

Roshni

Reaching Out to Serve Humanity with New Initiative

About Prabhat

The Prabhat Education Foundation reflects a journey that began in 2003 through the identification and nurturing of children with learning difficulties struggling in mainstream schools. In time, Realizing the need for education and learning of this group and particularly of children, Prabhat conceptualized an institutional facility to provide systematic learning and rehabilitation services that could be accessible for those challenged by poverty and mobility. Working with and through local communities is Prabhat's hallmark.

What started as a modest beginning, with one child in 2007, has now reached to 3000 persons with special needs in Ahmedabad as well as to their families, neighbours and communities.

An experience

A mother walks in to the Therapy Unit with her 5 year old child (Adnan), complaining that owing to a bike accident her child is not able to stand or walk from the past 6 months. She was referred to by another mother of Prabhat, who explained to her about the services offered in the organization and that it is free of cost. Parents like them have become ambassadors of Prabhat. Due to limited resources, Prabhat sometimes cannot reach out to a lot of children in need, the organization needs advocates like these parent who can convince families to avail the services of the organization. On further examination of Adnan it was observed that there was nerve compression in both his legs, the primary reason for his severe lower back pain and his inability to stand and walk. A therapy session was the first such experience for Adnan, owing to economic reasons parents could not afford to take him to any government facility. As a five year old with constant severe pain his fear and his hesitation to the touch of a therapist was natural. To put him at ease the special educator from Prabhat engaged him with colourful toys and showed audio visual material on her tab/phone. Along with a therapist two special educators are always present at the Therapy Unit to provide guidance to parents and to keep the children engaged. Adnan soon became comfortable and trusted me the therapist and other team members at Prabhat. Adnan displayed rapid progress, from standing to walking with the help of a walker within a month, within two months he started walking without a walker. When the lockdown hit all of us, our first concern was for those children coming for therapy regularly, as it was essential for their progress, but without losing heart we were soon trained to use various online video platforms to interact with parents. My first call was to Adnan's mother and soon enough training over video calls started happening. I trained and guided her with some in-house exercises that she could do for him and with him. Two days back I received a video where Adnan runs with his sibling, my heart was filled seeing this child run and frolic around and I also give a big salute to his parents for being so supportive and proactive in the whole process.

By: K. Kavitha Mudaliar,
Physiotherapist

Unique interventions

The usual pattern of teaching at Prabhat involves the use of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) which are either available or are creatively made by the team. The sudden lockdown did not allow the teachers to carry with them any TLM, but this led to improvisation. They started using materials available at their homes like forks, spoons, plates, clothes clip, etc. to prepare interesting learning lessons for the children. Owing to the creative and innovative teaching methodology the team adopted during the lockdown, Prabhat's children and their siblings have not been devoid of fun with learning.

Monthly update

This is the first edition of Roshni (Prabhat's monthly newsletter) that is being circulated to friends and well-wishers, for this reason a glimpse/update of the past few months have been included.

This pandemic led to several challenges but it also presented opportunities and a ray of hope including increased network with organizations like Robinhood, Pratham, Connectfor, etc. to provide continued services (towards food, learning and good health) to children and their families. Prabhat with its limited resources would not have been able to reach out and sustain support but with networks and partnerships it is able to reach beyond. The lockdown brought with it a new and interesting turn in the parent-child relationship especially fathers and the child with special needs at home. There is an increase in warmth, care and bonding between parents and children as observed.

Centres and the registered office are now operational since 8th June 2020. Required preventive measures including sanitizing the facilities and proper safety norms (suggested by WHO) have been put in place. As per the Indian government rule children can come to the facilities for physiotherapy from August 2020. Team is busy working towards updating and improving communication materials and TLM. While working with children it is essential to keep improvising on the material and teaching methodologies to keep them interested.

A couple of videos made by our Riverside School Grade 6 buddies. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBF13Wddk&t=28s>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6so4fa324Q>



Eating healthy is essential during these time! But first we start with Sorting!



500
Food kits
distributed

25+ TLM (video)
by Buddies from
Riverside School
to support online
learning

Continued
working
with 25
schools

5000 masks
distributed to
needy families and
corona warriors

Circulated
learning material
to over 500+
children



Comparison of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act of 1995 and 2016

According to the 2011 census, India is home to almost 2 crore people with disabilities.

