

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME IN PAKISTAN

Photo by Khadija Yousaf on Unsplash

Note from Executive Director Gallup Pakistan



This report is part of a Peoples Economy Reporting activity that is being piloted by Gallup Pakistan in cooperation with one of the leading economists of the country. The purpose of the initiative is to introduce the idea that there is a difference on multiple fronts between the government's economy and the people's economy. These differences can be significant; in the economic indicators reported by the media as well as those produced by the government, it is felt that the people's voice in how the economy of the people is being affected is not significantly captured or explained. The initiative therefore aims to create a parallel set of indicators and using primary and secondary research, report on those indicators that can capture the pulse of the economy of the people. The exercise is essentially first in series of how the people's economy has been affected by COVID-19. We have seen over the past months how the government economy has been impacted for example rise and fall in GDP, current account deficit, or how exports are rising or falling in general however there is little information on how the expenditure of the common household has been impacted, how the income of the household has reduced or increased, for whom it has increased or decreased and lastly how the kitchen budget has been impacted.

In other words, this is an endeavor to create a parallel set of economic indicators more akin to capturing the economic situation of the people and where it is different from the economic situation of the government. It is a pilot exercise, and we are keenly looking forward to hearing your feedback. We also welcome you to collaborate with us to produce/brainstorm ideas for this initiative.

Thank you,

Bilal Ijaz Gilani
Executive Director, Gallup Pakistan

Effects of COVID-19 on working hours and income of Pakistanis

Gallup Pakistan is pleased to present the results of the first survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hours worked, employment and personal incomes in Pakistan. The survey is based on face-to-face interviews of 2,210 respondents from a sample drawn on the basis of the 2017 Population census. As such, the results are representative of the population of Pakistan as a whole.

The survey finds that even after one year of the pandemic, nearly 65 million Pakistanis (over half the population of working age) reported that their work-hours, incomes or both, during the previous week (in February 2021), remain affected by the pandemic. The impact has been higher in rural areas and on men (as compared to women). Surprisingly, three-fourths of the people in Sindh (and nearly half in Balochistan) report that by February 2021 the pandemic no longer had any impact on their work or incomes. So, the currently pandemic-affected population would seem to be in Punjab and Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa. In terms of industry, the impact appears to be across all sectors--but especially on mining and quarrying. By contrast, three occupations (craftsmen, machine operators and professionals) remain the most affected in work and incomes. In general, the reported impact on incomes has been much higher than on work-hours, suggesting a fall in income per hours worked.

This report provides results at an aggregate level. The survey dataset contains disaggregated information by district/division, province, industry (by ISIC-Rev.4) and major occupational groups (by IOSCO-08). This dataset can be used to design targeted policy interventions by governments, non-government organizations, philanthropic associations and other interested bodies. We hope to carry out follow-up surveys and would welcome suggestions for additional questions that may be of wider interest.

For answers to queries on the data at a more disaggregated level and any other comments or information, please contact Bilal Gilani, Executive Director Gallup Pakistan

