



November 2022 | Issue No. 36 | A monthly newsletter

# Roshni

Reaching Out to Serve Humanity with  
New Initiatives



## 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.



## Patience attracts happiness, it brings near that which is far!



A smiley face, shiny eyes and a clay statue clutched close to his chest, was quietly listening to my talks with his father. This situation is the result of 5 years of rigorous hard work. In the beginning when Aryan came to the Centre it was a huge challenge just to make him sit. Aryan has intellectual disability, when the family realized they took him to several doctors and he was prescribed several medications, but nothing seemed to work. Eventually one Doctor advised, that along with medication Aryan will have to be kept busy with activities, to keep his mind diverted from being destructive. Along with Intellectual disability Aryan has severe behavioural issues, especially aggressiveness and restlessness.

Taking the doctor's advice, the family began afresh but also realized that in silos he will not learn anything much. Unfortunately, the kind of response the family was hoping for, from neighbours and community members they did not receive and thus Aryan was kept at home yet again. Without giving up the parents got Aryan admitted to a school nearby. The hopes the family had, to get him to calm down, was not fulfilled, there were no changes and they were asked to take Aryan out of the school due to his aggressiveness. The principal of the school being a kind man told the father about Prabhat and said to seek out support there. Submissively Aryan and his parents came to Prabhat. The team told them about the week long observation they do, they were piqued as none of the other institutions they went to, did this process. His father accompanied him daily during the week, he gradually understood how Prabhat works. He was elated and pleasantly surprised by the time and attention each child was getting at the premises and that's when a glimmer of hope was back again. Aryan got admitted at Prabhat's Vatva Centre, the team did have a tough time initially but gradually progress was visible. From not sitting in one place for a minute, today Aryan sits for hours together doing some activity especially making objects with clay which has played a huge role in calming him down. He has also learnt to be independent and does most of his chores by himself.

Today after 5 years, the progress that his father sees, he says "the schools that take fees couldn't do, Prabhat did it". Aryan's aggressive nature has been tackled patiently by the team. Today Aryan is doing well academically as well. Prabhat has become a part of his regular routine.

His father ends my interview with him, by saying "instead of seeking to bring a change in a child with disability, it is essential for us to build our understanding and acceptance of these children".

**By:** Krishna Keshvani  
Researcher

Prabhat Education Foundation



[https://www.instagram.com/prabhat\\_education\\_foundation/](https://www.instagram.com/prabhat_education_foundation/)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1oxuBWMDvyCRk2EPzjIA>



<https://www.facebook.com/Prabhateducationfoundation/>



[www.prabhateducationfoundation.org](http://www.prabhateducationfoundation.org)

# Monthly update

**Collaborations with Anganwadi strengthen:** Prabhat is working towards strengthening the anganwadi to school transition of a child with special needs. Towards this rigorous sessions with anganwadi and schools both private and government are being conducted. In July 2022 a survey was conducted to identify children with disabilities in the age group of 0-5 years in the area near the anganwadi. The data from this was also used to show how essential it is for the mainstreaming of the children, which needs to begin at the anganwadi. As mentioned in the September issue of Roshni, Prabhat has been able to secure space in an anganwadi near Berral market, where physiotherapy sessions along with special education is being conducted by Prabhat. This is a big step as these establishments are government facilitated playschool/pre-schools. 8 children were identified through the survey, out of which 4 started attending the anganwadi. The disabilities range from cerebral palsy to intellectual disabilities along with behavioural issues.

**Children's day:** At Prabhat, children are at the centre of everything! This time the team decided to do small 'extra' fun activities for the children through the month. Starting with a wonderful painting event in collaboration with Clear Water at the beautiful Sundervan (a nature discovery centre in Ahmedabad), followed by dancing & unique painting lessons by our young dynamic volunteers and off course an outdoor Street Smart event, just what is needed at the beginning of the winter season – some warm sunshine! It has been a power packed month for them and for us as well.

**Space design of the 'Dil se kaffi Café':** A part of the Vocational Training Unit (VTU) of Prabhat, the café works as a hands on learning space for young adults under training. Prabhat has collaborated with The Riverside School grade 6 students to redesign the café completely and make it more appealing to guests and visitors. The grade 6 students put in a lot of hard work, including several visits to the Centre and finally handed the new design plan developed in accordance with the Prabhat team and children as well. These plans are not being gradually implemented at the VTU.

**Parent awareness and rapport building workshop:** Prabhat's parents require continues push and encouragement as they face several trials and tribulations on a daily basis, this encouragement is essential to also give the child a conducive environment at home. These workshops help build a rapport with the parents who have confided in the Prabhat's team with several issues that plagues them at home, in the community, etc. Parents have been the backbone of Prabhat's journey, their support has been critical in initiating several interventions at the community level. The team did a wonderful job of organizing an interactive, participatory full day session for the parents of Beral market dehlu.

**Board meeting:** Prabhat takes pride in its Board of Trustees and looks forward to all the wisdom and guidance they provide in bettering the organization. It was a wonderful time to have all the Trustees meet the team in person at the Satellite office this month. Prabhat's Board of Trustees include: Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee, Ms. Renu Seth, Mr. Geet Sethi, Mr. Shridhar Rajagopalan, Ms. Hasyalatha Mehta and Mr. Keshav Chatterjee.