The earlier Act was in 1995, which means it took 21 years to bring out the new Act!

The 2016 Act reinforces (a) respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons; (b) non-discrimination; (c) full and effective participation and inclusion in society; (d) respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; (e) equality of opportunity; (f) accessibility; (g) equality between men and women; (h) respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

- 1) The 1995 RPWD Act recognized only 7 disabilities ((i) Blindness; (ii) Low vision; (iii) Leprosy-cured; (iv) Hearing impairment; (v) Loco motor disability; (vi) Mental retardation; (vii) Mental illness.) but according to 2016 Act there are 21 disabilities recognized (see below).
- 2) The 2016 Act is a more progressive one with stress on making all establishments and services accessible.
- 3) There is focus on education and employment for PwDs in the 2016 Act
- 4) The 2016 Act secures the Rights of PwDs by enforcing a 2 year jail term and a fine of maximum 5 lakh rupees for discrimination against them.
- 5) The 2016 Act complies with the UN convention of Rights of Persons with Disability.
- 6) Unlike the 1995 Act, the 2016 Act states that individual with 40% disability will be entitled to benefits like reservation especially in education and employment.
- 7) The reservation ceiling in the new Act has been increased from 3% to 5%.

The list of disabilities recognized under the 2016 RPWD Act:

(1) Blindness; (2) Low-vision; (3) Leprosy cured persons; (4) Hearing impairment; (5) Locomotor disability; (6) Dwarfism; (7) Intellectual disability; (8) Mental illness; (9) Cerebral palsy; (10) Muscular dystrophy; (11) Chronic neurological condition; (12) Specific learning disabilities; (13) Multiple sclerosis; (14) Speech and language disability; (15) Thalassemia; (16) Haemophilia; (17) Sickle cell disease; (18) Multiple disability including deaf blindness; (19) Acid attack survivor; (20) Parkinson's disease; (21) Autism spectrum disorder.

You can see more of our stories at:



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1oxuBWMDvyCRk2EPzjIA>



<https://www.facebook.com/Prabhateducationfoundation/>



https://www.instagram.com/prabhat_education_foundation/



नमस्कार दोस्तो,
यह हमारा प्यारा गट्टू lock-down के ३ महिने के वक्त में बहुत बोर हो गया था। जब अनलॉक-१ हुआ तो वह अपनी प्यारी दोस्त बबली और प्रभात के अन्य दोस्तों से मिलना चाहता था। जब यह बात उसने अपनी मां को बताई तो मां ने खुश होकर बाहर जानेकी परमिशन तो दी परंतु कुछ सावधानी रखने की सूचना भी दी।

१) गट्टू बाहर जाते वक्त और किसी के साथ बात करते वक्त हमेशा मास्क (mask) लगाकर रखेगा।



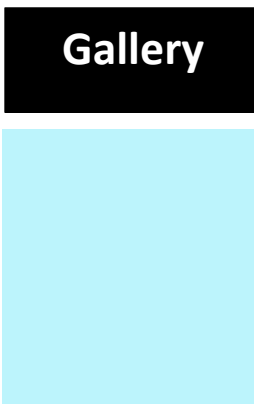
१) वह बार-बार अपने हाथ धोएगा और हाथो को अच्छी तरह सेनेटाइस करेगा।



१) वह अपने दोस्तों से २-मीटर का अंतर बनाकर रखेगा।



गट्टू ने मां के सभी निर्देशों का पालन किया और अपनी दोस्त बबली तथा अन्य दोस्तों के साथ खूब गप्पे लड़ाये। गट्टू, बबली और सभी दोस्त एक दूसरे को मिलकर खूब खुश हुये। अगर हम भी गट्टू की तरह जिम्मेदार बने और नियमोका पालन करे तो हम भी COVID-19 (कोरोना वायरस) से अपने-आप को बचा सकते है और सुरक्षित रख सकते है। बाय-बाय दोस्तों, फिर मिलेंगे



Prabhat continues to network with all the mainstream schools, keeping the children engaged and involved. Some creative snippets from them!



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