

Contribution of OPF Schools for the Education of Overseas Pakistanis at Secondary Level

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to assess the contribution of OPF schools for the education of Overseas Pakistanis at secondary level. The study analyzed the enrolment trends and achievements of OPF Educational institutions of Pakistan. The population of the study consisted of three Principals and teachers of secondary level. Hundred percent Heads of the institutions within the targeted areas were drawn as sample. The tools for collection of data from respective institutions were questionnaire for heads of institution and Secondary school teacher. The purpose was to analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of these Educational Institutions both qualitatively and quantitatively. Data were collected and analyzed on percentage basis. Major finding was that OPF is providing quality education in affordable fee package. Student performance was satisfactory. It was also found out that teaching methodology, Sports activities, curricular and co-curricular activities are taking place satisfactorily. OP's students are given preference during admission process. It was also found out that the salary package of teachers is satisfactory, but there was no incentive on the basis of performance. There was difference of opinion found regarding teacher's training. It was concluded that most of the teachers of OPF institutions are not getting teacher's training annually. On the basis of the findings of the study it is recommended to give empowerment to the Heads of the institutions for quick decisions. Incentives to enhance the level of motivation may be given to the dedicated and devoted teachers at secondary level. Training sessions may be provided to the teachers annually.

Keywords: OPF, Overseas, Teacher, Contribution, Education, Secondary, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

Provide for good quality education to the children of Overseas Pakistanis Overseas Pakistani Foundation was established in March 1979 under the Emigration Ordinance, 1979 to look after the interest, solve the problems and maintain liaison with the millions of Overseas Pakistanis. The Foundation was registered on 8th July 1979 as a company limited by Guarantee under Section 26 of the Companies Act 1913, for the achievement of its objectives as laid down in Memorandum and Article of association (1979)

The Foundation works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Government of Pakistan. In order to have a focused approach for improving the welfare of overseas Pakistanis, a separate Overseas Pakistanis Division has been established in September, 2004 after bifurcation of former Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Division in two Division i.e Labor & Manpower Division and Overseas Pakistanis Division. The Head office of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation is located at Islamabad while there are Regional Offices in all the Provincial Capitals of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The mandate of OPF covers its registered members overseas and their families in Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the Memorandum & Article of Association, OPF has an ambitious charter of responsibilities

In order to provide quality education to the children of Overseas Pakistanis, the OPF has established 22 OPF Public Schools in various Districts of the Country besides setting up three colleges at Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The total numbers of students in these institutions are approximately 15190

Main Objectives of OPF

The main objective is to advance the social welfare of Pakistanis working Overseas and their families in Pakistan by indentifying their problems and by contributing their solutions.

- i. To establish and manage Educational institution and housing colonies
- ii. To provide health facilities and miscellaneous personalized services.

Functions of OPF

These are the major function of the OPF organization.

- i. Assistant to overseas Pakistani and their dependents in the time of distress
- ii. Facilitation of incoming and outgoing Overseas Pakistani at the international air port in Pakistan
- iii. Encouragement of foreign exchange remittances through legal channels
- iv. Settlement of dues and outstanding claims of OP's
- v. Economics rehabilitations of overseas Pakistanis
- vi. Promotion of visits of overseas Pakistani children.

Educational Objectives of OPF

- i. To impart knowledge on modern lines.
- ii. To provides conducive atmosphere in order to develop the student's potentialities to the full
- iii. To ensure that the student are conversant with the spirit of islam and Pakistan movement
- iv. To cultivate the qualities of initiative and leadership
- v. To foster physical fitness and personality development
- vi. To inculcate sense of self-discipline and orderly behavior

To achieve theses objectives, OPF has planned to impart education in a disciplined atmosphere conducive to the development of a sound personality through.

- i. Highly qualified and experienced teachers.
- ii. Modern techniques of teaching including text books which make the child active participation in the process of education.
- iii. Academic and extra curricular activities such as group meetings of teachers and students, parents and teacher, study tours for children, games/sports and debates(OPF prospectus,2009)

Sources of Finance

The major sources of finance of the foundation are:

- i. Welfare fund created under Emigration aordinance,1979, and rules made thre under.

- ii. Profit of welfare fund.
- iii. Profit overseas employment promoters' securities.

The Foundation is controlled by a Board of Governors with the Minister of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis as its Chairman and Secretary LM & Overseas Pakistanis as Vice Chairman. At present there are thirteen (13) members of the Board of Governors (GOP, 2004)

The Managing Director who is also the member of the Board of Governors is the functional executive head of the Foundation. He executes policies and all business operations. The managing Director is assisted by the Director (Admin & personnel) / Secretary (BOG) of the Foundation in the Administrative affairs and to convene the meeting of the Board of Governors and by a team of Directors/ General Manager and other staff members. For the smooth Functioning of the Foundation, the following division has been set up to achieve its objectives.

