



# Public Opinion in Pakistan in the Year 1996

## WOMEN Others

**(1996-2017) 31% increase in the proportion of Pakistanis who support a woman as head of state. GALLUP & GILANI PAKISTAN**

Islamabad, May 17, 2017

According to a Gallup & Gilani Pakistan National Survey conducted in the year 1996 (21 years ago) respondents were asked “Some people think that according to Islamic perspective a woman cannot be the head of state, whereas others think that if a woman is capable and popular then there is nothing wrong in her being the head of the state. What is your opinion?” In response to this question, 23% said that a capable and popular woman can be head of state, 61% said cannot be the head of state, while 16% did not respond.

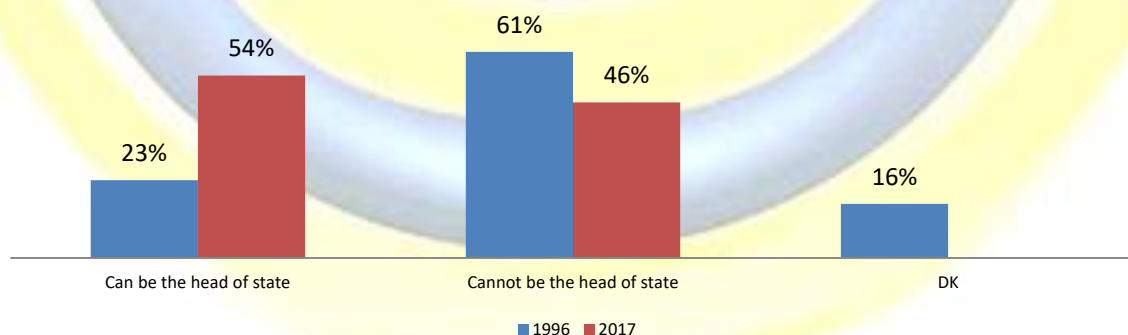
**Comparative Picture:** The question was asked again in 2017 to enable a concrete comparison. In 2017, 54% said that a capable and popular woman can be head of state, while 46% said otherwise.

According to public opinion, there has been a 31% increase in the proportion of Pakistanis who believe a capable and popular woman can be the head of state and a 15% increase in the proportion of Pakistanis who believe a woman cannot be head of state.

Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director at Gallup Pakistan adds: “A deeper analysis and more qualitative understanding is needed for this positive shift. Moreover, one hypothesis certainly emerges that in 1996 when the poll was conducted for the first time, people’s views against a female head of state were polarized along party lines, as we had a sitting female PM in office at that time. In some sense, saying yes to the question in 1996, was socially less desirable for PML-N Voters. In the year 2017, now that there are no real women contenders for head of state, the views may be in some ways more realistic. However, we at Gilani Research Foundation are currently looking at this trend more minutely and all the above explanations are only hypothetical.”

*This press release has been made as part of the Gallup Pakistan History Project which aims to release historical empirical polling data to wider audiences. The objective is to sustain and encourage empirical decision making in Pakistan.*

**Question: “Some people think that according to Islamic perspective a woman cannot be the head of state, whereas others think that if a woman is capable and popular then there is nothing wrong in her being the head of the state. What is your opinion?”**



Source: Gallup and Gilani Surveys  
The Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association  
([www.gallup-international.com](http://www.gallup-international.com); [www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk); [www.gilanifoundation.com](http://www.gilanifoundation.com))

### Aim and Rationale for Gallup Pakistan History Project

Bilal I Gilani, who is Executive Director at Gallup Pakistan and is Director of Gallup Pakistan History Project explains the aim of the Project as follows: ‘Gallup Pakistan has been polling in Pakistan since 1979 (over 35 years). During this time millions of Pakistanis have been surveyed by over a thousand interviewers of Gallup. In 2014, Gallup Pakistan has decided to release historical Public Opinion data and this Press Release is part of Gallup Pakistan’s History Project. This endeavor is dedicated to all those who hope for a more empirical understanding of Pakistani Issues. For more information about Gallup History Project, please contact [caf@gallup.com.pk](mailto:caf@gallup.com.pk).’

## **Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan**

*The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup International*



**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

*(2 Pages including this)*

***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.*

*If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.*

*Best Regards,*

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