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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON
PREFERENCE OF BOY CHILD OVER GIRL CHILD

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PREFERENCE OF BOY CHILD OVER GIRL CHILD

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According to a recent survey by Gallup Pakistan, there is a strong preference in the country for a boy child over a girl child, if for some reason a family could have only one child. In such circumstances 79% in Pakistan prefer a boy over a girl 17% would prefer a girl and only 3% say it makes no difference. The preference for a boy child is relatively higher in the rural areas where around 85% prefer a boy to a girl as the only child in the family compared with 75% in the urban areas. The preference for a boy appeared to be higher among the married compared to unmarried respondents (around 80% in married and 70% in the unmarried). Similarly the boy preference is the highest in the age group 30-49 compared with both the under 30 and the over 50. This suggests that couples with a child bearing age wife give higher preference for a boy as the only child.

Analysts at Gallup have pointed out that Pakistan ranks very high among countries with a preference for boy child. However when it comes to issues such as nutrition status, immunization against fatal diseases and basic education, a majority of parents hold the view that boys and girls should not be distinguished from each other. The global comparisons are reflected below:

Question: Suppose you could only have one child. Would you prefer that it be a boy or a girl?

Countries	Preference for	
	Boy	Girl
Pakistan	79	17
France	41	31
India	40	27
USA	35	13
UK	31	26
Canada	26	16
Germany	21	19
Spain	20	27

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among nearly 1500 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 and geographic segments. The text of this report can also be seen on the internet at: www.gallup.com.pk.