



Date : May 1, 2020

A letter from the Veerni Project

## No girl left behind

The coronavirus pandemic is challenging communities around the world. We hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well in these difficult times.

Veerni is under nationwide lockdown with the whole of India till May 17 Because of the way cases of Covid-19 are increasing the nationwide lockdown may be extended.

The Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika: both the centers are closed as we are following guidelines of the Indian government for lockdown.

The Veerni staff is in touch with all the girls. So far the girls and their families are doing well.

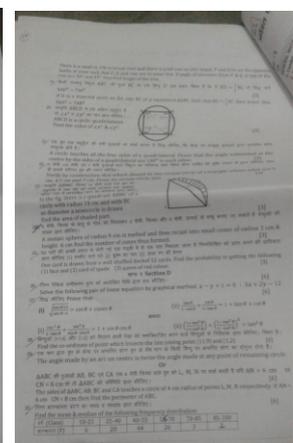
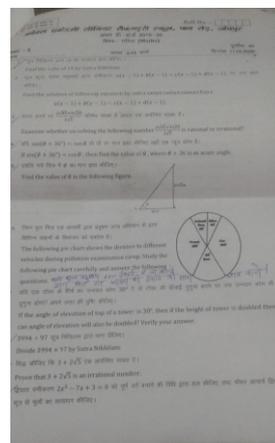
Regarding the exams, the government has decided to promote all students in the non-board classes (6, 7, 9, and 11) without any exam due to the ongoing lockdown. The date of examinations for Board Classes (8, 10 and 12) has not been declared yet.

The Veerni staff has managed to establish WhatsApp groups of about 60 percent of the Veerni girls through their parents and relatives. Veerni is getting instant information concerning the girls through the WhatsApp group. The remaining girls who do not have direct access to mobiles are also under Veerni's network through the families who are part of the WhatsApp group.



The online classes for class 10 have been started through WhatsApp group for 15 girls, so that they can be sent material to keep them engaged in education. We know it is difficult to do this as most parents are illiterate and have limited resources in-terms of mobile connectivity. Veerni will endeavor to do their best possible to keep all the girls connected with their education through technology.

Upon the return of the girls to the Institute, Veerni will make every effort to provide the necessary coaching to make up for lost time.



## Covid-19 Response and Future Planning:

Over the years Veerni has worked in some 45 villages. Because of the Veerni Institute, the project is still connected with most of those villages.

Veerni is providing guidance and awareness to the villages so that they can stay safe. The immediate priorities will be to ensure awareness and understanding of the corona virus and to develop guidelines and training on protection against COVID-19.

However this will only be possible when Veerni gets some relief from the nationwide lockdown.

In the past month the Veerni staff has donated 40% of their salaries to help the distribution of basic food supplies to the needy people on the streets of Jodhpur.



Veerni is also planning to support families of the Veerni villages where necessary. We will make sure that families are not going hungry. One of the consequences of the lockdown in India can be a lack of access to food.

Veerni will advocate through community leaders and government agencies to guarantee that these communities are not overlooked.

At this critical time Veerni is temporarily adapting its services to help ensure access to food and health care until the girls can go back to school and continue their education.

Mahendra Sharma - Director of the Veerni Project is in touch with Jacqueline de Chollet, the founder of the Veerni Project, on a daily basis. Both of them have managed to work on websites (Fondation Veerni and Global Foundation for Humanity), Newsletters, and the Annual report. A great deal of effort is going into the current problem of survival and planning for the next phase of returning to the education of the girls and young women which may be more meaningful than ever.

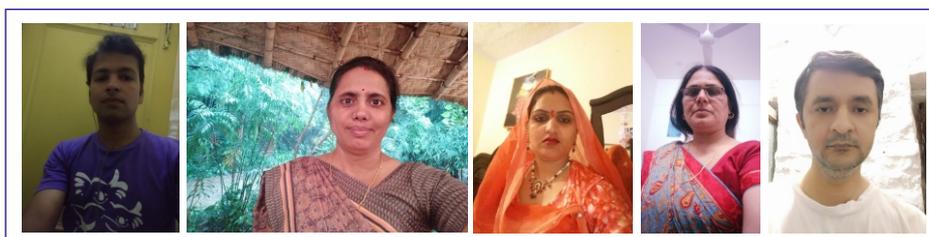


The situation of Covid 19 in Rajasthan as reported on April 30th : there are 2642 active cases of Covid-19; 61 deaths due to this virus. 529 active cases in Jodhpur and 7 people died. Locally people are completely in lockdown and most the areas are under curfew. The population is not even allowed to go outside their homes.

### Veerni staff:

All the staff members are doing well and working from home to coordinate the WhatsApp groups.

The Veerni community is very proud of the work and generosity the team is showing in these very challenging circumstances.



Veerni staff meeting through digital application

Mahendra Sharma  
Director