

An IPOR Study

Public Opinion: Political Protests and Lockdowns in Islamabad– Necessity or Disruption?



About IPOR

Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) is an independent research institution with ability to gauge public opinion at its best on social issues, democracy and service delivery throughout Pakistan. IPOR is registered under section 32 of companies act, 1984 (XLVII of 1984) with the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). IPOR's Executive Director is also a member of European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR). It is globally recognized mark of excellence within and beyond the industry.



The results in this Report do not represent views held by IPOR. The results only represent public opinion, computed on the basis of views expressed by respondents selected through the procedure outlined in the methodology section of this Report. IPOR cannot be held liable to the users of this data. Any part of this publication can be used or cited with a clear reference to IPOR.





Executive Summary

The **Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR)** conducted a quantitative survey to gauge public opinion on political protests, lockdowns, and their socio-economic impacts from the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The survey interviewed a representative sample of adults (aged 18 and above) across the twin cities.

Key Findings:

- **Support for Peaceful Protests:** A significant majority (73%) of Islamabad/Rawalpindi residents support peaceful protests by political parties, while 24% do not endorse such demonstrations at all.
- **Impact on Daily Life:** An overwhelming 82% residents of Islamabad/Rawalpindi believe the lockdown resulting from PTI protests disrupted daily life, with only 17% stating otherwise.
- **Economic Impact:** About 74% reported that protests and lockdowns negatively affected their business or income, whereas 24% saw no such impact.
- **Government Response:** Opinions on government measures during the lockdown are divided—42% find them justified, but 48% perceive them as an overreaction.
- **Responsibility for Economic Crisis:** A plurality of respondents (53%) hold the government and coalition parties accountable for the economic impact of the political crisis, while 18% blame PTI and opposition parties
- **Instability and Protests:** Two-thirds (66%) of respondents identify political protests and rallies as the primary cause of instability, while 26% disagree.
- **Support for PTI Protests:** A notable 68% residents of Islamabad/Rawalpindi will not support PTI's protest, whereas 24% express their support even if caused some inconvenience.

These findings highlight widespread concerns about the disruptions and instability caused by political protests and lockdowns, reflecting a divided public stance on their necessity and justification.

METHODOLOGY

APPROACH

Computer Assisted Telephonic (CATI)
Interviews

SAMPLE

N=1044 (Residents of Islamabad/Rawalpindi ONLY)

Age=18+

A phone panel comprised of randomly selected 310,668 active mobile phone users was used as sampling frame to draw the sample of adult residents of RWP/ISD. This Phone Panel was made through Face-to-Face data collection. The selection of respondents were made using Systematic Sampling with a Random Start (SSRS).

TIMELINE

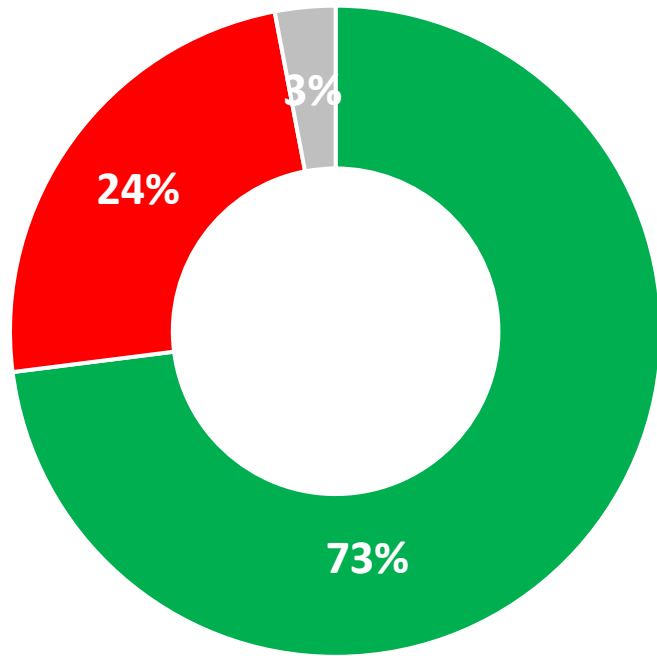
Data collection done from

26th November to 29th November 2024





Question 1: Do you support peaceful protest of any political party?



