



**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 of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.*

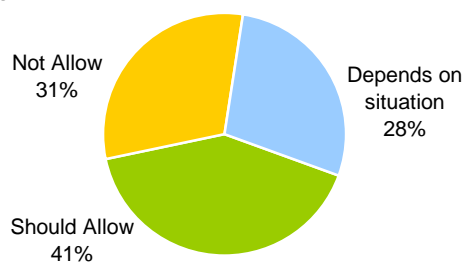
## **Majority (41%) Believes that Parents Should Allow Their Children to Marry Someone of Their Own Choice: GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN**

Islamabad, July 8, 2009

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, a higher number of Pakistanis (41%) believe that parents should allow their children to marry someone of their own choice, while 31% said they should not be allowed. Twenty eight percent (28%) claimed that it all depends on the situation. The data reveals that boys tend to get more support for love marriage as compared to their female counter parts. It must however be noted that concepts like 'marriage by choice' are strongly influenced by customs and traditions and 'love marriage' may not necessarily be the term that captures the meaning of our respondents. It is our approximation, open for debate. According to analysts at Gallup Pakistan, opposition to 'marriage by choice' may not be so stark as it seems and may connote an opposition to choice which is disapproved by the family. Similarly support for choice may also not be so open-ended as to endorse defiance of views of other family members. The findings of the survey should be read in that context.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from all areas of Pakistan were asked "*In your view, should parents permit their children to marry someone of their own choice?*" Although majority (41%) said yes, a significant 31% said no. Twenty eight percent (28%) of the respondents claimed that it all depends on the situation. The data shows that a proportionately higher percentage of urbanites (47%) as compared to ruralites (38%) support love marriage. Data analysis shows that views are colored by the age of the respondents. The least support for marriage by own choice comes from respondents in the age group 30-50 years. This is for many the age when they are thinking about the prospects of marriage for their young or grown-up children. Support for marriage by own choice is 49% among the age group under 30, it declines to 33% among the group age 30-50 and rises again to 42% among respondents over the age of 50 years. Interestingly there is not much gender difference in views. The support for marriage by own choice is 40% among men and 42% among women.

*"Have you ever tried to diet in order to lose weight?"*



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,  
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))

To see if there is any gender discrimination regarding approval for love marriages, in a following question the respondents were asked “*If specifically a boy wants to marry someone of his own choice, should he be allowed?*” Majority (47%) said yes and 28% said no. The remaining 25% of the respondents said it depends on the situation. When the same question was repeated with regards to girls being allowed to marry someone they like, the views were divided between those who claimed that girls should be allowed (35%), should not be allowed (34%) and those who said it depends on the situation (30%). Interestingly amongst ruralites, majority believe that boys should be permitted to marry someone of their own choice (47%) while the same ruralites also believe that girls should not be allowed to do that (41%)

“*If specifically a boy wants to marry someone of his own choice, should he be allowed?*”

Should be allowed	47%
Should not be allowed	28%
Depends on the situation	25%

“*If specifically a girl wants to marry someone of her own choice, should she be allowed?*”

Should be allowed	35%
Should not be allowed	34%
Depends on the situation	30%

Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, 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))

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The latest survey was carried out among a sample of 2754 and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country during June, 2009. 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](http://www.gallup-international.com)) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website ([www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk)). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on social related and other issues see website [www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk)

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