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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

**60 % PAKISTANIS BELIEVE THAT DOCTORS
OVERCHARGE**

Results released on: *January 25, 2003*



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60% PAKISTANIS BELIEVE THAT DOCTORS OVERCHARGE –

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According to a recent survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan 60% of Pakistanis believe that doctors overcharge, 39% said they charge moderately or less while 1% did not give an answer. Furthermore 21% of the respondents of this survey said they suspected that sometimes doctors make a wrong diagnosis of their disease causing them harm, 78% didn't believe in this while 1% did not answer this question.

According to the survey nearly half of the respondents (51%) said that they visited a doctor once or more during the last two months. However for right or wrong reasons, 63% of them complaint that doctors overcharge, 36% said that they charge either moderately or less while 1% didn't give an answer. More details of the survey are the following: The perception of overcharging is particularly high among the respondents who complain of wrong diagnosis since 75% of them believed that doctors overcharge. Similarly it is interesting to note that more people complain of overcharging by General Practitioners (GPs) than specialists even though the fee of specialists is higher. 66% of respondents who go to General Practitioners complain more of overcharging compared to those who generally go to Specialist for treatment (52%). Perhaps they expect to pay relatively more to a Specialist and consider it good value for money.

The perception of overcharging is relatively lower among the upscale or more prosperous respondents. Among them 51% complained compared to the less prosperous among whom 62% said that doctors overcharge.

Among the urbanites this perception is somewhat higher compared to the ruralities, 63% as opposed to 55%. This perception of overcharging is higher among males (64%) compared to females among whom 45% complaint of overcharging. Perhaps they are affected by the financial implications.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among nearly 1300 statistically selected households in both urban and rural areas of all the four provinces of Pakistan. The sample comprised a cross section of various, income, education, age and geographic segments. The text of this report can also be seen on the Internet at: www.gallup.com.pk.