direct costs.
3. Consume directly in the resting process.

Each type of natural recreational resource has signs of its varieties:

Where possible, use (direct and indirect).

1. According to the degree of attractiveness.
2. On health-beneficial properties.
3. On historical and evolutionary uniqueness.

Fourteenth: Evaluation of recreational resources (Mu'min: 34: M.S.):

Competence is determined by the ability to relax into a range of different activities, which requires an integrated approach to resource assessment.

There are different ways to evaluate natural recreational resources, but the most common and most convenient analysis of the recreational complex of an area is to consider the simplicity of some recreational research criteria.

When considering natural resources, it is advisable to apply an integrated evaluation of the help depending on the type of recreation or sport in which the resource is used.

Also, accounting standards for developing the tourism industry are essential for the human load on natural systems. Therefore, a necessary condition for the suitability of genuine and recreational resources is the ecological well-being of the environment.

Research population and sample

Introducing the shrines of the shrines in Holy Karbala

First: Introducing the nursery of the Holy Shrine of Hussein (Hussein Shrine website: 2019):

The first building block for the nursery project at the Holy Shrine of Hussein was laid in 2009 to meet its needs primarily for flowers and various trees to cover the area between the Two Holy Mosques, the Holy Shrine, and the holy shrine of Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, especially on the days of religious occasions that include the births of the People of the House (peace be upon them) and the season. The holy month of Ramadan, in addition to covering the requirements for decorating visitors' cities and some projects affiliated with the Holy Shrine.

Its location was chosen at the intersection of the Karbala-Husseiniyah-Al-Hafiz road because the area was pre-qualified and includes orchards with density and abundance of production and is capable of specialized agricultural development, in addition to being relatively close to the city center, as the nursery is about 10 km away from the shrine of Imam Hussein, peace be upon him.

Since its establishment, the tasks of the nursery of the Holy Imam Hussein Shrine began to increase little by little, as its supervisors and workers were surprised by the large number of arrivals and visitors, not only to buy seedlings but also to take a walk and enjoy the beauty of trees and flowers for hours on end, so it seemed necessary to expand the project to embrace the visiting numbers and provide recreational places inside the nursery, so the instruction was given by constructing many public facilities, such as streets, organized parks, health facilities, and parking spaces.

After the number of visitors increased significantly, trips to universities, institutes, kindergartens, and schools (middle and primary) began to be organized throughout the week, which enhanced the culture and awareness of society towards agriculture and increased green spaces and entertainment at the same time.

The nursery contains rare types of shade plants and fruit trees, and there is a special section for fish breeding and a zoo with an area of one thousand square meters, in addition to an apiary with international specifications.

The nursery has participated in international and local flower exhibitions, specializing in creating modern designs of vertical and horizontal plants and designing and engineering gardens to keep pace with development. The nursery seeks to obtain awards, excellence, and advanced positions in upcoming competitions and exhibitions.

Second: Introducing the nursery of the al-Abbas Shrine (Al-Kafeel Nursery website: 2022):

It is one of the nurseries at the al-Abbas's (peace be upon him) Holy Shrine, known as the al-Kafeel Nursery, specializing in ornamental and planting. The nursery was established in 2007 with the efforts of philanthropists in the service of Aba al-Fadl al-Abbas (peace be upon him). The idea of setting up the nursery came from the need of the al-Abbas Holy Shrine for such projects and to achieve self-sufficiency in decoration and landscaping, as well as providing and covering the needs of the departments and their affiliated sites and the completed future and under-construction projects. In addition, the Al-Kafeel nursery is considered among the largest nurseries in Iraq in terms of its area and the number and types of trees, shrubs, and plants that are found in it, giving it a distinguished place in

the country. The marketing and sales aspect of its various products attracts a large group of clients and customers from all over the country.

Its location was chosen on the Karbala-Husseiniyah road, as the nursery is about 13 km away from the city center and the shrine of Imam Abbas; peace be upon him.

The nursery includes multiple agricultural ponds, paved paths, flowering gardens, and various trees, in addition to a park for raising and selling some rare animals, such as deer and ostriches.

