

Gallup Summer Internship 2013

Cyber letter



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Gallup Summer Internship is an Annual exercise done by Gallup in which undergraduate students from prestigious universities are provided the opportunity to work closely with Gallup Researchers. Some 300 students have interned at Gallup in the past years.

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CYBERLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Reader,

Gilani Research Team now brings to you a collection of articles written by our interns, which gives you the opportunity to know more about the various socio-political issues of Pakistan. We hope it will be of interest to you and. If you have any further questions in this regard, please feel free to contact us.

Gallup Summer Internship is an Annual exercise done by Gallup in which undergraduate students from prestigious universities are provided the opportunity to work closely with Gallup Researchers. Some 300 students have interned at Gallup in the past years. This year, the interns were asked to write short articles, choosing topics from the Gallup research database, that closely matched their interests. A collection of those articles has been presented in this Cyberletter. It is important to note that the opinions expressed in these articles are those of the Interns and in no way reflects the opinion of Gallup Pakistan or its employees.

Best regards.

Sara Salam

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Summer Interns 2013



From left to right: Amal; Maheen, Malika, Sara (Supervisor); Namrah, Maham & Anam



From left to right: Sondus; Fatima, Aima, Sara (Supervisor); Zara, Seemal

I am Beautiful

by [Hina Gul Roy](#)

“They are as human as we are. They are as beautiful as we are. Instead of turning away from them, we need to fight for them.”



Imagine your skin being roasted and flesh melting causing excruciating pain. No, I am not taking about the fire of hell. The hell, in question, is the hell experienced by the unfortunate few of the women species. And who sentences them to this hell, you may ask? Men. Men, who forget that they are also born out of a woman.

Acid attacks are treated as a taboo topic in our male dominated society as the perpetrators are men who resort to this horrendous crime because they have been jilted, have had their advances spurned, or are involved in a land/dowry dispute. Insignificant and trivial reasons like greed, anger, revenge and jealousy are sometimes enough for them to carry out this heinous crime.

The Acid Control And Acid Crime Prevention Act 2010 introduced potential liability for up to 14 years imprisonment and Rs.1 million fine for criminal defendants charged with the crime of acid throwing but the increasing number of acid attacks despite this law are a subject of worry.

The first step has been taken by making acid attacks illegal in 2010 by passing the legislation but a lot more needs to be done. The weapon used for this crime is inexpensive and easily available. No check and balance is kept. Purchase of acid should be made tough. Stringent implementation of the law should be ensured.

Amidst all this we often forget the plight of the victim who has been subjected to tremendous emotional and physical pain and is permanently scarred. They are rejected by society and their family, who sometimes might blame them for the incident which causes low self-esteem. Usually such victims are left alone to die. They are thought of as a commodity. These attacks often cause blindness and disabilities which makes the victim dependent on others. The survivors are subjected to stigma and prejudice which leads to depression and suicidal tendencies.

The society as a whole needs to understand the agony of the victim and make it safe for women. The Government should fund the victim's reconstruction surgery and counselling should be given to the victim and her family to help rebuild her confidence. A supportive family can quicken the healing process.

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It can happen to anyone, I shudder to think that I might be at the receiving end. As a woman, I feel guilty and helpless. What we all can do is to let them know that we are there for them and they are beautiful as they are. It is sad to see how a man irrevocably alters a woman's life on which he has no right whatsoever. Their one momentary action lasts a life time for the victim. It's high time we all come together and demand for strict implementation of the law.

We should salute women who live through this horror. It's pathetic how a face is used to settle scores. What no one understands is that they have as much right to live as we do. They are as human as we are. They are as beautiful as we are. People, including me, find it difficult to see the victims. Instead of turning away from them, we need to fight for them. Instead of judging people on their looks, we should understand that no matter what anyone looks like, beauty is internal. Φ



About Hina: *Currently a final year student at University Of London. Hina is doing her LLB Honors and was a summer intern at the Gallup Pakistan office. At Gallup Pakistan, she has been a part of several ongoing projects. Besides studies, she is interested in travelling, blogging and reading.*

Independence day

by Sondas Badar

“Some people think that this year Independence Day was celebrated with greater fervor and enthusiasm than last two three years and others say there was not much difference”



Independence Day is celebrated with enthusiasm all over the country. Many people dress up green and white and participate in parades reflecting patriotism and respect towards their country. Walking down the streets you see dressed up children with faces painted green singing patriotic songs, happy and filled with emotions on this day. Official buildings, including Parliament House, are decorated and colorfully lit and speeches by President and Prime minister are televised live.

