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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

INTELLECTUALS MOOT REGISTERS LOW RECALL AMONG THE PUBLIC

Results released on: February 21, 1987



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INTELLECTUALS MOOT REGISTERS LOW RECALL AMONG THE PUBLIC

According to the findings of a recent Gallup poll, the vast majority of the population ignored or failed to take notice of the intellectuals moot called by the President in December last. In a nation-wide survey held nearly three weeks after the intellectuals moot the respondents were asked if they remembered anything about such a moot called by the President in Islamabad. Only 13% of the population gave a positive answer. 82% said they had not heard about it, or could not recall it. 5% did not answer this question. But among those who were aware of the intellectuals moot, a majority of five to one believed that there was nothing wrong to call a meeting of intellectuals to consider the nations problems. When they were probed as to what did they believe were the motives behind calling such a meeting, the general answer was "to consider the nations problems", or "to solve the nations problems". The survey also asked the question: Which issue would you say emerged as the most important problem in the intellectuals moot? Only 5% were able to answer this question, with 3% mentioning "urgency of national elections" and 1% each recalling "national integrity" and "law and order".

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan with a nationally representative sample spread across the country in 100 statistically selected villages and 75 urban areas, covering all the four provinces.

The recall rate for the intellectuals moot called by the President appears quite low, considering the wide publicity which it received in the national media. One possible reason could be that the general population failed to distinguish it from other similar seminars and moots which are also extensively covered in the media. Another reason could be that successive events soon after 'the intellectuals moot' such as heightened tensions with India, new developments on the Afghanistan issue, and the riots in Karachi overwhelmed the public attention, and the intellectuals moot receded in the background.