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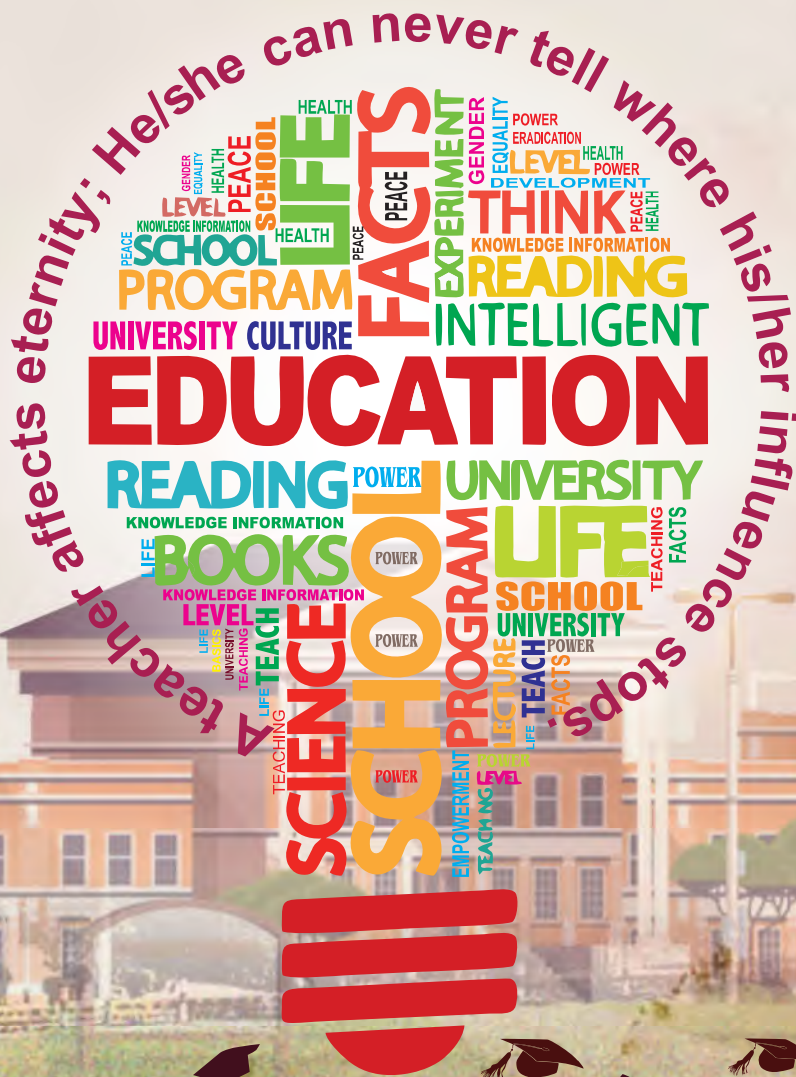
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Radio City

PRESENTS

# EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

*Transforming Bihar's Districts*

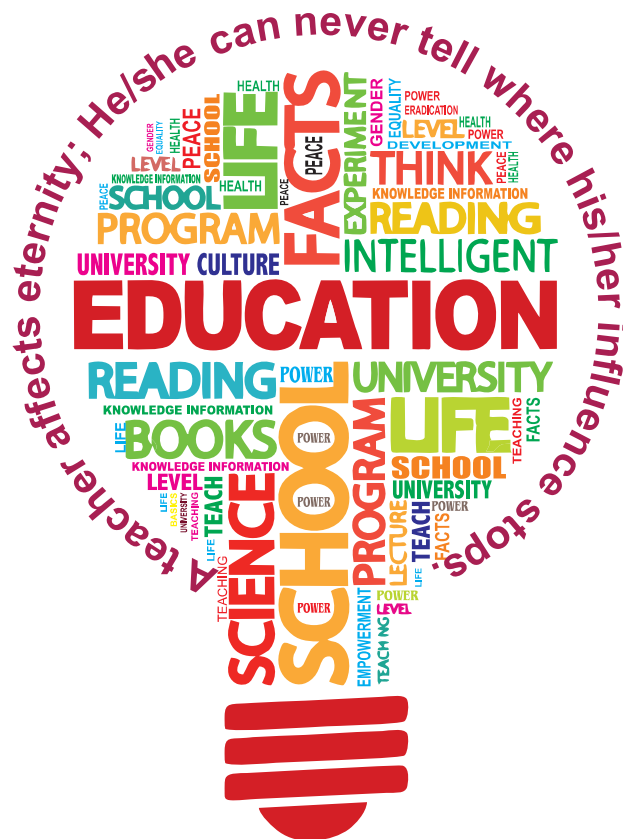




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## *Transforming Bihar's Districts*

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### *Disclaimer*

This inspirational book is a biographical narrative that reveals the unique thought process, grand vision, untiring efforts and enthralling anecdotes of top achievers in the field of private education in Bihar.