‘Some people think that this year Independence Day was celebrated with greater fervor and enthusiasm than last two three years and others say there was not much difference. What do you think?’ The vast majority according to this particular Gallup poll reveals that Independence Day is celebrated with greater enthusiasm over the years. Another Gallup survey results show that 62 percent of the adults have a desire to go abroad while 38 percent do not want to come back to Pakistan. Is it that the feeling of ‘patriotism’ and all the love shown on Independence Day by Pakistanis is just limited to ‘Independence Day’?

Now we can just sum up and draw conclusions that Pakistanis have double standards or that all the patriotism displayed on Independence Day is just mere drama. But on a second thought looking into the situation I see the youth moving abroad not for their love for foreign land but seeking for opportunities which sadly our motherland fails to provide. Pakistan has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world, 25% unemployment rate, 23% people are still living below poverty line, the law and order situations are depressing, as violent activities continue and hundreds all over the country regularly fall as prey to the targeted and other kinds of killings linked to ethnic and political tensions. Every morning brings more rape cases, more Hindus framed under the blasphemy law, increasing corruption and no one to question it all. Therefore the truth, no matter how bitter it is, is that Pakistan is not an attractive spot in terms of employment, economy and security.

Pakistan is one of the leading countries with highest inflow of remittances sent by its overseas workers which aids to sustain the economy of the country when all other reserves are drying so youth moving abroad still plays an important role in economic development of Pakistan. Every year more people are moving abroad for greater opportunities and development and in return sending money for a better Pakistan, Therefore the ‘patriotism’ of Pakistanis is not a question.

Our country is one born out of war and struggle and every 14th August is a reminder for Pakistanis of the sacrifices made to be given this land. Increasing celebrations on 14th august should not be the sole purpose on this day, This day should be a reminder that we all have a duty to fulfill as Pakistanis. No matter where we end up we should work towards a better future of Pakistan.❖

Maternity issues in Pakistan

by Sondas Badar



“Lack of health facilities tops the list with 41% of all Pakistanis citing it as the main cause of mothers deaths during pregnancy or child birth”

In a survey by Gallup Pakistan 2013, **27% of the Pakistanis said that the most important day of their life was the day of the birth of their child.** This day is looked up as one of the happiest days bringing luck and joy with it. Sadly many Pakistanis are even deprived of this happiness. The maternity issues in Pakistan are a major cause for deaths of both mother and children during childbirth. About **30,000 women die each year** due to pregnancy related causes. It is estimated that about 500 maternal deaths occur per 100,000 live births each year in Pakistan.

Pakistan is the 7th most populated countries in the world with two-third or almost 70% of the whole population residing in villages where even the basic health facilities are not available. The health facilities are badly neglected here. Here about 80 per cent of the maternal deaths are those that could have been ‘prevented’ if properly treated. Pregnancy is not a disease and if properly monitored cannot be the cause of death.

According to a Gallup survey conducted in January 2010, Pakistanis believe there are various reasons for high mortality rate amongst pregnant women in Pakistan. Lack of health facilities tops the list with 41% of all Pakistanis citing it as the main cause of mothers' deaths during pregnancy or child-birth, followed by poverty (39%) and self-created religious or social restrictions (13%). The remaining 7% of the respondents were unsure. According to another Gallup survey 48 % people are satisfied with public health services while a significant 37 percent claimed to be only fairly satisfied or not satisfied at all.

