

The Veerni Project

Newsletter

January 2022 to March 2022



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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022 TO MARCH 2022

In this edition of the newsletter, we bring you news of the Veerni Project from the period of January 1st 2021 to March 31st, 2022.

The month of January started under the threat of COVID-19's new variant Omicron. Everyone in the Institute wished each other a happy 2022. However, Omicron which is more transmissible than Delta but far milder, resulted in restrictions being imposed and once again affecting everyone daily life.

ACTIVITIES OF THE VEERNI PROJECT:

On January 9th, the State Government again announced the closure of schools considering a surge in COVID-19 cases. According to the guidelines issued by the State Home Department, schools up to Class 12 were closed until January 30. Online classes will continue as before. **However, Veerni had classes 9 to 12 remain in the Institute.**

Veerni girls sent back home: On January 10th, Veerni sent back the girls from classes 6 to 8 with their parents. It was difficult for Veerni to send them home as parents started to get frustrated with this on and off mode of education.

Parents under community pressure and Veerni's motivation: The result of the closure of schools could be devastating for Veerni girls. Parents remained under extreme community pressure to marry off their daughters due to these school closures. Most of the girls' extended family members started telling girls' parents to stop their education; "What's the point of studying further? It's time to get her married!" But Veerni's team has been motivating the parents by visiting villages on a regular basis and Veerni tried to make it clear to the girls' families that, even while the girls were at home, they could still get an education through remote learning.



School at Doorstep program: this program was restarted on a daily basis. The Veerni team, Veerni matrons, nurse and teachers have been carrying out Veerni girls' home visits to provide learning materials and worksheets. With the help of Veerni's **Digital Education Program**, Veerni students were able to stay connected with online studies from school.

Re-opening of the Veerni Institute with full capacity: In the month of February, due to the decline in cases of COVID-19, the Government of Rajasthan decided to reopen schools throughout the State. The government issued new guidelines regarding the school reopening, with the result that schools and other educational institutions will reopen February 1st 2022, for secondary and senior secondary students; for classes 6 to 9 school, on February 10th. All students have returned to school and are happy to be back.

COVID Vaccination Camps: Vaccination camps were organized for Veerni students, ages 15–18, at the Modern School premises. A total number of 38 Veerni girls received their first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Veerni team partnered with the Modern School and Health Department of the Government of Rajasthan to conduct the vaccination drives for the Veerni girls. A consent form was sent to the parents and after receiving their consent, they were vaccinated and accompanied by the Veerni staff. Veerni always gives priority to the well-being of the students. Veerni is thankful to the local administration and happy to organize the vaccination camps for the Veerni girls of the eligible age group. COVID-19 protocols were strictly followed with physical distancing, masks, and frequent hand sanitization. We also asked the students to carry their own sanitizers and water bottles.



Republic Day Celebration: On January 15th the Indian Republic Day was celebrated at the Veerni Institute. Veerni staff and the girls of classes 9 to 12 attended the event. Republic day celebrations take place with patriotic fervor in the Veerni Institute as the Veerni girls learn about India's political history, freedom struggle and the Constitution as a part of their curriculum. They learn how the population has fought to attain freedom and make India a sovereign state. Therefore, the girls feel inspired and participate actively in the Republic Day ceremony and celebration. The National Flag was raised by the Veerni staff and the girls joined together in the singing of the National Anthem. The National Pledge which is an oath of allegiance to the Republic of India was recited by all to mark the occasion.



Farewell Party Celebration: A farewell party for Class 12 was organized at the Veerni Institute on February 13th, 2022. A total number of 14 Veerni girls are graduating. The students of class 11 organized the event for their seniors. As the celebration began, they welcomed all the graduating girls with garlands. Dance and culture programs were performed by the Veerni girls. Competitions like blind walk and musical chairs were also organized for the graduating class. Mahendra Sharma, Parbat Singh, and Manish Rao were invited by the Veerni girls, and all Veerni staff members attended.

