

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 Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

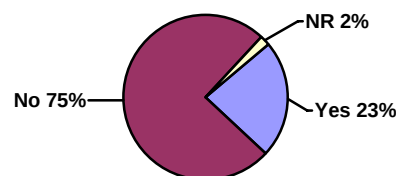
Last Ten Days of Ramadan; 23 % Claimed to Observe Short or Long I'tikaf: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, October 9, 2009

During the last ten days of Ramadan, Muslims all over the world zealously engage in various kinds of worships to gain blessings. To find out how Pakistanis spent their last ten days of Ramadan 2009 a Gilani Research Foundation survey was carried out by Gallup Pakistan,. According to this recent survey, it was seen that one fourth of Pakistanis (23%) claimed to observe I'tikaf this year where as 75% did not (*I'tikaf is the annual ten day seclusion in Ramadan which can be observed by secluding oneself from the worldly life, for the last ten days or even for a few hours, at the mosque or at home, depending on how much time or days a person can spare for this kind of worship. Women in Pakistan mostly observe I'tikaf at home*). When asked about the last Friday of this month, 48% claimed to offer Friday prayers in congregation, 24% offered Silat-ul-Tasbeeh (*A special prayer offered by Muslims*), 19% arranged a gathering for recitation of Quran at home, 3% claimed to stay home and pray and 6% did not do anything special or gave no response.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*Did you sit in I'tikaf this year?*” Twenty three percent (23%) said yes, where as 75% claimed they did not observe I'tikaf this year and 2% of the respondents gave no response. The results show no stark difference across various demographics.

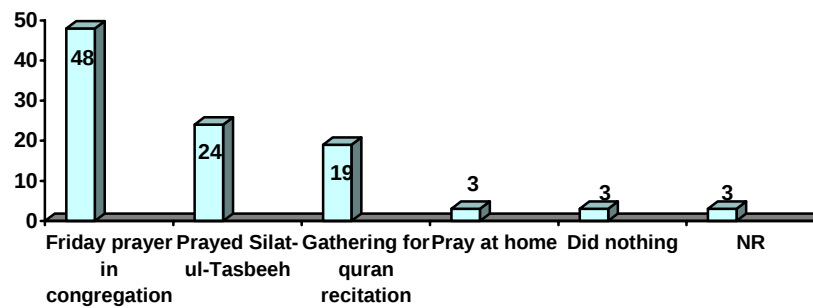
“*Did you sit in I'tikaf this year?*”



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

To find out how the public spent their last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, the respondents were asked “*How did you spend the last Friday of Ramadan, which is known to be the day of blessings?*” Forty eight percent (48%) claimed to offer Friday prayers in congregation, 24% offered a special prayer known as Silat-ul-Tasbeeh, 19% arranged a gathering for recitation of Quran at home, where as 3% claimed to stay home and pray. The remaining 6% did not do anything special or gave no response. It is interesting to notice that while a significantly higher percentage of men claimed to offer Friday prayers in congregation, like wise a considerably higher percentage of women claimed to offer Silat-ul-Tasbeeh or arranged a gathering for recitation of Quran at home.

“How did you spend the last Friday of Ramadan, which is known to be the day of blessings?”



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 2610 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during September 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 social and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

For any queries please contact:
Ms. Saadia Khalid
Assistant Manager (Research)

Phone: +92-51-2655630
E-mail: saadia.khalid@gallup.com.pk