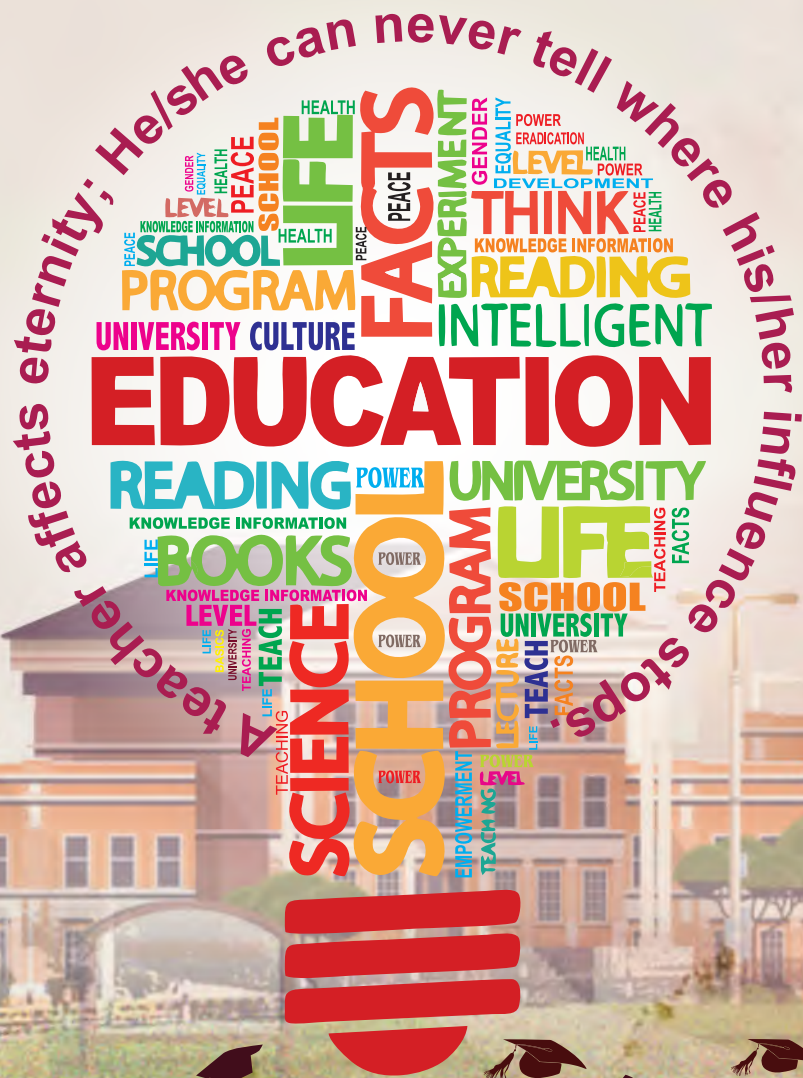




PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

Transforming Bihar's Districts



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





Kailash Bhardwaj

MILESTONES

- 1998** : Founder Late Shakti Nath Jha decided to establish a modern English medium school in Madhubani.
- 1999** : He purchased a huge plot of land and started construction of a school building as per the standard norms.
- 2003** : Academic activities started with a group of 20 children from Nursery to Grade 5.
- 2008** : The school got CBSE affiliation for Grade 10 examination.
- 2010** : First batch of students appeared for Grade 10 CBSE examination.
- 2013** : The school got CBSE affiliation for Grade 12 examination.
- 2017** : Pole Star quiz team stood Runner-up in the All India PCRA Quiz Competition 2016-17.
- 2023** : The school caters to over 1,400 students from Madhubani and adjoining areas, while 100 students are boarding in the hostel.

Currently serving as Director of the school, Kailash Bhardwaj said, "My father was a noble person who believed that equal educational opportunity is a fundamental aspect of a just and equitable society, as it provides all students with the chance to scale new heights irrespective of their financial capabilities."

The Vision

Recalling the initial days, Bhardwaj said that his father was a visionary man. In 1999, he purchased a huge plot of land for the school so that it will continue to cater to the growing demand in the future. Soon, construction of the school building was

started as per the standard norms. Great care was taken to ensure that every student is placed in a spacious and well-ventilated classroom.

"As soon as construction of a section of the planned building was completed, we started academic activities. It was November 2003, when we started academic activities with 20 children from Nursery to Grade 5 and kept adding one class every year. Similarly, we kept adding new classrooms and other facilities as and when required. Within a short span of time, Pole Star has become a centre of excellence in the field of education," he added.

As the first batch of students reached Grade 9th, the school management applied to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, for affiliation. The school got affiliation for Grade 10 examination in 2008, followed by affiliation for Grade 12 in 2013. First batch of students appeared for Grade 10 CBSE examination in 2010.