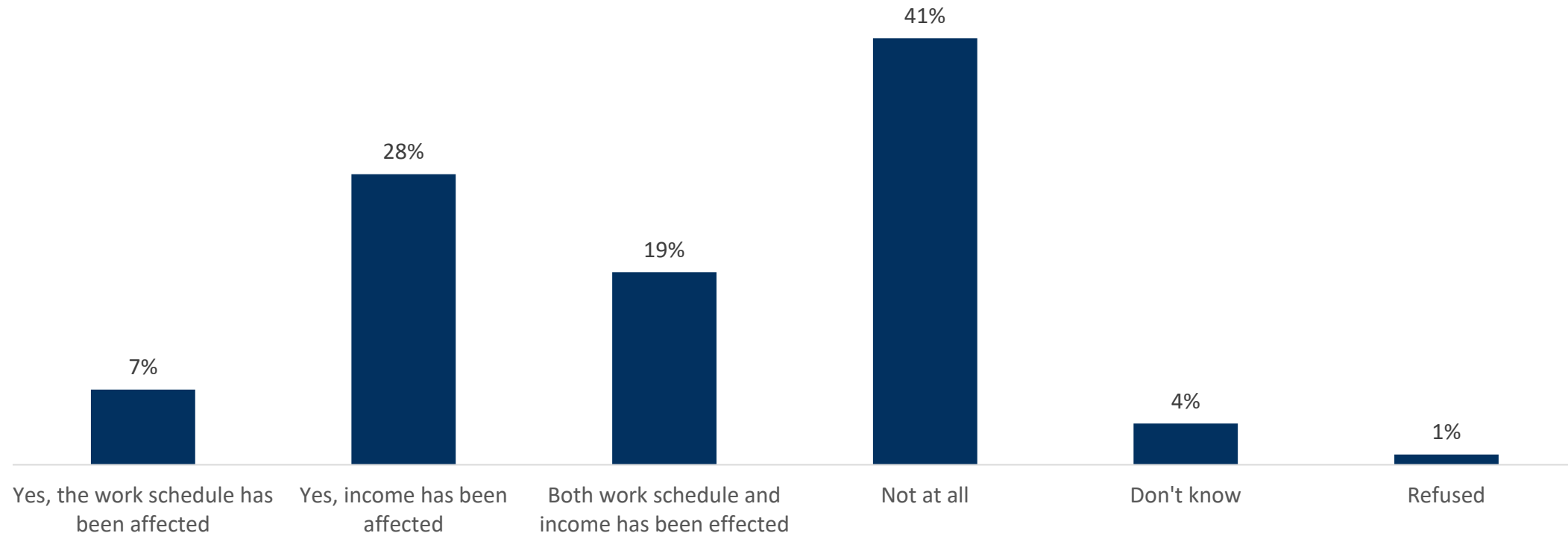
bilal.gilani@gallup.com.pk
051 2655630

Executive Summary

1. More than half Pakistanis (54%) say that COVID-19 has affected their working hours, income or both.
2. Even as recently as February 2021, 59% men (45% women) say that their work, income or both were affected by COVID-19. The impact on incomes was higher than the impact on work schedule
3. Compared to urban area respondents (49%), 4% more rural area respondents say that COVID-19 has affected their working hours, income or both.
4. Highest percentage of respondents from Punjab followed by KP say that COVID-19 has affected their working hours, income or both. Males in KP most likely to report that COVID-19 has impacted their working hours, income or both; females in Sindh least likely.
5. COVID-19 affected working hours and incomes across all sectors but most in mining and quarrying (71%) and transport storage and communication (66%) and least in construction (54%) and electricity, gas and water (54%)
6. Clerical support workers most likely to say that COVID-19 has affected work hours; skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers most likely to report impact of COVID-19 on income. 67% craft and related trade workers and 55% plant/machine operators say that COVID outbreak has affected both their working hours and income.
7. Those aged 50+ most likely to report that COVID-19 has impacted their work schedule. Overall, however, impact on work schedule and income is similar across all age groups.
8. Affect on income alone seems to be more pronounced in Balochistan. 18% in KP say that COVID-19 has impacted their work schedule.

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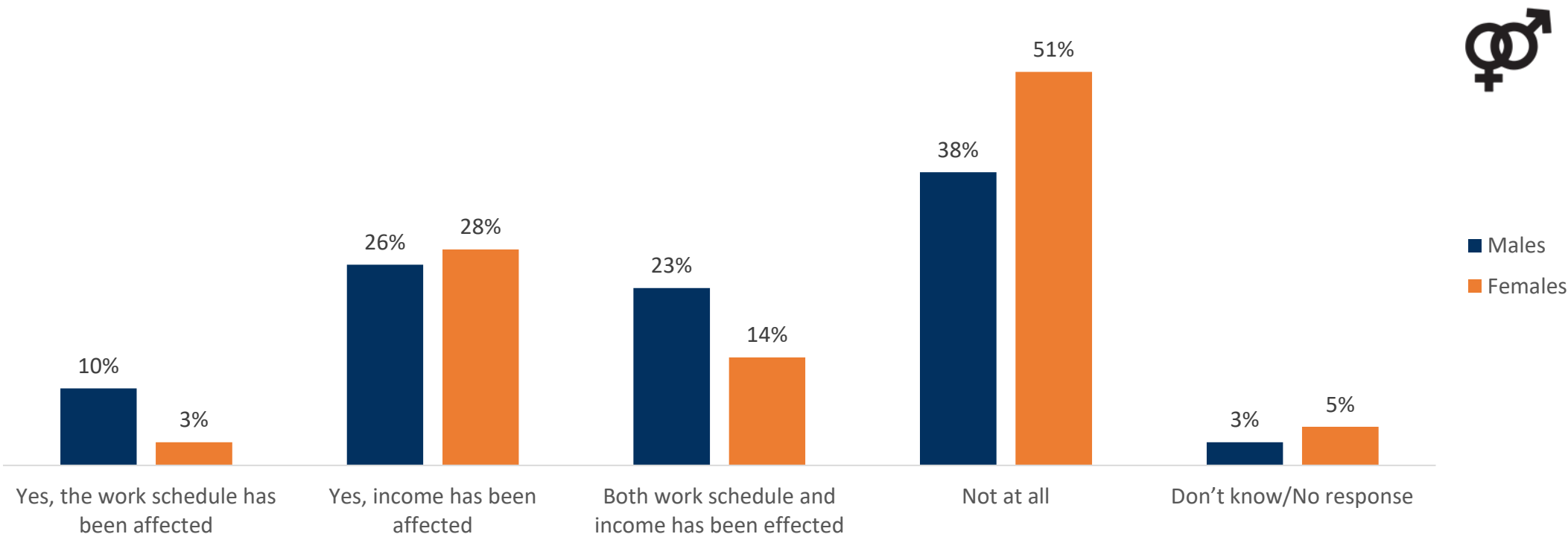
Question: Has COVID outbreak affected your working hours or your income last week?



