

Survey on Climate Change and its Impact on Economic Growth

A Report developed by Gallup Pakistan for ICMA International

Preamble

The Research and Publications Committee of ICMA selected the theme of "Climate Risk and Economic Growth" for the Jan-Feb 2023 issue of the Chartered Management Accountant Journal. This theme is very much relevant in the context of rising global concern over taking immediate mitigation measures to combat climate change and also in the backdrop of recent natural disasters in Pakistan in the form of massive flooding that have played havoc with the country's economy. In fact, Pakistan has been ranked as the 8th most vulnerable country due to climate change according to the 'Global Climate Risk Index 2021.'

In this context, ICMA International and Gallup Pakistan jointly conducted this survey to elicit the opinions of ICMA members about their awareness of climate change issues and their possible impact on society and the national economy.

The Survey Report is being published in this issue of the CMA Journal. It is hoped that our members, students and other stakeholders will get useful insight from the survey's findings.

Survey Methodology

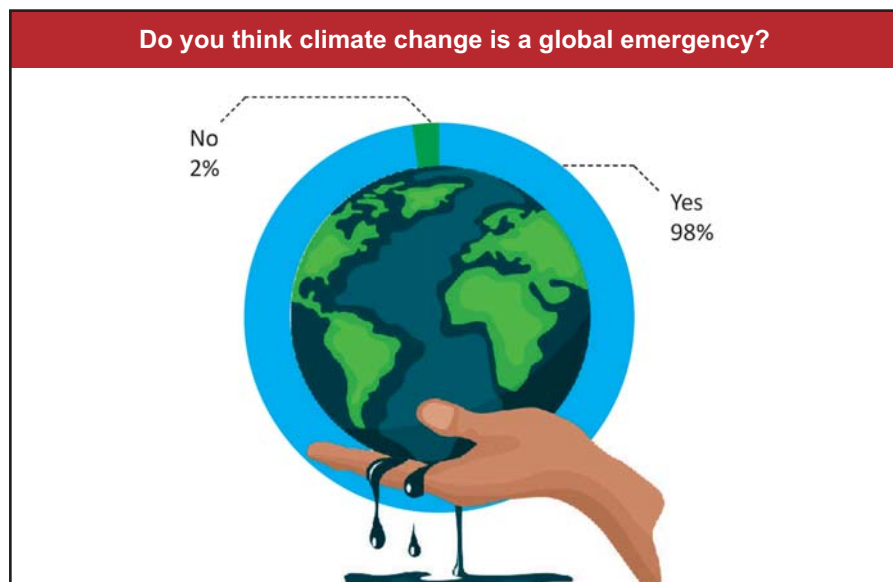
The survey questionnaire developed by the ICMA Research and Publications Directorate was hosted online after review and some value addition by Gallup Pakistan, based on their prior experience of conducting market and perception surveys across Pakistan. The customized questionnaire was scripted for an online survey software, and Gallup approached ICMA members by sending them individual emails along with a short link to the virtual survey and also making phone calls. This was followed by reminders from both Gallup and ICMA. The survey ran until February 18, 2023.

There was a good response from the members. The responses were carefully collated and analyzed by Gallup, and the key findings from the survey are presented in this survey report.

Survey Results

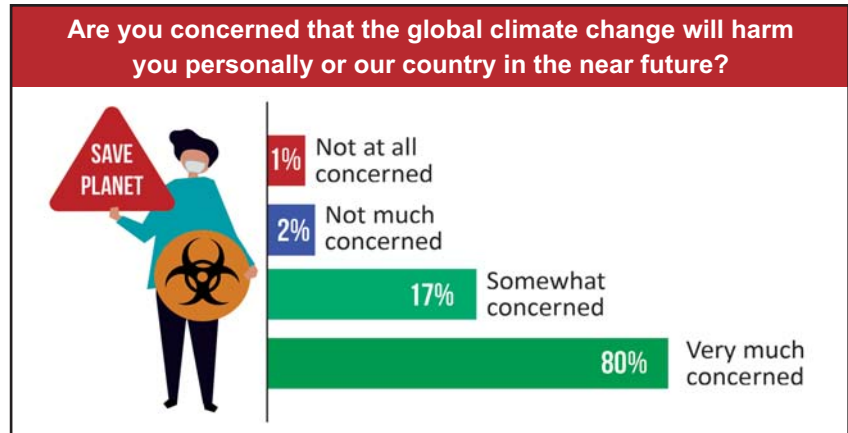
98% agree that climate change is a global emergency