Every article is based on the information shared by the featured person in a freewheeling chat with the author. On certain occasions, additional information and photographs were provided by them through their representatives or sourced from the featured organisation's website or its publication available in the public domain.

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## PREFACE

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**T**oday, 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!”**

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**Ashit Kukian**  
CEO, Radio City

**A**s 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



**Bijendra Narayan Choudhary, an eminent resident of Village Parora in Purnia district, was one visionary who understood that it is crucial to promote equal educational opportunities and empower women to become agents of change in society. He didn't just advocate it, but practised it as well. He used to run a school in his village Parora, located about 15 kilometres away from Purnia town.**

*– Bhanu Bhaskar*



# Bringing Academic Excellence To The Fore



In a short span of time, the Bijendra Public School, Purnia, has earned a name by providing unique learning environment to nurture the child intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically through a core curriculum and enrichment classes

India has witnessed several movements advocating women's education and empowerment. These movements were also supported by eminent social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Pandita Ramabai, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Savitribai Phule, Anne Besant, and Mahatma Gandhi. They played significant roles in advocating for women's education and empowering them. But these national movements failed to have any significant impact on women's condition in Bihar. Even in independent India, several successive governments' strong commitment to universal education failed to make a mark. It was efforts made by people from Bihar that contributed to the growth and progress of women's education in the state.

Bijendra Narayan Choudhary, an eminent resident of Village Parora in Purnia district, was one visionary who understood that it is crucial to

promote equal educational opportunities and empower women to become agents of change in society. He didn't just advocate it, but practised it as well. He used to run a school in his village Parora, located about 15 kilometres away from Purnia town.

Bhanu Bhaskar, grandson of late Bijendra Narayan Choudhary, said, "My grandfather was much ahead of his time. Not just women's education, he was a strong advocate of women's empowerment as well. In a society where father-in-law and daughter-in-law barely sit together, he used to discuss socio-political issues with my mother. During one such discussion he had shared his vision to establish a school to promote girl education. After his death, my mother shared his wish with my father, Krishna Murari Choudhary. He immediately agreed to fulfil the dream. This school is the fulfillment of that dream."



- 1998 : Krishna Murari Choudhary formed a society and planned to set up a school in the memory of his beloved father, late Bijendra Narayan Choudhary.
- 2001 : The school became operational with about 50 students and classes ranging from Nursery to Grade V.
- 2006 : The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, granted affiliation till grade 10.
- 2008 : The CBSE further upgraded the school affiliation up to +2 level.
- 2008 : The school got recognised for its quality management and is accredited ISO 9001:2008 certificate.
- 2017 : School student Archi Kumari scored 96.6% marks in Grade XII examination conducted by the CBSE. She stood first in Purnia district and got second rank in Bihar.

the school for girls only, as per the wish of his grandfather late Bijendra Narayan Choudhary. However, considering the requirements of the society they opened the gates to girls and boys both.

“It is a school created with a vision to provide equal opportunity for all strata of society and offering quality education for the community in Purnia and its neighbourhood,” he said.

The school situated in the green and natural surroundings of Purnia, epitomises the joy of learning. It aspires towards creating a just and humane society where dignity of every human being is respected, where unjust social structures are challenged, where the cultural heritage of non-violence, religious harmony and national integration are upheld and where the poor and marginalised are specially taken care of.

When the school started functioning in 2001, there were about 50 students in classes ranging from Nursery to Grade V. One new class was added every subsequent year. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, granted affiliation till grade 10 in 2006. It was further upgraded up to +2 level in 2008. The school is also recognised for its quality management and is accredited ISO 9001:2008 certificate which is another unique feat for any school in this area.

In 1998, Krishna Murari Choudhary formed a society and planned to set up a school in the memory of his beloved father, late Bijendra Narayan Choudhary, to fulfill his aspiration of providing the best education at an affordable expense for the people. The plan to start the school got delayed for two years due to his illness.

The school was named Bijendra Public School and became operational in 2001. Bhanu Bhaskar, son of Krishna Murari Choudhary, was assigned to look after the affairs of the school as its Managing Director.

“My father passed away on 20th August 2003 after a brief illness. So we were disturbed in 2003-2004. That’s why the CBSE affiliation was also delayed,” he said.







*Krishnan CC, principal of the school, presents a trophy to the winner.*

### ***The Hallmark***

Academics have always been the forte and hallmark of this institution. The well trained, dedicated and professionally updated educators ensure the holistic development of every child under their care. The rigorous academic schedule, experiential learning, stress-free school atmosphere and encouraging educators motivate the learners to put in their best efforts and excel in academic results, bringing laurels to the school, their parents and the society at large

“Our faculty is quite strong. We have a pool of teachers who can prepare the entire batch to face the challenges of the new era. We have a mix of faculty. Some of them were teaching at colleges before joining our school. They help students clear the concept. While, several others were earlier teaching at prominent coaching institutes to prepare students for competitive exams. Thus they help students prepare themselves for competitive exams,” he added.

