



PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

Transforming Bihar's Districts

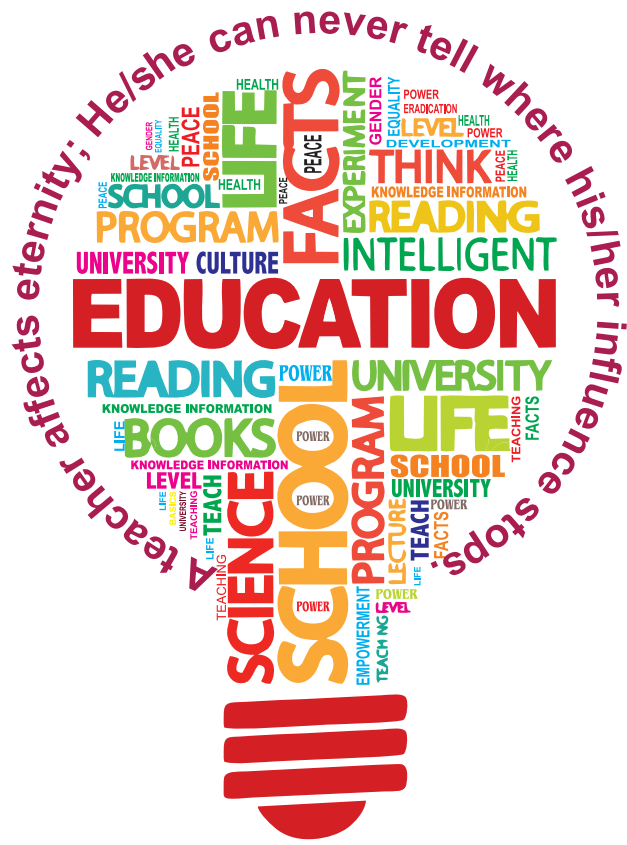




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This inspirational book is a biographical narrative that reveals the unique thought process, grand vision, untiring efforts and enthralling anecdotes of top achievers in the field of private education in Bihar.

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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.

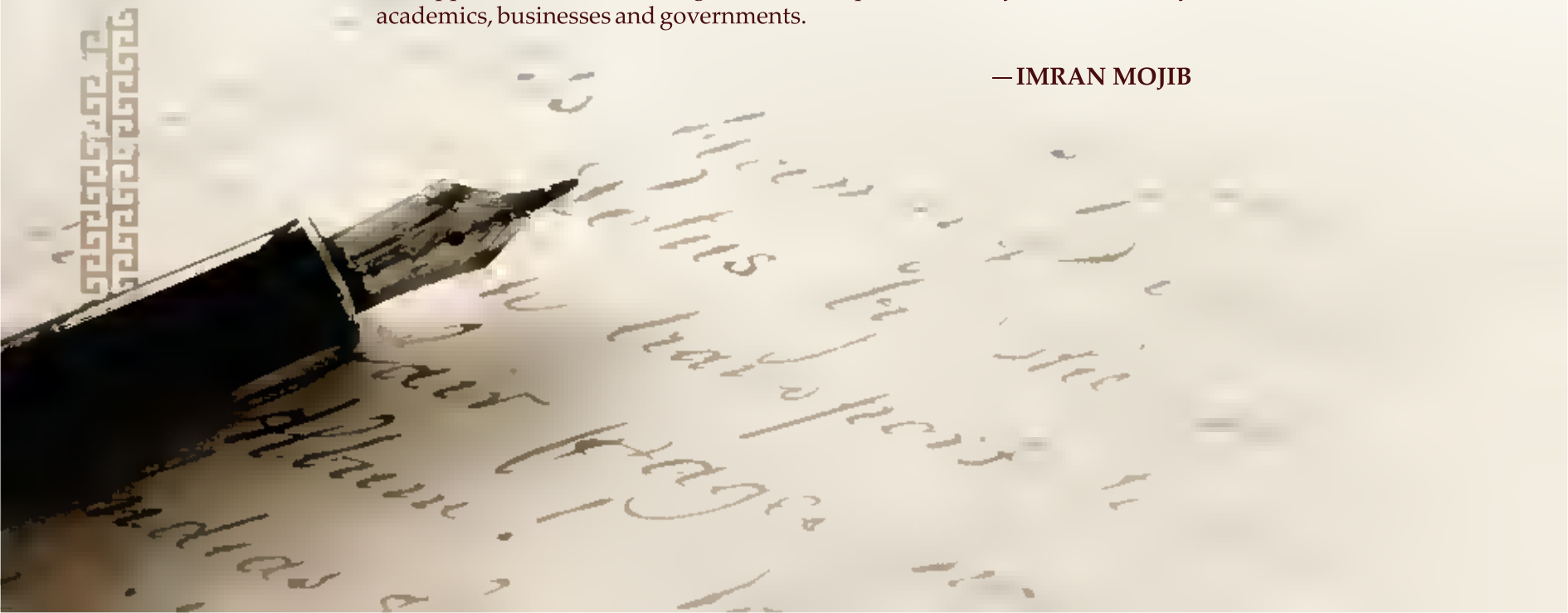
As we are approaching the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, we decided to look for those unsung heroes and document their efforts for posterity. We travelled the length-and-breadth of Bihar and came across several individuals who braved the challenges and continued the mission. We zeroed 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



