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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

Selection of Marriage Partners

Results released on: October 15, 1999



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MAJORITY OF PARENTS DO NOT OBJECT BUT VIEWS ARE DIVIDED ON ALLOWING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE A SPOUSE ON THEIR OWN - October 15, 1999

A majority of parents in Pakistan (45%) do not object that their children should choose a spouse on their own, but views are divided on this issue and 27% of parents object to allowing children to seek a marriage partner on their own. Another 26% gave a qualified answer to this question and said "it depends on the situation." Two (2%) percent did not give any response. These findings have emerged from a national urban survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The survey was conducted among more than 1000 statistically selected men and women of different income, education and age backgrounds spread all over the four provinces of Pakistan. The error margin is around 3% at 95% confidence level.

It is interesting to note that more women than men are inclined to allowing their children to choose a partner on their own. The percentage supporting this view was 47% among women and 41% among men. The survey findings also reveal significant difference regarding views about male and female children: 52% of parents are inclined towards permitting their sons to choose a spouse on their own, and 26% say "it depends on the situation," while for daughters 35% say "no objection" while 37% say "it depends on the situation". Nearly one quarter of parents take a strong view on not allowing children to choose a spouse on their own and the difference in this case between sons and daughters is not very sharp: 20% of boys and 26% for girls. The complete text of Gallup weekly poll may be seen on the internet at www.gallup.com.pk

Question: In your view if children want to marry someone of their own choice should parents allow them or not?

<i>Percent of Respondents</i>	
Should Allow	45%
Should Not allow	27%
Depends on situation	26%
Don't know	2%

Source: Gallup Survey Pakistan, 1999

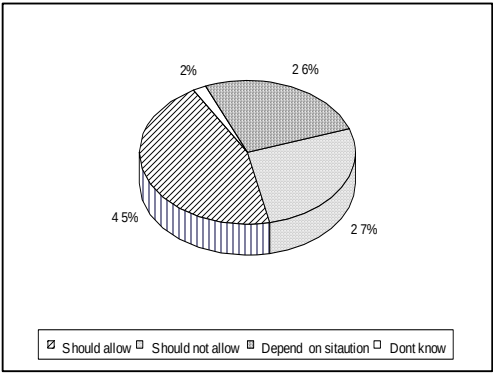
Question: Specifically if a boy/girl wants to marry with their own choice should they be allowed or not?

	<i>Percent of Respondents</i>	
	Boys	Girls
Should Allow	52%	35%
Should Not allow	20%	26%
Depends on situation	26%	37%
Don't know	2%	2%

Source: Gallup Survey Pakistan, 1999

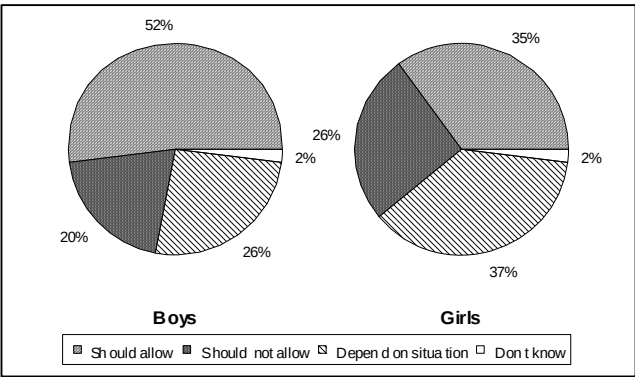
Note: The above questions were fielded as 3 separate questions, and hence one can expect slight inconsistency on the part of the respondents

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