

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



“ Our accomplishments over the past thirty years and our reputation as one of the top schools exemplify the success of our educational model – an international school with an Indian mind, an Indian heart and an Indian soul. All of these inspire us to continue to do our best, in preparing children for the 21st century

— *Dr. Avinash Kumar*

He said, “Today, about 8,000 students study at five schools of the group. We are trying to help them grow in every possible manner. We are preparing them to become global leaders instead of helping just a few children to do well in their chosen fields. We are also fortunate that our students are taking their studies, sports all seriously. They have been performing well in studies, sports in every possible manner and all round growth of the students.”

The school is preparing its students for global leadership in every field. They are trained not to constrain themselves to an extent where medical and engineering are considered the only path to success.

Geet said, “There are a wide range of courses to follow for a fulfilling career. And we are trying in every possible manner to help the students make an independent decision when the time comes and remain confident that they can excel in every field. To achieve this, we have equipped the school with the latest technology as well.”

“While only a few schools talk about AI and Robotics, we have set up two Robotics labs, teaching the students AI, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality ... whatever is required for modern day education,” he added.

Challenges

But it was not an easy journey. The school was started in a small rented apartment without any playground. There were times when other members in the family used to pitch in when a teacher was absent. Poor financial condition was another important aspect that posed some sort of challenges. A glance at the school campus reveals it as the entry to the campus is quite narrow but it has a sprawling campus behind the main building. That was because the land was purchased later on. The campus and buildings grew in different phases.

“Our focus remained on teachers and students. We always believed that teachers are the pillars. If we have good teachers, students will come. If we do not have good teachers, students will not come, no matter how big and modern the school building is,” he said.



The school started in 1991 with limited classes -- Nursery to Grade 5. New classes were added every following year till it reached Grade 8. It was not upgraded further because students used to go to government schools for Grade 9th and 10th due to the board examinations. Till then, the CBSE-affiliated schools were only a few that too in the neighbouring districts Araria and Purnia.

“We had to wait till the scenario changed in favour of the CBSE-affiliated schools. We extended the facilities and got the Grade 10th affiliation in 2004. First batch of about 70 students appeared for Grade 10 examination in 2004, all of them came out in flying colours, with most of the students scoring about 90 per cent. It gave a big boost to the school and the number increased substantially. For the next few years it continued till Grade 10.

In 2010, the school got the affiliation for Grade 12. The six year gap was deliberate, as the management wanted to have proper set up, the required infrastructure and truly good teachers for the senior secondary classes. Since there was a lack of good teachers in Humanities in Katihar, the school limited its offering to Science and Commerce streams.



Strength

Teachers are the great strength of this school. A good number of teachers have been associated for the past 10-12 years. The Principal and Vice Principal of the school have been with the school for the past 20-25 years. It gives confidence to parents as well. Even students feel safe with the same teachers.

Geet said, "Our caring and committed teachers are our pillars of strength. They teach our children not just with their minds but with their hearts. They make learning enjoyable and rewarding, and imbibe in children the importance of sound values. Our excellent educational programmes are complemented by state-of-the-art facilities and resources, and our focus on sports and co-curricular opportunities facilitates children's holistic education."

The school has also ensured to keep the curriculum updated with the constantly changing technology in education. We believe that a curriculum of excellence with a global dimension is central to the education of children to face the challenges of the 21st century with confidence and strength of character.

Holistic Education

The school has formed various groups to promote extracurricular activities among students. Some of the groups are Health and Wellness Club, Nature Club, Literary Club and Science Club

Health and Wellness Club favourably influences the habits, attitude and knowledge relating to an individual and community. This club modifies the

students' behaviour towards the attainment of optimum health. It encourages students to maintain physical fitness which is an important component of wellness.

The Nature Club aims at inculcating an appreciation of nature among students and encouraging them to participate in a variety of conservation initiatives. Its efforts include inviting leading environmentalists to the school to talk to students and sensitise them to the opportunities and challenges in addressing environmental issues, organising an annual tree planting day and participating in important nature-oriented programmes. Students also work on recycling waste and reduction of consumption on campus by recycling paper and providing support to the local rag-pickers of Barrackpore.