ICMA members were asked to share their views on whether climate change is a global emergency. Almost 98% responded positively, which shows that there is a general consensus that global warming is affecting our society, our daily lives, and even people's perceptions. Only 2% of members responded "no" to the statement.



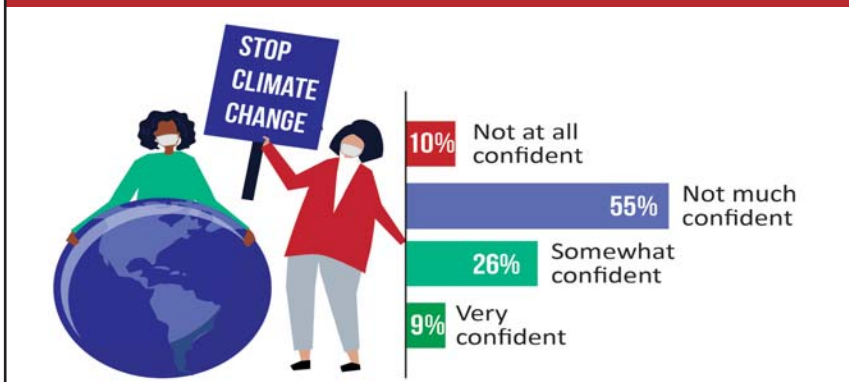
97% show concern that global climate change will harm our country

ICMA members were asked how concerned they are that global climate change will harm them personally or their country. Almost 80% of respondents said they are very concerned about global climate change, with 17% saying they are somewhat concerned. The responses indicate that 97% of members are very concerned that global climatic conditions would harm not only them but also Pakistan.



65% believe that actions taken by International community will significantly help reduce the effects of global climate change

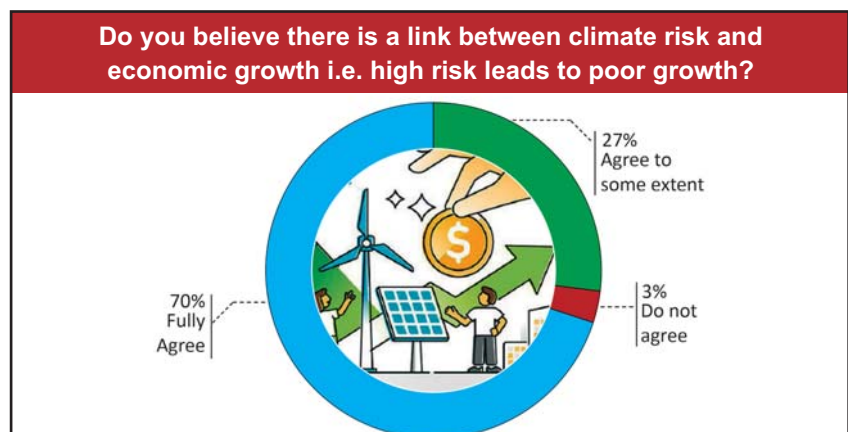
Do you think that actions taken by the international community and institutions will significantly help reduce the effects of global climate change?



More than half of the respondents (65%) are either not at all confident or not very confident that actions taken by the international community and institutions will significantly help reduce the effects of global climate change. On the other hand, 26% of respondents were confident that international action will help reduce the effects of global climate change, while 9% were extremely confident in the given statement.