Manish Rao, Mahendra Sharma, and Parbat Singh gave motivational lectures to girls and wishes for a bright future to Class 12 and congratulated them on their wonderful journey at the Veerni Institute. Vimlesh and Siyona (Veerni nurses) also congratulated the Veerni girls.

The girls also shared their wonderful Veerni experiences with the junior girls and promised they will always stay connected with the Veerni Project. The program was ended with snacks and lots of dancing.



Holi Festival Celebration: Holi, a celebration of color, an experience of content, harmony and delight. The most colorful and vibrant festival of India – Holi was celebrated with splash of colors at Veerni Institute. The atmosphere on March 19th, 2022 was marked with fun as all the Veerni girls celebrated this vibrant festival. The Veerni following the green and global practices had arranged for safe organic herbal Holi colors. The outside ground of the Veerni Institute was an amalgamation of enthusiastic girls who also sprinkled colors on Veerni matrons. Holi is the festival that commemorates the victory of good over evil, brought about by the burning and destruction of the evil demon named Holika. So the spirit of Holi taught the students to believe in the virtue of being truthful and honest. The festival marks the end of winter and the abundance of the upcoming spring harvest season. The girls of the Veerni Project welcomed spring, the season of hope with songs, dance, and bright colours which were the major highlights of this vivid and lively festival. These bright colors are believed to signify energy, life, and joy.



Parents' meetings: Each Sunday of every month parents' meetings were organized at the Veerni Institute. The information about girls were given to the parents and the parents were also keen to know the progress their daughters made at the Veerni Institute.



Excursions:

- **Visit to Science Park:** The students of classes 6 and 7 of the Veerni institute were taken on an educational visit to Science Park on March 28th and 29th 2022. The girls were captivated to see and understand the various exhibits on Astronomy, Bio-medical science, and working models on the applied principles of physics. They were explained the concept and mechanism behind each exhibit. Furthermore, they enjoyed the scientifically designed swings that operated on technical principles. They were thrilled to learn about the evolution of medical sciences. The visit enhanced their observational, comprehension, analytical, and reasoning skills.
- **Machiya Biological Park on March 30th and 31st 2022:** The Veerni girls of classes 6 and 7 visited the Machiya Biological Park where there is a zoo. It was a fun trip for the junior girls and they enjoyed this outing.
- **Pal Balaji Temple and Hinglang Mata Temple Visits:** All the Veerni girls have been taken to the famous temple of Jodhpur called Pal Balaji temple on February 20th, 2022 and on February 26th, and they visited a nearby temple Hinglaj Mata temple.



Birthday Celebrations: A new initiative has been taken by the Veerni Institute in the month of January to celebrate the birthdays of each Veerni girl. On her birthday, cakes and chocolates are given to them all. This new initiative creates great enjoyment and fun shared by all.

International Women's day celebration: The Veerni Project has organized an event to celebrate International Women's Day at the Veerni Institute on March 8th, 2022. The theme for International Women's Day was: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow." All the Veerni girls gathered in a hall for the event, at the beginning, Mrs. Vimlesh told to the girls that every year, March 8 is marked as International Women's Day across the globe. The day celebrates the cultural, political, and socio-economical achievements of women and girls. Nowadays, women and girls are breaking barriers and achieving the impossible every single day. There's nothing that women and girls cannot do. The Veerni girls performed a lot of activities on that day, also a cultural program was organized by the girls, they performed group dances, solo performances, and skits; it was attended by all the Veerni staff members; all the Veerni staff delivered the lecture and motivated the girls. The event ended with snacks and lots of dancing.



The Veerni project dedicated the entire week to international women's day: The Veerni team visited the villages at Aganwadi Centers (a center providing care for mothers and young children in rural areas) and spread awareness, particularly on girls' education, and also distributed sanitary napkins to the village women and girls.



