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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

DRUG ABUSERS

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H-45, St.52,F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel +92-51-2655630, Fax +92-51-2655632,

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

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DIVIDED VIEWS ON SOCIAL BOYCOTT OF DRUG ABUSERS

Nearly 95% of Pakistanis express strong reservations about the use of narcotics. They say they would resent it very much if a visitor or a guest ever used drugs in their homes. They also dispute the contention that drugs could be used casually for relaxing and getting rid of tensions. These reservations are not shared by 5% of the respondents.

These findings have emerged from a recent survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan in nearly 100 statistically selected locations in various cities and town all over Pakistan.

The survey did not probe into this matter any further, but it would be interesting to know whether the small minority (4%) which shows willingness that a guest could use narcotics in their homes, or 5% of the respondents who condone drugs for relaxation, are themselves drug users.

Views among the Pakistani population are divided on whether drug users should be socially boycotted. 57% of the respondents said they would stop their social interaction with friends who were found to be addicts. But 42% do not agree with such social boycott moves. However 82% of the population believes that addiction is a public issue and can not be left to the discretion or personal choice of the addicts. They believe the society has a right to interfere and prevent drug abuse in the population. This view is disputed by 17% of the respondents in the survey, who believe that addiction is a private matter and should be handled by the concerned individuals themselves.