As a result several students have cleared NEET and JEE and have been enrolled in many prestigious professional institutions in India. Many are serving in different walks of life, giving back to the society what they gained from the school. Some of the students who have recently cracked NEET, one of the toughest entrance examinations in the country, are Bhavya Mishra, Shailaja Bharati and Swarnil Priyam.

“When we talk about future challenges, we don't talk only about medical and engineering entrance tests. There is a huge world beyond that. We give equal importance to Humanities. We have got very good

faculty members to teach arts subjects to our students. Similarly for the Commerce stream also, we have accomplished teachers,” he added.

He pointed out that a pool of teachers remain available at the campus to help students clear any doubts in academics, they don't need to wait till next class to ask it from the teacher. It was the teachers' dedicated efforts that the students performed extremely well in board examinations.

Bobby Prashant, a student of the school topped in Bihar and Jharkhand and got 4th rank all over India in CBSE Grade X exam 2020. She scored 99.2% marks. She continued her studies at Bijendra Public School and topped in Grade XII examination 2022 with 94.2%. In 2017, another student Archi Kumari scored 96.6% marks in Grade XII examination conducted by the CBSE. She stood first in Purnia district and got second rank in Bihar.

“While recruiting teachers, we always maintained a mix from local and outside Bihar to suit the needs of the school. Selection of teachers was not very difficult. A number of good teachers from Purnia and nearby places were already working in other cities. When we contacted them, they loved to join our school as it allowed them to live with their families. They also got a chance to give back to the society they belonged to,” said Bhanu Bhaskar.

### ***Kinaesthetic Learning***

Kinaesthetic learning is the predominant learning style of the majority of students, as against visual and auditory learning. Keeping this in mind, students are involved in lab activities in primary and middle school.

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– *Bhanu Bhaskar*

The tiny tots, following the path of Montessori, learn through self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play. Age appropriate play way method is an integral part of the academic transaction for this age group. The highly trained teachers handle them amicably in a safe and secure environment leading to their holistic development.

AI and Robotics have brought about revolutionary changes among the tech-savvy students of the modern era. As such, these are incorporated in the curriculum to keep them abreast of the ever-changing tech-world.

For language development, the school holds compulsory language lab sessions, teaches one foreign language, and provides regular tutorials by

Oratory clubs. Such dedicated activities help inculcate brilliance in education, mastery in languages, ensures reinforcement of talents and develops physical soberness.

Skill development has also been our priority as it enables students to be independent and self-sufficient. This in turn will help our nation to be as developed as envisioned by our leaders.

Bhanu Bhaskar said, “We wish to provide several other facilities at the school to prepare students to perform well not just in studies but in sports and games as well. But, the socio-economic strata we serve here are focused on job-oriented education. The people's mindset has remained the same where curricular activities remain supreme. Still, children don't study at home if they don't get homework. It is kind of a pressure on children. Parents complain about it, too. There is no culture of studying at home in advance so that they understand the subject matter better in the classroom.”

“Accepting change is very difficult. Even if we try to provide all the co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes being practiced at schools in metro cities, it won't be accepted. We keep talking about smart classrooms, but children are habitual of the blackboard learning. We can't make sudden changes,” he added.

### *Holistic Development*

Despite such social conditions, the importance of co-curricular activities in school education and its necessity for a holistic development of a student's personality is well established. Co-curricular activities like music, dance, drawing, painting, debates, elocutions, yoga and taekwondo form an integral part of the learning process in the school.



compulsory to participate in sports & games, and fine arts. Regular sessions are conducted on applied arts. Adventure activities are also organised periodically. To organise regular extracurricular activities, the school has been divided into four houses, namely Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram and Priyam. Inter-house competitions are held every Saturday," he said.

To achieve the students overall development, the school organises a number of co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities. Saturdays are reserved for such activities. Sports week, quizzes, poster-making, debate, science exhibition, writing competitions, music and dances, art contests. We organise one activity every Saturday to prepare the students and to fulfil the modern era demands.

Muskan, a quiz wizard, had the great honour of sitting opposite the legendary Amitabh Bachchan in Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) in 2012.

### *Academic Excellence*

Dr Krishnan CC, principal of the school, said that the school has got a name for its academic results. His team will continue to focus on maintaining it.

encouraging results in various exams, the teachers analyse each child's performance and write down names of the slow learners after each exam. They have a lesson diary, where they write names of the weak learners after every exam who need extra attention. They plan accordingly to improve the child's performance.

"This exercise also helps realise whether the child has a problem in reading, or writing, or understanding the subject matter. Accordingly, the child is trained and given individual attention so that the child improves by the next exam," he said.

At present about 1500 students are enrolled at the school. The number has been kept limited deliberately. The number had reached 3000, but we realised the need to reduce the number to focus on the students' proper education and training.

"We could maintain the limited number because the school is not a business venture for us. We want to focus on students' overall development. Whatever profit is earned every year is invested in the school's development," concluded Bhanu Bhaskar.



**and  
the journey  
continues ...**



