Innovative Reforms in Examination System by Bihar School Examination Board

B ihar School Examination Board (BSEB) was the first board in the country to declare board result in the month of March itself in the year 2019, much ahead of any other board in the country. Even the compartmental exams were completed by May, 2019.

This is significant because lakhs of those students who appear in Inter and matric compartmental exam every year in BSEB got their compartmental exam results much ahead of even annual results of many other State Boards. This helped in saving of one precious academic year for thousands of such compartmental students, who in previous years were not able to take admissions due to declaration of compartmental results in after the admission process to colleges was complete.

This was not the case a few years back when the State Board witnessed some irregularities in the examination process. The analysis of existing examination necessitated the need of extensive reforms in the examination system and computerization of different processes of Bihar School Examination Board. The reformed BSEB has declared the fastest Board results in country for two consecutive years viz., 2019 and 2020, in a record time and much ahead of all other boards in the country. It is now positioned among the topmost boards of the country in all the spheres, as the reforms in examination systems and processes of Bihar Board through multiple innovations has become a reality.

Advanced technology has played major role in the BSEB reforms, and the important reforms among them are as follows:-

a) In order to prevent malpractices, about 3.6 crore pre-printed answer booklets (with OMR cover) and OMR sheets were printed and supplied to each student, with their name, roll number and other details pre-printed. Multiple barcodes and litho-codes were printed on each of these 3.6 crore sheets. This was done for the first-time in the country.

b) 5.8 Crore different formats like OMR/flying slips/award sheets/marks foils etc were scanned by use of high-speed scanners and their data was digitally processed to expedite the result processing and with highest degree of accuracy.

c) The entire process was computerised with pre-exam software and post-exam software.

d) New software for online entry of marks of examined copies was introduced at all 309 evaluation centres of the state, which were provided with more than 2100 computers for online entry of marks.

e) "BSEB APPS" were developed for oversight and monitoring of the entire process.

f) Security features including QR Code, M-sign were introduced in marksheets and certificates of the students, which made verification of these certificates easy from any corner of the world.

g) Introduction of ERP (enterprise resource planning) for complete automation of BSEB includes functions like finance, human resources, materials management, purchases, legal, vigilance etc., was done in BSEB.

h) A state-of-the-art data centre with a capacity of 200 TB has been established for safe record keeping and smooth running of IT enabled applications of BSEB.

i) An online facilitation system for students (OFSS) has been introduced for around 23.39 Lakh students in 2018 and 2019 with web and mobile based applications.

The innovative reforms undertaken in BSEB are summarized below:

(i) Introduction of online facilitation system for students (OFSS) for admission in over 3,300 BSEB Affiliated Inter Colleges/Schools.

(ii) Changes in question pattern in line with competitive examinations.

(iii) Development of infrastructure to facilitate Students.

(iv) Establishment of regional offices in all nine divisional headquarters of Bihar and also New Delhi.

(v) Development of Document Management System.

(vi) Digitization of records of all students of the Board from 1983 onwards.

(vii) Zero tolerance in conduct of free and impartial examinations.