JESUS & MARY ACADEMY



Dr. Madhurima Sinha

Jesus & Mary Academy, Darbhanga

An Incubator For Talent and Innovation



She was a UGC scholar with a PhD degree at an early age of 23. But she decided to forego a lucrative career in research and academics to serve the society. She founded the Jesus & Mary Academy in Darbhanga and has been nurturing the future generations for the past three decades.

Dr. Madhurima Sinha has become a living legend in her own right

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 too. Credit goes to those selfless souls who truly cared about serving the society and worked tirelessly to upgrade the lives of people around them. Whatever they decided to do, they did it for self satisfaction... no matter whether they belonged to a princely state... or came from a family that has been producing top doctors for generations.

One classic example is the legendary educationist Dr. Madhurima Sinha, founder of the Jesus & Mary Academy, Darbhanga. A UGC scholar with a PhD

degree at an early age of 23, she had a glorious career ahead.

But she decided to stay back in Darbhanga and serve the society by nurturing the future generations of her home town.

"I came from a socialist family. Father was a socialist as well as a very well read man, and a top physician. Mother was also a doctor and a very well-educated lady. I also got married to a doctor from a very affluent family. But things were already embedded to work for the society because my father was like that. He did a lot for the city, for the place and never took any advantage from the government," Dr. Madhurima Sinha.



ACCOLADES

Dr. Madhurima Sinha's dedicated efforts towards upliftment of the society through education has won her many accolades.

2002 : Jewel of India Award by International Institute of Education & Management.

2005 : Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Ekta Samman, New Delhi.

2014 : HRD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani's congratulatory note on students' stellar performance in CBSE examinations.

2018 : Certificate of Appreciation by CBSE, New Delhi, for the excellent performance as City Coordinator, Darbhanga.

2018 : 100 Highly Effective Principals of 2017 Award by AKS Education Awards.

2018 : Rising Personality of the Year by Rifacimento International.

2020 : She received the Doctorate in Education by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

2020 : Bharat Gaurav Award for Best Education Performance by Global Achievers Foundation, presented in Thailand.

Rajiv Gandhi Vidya Gold Award by Indian Solidarity Council.

Shiksha Samman Puraskar by All India Business & Community Foundation.

She also received a bat signed by Rohit Sharma, who currently captains the India national cricket team.

Recalling early days, she said, "These things were embedded when I was growing up. After my marriage, I did the PhD. I was the first UGC scholar of the Lalit Narayan Mithila University (LNMU), Darbhanga. It was through me that the open viva system started in PhD in LNMU, Darbhanga, by her guide Dr. SPandey. My subject was also very different.

"After I got married to a doctor, my husband and I also thought that I would get a lectureship. Since I was research-oriented, I was very happy. But then I thought that I will lose the vigour and the zeal of giving the best to the society through education," she said.

It was her husband who suggested her to open a school. So that those people in the immediate neighbourhood will have a base. Her father also agreed to this idea and gave her a lot of encouragement.

"Without the emotional support of my father, my husband and my family, I couldn't have done this," she said.

"I never wanted to take any monetary help from anyone – neither from my parents nor from my husband. They wanted to help me and made the offers as well but I wanted to see my worth. So I started spending from whatever pocket money I had saved. My daughter was also grown up by then and helped me in many of the deeds," she added.

In 1993, she planned the school. The inception of Jesus & Mary Academy, Darbhanga, soon became a journey of dreams, determinations, dedications, demonstrations, directions, discipline, dignity and creating difference in education with the immense innovative efforts.





The family had a building which was lying vacant. Madhurima Sinha started the school there in 1996, with an investment of Rs1600 saved from her pocket money. She also collected money from the market and repaid it. When she conducted the first class, there were only seven students. The first student was very poor, he studied for free as a service to society.

Even today, 25 per cent of students study for free. Although it is under the RTE rule from the government, the school has not taken money from the government fund and will not take in future as well. It is service to the society, she added.

