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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

MAJORITY PREFERRED URDU MEDIUM SCHOOLS

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MAJORITY PREFERRED URDU MEDIUM SCHOOLS

According to the findings of a Gallup poll a large majority of the parents in Pakistan wish to send their children to Urdu medium schools. 62% expressed this preference in a nationally representative survey conducted in rural as well as urban areas of the country. The second in order of preference was English medium of instructions, which was opted by 14%. This was closely followed by those who prefer Sindhi as the medium of instruction; 12%.

The survey on the preferred medium of instruction was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in 100 villages and 75 urban locations all over the country. These locations were scientifically selected through the probability sampling technique. The pattern of responses among different segments of the populations was analyzed.

The Gallup survey revealed that even though the preference for English as medium of instruction is rather low in the entire country, it is quite important in the urban areas, especially the three major urban centres: Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi / Islamabad, where 30% of the parents wished to send their children to English medium schools. In the urban areas as a whole, this figure is 20%. Likewise the preference for English as medium of instruction is closely linked with income and education of the parents. 31% of the relatively high income group parents compared to only 6% of the lowest income group in the sample opted for English as medium of instruction. The preference for English medium is 34% among parents with high school or more education, whereas the figure is 19% of those with less than high school education, and only 6% among the illiterates.

The Gallup survey also reveals that there is fairly high level of consensus in rural Sindh that their children should be educated in the Sindhi medium of instruction. The preferences in rural Sindh are: 76% for Sindhi, 11% for English and 6% for Urdu.

Table 1

PREFERABLE MEDIUM OF EDUCATION

(By geographical cross section)

	<u>Percent of respondents</u>				
	<u>Urdu</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Sindhi</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>No Response</u>
<u>ALL PAKISTAN</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
Rural	62	11	15	3	10
Urban	64	20	4	2	10
<u>PUNJAB</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
Rural	77	9	--	3	11
Urban	69	23	--	1	7
<u>SINDH</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Rural	6	11	76	2	7
Urban	55	18	10	4	13
<u>N.W.F.P.</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Rural	72	16	--	4	8
Urban	72	15	--	--	12
<u>BALUCHISTAN</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
Rural	58	19	14	3	7
Urban	70	22	--	8	--
<u>CITY SIZE</u>					
Metropolitan cities	58	30	--	2	10
Other cities	74	13	2	2	8
Towns	61	17	9	2	10
Villages	62	11	15	3	10

Table 2

PREFERABLE MEDIUM OF EDUCATION

(By income cross section)

<u>INCOME GROUPS</u>	<u>Urdu</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Sindhi</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>No Response</u>
<u>INCOME GROUPS</u>					
High	51	31	8	2	8
Upper middle	59	21	13	3	5
Lower middle	64	10	15	3	8
Low	72	6	6	2	13

Table 3

PREFERABLE MEDIUM OF EDUCATION

(By educational cross section)

<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>Urdu</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Sindhi</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>No Response</u>
Above matric	51	34	7	3	5
Upto matric	67	19	7	2	5
Primary	65	12	16	2	5
Illiterate	64	6	14	3	16