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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.



In Khushnuma's life, 'happiness' will always remain in true sense.

Every individual has the potential to grow and spread their wings, they just need to be given the right opportunities. The experience with Khushnuma is similar for Prabhat as well. Since birth, she is hearing and speech impaired, has always used gestures to communicate. She studied in a government school from 1st to 8th grade. She had a positive experience in the school, and was extremely well liked because of her calm and positive demeanor. Unfortunately, she couldn't study further. After finishing her 8th grade, she was at home, helping in household chores, yet she longed to do something for herself and by herself. They had a old sewing machine at home and she started fiddling on it. She tried to better herself, but without proper guidance and training she wasn't able to.

Her family was aware of her desire to learn stitching and tailoring and brought her to Prabhat upon hearing about the vocational training unit. Prabhat was excited to have her. Khushnuma was elated on seeing all the sewing machines at the training unit and kept running her fingers on all the products that were on display at the unit. Her enthusiasm has not stopped since, she has been with Prabhat for 6 months now. She has learnt to draw, cut and do simple sewing. She did not stop herself just at the vocational unit, but eagerly started participating in all other activities at the Centre. She has made some great friends at Prabhat. She also assists the teachers sometimes in the classroom. She does win everyone's heart, because of her pleasant demeanor, she has never let her disability come in the way of interacting or socialising, a big lesson for all us to learn from her.

Her bother now wants her to become self-reliant once she graduates from the vocational training unit and this encouragement that she gets at home as well, pushes her to learn and better herself every day. The day isn't far when she would become financially independent a joy everyone at Prabhat is awaiting!

She really lives up to her name 'Khusnuma'.

By: Krishna Keshvani
Researcher



 https://www.instagram.com/prabhat_education_foundation/

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

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



www.prabhateducationfoundation.org

Inculcating creativity as a value: Prabhat constantly works towards cultivating the spirit of creativity to develop fresh ideas not just internally but also with volunteers. This month 8 students from NID were oriented towards Prabhat's work and subsequently challenges were shared with them. Based on the urgency and their own skills the students developed a mobile sensory unit. This product will be especially helpful for Prabhat's home-based children. Also taking into consideration Prabhat's nomadic nature, these mobile learning and therapy units will be handy. The prototypes have been developed and shared with Keshav, Director and Kashmira, special educator for feedback. These products will be further refined based on the feedback gathered. Easy to use TLMs (Teaching & Learning Material) have been prepared by the interns from Ahmedabad University. These materials have been made specifically for those in Prabhat's remedial classes. With the school programme progressing steadily the team required tactile teaching resources, thus these materials will be used for the same.

Parent meeting:

Parent meetings are a ladder for a child's progress and thus the team meets them at regular intervals. The continues dialogue helps understand the environment the child is growing up in and is more essential to extend support that the organization can provide to the parents. This month in one of the parent meetings at Vatva Centre focus was on providing information on the e-Shram scheme of the government. Government officials were also present at the meeting for further clarity. The e-shram card helps those in the unorganized workforce to access monthly pension scheme after the age of 60, life insurance, etc. Forms for 30 parents were also filled on the spot. In another meeting, discussion on benefits of outdoor exposure visits was done. Parents were encouraged to take the child with special needs for more outings, as this has proven benefits, especially if done with the family. Sometimes parents are reluctant to take the child, challenges around that were addressed by the team through videos and discussions. In Berral market dehlu parent meeting, information on social entitlements for a child with special needs was provided by members from CRC (Composite Regional Centre, government of India).

Celebrations:

Women's Day - A Day dedicated to women does not suffice for the number of roles they play every day! Prabhat wanted to give them a day of break and acknowledge all the support they extend in different ways, as a team members, mother, grandmother, and sister. A day of fun and awareness was organized. There were games, dance, experience sharing and discussion and awareness on women's rights by Abhayam (A women protection wing of the government). And all ended with a good hearty lunch and gift distribution.

Holi - Colours inspire us to live life with new hope and happiness! Such is the festival of Holi. Holi is always celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm. Children celebrated this festival by feeding each other Dhani, dates and delicious snacks. Along with this, children also celebrated with the Riverside school grade 6 students at Parimal garden.

Assistive services: is a process to assist those with disabilities to access government entitlements. This month the CBR team assisted 9 to procure civil certificates (disability certificates), 15 with railway pass and 5 for pension scheme. These entitlements help people with disability tremendously and becomes an integral part of them leading fulfilling lives.

Networking: Prabhat continuously strives to look for avenues where it can advocate for the cause of disability and bring opportunities for the community it serves. This month Social Venture Partners invited students from Prabhat's vocational training unit to display their skills through products made by them. As it was a dinner meet, Prabhat's students made cupcakes which were relished by one and all. The girls took pride in what they could serve and confidently interacted with the guests. These social interaction opportunities are very essential for the progress of the child, especially for those who are going to seek employment soon.

In addition, Prabhat met representatives of Visamo Kids Foundation, an organization working to provide quality education to children from economically weak families. They now are looking at bringing in children with special needs and required Prabhat's expertise to guide them for the same.

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

- Helen Keller

Awards: Prabhat takes pride in its team and is very appreciative of the effort they put in daily. Happy to announce that Kiran Parmar and Kishore Vaghela, two strongest pillar of Prabhat's CBR programme were felicitated with the Angel Awards, a Vishalwin initiative. Prabhat is extremely proud of their achievements.



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