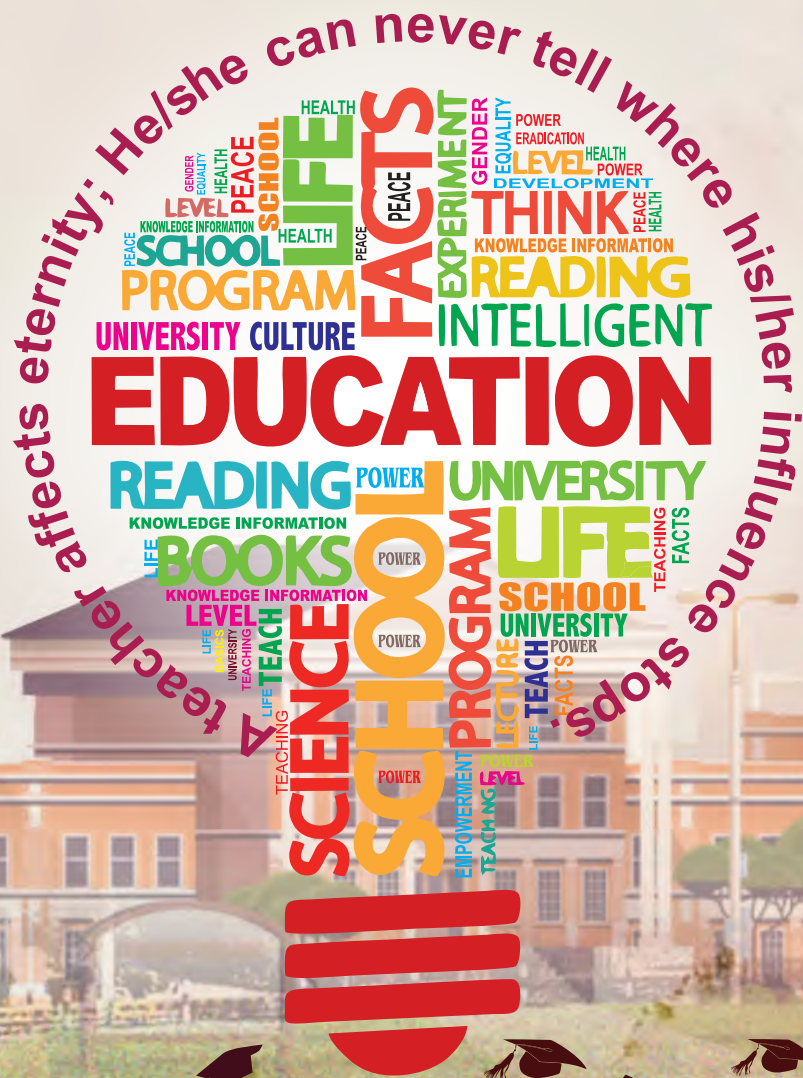




PRESENTS

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.

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

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.

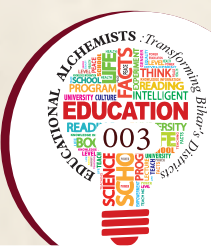
Each school featured in these pages represents more than just an institution; it symbolises a commitment to nurturing young talents, fostering a globally-inclusive community, and providing endless extracurricular opportunities for character development. These educational alchemists are moulding the future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





Saryu Mishra

A Beacon of Opportunity For Student Community



Oriental Public School, Kishanganj, is a classic example of how certain individuals can bring the public school education within the reach of common people. Since its inception in 2002, the school has played a pivotal role in shaping the lives of thousands of students. Many of them have risen in life to occupy highest offices with honour, respect and status

Education plays a significant and remedial role in balancing the socio-economic fabric of the country. In recent times, the gap has grown between the job market eligibility requirement and the quality of educated persons produced by most of the primary and secondary schools in the country. This has given opportunity to private education providers to jump in to fill the gap. The entry of some of the players has made education so expensive that sometimes it seems to be out of reach of the common man.

But there are certain individuals who are committed to ensure that education is not getting out of reach of common man and that they will produce youth who will also meet the job market eligibility requirement standards.

Oriental Public School, Kishanganj, is a classic example of how certain individuals can bring the public school education within the reach of common people.

Founded by two renowned educationists, Saryu Mishra and Satya Narayan Jha, in 2002, the Oriental Public School has successfully distinguished itself in the field of education, culture, sports and other activities. The school, owned and run by the 'Oriental Socio-Educational Trust,' was set up to achieve excellence in both educational and other corresponding activities.

