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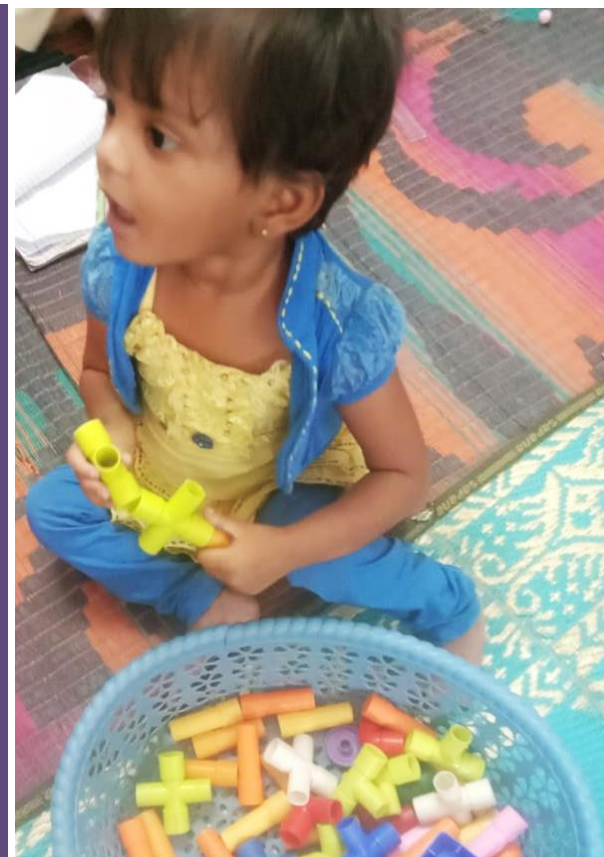
Reaching Out to Serve Humanity with
New Initiatives



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.



A glimpse of motherhood!

He loves children, well before he had his own, he used to constantly keep playing and clicking photographs of children from his neighbourhood and his nieces and nephews. When a person like this gets the news of being a father, feeling are inexpressible! As it was their first child, Pradip's wife went to her mother's place (as is the custom in most parts of India) and owing to a death in the family, he was only able to meet his child after 2.5 months. He couldn't contain his feelings, when he saw his child, he immediately took out his phone to capture that moment and cherish this memory. As he was clicking the photo, Pradip had a slight doubt that something was amiss. He did not get the reaction he anticipated from Varun, but he let that go for that moment and started clicking more photographs.

Days and months passed playing with Varun, but that initial seed of doubt kept nagging Pradip, after 4 months they took him to the Doctor. The Doctor said there are no apparent issues, they were at peace, which didn't last long. Varun was always very alert around bright, shiny lights and kept staring at it. Family members noticed he was not achieving his development milestones. They knocked the doors of several private and government hospitals for over 8 months and finally got the diagnosis. Varun has vision problems and intellectual disability. Pradip cried a lot on getting the diagnosis, but also thought he might get better with time and regular medication, but he was told by the Doctors, that is not so. As a father he was very worried not just for Varun's condition but also their financial situation, as Varun required regular medications and check-ups. Pradip's work place did offer to help him but only on the condition that Pradip should give the guarantee that his son will 'get better'! He laughs and says "madam yeh guarantee mey kaise unko dey sakta tha" (Madam, how could I give this kind of guarantee)? He is such a driven father, who was ready to go to any lengths to provide for his child. He took a night shift job, close to his place, so that he could spend time with Varun during the day. Even though the pay was irregular he continued there, so that he in case of any emergency he could rush back.

Pradip loves to spend time with his son, he says Varun loves to get dressed and go out with me, he says "he would hold my hand as soon as he gets ready"! On asking whether Varun listens to him, he laughs and says "Wo mujhe apni saari baath manva deta hai" (He makes me agree and listen to all his demands)! Today Varun is 9 years old, this journey has not been easy, but despite that, their love for Varun abounds each day. They were not planning on having another child, but at the promise of their family who said they will take the responsibility, Pradip and his wife had a baby girl. Though the parents chime in, we love Varun more, what more is there to give him, other than love!