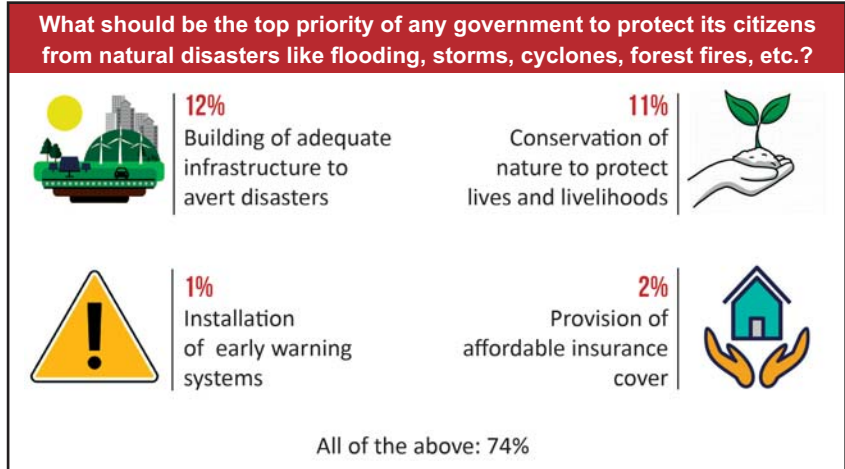
70% think climate risk and economic growth are interlinked

Approximately 7 out of 10 (70%) members believe that there is a link between climate risk and economic growth, i.e. high risk leads to poor growth. Only 27% agreed to some extent with the given statement.



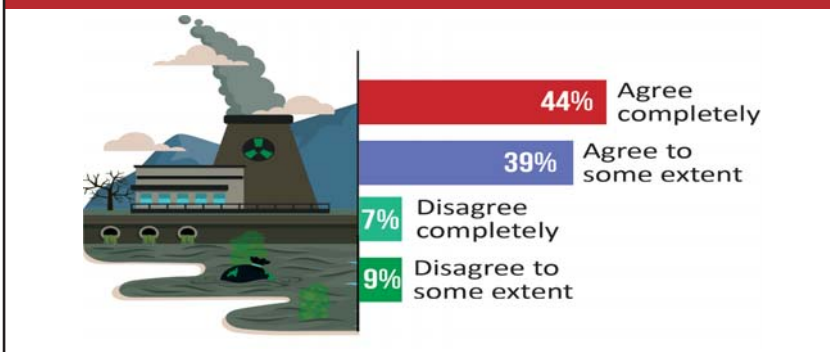
74% believe the Government can protect citizens from natural disasters by building adequate infrastructure and early warning system, conservation of nature and provision of affordable insurance cover

Respondents were asked to share their opinion regarding the top priority of any government to protect its citizens from natural disasters like flooding, storms, cyclones, forest fires, etc. More than half (74%) of respondents stated that the government's priority should include building of adequate infrastructure to avert disasters, conservation of nature to protect lives and livelihoods, installation of early warning systems and provision of affordable insurance cover.



83% think the developing countries should not damage the planet, although the rich countries polluted before becoming economic powers

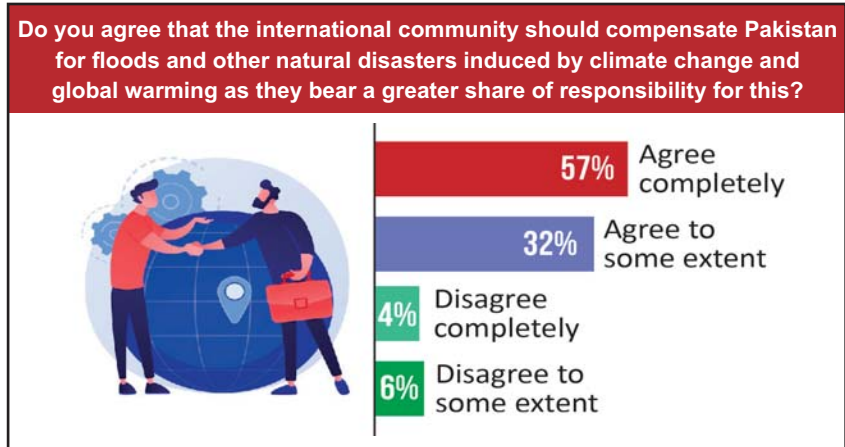
To what extent do you agree that, even if rich countries polluted before becoming economic powers, developing countries should not damage the planet now?



