

GALLUP PAKISTAN ECONOMIC WELLBEING INDEX

Gallup Pakistan's findings of Wave 10 of the Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey in Pakistan. This nation-wide poll includes more than 1,000 randomly chosen respondents. This report shares findings from one of the sections of the report which aims to look at how COVID 19 is impacting households in economic terms.

GALLUP FINDS ECONOMIC WELLBEING APPEARS TO BE DETERIORATING IN WAVE 10 AS 4 OF 7 INDICATORS WITNESS A DECLINE.

Despite improvement witnessed in Wave 9 of December 2020, in March 2021, the economic situation appears to have worsened.

METHODOLOGY:

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across Pakistan, hailing from over 100 districts were interviewed using CATI methodology from 19th March 2021 to 6th April 2021. These respondents were chosen statistically so that all adult population in the country, having access to a mobile phone has an equal probability of being selected.

DETAILED NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

Gallup Pakistan's usual approach of fieldwork is conducting face-to-face interviews in households using geographical sampling. The sampling is done using the census as the frame. Due to coronavirus lockdown, as well as health and safety concerns, we have halted all face-to-face interviews, therefore CATI methodology has been employed. This methodology uses Random Digit Dialling approach where all mobile phone numbers in Pakistan (130 million active sims) are the universe.

Exclusion in sample: According to PSLM (a government survey), 90% of households in Pakistan claim someone in their household owns a mobile phone. This means that 10% households are excluded from the sample.

7 STRANDS OF GALLUP PAKISTAN ECONOMIC WELLBEING INDEX



**1. REDUCING MEALS TO
SUSTAIN HOUSEHOLD
BUDGET**



**2. USE LESS PREFERRED
MEALS TO AFFORD
FOOD**



**3. BORROWING FOOD
FOR SURVIVAL**



**4. RELYING ON
SAVINGS**



**5. LOOKING FOR
ADDITIONAL WAYS
TO MEET NEEDS**



**6. RELYING ON
GOVERNMENT OR
NGO ASSISTANCE**



**7. SELL ASSETS TO
COVER BASIC NEEDS**



The survey findings show following key trends with respect to impact of COVID-19 on their household economics and wellbeing.

1/ REDUCING MEALS TO SUSTAIN HOUSEHOLD BUDGET:

From 2% of people in Wave 9 in December, 11% in Wave 10 reported to have reduced the number or size of meals of some household members in the last 7 days to meet basic needs.

2/ USING LESS PREFERRED MEALS TO AFFORD FOOD:

12% had to rely on less preferred food items which is much higher than the 3% of people who claimed to do so in Wave 9.

3/ BORROWING FOOD FOR SURVIVAL.

Similarly, the number of people having to borrow from a friend or family members in the past 7 days has increased from 13% in December 2020 to 21% in March 2021. It is worth noting that this number was 21% in Wave 9 in September 2020 and the indicator had improved in December 2020.

Bilal Gilani, Executive Director Gallup Pakistan comments:

“As Pakistan is reeling under pressure of the third wave of COVID-19 and lockdowns imposed again, deep economic vulnerability at household level re-emerges. The report underlines the need to think about the vulnerable poor and transitional poor and designing of targeted fiscal policies to alleviate their pain. Some of the vulnerability experienced now by households is per se not COVID related and relate to long term loss of productivity in agriculture, regulatory issues that stifle entrepreneurs and absence of social safety nets to bank on. Therefore, both short term as well as long term measures are needed to thwart further deterioration in household level social vulnerability.”



4/ RELYING ON SAVINGS.

The number of people who had to rely on bank savings or their cash savings has remained the same (4%) in Wave 10 of March 2021 and Wave 9 of December 2020. This is approximately 1.3 million households.

5/ LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL WAYS TO MEET NEEDS.

When respondents were asked 'have you found alternate ways to earn additional money to meet the needs of their households' we see that there is a 3% decrease from the previous wave in December 2020.

6/ RELYING ON GOVERNMENT OR NGO ASSISTANCE.

