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Gallup Pakistan

**GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON
PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORTS WAPDA AGAINST HUBCO**

Results released on: April 21, 2000



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PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORTS WAPDA AGAINST HUBCO - April 21, 2000

A recent survey by Gallup Pakistan shows that increase in the price of electricity is considered steeper than any other consumer item affecting an average citizen. The public puts the blame of high priced electricity in four different directions: Corruption and incompetence in WAPDA/KESC, the rates charged by HUBCO and power theft by the consumers themselves, the so called "Kunda" phenomenon; 27% put the blame on corrupt officials, 22% blame HUBCO, 18% blame incompetent officials, 18% blame power theft by consumers through "Kundas". The remaining 8% explain the increase in price of electricity as a spillover of general inflation.

When it comes to the dispute between WAPDA and HUBCO, public support is clearly with WAPDA. A national urban sample of more than one thousand men and women were asked: *"In the current dispute between WAPDA and electricity generating company HUBCO, the point of view of WAPDA is that HUBCO had contracted high price of electricity through bribery, and it should therefore lower it; HUBCO says: Pakistan government entered into a solemn contract from which it is now backing out. Whose point of view do you tend to favour? And if you were a judge what would be your verdict?"* Forty percent (40%) of the national sample said their verdict would be in favour of WAPDA, 18% said they would give a verdict in favour of HUBCO and 42% said they don't know. Responding to a follow up question, 48% of the sample said that the government must deal sternly with HUBCO and fix the rates at the level of original agreement, whereas 16% favoured settling the issue through a compromise on the price, 36% did not give a view on this issue.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among a representative sample of more than 1000 men and women in the major urban areas of the country. The sample included a cross section of people belonging to various age, income, education and linguistic backgrounds. The text of this report can also be seen on the internet at: www.gallup.com.pk

Question: In your view which of the following prices has increased very much, a little bit or not at all during the last five years?

*Percent of respondents**

	Very much	A little bit	Not at all	Does not affect / non user
Meat	58%	36%	4%	2%
Vegetables	39%	51%	7%	3%
Ghee/Cooking Oil	65%	30%	3%	2%
School fees	69%	21%	3%	7%
Flour	74%	22%	1%	3%
Electricity	89%	8%	2%	1%
Gas	72%	22%	2%	3%
Phone	67%	9%	2%	22%

* Figures are Row percent

Source: Gallup Survey, March 2000

Question: Who in your view is most responsible for high price of electricity? (Show round card)

*Percent of respondents**

Corruption in Wapda/KESC	27%
High rates of Hubco/other power generators	22%
Incompetence in Wapda/KESC	18%
Power theft by the public/Kunda system	18%
Prices of everything have increased	8%
No response	7%

* Figures are Column percent

Source: Gallup Survey, March 2000

Question: In the current dispute between Wapda and electricity generating company the Hubco, the point of view of Wapda is that Hubco had contracted high price of electricity through bribery, and it should therefore lower it; Hubco says: Pakistan government entered into a solemn contract from which it is now backing out. Whose point of view do you tend to favour?

*Percent of respondents**

Wapda	39%
Hubco	19%
Both are wrong	29%
Don't know	13%

* Figures are Column percent

Source: Gallup Survey, March 2000

Question: Suppose you are the judge in a Court and both Wapda and Hubco entered their case would your verdict be in favour of Wapda or Hubco?

*Percent of respondents**

Wapda	40%
Hubco	18%
Don't know/No response	42%

* Figures are Column percent

Source: Gallup Survey, March 2000

Question: In your view should the government of Pakistan settle the matter with Hubco by the compromising on a higher rate or deal with it sternly and ask for fixing the rates at the level of the original agreement?

*Percent of respondents**

Settle by compromise	16%
Deal sternly	48%
Don't know	36%

* Figures are Column percent

Source: Gallup Survey, March 2000