



July 2023 | Issue No. 44 | 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.



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



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



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



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

# A smile does make a difference!

With the spirit of never giving up, Aarav's *dadi* strived to help Aarav to make him come where he is now. Her identity is conjoined with him and is always known as Aarav's *dadi*!

They have been coming to Prabhat for the past one year. When Aarav was admitted to Prabhat, he was two years old, with moderate level of cerebral palsy. Aarav had difficulty keeping his neck steady, needed support to sit, and could not respond to anything. But within a year of rigorous physio and speech therapy, Aarav has started sitting, walking and even responding to every instruction given to him. This tremendous story of progress is filled with lots of twists and turns and hope and inspiration.

*Dadi* says we got to know about his leg problem within an hour of his birth, the doctor's suggested splints for his legs from early on. The process of using splints is not an easy or a pain free one (both physical and emotional). The legs have to be tied in position which is extremely painful in some cases. a very difficult sight for the family, but the right move for Aarav. The initial weeks were very tough, he use to cry and shout but eventually got use to the rhythm. After bandaging, the doctor gave him shoes to wear, which he had to keep on constantly for months as advised by the doctor. The family did all this thinking it would help his condition. *Dadi* says he seldom laughed or smiled, he use to always appear sad and in pain, it use to hurt us to see him like this.

Even after months of using the splint we could hardly see any improvement, we tried hard not to loose heart. During that time we heard about Prabhat through a friend. I visited the place with my daughter-in-law and Aarav, that is where, for the first time we saw so many children in such difficult situations, seeming happy! The thought of seeing our child smile, was greater than any physical improvement or progress for us and that is what encouraged us to try the services once. Doctors at the hospital had told us, regular exercise and physiotherapy will help Aarav's condition, but taking him to the hospital even once was so difficult for us, going everyday was impossible. But having Prabhat close to our place and with such competent doctors and team was a blessing.

It was a unanimous decision to admit Aarav at Prabhat, but again the problem of taking him everyday to the Centre was looming over our heads (although close, but with so many chores at home, it seemed difficult), but that is when I decided I will do it, I will strive and give it my all to make him feel better and give him a good life and make my child smile. Since then Aarav has become a top priority for her, *Dadi* says we have to always work towards getting things done, they don't just happen.

Along with bringing Aarav regularly to the Centre, *Dadi* sincerely did the exercises for him at home as well. She diligently follows all the instructions given by the teachers and does not hesitate to ask questions, however silly it might be. The results of all this is visible in the progress Aarav has made today.

Manish Bhai, who has been Aarav's physiotherapist at Prabhat for the past one year, says that, within the initial three months of physiotherapy a sea of change was visible in Aarav. Usually the task we keep for teaching later, started early with Aarav. We started teaching him ADL (activity for daily living) to make him more independent. Off course, it is our job, to help them progress, but when we see these tremendous results in the child and the joy it brings to the family, our heart fills up! At Prabhat through years of experience we believe that a conducive home environment is a big factor in a child's development, making the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' true.

The sincere efforts of various stakeholders has truly given hope for Aarav's future. Early diagnosis of the child and its timely treatment/rehabilitation was one of the main factors which led to this progress combined with the support systems established for him.

As narrated by Kamala ben (Aarav's *dadi*)  
to Binita (teacher at Prabhat)



# Monthly update

## Admissions

As mentioned in the last edition of Roshni (<https://prabhateducationfoundation.org/roshni-june-2023-pdf/>), the field team was working hard towards the admission of children into mainstream schools. Happy to report that all 17 children have been successfully admitted. 14 have been admitted in Kankaria shala no. 8 (9 are under the RTE Act). Having the Resource room in Kankaria school has proven to be very beneficial, the authorities are now more confident on admitting children with borderline and mild disabilities with Prabhat's services being extended there. 2 younger children have been admitted into separate anganwadi as well.

## Prabhat's 'priceless asset':

A proud moment when a parent becomes the 'voice' of Prabhat. When Akshay's mother went to the Isanpur branch of Bank of Baroda for some work, she got an opportunity to speak with the Branch Manager. She spoke about how Prabhat contributed in Akshay's progress (Akshay has been with Prabhat for over 8 years). The Manager was very moved and wanted to contribute. On understanding the need, he with his team visited the Vatva Centre and distributed fans and gas stoves. They extended their support for opening bank accounts for Prabhat's children and families. On visiting the Centre with his team he also offered to handle opening up of bank accounts for the children.

## Assessment:

Assessments are essential to monitor the progress of children and provide for any gaps timely. This month speech and psychological assessments were conducted for 88 children from Vatva Centre and the resource room at Kankaria shala no. 8 by Dr. Killol, Dr. Malav and Dr Anjali.

## Anganwadi Worker Training:

Prabhat works effectively with Anganwadis and schools to ensure that every child gets a truly one-stop-shop education in a mainstream school with an inclusive approach. In this regard, training of Anganwadi workers is also done from time to time. The aim of which is that children with special needs should get education keeping in mind their condition. This month training was conducted with 34 Anganwadi workers of Lambha region. The session was on the usage of TLMs for effective learning and understanding. The team also demonstrated the usage of low cost TLMs.

## Networking:

Prabhat was invited to be a part of a Public Arts Exhibition Exploring 'Happiness in Education' organized by Miracle of Ideas, TIDE, Baharat Youth convention and Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) at AMA. Craft and art materials made by the students was on display. It was a great opportunity for the students to interact with the visitors at the exhibition.

## Buddy Interaction:

Buddy interaction an initiative of The Riverside School (Ahmedabad) and Prabhat has been one of the most unique and long standing initiative. Each student from grade 6 of the Riverside School 'buddy up' with a child from Prabhat and do activities with them, each learning from the other. The essence of the initiative is to build compassion and empathy among the younger generation to have a lasting impact. Each year the students pick a theme as per the need of the organization and the need of the larger society. This year the children have decided to organize events for sensitization and awareness in the community Prabhat serves.

## Parents meeting:

This month's dialogue with parents focussed on admission processes. For the admission this time parents had to submit an affidavit which states that the child has not been to any formal education system earlier. This process involved some cost which had to be borne by the parents. Several of them were not willing to spend that money, and had to be counselled as this was a mandatory process by the municipal corporation schools.

## Internship/volunteer

Volunteering is slowly increasing as a mandate by most of the colleges and schools across Ahmedabad. There is a larger impact that volunteering has on an individual, and sooner the spirit of this is imbibed in young minds it leads to building a more sensitised and empowered generation. Prabhat has always had the fortune of having student volunteer/intern from various educational institutions, especially National Institute of Design (NID). This month post graduate students from NID Gandhinagar developed TLMs. The TLMs are replicable, they worked in three groups and specifically addressed the needs of autistic and Cerebral Palsy children.

## Assistive/support services:

Civil (medical) Certificate: 9,

Railway Pass: Offline 6 & Online 6 Forms

State Transport Pass: 8 Forms

Pension Scheme: 8 Forms

Bank Account: 2

# Photo gallery



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