Respondents were asked to what extent they agree that, even if rich countries polluted before becoming economic powers, developing countries should not damage the planet now. Almost 83% responded that they agreed with the statement, out of which 44% agreed completely and 39% agreed to some extent. Only 9% of respondents disagreed to some extent, while 7% disagreed completely.

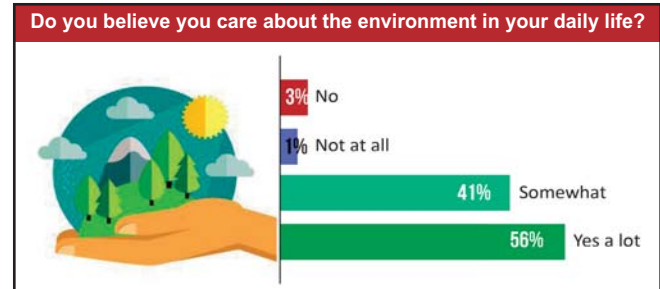
89% think the international community should compensate Pakistan for floods and other natural disasters induced by global warming

Respondents were asked to comment as to what extent they think that the international community should compensate Pakistan for floods and other natural disasters induced by climate change and global warming, as they bear a greater share of responsibility for this. To this question, around 57% agreed completely, whereas 32% agreed to some extent.

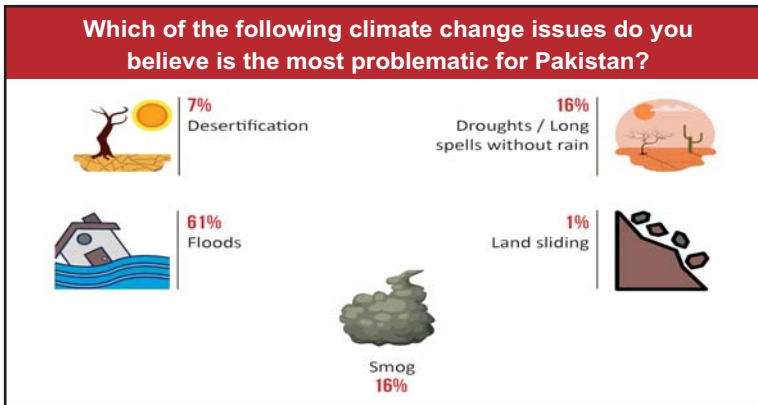


56% say they care about the environment in their daily lives

Respondents were asked to what extent they care about the environment in their daily lives. More than half (56%) stated that they care a lot about the environment in their daily lives, followed by 41% who stated that they somewhat care about the environment in their daily lives.



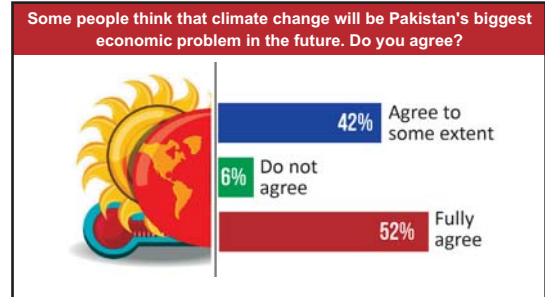
61% opine that flooding is most problematic climate change issue for Pakistan



