

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.

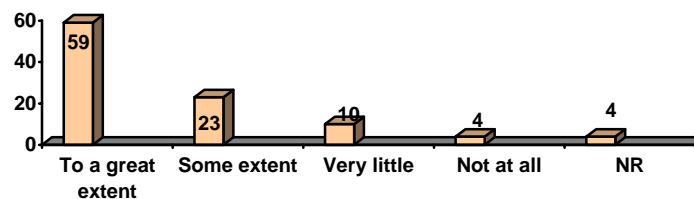
Majority Believes Dowry to be an Essential Part of Marriages in Our Culture without Which, They Claim, it is Not Easy for Girls to Get Married: GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, February 4, 2010

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, dowry appears to be an essential part of marriages as cited by 82% of the respondents, 14% do not believe that and 4% gave no response. It is also believed that girls can not easily get married without dowry (67%) whereas 23% believe this is not the case and 10% were unsure or gave no response. There is a slight difference of views across various language groups. The view that dowry is essential is less than the national average among Pushto speaking population; 43% of those with Pushto as mother tongue hold this view as compared with 67% of respondents with Urdu and Sindhi as mother tongues, and nearly 60% of those with Punjabi as mother tongue.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked *“In your opinion to what extent is dowry an essential part of marriage in our culture?”* Fifty nine percent (59%) believe it is important to a great extent, 23% said it is fairly important, for 10% it is not very important whereas 4% claimed that dowry is not important at all. The remaining 4% of the respondents gave no response. A slightly higher percentage of Urdu speaking and Sindhi speaking (67% each) respondents hold the view that dowry is an essential part of marriages.

“In your opinion to what extent is dowry an essential part of marriage in our culture?”



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

In a follow up question the respondents were asked *“In your view is it possible for girls to get married without dowry these days or not?”* Twenty three percent (23%) think it is possible whereas majority (67%) claimed that it is not possible for girls to get married without dowry. The remaining 10 percent were either unsure or gave no response.

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 2755 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during January 2010. 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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