Saryu Mishra, Director of the school, said, "We aim at preserving and enhancing the highest standards of excellence. Students have been made sensitive

“The school has earned a good reputation in the field of academics together with cultural and sporting events. The school offers a variety of learning opportunities through regular training in debates, music, dance, drama and sports. I am confident that students graduating from the school will play a vital role in the development of the community and the country.

- Ashutosh Kumar Jha





towards the feeling of nationalism and communal harmony. The school is trendsetter in providing the best education through latest educational activities.”

“The school enjoys the pride and unique distinction of being an institution with rich history, traditions and proud achievements spanning over a period of two decades. Thousands of students have received their education at our school since 2002. Many of them have risen in life to occupy highest offices with honour, respect and status,” he added.

The Beginning

Recalling the initial days, Saryu Mishra said that he decided to set up this school to ensure everyone's access to quality education, as Kishanganj lagged behind in education as well as in the average household income.

“When I decided to set up this school, I was teaching biology to students of Class 9-12 at a local private school. I had dedicated myself to teach biology to students with utmost sincerity and inspire them to achieve success in life. Due to my earnestness towards my job, I earned immense respect from students, their parents and the local community. Their love and respect made me more concerned towards the students and the local community.”

“At one point of time I realised that the majority of the community's children are not getting proper education as their household income was limited. This inspired me to establish a private school that would offer quality education which is accessible to everyone. My friend, Satya Narayan Jha, agreed with my views and joined me in this initiative,” he said.

It was the duo's sincere efforts that the school got over 300 admissions within three months of its inception. As the saying goes... Well begun is half done... It encouraged them to continue the journey with full confidence. Every new academic year started with more laurels in terms of academic success that ultimately attracted even a bigger number of students to the school.

Saryu Mishra said, “The community's support encouraged us to maintain the fee structure affordable to everyone so that it continues to serve the low-income community members in future as well. To make it a non-profitable organisation, we set up a trust, the 'Oriental Socio-Educational Trust,' and transferred the ownership to this trust. Now everyone associated with the school is a salaried employee of the trust, whether it is me as director of the school, or the principal, or any other teaching and non-teaching staff. Whatever profit is generated is invested in the school's development.”

This move helped them develop the school infrastructure much faster. As soon as they saved enough money, a plot of land was purchased for the school, followed by the construction of the school's building. As soon as the school got the necessary infrastructure including laboratories and library, he applied for affiliation from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi. The board granted the affiliation up to Grade 10 in 2013. The CBSE affiliation was upgraded up to +2 level in 2016.

“My friend Satya Narayan Jha, who accompanied me on this journey since day one, passed away on 1st July, 2014. Suddenly it became very difficult for me

to run the school alone. I asked my son, Alok Kumar, to join me. He was then working with a reputed IT company after completing B.Tech. But he resigned and joined the school as PRO in 2015. Satya Narayan Jha's son Ashutosh Kumar Jha was still in college. After completing his studies, he joined the school as Academic Advisor. Together, they have energised the system, adding new infrastructure to further improve the school," said Saryu Mishra.

Gen Next

The school's success in such a short span of time is due to the hard work and dedication of the management, principal, teaching faculty, staff and active cooperation of the parents who believe in constant improvement and up-to-date teaching strategies.

The credit also goes to two young leaders – Academic Advisor Ashutosh Kumar Jha and PRO of the school Alok Kumar – who have been working day and night to provide the latest technological advancement as well as curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities to shape up the students' personality.

Ashutosh Kumar Jha, Academic Advisor, said that children are the architects of the future. Their boundless energies need to be supervised and moulded in the right direction with the highest efforts ever made.

“ Since its inception over two decades ago, the school has been constantly improving in terms of infrastructural facilities and educational practices to enable its students compete with children studying elsewhere. We are committed to work with the students so that best in their body, mind and spirit can be unfolded and they can graduate from the school with flying colours

– Saryu Mishra

“I think this glorious task can be best executed by the teachers, who are at the helm steering the ship of the pupils' destiny towards a commendable zenith. Besides imparting quality education, an empathetic approach is also our tradition. My heart fills with pride and immense pleasure when I see our students obtain quality education and become creative, innovative as well as the real citizens of the 21st century through the utmost skills,” he said.





Holistic Education

The classrooms are well organised with a healthy atmosphere and education methods. However, academic qualification alone does not make a person truly educated. The school encourages students to avail many opportunities available for overall development. The school frequently holds curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities like music and dance, dramatics, arts & craft, indoor and outdoor games, yoga, natural health training.

“The school has earned a good reputation in the field of academics together with cultural and sporting events. The school offers a variety of learning opportunities through regular training in debates, music, dance, drama and sports. I am confident that students graduating from the school will play a vital role in the development of the community and the country in near future,” he added.

