



PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

Transforming Bihar's Districts

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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.

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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



Dharmansh Ranjan



Pioneering A New Model Of Education



The sole focus on bringing out the unique capabilities of each student, promoting critical thinking rather than rote learning and encouragement to scientific temperament has made Holy Mission High School, Samastipur, the most sought after institution in the region

The 1980s was an era when north Bihar was suffering from the lack of all developmental amenities – be it road, power or education. Extreme economic backwardness had compelled many children of this region to drop out from schools. Even intelligent students of the region used to suffer as many of them could not afford to go to other cities for modern education.

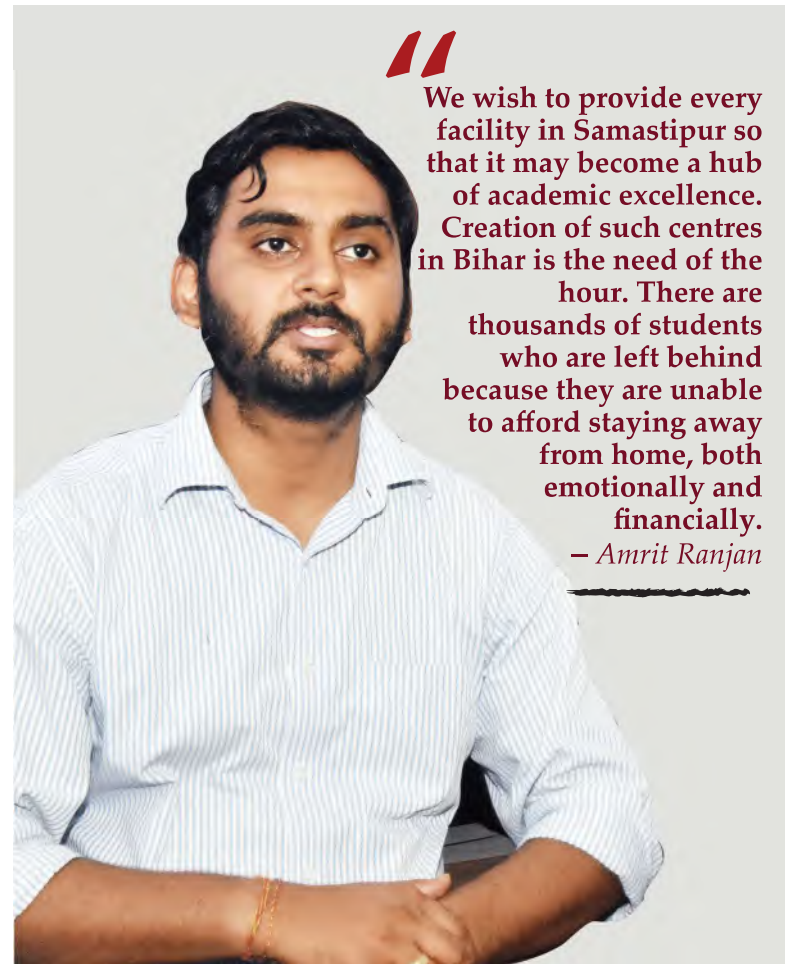
This challenging scenario compelled a meritorious son of the soil to forego his dream of becoming a civil servant and return to his homeland to establish a good English-medium school in the north Bihar town of Samastipur.

That son of the soil was none other than Late Rati Ranjan Prasad, who established Holy Mission High School, the first and most prominent public school in English medium at Samastipur in 1987.

Rati Ranjan Prasad's wife Bibha Devi said that he had left home in late 1970s for Patna in pursuit of higher education. After completing graduation, he did Post-Graduation in Social Science. Later, he also earned a B.Ed. degree. This paved the way to start a career as an academician. Simultaneously, he was also preparing for the civil services competitions.



Bibha Devi



We wish to provide every facility in Samastipur so that it may become a hub of academic excellence. Creation of such centres in Bihar is the need of the hour. There are thousands of students who are left behind because they are unable to afford staying away from home, both emotionally and financially.

– Amrit Ranjan

Rati Ranjan Prasad: Man of Courage, Conviction And Dedication

The flowering of Holy Mission High School, Samastipur, owes to the indomitable courage, conviction and selfless dedication of its founder, late Rati Ranjan Prasad.

Born in a simple family based in Warisnagar of Samastipur district, a remote flood-prone area of Bihar in 1959, Rati Ranjan Prasad was a brilliant child. While having primary education in the village, he won admiration from one and all. Due to the lack of a good high school in the village, he moved to Samastipur for further studies. With sheer determination, he performed well in school examinations.

