

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.

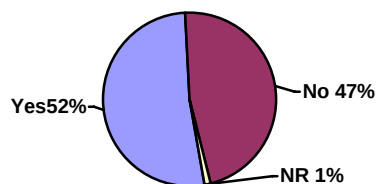
Views on Visiting the Graves of Famous Saints; 64 % Claim to Visit these Shrines to Show Respect to the Deceased: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, January 29, 2010

According to a recent Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, while 52% of all Pakistanis, men and women, claim to have visited graves of well-known saints, a significant 47% claim they have not and 1% gave no response. When asked about the reasons for which people visit saint's graves, majority (64%) believe people go there to show respect, 20% say the visits are made to get their prayers fulfilled, 14% go there to have their wishes come true, and people also visit these graves for spiritual healing as cited by 11%; the remaining 4% go there for free food or gave no response.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked "*Have you ever visited a grave of any peer (saint)?*" Fifty two percent (52%) said yes while a significant 47% claimed to have never been to any saint's grave and 1% of the respondents gave no response. The data shows that proportionately higher percentage of urbanites, respondents under the age of 50, and interestingly more men claim to have visited graves of saints. It is also seen that the practice of going to such graves/shrines is significantly higher amongst respondents from Sindh.

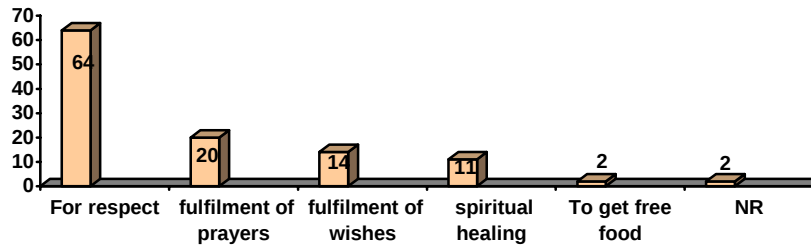
"Have you ever visited a grave of any peer (saint)?"



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 "*In your opinion why do you, or people like you visit the graves of saints?*" Sixty four percent (64%) said they go there to show respect, 20% claimed people go to shrines to get their prayers accepted with the help the deceased saint's intercession, another 14% believe that going to the graves of the saints and praying there fulfils their wishes, and 11% claimed to go there for spiritual healing. The remaining 4% of the respondents either visit these shrines to get free food which is distributed there as charity by rich people, or gave no response.

“In your opinion why do you, or people like you visit the graves of saints?”



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 2805 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 $\pm 2-3$ 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 social and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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