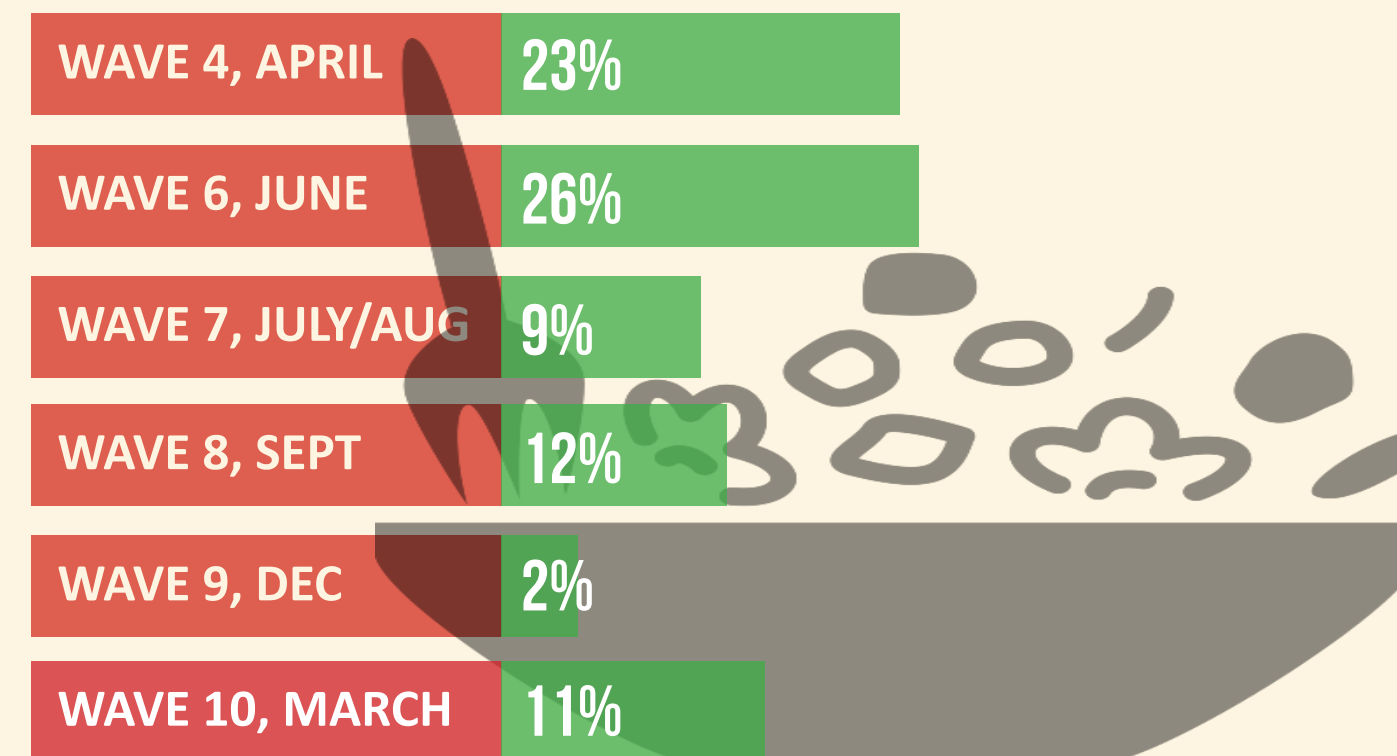
In Wave 9 of December 2020, 1% respondents claimed they had to rely on government or NGO assistance in the last 7 days to cover their household's basic needs; the figure remains the same for Wave 10 of March 2021.

7/ SELL ASSETS TO COVER BASIC NEEDS.

