

Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

Pakistanis Belief in Super Natural Beings: GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

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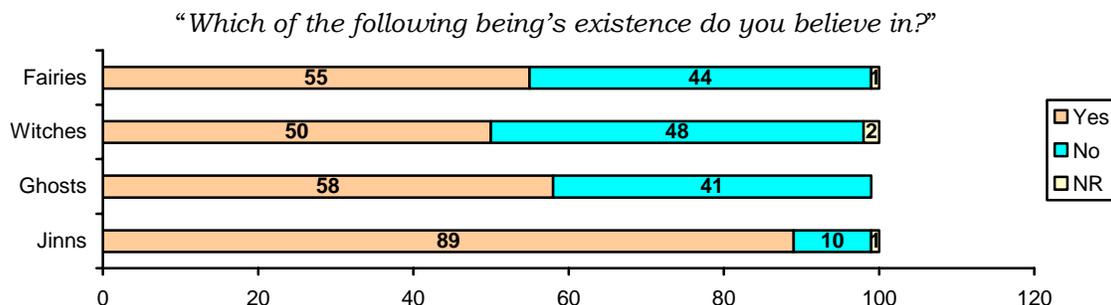
Existence of supernatural beings has always been a topic of great interest for many years. However it is still argued whether they are part of mere folklores passed on from ages or do they really exist. To find out what the Pakistani public feels about supernatural beings a study was conducted. According to the Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, majority of all Pakistanis believe in the existence of various supernatural beings; 89% claimed that Jinns exist (*In Islamic theology jinn are said to be creatures with freewill made from 'smokeless fire'*), 58% said they believe in the existence of Ghosts, 55% believe in Fairies, and 50% believe in Witches.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were read out a list of four various super natural beings and were asked “Which of the following being’s existence do you believe in?” The findings show that 89% believe Jinns exist as compared to 10% who believe otherwise. One percent (1%) gave no response. A proportionately higher percentage of ruralites (91%) than urbanites (86%) believe in the existence of jinns.

When the respondents were asked about the existence of Ghosts, 58% said they exist, while 41% said they do not. One percent (1%) gave no response. Again a slightly higher percentage of rural residents claimed ghosts are in real.

Half of all Pakistanis (50%) said they believe in the existence of Witches where as 48% believe it’s a myth and there is no such being. Two percent (2%) gave no response. Interestingly, a proportionately higher percentage of men (52%) than women (48%) and ruralites (51%) than urbanites (49%) have faith in the existence of witches.

The data shows that existence of Fairies is also believed by 55% of the respondents and rejected by 44%. One percent (1%) gave no response. A proportionately higher percentage of ruralites (58%) than urbanites (48%) believe in the existence of fairies.



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The latest survey was carried out among a sample of 2650 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during August 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on social and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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