Alok Kumar, PRO of the school, said that the modern age needs to be sustained by a highly educated, internationally competent and mobile workforce. Therefore, education and training today are to be aligned.

“We are geared to meet these remarkable challenges. The changes are best represented in our school through the growth of knowledge and skills. This

institution is best suited to those who seek internationally recognised quality education. We assure uniqueness in every individual through nationally acclaimed faculty,” he said.

At Oriental Public School, each student is exposed to newer ways of learning, exploring and researching. The Computer Lab designed with the latest of personal computers, gadgets, printers etc help the students in dedicating time to technology and search for their information from the World Wide Web.

“This is the Internet era which is connecting millions of people to each other. For a holistic development of the child it is best to provide them access to the vast knowledge bank of the world for them to learn and progress. The Computer Lab is diligently planned, equipped and maintained to provide the students with latest technology, software versions and programmes to know the computer world better. This shall bring them closer to practical knowledge of Technological Science,” said Ashutosh Kumar Jha.

The Hallmark

The school library is one of the hallmarks of the school. The library provides a wide variety of books and journals. It serves as the encyclopedia related to the prescribed text books and beyond. Its purpose is to inculcate reading and thinking habits amongst students. Popular works of fiction, classics, self help books, science & technology, periodicals, journals

related to history, culture, and exploration along with selected local and national dailies are housed here. All articles in the library are carefully scanned and selected to ensure the appropriate development of the students.

All classes ranging from class VI onwards are provided with at least one library period per week. Students borrow books for a specific period. Leading dailies, magazines, handbooks, journals also form an integral part of the library. The rich collection of books, magazines, fictions, biographies, journals suits the taste of its readers, updating and keeping them in close contact with different vistas of life.

Every academic year, Student's body is elected, comprising House Captains to represent the students and voice their concerns as well as manage school activities under the aegis of their respective House Masters and House Mistresses. Also, inter-house competitions are organised frequently to keep the feeling of competition alive so that students are motivated to take part in curricular activities. The houses are named after eminent personalities of India and each house propagates the values of the leader. The various houses are Gandhi House, Bose House, Azad House and Nehru House.

“We have incorporated a Club System from classes I to X to allow our students to be self-motivated, eager, active participants and be exploratory learners. These clubs will focus on the overall skill-set development of the children and give them opportunities to explore their potential,” said Saryu Mishra.

“ The modern age needs to be sustained by a highly educated, internationally competent and mobile workforce. Therefore, education and training today are to be aligned. We are geared to meet these remarkable challenges. The changes are best represented in our school through the growth of knowledge and skills. This institution is best suited to those who seek internationally recognised quality education

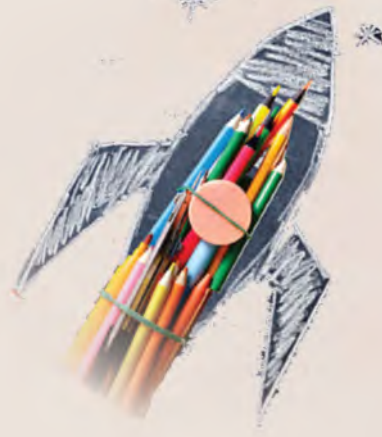
– Alok Kumar

Since its inception over two decades ago, the school has been constantly improving in terms of infrastructural facilities and educational practices to enable its students compete with students studying elsewhere. The teachers have the experience, qualifications, confidence and capacity to provide the students personal supervision, guidance and encouragement to enable them to put their best foot forward.

“We are committed to work with the students so that best in their body, mind and spirit can be unfolded and they can graduate from the school with flying colours,” concluded Saryu Mishra.



**and
the journey
continues ...**

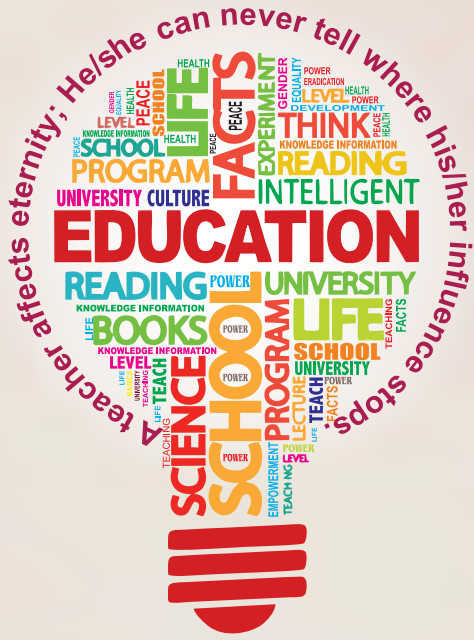




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