



April 2023 | Issue No. 41 | 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 journey of a mother and daughter

Today we narrate to you an extraordinary but yet a simple journey of a mother and daughter. Unfortunately, even today there is much hullabaloo about having a son, but mothers always deep down inside crave for a daughter and so did our mother Vinita. Having Netra was such a moment of joy, although she could visibly see there were things that were not right soon after she was born. Holding her daughter was the pinnacle of joy for Vinita. Nethra has microcephaly (A condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller than expected, often due to abnormal brain development. Causes of microcephaly include infections, malnutrition, or exposure to toxins. Symptoms vary and include intellectual disability and speech delay. In severe cases, there may be seizures and abnormal muscle functionality. There is no cure for microcephaly. Treatment involves supportive care, symptom management and close monitoring).

Netra is 12 years old, deeply loved and cared by her mother, the initial days for Vinita were those of trial and error, but she finally did get a grip on handling Nethra and admitted her into a special school. Everything was going okay, till the time they had another child, expenses soared and Netra's school was considered not of consequence and she was thus made to drop out. Netra was now growing, Vinita was doing everything she could to raise her well, she was cognizant of the gaps as well, but she didn't know how to bridge them. Incidentally that is when she heard of Prabhat and visited the Centre. Netra was brought to the Prabhat Centre and unfortunately there were several developmental delays which had occurred due to lack of rehabilitation for almost 8 years.

Netra had grown physically but her motor grip had not yet developed in comparison, her fingers had shortened, which makes it difficult for an individual to do daily activities which require fine grip. Due to lack of socialization her behaviour was not age appropriate. A holistic rehabilitation goal was prepared for Nethra and the process started soon after.

Vinita used to accompany her daughter for the sessions at Prabhat, teachers noticed Vinita was not just interacting with Netra but also other children, her single-handed care for Netra for 8 years had made her adept in understanding the needs of a child with special needs. It was wonderful to see her work with the children and that is when Prabhat approached her to join in, as an assistant educator at one of the anganwadi that Prabhat serves. She was delighted and quite surprised at the same time to know that her role as a simple mother to a child with special needs could ever be the criteria for a job!

Vinita is very happy with Netra's progress as well, she now eats independently with a spoon, she socialises and has made friends. Vinita has now also been enrolled for a Capacity building study on community based inclusive development. Both mother and daughter are super excited and driven for this new journey in their life! We at Prabhat are inspired and wish both the very best in this endeavour.

It is sometimes good to focus on the journey than just on the destination!



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

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

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



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

# Monthly update

**Research:** Research helps to hone our skills, identify gaps and problem solve with new innovative and creative ways! Prabhat after almost 16 years of existence and especially after withstanding the pandemic and its after effects has realized the need to study and understand the interventions that it has been extending for all this time. As reported last month internal research/impact study on various interventions is already happening inhouse along with it, researchers from Miami University are also conducting a study to understand the public health systems in the community that Prabhat serves. These studies with a broader perspective will be very helpful in strengthening and corroborating Prabhat's research as well.

**Capacity building:** Capacity building is essential to maintain the health of the organization and provide for its growth. 6 team members from Prabhat have been enrolled in an intensive certificate course on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) a 6 months hybrid course which will help members understand the community better and inclusion in the broader senses. This course is being provided by Rehabilitation Council of India in collaboration with Blind People's Association. Kashmira ben, special educator at Prabhat is simultaneously taking sessions with the team enrolled in the course to keep building their understanding in the context of Prabhat.

## **Towards building accessible spaces:**

Learning never exhausts the mind." "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them."  
"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence." "The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you."

- B.B. King

Especially when it is a unique learning experience such as – Museum on wheels! Prabhat's children had a wonderful time, enjoying with hands-on activities and the accessible 'bus' experience for our wheel chair users.

The Museum on Wheels is an educational outreach initiative of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai through two state-of-the-art buses that travel extensively in the city, suburbs and rural areas of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat. and Karnataka. In Ahmedabad the museum was brought in collaboration with Lalbhai Dalpathbhai Museum, a space synonym with bringing a varied and some unique experiences to the city.

**Assistive services:** Civil Certificate: 6, Railway Pass: 4 Online Form, State Transport: 3 Online Form, Pension Scheme: 4 Form, Auxiliary Assistance: 21 Form, Anganwadi Admission: 6 Children. Spectacle distribution was done for 29 children. With the support from Dr. Brinda Shah Prabhat has been able to provide for corrective actions that need to be taken for the children based on the results of the eye check-up done by her.

**Volunteers/interns:** Prabhat thrives with the support from young volunteers and interns who bring in a fresh new approach to the mundane operational tasks. During the reporting period students from Ahmedabad University, Anant University, NID, Gujarat Vidhyapeeth and LJ Law School have volunteered/ interned at Prabhat. The activities they were involved with range from – design inputs, product design, resource mapping, data organization and classroom assistance. These are mutual learning and growing experiences, both for the organization and the students.

Ahmedabad University from the past couple of months has been inviting organizations to come present their work to the students for them to be able to make decisions based on their interest and the need of the organization. This month Pranav, coordinator at Prabhat shared Prabhat's work and the crucial role of volunteers/ interns in the organization.

**Sector knowledge sharing with SVP partners:** A cluster of institutes from Ahmedabad and Surat affiliated by SVP got together to share experiences. Representatives presented their organization and highlighted the role of SVP's support. The within sector knowledge sharing helps the organizations to update themselves and be cognizant of other endeavours happening around them and possibly build collaborations if possible.

**Vocational training:** Prabhat has been striving towards taking young adults with disabilities in the direction of gainful employment, but unfortunately there is still widespread stigma and lack of awareness which hinders employment opportunities even for skilled people with disabilities. Prabhat is building a intervention which looks at employment for people with disabilities holistically, from training the young adult, to guidance and counselling for the parents simultaneously building a conducive environment for them at the work place through sensitization and training of the factory/workplace employees. In this endeavour Prabhat is also looking out for those young adults who cannot go out to work due to issues of mobility and cultural and safety reasons. Towards this, this month Prabhat trained the young adults in plastic broom making, these are assignments which can even be done at home.

**Admission of children to mainstream schools:** In connection with the resource room started by Prabhat in Kankaria Shala No. 8, files for 8 children have been prepared for the upcoming academic session. The files contain the details of the child's level of disability as well as the complete details of the child's disability. It will be easy for them to decide in which class they can get admission, Prabhat will also guide the schools in this admission process. It is a matter of great pleasure for Prabhat that children will be entering mainstream schools.

# Photo gallery



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