In 1978, he passed I.Sc. (Grade 12) exam with flying colours. Encouraged by the outstanding performance, he moved to Patna for higher studies. After completing post-graduation in social science, he also earned a B.Ed. degree. This paved the way to start a career as an academician. He joined a prominent school in the state capital as a faculty member. At the same time, he also started preparation for civil services and other competitive examinations.

But he left his dream of joining civil services to fulfil a more important dream of setting up the first English school of Samastipur to educate the coming generations. Soon, he also got support from the society and a number of learned people joined his mission.

In 1996, the school was shifted to its own premises at Mohanpur. In 1997, the school got affiliated to the CBSE, New Delhi, for Grade 10. In 1998, the CBSE, New Delhi, granted affiliation to the school for Grade 12 as well.

It was the result of Rati Ranjan Prasad's relentless efforts. For eleven years, he pursued the goals with passion, worked ceaselessly, tirelessly and persistently and refused to be bogged down by hardships or short-term failures. It was time now to give a new shape to his dreams, but destiny had its other plans when in 2000, he suffered a heart attack and left this land of his creations forever.

His personality possessed some specific traits which made him unique. His power of observing the efficiency of a teacher was superb. He never allowed any near or dear ones to interfere in his institutional affairs. Whoever met him, got captivated by his words. He enjoyed special bonding with parents and guardians of the students.

The school used to be a hectic site for academic deliberation till late evening. Several professors and other scholars used to sit with him for hours at the



school every day and discussed educational betterment of children. He never allowed any adversary to hamper his pace of positive march.

He wanted to open an engineering college in Samastipur. He was kind and sociable in nature. He used to help many in the hour of need. He also helped many schools in their establishment and affiliation. He never allowed anyone to underestimate the Holy Mission.

Even after the first heart attack, while he was on medication, he used to sit in the office and commanded the daily affairs of the school, so that none would feel that the school is weak. He wanted to keep the school functioning absolutely intact. When he was contesting the parliamentary election, he didn't enter the school campus during the entire election campaign to avoid any interference in the academic activities by the political groups and masses.

His entire life can be remembered as an embodiment of inspiration by one and all. His life gives a big message to all of us. He used to say that your personality shines when you act as an employee, not only as an employer.

His legacy continues to draw people from all cultures and sections of life to the Holy Mission to seek what they want for a brighter tomorrow.

His soul must be at peace in heaven as his Holy Mission has been producing talented individuals to serve various sectors including medical, engineering, civil services, defence, agriculture, banks, business, and sports across the globe.



In the late 1980s, he realised the lack of education system in Samastipur and how children were facing numerous challenges, including unequal access to education, outdated curricula and unequal opportunity for all boys and girls. Poor quality education was leading to poor learning outcomes, ultimately pushing children out of the education system and leaving them vulnerable to child labour.

Moved by the plight of the people, he discussed the situation with his friends and relatives and decided to start an educational institution that would meet the people's expectation.

With lack of resources, he decided to take a step in this direction. He started the first English-medium school in Samastipur in a rented flat with limited classes – from Prep to Grade 2.

Bibha Devi, who was just-married to Rati Ranjan Prasad, stood shoulder to shoulder with her husband.

Slowly and steadily the school became popular amongst the masses and within two years the management decided to shift the school to a bigger building to give better facilities to its students and to cater to the growing demand of expansion.

It was the result of Rati Ranjan Prasad's relentless efforts that within a span of eleven years, the school got its own building equipped with all necessary facilities and CBSE affiliation up to Grade 12 in 1998.

The Challenges

As the school rose to a monumental height surprising one and all, there came the biggest tragedy in 2000 when Rati Ranjan Prasad, who was pursuing the goals with passion, suffered massive heart attack and departed for his heavenly abode, stunning the entire city and his well-wishers causing a vast vacuum and leaving behind his wife, their three sons, a daughter and a rich legacy...

It was not easy for the institution or for the family to overcome the challenges that followed.

Although shattered by her husband's sudden demise, Bibha Devi stood strong and took up the command of the school.

However, the journey ahead was a tough task. Several senior members of the team couldn't accept the leadership of a woman and took decisions independently. Their decisions brought several setbacks to the school.

The major blow to the school came when the CBSE, New Delhi, withdrew the affiliation for Grade 12 in the year 2010.

But she never gave up and continued with her mission.

In 2011, she was joined by her eldest son Dharmansh Ranjan. His arrival filled her with renewed energy.

- 1987** : The school started in a small rented apartment in Samastipur.
- 1989** : The school moved to a bigger building in Kashipur, Samastipur.
- 1993** : A plot of land was purchased to construct the school building.
- 1996** : The school was shifted to its own building.
- 1997** : The school got CBSE Affiliation for Grade 10.
- 1998** : The school got CBSE Affiliation up to Grade 12.

