



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.

Majority (85 %) Believe Smoking is Injurious to Health: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, June 8, 2009

According to the World Health Organization, tobacco use is the second biggest cause of deaths globally and currently responsible for killing one in 10 adults worldwide. Recently a Gilani Research Foundation survey was carried out by Gallup Pakistan to understand public attitude in the country towards smoking and its dangers. The findings reveal that an overwhelming majority of all Pakistanis (85%) believe smoking to be detrimental for health, 75% believe it is equally precarious for men and women and majority supports a complete ban smoking in all public areas. But despite widespread public disapproval, no significant decline has been found in the incidence of smoking tobacco in the country. According to a Gilani poll last year, 50% Pakistani men use some form of tobacco (for detailed our latest Health Cyber letter <http://www.gallup.com.pk/newshow.php?id=9>).

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*In your view, to what extent is smoking dangerous for health?*” Majority (71%) claimed it is dangerous to a great extent and 14% of the respondents said to some extent. Five percent (5%) believe smoking is not at all dangerous for health while 10% were unsure or gave no response. It is seen that a proportionately higher percentage of urbanites (81%) as compared to the ruralites (66%) consider smoking extremely injurious for health.

To understand if there is any gender bias in perceptions about the impact of smoking, the respondents were asked “*Some people believe that smoking is more dangerous for women’s health as compared to men’s health, some claim it is equally dangerous for both the genders, while others believe that it is not dangerous for anyone. What is your view point?*” More than two thirds of all Pakistanis (75%) consider smoking to be equally precarious for both men and women, while 14% believe that smoking is more dangerous for women’s health. Two percent (2%) claimed it is not dangerous for anyone and 8% of the respondents were unsure or gave no response.

“In your view, to what extent is smoking dangerous for health?”

To a great extent	71%
To some extent	14%
Not at all	5%
Don't know	9%
No response	1%

“Some people believe that smoking is more dangerous for women’s health as compared to men’s health, some claim it is equally dangerous for both the genders, while others believe that it is not dangerous for anyone. What is your view point?”

Equally dangerous for both	75%
More dangerous for women	14%
Not dangerous for anyone	2%
Don't know	7%
No response	1%

Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

In the follow up question, public opinion on banning smoking was probed. The respondents were read out a list of statements and were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with each of them. Ninety three percent (93%) agree that “**Smoking should be banned in public transports (Buses/Wagons)**” and only 6% disagree. One percent (1%) gave no response.

According to 86% of the respondents “**Heavy amount of tax should be imposed on smoking**” while 12% disagree with it. One percent (1%) gave no response.

Again a majority (87%) agree that “**There should be a ban on smoking in offices, hotels, and restaurants**” where as 12% of the respondents do not agree that smoking should be banned in these places. One percent (1%) gave no response.

Eighty five percent (85%) of the respondents agree that “**There should be a ban on smoking in recreational parks**” and 14% disagree. One percent (1%) gave no response.

“Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”

	Agree	Disagree	NR
Smoking should be banned in public transportation	93%	6%	1%
Heavy tax should be imposed on smoking	86%	12%	1%
Smoking should be banned in offices, hotels, & restaurants	87%	12%	1%
Smoking should be banned in recreational parks	85%	14%	1%

Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

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 2666 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during May 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately ± 2 -3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

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

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