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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF NATION'S CHILDREN

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CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF NATION'S CHILDREN

According to a recent Gallup poll Pakistani children aspire to become doctors, engineers, pilots, soldiers, teachers, civil servants, policemen, cricketers, businessmen and lawyers in that order.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan in a nationally representative set of households spread all over the country and children between the ages of 5 and 15 were interviewed. The results of the survey were computer processed to analyze the pattern of responses among different segments of the population.

The Gallup children survey asked the question: 'what do you aspire to become when you grow up? The responses were: doctors: 24%, engineers: 10%, pilots: 9%, soldiers (armed forces): 8%, teachers: 7%, civil servants (offices): 4%, businessmen: 2% and lawyers: 2%. Nearly 19% of the children could not give a specific answer about their career aspirations while the remaining 15% named a variety of miscellaneous careers. It is remarkable that very few aspire to become progressive farmers in a country which is predominantly rural and so few aspire to become businessmen. Perhaps neither farming nor business is looked up to as a profession which needs training or requires planned entry in to its ranks. The low rating for the profession of lawyers is also noteworthy in a country where most public jobs have historically been occupied by people from the law profession.

According to the survey findings a negligible number of less than 1% aspire to become scientists and less than 2% wish to grow up to become technicians. There are nearly as many young children in the country who aspire to become film actors as those wish to become scientists. The occupational status emerging from this survey poses serious problems for the nation's development on the field of science technology and professional business enterprise.

The medical and engineering professions are most popular despite recent unemployment in both professions. Naturally the nation's children can ignore short run fluctuations in the fortunes of various professions. The teaching profession depicts its relatively meager remunerations draws the attention of a large number among the youth. The armed forces and especially the profession of pilots seem attractive to the youth for their association with adventure and national service. Perhaps for the same reason 4% of the youth aspires to become policemen.