

# OPF plans for scholarships to Pak expatriates children

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Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) is working on a plan to initiate scholarships and financial subsidy for entitled students in order to facilitate and adjust maximum numbers of overseas Pakistanis' children.

Currently, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) is running 24 educational institutions across the country that have no capacity to ensure admission and education for six million children of Pakistani expatriates. The OPF, previously, planned to open up additional schools in the country including Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

An official source of the ministry told APP Thursday that the prime objective of the new plan was to accommodate maximum children of overseas Pakistanis.

Elucidating the plan, he said the OPF has decided in its last meeting of Board of Directors to provide financial assistance to the children of Pakistan expatriates in terms of scholarships or stipend since the families of overseas are scattered across the country. The role of OPF has also been changed to a facilitator from service-provider, he added.

He said the matter is submitted before the Senate sub-committee on OP&HRD and decision is likely to come in next meeting.

It is pertinent to mention that the Article 5 of the OPF's Memorandum of Association said, "The organization is mandated to establish, manage or give grants to run educational/ religious institutions including alternative method of learning in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir and overseas for the children of overseas workers."—APP