



November 2023 | Issue No. 48 | A monthly newsletter

# Roshni

Reaching Out to Serve Humanity with  
New Initiatives



## About Prabhat

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.



Here begins an exciting  
journey to mainstream school!

## Beginning of Sharmishta's novel journey

In her initial days at Prabhat, she'd feel nervous and uncomfortable. So, she wasn't interested in coming to the centre at all! The challenge of removing these undesirable feelings, was sincerely accepted by Prabhat's team. They wanted to make sure that she slowly feels comfortable in the centre's environment. They were aware that there was a specific reason for this behaviour. Because of the way she was brought up, she'd completely isolate herself from people other than her family.

We are talking about 35-year old, **Sharmishtha** whose parents and brother are no longer in this world and she lives with her uncle and aunt. She'd suffer from fits at birth which stunted her intellectual development. The family noticed this when she was three or four years old and she wasn't showing signs of physical and mental development like the other children. Her father did not want to go through the agony and social stigma of his child being called 'crazy' and therefore insisted on keeping her indoors all times. She wasn't allowed to familiarize herself with the people in her surroundings nor become a part of it. She never received any therapy, education or medical treatment. As a result, there was no development in her condition and she lived with them without being given the care needed for her disability. Years passed by and unfortunately, her father passed away during the Covid pandemic and shortly after that her mother also passed away. To add to her misery, she lost her brother in a fatal accident. So, she was moved to her uncle's house. At a new place and new faces around, she prepared herself to start her life afresh.

Her aunt approached Prabhat for help so that she could change her conduct of being a complete introvert. This was surely a difficult task as she had never been around people since her childhood and now she was a 35-year old woman! Hence, it was a struggle for her to be at the centre and try mingling with others. At first, she was not ready to stay in the centre or accept the people (due to her childhood stages). Her aunt also contributed in her progress by giving her company and spending time with her at the center. Despite continuous support and encouragement from her aunt and the team, she didn't participate in any of the activities. She began to be violent and often harmed other children. Various activities were conducted by the special educators in regards to her like-dislike for certain tasks. Keeping this in mind, action-plans would be decided. Soon enough, she began attending the center regularly and the daily activities of the center like prayers, various games, eating together etc. became a part of her routine. She learnt to accept company and mingle with others. She now enjoys taking lunch, playing etc. with other children.

She has also started talking to everyone in her house and neighborhood with various words and gestures. Thus she is moving towards leading a normal life. Her family is very happy to see her progress. Since her childhood, she wasn't allowed to be a part of the society at all. Her social skills never grew. Even today, due to societal behaviour, families with children with special needs isolate themselves from the community in fear and shame. It is a bitter and sad reality as it adversely affects the child and the entire family.

Along with stabilizing Sharmishtha's mental condition, Prabhat team has also assisted her aunt in various government schemes and aids that Sharmishtha is entitled to. This in a way, benefits her family also. Thus, begins a new journey for Sharmishtha.

-Prepared by Anandi Pandya



[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)



# Monthly update

**Addition of a new Resource Center:** Prabhat has continuously been essaying its role in connecting with children/persons with special needs. The idea and the motive is to deliver services to maximum natives. For quite some time now, Prabhat has had delightful experiences teaming-up with A.B.Vidyalaya, Vatva for various activities linked to this idea. There are many children in the community for whom coming over for to Prabhat center is a limitation. There was a need to develop one more resource center for them. This indication was well-accepted and welcomed by the management of A.B. Vidyalaya and soon the room was set-up. Need-based therapy and special education will be given here for children with special needs. Additionally, children who reach a certain level of development, might get to mainstream education from this school.

**Anganwadi worker-training:** *Anganwadi* workers were trained about the developmental stages of children aged 0 to 3 years for early intervention. The purpose of this training was that if a particular child is identified early and given appropriate medical attention and treatment, serious disabilities can be prevented. When any trainee, comes across any such child who may require early intervention, the trainees can guide the family or can contact Prabhat directly. Having a participation of 51 anganwadi workers of Danilimda ward, the training also highlighted the range of activities that can be done with such children. The exchange of experiences amongst the participants made the training a success.

