

SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE



In collaboration with



DOCTORS ON THE FRONTLINE OF CORONA SEEK RESPECT AND CARE. 55% EXPECT CORONA THREAT CAN LAST FOR LONGER THAN A YEAR & ADVISE STRICTER LOCKDOWN. GALLUP CONDUCTS FIRST NATION-WIDE POLL AMONG PRACTICING DOCTORS

Practicing doctors advise caution and patience beyond current practices by the public and 2 in 3 advocate lockdown reimposition/ hardening.

80% of more than 400 doctors followed by Gallup Pakistan have personally treated Corona patients in their cities, towns and rural hospitals, dispensaries and private clinics.

A majority of 58% are not satisfied with their protective gears and even more are worried about same for other staff members

Availability of ventilators is less of a concern for most health professionals in the country.

6 in 10 doctors interviewed poorly rate Pakistan's response to Covid. Dissatisfaction lowest in Punjab where close to majority are satisfied with Pakistan's response to Covid.

A significant majority believe media unjustly criticises doctors (66%) only 33% say they receive praise in the media

4 in 10 doctors feel public does not respect them as doctors . Feeling of disrespect higher among Sindh doctors and among female doctors.

Hospital Management most poorly rated in terms of performance over the past 2 months showing significant dissatisfaction among doctors and hospitals, which could potentially be lowering their performance and reducing engagement levels.

(July 17, Islamabad, Karachi) Gallup Pakistan is releasing its first public poll among doctors serving on the frontline of Corona pandemic.

The nation-wide poll includes more than 400 randomly chosen doctors of various ages, specialties and seniority levels. It is the first poll of its kind in the country, and among only a handful conducted world-wide.

The poll findings are being released jointly with **Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA)**, one of the different professional associations constituted by members of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). In order to facilitate communication with around 200,000 practicing doctors of Pakistan, we would greatly welcome similar joint releases with other associations of the nation's community of doctors. Gallup Pakistan is honoured to provide a bridge to provide the views of doctors to the public, their patients, and in turn the views of the public, and those whom they treat to the medical community.

Message from the esteemed President of Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), Professor Muhammad Afzal Mian:

“The current pandemic of COVID-19 has adversely affected & toppled the norms of the whole world & Healthcare system is no exception. Pakistan being a thirdly world country, is facing multiple challenges which not only have an impact on patients suffering from COVID-19 but also on the healthcare providers.

According to media reports more than 5,000 health care professionals have contracted COVID-19 so far and around 60 health care professionals have lost their lives in the line of duty.

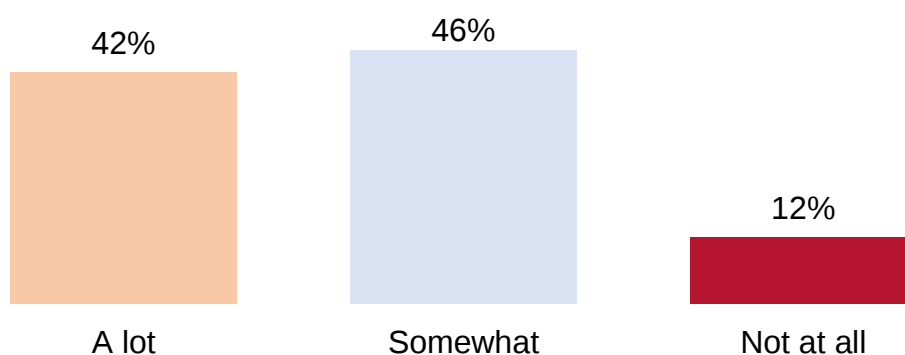
In order to get evidence-based insight about the stress, fears, shortage of PPEs & other difficulties faced by healthcare professionals, a survey was conducted by Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) and Gallup Pakistan to tabulate the experience & views of the health care workers throughout Pakistan regarding their problems. This data will not only highlight their concerns but also provide an opportunity for policy makers to adopt a better strategy & future planning followed by its execution.”

Please visit the following link on the Gallup website to view the full report: <https://gallup.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Voice-of-COVID19-Frontline-Workers-Presentation.pdf>

Key Findings of the Survey

- 4 in 5 doctors that were surveyed have attended COVID-19 patients so the burden of the epidemic on healthcare services is clearly visible and the rising concerns that the system may be unable to meet the required capacity cannot be ignored.

