



November 2020

Issue No.12

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

There is a connection you draw with the first child either in the family, or an educational establishment and even an organization. Arpita is that special first child of Prabhat Education Foundation. She was all of 14 when she came to the Centre, hiding behind her mother! Her eyes lit up seeing the colourful toys. Her mother brought her to the Centre regularly where she received all the attention and care from three teachers and several volunteers who dotted over her, she was the only child at the Centre for about 15-20 days. She wasn't too happy having to share her teachers with other children when they arrived, but adjusted soon as she got friends to play with. Arpita's the youngest in the family with 2 elder sisters and one elder brother, so she wasn't allowed to do much at home. Though her mother was very supportive she felt burdened at times to do so much for her, cleaning her, dressing her up, etc. The teachers realizing this need started providing fine and gross motor exercises through activities of daily living which included brushing her teeth, combing, getting dressed, eating by herself, etc. Repetitive sessions made her learn these activities over a course of a year. She came to the Centre regularly for 6 years, where she interacted and learnt to socialise, she was taking care of herself and others as well, she was helping the teachers. After her father fell ill her mother could not bring her to the Centre on a regular basis, this cut off started affecting her drastically. Children with special needs thrive on a fixed schedule and being thrown off it, did not do well for Arpita. She started having behavioural issues, which were ignored at first by her family, but then they got worse. They had to consult a psychiatrist for almost three years.

Today Arpita is 26 years old, as we go to visit her, she welcomes us with a big warm smile, a nice cup of tea into a home which is sparkling clean and her mother is proud to say it is all because of Arpita! As we sipped our tea, Arpita talked of fond memories from the Centre and enquired about her friends, while she smiled thinking of those days. Prabhat is so proud of Arpita and for all that she has been able to achieve!

You can see Arpita in action, in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYFCWxZnLLA>

By: Jagruti Desai
Special Educator

Understanding the growing needs of children with disabilities: close to 2.2% Indians live with disabilities in the country, unfortunately there is not enough information, material or studies on sexual and reproductive health issues for young people with disabilities. Prabhat from the past two years has been collaborating with various institutes to produce material and awareness on sex education and reproductive health of girls with disabilities. Centre for Media and Alternative Communication (CMAC), New Delhi, has also been a part of this endeavour. This year CMAC received grants to conduct an in-depth study on the topic of **sexual and reproductive health issues for young people with disabilities**, they are teaming up with 5 NGOs across India, for this study, Prabhat has been selected as a partner from Ahmedabad. Interviews and discussions are being conducted remotely to begin with.

<https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/THE-OTHER-SIDE-1.pdf>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-2-2-population-suffering-from-disability-nso-survey-for-july-dec-2018/articleshow/72202650.cms?from=mdr>

Bringing a larger change: Prabhat's larger goal has always been to build a more inclusive society. The focus of the past few years has been on achieving this goal. Towards this, Prabhat is very pleased and happy to inform that the years of collaboration with NID which has shaped the minds of young designers, is all set to have that impact on another institution in Jaipur – Indian Institute of Craft and Design (IICD). Thanks to Ms. Gayatri Menon, Professor NID, Ahmedabad who presented this idea to IICD, which now has a curriculum to ideate and design for people and children with disabilities. The students are partnering with Prabhat in this first year.

Assistive services: has been an integral part of Prabhat's working. Providing access to various government schemes is essential for people with disabilities from marginalized section of the society to lead a comfortable life and in some cases a completely independent life. This month the focus has been on getting ration cards for families, which will help them buy food grains at very reasonable cost through the Public Distribution System. Assistance has also been extended to people who cannot secure a ration card due to lack of essential documents, but require food at reasonable cost, for them referral linkages are being built with organizations providing food or edible raw material.

Aids and appliance distribution: due to limited funds Prabhat cannot buy aids to distribute among those who need it, thus the organization collaborates with government and other agencies to provide for this service. ALIMCO provides excellent quality of aids and appliances to Prabhat which are then distributed to the beneficiary, whose names have been pre-registered based on a complete physical and mental assessment. This month's distribution includes – hearing-aids, wheel chairs, MR kits and braille kits among 20 children.

Helping hands, heart and mind: *Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the HEART!* Prabhat's journey with Ahmedabad University continues, this month yet another 27 students joined hands with Prabhat to make learning materials for children to provide them with a qualitative learning experience. The challenges of these tough times are not felt as much at Prabhat because of the love and support that is being extended from everywhere for the children.

Diwali campaign: a campaign for ‘donations in kind’ for the children of Prabhat was conducted by a group of young volunteers over various social media channels. Most of the volunteers are still studying in school, but they gave their time and heart sincerely to raise awareness and do the collection drive. All the material collected has been distributed to the children and their families of Prabhat.

A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for running a successful campaign, you all did make this Diwali a little bit more brighter for our children!

Happiness is knowing there is a cake in the oven! Is this not true? a couple of grade 6 students from Riverside school came to the Centre to remind our hardworking team of just that! A very lively, fun, hands-on baking session was conducted by Alisa, Nandita of grade 6 and Tanuj grade 4 at the Centre. It was a well-deserved and an aromatic filled unwinding session for the team.

Product design: three students from NID are working towards designing and re-designing products for the children of Prabhat. They are working on developing unique classroom designs, sensory stuffed toys as per the different needs of a child and conduct art and craft session which encompasses the Power of 9 in it. The students are right now engaging in discussions with the team to understand the children and their particular needs.

The Power of 9 includes: gross motor, fine motor, self-help, cognitive, language/communication, sensory, mobility, socialization and pre-vocational.

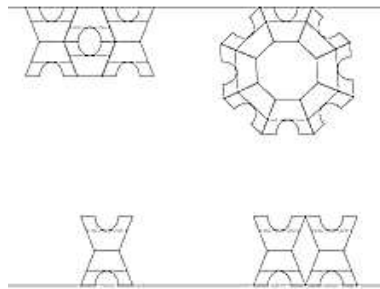
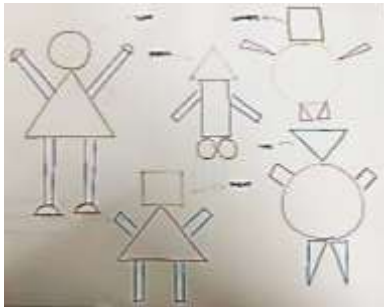


Tribute

Prabhat regrets to mention the sad demise of Sheikh Sanofar Mehboob. We will miss her dearly and the happiness and joy she brought to everyone at the Centre and we convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.



Snap-shot of the month



Designing for Prabhat's children



Understanding the growing needs of children with disabilities, a call-in progress with CMAC.




Our little Arpita, all grown up now!



Materials collected from the donation drive being distributed among the parents.

 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

Website: www.prabhateducationfoundation.org

Prabhat Education Foundation

A-4, Sujal apartment
Opp. Satellite bungalow
Ramdevnagar
Ahmedabad 380015

