

17 YEARS OF PRABHAT 2006 TO 2023

AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

August 2023 | Issue No. 45 | 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.



The sibling bond -
Rakshabandhan

.....And at last the doors of school opened for Mehrun

Mehrun was very underweight as she was born premature. She looked weak also. Her parents hoped that, by time, she would recover once they start nurturing her. It so happened, that when she was about a year old, some utensils in the house fell; causing a lot of noise. Her mother got scared, but Mehrun was lying unmoved next to her, undeterred by all the noise. Seeing this, her mother was puzzled. Why did her daughter not react? She suspected that there was something wrong. So, she consulted a doctor, who confirmed their worst fear - Mehrun was diagnosed as hearing impaired, which would eventually affect her speaking.

Not losing hope, her parents started striving towards her progress. Those days, her mother was living in Calcutta and there she had admitted her to a special school. In turn, started learning speech therapy herself. With this new acquired skill, she started providing the therapy for Mehrun at home as well. But soon, she had to leave Calcutta as her husband was in Ahmedabad. Here, she enrolled Mehrun in a private school. They just hoped that their daughter would be able to study well and become self-reliant.

But this was challenging, given Mehrun's condition. Her father says, "Even though we changed two schools, we did not see any progress in her academics. Sadly, teachers gave up on Mehrun and dismissed her. This situation was extremely painful for her parents. More so, they weren't financially capable of sending her to a private school. They felt very dejected. Meanwhile, the Covid pandemic hit, and like all the children, she could not attend school for two years, losing precious time for her academic progress.

Mehrun's burning desire to go to school and her parents' dream of making their daughter self-reliant opened a window of hope. A neighbour enlightened them about a child with special needs being given education and therapy by Prabhat in Chirag School. Soon, the parents visited the Beral Market Centre. They were excited seeing the facility and services and knew heart of hearts that Mehroon will progress here. And Mehrun became a part of Prabhat by taking admission in Beral Market-Dehlu.

But Mehrun only wanted to go to the mainstream school. She was curious about the uniform and formal school setup. She was inquisitive to know why she couldn't go to a formal school. Prabhat's team was aware of this. So, they set the same goal for themselves - they should get Mehrun admitted in a normal school. She had to get ready for this. She had to be given that kind of education so that she could overcome the gap of two years.

Her parents and Prabhat's team started working for the goal with activities that Mehrun liked- dance and drawing. They used it as a medium for various tasks. Language and mathematics - both were given attention along with various life skills, to raise her level to join a mainstream school. To boost her confidence, she was asked to teach other children in the Centre, at which she was bright. On Teacher's day she loved the attention and getting ready and come as a teacher. The family has been very happy to see her progress.

Finally, she got admission in Chirag School this academic year in the sixth grade. Mehrun's happiness knew no bounds. Now she regularly goes to school wearing the uniform. Along with this, extra classes are provided regularly by Prabhat's special educators for academic support. Mehrun is moving forward with a new flight. Let's give wings to their dreams! Let's make every effort together. Surely, many children like Mehrun will be able to take a 'new flight'.

-By: Nikul Solanki (Special Educator)



Team Jacobs-Partnership: Prabhat runs a home-based program for children who cannot access Prabhat centres due to severe disability. Through this, necessary therapy and education is given so that the child can perform basic daily tasks. Prabhat's partner in this program is Jacobs (<https://www.jacobs.com>). Due to which this program has been implemented well. This month its team members - Sunil Gajjar, Trupti Patel and Pankaj Khokhani met Prabhat team. They interacted with the team and children and became aware of the work. During the visit and interaction, they boosted the morale of the team. In this process there was exchange of experience and learning between the teams- Jacobs' and Prabhat which will definitely give new energy and strength to this program.

Networking:

- The findings of the study for urban safety under Safe City Ahmedabad project with Prabhat team were presented by Team Safe City. Based on that, priority was given to different subjects. Accordingly, the topic of disability was discussed with Prabhat. In this, a meeting was also held with the local people to develop more concrete information and participation so that information regarding local issues and situation could be exchanged more effectively. The School Principal, teachers, Anganwadi workers, and parents had participated.
- An **orientation** in which information was given about Prabhat and ideas were expressed was conducted by **Pranavbhai and Kashmiraben from Prabhat Education at Ahmedabad University**. It helped the students to know as to how they can do more effective activities in their internship.
- A visit by Mahatma Gandhi Mission (M.G.M.)-Aurangabad and Anand Niketan Group to Prabhat through Riverside Learning Centre (RLC): M.G.M. and participants from Anand Niketan group visited Prabhat as part of the training provided by RLC. Here, they tried to understand Prabhat's working style and outlook. They observed how achieving big goals requires sector- level planning and how one can work creatively and be result-oriented even with limited resources. Here Prabhat's work and experience on special needs in mainstream schools was shared. This idea can be spread on a wide scale.

Assistive services:

- 7 people were taken to Government Civil Hospital Asarwa for medical certificates.
- Filled in 05 forms each - online and offline for Railway Pass, 9 forms (online) for State Transport Pass, 05 forms (offline) for Pension Scheme and opened 1 child's bank account.
- Instrumental aid - 2 snacks kits (through previously done forms), 8 battery-cycles, 10 tri-cycles and 29 calipers.

Celebration of Raksha Bandhan: Just as preparations to celebrate Raksha Bandhan in the family start early, the excitement is similar at Prabhat also. Here you see children the parents as well already making Rakhis. The atmosphere appears to be very energetic. Finally, the day has come to tie Rakhi on the wrists. Each brother had brought a little something for his sister. Everyone had come prepared. The moments of this festival were very exciting. There was happiness on everyone's face. The festivity was completed with sweets and new delicacies.

Independence Day Celebration: Independence Day celebrations are always special for Prabhat. Because this festival of democracy gives Prabhat the courage to march towards its goal. Prabhat's children, parents and the team participated in the celebration of the 77th Independence Day. The children were very happy with the activities like dance and crafts and the national flag in the hands of every child looked like a symbol of new hope.

Volunteers of NID students: Students of NID visit Prabhat centre at regular intervals and after research, they design products. This month they created a magic robot for speech therapy, an app for music therapy and a terminal for motor developing. Each of these products was tested and a presentation was also given about it in their college. In this activity, Jagurti Ben and Kashmir Ben from Prabhat's team had participated. This product was later discussed with students and Prabhat team. They always make products keeping the resources and situation in mind. This way, Prabhat becomes a medium of learning for both- the team and the students. Apart from this, home visits of hyperactive children were conducted by these students in which they tried to infer the children's condition.

Coffee with Riverside School: To create a generation that is sensitive to the child/person with special needs and can adopt an inclusive approach is the idea behind "Buddy Interaction". This value is being preserved in many children through this program. To carry forward the tradition, this year also a dialogue program was organized with the new children (grade-6) of Riverside and an in-depth discussion about Prabhat Foundation was held. This process is done before they go to Prabhat Centres so that they are familiarized with the subject and situation at an elementary level. This dialogue process has been interesting as always. Expressing thoughts in new ways with new children, new questions continue to make Prabhat stronger.

Photo Gallery



Prabhat Education Foundation

325, Iscon Emporio
Satellite
Ahmedabad
Gujarat 380015

Phone: +91-79-4890-305
Email: prabhat@prabhatedu.org
Website: www.prabhateducationfoundation.org