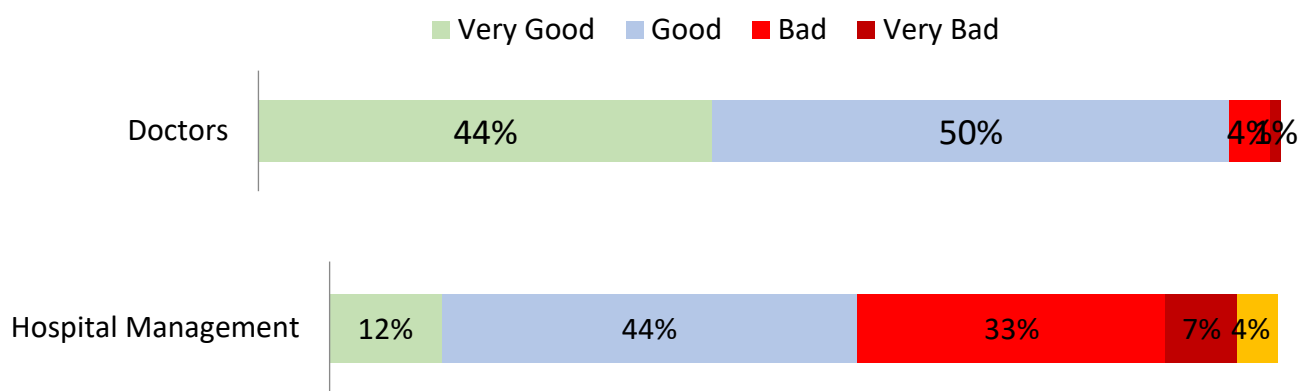
“Have you come across or attended a COVID-19 patient as a doctor/health professional?”



- Almost half of the doctors are concerned that the existing safety/protective measures are either bad or not present at all. The expressed concern is worse for other healthcare professionals like nurses and technical staff. This is another indication of why the health system should do more investment in the nursing and allied staff and services.

- The responses on the questions on the quality of specific things like masks, gloves, gowns show reasonable quality but issues regarding availability of more sophisticated items like face shields have also been raised.
- Doctors consider the government to be the most responsible for providing protective equipment. This is followed by the hospitals and then the doctors themselves.
- There is a significant difference in the self-reported performance of doctors themselves and their view of the performance of the hospital management (bad performance of 5% vs. 40%) during COVID-19. 60% are satisfied by the overall performance of the country in this regard.

“In your opinion, how has the overall performance of doctors and medical staff been in the past 2 months to tackle coronavirus?”



- Nearly 2 in 5 health professionals in Pakistan feel that the general public does not respect doctors. Those from Sindh (41%) and female doctors (49%) are most likely to say the same.
- Majority doctors are aware that the pandemic will last for several months and are in favour of a prolonged lockdown in the country. It would be interesting to see how it compares with the general public's response on these questions.

Seminars and Roundtables:

Considering the centrality of doctors and the medical profession to the treatment of Corona, Gallup Pakistan would greatly welcome a series of seminars and roundtables, based on the findings of polls, with various collegial associations in the profession as well as medical universities and teaching institutions across the country. We would enthusiastically respond to institutions interested in joining hands in this public service activity.

Remote is our Special Preference:

Considering that Pakistan is a vast country and effective treatment is at the local level, we are particularly keen to seek collaboration with doctors at the provincial and district level, especially in the remote locations of Interior Sindh, Punjab, KP and in particular the vast expanse of Balochistan. We

have a feeling of regret that the representation of Balochistan is not as adequate in this particular survey as we would have liked it to be.

Doctors on the frontline is not an abstract and cold expression. More doctors have given their lives to face the Corona threat than any other segment of Pakistani society. the casualty rate due to Corona could be several times more than the average number of per million corona related deaths in the country, of a total of around 200,000 practicing doctors in the country, the casualty rates specially among younger segment are alarming and deserve deep gratitude and sincere prayer from the over 200 million Pakistanis whom they serve. Their expectations experienced in this poll are not misplaced.

Your feedback is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us at caf@gallup.com.pk in case of any queries or comments.



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The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup



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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.

Contact us:

Phone: +92-51-2655630

E-mail: caf@gallup.com.pk

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of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2020)