Together, they worked hard to bring every segment of the institution to a systematic level. It was their persistent endeavour that the CBSE, New Delhi, restored the affiliation in 2013.

Today, it has a sprawling campus spread over several acres of land with full-fledged facilities. The school is equipped with all modern amenities including science and computer labs to provide practical knowledge to students besides a rich library to update their learning. The school also has its own transport services to cater to the needs of students.

The school has adequate facilities for recreation and a playground with sports materials for the students. Both indoor as well as outdoor sport facilities are available.

The school has its huge residential campus with a hostel for students under the watchful eyes of the school management as the residential complex also includes accommodation for the directors of the school too. The CCTV cameras keep vigilant eyes on every activity of the school.

Bibha Devi, who is serving as the Director of the school, is glad to mention that her sons are taking the school to greater heights while continuing with the same ethos.

Dharmansh Ranjan is currently leading the school as Managing Director. He said that the institute was established with the objective to provide quality education facilities at an affordable fee to the needy and the poor masses of Samastipur and the nearby areas. It is flourishing with the same ideology, even under the leadership of the second generation of the family.

He said that the prime commitment of the school is to develop educational principles and practices which are best-suited to the needs of the local students. The curriculum is constantly reviewed by the school's faculty members and the required changes in the curriculum are brought about in order to evolve a pattern which is most suitable for the students' needs and conditions fully abiding by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi. The students get sufficient impetus for high quality of education from highly competent faculty at each level.

Future Plans

Speaking about future planning, Dharmansh Ranjan asserted that the priority will be to stop migration of students from Samastipur and neighbouring districts due to lack of facilities for higher education. He is seriously planning to start new institutions in Samastipur to achieve it.

Amrit Ranjan, the second son of late Rati Ranjan Prasad, is now serving as the Principal of this prestigious school. He said that, for those from Samastipur or any other locality in the neighbourhood who wish to secure a seat in a medical



ten schools in Samastipur and the neighbouring areas. Our schools will continue to focus on bringing out the unique capabilities of each student. We are also planning to use our expertise and set up equally good institutions for higher education

– Dharmansh Ranjan

and engineering college or to prepare for the civil services competitions, defence services or other examinations, this school will lay a strong foundation for their success.

“We wish to provide every facility at Samastipur so that it may become a hub of academic excellence. Creation of such centres in Bihar is the need of the hour. There are thousands of students who are left behind because they are unable to afford staying away from home and families, both emotionally and financially,” he added.

“If we provide all facilities here, it will certainly encourage more students from the region to achieve greater heights in personal and professional life,” he added.

Amrit Ranjan expressed hope that the New Education Policy (NEP) will slow down the migration of young students who leave home after Grade 10 board exams. Now, students will need to study from Grade 9-12 at the same school.

curriculum with 12 years of schooling and 3 years of pre-schooling will put emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy. No rigid separation between academic streams and extracurricular streams in schools will open doors for new opportunities for students.

The New Education Policy aims at transforming India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower through broad-based, flexible, multi-disciplinary education suited to 21st-century needs. The policy is aimed at universalisation of education from preschool to secondary level school education. It will bring millions of out of school children back into the mainstream.

Dharmansh Ranjan assured that this will bring another opportunity for the growth of good schools imparting quality education. Thus he is planning to establish at least ten schools in Samastipur and the neighbouring areas in near future.

Planning is afoot to launch a new school named after the great visionary Rati Ranjan Prasad. In line with the founder's policy, the new school will also be focused on bringing out the unique capabilities of each student, promoting critical thinking rather than rote learning, focusing on learning and encouragement to scientific temperament. The vision and mission of this school is to provide all the requisite facilities of qualitative standard from K.G. to P.G. in one premises. He wants to prove that good schooling can ensure a flourishing career.



**and
the journey
continues ...**

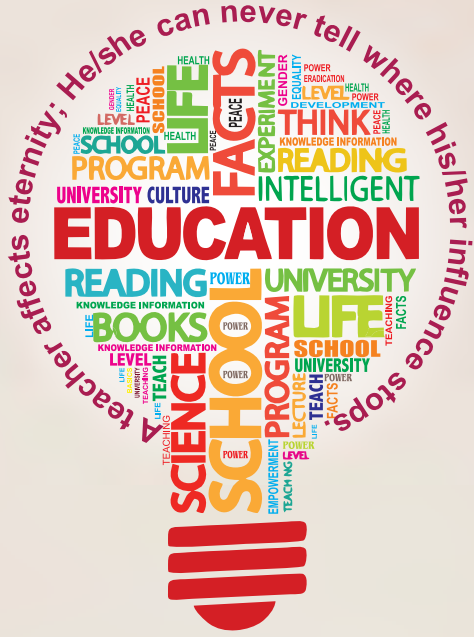




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