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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

DECISION MAKING IN HOUSEHOLDS

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MEN OF ALL CLASSES DOMINATE FINANCIAL AND FAMILY DECISIONS

Findings from a nation-wide Gallup poll shows that even though men do not claim to be smarter than women, at least in public, they say that most of the financial and family decisions are made by them and not by women. This pattern prevails in all social and economic groups, including the metropolitan centers of the country. But, relatively speaking, women in large cities play a more active role in financial matters compared to their counterparts in the rest of the country.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in nearly 150 statistically selected towns and villages across the country. This sample of male respondents was asked: "Among male and female respondents studying in the same class, who do you think are more able? Nearly 20% said the two sexes should have no difference and the remaining among those who answered this question were roughly equally divided among those who regarded men to be superior and those who thought women were superior. Nearly 25% did not offer any opinion.

But, when men were asked about who in their households made financial transactions ranging from bank transactions, buying household durables, purchasing property or even shopping for groceries, only a minority answered that women performed these tasks.

On other family decisions: women probably play a more active role in selecting a match for marrying their children, and less in their schooling. But even on match-making, most men do not perceive that a decisive role is played by women.

Women in the three principal cities of the country: Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi-Islamabad play a greater role in family decisions compared to the rest of the country. But the figures on participation of women in family decision making are not very impressive even in the principal cities. Only 6% women do any bank transactions, 6% purchase durable household items such as furniture, and 5% buy property. However, in 30% of households in the principal cities, household groceries are purchased by women and in almost half of the households in major cities women are seen to play a decisive role in selecting a match for their children.

Contrary to behaviour pattern in which role of women is quite marginal, Pakistani men nevertheless recognize that for a happy married life, the spouses should help each other in household chores (66%), share common interests (59%), have mutual understanding (71%) and respect each other (71%).

Findings of survey also show that women in families from where someone has gone abroad to work tend to play greater role in financial and other family decisions.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN FINANCIAL DECISIONS OF FAMILY

	Percent of respondents					
	Bank Transaction	Buying Property	Purchasing Durables	Grocery Shopping	Match Making	Schooling
Metropolitan cities	6	5	11	30	46	13
Cities	2	1	8	13	42	7
Towns	1	1	2	4	24	2
Villages	0	2	4	3	20	2
Education-wise						
Above Matric	4	2	10	18	43	8
Up to Matric	1	2	5	11	30	4
Primary	1	1	5	10	25	3
Illiterate	0	1	3	9	18	2
Household Income-wise						
Above Rs. 3,000	5	2	10	18	45	10
Rs. 1,000 to 1,500	2	1	4	10	27	4
Less than 1,000	0	1	5	12	18	2
Overseas Work-wise						
Overseas Pakistani families	3	2	10	14	33	5
Other families	1	1	4	11	25	3