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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

DIVIDED OPINIONS ON PRIVATIZATION AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

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DIVIDED OPINIONS ON PRIVATIZATION AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

According to the findings of a Gallup poll the Pakistani public opinion is equally divided between those who support nationalized or public control of large industrial and trading concerns and those who favour privatization of the industry and trade. The survey also indicates a sharp difference of opinion between the labour, the unemployed, and the rural population on the one hand and the traders, professionals, salaried workers and students on the other hand. A majority of the former supports public control of trade and industry, while a majority of the latter group supports privatization.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan with a statistically selected sample of households in the rural as well as urban areas of the country. The sample was representative of various regional, income, educational and occupational backgrounds. The findings of the survey were computer processed.

The Gallup posed the following question: "Some institutions function under government control. Yet others are run by private persons. In your view, which of the following should function under government control, or in private management or in either of them?"

The data reveals an interesting relationship between the occupation and education of the respondents and their views on the issue of public or private control of trade and industry. Only 16 % of those with high school education support public control, while 51 % oppose it. But 45 % of the illiterate population support public control and 22 % oppose it. For those with primary level education, the figures are: 35 % support public control, 27 oppose it.

The occupational differences are also revealing. Among traders the figures are 25 % support, 40% oppose; professionals: 25% support, 43% oppose; salaried workers: 29% support, 38% oppose; retired persons: 30% support 41% oppose.

The student population's reactions are also interesting: Only 11% support public control while 41% oppose it. Perhaps they expect better prospects in the private sector.

The views of the unskilled and semi-skilled labour are just the reverse: 44% support public control and only 14% oppose it. The views of the unemployed may be no less indicative of the role of public sector. They appear to be more hopeful of support from the public sector. 31% of the unemployed support public control while less than half that many, only 14%, oppose it. Among the rural population 45% support public control and 30% oppose it.