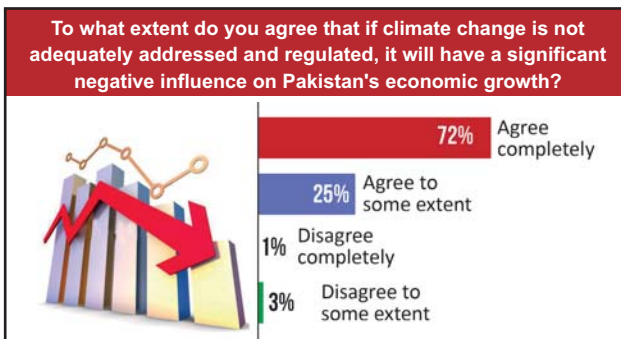
Respondents were asked to opine as to which climate change issues are most problematic for Pakistan. Approximately 3 out of 5 (61%) respondents indicated that flooding is the most problematic for Pakistan, followed by 16% who believe that droughts or long spells without rain are the most problematic.

94% think that climate change will be Pakistan's biggest economic problem in the future

Respondents were asked if they believe that climate change will be Pakistan's biggest economic problem in the near future or not. More than half of the respondents (52%) fully agreed that climate change will be Pakistan's biggest economic problem, followed by 42% who agreed to some extent.



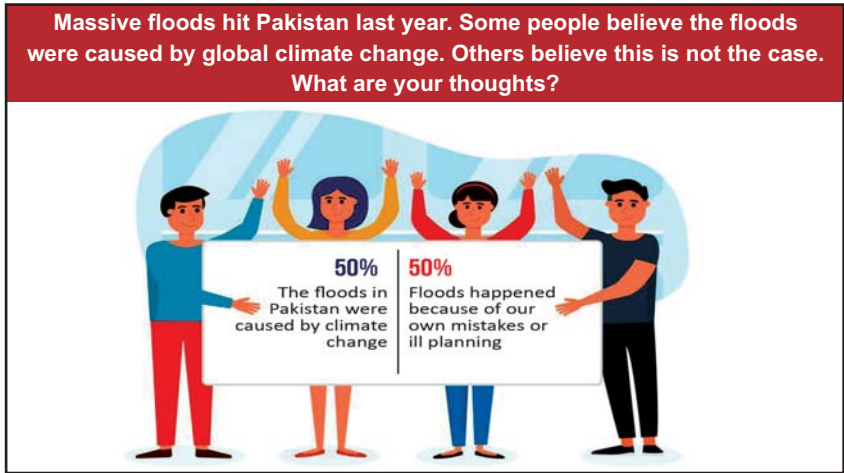
97% believe climate change will negatively influence Pakistan's economic growth, if not properly addressed and regulated



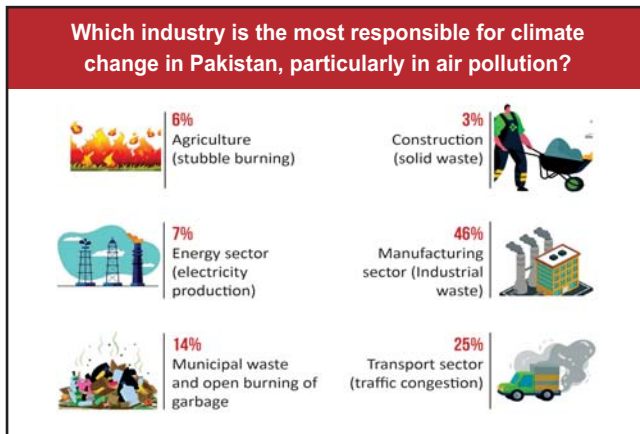
Respondents were asked to express their level of agreement that if climate change is not properly addressed and regulated, it will have a major negative impact on Pakistan's economic growth. The vast majority of respondents (72%) agreed completely, with the remaining 25% agreeing to some extent.