Source: Gallup Pakistan 1st National Sample Pilot Survey on Employment and Wages (Feb 2021)

Even as recently as February 2021, 59% men (45% women) say that their work, income or both were affected by COVID-19. The impact on incomes was higher than the impact on work schedule

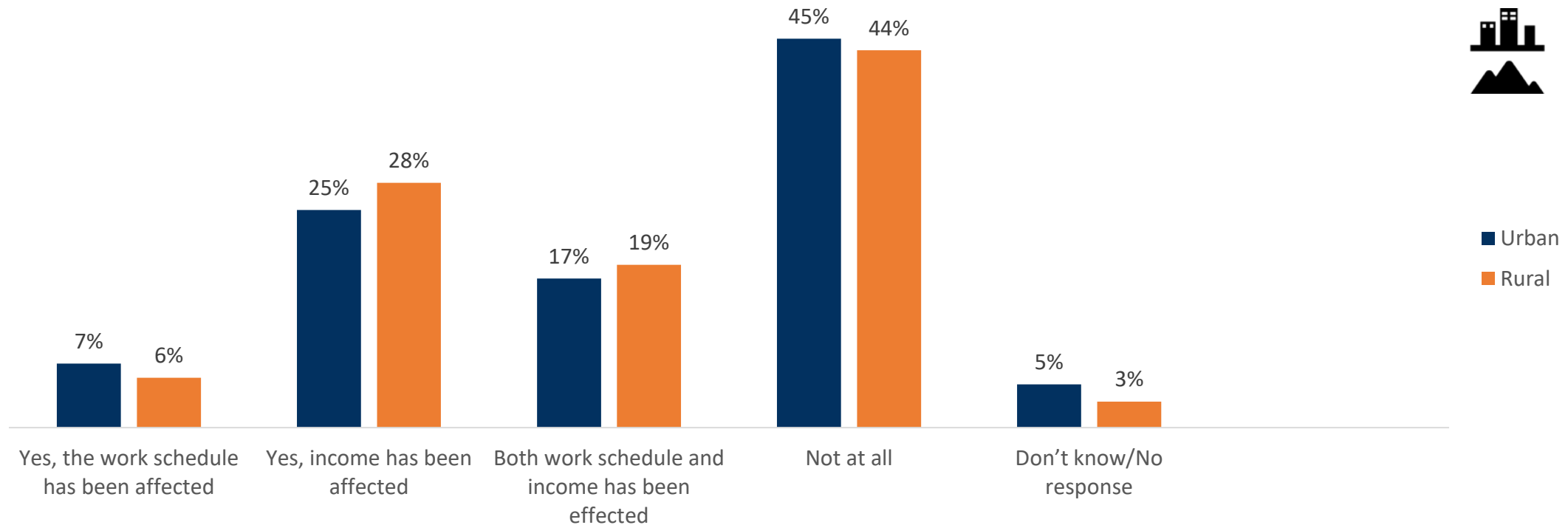
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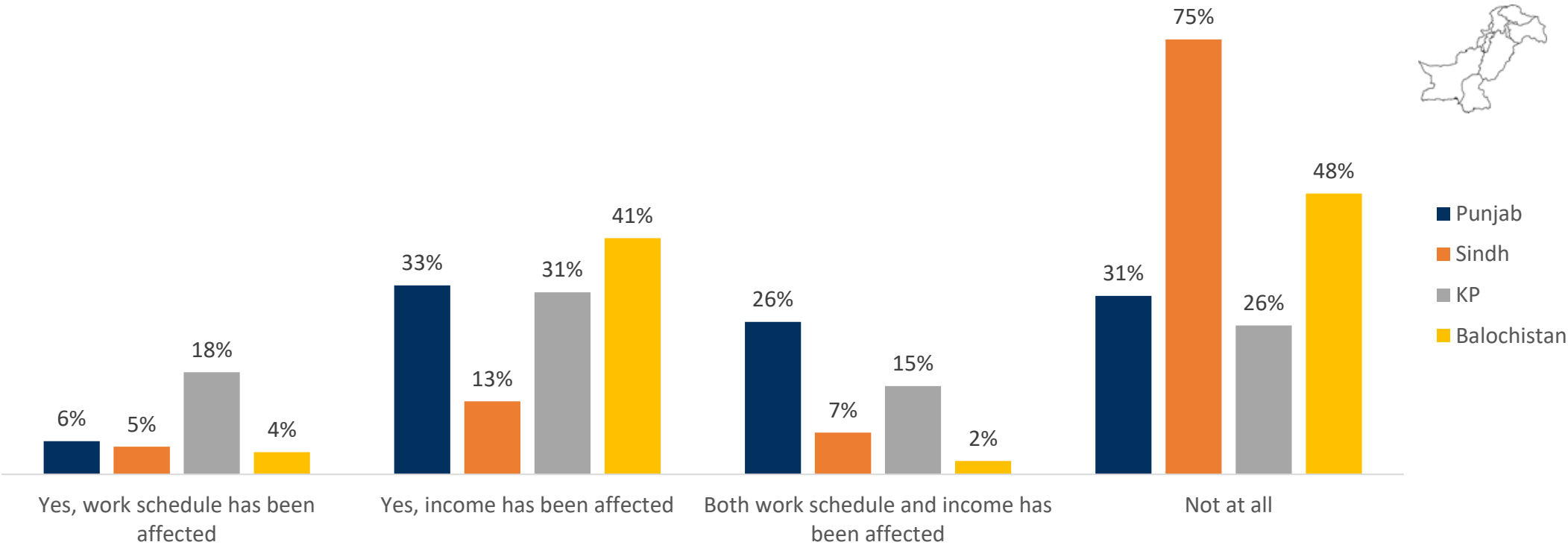
Since urban areas are more congested, it would be reasonable to think that the impact on rural areas would be smaller, but this isn't the case! Compared to urban area respondents (49%), 4% more rural area respondents say that COVID-19 has affected their working hours, income or both. Once again, impact on incomes is higher than impact on working hours (this means remuneration per hour/day went down)

