

Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

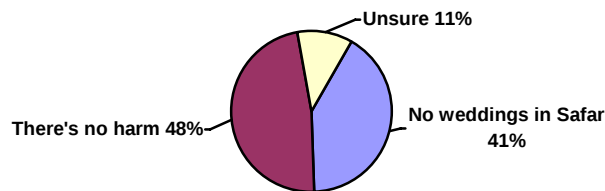
Views about the Islamic Month of Safar: GILANI POLL /GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, February 10, 2010

A leading television station recently asked views of religious scholars on the different beliefs regarding the Islamic month of Safar. A recent Gilani poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan picked up this subject to seek the opinions of a representative sample of men and women from across the rural and urban areas of Pakistan. The survey shows that, views on the Islamic month of Safar are split between those who believe that no wedding celebrations should be arranged in this month (41%) and those who think there is no harm in it (48%) while 11% were unsure. It is also seen that a third of all Pakistanis (37%) have strong belief that Safar is a cursed month whereas 46% believe otherwise and 17% were either unsure or gave no response.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*Some people believe that no wedding ceremonies should be arranged in the month of Safar, whereas others believe there is no harm in doing so. What is your view point?*” Forty one percent (41%) are of the viewpoint that in the Islamic month of Safar no celebrations of weddings should take place, while 48% believe otherwise. The remaining 11% of the respondents were unsure.

“Some people believe that no wedding ceremonies should be arranged in the month of Safar, whereas others believe there is no harm in doing so. What is your view point?”

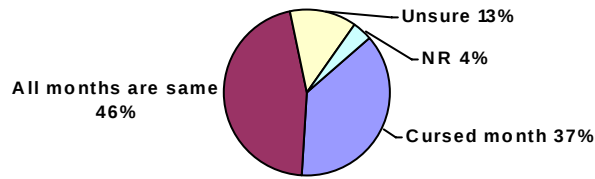


Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

In a follow up question the respondents were asked “*Some people consider Safar as a cursed month, while others think that all months are the same. What is your viewpoint?*” Thirty seven percent (37%) believe Safar is a cursed month while 46% believe otherwise. Thirteen percent (13%) were unsure and 4% gave no response.

The findings of the survey reveal that a proportionately higher percentage of urbanites and women believe in this superstition; they think weddings should not happen in this month and that it is a month of calamities.

“Some people consider Safar as a cursed month, while others think that all months are the same. What is your viewpoint?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 2622 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during January 2010. Error margin is estimated to be approximately ± 2 -3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on religion and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

For any queries please contact:
Ms. Saadia Khalid
Assistant Manager (Research)

Phone: +92-51-2655630
E-mail: saadia.khalid@gallup.com.pk