

PREFACE

Today, people from Bihar are the backbone of Indian administrative machinery. They have been doing exceptionally well in the corporate world as well as in different areas of scientific research, medical and engineering. Credit goes to those selfless souls who truly cared about serving the society and worked tirelessly to upgrade the lives of people around them.

Towards the end of the 20th century, certain people took it upon themselves to prepare the future generations of Bihar to meet the challenges of globalisation as well as to make the most of the opportunities it was supposed to bring to the country.

There was a new awakening. Bihar witnessed yet another phase of reform – introduction of English medium schools imparting modern education. Everyone who decided to make a contribution did it for self satisfaction... no matter whether they belonged to a princely state... or came from a family that has been producing top professionals for generations.

As we are approaching the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, we decided to look for those unsung heroes and document their efforts for posterity. We travelled the length-and-breadth of Bihar and came across several individuals who braved the challenges and continued the mission. We zeroed in on indigenously developed CBSE-affiliated schools and selected one top institution from each district.

This book, "Educational Alchemists: Transforming Bihar's Districts," celebrates the legacy of twenty visionary educators who transformed socio-economic conditions in their neighbourhood through quality education.

As you flip through pages of the book, you will come across stories of several real life heroes including someone who was a UGC scholar with a PhD degree at an early age of 23 but decided to forego a lucrative career in research and academics to serve the society. The book also traces the cases of top corporate professionals who quit their jobs to give positive direction to hundreds of youth in small towns. While certain edupreneurs came forward and established quality schools offering modern education, several educationists also resigned from top institutions in big cities and returned home to serve children in their neighbourhood.

We present this book to you with great expectations that it will help shine a light on such a dynamic region of India, demonstrating that the challenges and opportunities confronting Bihar are unique and worthy of discussion by academics, businesses and governments.

—IMRAN MOJIB

FOREWORD

**“Education is not merely the imparting of knowledge;
it is the key to unlocking the vast potential within every individual!”**



Ashit Kukian
CEO, Radio City

As we delve into the pages of 'Educational Alchemists Transforming Bihar's Districts,' we embark on a journey through the educational landscape of Bihar, a state committed to the transformative power of learning.

Over the past decade, Bihar has witnessed a remarkable shift in its approach to education. The rise of private schools has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational narrative, offering not just classrooms but vibrant spaces where young minds can thrive and evolve. In this Coffee Table Book, we celebrate these institutions that have become beacons of quality education, providing a platform for holistic development.

Each school featured in these pages represents more than just an institution; it symbolises a commitment to nurturing young talents, fostering a globally-inclusive community, and providing endless extracurricular opportunities for character development. These educational alchemists are moulding the future of Bihar, one student at a time.

However, we must acknowledge the challenges that persist. Disparities in infrastructure, varying student-teacher ratios, and the quest for quality education create concerns for parents seeking the best for their children. This book serves not only as a tribute to the achievements of these schools but also as a guide for parents navigating the important decision of choosing the right educational path for their wards.

Our Radio City team has embarked on an initiative to showcase a visual and editorial journey through the rich history and legacy of these schools. This book is our effort to honour and showcase the dedication and passion of educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bihar.

May this compilation serve as a source of inspiration and information, igniting conversations that transcend words. Let us collectively strive towards a future where every child in Bihar has access to quality education, unlocking their limitless potential.

— **Ashit Kukian**
CEO, Radio City





Satish Chandra Singh & Sharda Singh



He set up a school in a rented apartment in Munger and started classes on 18th April, 1994, with five students. It was a small initiative but supported by eminent citizens of Munger. Retired principal of Netarhat Vidyalaya Dr Ramdev Tripathi, JRS College Principal Dr Ram Prakash and Kashinath Pandey attended the inaugural function. It gave him courage and publicity to the school.

Spiritual Power

Satish said that since its inception this school is inspired, animated and characterised by the charismatic spirit of Awadhoot Bhagwan Ram and is devoted to inculcate in every individual the spirit of simplicity, humility and core human values through yoga-based education.

He said, "The school seeks to mould each of its students along the lines of the dreams of Baba Awadhoot Bhagwan Ram had seen for his disciples. Everyone is born for a purpose. He is alive to execute a divine agenda. This understanding is foundational and fundamental to making one's life count. The purpose of life is peace.... This is one of the greatest lessons life has ever taught me."

"Spirituality varies from person to person. However, it is essentially the practice of finding peace and purpose in life. Do what makes you feel at peace in your days. It's all about living your life moment to moment. Spreading education through this school gave me peace. It was not possible without active support from my wife Sharda Singh," he said.

Sharda Singh, an alumna of the eminent Patna Women's College, Patna, from where she did post graduation in Political Science, took the responsibility of Principal of the school. She played the dual responsibility of administrator and teacher both very well.

With the husband-wife duo's firm conviction and support from the local people, the school enrollment increased by leaps and bounds. To accommodate the increasing number of students, the school got shifted to a bigger premise in 1998. At the same time, the academic facilities were also extended up to Class 8.

With the passage of time, a plot of land was purchased for the school and construction of a dedicated school building started. In 2009, the school was shifted to its own building.

"Whatever we earned, we kept investing in the school. From purchase of land to construction of the building to furnish it with modern infrastructure, our focus remained on the school's growth. Slowly, we extended the school up to Class 10th and applied to the CBSE, New Delhi, for affiliation, which was granted in 2013. The affiliation was extended up to +2 level in 2021," he said.



To maintain proper focus on the tiny-tots, they have set up a nursery school in a separate campus, close to the academy. Named Kangaroo Care, the playschool delivers the early years foundation stage education to children from Pre - Nursery to UKG. The purpose-built campus also has a lush green outdoor garden and play area.

