

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

***MAJORITY PREFERS URDU AS
THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION***

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MAJORITY PREFERS URDU AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

According to the findings of a Gallup poll, majority of the parents in Pakistan wish to or perhaps find themselves constrained to send their children to Urdu medium schools. 62% expressed this preference in a nationally representative survey conducted in rural as well as urban areas of the country. The second in order of preference was English medium of instruction, which was opted by 14%. This was closely followed by those who prefer Sindhi as the medium of instruction; 12%.

The survey on the preferred medium of instruction was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in 100 villages and 75 urban locations all over the country. These locations were scientifically selected through the probability sampling technique. The findings of the survey were computer processed to analyse the pattern of responses among different segments of the populations.

The Gallup survey revealed that even though the preference for English as medium of instruction is rather low in the entire country, it is quite important in the urban areas, especially the three major urban centers: Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi / Islamabad, where 30% of the parents wished to send their children to English medium schools. In the urban areas as a whole, this figure is 20%.

Likewise the preference for English as medium of instruction is closely linked with income and education of the parents. 31% of the relatively high income group parents compared to only 6% of the lowest income group in the sample opted for English as medium of instruction. The preference for English medium is 34% among parents with high school or more education, whereas the figure is 19% of those with less than high school education, and only 6% among the illiterates.