

Majority demand end of lockdown due to dwindling economic situation

A nation-wide public opinion survey conducted by the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR), revealed that the majority 31% of the Pakistanis believe that the lockdown imposed by the government was not successful in achieving its objectives. When asked “In your opinion, at what percentage the lockdown imposed by the government is successful in achieving its objectives?” The majority 31% of the respondent said that the lockdown imposed by the government was not successful in achieving its objectives, 26% said that the lockdown is only half successful and 16% said the lockdown was three quarter successful, while only 6% respondents said that the lockdown imposed by the government was fully successful and the remaining 18% said that they don’t know or they have no response.

A provincial wise breakdown shows that the people believed that effectiveness of lockdown was much better in Baluchistan than in other provinces, as 16% of the respondents agreed that lockdown was 100% successful in Baluchistan.

On the other hand, 31% of the respondents said lockdown should end immediately. When asked “Should the lockdown be extended, be lenient (smart Lockdown) or should be ended by the government?” The 31% of the respondents said that lockdown should be end immediately, 27% said the lockdown should be smart lockdown, 27% said the lockdown should be end, while remaining 15% said that they don’t know or they have no response.

Respondents were also asked, “During the lockdown were your household expenses increased, decreased or remained the same?” The majority 44% of the respondents said that their household expenses increased due to the lockdown, 23% said that their household expenses decreased, 22% said that their household expenses remained the same.

A provincial wise breakdown shows that the most frustration was seen in the Sindh respondents where 37 % of people want immediately to end of lockdown whereas 40% of KP respondents want smart lockdown. Off those 31% people who said the lockdown should end immediately, the data shows that they are the one whose expenses have gone up 48 % during the lockdown. Whereas 85% of the majority favoring ending lockdown immediately were the one who is most economically effected stratum in Pakistan.

On the other hand, when asked “In the past 7 weeks of the lockdown how was your personal economic situation?” The 68% of the respondents said that their economic situation Got worse, followed by 20% who said that it remained the same and only 2% said that their personal economic situation got improved, while remaining 10% said that they don’t know or they have no response. This result confirm the fears expressed by the Prime Minister, that a complete shutdown will have adverse effects on the people.

The survey report is based on the opinions of 1,753 respondents who were interviewed from May 11th to May 15th of 2020. Majority (37%) of the respondents were under the age of 40, in which respondents between the age of 18 and 25 made up 27% of the total and 26-40 were 37% while, those between 41 and 50 made up 26%, and those above 50 were 10% of the total.

Note: IPOR has a respondent panel for data collection. The survey was conducted through Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews (CATI), from randomly selected panel of respondents based upon proportion to population sample of adult residents in all four provinces of Pakistan. Error Margin +/- 2.34 percent, Confidence Level will be 95 percent for national results. The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with International standards for market and social research methodologies.