Advocacy of OPF

One of the basic pillars of modern industrial and labour relations is the principle of group action by workers. The advocacy of the OP can be done both at home and abroad.

At home, the advocacy of the OP'S is primarily concerned with minimizing any burdens imposed by the government on them, and to seek special privileges for them. Aboard, the cause of the OP is to be advocated to the host government, the employer and the host population. The content of the advocacy may deal with designing or altering Government regulations concerning Pakistan workers. It may deal with obtaining a fair deal and higher recruitment quotes from the host employer. Above all, advocacy abroad should deal with the issue of creating, as far as possible, non- prejudicial attitude towards the Pakistanis. The history of the Overseas employment is full of examples where natives' sentiments turn against the foreign workers. Perhaps such an eventuality can be controlled or minimized by carefully planning ahead of time.

Advisory Role of OPF

In a modern economy, which is riddled with complex organization, regulations and laws, "information" is of tremendous value. Thus, the possession of appropriate information and the ability to muster it to bring benefits, assumes a key importance in socio-economic brainning process. It is not surprising then that labour union, industry groups and such other special interest agencies place a high priority on keeping their members informed.

As a special interest group of the Overseas Pakistanis and considering the gather and disseminate information on issues of relevance to the causes of the OP's. It would be desirable that the OP's look up to the OPF as a trusted advisor. The advice may be related to procedural matters such as rules about leaving the country, the right to which OP is entitled abroad, the rights about sending money and bringing good to Pakistan. The advice may also be related to the opportunities which the families of the OP's should make use of in Pakistan, and seek benefits from any privileges special to the OP's community. The advice may deal with disseminating information on success and failure stories among the OP's. This information may play a crucial role in influencing the behavior of the OP's.

The advice may deal with the new activities into which the OP's are entering to build a house, to seek education and medical care for their children and to set up business. All these experiences are new to the OP's. They did not have the privilege to be informed these issues, now were they experienced on the matter by virtue of wealth or lineage. It would be helpful if

the OP's were prevented from learning about the above-mentioned activities by burning their hands because they can hardly afford to make a mistake. A one-time chance in their life, which has brought them some prosperity, may never come to repeat itself.

OPF as An Educator

The OPF is playing its role as an educator by setting up prestigious educational institution in the country. Education division was established with the objective to look after the needs of the children of Overseas Pakistanis in education sector. In order to provide quality education to the children of Overseas Pakistanis, OPF have established educational institutions in various provinces/ cities of Pakistan.

Twenty-two OPF Public School and four Colleges at Rawalpindi & Islamabad have been established so far. These Schools/ Colleges follow English as their medium of education, lying due emphasis on local language. Affiliation of these schools /colleges is with Federal / Provincial Boards of Education. Due attention is given to the extracurricular activities of the students of these schools / colleges the total numbers of student in these schools are 13,678 while the numbers of OP's children are 1512, which is 11% of the total strength.

OPF Public Schools / Colleges Province Wise

Table 1. The details of OPF schools are given Below

<i>Province</i>	<i>No of Schools</i>	<i>Location</i>
Punjab	08	Sialkot, Sheikhpura, Multan, Syedan, Gujarat and Depapur
Sindh	05	Dadu, Larkana, Sanghar, Badin and Karachi
NWFP	03	Mansehra, Hangu, and D.I.Khan
Baluchistan	03	Quetta, Turbat and pashtoonabad
AJK	03	Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Kotli

Students' Policy of OPF

The admission to the schools is open at the beginning of the school session.

The priority for admission is as follows:

- a. Children of registered members of OP's
- b. Brother and Sister of the children already studying in the school
- c. Children of overseas Pakistanis are entertained for admission throughout the session only if there is a vacancy in the desired class.

Test is conducted at the time of entry for all classes except Nursery, in the subject of English, Urdu and Maths. Admission is given to those applicants who qualify the test and are in suitable age groups. For admission to class 9th (Science Group) test in general science, Maths and English will be conducted. At the primary level a progressive and advanced nature syllabus has been introduced. The syllabus is within the parameters and in accordance with the National Curriculum. Syllabuses prescribed by the respective Boards of secondary Education are adopted in secondary classes.

The School is being run on non-profit basic. Management of OPF believes that quality education is an undeniable right of every student and strives to promote academic standards of the highest quality at and affordable price. Concession tuition fee is given as follows:-

- a. Fee concession to the children of OP's 50%
- b. Brother/sister concession 20%
- c. Fee concession to orphan children

The students are provided with an opportunity to develop confidence and creativity. Daily Morning assembly is utilized for recitation from the Holy Quran and Public speaking. A weekly tutorial session in each section forms an important forum where students display their inherent talents. Additionally, annual debates, declamations, quiz competitions and speech contests in English and Urdu are some of the impressive events of OPF institutions

The School arranges recreational and educational tours to different places of historical /general significance. This enables the students to interact and meet with people outside the school there by developing perspective view of the society (OPF prospectus, 2009).