The main reason for these deaths is ignorance and illiteracy of people regarding health and disease, plus lack of proper medical infrastructure. There is a serious need to improve the essential maternal and newborn health care services especially in rural areas. Proper precautionary measures should be taken to thwart the possibility of any bad results. There is also a serious need to educate people in rural areas. Training should be given to women in rural areas to set up a proper ‘Midwifery workforce’. A proper budget should be allocated each year just for health care of pregnant women and workshops should be conducted to create awareness. ☎



About Sondus: As a senior at the Institute of Business Administration, Sondus is majoring in Computer Science, and is currently an intern at the Gallup Pakistan office. At Gallup, she has been working on Project Voice and translation of documents. She has also rendered her services in carrying out the UK Professional and Vocational Training Program Project and the Employee Engagement survey. Her future aspiration includes doing a Masters’ degree in Human Resource. She often spends her time playing volleyball, swimming and reading books.

A Secular Pakistani State?

by Aima Khan

“67% of Pakistanis support the idea of Islamization of the society”.



In the world that we live in today, conflicts amongst different religious groups threaten world peace in a manner unprecedented over the last few decades. In the Middle East, the conflict between Israel and Palestine, in which the two nations are fighting over whether Israeli Jews or Palestinian Muslims have the first right to a strip of holy land, has raged on for decades now, and shows no signs of being resolved. In South-East Asia, after the partitioning of the sub-continent on religious grounds in 1947, Kashmir remains disputed territory. In the Balkans, following the break-up of Yugoslavia, ethnic and religious conflict amongst various factions still results in a significant loss of lives. In Africa, Muslim Eritrea is pitted against predominantly Christian Ethiopia in a conflict that has continued since Eritrean-Ethiopian War that lasted from May 1998 to June 2000. Finally, the United States continues its own war on terror that has often being labeled a war against Islam. All of these conflicts involve states, including some that claim to be secular, fighting each other over issues that can be traced back to religion.

Secularism is a notion defined as the separation of the state from the church, making the state neutral, and hence, allowing no room for discrimination based on religion. Until the seventeenth century, Europe was governed by religious forces, which involved themselves in the struggle for power and the right to govern the behavior of society. The importance of religion within states in the continent can be judged from the fact that many historians state that the period is marked by wars fought on religious grounds. However, it was during this period that the idea of secularism started to gain ground in Europe. With the importance of religion being nearly impossible to ignore in the structure of the state in the seventeenth century, what led to notions of secularism?

It was, in fact, the significant part played by religion in state affairs that compelled people to start questioning the association between religion and state. The wars that Europe experienced seemed to be rooted in religious conflict and the resulting havoc seemed to suggest that, perhaps, religion should be separated from state.

In the case of Pakistan, a 2009 Gallup poll questioned a sample of 2765 men and women from all over the country regarding their views on Islam, state and democracy. Results show that 69% of all Pakistanis believe that Islam requires an Islamic state, and 68% believe that democracy is consistent with the Islamic system of governance. However, 23% believed that Islam does not require an Islamic state.

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Another survey conducted in 2011 asked its respondents, “In your opinion, should the government take steps to ‘Islamize’ the society?” 67% of the respondents answered with a yes, whereas only 13% believed that there was no need for Islamization of the society.

Although the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, hinted at the separation of state and religion in his address on September 11, 1947, clearly, the majority of the general population of Pakistan feels there no need to have a secular state. The question that now must be asked is that in such circumstances, and in light of the important role that religion currently plays in global politics, can the Pakistani state ever be secular? ❖



About Aima: *Aima is an Economics and Political Science major from the Lahore University of Management and Sciences, and is a summer intern at the Gallup Pakistan office Islamabad. . As a part of her internship she has been working on various projects, ranging from research work to participating in focus group discussions. She wishes to pursue a Masters’ degree in Public Policy, preferably from the US. When not spending her time watching movies and television shows, she utilizes her time in other hobbies including swimming, horse riding and painting.*

The scars of 1947

by [Fatima Sohail](#)

“67% of Pakistanis support the idea of Islamization of the society”.

Pakistan and India celebrate their 66th birthday this August and yet the marks of the 6 decades old bloodshed still remain fresh and unforgiving. There is an old saying, time heals all wounds but one wonders and wonders and still remains in doubt since the proverb does not seem to apply to the people of South Asia.