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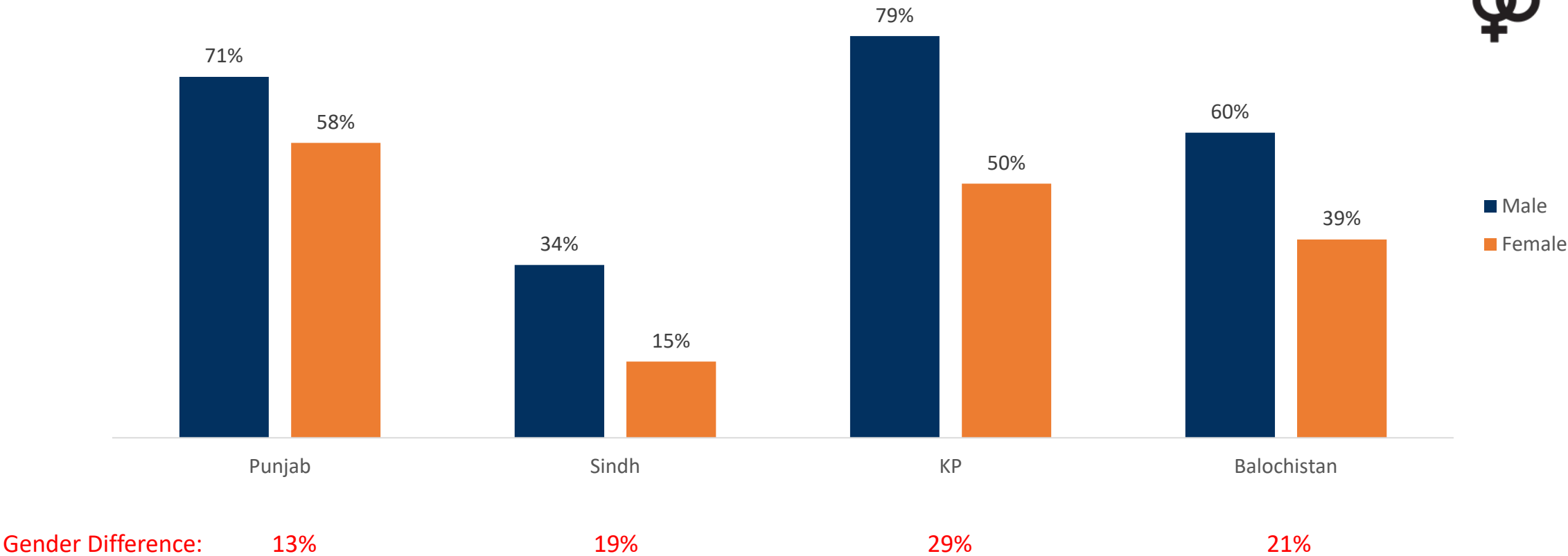
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Source: Gallup Pakistan 1st National Sample Pilot Survey on Employment and Wages (Feb 2021)