Al-Kafeel Apiaries are among the model apiaries in Iraq, which were established based on the local market's need for distinguished honey bee products, which are not limited to natural honey but extend to the rest of the honey bee hive products, including royal jelly, pollen, bee propolis, bee venom, and the production of all apiary products. Al-Kafeel relies on the system of migratory beekeepers in pursuit of sources of flowering and nectar plants in all regions of Iraq, thus producing different and distinct types of honey, including Sidr honey, clover honey, eucalyptus honey, vegetable honey, citrus honey, and various flower honey. All of this is done under the supervision of specialists and beekeeping supervisors from Agricultural engineers and professional beekeepers, which comes within the framework of their efforts to provide the local economy with renewable resources and contribute to increasing agricultural production in quantity and quality, and developing it, and working to create a state of self-sufficiency in bee products for the Holy Karbala Governorate as a first step, and then expanding the circle to include all regions of Iraq through a dam. Their agricultural and food needs. The staff also paid attention to introducing modern and advanced methods for managing and raising bees and producing natural honey from various sources, such as the vaccination method, the method of making royal jelly, and the method of producing natural wax using modern scientific methods and keeping pace with development by participating in local and international conferences, seminars and exhibitions that specialize in the field. Beekeeping and production development.

The practical aspect/presentation and analysis of the research sample:

Testing research variables in the field and applying their hypotheses, in reality, is one of the essential methodological steps in scientific research and studies, as it confirms the accuracy and scientificity of the field of knowledge to which these variables belong.

Using the mathematical method to analyze the results of this scientific test enhances the objectives and directions of the research. The necessary data was collected through a questionnaire and testing the research hypotheses to achieve this.

The practical framework for the research (the role of nurseries at the holy shrines in developing recreational tourism - a study of a sample of visitors to the greenhouses of the Hussein and Abbasid shrines) included designing a questionnaire that included two axes, divided into multiple paragraphs, each paragraph containing a scientific question within the framework of the research, which was distributed to the research community, namely (the shrine nurseries). The Holy Husseiniyah and the pure Abbasid Shrine (equally 25 questionnaires for each arboretum) targeting a sample of visitors to the two greenhouses, numbering (50) questionnaires, which were collected and none of them were retrieved or neglected, using for analysis the tripartite Lickerd scale.

It includes analyzing the research variables according to the answers of the study sample in general, as follows:

Table No. (1) Analytical presentation of the general information of individuals in the research sample:

1. The research sample included (70%) females (35 females) compared to (30%) males (15 males), which indicates that the female group is more interested in visiting nurseries.
2. The age group of the target sample was limited to (20-29) years, (30-39) years, and (40-49) years, as the age group (20-29) years achieved a percentage of (80%), with (40) individuals, while the age group (30-39) years achieved (10%) by (5) individuals, and the age group (40-49) achieved (10%) by (5) individuals, and this indicates that the Youth have the highest percentage of visitors to nurseries.
3. About educational attainment (certificate), the (preparatory) certification achieved the highest percentage among the other credentials, accounting for (80%) by (40) individuals, and the (primary) certificate accounted for (8%) by (4) individuals. The "intermediate" certificate achieved a percentage of (6%), represented by (3) individuals; the "bachelor's degree" attained a rate of (2%), defined by (1) individual, and the "Master's degree" achieved a percentage of (2%), represented by an individual (1), and the (PhD) certificate constituted (2%) by (1) individual. In contrast, the credentials (illiteracy and diploma) did not achieve any indication, and this indicates a middle-educated segment interested in visiting nurseries and acquiring the various cultures and entertainment that the nursery includes, the most important of which is knowledge of the types of crops.
4. It is clear from the results of the questionnaire that (90%) (only 45) individuals are internal visitors, while the percentage of external visitors is (10%) (only (5) individuals).
5. It was revealed by marking the city field that the percentage of (50%) is (25) individuals. Half of the sample members are from the holy city of Karbala and its affiliated areas (Karbala - its districts and its environs near the nurseries). This may be due to the questionnaire being conducted in other places. Weekly entertainment days or official holidays included many Iraqi cities, and the questionnaire was completed during them. The percentage was (10%) by (5) individuals from the town of Hilla, and the portion was (10%) by (5) individuals also from the city of Najaf. The rate was (10%) (5) individuals from the city of Baghdad and its suburbs, a percentage of (8%) (4) individuals from the city of Basra, and a percentage of (4%) (2) individuals from each of the towns (Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, and Samawah). This indicates the diversity of interest, curiosity, and entertainment of visitors from various cities in Iraq.