Famous for its cricket craze, colorful traditions and celebrations, four seasons, varied topography, delicious cuisine and hot summers, the south Asian region on the globe is dominated by the two neighbors cum enemies Pakistan and India. Both countries, once a part of the great subcontinent share the same history and ancestors yet the tragic events of the partition of August 1947 have left never healing scars.

Much literature has been written on the horrendous events of killing looting and rape. From Manto's heart touching "Khol Do" to Bose and Jalal's more academic styled records of the partition, 66 years' worth pages of history have been marked by hatred and hatred only.

However, at this point one may pause and ponder over this passing over of the hatred phenomenon from generation to generation. What is it that still keeps the enmity alive and crisp in the air? What is it that has framed our minds such that to hate an Indian has become a must to do? Why is it that peace pursuits like Aman ki Ashha and other art, cultural and social forums have failed in their goals? Why?

And that reasonable sound at the back of my head whispers something. It whispers what I don't want to hear, what I and almost every Pakistani like me, denies. That voice tells me something about reaping what I sow, like believing whom I have chosen to be my representatives. Yes the fading voice exposes me to the harsh reality that we Pakistanis have been facing for the past 60 years- the wrath of our ever powerful military.

From, Ayub's coup to Zia's history changing rule and Musharaf's recent power regime, we Pakistani's have remained unfortunate in bringing to power an effective democracy- a democracy that would have put us on the path of growth and growth only.

Sad it is to see that our minds have been captivated with such force that the sole purpose of our existence seems to be survival against India. Every dollar that we put in for a new missile, tank or mission gun supposedly enhances our security against our neighboring country which, as they tell us, is a hungry lion: ready to attack. We live in a fool's paradise where we are ensured that a whole 20% of our taxes goes in our safety.

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And I ask myself what has this obsession given us? Where has it led us? Alas, I have no answers. The truth is that except for a brewing feeling of hatred we have lagged behind in every race. We are the losers in this game. Today, India stands as a rising economic power; Bangalore emerges as the new telecommunication hub and Pakistan, Pakistan yet remains unsuccessful in getting out of the claws of its military mindset and Islamic fundamentalists.

According to a Human Development Report, at least 28 million Pakistani people live below the set standards of poverty, two-thirds of its population is illiterate, only half of the population has access to basic health facilities and the population growth rate accounts to 3.6 percent. The country is far behind in science and technology and in the last decade has faced severe crisis of sugar, wheat and electricity which has contributed to its economic downfall and social frustration and mobility.

Such is the sorry state of our affairs. This obsessiveness of seeing India as an arch enemy, spending ruthlessly on defense, following in the footsteps of the military, all this has deterred the scars from fading and put Pakistan years behind in terms of socio economic development.

The need of the time requires us to come out of the military mindset and think about our relation with India outside the enemy syndrome phenomenon. An effective democracy can play its due role in this scenario since its better late than never. Φ



About Fatima: *As a senior at the Lahore University of Management and Sciences, she is pursuing a degree in Economics and Political Science. Her work at Gallup ranges from researching on employee engagement to checking data received for projects. Additionally, she enjoys reading fiction and discussing politics, with a special focus on Pakistan's ties with the US. For a career, she plans to pursue Civil Services.*

Light out

by Zara Atiq

“Some people think that this year Independence Day was celebrated with greater fervor and enthusiasm than last two three years and others say there was not much difference”



Supply of electricity in Pakistan is short which leads to load shedding, break downs, fluctuations, blackouts and power outages in the country. People are suffering from these power cuts and load shedding in both winters and summers. There are many factors that lead to load shedding in Pakistan. These factors include shortages in river waters, over population, low generation of electricity, fewer dams in Pakistan and power theft.

According to a survey conducted by Gallup 29% of Pakistanis claim that they use candle when there is no light. The response to what people generally do when the light went out varied. 29% of the people said that they lit a candle, 28% used gas lamps, 19% relied on emergency lights, 5% had generators and 9% preferred to simply go out. 10%, however, stated that they did not do anything.

Until few years back load shedding was not as common as it is now. It has not only made people's life miserable, but it also has made the country as a whole suffer greatly. Due to electricity shortages, Pakistani industries have started shutting down rapidly, leading to economic recession in the country.

