

#1: March 27, 2021

When I first heard about the Prabhat Education Foundation, I was intrigued as to how they created a community filled with aid and acceptance for children with special needs. Upon further research into Prabhat Foundation, I was astonished to see how much help the children were receiving to improve both their lives and the lives of their parents. I saw truly passionate healthcare workers and educators working alongside children of all ages and adults to ameliorate their social, mental, and physical health. Young children were being taught languages and mathematics, in addition to physical aspects such as walking and fine motor skills. Teenagers were receiving counseling for their overall wellness and stability, as well as obtaining career advice for their further pursuits in education. Adults at Prabhat are trained by employment experts who help them create a competitive resume and practice their interviewing skills. Prabhat is a highly efficient organization: children are being prepared to eventually go to standard schools, which is something that Prabhat prides itself on. The fact that it has worked with hundreds of children with special needs and made them school-ready is a noble and praiseworthy accomplishment. Unfortunately, this process was interrupted by the oncoming of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Prabhat did not give up on their goals of providing education. Throughout the pandemic they have been providing the same quality of educational programs through online distance learning, with educators helping the parents through guided activities with the children. They have also been sending food packages to families in need to help reduce the stress on their finances. Along with education and counseling for children and their families, a major part of Prabhat's model is based around raising awareness and advocacy for those who have special needs because they only have limited resources available to them. It is often an extremely difficult task to find help for children with mental or physical impairments, and Prabhat's endeavors to increase these resources shows their passion and dedication towards this cause. It is heartwarming to see what a positive effect Prabhat Education Foundation is having on these children and their families, and I hope to contribute in any way possible.

- Om Bhagia