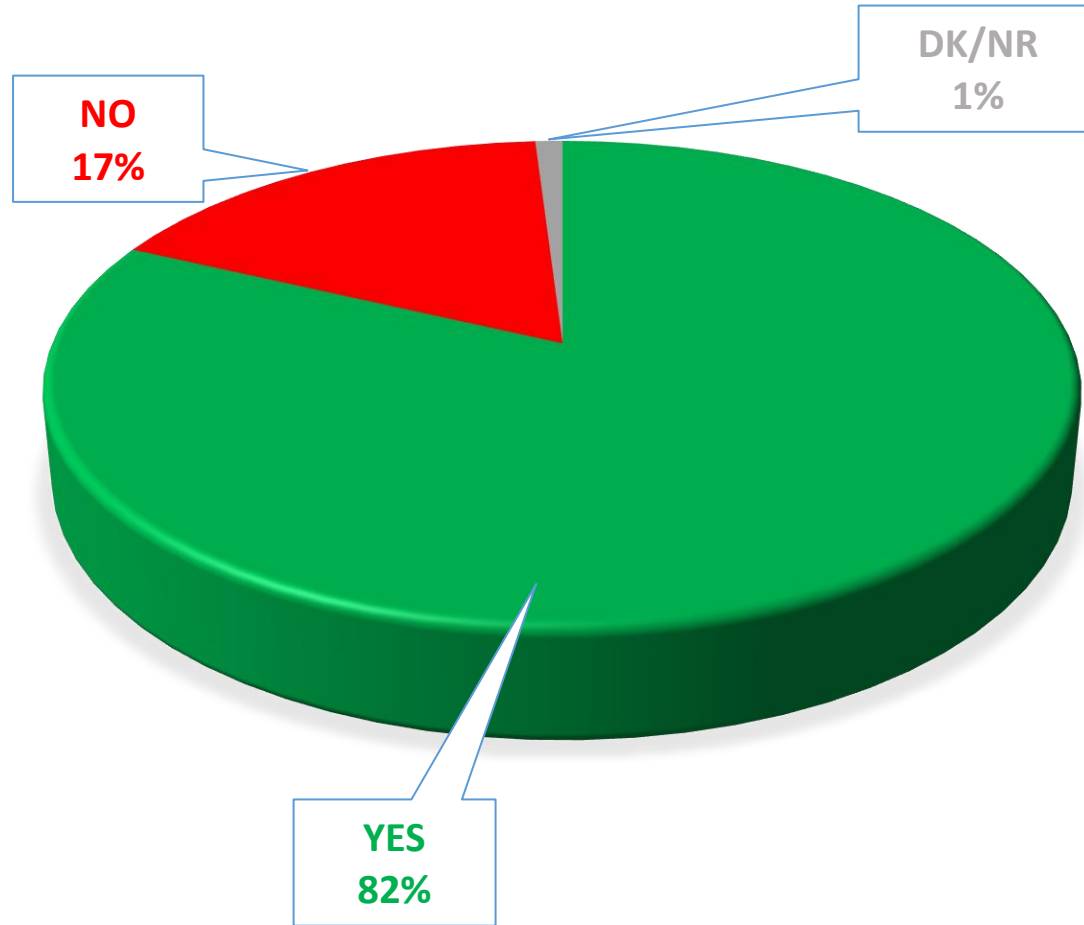
■ YES ■ NO ■ DK/NR



Insight: 73% people supports peaceful protest of any political party, while 24% people does not support.