**Film Screening at Community Level:** With the mindset that change is possible if attitudes and efforts are in the right direction, Prabhat sets real-life examples at the grassroots level. When the screening of the film '**Chahat Ki Udaan**' (by the fellowship students of **Anant University**) was organized at the community level also, positive response and confidence from the community was clearly visible. The students also witnessed ground level experience on inclusive approach which will be valuable for them in their field. This process was very effective from the view of learning and experience.

**Writing Workshop:** At Prabhat, various programs and activities are conducted to achieve any pre-defined goal. Documentation is essential to widely broadcast the effectiveness of these programs. A 'writing workshop' was organized for capacity building in which **Mr. Sanjay Dave** of **Charkha Vikas Communication Network** guided the team about the need, effectiveness, topic selection and method of writing. He emphasized that documentation is impressive when our experiences, changes and struggles act as a guide for other people. Hence, documentation is necessary to reach the masses. For this, the Practical Guide also gave extensive aid for writing. At the end of the workshop, the topics for the case study were decided by the trainees. Though it was the first phase of the workshop, it will be conducted from time to time on different topics.

**Government Support Services:** Medical Certificates: 6,  
Forms for Railway Pass: Offline Form- 4 and Online- 5  
Online Forms for State Transportation Pass: 6 (Online)  
Forms for Pension Scheme: 2

**Internship:** *"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."* — **Benjamin Franklin**. With this idea, various tools are constantly being prepared through internships by the students coming from different universities. An activity -**face cube**- for daily activities of sensory was created by textile **design students of National Institute of Design (NID)** as part of their internship this time as well. Each child was taught activities like brushing hair, tying shoe laces, buttoning and other tasks practiced while getting ready for school. While preparing for this, special care was taken to ensure that the child does not suffer any kind of physical harm and at the same time he can have fun while doing the activity. This tool was used practically with children so that it could be improved upon for future application. Prabhat feels that this would be very suitable for the children and will bring out their creativity as and when the child advances in his field of interest. NID Students acquired an insight of an inclusive approach and ideas to improve their product. This system of learning for both, the foundation and the students continues to be fruitful.

A workshop on **THUMB and FINGER PAINTING** was organized by the **graphic design** students of **NID**, in which the children were asked to take their fingerprints with various objects and make pictures. Creative pictures were shown and children learnt by copying them.

**Home-Based Programme:** Prabhat provides various services under the Home Based Program to those children for whom coming over to the center is a hindrance due to severe disability. This need was identified during 8 surveys in the new area of Vatva. These children suffer from multiple disabilities and various therapies and other services are being provided as per their schedule. After identification of previous and new children, a total of 12 children in the area have been connected to avail these home-based services.

**Vocational Training:** Young adults at Prabhat are being trained to get a grip in various trades as per their interests and abilities under vocational training. During this training, the process of constant coordination and communication with various factories and small cottage industries also takes place so that once the training is completed, the trainees can join as employees. In this month, the trainees who have reached the stage of eligibility along with the confidence and skill of the relevant job, dialogues were held with the factory-owners for their recruitment. As a result of these constant efforts, 5 people of Prabhat have been taken over for further training in the factories in the areas of sewing and packaging. Soon, they will be imparted necessary training at primary level and thereafter they can engage in it for employment.

**Festivity in Diwali:** Diwali, the festival of lights, decorations and joy was celebrated with gaiety at Prabhat. After the making of customary artistic lamps (diyas by children, parents and Prabhat team), these were gifted to Prabhat's well-wishers as Diwali greetings. Each center was attractively decorated with flowers and rangoli. Diwali cards were made with active participation by the children also. Children celebrated with enthusiasm with delicious food, fun games and dance.



# Photo Gallery



Face cube: Teaching learning Material (TLM)



Film Screening at Community Level



Thumb and Finger Painting workshop



Addition of a new Resource Center



Diwali Celebrations



Survey under Home-Based Programme



Vocational Training



Visit to Kankaria Resource Center by Seventh Day School



Writing Workshop



Anganwadi worker-training

**Prabhat Education Foundation**  
325, Iscon Emporio,  
Satellite, Ahmedabad,  
Gujarat 380015

**Phone:** +91-79-4890-305  
**Email:** [prabhat@prabhatedu.org](mailto:prabhat@prabhatedu.org)  
**Website:** [www.prabhateducationfoundation.org](http://www.prabhateducationfoundation.org)

