

Latest Press Release
Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON **RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE**

Survey Dates: 1st & 2nd February 2009
Results released on: April 15, 2009

Conducted in Pakistan by



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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 of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

Most Pakistanis Seek Religious Information from Religious Leaders; Imam Mosque and Family Elders Rank Next: GALLUP PAKISTAN/GILANI FOUNDATION

Islamabad, April 15, 2009

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, majority of Pakistanis (64%) seek information regarding religion from religious leaders and Imams (*Religious leaders are called Ulema, plural of Aalim, scholars who have thorough knowledge about religion; Imam is usually the leader of a mosque who leads the prayer during Islamic gatherings*).

When the respondents were asked “*Who do you refer to for guidance in religious matters?*” majority of the respondents (37%) said they refer to religious leaders (*Ulema*) for matters pertaining to religion. Twenty seven (27%) follow what the Imam Mosque tells them while 24% claimed to listen to the family elders. Nine percent (9%) follow their own understanding of religion and 3% of the respondents gave no response.

The data revealed that a slightly higher tendency among men to follow Imams and Religious leaders while a significantly higher percentage of women listen to the family elders in religious matters.

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 2758 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country during February 1-2, 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Commentary

In the recent years due to escalating debates on religion and terrorism, people have become more aware about religion. Traditionally, a few years ago religion was more like an inherited asset; passed on from the elders of a family. However things have changed in these few years and religious scholars have become more prominent in disseminating religious information.

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 Religion related and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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