50% believe recent floods in Pakistan was the result of poor planning

Respondents were asked to explain what caused the recent massive flooding in Pakistan. Almost half of those surveyed thought that floods in Pakistan were due to negligence or poor planning, while the other half believed that climate change was to blame.



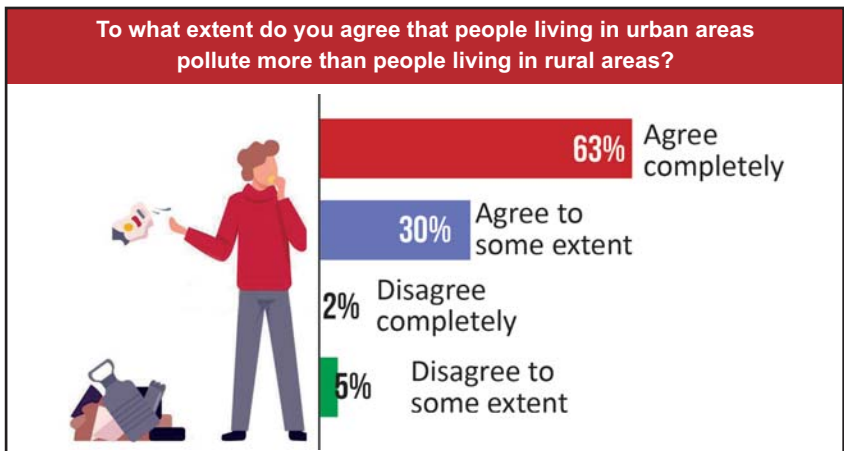
85% pointed to industrial waste, municipality waste, open garbage burning, and traffic congestion as top reasons for air pollution in Pakistan



When asked about the specific sectors that are most responsible for climate change, around 46% of the surveyees reported that the manufacturing sector is the most responsible due to its industrial waste, followed by 25% who pinpointed the transport sector as the most responsible for climate change due to pollution created as a result of traffic congestion. Municipal waste and open burning of garbage were cited as the third leading cause of air pollution in the country by nearly 14 percent of respondents.

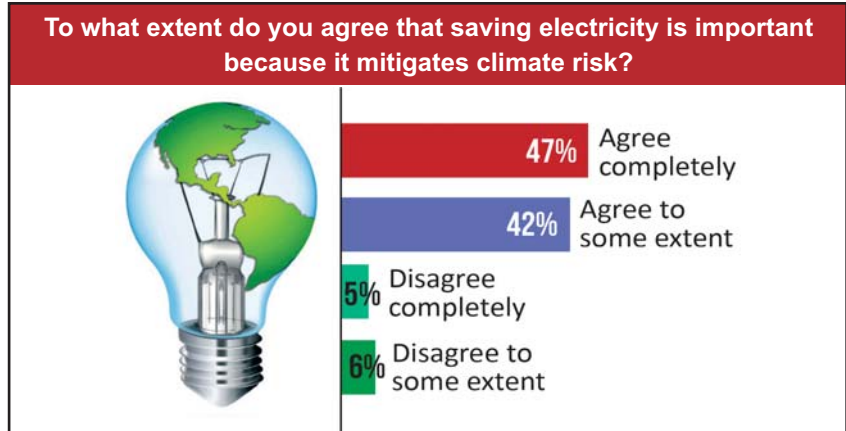
93% believe that people living in urban areas pollute more than those living in rural areas

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed that people living in urban areas pollute more than people living in rural areas. Around 63% agreed completely with the statement while 30% agreed to some extent.

