

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

DESPITE PROBLEMS PAKISTANIS ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE

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DESPITE PROBLEMS PAKISTANIS ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE

According to the findings of a recent Gallup poll, Pakistanis are keenly aware of the problems faced by the nation, but they nevertheless keep an optimistic outlook on the future. Public opinion polls do not reflect a feeling of despair. Most people believe that the chances are very high that the country will stay together as an integrated unit. A majority believes that the chances for improvement in the economic prosperity of the nation are also very high. Only 6% of the population in a nationally representative survey said that they saw no hope for the integrity of the country.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan with a scientifically selected sample in the rural as well as urban areas from all the four provinces of the country. 79% of the sample said that they were very confident about the nation's future, while 13% said they had some confidence. 4% said they had very little confidence and 2% expressed no confidence at all in the nation's future. Another 2% gave no opinion.

Public's confidence in the nation's future was, however, not uniform all over the country. Among the Sindhi and Baluchi speaking populations, nearly 15% thought that the chances for the integrity of the country were rather slim. Among the Urdu speaking population a sense of despair was reflected by 11%. The voters of Muslim League and religious parties including Jamaat-i-Islami, Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan and Jamiat Ulemai-i-Islam showed greater confidence in the nation's future compared to the voters of other political parties. While nearly 80% of the former group said that they believed the chances for the integrity of the country was very high, comparable figure for PPP voters was 63% and only 48% for the voters of the Awami National Party.

The Gallup survey also looked into the issue of how much pride people took in being Pakistani. According to its findings 88 % of the population said they were very proud. 7 % said they were quite proud, 3% said they were not at all proud, while 1% said they felt ashamed to be Pakistani.