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 more than 3000 persons with disabilities in Ahmedabad as well as to their families, neighbours and communities.
A mother’s journey of challenges and love

Reshma, Salma’s mother

I experienced profound joy when I delivered my first child whom we named Salma. We received so much love and blessings from all our family and friends.

Our joy was short-lived, when the doctors informed us about Salma not responding normally to certain gestures like calling out her name and not blabbering like most infants do. Then the whole cycle of tests and visits to experts began, only to find out sadly that Salma had speech impairment, visual impairment as also mild mental retardation. It was so difficult for us to digest this news, especially me as everybody blamed me for giving birth to Salma and said that I would have done something wrong in my last birth to have a child like Salma.

My sorrow soon started disappearing as and when I saw Salma smiling. Salma’s smiling face gave me the strength to face any challenge that would come my way to give my best to Salma. Though my family was against sending her to a school, I was adamant that Salma should be given the best of opportunity, just like any other child would be given. I finally heard about Prabhat after I experimented a lot by sending Salma to various places. I felt so relieved when I saw children being treated and educated here with so much love and care. The support and the counselling that I received from Prabhat teachers was of immense help for me to take care of Salma even at home. They were just a phone call away for any help required.

Salma’s journey at Prabhat started about 5 years back and I can see a tremendous change not only in her behaviour but also academic skills.

My sincere advice to the parents who have a special child is to believe in your child as well as yourself. Having this faith in each other will help us fight through all odds and give us strength to move ahead in life.

(The names in the story have been changed to respect the privacy of the narrator and her daughter)
**Training:** This month’s focus has been on capacity building within and outside the organization. The primary goal was identification and training of anganwadi and mainstream school staff before the commencement of the new academic year. Through an efficient mapping tool, for which the team received training from the Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad, they have been able to identify over 24 aganwadis, out of which training and capacity building has been done with 8. Identification of 28 schools in the given areas have been done and teacher training with 4 schools have begun. These trainings and workshops will deepen as the level of engagement increases gradually. The first phase of training include orientation and rapport building. **Parent training** is also an integral process for the overall development of a child. The frequency of the parent trainings have been increased post covid. This months training aim was safe travel for the child. Since its inception Prabhat has always organized transport facility for the children who come to the Centre. Towards this a sensitization training was conducted this month for the parents and also for the autorickshaw driver who ferry the children. The training entails guidelines on what precautions need to be taken with the child. These are very essential trainings as some of these them travel alone for the first time. Proper care needs to be taken and sometimes changes need to be made in the auto to provide the children a safe and secure travel.

**Institutional collaborations:** Prabhat is gradually being recognized as a training hub for institutes. This month Prabhat has been able to successfully build ties with a new Physiotherapy college – Sharda College of physiotherapy, Gandhinagar, to observe the physiotherapy intervention. 25 students from Composite Regional College have been conducting their practical work at the organization. This training involves teacher observation, preparing class sessions and finally conducting classes with the children under the supervision of a Prabhat team member. These collaborations are very beneficial for Prabhat as well, as there is a fresh perspective for qualitative enhancement of interventions along with specialised support.

**Learning activities:** This month’s focus in few of the Centre and Dehuls was on using real life objects to build understanding of various concepts, especially money and social interaction as part of Activity for Daily Living. While others focussed on fine and gross motor skills combined with speech exercises.

**Khel Maha Kumbh:** Is an annual sports event organized by the Gujarat government, where both traditional and modern sports are played. Prabhat’s children have been regularly participating in the event. This year 101 children from Prabhat participated in various sporting events. Out of which 3 did tremendously well and won awards. The participation of Prabhat’s children in these public events have a deep positive impact on their overall progress it also motivates and encourages parents. The preparation of the children begins a month in advance.

**Assessment and Aids and appliance distribution camp:** An assessment camp was held at the Danilimda Centre which has reopened this month. The assessment gives a clear idea on the progress/level of the existing Prabhat child. This camp also served those newly identified. A detailed counselling and guidance sessions was done for the new parents. 29 old students and 14 new were a part of the assessment camp. Aids and appliances are an important part of development for a person with disability. Prabhat strives to source aids and appliances from various agencies – government and private, to be able to distribute these in the community and especially for the children. This month, Prabhat was able to procure them from the Social Defence department and distribute through Prabhat’s Vatva Centre. It included - wheel chairs (10), CP chairs (2), MR kits (40), Crutch (1), tricycle (5), hearing aid (3).
The confidence, the joy, the social interaction... all being enjoyed at Khel Maha Kumbh.

Anganwadi workers training

Aids & appliance distribution

Activity for Speech therapy