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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON HOPE AND DESPAIR INDEX 2000 -

Results released on: December 31, 1999



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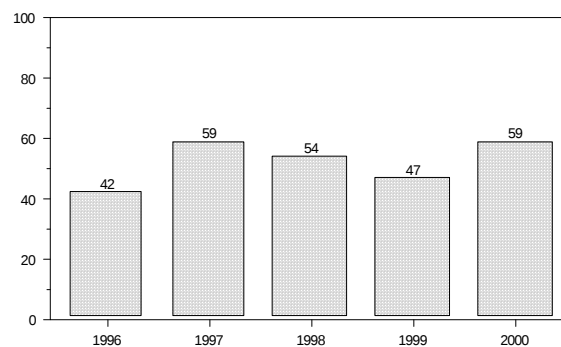
HOPE AND DESPAIR INDEX 2000 - December 31, 1999

Pakistanis are once again demonstrating a hope that the next year may be better than the previous one. At least this is how 59% of them responded to a question posed to them in the first week of December, which read: "Would you say the coming year will be better, worse or the same as the one which is just ending?" 59% "better", 10% said "worse", 20% expected "no difference", while 10% did not answer this question.

The number of hopefuls have risen by 12% from 47% last year to 59% this year. Curiously Pakistanis had demonstrated a similar level of hope for 1997 when Nawaz Sharif assumed government. There has been an interesting upswing and downswing of hope in the country. The popular mood was depressed for 1996 which was Benazir Bhutto's last year in government: Only 42% said they were hopeful. It shot up to 59% in 1997 when a new government of Nawaz Sharif was ushering in. It remained fairly high in his first year in government standing at 54% for 1998. A year later it dropped to 47% for 1999 and has gone up again at 59% for the year 2000.

Question: Would you say the coming year will be better, worse or the same as the one which is just ending?

Percent who expect the forthcoming year to be better than the previous in Pakistan



The Gallup Survey about optimism and pessimism is part of a unique study conducted each year by Gallup International across the globe. This year the survey was conducted in nearly 60 countries, wherein more than 50,000 households of all nationalities, races and religions were interviewed.

The Gallup International survey shows that the global mood is considerably more hopeful compared to last year. If the world was treated as one unit, 39 percent were hopeful for the year 1998. This figure dropped to 30 percent for 1999. But it has risen quite dramatically to 54% for the year 2000. In particular hope has returned to East Asian countries notably Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Korea. The complete text of Gallup weekly poll may be seen on the internet at www.gallup.com.pk.