The objective of the Literary Club is to promote the literary seal amongst the students. The activities undertaken by the members of the club would encompass the promotion of student's debate. Work closely with members of staff regarding the organisation of literary competitions and festivals, develop listening, speaking and writing skills, to learn to be a part of group discussions, extempore speech, debate etc. The school also hosts an English fiesta, a week-long literature festival every year.

The Science Club helps students to acquire basic knowledge of science. To develop a scientific way of learning, to develop awareness of and concern for scientific issues in personal, social, environmental and technological contexts. The students are taught the different concepts of science through interesting activities.

MILESTONES

- 1991** : Scottish Public School, Katihar, started in a rented apartment in Katihar.
- 2004** : Extended the facilities up to Grade 10th and got affiliated by the CBSE, New Delhi.
- 2004** : First batch of about 70 students appeared for Grade 10 examination, all of them came out in flying colours.
- 2010** : The school got affiliation up to Grade 12.
- It was followed by three more schools in various parts of Katihar and one in Araria.

Expansion

The extraordinary performances of students of the Scottish Public School, Katihar, have made it popular across the district as well as in the neighbouring districts. A number of parents sent their wards to the hostel. But it was not possible for most of the parents. Soon, parents from various locations requested the management to open branches of the school in their neighbourhood.

Geet said that starting a new school was a great challenge. But the increasing public demand compelled us to start schools in various locations as it was difficult for students to travel 25-30 kilometres every day.

Today, the Scottish Public School has become a group of institutions running four schools in Katihar and one in Araria.

Second school of the group was established in Araria, with the same name -- Scottish Public School, Araria. This school is also affiliated by the CBSE up to +2 level. It is currently serving about 1300 students.

Third school, Scottish English School, was opened in Katihar town to serve students of the junior classes, from Nursery to Grade 4, as it was getting difficult for the young children to travel to the main campus.

Scottish Ideal School, Semapur, Katihar, became the fourth one which is serving about 800 students from Nursery to Grade 10. Fifth school of the group was established in Barsoi, Katihar, with the same name Scottish Public School.

The management is planning to open a new school in Manihari, Katihar, which is approx 25 kilometres away from the first school. Land has been acquired, construction will begin soon.

The management is also planning to start a new campus of the parent school in Katihar town which will serve students from Nursery to Grade 8. Academic activities at the new campus will begin in 2025.

“The decision to open new schools was part of our mission with which we started the first school in 1991. As the population is growing, opening new schools has become necessary. Our focus remains on good teachers and every student's overall development. We do not go after numbers. We go after quality. We go after Truth, Service and Discipline. These words are the three pillars that have kept us standing tall for the past three decades and we will continue to follow it,” concluded Geet.



**and
the journey
continues ...**

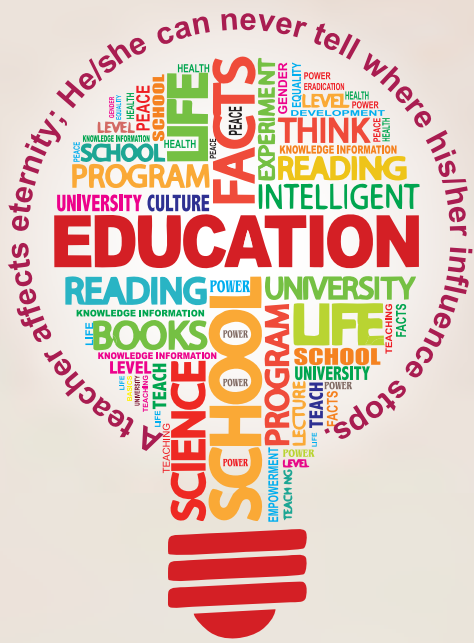




PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

Transforming Bihar's Districts



MUSIC BROADCAST LIMITED

REGD. OFFICE : 5TH FLOOR, RNA CORPORATE PARK, OFF WESTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY, KALANAGAR, BANDRA (EAST), MUMBAI 400051

TEL: +91 22 66969100 | FAX: +91 22 26429113

WEBSITE: WWW.RADIOCITY.IN

FOLLOW US ON

www.radiocity.com | | |