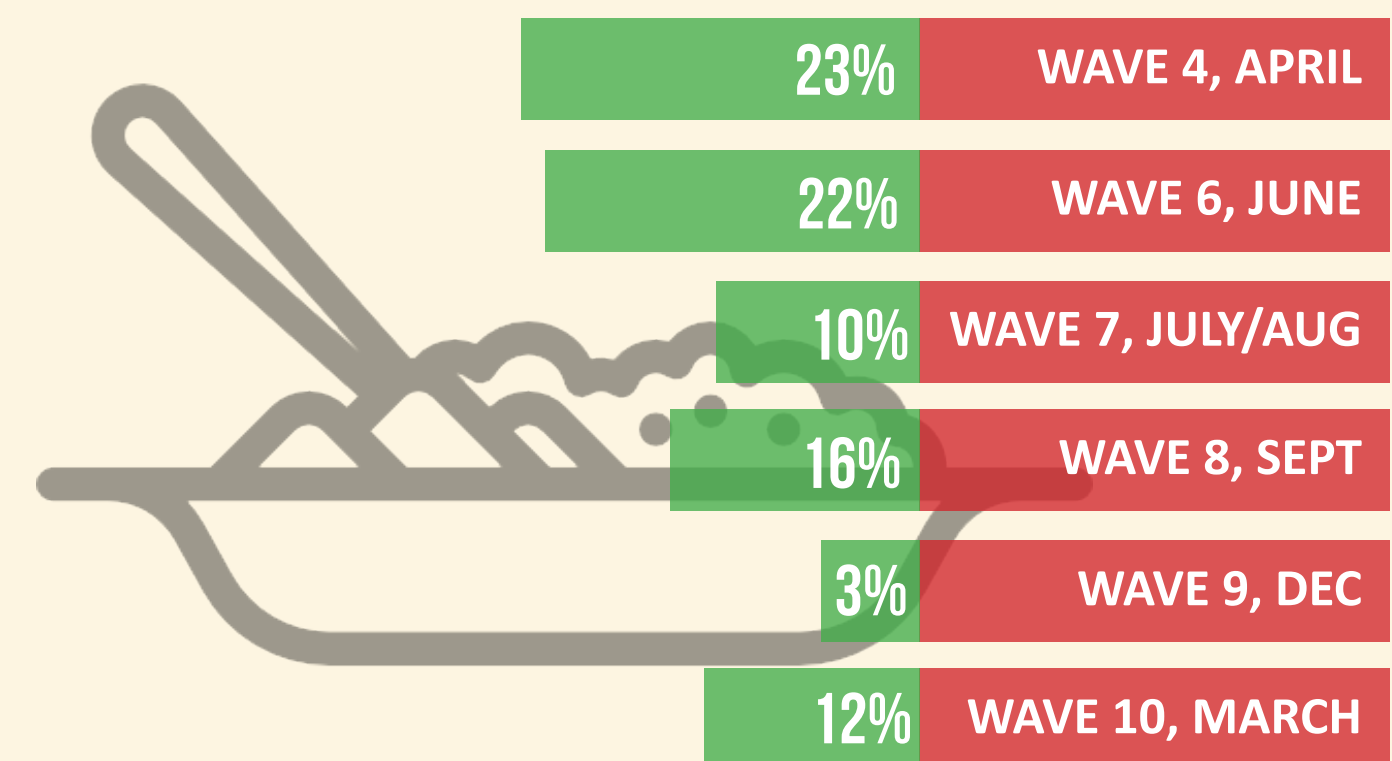
In Wave 9 in December 2020, 4% people (4.8 Mn adults) claimed they had to sell some of their assets in the past 7 days to meet the needs of their households. This figure has increased to 6% in the latest wave.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Reduced the number or size of meals for some household members’ to cover your household's basic needs?’



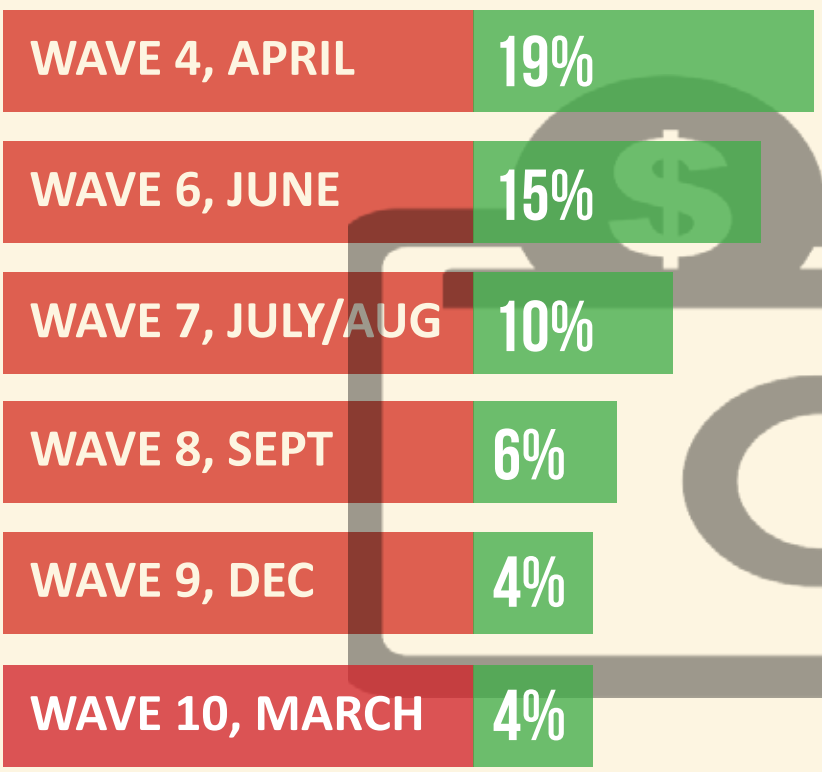
Relied on less preferred and less expensive foods’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’