The Hallmark

Satish Chandra Singh said that he never felt challenged as running the academy was a mission for him. The only challenge he faced was in getting qualified teachers.

"We had to recruit unskilled teachers and train them to meet the standard we wanted to maintain. We were fortunate that they stayed with the school for a longer period. With their knowledge and dedication they became a hallmark of the academy. Several of them remained associated till retirement," he added.

“ The school has committed faculty members who have come from accomplished backgrounds with vast experience. The school serves proper and systematic education to the learners through an English medium environment, and focuses on all round development of students for their future by providing smart class, computer, spoken English training, music & dance, dramas, sports and games, cultural activities, educational trip, excursion and multilingual facilities.

– Satish Chandra Singh



Not just the students, Satish took good care of the school's teaching and non-teaching staff as well. To ensure their growth with the school, he introduced a proper salary structure with the facilities of EPFO as well. He believed that everyone associated with the school is a member of the Awadhoot family and taking care of their welfare is his responsibility.

"The school's real asset is the people associated with it. Without their dedicated efforts, the school couldn't have achieved the towering success it has accomplished since its inception. All teaching as well as non-teaching staff remained associated with the mission of the school. If they were not close to the mission, it was not possible to translate my vision," he said.

The school has an uncompromising commitment. It aims to achieve remarkable results from all students. The school has a vision to provide character and value-based education to young minds and a dynamic learning environment. It supports every student who strives for excellence through active learning and education.

He said, "The school's motto is 'Enlighten thy soul and strive to spread It.' Every Awadhoot student is expected to manifest a behaviour truly inspired by this ideal, as sincere students and noble citizens."

Holistic Development

The school is aimed at providing children with a career-oriented education, which is student-centric and intensive, so that they grow to become

intellectually sound and morally strong skilled people to excel in any situation, anywhere in the world.

"We take our responsibilities towards the students, towards the cause of knowledge, and towards society, very seriously. For students, it is not just an institution of learning but a place where their characters and values are shaped. The school has the necessary infrastructure for this purpose including well-maintained classrooms, a well-stocked library, modern scientific laboratories, computer lab and facilities for indoor and outdoor games," he said.

Infrastructure

The academy has laid stress on developing comprehension, analytical powers, and the honing of one's creative and critical abilities. The library acts as a great stimulating agent, offering articles, data, and anecdotes on topics as diverse as possible. It is an absolute paradise for book-lovers. From important sample papers of the board exams to delightful one-act plays, browsing through books in any corner of the library is an experience, both enlightening and pleasurable. The ambience of the library has an innate ability to motivate youngsters to learn and broaden their perspective.

"Stocked with several thousand books, the library caters to every subject, be it history, social studies, science, literature, psychology, sociology or economics. In many ways the library makes the students realise where their interest and skills lie. It has encouraged them to dream and work tirelessly and has taught them that learning is not just limited





to mechanical classroom teaching methods but it can also be a real fun," he added.

The Mathematics Lab has an attractive and modern design and is equipped with numerous modern tools and techniques to help students learn the application of what they study. The objective of the lab is to expose students to the world of modern Mathematics and make the subject more interesting and fun!

The school has separate labs for Physics, Chemistry and Biology. A well-equipped, efficient and spacious Physics lab is accessible to all students from classes IX to XII. The students, under the guidance of their Physics teacher and the lab assistants, perform a range of experiments to grab a better understanding of their lessons.

A properly ventilated Chemistry lab provides for all the needs of the various students of Classes 9 – 12, where they can perform a variety of experiments in groups of maximum 35 students. The lab is equipped with a storage room, well-stocked with chemicals, apparatus and a number of charts required for different classes are present, and under the expert supervision of the lab assistant and the Chemistry.

An efficient Biology lab with a number of specimens according to different phylum, permanent slides, three-dimensional models, charts and reagent shelves are present in the school. The students can

perform the corresponding experiments under the knowledgeable guidance of the Biology teacher and the lab assistant, and make their theoretical lessons all the more fruitful with hands-on experiments.

Every day, a number of Awadhoot Academy students can be seen marching their way to the IT lab to keep them abreast with the latest technology. In this well-developed and fully-equipped lab, the students find a place to apply their theoretical knowledge to the actual technical know-how. To enhance the experience of the marvelous virtual world, the school has skilled and knowledgeable teachers who with their expertise lead the students through this complex yet splendid world.

The school also has a Science Club. The aim of the club is to create active interest in scientific learning and scientific attitude in which students are encouraged to participate in science symposium, essay competitions, quizzes, poster-making and model-making on scientific subjects.

Portico, an open stage, is the nerve centre of Awadhoot Academy, Munger. All assemblies, special ceremonies, such as prize distributions, farewell, Children's Day, Saraswati Puja celebration and other such events are held there. Built in a rectangular style, it can seat around 2000 people and the rectangular stage can easily accommodate 20 to 50 children during a performance.

“ Three decades ago, when the school was set up, the local community's expectations were different from the expectations they have today. We have also tried to meet their expectations throughout the 30 year journey. The challenging atmosphere, competitive environment and the career guidance provided by Awadhoot Academy to its students today, make the students intellectually competent, morally sound and character-wise strong and upright.

– Sharda Singh

Shaping the Future

Sharda Singh said that most of the schools appear to be the same with claims to top faculty, best facilities and commitment to diversity. In true sense, there is a scarcity of good schools. Awadhoot Academy was evolved with the objective of shaping the future of the students with unparalleled zeal and devotion.



The potential wealth of a nation lies in its natural resources. In a developing nation like ours, the main task is to tap these latent sources to channelise energy released in a constructive manner. One of the greatest sources of untapped potential is its children.

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**and
the journey
continues ...**