**Table No. (2) Analytical presentation of the results of the research sample’s answers: This presentation includes simple statistical analysis using percentages for the questionnaire items and according to the tripartite Lickerd scale, as shown in the following table for the sample investigated:**

Members of the total sample	Total percentage	The scale						Paragraphs
		The ratio	Disagree	The ratio	Neutral	The ratio	Agree	
50	100%	20%	10	%60	30	%20	10	X1
50	100%	%80	40	%10	5	%10	5	X2
50	100%	0	0	0	0	%100	50	X3
50	100%	20%	10	%60	30	%20	10	X4
50	100%	0	0	%20	10	%80	40	X5
50	100%	0	0	0	0	%100	50	X6
50	100%	0	0	0	0	%100	50	X7
50	100%	0	0	0	0	%100	50	X8
50	100%	0	0	0	0	%100	50	X9
50	100%	0	0	%20	10	%80	40	X10

Below is an analytical presentation of the results of answering each question in the questionnaire, where each question is indicated in the form of an (X) with the specific question number and my agencies:

- (X1): It was found that the sample members tended to agree (20%) by (10) individuals, neutral (60%) by (30) individuals, and disagreed (20%) by (10) individuals for the first question of The questionnaire indicates that most people are neutral in their knowledge of nurseries and their most important types, departments and functions.
- (X2): It is clear that the sample members tend to agree at a rate of (10%) according to (5) individuals, and neutral at a rate of (10%) according to (5) individuals as well, and disagree at a rate of (80%) according to (40) individuals, for the second question, from the questionnaire, which indicates that they are not aware of the history of the construction and establishment of the shrines of the holy shrines in Karbala, despite the presence of detailed details of the building and establishment on the websites of the shrines as well as their main doors.
- (X3): The response rate to the third question was impressive, as a percentage of (100%) ultimately agreed with (50) individuals who decided that they knew the concepts, types, and patterns of tourism, especially recreational tourism.
- (X4): It was found that the sample members tended to agree (20%) by (10) individuals, neutral (60%) by (30) individuals, and disagreed (20%) by (10) individuals for the fourth question of The questionnaire indicates that most people are neutral about the reason for their visit to view the crops only.
- (X5): The results show that the sample members tend to agree (80%) (40 individuals), neutral (20%) (10 individuals), and disagree (0%) for the fifth question of the questionnaire, which indicates However, the reason for the sample members’ visit is entertainment, recreation, and spending time only.
- (X6): The various components and sections present in the nurseries of the holy shrines in Karbala fully meet the visitor’s ambition to develop entertainment, as the sample’s answer was entirely in agreement, with a percentage of (100%) by (50) individuals.
- (X7): The reception method and the qualitative and quantitative presentation of the parks and entertainment components help the visitor repeat the visit to the research sample by (100%) (50) individuals through their answers to the seventh question.
- (X8): Given the importance of leisure tourism in creating more balance between work, responsibility, and routine on the one hand and adventure, entertainment, and recreation on the other hand, the results of the answer to the eighth question of our questionnaire were completely (100%) by (50) individuals.
- (X9): The answers to the ninth question were strikingly (100%) by (50) individuals, in that the presence of nurseries eases dealing with the temptations of new life, such as the Internet and the means of using it, which indicates the momentum gained by the individual from the attractions of technical and technological development and his need for tourism. Entertainment regularly.
- (X10): The results for the tenth question show that a percentage of (80%) (40) individuals agree and seek to repeat the visit to nurseries for entertainment, and a neutral rate (20%) (10) individuals, which requires other new studies that cover the neutral percentage and develop their desires.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. There is a statistically significant correlation between Atabat nurseries and tourism development.
2. There is a statistically significant correlation between Atabat nurseries and the development of recreational tourism.
3. There is a significant demand for nurseries due to the desire to create psychological balance, relaxation, access to more green spaces, and diversity that meet their ambition for entertainment.

4. Increasing the tourism awareness of Iraqi and international individuals through the sample members' knowledge of the concepts and types of tourism is offset by a slight weakness in the tourism media for new projects.
5. Individuals seek to increase the frequency of visits to nurseries and green spaces for reasons, the most important of which is entertainment, followed by learning about the agricultural environment.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Paying attention to increasing green spaces and organizing them in the form of nurseries or parks to develop recreational tourism and thus entertain individuals is reflected in the high-quality performance of their work.
2. Developing entertainment programs for the lower classes and those in critical social situations. The absence of such programs would lead them to explode, creating more social problems rather than reducing them.
3. Expanding the dissemination and implementation of awareness programs related to the green environment and various recreational activities and how to benefit from them during leisure time To ensure that there is sufficient information and knowledge about the agricultural components and recreational tourism activities that help individuals.
4. Encouraging concerned parties and stakeholders to participate in decision-making, developing policies for building and establishing nurseries and supporting recreational tourism at the national and local levels, providing sufficient human, financial, and material resources for entertainment, distributing these resources throughout the country, and employing specialists to manage them.
5. Make serious attempts to overcome the obstacles that would deprive all members of society from practicing recreational tourism.