People were asked about the extent of the problems faced by them due to load shedding in their localities. 74% of the people said that it was a severe problem for them, 24% of them said that load shedding was somewhat a serious issue, whereas 2% claimed that load shedding was not a problem in their locality. In 2007 similar questions were asked by some people to see the change in their opinions and responses.

Followed by a number of other surveys conducted by Gallup Pakistan, it was concluded that electricity shortage and load shedding is a persistent problem and the government has failed miserably in solving this major problem that has lead to other issues.

Economic progress cannot be foreseen in any field in the presence of electricity issues. To prevent further problems created by load shedding and to put an end to this problem inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement from WAPDA need to be removed. Moreover, the government must build new dams and generate power from nuclear and solar energy. Power theft should be stopped too, immediately. ☎



About Zara: She is pursuing BBA in Bahria University Islamabad and plan on doing MBA from the US after graduation. She worked with Gallup Pakistan as an intern for 5 weeks on different projects. Zara usually spends free time watching shows or with my family and friends and loves travelling.

Actors on a stage?

by Seemal Saeed



The foundation of our being and becoming all depends upon the society we live in and the environment we are placed in.

Why are we here? What is the meaning of our existence? Have these thoughts ever occurred in anyone's mind? From birth till death, we are given a set of rules and a set way of life to follow. We are raised in a society where certain things are expected from us and if ever chosen to disobey or hinder from the path we are discriminated or looked upon with disgrace. So then the question arises, is life a stage? And are we all actors left to act upon a script? We wonder what will happen to those who choose to act against it. An example can be given of dramaturgy which is a sociological perspective starting from symbolic interactionism and is mostly used in face to face interactions in everyday life. This term was initially used by Erving Goffman in 1959 in his book 'The presentation of Self in Everyday Life'. He spoke about 'on-stage' and 'off-stage' behavior. People interacting with one another are referred to as on-stage actors who act out what is expected of them while those off-stage are those which act in a different way when they are not around the other person and have a different sort of behavior.

The country we live in has taught us many ethics and helped us build our norms and values. The foundation of our being and becoming all depends upon the society we live in and the environment we are placed in. Family, religion, wealth, education and access to knowledge are the key factors of shaping the personality and life of a human being. Many people in this country have no access to media through the internet, television or any source of contact with the outside world due to which they lack knowledge and the ability of a broader mind set. This leads to crime, injustice, inequality and even death in some cases.

Taking education into account, [according to Gallup polls, 12% of Pakistani women think that men and women are not given equal rights in terms of education and 66% of Pakistanis think access to education has been the source of improvement in the lives of women in the past 100 years](#). Education has the power to eradicate any differences, racism or sexism and women are given equal rights and the power to hold a stronger position in the society.

However even in the wealthiest of households and most educated of families there are people who lack ethics and morals due to the environment they are raised in. These are the factors which help us make judgments in life and act in right ways or wrong. However everyone has their own concept of this, no one should be allowed to take action upon what they think is wrong in ways harmful to others. Taking homosexuality, for example, it is forbidden and condemned in Islam but there are so many such cases now. Growing up, I would only hear about it in movies and the Western world but there's a whole new world here left undiscovered or so kept hidden from the normal eye. Speaking apart from religion, should the society allow this? People involved in this should not be disgraced from society and looked down upon. No one can really be the judge of that.

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It is not fair to disgrace such people, when the society nowadays is so drowned in modernizing themselves according to the western culture. When everything else is practiced openly, but when it comes to homosexuality, there are boys and young men who feel empowered to act upon what they believe in and feel is right. I believe this is because they have been raised in a very traditional and cultural household and feel any threat to their kind and masculinity should be destroyed. However, no one should be disgraced or sentenced to death depending on their religion or way of beliefs. May whatever be their reason for choice or way of life; we should not be the judge of that.

