



Prabhat Education Foundation

Module for volunteering



About Prabhat

Prabhat has over ten years' experience in serving Children with Special Needs in some of the most challenging locations of Ahmedabad. Its approach has been to serve these children and their families in their homes and neighbourhoods, mobilising home and community resources to sustain the services that are needed and to create supportive environments of respect, dignity and self-reliance. The mission of Prabhat is to help differently able persons to achieve their full potential as citizens within an inclusive society. Prabhat began with one child in 2003 and now reaches a community of over 3,000. The need is huge, and well beyond the capacity of any one organisation. Despite limited resources, Prabhat has been able to demonstrate a real difference. It seeks support to sustain and extend its services.

Prabhat is making a small but important demonstration in resolving one of India's most urgent needs: a future of hope for millions of citizens with special needs. Prabhat collaborates with institutions all over Ahmedabad and outside in mobilisation efforts on behalf of differently able persons. The real difference Prabhat and like-minded institutions bring to children and families is measured in terms of dignity, hope and respect. Prabhat tracks the slow but perceptible changes in family, community and social acceptance of those that were once left at the margins. That is its real story!

Prabhat Education Foundation is a Public Charitable Trust registered in 2006 under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. Donations to Prabhat are exempted from income-tax under Section 80(G) of the Income-Tax Act 1961. Prabhat is authorized to receive donations from overseas under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Prabhat is registered by the Government of Gujarat as a recognized institution for persons with disabilities under The Persons with Disabilities Act (1995). The organization has resourceful persons involved in the organization volunteering the activities of the organization along with a team of committed staff members who are well trained in the services of differently abled people.

Today, Prabhat works in 3 major areas: services and facilities through the **Prabhat Centres** at several locations in eastern Ahmedabad, a **Community-based Rehabilitation Programme (CBR)** serving children, families and communities who cannot easily access Centres or other services for problems of mobility, poverty or awareness, and **Advocacy through networking** and partnerships to help build and strengthen special education in Ahmedabad. Children served include those with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, mental and physical challenges and those with low vision and multiple disabilities. The trust also undertakes other rehabilitation and welfare programmes for people that impact differently able persons, including access to Government schemes, contact with specialist

For any queries, contact:

Keshav Chatterjee:
prabhat@prabhateducationfoundation.org

Mailing address

Prabhat Education Foundation
B1002 Rushin Tower, opp. Star Bazaar, Satellite Road,
Ahmedabad 380 015 Gujarat.
Phone no.: +91-79-48903054

institutions and opportunities for exposure, interaction and enjoyment with all sections of society.

Introduction

Prabhat as an organization is striving towards building an inclusive society, having volunteers and interns with us is a proclamation that we are getting close. Interns and volunteers have been an integral part of the organization. Their selfless service with the sole expectation of putting a smile on our children's faces is heartwarming. We have always considered this process to be that of mutual learning and growth. Prabhat as an organization believes in harnessing each individual's capabilities and abilities to the maximum. The interns/volunteers will get ample opportunity to ideate, work in teams as well as individually, spend time with our beautiful children at the Centres and CBR and build an understanding of the communities that Prabhat works with. It would be a rich experience they can take back with them and fill us with ideas we reflect upon. We encourage the interns/volunteers to make the most of this time that they will be spending with Prabhat's family and communicate and interact with the team as much as possible to understand, clarify doubts or even to share a thought. The team and some senior members will always be around to help out and give a listening ear.

We would expect our interns/volunteers to be caring and empathetic towards our children as they come from very difficult circumstances. If anyone has any particular issue they can always discuss it with a senior member of the organization.

We look forward to a time of mutual learning!

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A Twelve week module for volunteers

The module has been designed for a period of three months/12 weeks basic internship at Prabhat Education Foundation. The module is not rigid and can accommodate changes. There are certain broad categories of work identified, but the students can think beyond and share ideas that will benefit the organization.

Week 1

Day 1: Orientation – about Prabhat

Day 2: A Centre's experience – interns will be taken to visit one of Prabhat's Centre to understand more closely on how work is conducted with Children with Special Needs. They will interact with the special educators, talk to the children, talk to the support staff.

Week 2

Day 3: Discussion - this discussion will include reflection of the earlier two days based on which the interns can come up with the kind of work they would want to be involved with. Broad categories include:

Category 1 - Designing

- Doing up simple interiors at the Centres, which make it more welcoming. **OR**
- Design photo collages for multiple uses (banners, reports, website, social media, etc.)

Category 2 - Teaching

- Assisting the teachers
- OR**
- Take independent classes

Category 3 - Extracurricular activity

- Designing an activity in consultation with the teachers of the Centres like dancing, singing, etc. for the children

Category 4 - Documentation

- Documenting paper data onto computer systems and putting them in an organized structure.

Category 5 - Event management

- Help in organizing any planned events, like parent meeting, medical camps, counselling sessions, etc.

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OR

- Plan a small event at the community level involving local community members. For e.g. a drawing competition, singing competition, etc.

Category 6 - Social media

- Writing articles for Prabhat's blogs and keeping it active (the articles written will go through a round of proof reading by senior members before publishing).

AND

- Keeping our Facebook page active (post will be checked by senior members prior to publishing)

Based on the selection from the above broad categories, each intern will have to assign a daily task for themselves. They can off course work in groups or individually. The team at Prabhat will help them chalk out their course of work based on the requirement of the organization and their selected category of work.

The interns will be given that day to decide the category they would want to select and why.

Day 4:

Sharing with the team the category selected and why, this process also helps Prabhat to understand the intern better and thereby help them gain a rich experience out of the whole process of internship.

Visit to another Centre, meeting with parents if they are available.

Week 3

Day 5: 2 Visits - Centre and Learning Disability Centre

Day 6: Experience sharing and reflection of the visits conducted. Reevaluation of the categories of work selected based on the visits.

Week 4

Day 7: Starting with the projects selected

Day 8: Continuation of the same

Week 5

Day 9: Reflection and group sharing of the work done. This process is essential to create linkages. Brainstorming session and sharing ideas about each other's work.

Day 10: Bearing in mind the previous day's session, continuing the project/work.

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Week 6

Day 11: Continuation of the project/work

Day 12: Continuation of the project/work

Week 7

Day 13: Continuation of the project/work

Day 14: Continuation of the project/work

Week 8

Day 15: Visiting each other's work understanding it, critiquing it, suggesting changes

Day 16: Continuation of the project/work and incorporating the suggestions from the previous day's session as deems fit.

Week 9

Day 17: Continuation of the project/work

Day 18: Continuation of the project/work

Week 10

Day 19: Assessment of the work by Prabhat's team members

Day 20: Continuation of the project/work

Week 11

Day 21: Continuation of the project/work

Day 22: Continuation of the project/work

Week 12

Day 23: Wrapping up and preparation for sharing the work with Prabhat's team members.

Day 24: Experience sharing by each intern about their valuable contribution, their time spent with Prabhat's children, staff, etc. And that one thing they will be taking back with them in terms of a memory.

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Note: As mentioned in the beginning, the program module is very flexible and will be retuned as per the needs and requirements of the organization. The aim of the program is to have young talent and fresh ideas of the interns/volunteers for Prabhat's ongoing activities, to build a deeper understanding of disability and to bridge the gap and work towards building an inclusive society.

We hope it will be an enriching experience for you, we look forward to having you with us!

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