### REFERENCES

1. Ahmed Al-Gallad: An Introduction to the Science of Tourism, 1st edition, Science of Books, Cairo, 2009 AD.
2. Dr.. Ahmed Al-Haramla: Principles of Tourism, 1st edition, Al-Thaalabi Press, Oran, 2019 AD.
3. Akram Abdul Rahman Abdul Karim: Leisure time and its impact on the development of tourism and recreational activities, Master's thesis submitted to the College of Administration and Economics, Al-Mustansiriya University, 2002 AD.
4. Jamil Al-Salem: Readings in the Agricultural Environment, 1st edition, Al-Furat Press, Babylon, 2018 AD.
5. Helmy Abdel Halim: Agricultural Establishments, 1st edition, Dar Al-Anglo, Cairo, 2021 AD.
6. Khalifa Raouf: The practical guide in designing nurseries and agricultural equipment, Bala Edition, Dar Okaz, Kuwait, 2017 AD.
7. Dr.. Raouf Al-Ansari: Tourism in Iraq and its role in development and reconstruction, 1st edition, Hadi Press Press, Beirut, 2008 AD.
8. Salam Sharara: The Green Environment, 1st edition, Dar Al-Mawasem, Cairo, 2021 AD.
9. Salman bin Muhammad Al-Walid: The Simplified Guide to Agricultural Microbiology, 1st edition, Quraish Library, Jeddah, 2021 AD.
10. Salah El-Din Abdel-Wahhab: Economic Resource Planning, 1st edition, Dar Al-Shaab Press, Cairo, 1988 AD.
11. Maher Abdel Khaleq Al-Sisi: Principles of Tourism, Arab Nile Collection, Cairo, first edition, 2000 AD.
12. **A generous example:** The Arboretum is a Sustainable Environment, 2nd edition, University of Mosul, Nineveh, 2019 AD.
13. Muthanna Al-Houri, Ismail Al-Dabbagh: Principles of Travel and Tourism, 1st edition, Al-Warraaq Foundation, Amman, 2001 AD.
14. Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Zahawi: The possibility of developing tourism activity in Anbar Province, a master's thesis submitted to the Center for Urban and Regional Planning, Baghdad, 2001 AD.
15. Muhammad Omar Moamen: Tourism Planning, 1st edition, Modern University Office, 2009, Alexandria.
16. Dr.. Manal Shawky Abdel Moati: Lectures on Tourism Development, 1st edition, Dar Al-Wafaa for Printing and Publishing, Alexandria, 2013.
17. Dr.. Nashwa Fouad: Tourism Development, 1st edition, Dar Al-Wafaa for Printing and Publishing, Alexandria, 2008 AD.
18. Wafaa Salama: Nurseries between the Past and the Present, Bala Edition, Al-Ayyam Publishing and Distribution, Amman, 2020 AD.
19. Elias Al-Khoury: Tourism in Lebanon and the World, 1st edition, without publishing house, Beirut, 1985 AD.
20. Al-Kafeel Global Network: Al-Kafeel Nursery website: <https://alkafeel.net/> (2022).
21. Website of the Holy Imam Hussain Shrine: <https://imamhussain.org/arabic> (2019).

### Appendices

Dear brothers, visitors to the Holy Imam Hussain Shrine shrines and the Al-Abbas Shrine in Holy Karbala.

M/questionnaire

Greetings. And may God accept your work.

The researchers intend to conduct a study entitled (The Role of the Nurseries of the holy shrines in Developing Recreational Tourism - a survey of a Sample of visitors to the Nurseries of the Hussein and Abbasid Shrines).

Therefore, we ask you, Your Honor, to answer the paragraphs of the questionnaire to ensure the accuracy and validity of the results that researchers aim to achieve to support scientific research in our beloved Iraq, knowing that your respected answers are treated with absolute confidentiality and for pure research purposes.

We offer you our sincere appreciation for your cooperation.

Researcher

M. Taha Mahdi Mahmoud

Note:

- Nursery: It is a place that produces small plants to plant in gardens, fields, and orchards. The plants grown by the nursery vary between ornamental plants and flowers, fruit and vegetable plants, and forest trees.

Nurseries are designated and appropriate places for propagating plant species and their tree, vegetable, and herbaceous varieties in large quantities and raising them to the right size for planting them on permanent land for their production and propagation.

- Tourism development: These programs aim to achieve a continuous, balanced increase in tourism resources and deepen and rationalize productivity in the tourism sector.

- Tourism development: It is a group of activities and events that aim to directly or indirectly satisfy human needs by investing in available tourism resources to ensure increasing rates of growth.

- Recreational tourism: It is one of the most important types of tourism in all countries. It has a mass character linked to holidays, spring or summer vacations, or weekends. The flexibility of their practice governs these holidays in terms of time and place, and their prices range from cheap to expensive depending on the type of means. Transportation and destination