



VEERNI

EMPOWERING GIRLS

The Veerni Project

Newsletter

February 2021

Newsletter for the month of February

Arrival of girls from Classes 6, 7 and 8

- In the month of February, the State Government permitted schools to re-open classes 6 to 8. This followed permission that was granted in January to reopen all Rajasthan schools for students only in classes 9 to 12. As in the case of the older students, only 50% of the pupils in classes 6 to 8 are allowed to attend classes at the same time and this on an alternating basis.
- Until now, a total number of 95 girls from classes 6 to 12 have returned and have been reinstated in the Veerni Institute. We are presently seeking ways to bring the remaining 15 girls back to living quarters in both institutes.
- Following regulations, we were initially only permitted to house 54 girls in the main Veerni building. The other 10 were placed at the smaller Veerni Balika hostel. However, as a result of additional bedding arrangements we have recently made for new girls in both the centers we are now able to house 80 girls in the main building of the Veerni Institute and 15 girls in the Veerni Balika building.

School classes at the Veerni Institute:

- **To protect our girls from the Covid-19 virus, we are now conducting all classes 6 to 12 on site at the Veerni Institute.**
- The School has agreed to send teachers to Veerni to conduct classes in the building.
- All ground floor rooms of the Institute have been converted into classrooms.
- In addition, we have borrowed the necessary classroom furniture from the school management.
- Our girls very much enjoy attending in-house classes at the Institute. This is greatly to their benefit as now they no longer need to get up early in the morning (previously they would be woken at 4:30 or 5:00am), and as a result they also now have more quality time for themselves.
- The girls are getting greater personal attention which boosts their studying capabilities, while at the same time remaining directly under the monitoring and professional care of the Veerni staff.



Girls yet to return to the Institute

- We have received many calls from parents requesting that their daughters be allowed to re-join the Institute immediately. However, because of the Govt. restrictions, we are not permitted to reinstate all the girls at the same time in the Veerni buildings. We have explained to these parents that their daughters are amongst our strongest and brightest students and therefore we have chosen them to be the ones to wait a little longer before returning to the Institute. They can all work on their tablets and some have access to smart phones therefore enabling them to continue with their studies on-line. In addition, our teachers visit the villages a few times a week to give them the educational support they need. We are working hard on various plans which will allow us to bring them all back to Jodhpur as soon as possible to join their colleagues at the Veerni Institute. It is our fervent hope that this will happen in the coming weeks.

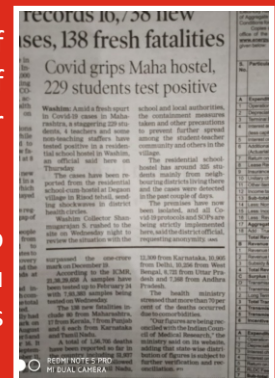


Safety and Security

- Due to the pandemic, the crime rate has increased drastically in Jodhpur city. Safety and Security are important aspects of the Veerni Project. Seeing the current scenario, we have installed more lights outside the Veerni Institute building.
- Two more security guards have been deployed in the institute to protect both the girls as well as equipment in the institute. We presently have four security guards patrolling the Veerni Institute building around the clock.

We would like to draw your attention to a recent article that appeared in the Times of India reporting a huge outbreak of Covid-19 in a girls hostel in the Province of Maharashtra. In a very short time a staggering 229 students, 4 teachers and other staff members all tested positive for the Corona virus.

Therefore our decision not to allow the girls to return to their school, but rather to educate them on site within the Institute is of major importance. In addition, as you will see below we take many other strict measures to protect the girls as well as ourselves during this critical period.



Covid Preparedness at the Veerni Institutes

We ensure the safety of the Veerni students by following strict hygiene and health precautions: -

Campus Preparedness

- No visitors and guests are allowed in the Veerni building
- Massive Covid procurements
- Face Masks and Gloves for all the Veerni staff members
- Face shields for Staff
- Thermo Scanner at main gates
- Hand Wash and Sanitizers placed strategically all around the campus
- Touch Free Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
- Social distancing marked inside and outside the Institute



Boarding Facilities Preparedness

- Thorough dorm sanitizing every day
- Regular thermal scanning of the Veerni girls
- Social distancing is strictly maintained even during evening games
- Regular laundry protocol procedures.
- Sanitizing machines outside the dorms.



Academic Preparedness

- Main emphasis is placed on Pure Academics
- Hi-Tech Classroom – equipped with online teaching modes
- Sanitized Classrooms
- Touch freehand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom.
- Mask mandatory for all
- No sharing of books, notebooks, stationery
- Temperature scanning before entering classroom



Safety Preparedness – daily sanitizing and disinfecting high contact areas

- All floors of the building
- All study and classrooms
- Corridors
- Offices
- Lobbies and Railings
- Doors and Knobs
- Toilets
- Washing points
- Switches



Dining Hall Preparedness

- Children will wash their hands before entering the Dining Hall under the supervision of the Veerni matron
- Sanitizing Machines dispensers installed
- Safe Seating arrangements



Health Care Activities

- Vimlesh, the Veerni Nurse, provides daily health services to all the girls.
- Dr. Deora visits every Wednesday to examine the girls.
- It was reported that almost all the girls had lost weight. We are providing extra nutrition supplements to the girls as prescribed by Dr. Deora.



DATE :- March 7th, 2021.


(MAHENDRA SHARMA)
DIRECTOR
VEERNI PROJECT