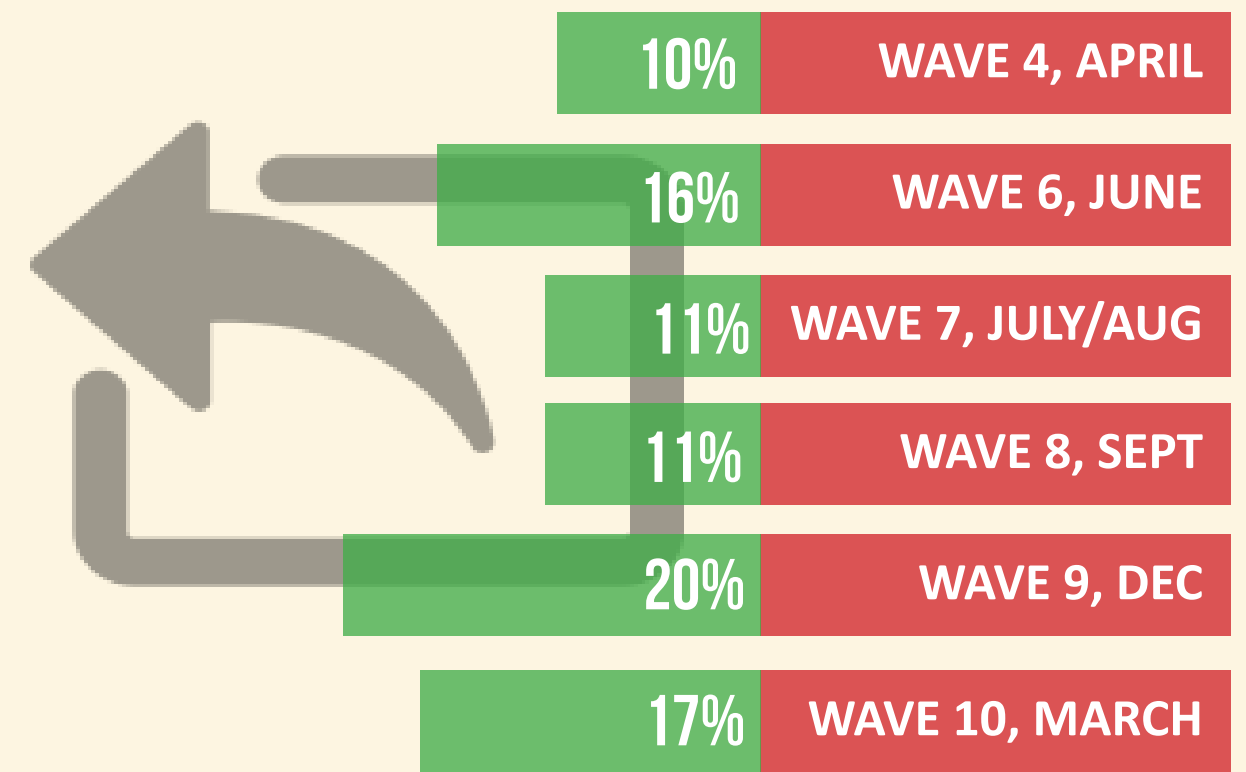
Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 10.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Used cash or bank savings’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’