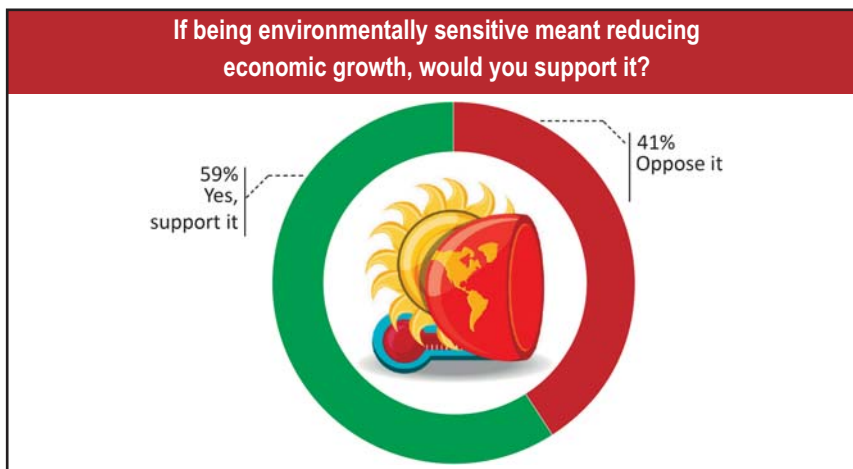


89% think that conserving energy can help mitigate climate risk

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree that saving electricity and conserving energy is can help mitigates climate risk. Around 47% responded in positive while 42% agreed to some extent. Around 6% disagreed to some extent while 5% disagreed completely with the given statement.



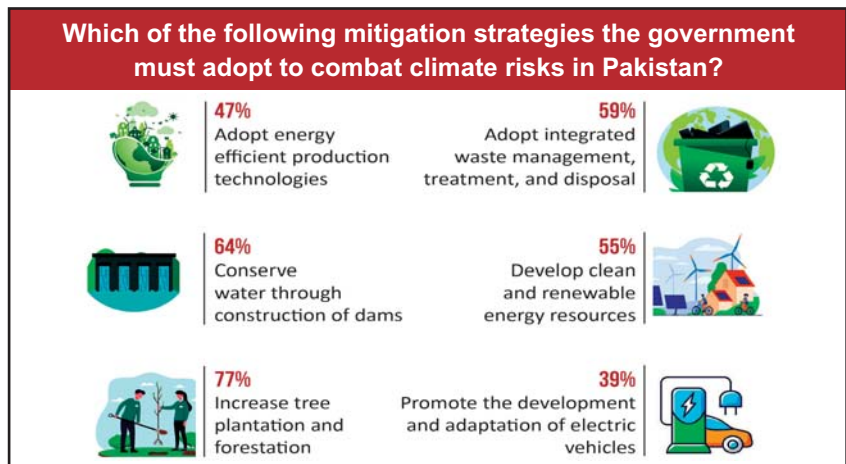
59% believe they would support it if being environmentally sensitive meant reducing economic growth



Approximately 3 out of 5 (59%) respondents believe that they would support it, if being environmentally sensitive meant reducing economic growth for Pakistan's suffering.

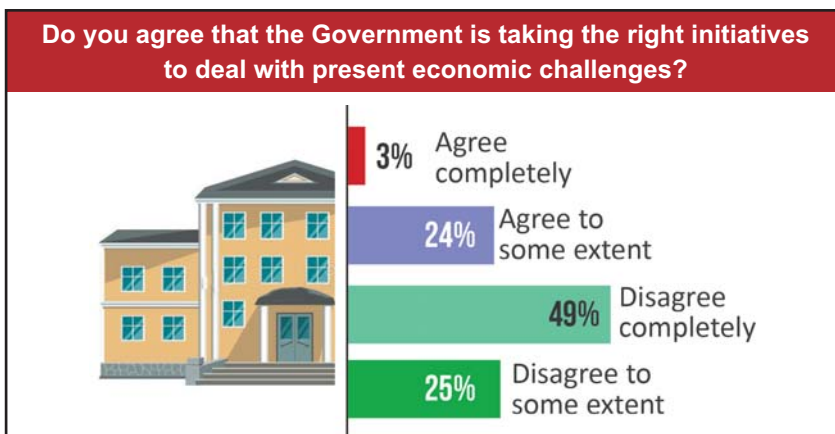
77% suggest the Government must increase tree plantation and forestation to combat climate risks

When asked about the mitigation strategies that the government must adopt to combat climate risks in Pakistan, 77% reported that increasing tree plantations and forestation should be one of the strategies, followed by 64% who reported conserving water through the construction of dams should be the way to go.

