

# 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

During the lockdown I received a frantic call from a parent saying that their child has reached the Prabhat Centre and refuses to come back home. I immediately knew who it was, Shadaab wouldn't speak much but his connection to the Centre and everything in it was immense. I told his mother to put the phone on speaker as he sat on the staircase outside the Centre reminiscing the days he and his friends would jump and do the number rhyme on it. I explained to him what the situation is outside and how it is unsafe for anyone to venture out especially children. After a lot of cajoling he finally agreed to go back with his mother, but not until I made a promise that I would speak to him every other day.

Shadaab was a very shy, introvert child when he came to the Centre in 2016. He did not want to touch the toys or even interact with other children. He would sit near the door, waiting for his parents to come take him back home. He did not cry or create a ruckus or trouble other children, but he was very guarded, did not want others to touch his things or him and vice versa. He was very irregular, his mother complained that it was task to bring him. Eventually he realised that the Centre may not be that bad a space, he started touching a few things here and there, and he liked playing with blocks. He made a corner for himself with the blocks and use to be there for a while, this went on for another 1-2 months. After which he started eating lunch with everyone and interacting a little. 4 months down the line and he was one of the most punctual and regular student at the Centre.

He liked to take on responsibilities and was given the charge of watering the plants, he did it painstakingly. Though he used to worry about the plants on the weekend and we had to comfort him by saying the neighbours will water them, which he did not like but made peace with it as long as the plants don't dry up!

The lockdown took a toll on children, who were left hanging in between, from having the days carved out for them to doing nothing. They have been the most resilient in this tough situation. Shadaab initially did not take it well, he became a recluse, irritated and started harming himself. As soon as I was informed about this I called him and spoke to him. He is okay now, busy doing the assignments, but every time I call him, his first question is 'teacher when can I come to the Centre'!

Kashmira Upadhyaya, Special Educator

***Happiness is a directions and not a place!***

The month preceding Diwali is usually the one bustling with way too many activities at Prabhat! This year the team felt a lull, but they did not want it to dampen the spirit of the festivities which fills the air around. They decided that our children have taught us a lot of skills and among that was pottery and they wouldn't let that go waste. So, off they headed to the potter's den and started churning out wonderful hand-made diyas. Brought it back, called the parents over in batches and all sat together to paint them beautifully. They did video calls with the students while painting the diya's and asked them to suggest the colours they should paint with! So even though the diyas are not made by the children this year there is a touch of them in the entire process and we continue the tradition with pride.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=384D9shU7J8>

**Board meeting:** the second virtual Board meeting was conducted and organized in October. Programmatic developments along with financial growth and stability were discussed with the Board. Given the current scenario the Board is very proud of all that the team has been able to achieve.

**Global reach:** the internet has shrunk the world with giving access to everyone to understand what's happening in other parts of the world. One such initiative called **Atlas of the future**, which tracks social initiatives across the globe (with the vision to democratising the future) has featured Prabhat. A very interesting and unique initiative which also doubles up as a platform for learning and idea exchange.

<https://atlasofthefuture.org/project/prabhat-education-foundation/>

**A helping hand is one you pass on, not hold on to:** this month has seen an influx of volunteers keen on conducting campaigns for Prabhat. They worked on an excellent donation-in-kind drive. Which included developing campaign material and sharing it through various social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, whatsapp). The Ahmedabad University volunteers (150 students) ended their volunteering tenure successfully, handing over good quality audio-video learning material to Prabhat. Based on the experience shared by these students with others in the university another 160 students have volunteered to help out Prabhat in term 2. For Prabhat along with receiving great products it has also been a huge opportunity to reach out and advocate to almost 300 students.

**Tribute**

Prabhat regrets to mention the sad demise of Hitesh Solanki. We will miss him dearly and convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.



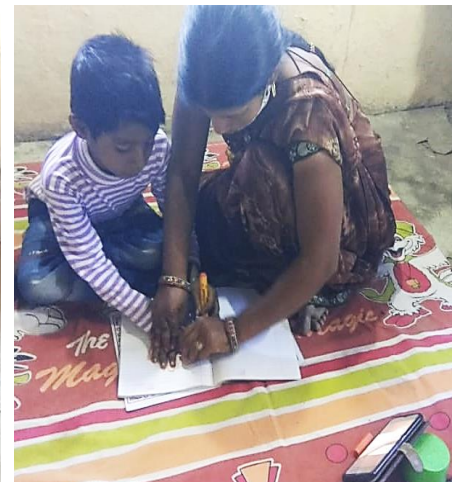
**Joy of Giving:** “For it is in giving that we receive”, this is a quote that the Riverside School family lives by! To make this occasion joyful all the teachers from the Riverside school contributed towards providing huge food kits to our parents which comprised of staples, along with fruits and snacks packaged with love and care! We are proud to have them as our supporter and partner.

**Counselling and workshop:** During the first four phases of the covid-19 related lockdown, Indian women filed more domestic violence complaints than recorded in a similar period in the last 10 years. But even this unusual spurt is only the tip of the iceberg as 86% women who experience domestic violence do not seek help in India (The Hindu). Though Prabhat does not work in this directly but it is equally essential to address this in the communities that Prabhat works in. There are direct implications of domestic violence on the children in the house as well. In cases like these Prabhat reaches out to other expert organizations working on these issues to address them. From the past two months a student doing her PhD thesis has been volunteering at Prabhat focussing on the plight of women during the lock down. She conducted an in-depth study and an informal counselling and workshop with mothers of Prabhat and others from the community. Based on the analysis of her study Prabhat will take the necessary action in the coming months.

**Design intervention for qualitative improvements:** Prabhat has been associated with design institutes like NID since the beginning, as the organization feels that design interventions can have considerable benefits for a child with special needs. Even when students are not available in-person on the college campus Prabhat has been having remote discussions with them, especially with students from product design. A series of discussion took place with the students focussing on furniture designed for children with ADHD. These discussions will further help in building congenial classroom setting for the children. These materials are not just restricted to one disability and can be used by children with various other disabilities as well.

**Aids and appliance distribution:** the aids and appliance received from ALIMCO last month, were distributed to beneficiaries this month. The distribution of the aids and appliances happens after a rigorous assessment of the beneficiary by experts. The aids and appliances received included motorised wheel chairs, Cerebral palsy chair, braille kits, regular wheel chairs, etc. <https://www.alimco.in/>

**Learning continues:** In order to provide qualitative service to children and their families the team attends to children on a rotational basis. This month the team has been able to reach out to 250 students under the school program (mainstream school students), 15 children from the Home-based rehabilitation and 40 from Prabhat Centres. Reaching out includes - follow up, one on one video calls combined with learning sessions, counselling and guidance for parents and siblings. Apart from this all children associated with Prabhat are sent learning materials regularly (as audio-video content) customised as per their ability.




## Snap-shot of the month



Our responsible little Shadaab!



 [https://www.instagram.com/prabhat\\_education\\_foundation/](https://www.instagram.com/prabhat_education_foundation/)

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1oxuBWMDvyCrk2EPzzjIA>

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

Phone: +91-79-4890-305

Email: [prabhat@prabhatedu.org](mailto:prabhat@prabhatedu.org)

Website: [www.prabhateducationfoundation.org](http://www.prabhateducationfoundation.org)

**Prabhat Education Foundation**  
A-4, Sujal apartment  
Opp. Satellite bungalow  
Ramdevnagar  
Ahmedabad 380015