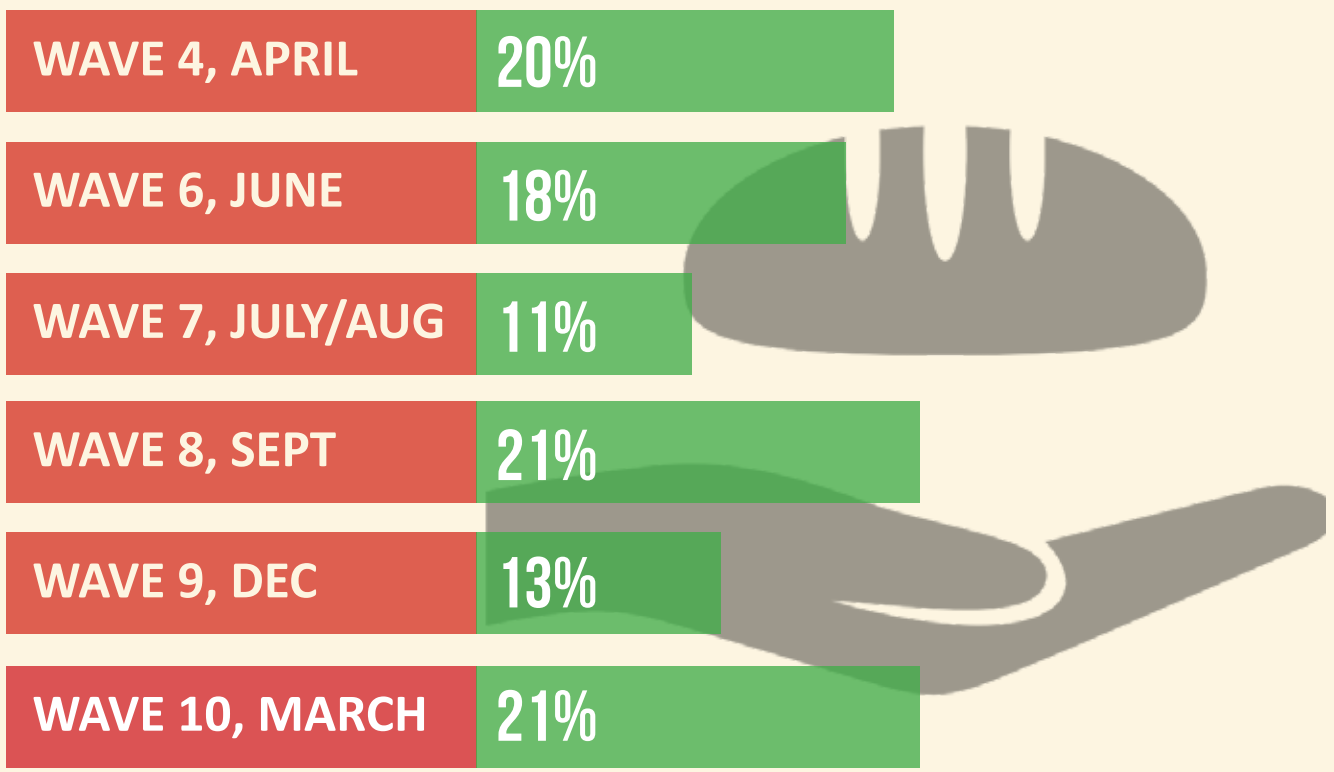
Looked for ways to earn additional money (e.g. work more hours, do an occasional job etc.) to cover your household’s basic needs?’