Varun joined Prabhat 4 years back, he wouldn't stay with anyone other than his parents before that, but is now spending the entire day at the Prabhat Vatva Centre, and this has been a big achievement for him. Varun is the Centre of their lives, every decision, every planning done in their household is with keeping Varun's comfort as a priority.

I am lucky to have witnessed such a beautiful father-son relationship.

By: Krishna Keshvani
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https://www.instagram.com/prabhat_education_foundation/



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



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1oxuBWMDvyCRk2EPzzjIA>



www.prabhateducationfoundation.org

Monthly update

Psychology session with parents: As essential it is to provide regular psychology assessment for the children, it is equally important to provide these opportunities to the parents. The platform for discussing in a group, builds a support system and gives them the assurance that they are not alone. Fun, interactive sessions were conducted by Prabhat's expert consultant and most sought after psychologist Dr. Killol. He shares that challenges are aplenty but solutions are few. A lot of questions are also similar in nature and thus parents in these platforms help out each other from their own experiences. 30 parents participated in these workshops.

Eye check-up for parents: Happy, healthy parents make a happy, healthy child! This month a detailed eye check-up was conducted for 15 mothers, done by Dr. Brinda Shah. Guidance for further course of action has been given. Dr. Shah is the only optometrist in Ahmedabad treating those with low vision. Prabhat is fortunate to get support from such skilled and highly experienced subject experts.

Psychology assessment: Helps understand certain behavioural characteristics and their deep rooted causes. These assessments are conducted periodically with the children and on certain occasions when a stark difference is noted. The assessments and the analysis help to bring changes in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of the child if needed. This month the assessments were conducted for 91 children by Dr. Killol and Dr. Malav Shah, Prabhat's consultant psychologist, covering children from Kankaria shala no. 8, Vatva and Beral market areas.

Making every voice heard during elections: Gujarat was reverberating with election and its associated news in the early parts of December. Prabhat was requested by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to arrange wheel chairs. Team organized around 257 wheel chairs to be placed across the city in various voting booths. Prabhat's team was also present to assist those needing wheel chairs or other assistance.

Parents committee meeting: The parents committee met this month, to discuss and share activities progress. They also gave feedback and discussed some changes that can be brought about in some of the interventions. They discussed on how to increase parent interventions, which will enhance the processes and help provide better results.

Real life learning experience: This month to teach the concept of money, independence and general life skills, children from the Vatva Centre were taken for a shopping visit, with each child given 20 rupees. The students were free to purchase things they like, most of them bought snacks. This process helps children with social interaction, dealing with money, calculations and overall confidence. Building these skills also make them more helpful at home.

Teaching and Learning materials: Tangible materials are extremely essential while teaching children. They enhance the learning experience of an individual. Learning materials as a teaching tool works well for all age groups and sometimes even adults. Prabhat is always in need of new innovative TLMs, also because of the usage the materials wear out sooner than expected. This month with the support from the Ahmedabad University volunteers, Prabhat developed several TLMs which are now being used at the various Centres.

Celebrations: Christmas and especially Santa's visit is a much awaited day for the children. All Prabhat spaces are decorated with the festive fervour, with the Christmas tree being the centre of attention. The tree is made in various ways – paper, cardboard and on some rare occasions a real tree. Festivals are occasion to reiterate the message of love, kindness and oneness.

Parents meeting: A fun, interactive parents meeting was conducted at Beral Market dehlu. As majority of the children here are in the age group of early intervention, regular guidance and counselling help these young parents in building their understanding on disability and get a realistic picture of their child's achievements. The session comprised of fun games and sharing by Dr. K. Kavitha, Jagurti Desai (special ed.), Nikul Solanki (Special ed.) and Sabina Vohra (educator).

Visitors: Prabhat had the pleasure of welcoming Ashik Shah from Maitri Foundation and students from Som Lalit College, Ahmedabad. Their visit was to understand Prabhat's work in detail, build a deeper understanding of the communities and how building participatory processes helps build sustainable solutions. These visits are also an acknowledgement to the team for all the wonderful work they do. It builds confidence among the team to talk about their roles and how each role aligns with the overall vision of the organization.

Photo gallery



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