As the school remained focused on providing quality education, the management hired teachers and got them proper training. "One of the major challenges was to find qualified teachers. Since our school remained focused on teaching in English medium, which is taught as the first language and is compulsory for all classes, it made the job even more challenging. Initially, we hired them locally and got them trained by the professionals. As the school started getting recognition, it also attracted teachers who hailed from Madhubani and the neighbouring areas but were working in metro cities like Delhi and Kolkata. Soon, many of them joined the school.

"We are fortunate to get well-qualified, competent and experienced teachers who are encouraged to upgrade their skills and update their knowledge through regular orientation programmes to improve





third house is named after scientist CV Raman and the fourth one is named after social reformer Vivekananda. The motive behind the naming is to keep our students in touch with the great achievements India has made over the centuries," he said.

Bhardwaj said that there are highly-motivated physical education teachers and coaches for games and sports. For junior students, the school has various sources of recreation like a see-saw, and merry-go-round. Senior students have extensive playfields for cricket, football, hockey, volleyball, basketball, kho kho, badminton, lawn tennis and athletics.

"The objective of physical education is to teach students body awareness, coordination and orientation to different games, and overall exercises of the body through sports such as basketball, kho kho, yoga, drill, etc,' he added.

Upgrading Skills

The management has also realised that students from small towns like Madhubani face tough competitions when they reach metro cities for higher education due to their weak language or reasoning skills. Keeping in view these challenges, the school has been making serious efforts to prepare its students to meet such challenges by introducing various clubs including Science Club, Maths Club, Language Club, Social Studies Club, Computer Club, and Literary Club.

"The Language Club focuses on creative writing and communication skills which is one area where the initial draft, spelling and correct English are of secondary importance. The main aim is to help the

child express his/her thoughts and write expressively. All the different concepts are covered in classes to enable the children to have a good command over oral and written expression. We give equal importance to the study of Hindi," said Bhardwaj.

To further improve their skills, various competitions like debates, quiz, group discussions, news writing, making advertisements, preparing presentation, biography, story writing, art and craft, music and dance are held regularly.

Thanks to the rigorous practice at school under able guidance of the instructors, Pole Star students bring laurels to their alma-mater whenever they participate in various inter-school competitions.

The school celebrated outstanding achievement of its students Prabhat Kumar Mishra and Anubhav Prabhakar, when the duo stood Runner-up in the All India PCRA Quiz Competitions 2016-17. To reach the final round of the national level competition, they had championed the quiz competition on district as well as state level.

"Similarly, Maths Club helps the students to cultivate and develop thinking and reasoning skills by using symmetrically graded textbooks, mental Maths, and worksheets," added Bhardwaj.

Equal focus is given to Art and Craft, Computers, Environmental Studies and Science. From very early in life, students get the chance to learn the concepts of colour, texture, shape line, scale and proportion. Basic techniques like drawing, painting, printmaking, paper craft, collage making, model making with clay are used.

To make science and social studies interesting, the school has adopted an environmental approach and uses projects and field trips. Similarly, computer classes are aimed at training students to use computers quite naturally from an early age with a special programme package of games as well as language, maths and science.

“We have a well-equipped Computer Lab with a multimedia system. Computer education for every class plays an important role in enhancing the curriculum. The audio visuals are introduced in classrooms to enhance teaching using interactive demonstrations and make learning an experience. Similarly, the Social Science Lab has a variety of models and samples, like globe, solar system, rocks, and minerals to help students learn many more things by conducting experiments,” he explained.

Future Plans

The school, under the gifted leadership of Kailash Bhardwaj, is getting ready to meet the challenges posed by the New Education Policy (NEP).

This policy envisages that the extant 10+2 structure in school education will be modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18. Currently, children in the age group of 3-6 are not covered in the 10+2 structure as Grade 1 begins at age 6. In the new 5+3+3+4 structure,


a strong base of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) from age 3 is also included, which is aimed at promoting better overall learning, development, and well-being.

“The New Education Policy (NEP) is expected to stop migration after Grade 10. Focus will be on vocational courses. Tech-support will become more important for teachers. Currently there are 32 smart classrooms. All are equipped with new-age digital education solutions. Many more are to be added,” he said.

Dream project

Kailash Bhardwaj's future plans also include his dream project – setting up another English medium school in Madhubani which will have many more facilities that he could not introduce at Pole Star due to lack of enough space.

“The new school will be located in Babu Barhi Block of Madhubani District. We selected that location because there is no English medium school in its 30km radius,” he said.

“We have already purchased a plot of land and planning to start construction of the school building soon. Our aim is to open the gates of the school in March 2025 for students of Nursery to Grade 5. The first academic session will be 2025-26,” he said confidently. 



**and
the journey
continues ...**