Males in KP most likely to report that COVID-19 has impacted their working hours, income or both; females in Sindh least likely. Gender difference of impact of COVID-19 highest in KP and lowest in Punjab

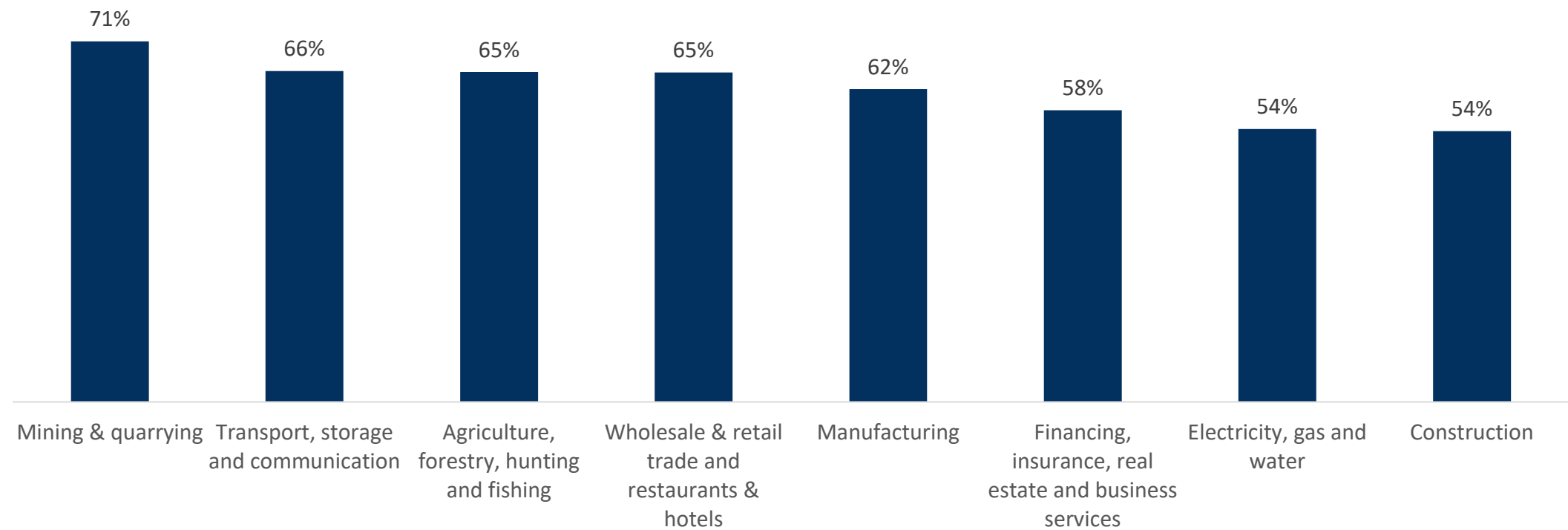
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Source: Gallup Pakistan 1st National Sample Pilot Survey on Employment and Wages (Feb 2021)

COVID-19 affected working hours and incomes across all sectors but most in mining and quarrying (71%) and transport storage and communication (66%) and least in construction (54%) and electricity, gas and water (54%)