The Western culture seems to influence so many aspects of our lives. Why should we choose for others in what way it influences them. Some people have to live their lives in secrecy for the very same reason. In order to be accepted in society and not be cast off. So even though some people may have all the knowledge in the world, some would still lack the voice of reasoning and understanding. As we grow, our mind develops and way of thinking shapes our lives. According to Gallup polls 64% Pakistanis think that a person's lifestyle and way of thinking should change with the passage of time. We should be able to know how to act around people and voice our opinions in a non-controversial way. Actors on-stage and off-stage, referring to Goffman, would only be able to maintain a certain balance once the society accepts people for what they are. Once the people of our country start to accept this and maintain a certain level of understanding, more awareness will be spread and a sense of peace will be established as people from different beliefs and families would be accepted in our society.

Media, education and globalization as a whole will play its part but the society needs to adjust and change along with it. Our norms, values and ethics should remain intact and strong but people should not be judged wrongly or cast away from society. ☪



About Seemal: She is currently a summer intern at the Gallup Pakistan office, is a senior at University College of Islamabad, pursuing an external degree of LSE in Economics. As a part of her internship at Gallup Islamabad, she has been translating numerous documents for different undergoing projects. Moreover, she has also assisted in Project Voice and UK Professional and Vocational Training Program Project. She hopes to contribute significantly to the development sector after graduation. Her hobbies include reading books, playing basketball, and spending time with family.

Television and Dramas: Favorite hobby of our nation

by Anam Khan

“85% of Pakistanis have never been to a library, television viewing has become the favorite hobby of the Pakistani population”



Electronic media has infiltrated in every household and is playing the biggest role in shaping the society. There was a time when people used to spend their spare time on reading books and increasing their information bank but this hobby is on the decline as the percentage of people indulging in book reading have decreased from 46% to 28% in the last ten years in Pakistan (Gallup Pakistan, March 31 2011). Fewer and fewer people are reading books as books are becoming expensive than the other pastime prepositions and since the trend of library is not prevalent in Pakistan, as 85% of Pakistanis have never been to a library (Gallup Pakistan, Dec 6, 2012), television viewing has become the favorite hobby of the Pakistani population. According to a survey, **30% of men said that they watch TV, 28% replied with ‘resting to relax’ and 18% said ‘visit friends’, 8% said ‘other outdoor activities’, 6% said ‘reading’.** (Gallup Pakistan, October 24, 2012). Since television is one thing which the whole of the family can sit together and enjoy, people prefer this pastime. According to a survey, 85% of Pakistanis sit and watch TV with their families. (Gallup Pakistan, April 12, 2013)

Initially the media was in control of the government and PTV was the only channel which fulfilled the need of every age but after the Musharraf’s era, media has grown exponentially, providing more platforms for the population to view their favorite programs. Due to this spur of media channels, the quality of programs have deteriorated as the channels are engaged in rating wars. The survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan shows that as many as 48% Pakistanis feel the standard of TV programs has been deteriorating in the last few months. A little over one fourth of Pakistanis (27%) feel the standard has improved while another one-fourth (24%) feel there hasn’t been any change. (May 3, 2011).

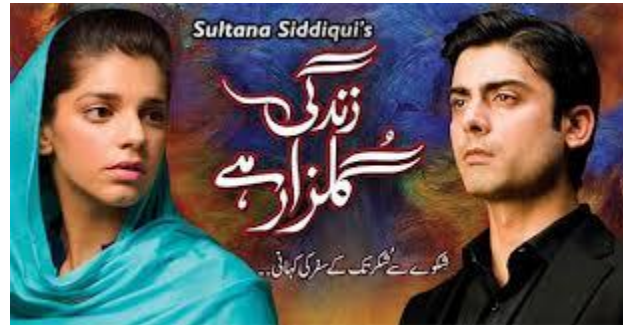
There is difference in the choice of channel viewing between the urban and rural population of Pakistan Urban viewer ship comprises of a combination of Pakistani (75%), Indian (60%), and English channels (20%), however Pakistani channels lead by 15%. On the other hand rural viewer ship is mostly of Pakistani channels (86%) with a small share of Indian channels (27%) and a tiny share of English channels (11%). (Gallup Pakistan, Oct 19, 2009). The difference in choice could be due to many reasons in which education and awareness ranks at the top.

