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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

POLITICAL JALSAS IN KARACHI

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GALLUP POLL ON POLITICAL JALSAS IN KARACHI

A recent Gallup poll conducted in Karachi showed that nearly one out of ten male adults of this metropolitan city had attended any of the three major political meetings held there during the month of February. A much larger number had wished to attend these well publicized jalsas, but had been unable to make it for personal reasons and other engagements.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in two waves. In the first wave of interviews prior to the political gatherings a scientific sample of households from all over the city was asked whether they had intended to go and listen to the forthcoming rallies. A surprisingly high number of keenness was shown to go to Jalsas, which had been in abeyance for almost a decade of martial law in the country. During the second wave of interviews, the same respondents were approached in early march and they were large meetings organized in the month of February by the Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jamiat-Ulma-e- Pakistan. The Gallup survey discovered that barely one out of the five people who were keen to go to the Jalsas, had actually done so. When they are probed on reasons which had kept them away from the Jalsas, most of them attributed it to other personal engagements. Apparently the fear of law and order breakdown during the jalsas was not an important consideration to stay away from political rallies.

Typically the participants in the Karachi rallies traveled to the meeting site at Nishtar Park in small groups of more than a dozen people.

The Jalsa crowd come from all sections of the population, and the crowd in the metropolitan center of Karachi were a melting pot of all languages, the rich and the poor, the young and the old. The Gallup study shows slight differences in the profile of crowds in the three public meetings held last month. The crowd in the Muslim League meeting addressed by the Prime Minister was relatively less educated, low income and had a substantial component of Pushto speaking, perhaps migrants workers in Karachi.

The crowd at the Jamaat-e- Islami meeting was relatively more educated and younger in age composition. 44% of the Jamaat meeting comprised of young people of age less than 25 years, compared with 37% of Muslim League and 36% of JUP. Nearly half of the crowd at the Jamaat meeting held a graduate degree compared with nearly one third of the audience at eh Muslim League and JUP meetings.

According to the survey findings both the Muslim League and the JUP had a larger share of the non-Urdu speaking population in their meeting, compared to the Jamaat-e-Islami, which had fewer pushto speaking and Gujrati speaking participants.

In a rather unique large scale study of the Karachi city, Gallup survey sought the opinions of the Jalsa participants on the city's problems. In the view of these distinctly politicized residents of Karachi, jobs and employment were rated as top most problems, followed by the related issue of the quota system in jobs. Law and order problems, transportation, drinking water, and Kachi abbadis were other problems mentioned in that order. It was also noteworthy that nearly one third of this group of politicized Karachi thought that in-flow of workers into Karachi from other parts of the country was an important problem.

The political and public orientation of the Jalsa crowd was also reflected in the fact that 15% of them had listened to the BBC news on the previous night and one quarter had listened to news on the Pakistani radio, while two thirds had watched the TV and nearly half of them had read the morning's newspaper. In response to the Gallup survey, they disclose that they had found the TV serial "Tanhaiean" most interesting. The vast majority of newspaper readers among them were Jang readers, followed by wide margins by Dawn. Jassarar, Aman and Nawa-i-waqt.

	Profile of the Jalsa Crowd		
	ML	JI	JUP
Language			
Urdu	58	73	64
Pushto	12	4	6
Punjabi	7	7	8
Other	19	15	19
Education			
Illiterate	14	7	11
Primary	10	8	13
Up to Matric	34	34	38
Up to graduation	36	41	33
Post graduation	6	10	6
Age			
Below 25 years	37	44	36
25-35 years	30	26	31
35-50 years	22	22	21
Above 50 years	11	8	13
Income			
Less than Rs.500	4	4	7
Rs. 501 - 1000	31	19	19
Rs. 1001 – 1500	17	15	21
Rs. 1501 – 2000	15	12	24
Rs. 2001 – 3000	7	12	11
More than Rs. 3000	11	15	11

The most important problem faced by Karachi

	Top most important problem	Second ranking problem	Third ranking problem	Cumulative score
Employment	32	24	18	73
Quota system	13	14	7	35
In-migration	12	7	11	31
Law and order	11	11	15	37
Transportation	10	13	13	36
Kachi abadis	10	7	12	28
Drinking water	6	12	8	27
Accommodation	4	9	9	22

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on approximately 2500 interviews with scientifically selected households in the various localities in Karachi. The survey was completed in several waves. The first wave included interviews about keenness to attend public meeting. The second wave comprised of repeat interviews with those who had expressed keenness to attend public meetings in the first wave. A third set of interviews were conducted with a random sample of the entire city to determine the proportion of adults who had attended meetings.