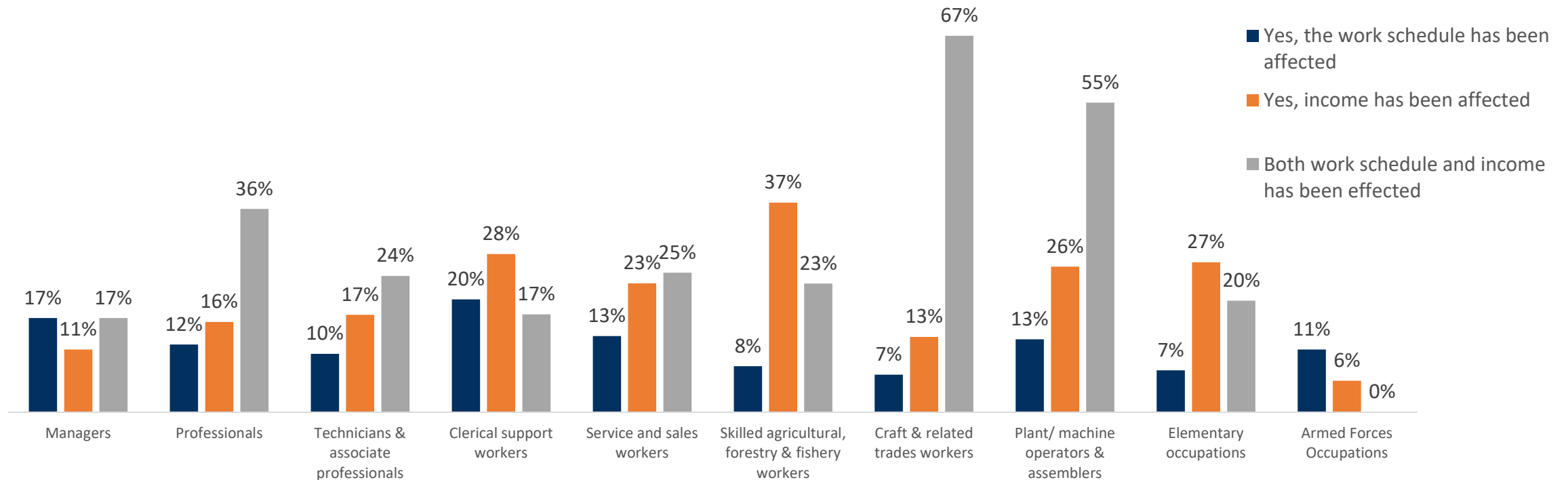
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Source: Gallup Pakistan 1st National Sample Pilot Survey on Employment and Wages (Feb 2021)

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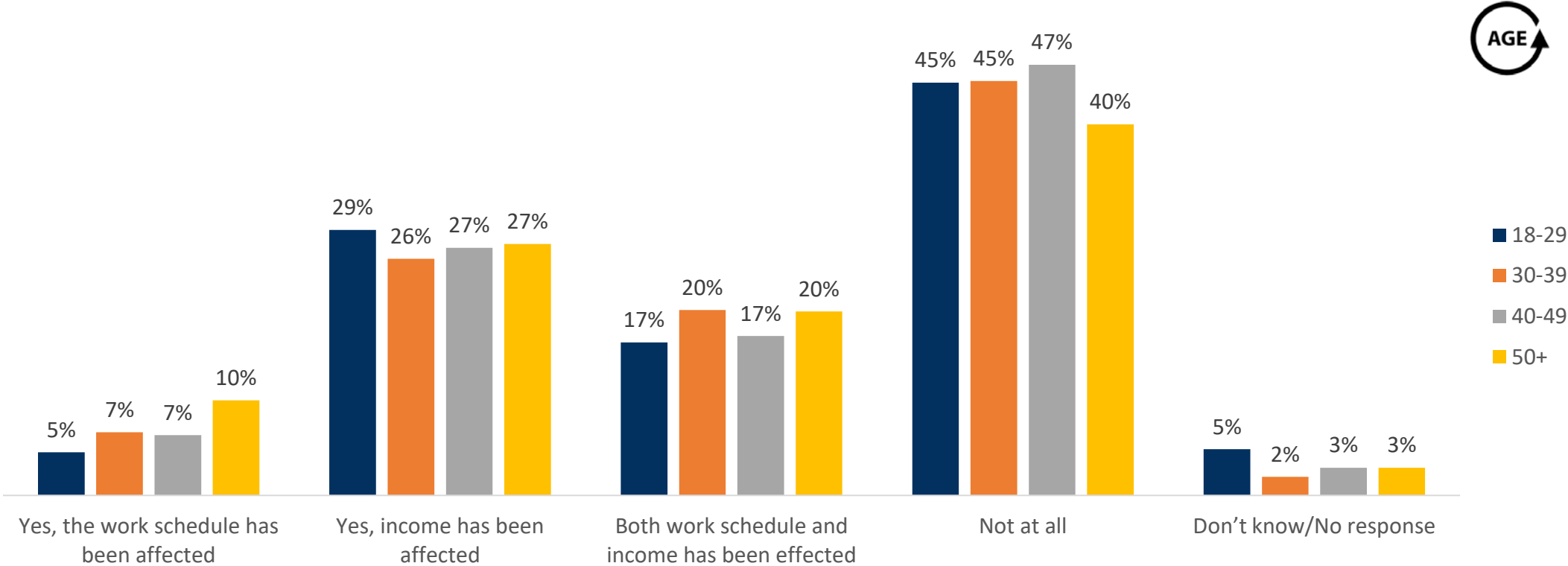
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Gallup Pakistan COVID-19 related studies

