Profile of CEO, BBOSE

DINESH SINGH BIST, IPS
CEO, Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE), Patna
OSD, HRD Department, Govt of Bihar
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Dinesh Singh Bist is presently heading the Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination, (BBOSE) as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He is an officer belonging to the Indian Police Service of Bihar cadre (BH: 87) with a deep commitment to school education. BBOSE was set up in 2011 based upon a Project Report submitted by Sh Bist to the Government of Bihar. Prior to this, Sh Bist was Advisor in State Planning Board where his portfolios included Departments of Education, Planning and Home of Govt. of Bihar. He presently also holds additional charge of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the HRD Department of Govt of Bihar, Patna.

Sh Bist has a rich experience in educational administration having served as Chairman cum Secretary of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NOIDA, which is the world’s largest open school. Prior to this, he was Joint Commissioner, Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangthan (KVS), New Delhi and later Commissioner, KVS, the premier brand name in formal schooling. He is credited with the creation of distinct innovations in the educational institutions wherever he has served, and his expertise both in formal and open schooling is well acknowledged.

The newly set up BBOSE functions both as a State Open School and as a State Board of Secondary Education. Some of the tasks taken up on priority by Sh Bist include the launching of secondary and senior secondary programmes to meet the educationally needs of young persons of the state. A massive vocational education programmes has also been initiated based upon local market needs. Within a short while of its functioning, BBOSE has an enrolment of almost 100,000 learners in different streams, including Skill Development courses. Another priority has been to
taken up collaborations with various national and state level bodies. Recently in order to ensure that learners of the State receive industry support, BBOSE has tied up with National Skill Development Council (NSDC).

The vision of CEO is to make BBOSE accessible to all and self reliant in all. To achieve this aim, Study Centers of BBOSE have been set up in all 38 districts of Bihar. Further to make the institution academically strong, BBOSE has developed its own materials which are relevant for Bihar. This is particularly significant as most other State Open Schools, despite being in existence for over ten years, continue to buy materials from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Sh Bist believes that BBOSE will be the fastest growing Open School of the country.

Among new ventures being taken up by Sh Bist through BBOSE is the training of teachers as Bihar is in urgent need for well trained quality teachers. Following the enactment of the Right to Education (RTE), all teachers are required to be qualified within a specified period. Earlier responsibility of training teachers of Bihar was given to national level institutions but these institutions were unable to deliver. This responsibility shall be now taken up by BBOSE.

Sh Bist carries with him a vast experience of working in the education sector. Sh Bist has the distinction of bringing major structural reforms in Open Schooling during his tenure as Secretary and later Chairman, NIOS. He planned and implemented educational policies to enhance educational opportunity, access and equity through ODL. In order to expand quality education to persons in remote and difficult areas, he conceptualized the Ni On (NIOS Online) project by which educational admission procedures were made online and barrier free. His tough implementation of online admission through Ni On was responsible for smashing the stranglehold that corrupt coaching centers had established in NIOS admissions while at the same time ensuring that learners anywhere and at any time could access admissions. This was the first effort at e governance in Open Schooling. The idea of Payment Gateway for paying fee online was first introduced by him in 2007. The online admission was also aimed at providing 24x7 student support to learners- hence Call Centre in the form of a Learner Support Centre(LSC) was designed by Sh Bist. For the first time in NIOS, a Toll Free Number was given for meeting student queries. This project won the Govt of India’s National Award for e-governance in the Process Reengineering category in 2009.

Another area that is special for Sh Bist is that of education for marginalized sections of society especially minorities. He believes that education with special focus on vocational/skill based courses can become the engine for social and economic growth. In 2007, after an in depth study of
the Saachar Committee Report, Sh Bist developed a Project Proposal for skill upgradation programme for Muslim minority girls studying under NPEGEL(SSA) of Muslims girls of Bihar. The Project Hunar as it came to be called was implemented through NIOS with BEPC. Now in its second phase, Project Hunar is being run through BBOSE and has almost 50,000 girls who are engaged in different vocational skills along with their academic pursuits. Hunar has been acknowledged as a model for replication by other states and cited by national and other international organizations also.

Sh Bist has also written extensively about the problems of disadvantaged sections and the crucial role that Education and Employment can play to “mainstream” these groups. His early policing experience with Left wing Extremists (LWE) and Naxalite groups in naxal districts has also influenced his thinking regarding the role that education and employment can play in winning the confidence of such persons and changing lives.

Besides his professional policing career, Sh Bist has a sound educational background. He is an Economics graduate from Sri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi and also holds an MA in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. Prior to being selected for the Indian Police Service (IPS), he taught Economics at graduation level at Delhi University. He was selected for the Indian Economic Service and worked as probationer at the Institute of Economic Growth.

In the recent past, Sh Bist has involved himself in initiatives in the educational sector as he believes that many of the societal ills and crimes have their basis in lack of educational opportunities as well as adequate employment avenues for youth. Sh Bist has made presentations before national policy making bodies for improving educational systems as well as presented papers at International conferences. He has authored articles that have been published in national and international journals.

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DS Bist: Recent Select Publications

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