Motivational lectures: Throughout the academic year and this difficult time of Covid, Veerni has been organizing motivational lectures on a regular basis for the Veerni girls. Motivation is not only important in its own right; it is also an important predictor of learning and achievement. Students who are more motivated to learn persist longer, produce the higher quality effort, learn more deeply, and perform better in classes and on standardized tests. These lectures also give new ideas to the girls and provide new solutions to problems that they have been probably facing. Lectures were organized during the period of January to March 2022.



The Happiness Classes: During the difficult time of the pandemic, Veerni started happiness classes for the Veerni girls. Happiness classes focus on emotional well-being, along with academic success. The aim is to reduce the study stress and make sure the mental health of the Veerni girls does not deteriorate from stress. Content-driven movies, Discovery, Discovery Science, Cartoons, and educational tv programs were shown to the girls. These classes are beneficial for the girls and were a great success.



Pre-board Examination: Pre-board examinations for board classes (10 and 12) were organized by the school management at the Veerni Institute. Pre-board exams are conducted keeping the preparation level in mind of a student. It is basically a replica of board exam. Board exams are quite important for a student. It is a gateway to a lot of career options to pursue further. Teachers often motivate students to do better in the pre-board examination, hence making them feel confident to do their best in the final board exams.



Computer Classes: Computer classes are conducted regularly at the Veerni institute and Veerni Balika Centre.



Annual Examinations for classes 6 and 7: The annual examination was conducted for classes 6 and 7. These exams are generally conducted in the month of April but this year it was conducted in March.

The results of classes 6 and 7 will be declared in the first week of April; for these grades, the classes for the next academic year will start on April 10th. All the girls in classes 6 and 7 will remain at the Veerni institute so they can start the new academic year. Summer vacation will commence from mid-May 2022.

Announcement of dates for classes 10th and 12th examinations: The dates of the board exams (class 10th and 12th) have been declared by the state board of education department. The exam dates for classes 8th, 9th, and 12th have not been announced as yet.

New girls' admission for next academic year: The Veerni Project has started the process for the new girls' admission at the Veerni Institute. In the current academic year, there are 14 girls who are graduating from the Veerni Institute and for the next academic year, the same numbers of vacant seats are available for the new girls. We have already received more than 300+ applications for 14 seats. Still, there are more and more parents approaching Veerni for admission. For the selection of new girls, Veerni is planning to conduct the entrance test in the second week of April.



OTHER ACTIVITY OF THE VEERNI PROJECT

Health Outreach Program: Throughout the year, the Veerni team visited villages to perform health outreach work specifically spreading awareness about COVID-19. Ms. Vimlesh, Veerni nurse, along with the Matrons, conducted awareness meetings in the villages.

COVID-19 Relief Program: The first wave of COVID-19 Relief was centered on raising awareness, preventive treatment, providing meals, distributing dry ration kits, etc. In the second wave, the Veerni Project performed similar work assisting people from the previous Veerni villages.

The Veerni Project Team interventions have been in the areas of feeding the hungry, providing food and hygiene kits to the Veerni girls, organizing the Health Outreach Program to generate awareness about COVID-19 and promoting vaccinations. The field teams of the Veerni Project are fully geared to do everything in their power to serve vulnerable groups by taking multiple steps to mitigate the sufferings brought on by COVID-19.



SUMMARY

The Veerni staff feels fortunate to have been able to reach out to the Veerni girls and to keep them engaged in education during this difficult time. Parents facing difficult times might have stopped their daughters' education, and married them off and as a result sent them to their in-laws.

Veerni is happy to share the information that there were no dropouts from the Veerni Institute during the pandemic.

Veerni reached out to all the girls, their families and previously adopted villages with essential services catering to their basic needs like food, education, and healthcare.

Veerni is grateful to all of our supporters for undertaking this journey with us. It was not an easy year for anyone, and your support is needed more than ever in the coming years.

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