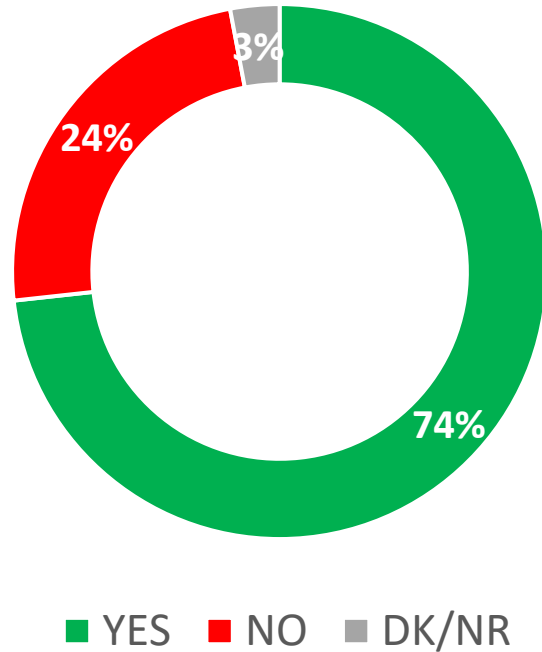
Question 2: Has the lockdown resulting from PTI protests in Rawalpindi/Islamabad caused any disruption to the daily life of the general public?



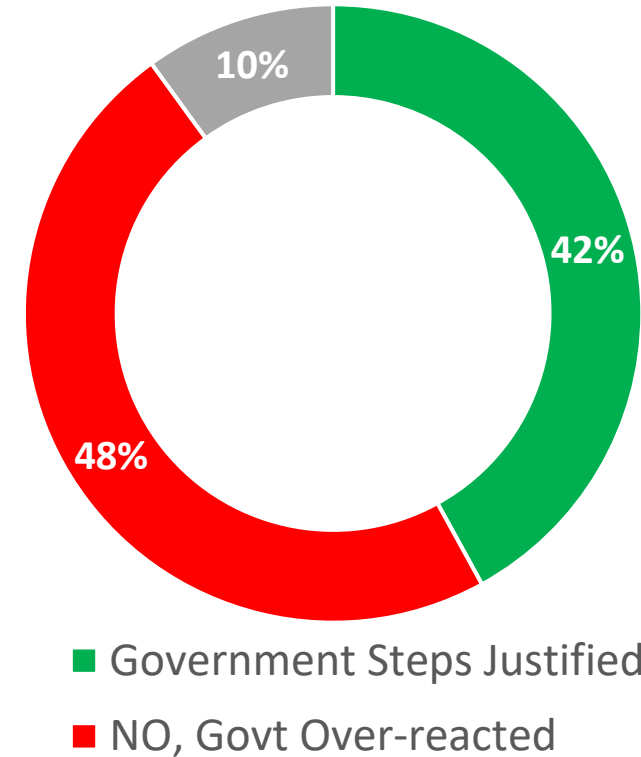
iInsight: 82% of resident of Islamabad/Rawalpindi believed that the lockdown resulting from PTI protests disrupted the daily lives of the general public, while 17% believe t did not cause any disruption.



Question 3: Do you think the protests and lockdown have had an impact on your income or business?



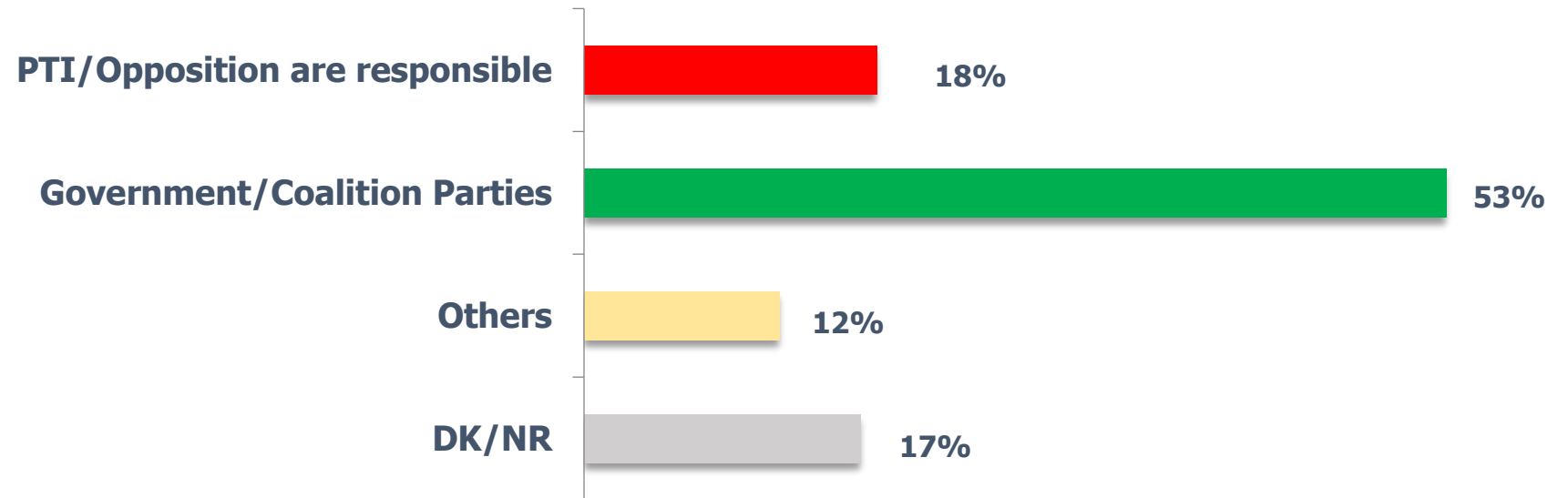
Question 4: Do you think that the steps taken by the government after the PTI protest and the announcement of lockdown are justified or is the government overreacting?