Gallup Pakistan COVID-19 Related Research Series

Gallup Pakistan as Pakistan's oldest survey research institution has been conducting important and pioneering research in public behavior on various themes during the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan. These research studies have been conducted starting March 2020 when COVID-19 started to spread.

Gallup Pakistan is a multidisciplinary and cross cutting research institution and the same is exhibited in the research we conduct.

Below you can see details of various research activities including a series of 8 reports on public opinion, and then various reports looking at students and their experience with COVID, businesses and the disruptions caused to them due to COVID as well as some very specialized reports.

COVID- 19 Attitude Tracker

Gallup Pakistan launched a weekly tracker study for COVID-19, for which the objectives are to have a comprehensive overview of changes in public perception, attitude and behavior towards COVID-19 since the beginning of first wave in Pakistan.

The tracker measures public response and behavior towards COVID-19 government initiatives and preventive measures, socio and economic impact, overall changes and impact of coronavirus lockdown on the daily lives of ordinary Pakistanis and the extent of disruption.

To access Gallup Pakistan's COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Surveys, please visit:

- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave II](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave III](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave IV](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave V](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave VI](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave VII](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave VIII](#)
- [COVID-19 Attitude Tracker Survey – Wave IX](#)

Voice of COVID-19 Frontline Workers

Gallup Pakistan released its first public poll among doctors serving on the frontline of Coronavirus pandemic in collaboration with Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA).

Click [here](#) to access full report

COVID-19 & Online – Remote Learning

The COVID-19 outbreak has dramatically changed the landscape of education across the world. From face-to-face lectures in a classroom setting, to virtual, video-based lectures – it has been a radical shift. Gallup Pakistan aims to understand the potential for virtual classrooms in Pakistan and learn how prospective students across Pakistan are dealing with the current crisis. We wish to gain insights from experiences and hope to help mitigate the challenges faced.

To access reports, please visit:

- [National Opinion Poll on Support and Opposition for Remote \(Online\) Education](#)
- [Rapid Assessment of Teleschool Initiative](#)

COVID-19 & Its Impact on Businesses

The objective is to capture the sentiments of business community as well as consumers across the country and measure the impact of COVID-19 across various entities.

To access reports, please visit:

- [Pakistan Business Confidence Index, April 2020](#)
- [Pakistan Consumer Confidence Index, September 2020](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on Consumers in Pakistan](#)

Miscellaneous Studies

Similarly, other COVID-19 related studies carried out by Gallup Pakistan include but are not limited to the following:

- [Impact Analysis of COVID-19 Ringtone Message](#)
- [Global Barometer of Facts & Fears About COVID-19](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on members of ICMA Pakistan](#)

Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International, is a leading survey research and consultancy firm in Pakistan. Gallup Pakistan is a specialist in independent third-party evaluation and ratings. The company is widely attributed to be the founder of science of polling in Pakistan and brings over 40 years of experience in conducting and analyzing opinion polling in Pakistan.

As the oldest national research and public opinion organization, Gallup Pakistan has worked extensively with public and private sector partners within and outside Pakistan. Each year, Gallup Pakistan conducts several high-profile studies for the Government of Pakistan and international agencies. It has worked for a number of UN agencies in Pakistan and has occasionally provided research support for projects conducted by leading academic institutions such as Harvard, MIT, Oxford, Yale, Warwick, Brown University, University of Washington and others.

Gallup Pakistan's international reputation for accuracy, integrity and quality has been creditably maintained and recognized in the country since its establishment.

Our History

Created in London in 1947, Gallup International is networked to collaborate in over 60 countries of the world spread over 5 continents including America, Europe, Asia, Africa & Australia. Gallup Pakistan is operating in Pakistan since 1980 thus bringing in more than 40 years of professional experience.

Gallup Pakistan was established in 1980 in Pakistan by Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Ph.D. from MIT in Political Science. With humble beginnings, within few years of its inception in Pakistan, Gallup Pakistan had broken the previously held taboo that only Government agencies could do survey work in Pakistan. Using innovative technologies of the time like Telex and Postal system, Gallup Pakistan set up field networks of capable individuals around the country so that field happened with knowledge of local laws and customs.

