

PrepaNet: 15 years offering flexible, online education



When he lived with his parents on an ejido (communal property) in the municipality of Aramberri, Nuevo León, **Adar Villa** didn't have an option to study senior high school, until he heard about **PrepaNet**.

Adar, founder and director general of the company **Mecatroniks**, which sells science and technology education services in schools, was a member of **the first class to graduate** from this **education program**.

Over the last 15 years, **PrepaNet**, a **social program designed by Tec de Monterrey** for people with limited financial resources who are unable to complete their studies in the traditional way, has been offering a flexible scheme that allows students to study in front of a computer at any time rather than attend classes.



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Villa tells **CONECTA** that his father found out about the option to study senior high school at a **Community Learning Center (Centro Comunitario de Aprendizaje, CCA)** and suggested he go and ask for information.

This was how he found out about **PrepaNet**.

*“Back then it wasn’t called **PrepaNet**; it was called **Online High School**. I would drive some 40 minutes by truck to reach a CCA on another ejido. These were like Internet cafés in rural communities.”*

He says he developed the **skills** that allowed him to **acquire** and utilize **knowledge** more easily, despite acknowledging that he struggled a little at the beginning.

*“I didn’t get passing grades at first and I said, ‘I’m not suited to school. I’m just going to finish this term and that’s it.’ But then I understood that **you have to be disciplined and teach yourself**.*



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*“**Discipline** was what got me through. My grades improved. I ended up with very good marks, nines and tens, and that’s how the following semesters went until I finished senior high school.”*

Adar believes that developing a **research methodology** is what led him to become the **most outstanding student nationwide in his graduating class**.

*“When I didn’t understand something, I would do some research. At the beginning, it took a long time, but afterward I liked it because **each time I had a query I knew the path I had to take** to finish quicker and better.”*



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He says that learning to be organized is something that has helped him with his business.

*“PrepaNet also taught me to **teach myself**. Yes, **I did have the support of tutors**, but I learned to search for knowledge.*

*“Now, every time I don’t know something or face a challenge, first thing I do is **investigate** and **resolve it very analytically**.”*

A NEW BEGINNING

For **Juan Carlos Barrios**, studying in **PrepaNet** was an opportunity to restart an unfinished stage of his life. He was able to finish senior high school, which he had dropped out of because of a lack of money.

He tells **CONECTA** that he felt the need to keep studying, not just as a work requirement or to get a diploma, but to **continue his education**.



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*“I started to work. I **got married** and **had two kids**. My situation was a little more complex because I’m the father of a disabled boy.*

*He has **cerebral palsy** and has undergone a kidney transplant, so he had very special needs,” he pointed out.*

*“**Finishing senior high school was always foremost in my mind**. As a parent, with work and little time, it was extremely complicated, so I started to look for options.”*



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About 10 years ago, while he was working at the **State of Mexico campus of the Tec**, he found out about **PrepaNet**. He asked for some information and got support for his education.

*"I worked from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. **At night, I would log into the platform and work through the subjects.** It wasn't just an hour or so, sometimes I would work through the activities until two in morning.*

*I knew that I was at home, but I had to commit myself to putting together a schedule, create a calendar where **I marked down my activities by date, so I could get my work in on time and not fall behind.**"*

Juan Carlos was not the only one who enrolled in **PrepaNet**, he also registered his wife so that she too could continue her academic education.



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“We supported one another a lot; we started and completed senior high school together. The support was mutual because if I didn’t understand something, she would explain it to me. If she didn’t understand it either, then we would investigate it together.”

*“**We made progress as a family.** We wanted to set an example for our children and show them how they could get things done by facing up to any situation with commitment and dedication.”*

Juan Carlos currently works in the department of **Institutional Effectiveness at the State of Mexico Campus**. He’s studying for a degree online and his wife also continues to study.

“Everything you learn goes directly to your work and everyday life. You become a highly disciplined person.”

15 YEARS OF OPERATION

This November 25, **PrepaNet will celebrate 15 years of operation** at the **Borregos Stadium**, in a ceremony that will be attended by directors, coordinators, tutors, and volunteers.

To date, the program has managed to impact the lives of **3,185 people who have completed senior high school**.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PREPANET

The **PrepaNet** diploma is issued by Tec de Monterrey, legalized by the Ministry of Public Education, and is valid for continuing further education at any university in Mexico.

The program **involves Tec teachers and students**, who complete their community service as student tutors.

Anyone with the desire to continue their studies, regardless of age, can do so in **PrepaNet**.

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