

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

While conducting a CBR survey in Shah-Vadi area, the team met two brothers, one of them had visible disabilities, while the other as told by parents had learning disability. Their family lives below the poverty line, but the father is working hard and wants to see his sons study well and make a better life. Seeing the father's motivation and determination, Prabhat was really inspired to provide services to the children. The team shared about Prabhat's work with the parents and convinced them to bring both of them to the closest Prabhat Centre. Both Yashvanth and Haresh started attending the Centre regularly. Yashvanth was being prepared to join a mainstream school, for which he was taught basic academics, activity for daily living – which includes dressing on their own, maintaining personal hygiene, eating on their own and being more independent and responsible. While Haresh was admitted in the primary section at the Centre. After just a few months, Prabhat got the opportunity to admit Yashvanth into Vandematarm School. With the support from donors, the organization was also able to provide for Yashvanth's school fees. Yashvanth did well in the admission test and interview. I was providing remedial classes after school for him to bring him up to speed with the curriculum. My colleagues at the Centre, realized that Haresh was not to happy or keen to come anymore. we realized it was because he was missing his brother. So once I took Haresh with me for the remedial class, he was overjoyed to see his brother in the school and was eager to come with me every time thereafter. Prabhat conducts assessment on a regular basis and during one such assessment we realized that Haresh was also improving and doing well with the help of the remedial classes, so we let him continue.

Even during the lockdown both the brothers get up on time, bathe, dress and get ready for their online classes. Prabhat has been striving towards bridging the learning gap which has occurred due to the lockdown by providing children with curriculum based learning material. For Haresh as well material is being sent with a few changes based on his understanding along with tactile learning material which have been provided to enhance Haresh and Yashvanth's learning, these are also followed up with regular calls to handle any queries. Sibling rapport is such an essential part of growing up, thus Prabhat works towards integrating siblings into various activities.

Hardik Chavda
Special Educator



Like sugar and spice, siblings make things extra nice!

“Part of being a person is about helping others”

Hawa ben was a remarkable woman, Prabhat met her during a CBR outreach program. I still remember how many relevant questions of hers I had to answer during that visit! After having convinced her, she finally told me about her grandson Salman, who has special needs, but she didn't want to send him anywhere as she did not trust anyone to take care of him like she did, we assured her, that we would, and invited her to visit the Centre and see the work. She soon did, and finally after being convinced, admitted Salman to the Danilimda Centre. She started taking keen interest in Prabhat's outreach program, especially the CBR activities. She was a person with an authoritative and strong hold in the community, like an unsaid leader, people especially women use to come seeking her advice and guidance.

She started actively participating in the community level advocacy work of Prabhat, which included distribution of information material, survey guidance, helping in organizing community level camps (medical and others). Prabhat depended on her to do the community level work when it came to women and girls. The series of health workshops conducted in February by Prabhat was also in strong attendance by the women from Danilimda, whom she had convinced to attend.

Hawa ben was a lady who would support and stand by you, once she believed in your work. Her stories have enthralled our volunteers, the schools and college students who were taken to her place as a part of home visit. Prabhat was lucky to have her as a pillar of support.

With a heavy heart we inform the sad demise of Hawa ben this month. She has left a legacy behind, by the richness and quality of her service to the community, especially those with special needs. She will always be fondly remembered by all of us at Prabhat.

Keshav Chatterjee



Prabhat's little Gattu showing what he has been busy with!

A tribute



With a heavy heart, we announce the sad demise of Vansh Makwana (3 years old). He was a student under Prabhat's Home-based Rehabilitation.

He will always be remembered fondly by the Prabhat family!

The second wave of the covid-19 pandemic was merciless in India, many of Prabhat team members fought hard with the virus. But we are happy to inform that despite varied levels of infections all of them are healthy and fully recovered. Prabhat would like to take this opportunity and salute each team member for their dedication, unity, sensitivity and care they have shown even during this difficult time and for standing strong with the organization. Prabhat owes it all to you!



Food kit and food distribution: even though it wasn't a complete lockdown, several stores, factories and industries had closed voluntarily to curb the spread of infection, because of which majority of Prabhat families could not go out to find work. With the support from donors, Prabhat was able to distribute ration kits (comprising of rice, pulses, oil, masalas, atta, snacks, etc.) to many families during these difficult times.

Eid celebration: Prabhat did not want its children to feel upset as most families were unable to bring in the festivities of Eid. New clothes were distributed, and a lovely feast was organized for the children and their families, keeping all the covid-19 protocols in place.

Ahmedabad University collaboration continues: as mentioned in the previous Roshni, the partnership with AU continues this month as well. 250 students have joined hands with Prabhat to understand disability and prepare material for creating large scale advocacy. This month the students were given the charge of simplifying the Disability Act of 2016, using various forms of media. Some of the output include – a booklet, street play, presentation, etc.

Assessment and distribution of aids and appliances: the assessment and distribution continued this month as well. Assessment for 20 children was conducted at the beginning of the month and distribution of the aid was at the end of the month. Aids included callipers, splints, MR kits and wheelchair. Aids and appliances help in the mobility of children and persons with special needs. Prabhat has seen some very good progress of children who have started using the callipers and splints.

Toward better health and covid-19 protection: even during the scare of the second wave, some Prabhat team members have taken personal care and interest in providing the communities the organization serves with the required immunity booster foods and health drinks. Regular fact checked information is also circulated among the families to provide them the right information and remove the pandemic of fear. Prabhat is working towards organizing a vaccination drive in the community.



Snap-shot of the month



Assessment



Eid mubarak



Enjoying some aamras!



Waiting to be fitted



Harsh keeping a check on the ration!

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