Secondary Education

Secondary education is an important sub-sector of the entire educational system. On the one hand, it provides the middle level work force for the economy and on the other; it acts as a feeder for the higher level of education. Higher education, which is expected to produce quality professional in different fields, hinges on the quality of secondary education. This level of education, therefore, needs to be revamped in such a way that it prepares young men and women for the pursuit of higher education as well as prepares them to adjust to their practical lives meaningfully and productively.

Secondary Education is the linchpin of the whole education system. Considering the challenges that are presented to it by the development of knowledge, the age of technology and economic, social and cultural development, it would not be an exaggeration to say that everything arises from it and coverage's on it. It is, or should be, at the heart of any attempt to reform and education system (National Education Policy 1992)

The goals of education have been determined envisaged in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. To bring about national integration and make an individual a better Muslim through an educational system based on basic philosophy and ideology of Pakistan, i.e. to emphasize intellectual, moral and physical well-being of an individual in the light of the Quran and the Sunah and to make him/her capable of leading successful life as a Muslim by properly educating himself/ her self and by adopting an occupation of his / her choice earning a respectful living. To make secondary education free and compulsory within a short span of times. To eradicate illiteracy and to promote the national and provincial languages of Pakistan;

The objectives of Secondary education in general terms are as under

- i. To prepare the students for higher education.
- ii. To provide pre-professional education.
- iii. To provide technical and commercial education or to prepare for technical or commercial educational at university level.
- iv. To provide general education for manning lower orders jobs.
- v. To prepare for self-employment.
- vi. The specific objectives of the curriculum of secondary education are framed subject-wise. The goals, aim and objectives of education are formulated by the expert committee under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following were the objectives of the study:

- i. To explore the contribution of OPF for welfare of overseas of Pakistan.
- ii. To analyze the performance OP's students at secondary level.
- iii. To analyze the overall academic input & output of the targeted educational institutions.

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The study is descriptive in nature. Survey method was used to assess the contribution of OPF schools for Pakistani' at secondary level. There were three OPF institutions in the target area. The heads of all the three institutions and the eighty teacher of secondary level of OPF institutions served as the population. 100 % heads of the OPF institution within the targeted area and 50% teachers teaching secondary classes from all the institution were taken as sample. Sample of the study details as:

Table 2

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sample</i>
OPF Girls College Rawalpindi	10	5
OPF Girls College Islamabad	50	25
OPF Boys College Islamabad	20	10
Total	80	40

Two detailed questionnaire were developed for secondary school teacher and head of the institution, the questionnaires comprises all necessary aspect related to the job of secondary school teacher and heads of the institutions. The collected data by keeping in views the objective of the study the mean score method was used.

DISCUSSION

The finding of the study inferred that OPF is providing physical facilities in its institution to a satisfactory extent. The teacher of the OPF institution is regular and full time teacher. Learning in these institutions are student' based and teachers try to involve students in discussion during lecturer and always encouraging questioning from students to clear their concepts. The positive responses of teacher towards students' and parents' complaints is an indicator pointing that teachers are devoted ,hardworking and work at their best which gives us understanding about education system of OPF where environment for teaching learning processes is conducive.

The performance of students of secondary level was analyzed from their SSC results and it was found that a majority of students passed their SSC examination in B grades. It is therefore ,recommended that the OPF institution need improvement in Board results in term of quality .This may be done by giving incentive to teachers ,on their better performance .

Finding of the study also revealed that OP's students are given preference during admission processes and review of literature reveled that OP's students are given 50% concession in fee

which shows the efforts made by the OPF for the welfare of children of Overseas Pakistan although much more still needs to be done in this area.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the finding following conclusion are drawn: Physical facilities are available in OPF educational institution but there is considerable room for further improvement. Teachers are qualified and their salary packages are satisfactory. Female teacher used A,V while teacher but male teacher are less uses of the A.V aids in the class room. There is proper and regular arrangement of the PAT in all institution and PTM are held at regular interval, it means that there is no communication gap between teacher and parents. Teacher prepares the lesson plan, but there is no monitoring and evaluation in OPF institution. There is no arrangement of the ongoing training of the teacher. OPF annual result is satisfactory. Additional coaching is provided in most of the OPF institution to the weak student. There is conflict of opinion regarding teacher training few of the heads of the institution suggested it should be on annually basis but few in the favors on term basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the results and conclusions.

1. The principals may ask the teacher to use A.V aids frequently in the classrooms to increase the understanding of the students in the respective subjects
2. Management of OPF may arrange teacher training program annually in the institution in consultations with the principles to acquaint them with updated knowledge in their respective subject, new teaching techniques and methodologies.
3. Performance based incentive may be given to the teachers by the management of OPF on the recommendation of the principle to increase their level of motivation or to encourage the teachers in the form of appreciation letters.
4. The principle may constitute committees in the institutions to monitor and evaluate the performance of teacher before and after training.
5. On-line teacher training program may be arranged by the management of OPF.

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