During the 1985 elections, Gallup Pakistan conducted its first Exit Poll in the country and got widespread publicity on National and International Media. Public Opinion Polling was still a novelty for Pakistan as well as for the wider developing countries.

Since that time Gallup Pakistan, has been a nursery for training various types of Human Resource affiliated with survey industry. We are proud of our Alumni who have gone on to strengthen the survey industry in Pakistan including in Market Research, Political Research and wider Socio-Economic Research field.

Gallup Pakistan is proud of its history and is eager to pave the way for a thriving empirical and evidence-based policy and strategy for all sorts of corporate and government institutions.

METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE SIZE: 2210

**METHOD:
FACE TO FACE
INTERVIEWS**



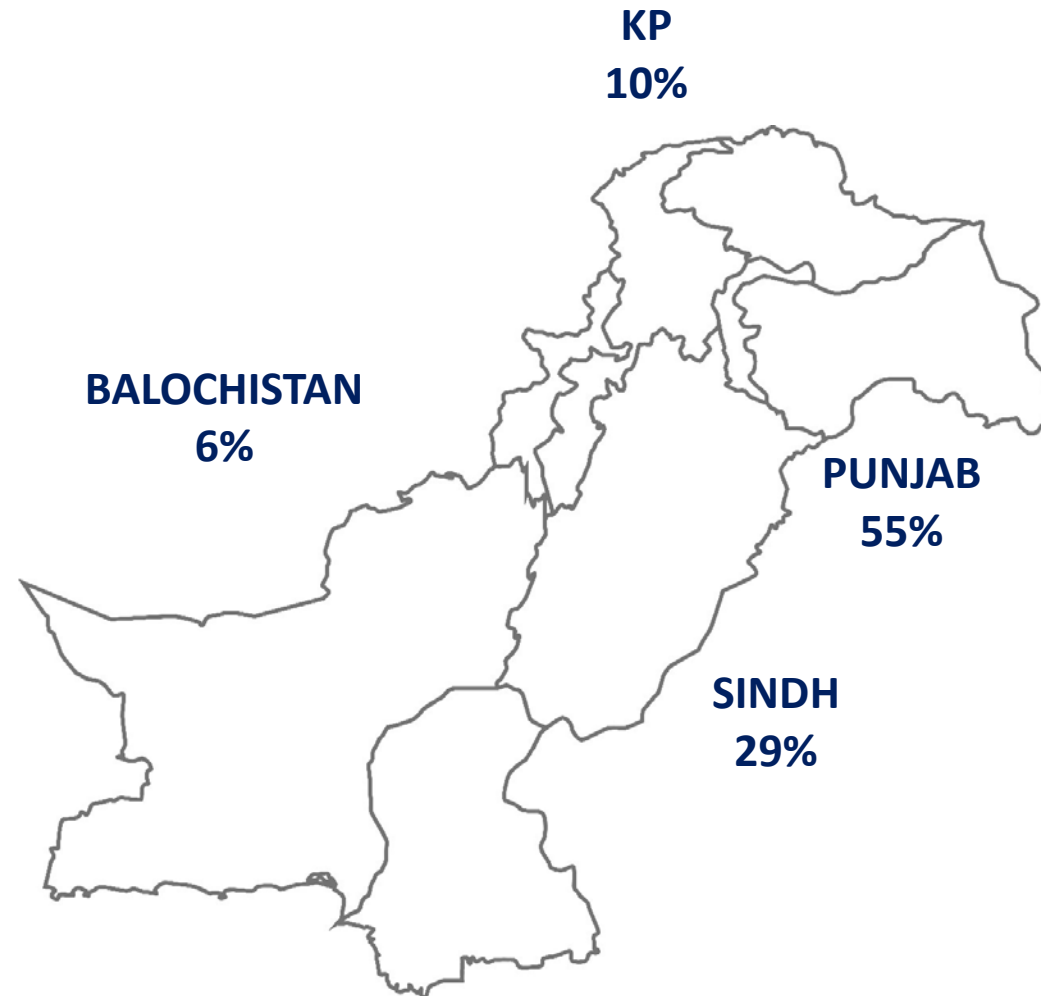
ERROR MARGIN

±2 to 3% at 95% confidence level
for national level results



DATA COLLECTION

6 February 2021 - 26 February
2021





Gallup Pakistan is not related to Gallup Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. USA.
We require that our surveys be credited fully as Gallup Pakistan (not Gallup or Gallup Poll).
We disclaim any responsibility for surveys pertaining to Pakistani public opinion except those carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association.

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