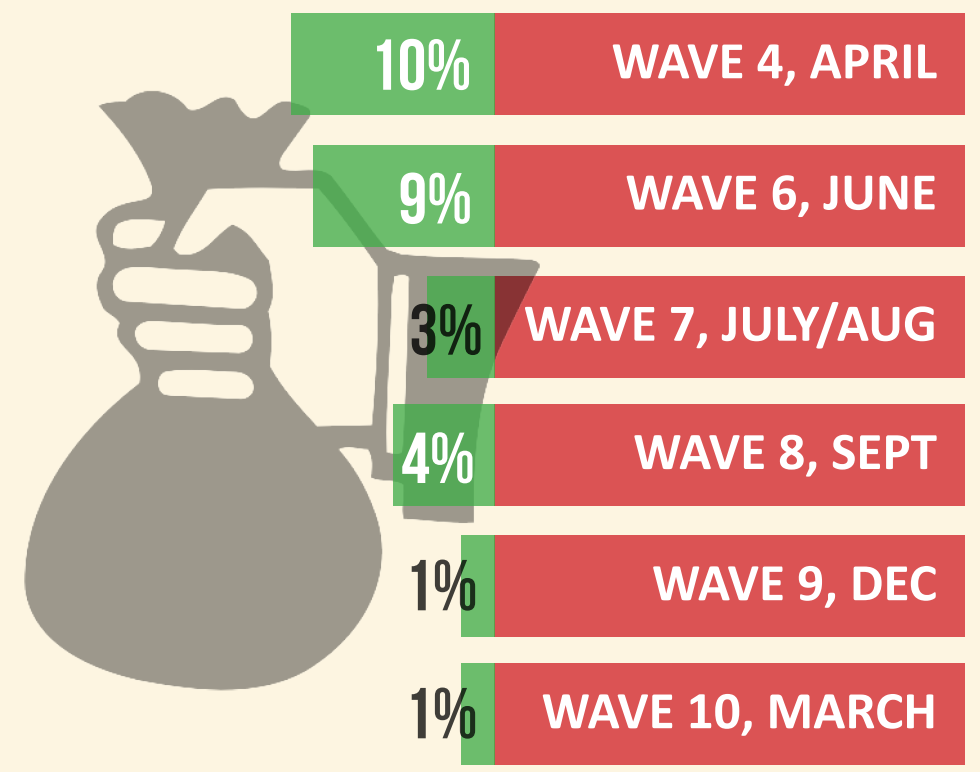
Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 10.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Borrow food or ask for help from a friend or relative’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’



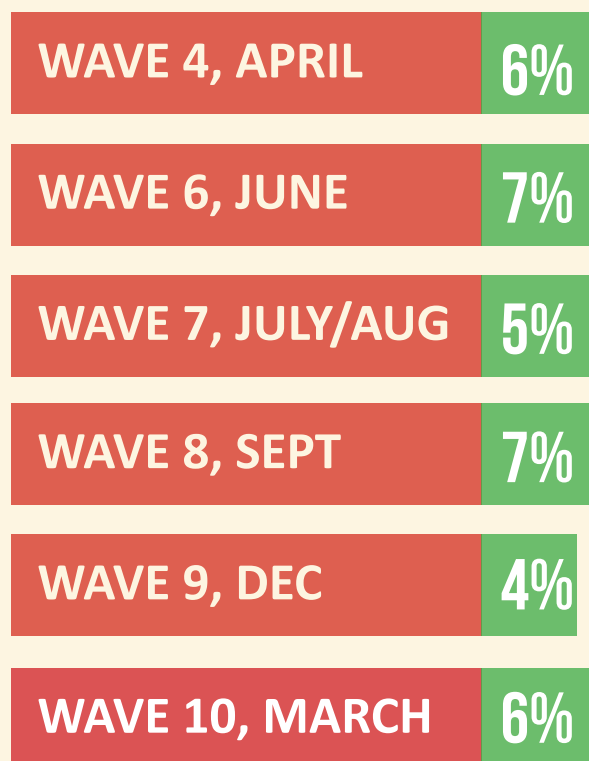
‘Rely on government or NGO assistance to cover your household’s basic needs?’



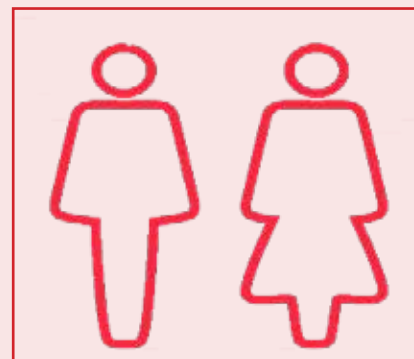
Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 10.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

Sell assets to cover your household's basic needs?'



The latest study was released by Gilani Research Foundation and carried out by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 1,590 men and women in urban and rural areas of all four provinces of the country, during March 19, 2021 – April 6, 2021. The error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ percent at the 95% confi-



TOTAL
1590
INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

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.



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Contact Details:

Islamabad : +92 51 2655630

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

www.gallup-international.com

