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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

When you walk in to the Vatva Centre on any given day and enter the Early Intervention room, you will feel tiny hands grabbing yours as you walk in. Those hands will not let go of you till the end of your visit! And those hands belong to Tusshar, a cute 8 year old with an ever smiling face. But he wasn't always like this, Tusshar came to Prabhat's Centre 4 years back, at the age of 4. His mother was very concerned as he was not meeting most of the developmental milestones. He was crawling even at the age of 4 and refused to stand up, even with support and as he could not speak, he would cry a lot, out of frustration. For close to 4 months after joining the Centre, Tusshar kept crying and refused to mingle with anybody he would crawl into small spaces, I was scared someone might accidentally step on him! Thus, providing therapy or doing a learning session with him was quite a task initially. But we soon realized, colourful toys that made sound was something that he was distracted by. Tusshar has low vision and thus toys with lights which are bright, colourful and noisy get his attention very soon and he gets involved with it for some time. Once he found comfort in some of the toys, he started exploring the Centre by himself and was pleasantly surprised to see so many colourful things around, from the story tree on the wall, to the colourful staircase and his favourite music room. The joy of having all these things started enticing him to come to the Centre and his parents made sure he attended regularly. At the Centre, he was first provided with speech and sensory stimulation along with physical therapy and then hands-on learning sessions began. The speech therapy really helped him and he now uses verbal as well as non-verbal communication to express himself. Physical therapy as well has benefitted greatly and now he just doesn't walk, he runs. He has become very sociable and will vie for your full attention as you sit with him. Like every other child at Prabhat, Tusshar loves the outdoor exposure visits. He has become very independent, can brush on his own, eat, and follows all the instructions given by the teacher and the therapist. Everyone including all of us at Prabhat are joyous seeing his progress.

Bahvnisha Kherala
Special Educator



Unique interventions

Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist of word. Gratitude is shown in acts.

An anthem for Prabhat and its children composed and sung by the Riverside Grade 7 students was launched on 30th September virtually. The anthem encompasses the essence of Prabhat in the most beautiful way. It is not just a song but also a reflection of the relationship these children have with their Prabhat buddies. 'It is truly by the children, off the children and for the children.'

It is available on Prabhat's website (<https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/prabhat-anthem-my-riverside-school-grade-7/>) and all social media channels.



Virtual launch of the anthem: we may be physically away, but we are together in spirit!

Monthly updates

Setting up the new normal: Prabhat is finally meeting parents on a rotational basis at the Centre since the beginning of August 2020. These face to face meetings is helping understand the child's progress emotionally, mentally and also physically. These meetings are also to provide assurance to the parents that the organization is there for them and things are getting hopeful. Protocols of sanitization and social distancing are being strictly maintained. This month, Prabhat's partnership with Qi to Happiness has been revived. Experts from Qi to Happiness have been visiting the Centre twice a week and providing counselling to parents.

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 392 students under the school program (mainstream school students), 22 children from the Home-based rehabilitation and 20 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.

Toward a safe unlock: As restrictions have eased up a little all over the country, it is even more essential to now adhere to safety protocols. Towards this, Prabhat has started imparting awareness regarding precautions to be taken while stepping out, to students from over 4 schools in the community. These include wearing a mask always, maintaining physical distance, washing hands at regular intervals and avoiding touching face while out, are some of the instructions being explained to the students.

Assistive services: Assistive services are an integral part of Prabhat's working to provide people with disabilities more mobility and independence. The services include assistance in procuring important documents like medical certificate, aadhar card, bus pass, ration card, income certificate, railway pass, etc. These documents are also essential while applying for government benefits and schemes. The services have started again since June. Last month around 25 people were reached out. Though the application process for most of this documentation is online now, it is still tedious and difficult for the communities that Prabhat works in, so by providing this additional assistive service, it helps the families to avail benefits which are very essential for them.

Upgrades: In this fast-evolving world of technology, it is important to keep ourselves abreast. Website is an important tool to reach out to many across the world, thus making it user-friendly and presentable is necessary. Prabhat has been fortunate to have the support from Joanne Morgante and Roberto from Maxtudio, Roma to set-up a new website. Three years back they presented Prabhat with a fantastic looking website which was evolved based on the market research of user data and the organizations need and they now continue to help us give the website a face lift. Their support goes beyond the website and Prabhat is very fortunate to have them on board as supporters and friends.

Improving teacher-child communication: No one is still sure when it would be safe to have children coming back to the Centres, until then it is important to keep the learning going-on for them. Towards this Prabhat received a generous donation of new Tablets with calling features. They are now being used to conduct sessions and with improved quality of the video the teachers are able to do more.

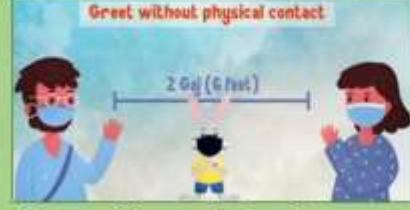
Training: 3 physiotherapists from Prabhat have been asked to conduct lectures for First year physiotherapy students from NR Physiotherapy Institute, Ahmedabad. Students from NR Institute have been coming for internship regularly to Prabhat. They get an in-depth understanding of on-field therapy sessions and how therapy is provided with limited resources in the community. They also understand the challenges of providing therapy to children with different and multiple disabilities. The training will be conducted virtually and on a regular basis for the next 6 months. This is also a reflection of the teams growth over the years.

Outreach: The outreach with 150 students from Ahmedabad University continues. They have been helping Prabhat in making videos of simple day to day task for the children. Till date the students have submitted close to 88 videos, which have gone through a vigorous process of feedback with the team. These videos will now be further refined and a process of circulation will be planned out. The response of the University and the students has been very encouraging, more students would join in this process in November. Prabhat's team has done an outstanding job of guiding and mentoring the students.

हेलो मित्रों ... मैं गटटू, मैं आप लोगों से मिलने के लिए फिर से आ गया हूँ। आपका गटटू आपसे कुछ कोरोना से लगती बातें बताएगा, अब जब सब कुछ खुल गया है, तब हम लोगों को ज्यादा ख्याल रखना पड़ेगा।



यदि सामाजिक कार्यक्रम स्थगित नहीं किया जा सकता है, तो मेहमानों की संख्या न्यूनतम रखें।



बिना शारीरिक संपर्क के अभिवादन करें।



सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर 2 गज (6 फिट) की दूरी बनाए रखें।




आंखों, नाक और मुंह को छूने से बचें।

बाय-बाय मित्रो फिर मिलेगे, अगले महीने।

Snap-shot of the month



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

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

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

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