**Capacity building:** An engaging 4 day residential workshop was conducted by Dasra for its Rebuild India Community. The idea of the workshop was to engage in brainstorming to resolve some common challenges in the development sector today and also how to streamline and prioritize efforts of community based organizations to bring more recognition to the grass root level work being done by them. Dasra has been known for its participatory and democratic way of conducting workshops and also engaging with their partners. It has been an amazing learning journey during the course of these 4 days. Prabhat looks forward to more such captivating and invigorating workshops. Prabhat is one of the organizations partnering with Dasra as a part of its Rebuild India efforts.

**Access Audit:** to demonstrate to various institutions what an ideal environment is, for a child with special needs, Prabhat with support from Wipro conducted an access audit, done by Association for People with Disabilities (APD), Bangalore over 2 days in November. Prabhat looks forward to the detailed report by APD, which would suggest changes that can be done taking into consideration the challenging locations and the nomadic nature of Prabhat's space, which then Prabhat would strive to implement over the course of the next year.

**New collaborations:** Include Adani International School partnering with Prabhat for the Buddy Interaction model and Gujarat University's Department of Mass Communication & Journalism for creating advocacy. The first Year students of Development Communication of the Gujarat University did a fabulous puppetry event at two spaces in the community – in a dehlu and the Prabhat Centre to create awareness for the cause. The puppets were made by the students who first understood the community and the manner in which they treat a child with disability. It was an interactive performance by the students. These collaborations play a pivotal role in Prabhat's larger vision of advocacy which includes reaching out to the larger society and building a more aware and accepting world.

**Research:** Prabhat has been working in the community for over 14 years, there have been many lessons, many unique challenges and countless outcomes, some tangible, some intangible. In an attempt to capture these impacts and outcomes, Prabhat is conducting an in-depth research, comprising of primary and secondary data collection. These would soon be shared with the Prabhat community. This study is equally important for the organization to introspect and strategize and plan for future course of action.

**Networking:** Prabhat was invited for a networking dinner at Mr. Pavan Bakeri's residence, where they met and networked with other development organizations. The desserts for the dinner were prepared by Prabhat's children under the supervision and guidance of experts and special educators. This was a good learning experience for the students in the VTU.

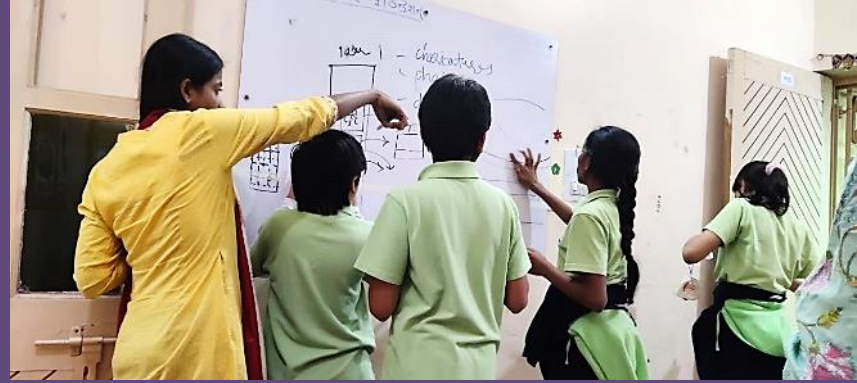
# Photo gallery



Games & laughter what a fun way to begin a meeting!



Research for impact analysis underway



New design for the café being worked out!

અમદાવાદ-સિટીભાસ્કર 02-12-2022

**દિવ્યાંગ બાળકો માટે 'પહલ નઈ સોચ કી' નાટ્યની પ્રસ્તુતિ કરાઈ**

અમદાવાદ : ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટીના પત્રકારત્વ વિભાગના વિદ્યાર્થીઓ દ્વારા દિવ્યાંગ બાળકો માટે પ્રભાત ફાઉન્ડેશનના સહયોગથી કઠપૂતળી નાટ્યદર્શન 'પહલ નઈ સોચ કી' પ્રસ્તુત કરવામાં આવ્યું. આ કઠપૂતળી દ્વારા દિવ્યાંગ બાળકોને સમાજ આવૃત્તિ સ્થિતિને વર્ણવવામાં આવી હતી. જેમાં એક દિવ્યાંગ બાળકના પેરેન્સ તેની સારવાર માટે ભૂવા અને દોરા-પાગા કરે છે જેથી તે દિવ્યાંગ બાળકને કેવી તકલીફો વેઠવી પડે છે, તે વાતને કઠપૂતળી દ્વારા રજૂ કરવામાં આવી હતી. વટવાના ભીર્ષીપુરા તળાવ પાસે આ કઠપૂતળી નાટક પ્રસ્તુત કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ કઠપૂતળી નાટકના પર્ફોર્મન્સ માટે વિદ્યાર્થીઓ માટે કઠપૂતળી વર્કશોપનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ વર્કશોપને રમેશભાઈ દ્વારા કંટ્રી કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું તેમજ આ નાટકને આનંદ પારેખ દ્વારા ડિરેક્ટ કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.



Puppet show by Dev Comm. Students of Guj. Univ

Hearty congratulations on your wedding Kishore bhai, wishing you a lifetime of happiness!  
From all of us at Prabhat