Insight: 74% of Islamabad/RWP residents believe protests and lockdowns impact their daily business or income, while 24% perceive no such impact. Regarding the government's measures on lockdowns, 42% consider them justified, whereas 48% believe the government overreacted.



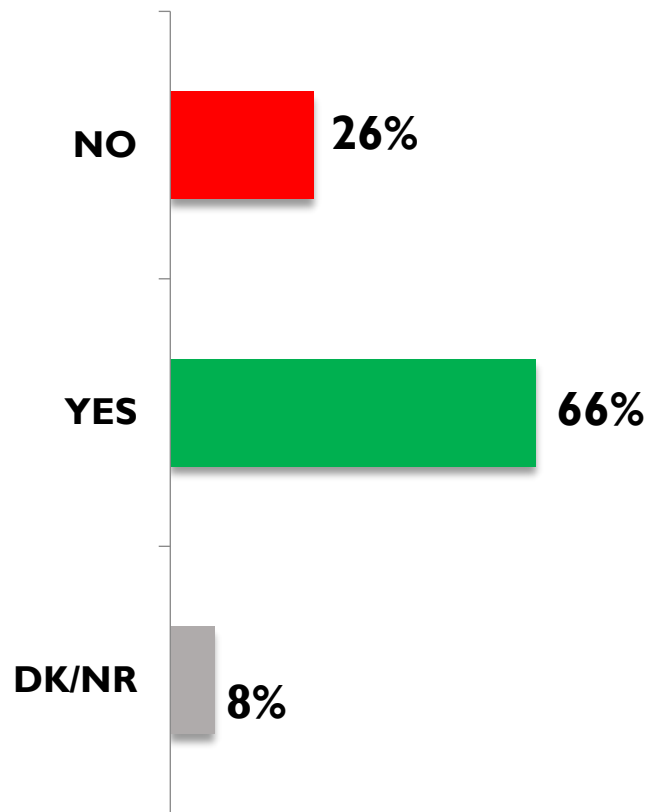
Question 5: In your opinion, who is responsible for the economic impact of the political crisis in the country?



Insight: 18% of respondents from Islamabad/Rawalpindi attribute the economic impact of the political crisis in the country to PTI and opposition parties, while 53% hold the government and coalition parties responsible.

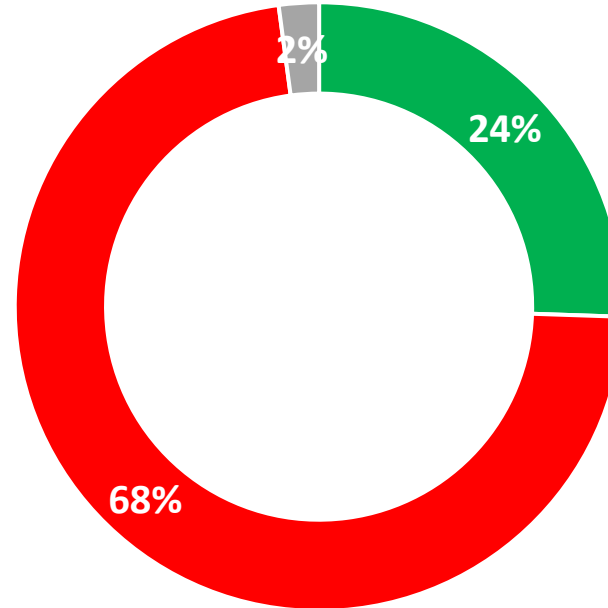


Question: 6 Do you think that political protests/rallies are the main cause of Political instability in the country?



