



The Veerni Project



Newsletter

December 2020

Girls' education creates stronger economies, healthier communities and a safer world.

Dear Friends,

We would like to bring you up to date on the latest developments of the Veerni Project.

The government guidelines are still not clear as to when schools can re-open and the dates are not available. The earliest that can be estimated is January 2021.

Activities

Education Activities

In the month of July, Veerni had started offline and online distance learning program for the Veerni girls. The first phase was called School at Doorsteps and the second phase was named "Tablet" Program – distance digital with offline study contents.

School at Doorsteps: 110 Veerni students have been learning from this program, Veerni girls are located in faraway villages where they live. The Veerni team along with the teachers are continuing to keep in regular contact with these students, visiting them at home to provide learning materials and worksheets on a regular basis as well as marking and discussing their work. Homework is being collecting and new lessons have been distributed to the girls on regular basis. On a daily basis, digital content of the study material have been circulated by the Veerni staff members to 70 Veerni girls through WhatsApp groups as these girls do have technology to access. Class wise, WhatsApp groups have been created for girls who can access technology.



"Tablet" Program: The Tablet program is underway and covering the girls from classes 10 to 12 for digital education; In these tablets, the study materials with animated videos have been installed. The best part of these tablets is that, the girls do not need an internet connection to continue their studies as the material with videos have been installed into the tablets. As a result, it is an offline learning program. The goal is to bring all the Veerni girls into this program.

Once more, Veerni wishes to acknowledge the forward thinking of the project in starting the computer education as early as 2018, thus enabling the girls to pursue their studies with distance learning.





Because of the Corona Virus, we are not able to attend schools and are not able to continue with our studies. But with this Tablet, we can continue our study. There are videos on this Tablet that are helpful in our studies, now we can continue our education with this Tablet.

Name :- Nandani
Student of Class 12th



This tablet will help me in my studies. I'm in class 11th and my subject is Science Mathematics. I can also study Mathematics through this Tablet. I'm happy to receive this Tablet.

Name :- Karina
Student of Class 11th

Collaborative Working with Schools

The Veerni team has been working closely with schools to plan for re-openings, and for creating more digital education contents for the students of class 6 to 9. As soon as schools re-open, Veerni plans to bring back the girls in the institute according to government guidelines.

Health Activities

Distribution of nutritional supplements to the Veerni girls

Recent evidence has highlighted that supplementing nutrition could play a supportive role in preventing COVID-19 and strengthening the immune systems of the girls.

Dr. A.S. Deora – Veerni Board Member and Doctor, recommended daily doses of nutritional supplements to the Veerni girls such as Vitamin D, C, E and Zinc. He also included Omega 3 fatty acids, which might have a beneficial effect, potentially reducing SARS-CoV-2 viral load. These nutrients are well known for their antioxidant properties as deficiencies in these nutrients can result in immune dysfunction and increased susceptibility to pathological infections.

Since the girls of the Veerni Project come from the lower socio-economic strata of society, it is very likely that they might be deficient in these vital nutrients as they are currently back in the villages. We must keep in mind that in the Veerni Institute and in Balika, the diet of the girls are carefully monitored. This is the reason that under present circumstances, Dr. Deora has suggested Veerni provide nutritional supplementation in the form of a Combipill containing Vitamin C, Vitamin D, and Zinc in appropriate Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) as recommended by ICMR.

The Veerni team has distributed nutritional supplements to all the Veerni girls as suggested by Dr. Deora and is being monitored regularly by the medical team of the Veerni Project.

These nutritional supplements will be continued for a period of 3 months in order to remedy any deficiency and will ensure an adequate reserve to cater to the future needs.



Distribution of nutritional supplements to the Veerni girls

Distribution of Sanitary Napkins and Food Kits

Sanitary Napkins: Veerni has been distributing Sanitary Napkins to the Veerni girls on regular basis. Masks and hand sanitizer are provided when needed.



Food Kits: The Veerni team distributed food kits to destitute and needy families in the villages. Whenever the Veerni team finds any such family who lacks basic food, the kit containing rice, sugar, spices, oil, and green pulses provided to them.

Home Visits

There are 110 Veerni girls coming from 63 villages of the Jodhpur district. The Veerni team has been visiting these 63 villages on regular basis. The team is divided into two sub teams with both the matrons and Veerni nurses along with two other staff. They leave every morning to visit the villages. Apart from distributing study materials to the Veerni girls, the team has also been carrying out home visits to counsel students and their families about how schools will re-open in a safe manner.

Health Outreach Program

The Veerni team is spreading awareness of Covid-19 amongst villagers so that people know how to keep themselves and their families safe. The team is also providing general information about Covid-19; actions to prevent the spread of the virus; what to do if you become unwell or suspect someone has the virus and how to engage and support community members.

Veerni's Relationship with villagers

The Veerni Project and teams have an excellent relationship with the villagers and girls' parents. There is a strong cause of trust and friendship between the Veerni staff and the villagers. This positive relationship is an intangible but very important element in the success of these programs.

Proud Moment for the Veerni Project

A former Veerni girl Shobha Choudhary was selected for Rajasthan Police and became a Sub-Inspector. Her story is very inspiring, she was a victim of child marriage, she had to fight hard in her life. After a lot of struggle and hard work, she finally achieved a remarkable feat and made Veerni proud. She is a true role-model for other Veerni girls and Veerni girls would certainly get inspired by Shobha. Currently, Shobha is under training at Jaipur. Veerni wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.



Thank you

We are extremely grateful to those who have made donations to support our work as we adapt how we can ensure ongoing provision of education and healthcare to our girls and villagers. This is an extremely challenging time for all of us.

Veerni is committed to ensuring that girls under the Veerni Project are able to continue learning outside their normal classroom environment, while the school remains closed.

A girl's education changes everything. An educated girl is more likely to grow up healthy, safe, and empowered enough to ensure the same for her children and her community and Veerni is committed to providing education to the girls.



Jacqueline de Chollet and Mahendra Sharma