

# Roshni

A monthly newsletter 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

Hello readers, today I would like to introduce my little friend and students named Ayaan (8years). His mother got him to the Centre, she was very confused and nervous. Nervous because she was worried he would run off from the Centre. We assured her that we would be watchful and keep an eye on him all the time. We got him admitted to the Early Intervention (EI) intervention. As I started to do a complete detailed assessment, I realized that he had very clear speech but just severe behavioural issues. Initially he was very destructive, the language he used was not appropriate for a child his age, he would feel happy when he would hurt someone. Some of the things he use to share was a little shocking for me, like instance one day he told me "teacher, I am digging a big hole in the ground and everyone walking by will start falling in it, it will be so much fun". I decided we need to find the root cause of these thoughts that he was having. A home-visit confirmed the fear that I had, that he was picking all this in and around his home.

He is young and I knew with a little love and care we could bring about changes in his behavior, but this had to go hand in hand with changes in his home environment. So we started counselling his parents making them speak to other parents on how home environment is an essential part of bringing holistic development in any child. This was not an easy process to begin with, there was a lot of negativity, and name calling the child had been used to. So I use to make him the monitor of the class which instilled responsibility not just for himself but for others as well. We also started giving him the charge of taking care of younger children but also keeping an eye on him. He started enjoying this newfound leadership skill. We used this as a positive motivation for him and started telling him that if he learns he can also teach, he was joyous of this proposition! The progress thereafter was really fast with him, but the credit for this also goes to his parents who put in efforts in bringing considerable changes at home and also started talking about it with their neighbours, so that they could adopt those changes as well! Ayaan was soon admitted into a mainstream school as he was now equipped with basic academic skills and better behavior. You could see the sense of pride as he would wear his uniform and walk out with his neighbourhood children to the school. But even after joining the school he would come to the Prabhat Centre often to meet us and share about his school happenings. I thank him for cooperating with us and becoming the happy child he now is and a salute to his parents for taking and working on all the feedback. During this covid-19 situation, I am conducting online classes with him, he seems to like it, chats a lot with a smile on his face!



Kashmira Upadhyaya  
Special Educator

"Believe you can and you are half way there!"  
Theodore Roosevelt

*“Part of being a person is about helping others”*

When you enter a rural or a small town you would notice a bunch of elderly men sitting in a prominent place or under a huge banyan tree discussing village politics to world affairs! Rana Bhika Bhai was one of them. It was easy to spot him due to his loud commanding voice. He called out to us, as we went around surveying for identification of children with special needs. We explained and told him in detail about Prabhat’s work and that’s when he said “look even I can’t walk”! He didn’t feel bad or upset about it, he seemed to have taken it in his stride. He offered us chai at his place, we couldn’t help but notice he did not have any aid to help him up or walk, he depended on his brother and his wife to help him around. He showed us his place which was small but warm and the tea was nice and sweet! We noticed how he had made changes in his house to make accommodations suitable for himself. While talking to him he said that he wanted to be financially independent but he didn’t have any means of doing that.

Rana bhai was very moved by the work Prabhat is doing and assured us that he would help out in any way that he could. In the next aid and appliance distribution camp, we invited him as well, conducted a thorough check-up and he was eligible for crutches and soon after he was also given a wheel chair. Having got his newfound mobility, he immediately started advocating for Prabhat, reaching out to families and also helping in identifying any children who needed assistance. He used his own story to motivate and inspire people. He became an integral part of Prabhat’s outreach.

Everyone at Prabhat had grown quite fond of his sweet tea, the organization started to raise funds to help him setup a kiosk. Given his age and mobility issues, his movement was limited, so a kiosk is what best worked for him. We thought he would only be selling small things, after a week when we visited him, we were welcomed with a hot cup of sweet chai! He had set up a tea stall, we were amazed at his skill and his will to do so much more!

So, if you happen to pass by Lambha, do stop and ask for Rana Bhai’s *chai ni kitle!*

Kishore Vaghela  
Field coordinator

### A tribute



Harsh, you will always be close to our heart and remembered fondly by everyone.