Insight: A majority of respondents (66%) believed that political protests and rallies are the primary cause of instability in the country, while 26% disagree with this view.

Question 7: Would you support PTI's protest, even if it causes temporary inconvenience to the people of Pakistan?



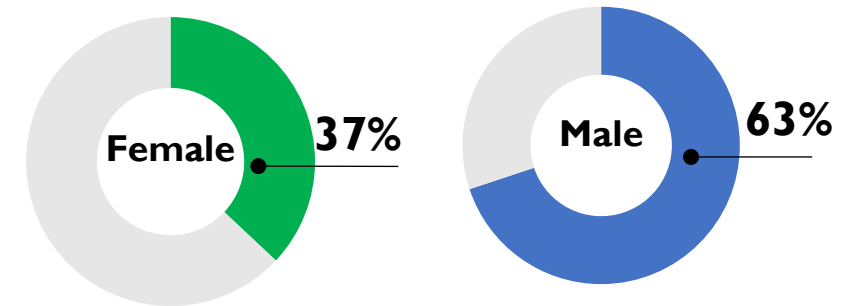
■ YES ■ NO ■ DK/NR

Insight: A significant majority, 68% of respondents of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, indicated that they WILL NOT support PTI's protest, even if it results in temporary inconvenience for the people of Pakistan. In contrast, 24% expressed their support for the protest.

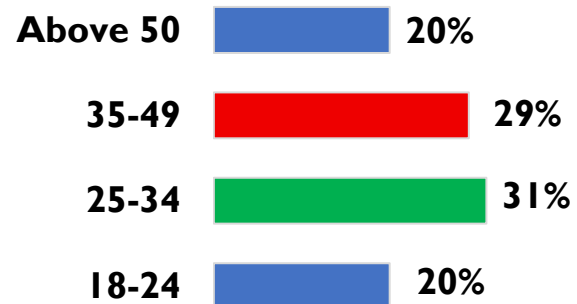
Survey Demographic

The IPOR survey respondents consisted of 63% males and 37% females. In terms of age distribution, 20% were between 18 and 24 years old, 31% were between 25 and 34 years old, 29% were between 35 and 49 year old and 20% were above 50 years old. 11% are illiterate, 10% have completed primary education, 16% have completed secondary education, 28% have completed matriculation, 17% have completed intermediate education, 15% are graduates, and 3% have completed a master's degree.

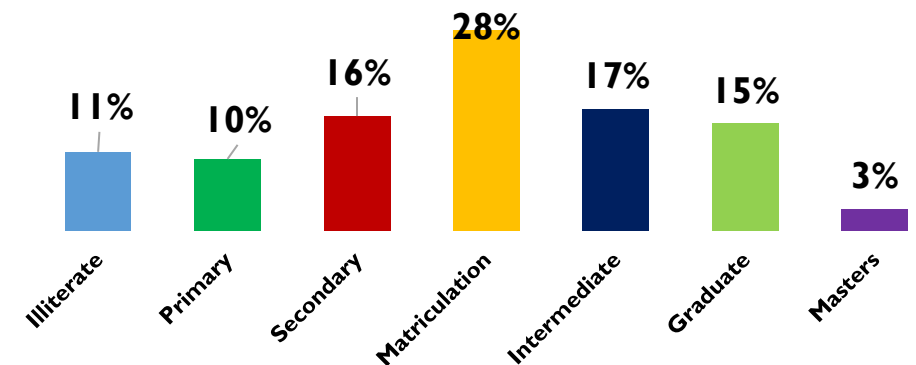
Gender



Age Group



Education





Thank you!

For any further query regarding this survey please feel free to contact.

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