Dramas are one category in entertainment media which has been popular in every day and age. There seems to be a little comparison between the old classics and new dramas. According to a survey, 31% claim dramas nowadays have become better whereas 42% feel they are worse. (Gallup Pakistan, Jan 26, 2010) Along with the magnitude of programs came the international dramas from India, Turkey etc. After the ban of Indian channels from Pakistan, many local channels started to broadcast the Indian soaps. But the popularity of Indian soaps are deteriorating, as according to a survey 87% of TV viewers watch dramas, 68% of who prefer watching Pakistani dramas on Indian soap operas.

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But the popularity of Indian soaps are deteriorating, as according to a survey 87% of TV viewers watch dramas, 68% of who prefer watching Pakistani dramas on Indian soap operas. (Gallup Pakistan, Nov 22, 2010) recently there is a craze of Turkish dramas on different local channels of ours but surprisingly according to a survey, only 10% of the respondents claim that they have watched Turkish dramas on Pakistani entertainment channels whereas 90% claim they have not. Among those who said yes, 60% claim to watch these dramas on Urdu One, 33% claim to watch it on Express Entertainment and 4% cited other channels.

Excess of anything is bad. The discussion remains about the effects of media on our nation. The dramas depict neither our culture nor the reality. If the public watches such animated versions of reality, would that becomes their reality so when that cloud would burst and real life comes in full effect, it would leave people confused and unprepared or is it just better to give people a break from the reality once in a while and take them into a wonderland with happy endings. People indulge in a hobby which relaxes them and makes them happy and the price of this numbness is yet to be seen. ☯



Opinion of women of Pakistan on equality and equal access

Anam Khan

In a world where male dominated society exists, female are viewed as secondary beings when it comes to their rights. A lot of work has been done in this regard especially in the west. The east on the other hand is still struggling with such issues. Pakistan is one of the countries where a lot of work has been done in the favor of female equality. The quotas set aside for women in education sector and the women protection bill seems positive steps towards female empowerment and equality as according to a survey conducted in 2005 by Gallup, 41% of the respondents stated that they supported the Bill, 37% opposed it and 22% expressed their uncertainty over the matter. But Pakistani women feel one step behind the male in all the facets of life.



In justice system, according to the survey of Gallup Pakistan conducted on 20th March, 2013, 23% of the women are of the opinion they do not enjoy the same rights as men in the legal system of Pakistan whereas 52% thought that to an extent they have somewhat similar right but not completely. It seems that Pakistani state does not deliver to its female citizens when it comes to equal rights. It is very unfortunate that our people do not view women as equal and productive citizens of the country. They view them as Muslim daughters, wives and mothers and value them according to their assigned roles in society but not as individual citizens who could work towards the development. In the rural parts of Pakistan the male based Jirga system has skewed the justice proportion towards the male and the female are paying the price of the crimes done by their father, brother and husband etc. Among the increasing crimes, when asked about the worst crimes committed against women 34% of the respondents said throwing acid, 24% said domestic violence, 21% said honor killing and 13% said vani (child marriage). (Gallup Pakistan, March 27 2013) All these crimes are still prevalent in Pakistan and the victims are not being provided an easy access to the justice system.

If access to education is taken into account, 12% of the women feel that they do have the equal access to education where as a majority of 47% feel that they have equal access to an extent but not completely. (Gallup Pakistan 15th march 2013) A majority of 76% the population prefer their daughters to study in an all-girls school which clearly shows that there are very slim chances of those women to be joining the working force where they would have to work with their male counterparts. Equal access to education makes access to jobs easier and on an equal basis.

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In this area, 23% of Pakistani women think men and women are not granted the same rights in terms of access to employment whereas 50% of the women think that equal access is available for both the parties. (Gallup Pakistan, March 19, 2013). In 2008, it was recorded that 21.8 percent of females were participating in the labor force in Pakistan while 82.7 percent of men were involved in labor. The rate of women in the labor force has an annual growth rate of 6.5 percent. Out of the 47 million employed peoples in Pakistan in 2008, only 9 million were women and of those 9 million, 70 percent worked in the agricultural sector. The income of Pakistani women in the labor force is generally lower than that of men, due in part to a lack of formal education. This is a vicious circle which would not end until the rules of equality are followed.