Harsh was a student at Prabhat and also the son of Laxmi Vishwakarma, a teacher at Prabhat Education Foundation, we lost him on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Building towards improved health:** In December-January Prabhat conducted a series of awareness workshops in partnership with Oowomaniya on menstruation and menstrual hygiene. In continuation, based on the feedback and questions received that time, a virtual workshop was conducted to address them. The focus point of the workshop was how to maintain personal hygiene and identifying any problem issues faced by women of different age groups. It was a very interactive session surprisingly, most of these women do not have any platform to discuss these issues nor do they feel comfortable visiting a doctor for it. So, a platform like this through an organization they trust makes it easier for them to talk about it. (For details of the earlier training, please refer to Roshni dated January 2021: <https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Roshni-Eng-Jan-2021.pdf>). Prabhat is also doing a detailed study of the data collected through these trainings, it will be published and posted on the website soon.

**Aids & appliances and assistive services:** Assistive services are an integral part of Prabhat’s outreach to children and people with special needs. This intervention includes assistance in procuring essential documents like medical certificates, identification documents, ration cards, benefits of various government schemes for health and travel. In April Prabhat’s CBR team assisted 27 people to get their state transport pass, 32 people for UDID and 5 for schemes under the *Sant Surdas Yojna*. 7 children were given hearing aids and 12 were provided with MR kits, which include learning aids and other sensory based items.

**Training:** Continuing the anganwadi trainings that have been going on successfully over the past few months, this month as well 30 anganwadi workers were sensitised about disability and the identification of it. The trainings have proved to be useful as the anganwadi workers were able to identify 6 children with disabilities this month and referred them to Prabhat. They have been admitted under the Early Intervention (EI) initiative as they are within 0-8 years of age. Anganwadi workers become an extension of Prabhat's community outreach and with the early identification of children with disabilities, timely and appropriate rehabilitation can be provided which proves to be very beneficial for the child. In Prabhat's experience several children admitted under EI have now been able to join mainstream schools.

**Networking and collaborations:** This month as well Ahmedabad University (AU) has partnered with Prabhat to provide first year students the experience of working in the development sector. Advocacy is a very important objective of Prabhat's work. Reaching out and sensitising the society at large is equally important as providing rehabilitation to a child with special needs. Building a conducive environment for the child to thrive in, is what Prabhat is working towards. These opportunities help achieve that. Initial discussions with AU are underway, after which the students would decide on how they would like to volunteer with Prabhat. Stress is always upon making it a mutual learning experience.

**Visit by Composite Regional Centre for Persons with Disabilities (CRC):** A wing of The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which provides both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, health, employment, etc. Visited the Prabhat Centre to review and check on the activities post the lockdown. A showcase of all that Prabhat is able to do in terms of education, therapy, counselling and guidance was presented.

**Product design:** 4 students from NID, Ahmedabad completed their final year project of product design with Prabhat. They were very interested after seeing Nandita Saha's (NID, Gandhinagar) project on toilet design for children with cerebral palsy ([https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GP\\_Nandita2-1.pdf](https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GP_Nandita2-1.pdf)) she completed 2 years back, based on the case study of a Prabhat's child. They built further on her idea and have developed prototypes. These will be tested once the covid situation eases out and if successful, Prabhat will then look at ways to scale it up.

**Consolidating progress:** Prabhat follows a robust monitoring and progress tracking of every child admitted. A monthly report is prepared which is then consolidated and prepared into a yearly progress report of the child. The tracking of changes help in modifying the activity and physiotherapy plans if required. It also helps to keep parents abreast about the development and to guide them on any additional support they need to provide the child at home. This month the team had to spend a lot of time getting this done, considering all the challenges the covid situation had brought up.

The second wave of this virus has hit our country terribly. While the country is grappling, Prabhat is also striving hard to keep its families comfortable. With your support Prabhat is able to provide food and ration to 400+ families, as majority of them are out of work yet again, due to self-imposed lockdown by most factories. The organization has also gone back to providing online classes for the students and their siblings. Regular online counselling and physiotherapy sessions have also begun.

These are difficult times, sometimes depressing and saddening as well, but there is light at the end of this tunnel, we will all overcome this!

Please stay safe and protected!

Prabhat has been selected by Gocrowdera, an online crowd funding platform, to raise funds for the children and families of Prabhat: <https://gocrowdera.com/prabhateducation>



## Snap-shot of the month



Dr. Kavitha explaining the physiotherapy process to the CRC members



NID students at work at the Centre



LIONS Club of Ahmedabad presented summer kits to the children



Thank you for helping out with the food kits, our children are relishing it!

### Prabhat Education Foundation

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

Phone: +91-79-4890-305  
Email: [prabhat@prabhatedu.org](mailto:prabhat@prabhatedu.org)  
Website: [www.prabhateducationfoundation.org](http://www.prabhateducationfoundation.org)

