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Popular Views on

KITE FLYING

Enthusiasm for Basant Kite-Flying Declining: Gallup Pakistan Survey

Survey Dates: *March 2-3, 2008*

Results released on: *March 20, 2008*



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March 20, 2008

Islamabad – Over the years Gallup Pakistan has been carrying out interesting public opinion surveys on the phenomena of kite-flying, to explore the level of interest among different sections of the population, participation in this activity and views on the controversy: should the kite-flying Basant festival be celebrated or not.

According to the latest poll conducted during the first week of March (among a cross section of approximately 1400 men and women statistically selected from the rural and urban areas of all the four provinces of Pakistan) 43 % of the population said they have strong or some interest in kite-flying. The figure was 45 % among males and 31 % among females. Furthermore 35 % said that one or more persons including children in their household participated in kite-flying this season.

Regarding the controversy on celebrating Basant, the respondents were asked: *Some people support celebrating Basant, some oppose it, while others are indifferent. What is your view?* Only 17 % favored celebrating Basant, 59 % opposed it, while 24 % were indifferent on the subject. When asked: *Should Basant celebrations on a public scale be banned*, 61 % favored banning while 39% opposed any such measure.

Support for public celebration of Basant has changed over the years. In 1999, 29% of the population was in favor of celebrating Basant; by 2007 this figure had fallen to 16%. One possible reason for decline in support has been the growing number of accidents caused by use of steel wires in flying kites. The steel wires cause electric shocks and short-circuits when they touch electricity poles. In 2007, the tragic death of a number of children in accidents during Basant intensified public opinion against the kite-flying celebrations. Safety concerns combined with the view that Basant is more of an Indian than a Pakistani festival have brought considerable opposition to the celebration of this otherwise colorful and joyous springtime activity.

Question: *Some people support celebrating Basant, some oppose it, while others are indifferent. What is your view?*

	2008	2007	2006	1999
Yes	17%	16%	13%	29%
No	59%	66%	58%	41%
Indifferent	24%	18%	28%	30%

Source: Gallup Pakistan, Surveys 1999-2008

Question: *Do you support or oppose the view that Basant celebrations on a public scale should be banned?*

	2008	2007	2006
Support	61%	65%	64%
Oppose	39%	35%	36%

Source: Gallup Pakistan, Surveys 2006-08