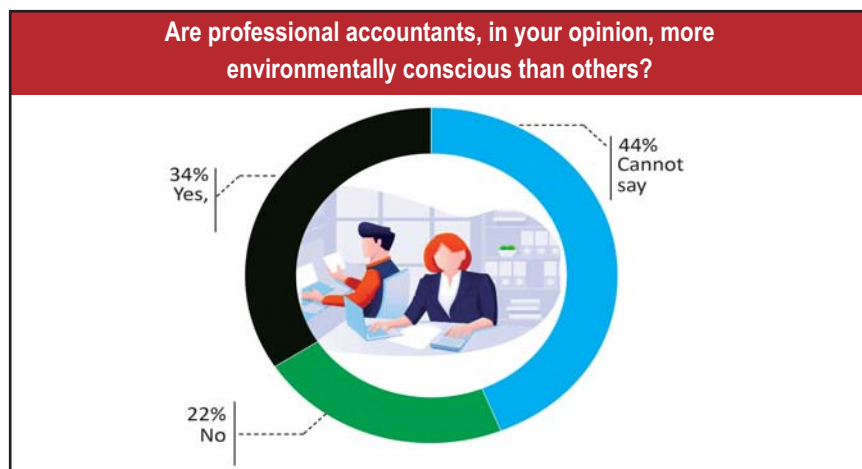


74% believe the government is not taking right initiatives to deal with the present economic challenges

Respondents were asked about their agreement or disagreement on whether the government is taking the right initiatives to deal with present economic challenges. Around 49% disagreed completely, while 25% disagreed to some extent with the given statement.



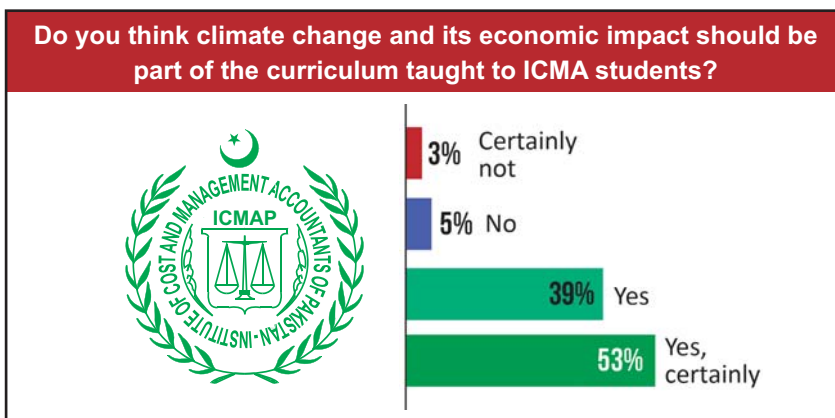
34% say professional accountants are more environmentally conscious



A question was put to the survey respondents: do they believe professional accountants are more environmentally conscious than others? Around 34% stated that professional accountants are more environmentally conscious, whereas 22% of respondents did not agree with the statement. A large proportion of respondents (44%) stated that they are unable to say anything.

92% agree that Climate Change should be part of ICMA Syllabus

More of the respondents (92%) believe that climate change and its economic impact should be part of the curriculum taught to ICMA students. Around 8% members did not agree with the given statement.



DISCLAIMER: The views expressed by the survey participants do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoint of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan. Furthermore, Gallup Pakistan has conducted this poll according to the ESOMAR Code of Ethics and internationally recognized principles of scientific polling. The results of this Report do not represent views held by the authors or Gallup Pakistan. The results only represent public opinion, computed based on views expressed by anonymous respondents.