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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

SHARP DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS ON KALABAGH DAM

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SHARP DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS ON KALABAGH DAM

A recent Gallup poll has found that while one quarter of the urban population would like to leave the construction of Kalabagh Dam to be decided by expert opinion, the rest of them are sharply divided on this issue. The differences are clearly lived up on a provincial basis. Punjab is strongly in favour, while NWFP is strongly opposed. The Sindhi speaking population of Sindh is opposed to the construction of the dam, but the Urdu speaking population generally in favour or it would like this matter to be decided by expert opinion.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in 100 scientifically selected cities and towns all over Pakistan. The findings were later computer processed to analyze the pattern of views among different sections of the population.

The survey findings show that 42% of the national urban population is in favour of constructing the Kalabagh Dam, 16% is opposed to it and 23% would like this matter to be decided by expert opinion. 19% did not offer any view.

The analysis of the survey findings by language show that 63% among the Punjabi speaking favour the construction of Kalabagh Dam, only 3% oppose it and 17% would like this decision to be made by experts. 17% did not answer this question. Among the Pushto speaking, 56% oppose the Kalabagh Dam and 18% support it, while 21% opt for expert opinion. Only 5% did not offer a view. The Sindhi speaking population has a high level of ambivalence on this issue. 38% of them did not offer any view, while 34% opposed the Kalabagh Dam, 15% supported it and 13% opted for the expert opinion. Among the Urdu speaking population 36% supported the Kalabagh Dam, 14% opposed it, 31% opted for expert opinion and 19% did not answer this question.

The Gallup survey also shows a minor shift in views in favour of leaving this subject to expert opinion. This shift is particularly visible among the educated population. 28% of those educated beyond high school advocated that this subject should be decided by expert opinion. This figure is significantly higher from a previous survey conducted on the same subject a few months earlier.