Apart from the political involvement of females is also less as compared to the males. The politics of Pakistan is family based and though women have been considered as a helping hand, they are given equal importance. Responding to the availability of equal rights in terms of participation in political activities 14% said 'completely', 49% said 'to an extent' and 33% said 'not at all'. (Gallup Pakistan, March 21, 2013)

Over the past years we seen a trend changing in favor of women empowerment but there is still a long road ahead of us. In short, women have to play a vital role in Pakistan's national reconstruction. They have shown their worth as leaders and administrators and they have proved themselves over time. Women also have to broaden their outlook, develop their mental caliber and come out into the open field to share the social, economic and political responsibilities with man's shoulder to shoulder. At the same time, men on their side have to dispel the vain and futile armor of superiority and think of women as persons and not as possessions. Women have to feel themselves as being treated equal so that they could take their rightful place in society and work their part towards the betterment of Pakistan. Φ



About Anam: *She has done BBA from FAST and is currently pursuing MBA at NUST Business School. As an intern at Gallup Pakistan, she was actively involved in Client Satisfaction Survey for an International Client. Her hobbies include playing badminton, reading literature and sketching landscapes.*

Load Shedding in Pakistan

by Maheen



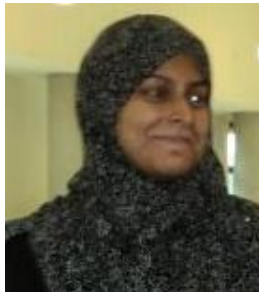
Supply of electricity in Pakistan is short which leads to load shedding, break downs, fluctuations, blackouts and power outages in the country. People are suffering from these power cuts and load shedding in both winters and summers. There are many factors that lead to load shedding in Pakistan. These factors include shortages in river waters, over population, low generation of electricity, fewer dams in Pakistan and power theft.

Until few years back load shedding was not as common as it is now. It has not only made people's life miserable, but it also has made the country as a whole suffer greatly. Due to electricity shortages, Pakistani industries have started shutting down rapidly, leading to economic recession in the country.

In a survey, carried out in 2006 by Gallup Pakistan, people were asked about the extent of the problems faced by them due to load shedding in their localities. 74% of the people said that it was a severe problem for them, 24% of them said that load shedding was somewhat a serious issue, whereas 2% claimed that load shedding was not a problem in their locality. In 2007 similar questions were asked by some people to see the change in their opinions and responses.

Followed by a number of other surveys conducted by Gallup Pakistan, it was concluded that electricity shortage and load shedding is a persistent problem and the government has failed miserably in solving this major problem that has lead to other issues.

Economic progress cannot be foreseen in any field in the presence of electricity issues. To prevent further problems created by load shedding and to put an end to this problem inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement from WAPDA need to be removed. Moreover, the government must build new dams and generate power from nuclear and solar energy. Power theft should be stopped too, immediately. ☎



About Maheen: *Currently a senior at the Lahore University of Management and Sciences, and majoring in Economics and Political Science, Maheen is a summer intern at the Gallup Pakistan office. At Gallup Pakistan, she has been a part of several ongoing projects. As part of an exchange program at her university, she will be spending a semester in the US this year. She wishes to pursue a Ph.D in Education Policy. Besides studies, she is interested in playing sports, teaching school children and community service.*

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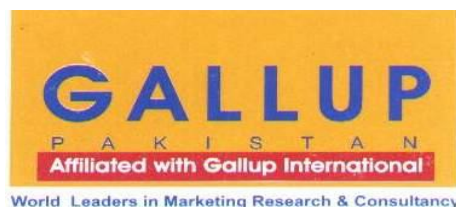
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Gallup Pakistan has conducted this poll according to the ESOMAR Code of Ethics and internationally recognized principles of scientific polling. The results in this Report do not represent views held by the authors or Gallup Pakistan. The results only represent public opinion, computed on the basis of views expressed by anonymous respondents selected through the procedure outlined in the Methodology section of this Report.

Gallup Pakistan has provided this data in the public interest and gratis. It cannot be held liable, contractually or otherwise, to the users of this data.