Soon, she got the recognition for her work, admissions started pouring in. From seven students on day one, the number crossed the 1000 mark within six months. In 1997, she applied to the CBSE, New Delhi, for affiliation. Got the school affiliated in 1998. In between, she bought a plot of land, constructed the building to fulfill the requirements and shifted the school to the present campus in the year 2000.

“When I got a chance of buying this plot of land, I was thrilled. But it was in the name of 363 people. My husband brought all of them on a single platform so I could get it registered in my name. The base goes to my husband, and my working style goes to my father,” she reminisced.

“Since then, I am just working, it gives me pleasure. Once you start thinking about the monetary benefits, you will not enjoy the work, you will not get the pleasure, nor will you get the desired outcome.

LAURELS

Students of Jesus & Mary Academy, Darbhanga, have also won accolades on various national and international forums for their exemplary performances.

- 2019:** Students won various competitions including English essay-writing, Hindi essay-writing, painting and dance, held as part of the “Bihar Ek Virsat” organised by Gramin Foundation at Patna.
- 2019:** Students participated in CBSE East Zone Badminton Championship 2019 at Allahabad, Khelgaon Public School.
- 2019:** The school won 1st Prize in State SGFI School Games under 14 (U-14).
- 2021:** Lucky Kumari won Gold medal in International Boxing (Junior-Student) Competition at Indo-Nepal International Salvo Games, Pokhara, Nepal

Lucky Kumari has been selected in boxing for the National School Games Federation of India. Now she will be playing in the National.

The institution has got many more feathers in its cap thanks to the endeavours of its students.



There should be love, dedication and gratitude to God who has given you this opportunity to do for the public," she said.

Holistic Education

The daily assembly is the time she uses to interact with the students, share her thoughts to inspire the students and teachers both to achieve the most important goal in life – finding the joy of education.

"The joy of education is not just sharing the information but transformation of an individual," she said, adding that it is her constant endeavour to share whatever good she has learnt in life, whether at school or at home.

Recalling early days of her life, she said, "I got the primary education at St Joseph's Convent, Patna. But my mother brought me to Darbhanga because she wanted me to learn the culture and to train me under her guidance. My mother was a doctor, but she was very much rooted to the culture. The training portion was very hectic. But she trained me very well."

Leaving the eminent school in Patna, failed to hamper her education. In Darbhanga, she got a scholarship in school. She achieved 17th rank all over

Bihar in matricboard examination. She got scholarships in I.Sc. and B.Sc. as well. Later, as she became a UGC scholar, she got a scholarship there as well.

The Success

Dr. Madhurima Sinha said there is always a doldrums till you decide. When you make a decision there is no tension.

"My principle is straight, if I work right, I will get the credit and positive result, if I fail to deliver, success will elude me too. This is perhaps the only school that asks parents to point out the negative aspects of the school, whether he has noticed or even heard it from someone, we will rectify it. Mistakes happen, but we fix them immediately."

"The instant success I received was due to my teaching which was quite different. I have been a topper, I knew where the fault lies. So I selected teachers keeping that in mind. Teachers came from various parts of India, many were local, several others came from West Bengal and the south Indian states. I trained them further to meet the local requirement. Even for the playschool, I selected trained teachers. I worked hard, sometimes even for 18 hours a day," she said.



Among other important initiatives she made to give the school a distinct identity was the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CEC) for a holistic assessment of its students. Later on, the CBSE, New Delhi, introduced it across India in 2009. Although the CBSE discontinued it in 2017, it is still in practice at this school, in addition to the CBSE guidelines.

“Work is not worship, it is satisfaction. Your work is not fulfilled until you get the satisfaction. That’s why I am involved in every aspect, from designing the curriculum to selection of books and assigning the classes to particular teachers,” she said.

In math, for a 2-1/2 hour test of the students, she gives about 45 small questions to solve. Even if they give two minutes to each question, they will have the habit of doing the math quickly. That is the reason, thousands of her students have cracked the toughest entrance tests for engineering colleges. These habits inculcated at an early age give confidence when they start a professional career in life.

“We want to give the best education, best curricular activities, not just make their personality but to make them true human beings. They must be sensitive towards society, they must be responsible towards

Education isn't only collecting degrees, rather it is an instrument which shapes your character in a way that you are liked, loved and respected by all. It makes the person respectful towards elders, loyal to their commitments and objective in taking decisions. Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers.

– Dr. Madhurima Sinha

their parents. if they do not realise this, this education is worthless.

“Education isn't only about collecting degrees, rather it is an instrument which shapes your character in a way that you are liked, loved and respected by all. It makes the person respectful towards elders, loyal to their commitments and objective in taking decisions. Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers,” concluded Dr. Madhurima Sinha.



Dr. Madhurima Sinha



**and
the journey
continues ...**





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