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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

STRONG SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

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Strong Support for Nuclear Capability

A recent Gallup poll finds strong support of nuclear capability. In response to a question: Should Pakistan go nuclear, 87% of the respondents favored nuclear capability. Only 8% opposed it and 5% held no opinion.

The Survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan among statistically selected male adults spread all over the country in all the provinces.

There are, however, some reservations on testing nuclear capability through explosion. 22% among the survey respondents opposed it. However, a large majority was still in favor. 7% thought that Pakistan should feel no hesitation in testing capability if it had it.

Views on this issue have remained quite stable over the last three years. In a similar survey conducted three years ago by Gallup Pakistan more than 80% had favored the acquisition of nuclear capability.

Over the years nuclear capability has been extremely high on the public priority list. In a Gallup survey conducted in 1979 the public placed nuclear capability higher in their priorities compared to civilianization of the government by a margin of 45% to 33%. Pakistanis were also fearful of use of nuclear weapons by India, according to a Gallup survey conducted a few, years ago. In 1981, 44% Pakistanis were fearful that if there was a war between India and Pakistan, India would resort to the use of nuclear weapons. Only 14% had given India the benefit of doubt and said they did not believe India would use nuclear weapons. The remaining 42% held no opinion.

Apparently, there is wide consensus among different linguistic and political groups on the issue of nuclear capability. But, interestingly the pushto speaking population is relatively more cautious on both acquisition, and especially, testing of nuclear capability. Conceivably this difference is due to their closer exposure to international strategic and political considerations.

There is support for nuclear capability among all age groups. But it is slightly higher among the youth. 88% of under thirty favor nuclear capability as opposed to 81% support among sixty year, or older population.

The educated population is more enthusiastic in acquiring nuclear capability, compared to the illiterates (90% compared to 82%). But the educated are simultaneously more cautious on the explosion issue. 28% of those with high school education express reservations in exploding nuclear capability as opposed to 19% of the illiterates. It is possible that the distinction between acquisition of nuclear capability and its testing is a distinction which is ignored more easily among the less educated.

The following questions were asked:

“Should Pakistan make an atom bomb?” “And, in your view should Pakistan go ahead to conduct a test nuclear explosion, ignoring any opposition to this issue”?

SURVEY FINDING ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

	Nuclear capability			Test explosion		
	Favor	Oppose	No opinion	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
Language wise						
Urdu	91	6	3	72	24	4
Punjabi	89	8	3	74	20	6
Sindhi	85	13	2	77	21	2
Pashto	81	11	8	55	31	14
Baluchi	88	6	5	69	25	6
Saraiki	92	3	5	73	18	9
Hindko	86	5	8	69	22	9
Other	84	8	7	63	25	12
Age-wise						
15-29 years	88	8	4	70	25	5
30-39 years	88	8	4	73	21	6
40-59 years	88	7	5	72	20	8
60& above	81	10	9	69	21	10
Education-wise						
Above Matric	90	8	2	69	28	3
Up to Matric	89	8	3	72	23	5
Primary	90	7	4	75	19	6
Illiterate	82	9	9	68	19	13
Party affiliation						
PPP	90	8	2	75	20	5
ML	94	6	-	78	19	3
JI	95	4	1	75	22	3
JUP	90	8	2	73	21	6
JUI	92	6	2	75	24	1