

Roshni

A monthly news letter by Prabhat Education Foundation

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

It is not an easy task to manage a child with severe behavioural issues coupled with severe intellectual disability! Mehboob joined Prabhat 6 years back at the Danilimda Centre, he comes from a large family with 7 other siblings and meagre income at home. His father runs a tea stall in the community, mother with 8 kids is not able to go out to work, thus they find it difficult to even manage two square meals a day. Mehboob wasn't treated too well at home, no one knew how to handle him and his moods, so he was violent and destructive, even at the Centre. It had only been a few months since I joined Prabhat, I was enjoying with the children, when Mehboob joined, I was lost on how to handle him!

He would break the toys, tear paper, disturb children in other classes, I was also worried as he had a violent streak which was not intentional it was because his energy was not being channelized properly. We started giving him time-out when he was being unreasonable, we also realized he would do certain things to gain attention. The time-outs had to be implemented very strictly and took a long time for him to realize it was a reaction to his improper behaviour.

After two months he started calming down, we learnt that he liked to do activities with colours, so we gave him hours to have fun with colours, all sorts crayons, paints, sketch pens and he would really feel happy and would showcase his work to all teachers and other students, it was nothing much but few scribbles here and there but for him they were his art he was proud off! We had to constantly counsel and provide a lot of guidance to his parents and siblings. We told them that his extreme reactions are because he is disregarded and having no other way to express, he gets violent or destructive (Mehboob uses non-verbal form of communication).

Today when I look at him, I feel happy! He is a much calmer child, who can sit in a class for than an hour, he understands when he is being unreasonable. He is a very affectionate child; he would love to meet you and hold your hand if you visit and off course would like your undivided attention all the time!

Sejal Anand
Special Educator



“Part of being a person is about helping others”

Taking care of a sick spouse, a 22-year-old child with intellectual disability, taking care of the little shop and most of the chores at home, Mahawar Devdutt Kanchan (60 years) does not tire! His son was a part of Prabhat when the organization was working in the Lambha ward. Just when he had given up hope about him and had enough with all the ridicule they faced in the society, he saw Prabhat treating his son Hitesh as their own, he was so moved. Prabhat helped Hitesh develop pre-vocational skills so he could be of help at his father’s puncture shop. Realizing how life had changed for him, his and his son because of the various government schemes that Prabhat helped them access, he knew it was imperative to share that and help other members in the community who may have person with disability at home. So, he took it upon himself to pass correct information gathered from the Prabhat team in the community. Lambha ward is a fairly large ward with a population of 1,40,000 people almost. Devdutt bhai’s contribution really boosted Prabhat’s work in the area. Even today when Prabhat is longer working in Lambha, he makes sure if there any identified cases of a child with disability he refers them to Prabhat. In February 2021 Prabhat had organized a series of workshop and training on menstrual hygiene, he gathered women from his area and made sure they attend the training.

He has also offered help to Prabhat’s children by providing them training on simple repair jobs for cycle and two-wheelers. The families Prabhat works with come from marginalized section of the society so it is essential to develop vocational skills among those who can, so that they can be of help at home which also does not let the family feel burdened to take care of the child.

The leadership taken by Devdutt bhai to further the cause of Prabhat is commendable!

Kishore Vaghela
Field coordinator



Hitesh lending a helping hand to his father at their puncture shop

Setting up the routine: With things moving offline slowly, Prabhat has also started conducting activities and therapy at the Centre. To avoid crowds and maintain covid-19 protocols, limited number of children are called in for sessions. The week is planned in such a way that every child gets the opportunity to visit the Centre once a week. Activities at the Centre include – physiotherapy, pre-vocational training, academic learning and Early Intervention. Friday is allotted for children who missed the sessions during the week. Children in far off wards are sent the materials online.

More hands and heart: NR Physiotherapy Institute, Ahmedabad have been collaborating with Prabhat for the past 3 years. They consider the hands-on training the students get at Prabhat is a very enriching experience and builds a deeper understanding of the course. Currently there are about 25 students from the first year interning with Prabhat.

Simple craft that is not only calming but useful as well: 5 children between the age group of 4 to 12 years (Aashna, Alisa, Mishti, Meethi, Vinisha, Rivaan, Ruhi, Arjun and Rivaansh), took on the task of teaching origami to Prabhat’s team. It was a fun interesting session organized well with clear instructions by the children. It is amazing to see how much these little children want to give back to the society in their own simple ways. They want to conduct the second round of training with Prabhat’s children. This session was possible because of Ms. Anjali and Chintan Seth, Prabhat’s long standing supporters.

Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day: Though at Prabhat we do not require ‘just a day’ to celebrate any disability, we are doing it 365 days of the year, but we take these global celebration days to reach out and sensitize more people. There are currently 46 children with Down syndrome at Prabhat, a small celebration with good food, music and dance was organized for them. It was a joyous time, for those 3 hours we all forgot about the corona virus or the havoc it is causing. Children enjoyed blissfully! The cherry on top was the visit by the wonderful team from Qi to Happiness, especially the therapy dogs.

Distribution of donation in kind: After a substantial collection of donation in kind, Prabhat organizes distribution drives. Usually, a place in the community is identified for this, but with the covid scenario, it was safer to keep the distribution at the Centre. Everything collected is distributed among the families of Prabhat and remaining are given to other needy families in the community. Each room had a different theme- clothes, stationary, toys, etc. All protocols were followed during the distribution.

Sensitization drive: The training and workshops with the anaganwadi and social workers have been on for the past 3 months now. These are proving to be highly effective. This month alone Prabhat was able to reach out to 280 workers. The topics of these trainings are identification of children with disabilities, especially those disabilities which are not visible but which can be identified through the child’s behaviour, actions, responses, etc. and the other important topic is informing them about various government schemes available for people and families of those with special needs and how it can be accessed. If the form needs to be filled online, the team guides the participants on step by step procedure of filling it. Equipping anaganwadi workers with the right information ensures increased reach of it. With limited human resource, Prabhat is unable to reach out, to too many wards, thus core community workers are what helps empowering the families and those with special needs, also in turn making the workers more informed.

Aids and appliances: Prabhat works towards providing independence and mobility to those with special needs. The last few months with the support from ALIMCO Prabhat has been able to distribute a number of aids and appliances. These are distributed after a thorough assessment by experts – physiotherapist and psychologist.



S.No.	Type of aids	Total
1	C P Chairs	28
2	Folding Wheel Chairs	25
3	MR kit (TD OM 01 MSIED KIT-MULTI)	105
4	Braille Kits	5
5	Hearing aids (TD OE 17 BTE DIGITAL TYPE)	23
6	Knee Albo Food Orthosis (BL KAFO 2LM BIL KAFO II)	2
7	Tricycles	4
8	Albo Food Orthosis 2BLLM BIL AFO II RLOZ	2
9	Blind stick (Smart Canes)	4
10	Crutches (TD IN 39 CRUTCH AXILLA ADJUST)	3
11	Motorised Tricycles	5
12	Walking Sticks	2
13	ADL Kit (TD OL 01)	1
14	Tricycle with Zink Battery (D OE 21 13 ZINK AIR BATTERY)	5
15	Blind stick (Smart Canes) (advanced)	3
16	Prosthetic legs	10
17	Walker with wheel (Roletar)	1



Snap-shot of the month



Do they know its World Down Syndrome Day!

Joyous about his newfound mobility!



She picked her choice on distribution day!



Anganwadi training