

# THE VEERNI PROJECT

## Newsletter

October to December 2023







Dear Friends,

Warm Greetings from the Veerni Project!

This quarter, the Veerni Institute organized its annual sports day and a cultural event, which were accompanied by an excursion that the girls thoroughly enjoyed. The event was made even more special by the presence of some Veerni graduates who were invited to inspire and motivate their fellow Veerni girls. In addition to the routine educational activities, these events provided an opportunity for the girls to showcase their talents and bond with each other.

Distinguished guests graced us with their presence, witnessing firsthand the transformative activities at the Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika. Village visits, facilitated by the Veerni staff, strengthened our connections with the local community.

Veerni's fundraising efforts took center stage with remarkable events organized by dedicated individuals. Ms. Sophie Fauchier and Sita Schutt – a board member of Fondation Veerni, led a marathon in Venice, while Ms. Marina and Tish arranged a marathon event in Australia, adding vibrant colors to our cause.

Also in this quarter, Mr. Mahendra Sharma, Director of Veerni Sansthan, visited Europe to strengthen ties between Fondation Veerni and its donors. During his visit, he provided comprehensive insights into the daily operations of Veerni Sansthan, participated in the Venice Marathon, and met with the board members of Fondation Veerni in Switzerland. He also met with Ms. Donatella Pascolini, president of Fotis – Giving Children Hope Through Education, and two committee members Ms. Vivien Hollis and Ms. Pamela Gromadzki to discuss the operation of the Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika. The visit was successful overall.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are excited to share highlights and updates from the Veerni Project, covering the period from October 2023 to December 2023



Warmest Regards,  
Mahendra Sharma

Date :- 21 Jan. 2024

# THE VEERNI PROJECT

## Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

October 2023 to December 2023

### Educational Activities at the Veerni Institute and the Veerni Balika Centre

- **Associate School:** The Veerni girls attend Modern Senior Secondary School on a daily basis from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM.
- **Extra Tuition Classes:** Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika Centre conduct extra tuition classes regularly.
- **Computer Classes:** Veerni has appointed a qualified computer teacher for computer education. Computer classes are conducted for an hour every day at the Veerni Institute and at Veerni Balika Centre.
- **Online Tuition Classes:** The Veerni Institute has a well-equipped smart classroom where senior Veerni girls of classes 9 to 12 receive additional help with their studies through online lectures. Online tuition is conducted regularly at the Veerni Institute.
- **Second Unit Test:** Second assessment started on October 9th and concluded on October 14th. All the girls participated in the unit tests and their have done in it and they have completed them.
- **Half Yearly Examination:** started on December 11<sup>th</sup> and concluded on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The examinations went well; results are still awaited.

**Diwali Vacation and Reopening:** The Veerni Institute had a Diwali vacation from November 6th to November 19th. The girls went home on November 6th and were gifted sweets. After the vacation, the staff returned on November 18th, and the girls returned on November 19th, recharged with new energy and ready to embrace the upcoming academic endeavors with renewed enthusiasm.



**Winter Vacation:** Winter vacation has been announced by the school from December 23rd to January 01st. This year, only classes 6 and 7 have gone on vacation, while the remaining classes stayed at the institute to prepare for their annual examinations, which are due in February/ March 2024. The management of Modern Senior Secondary School has decided to conduct regular classes for the girls who stayed at the institute.

## Health Care Activities

Veerni Institute takes the health and wellbeing of its girls seriously. The Veerni medical team, comprising Dr. A.S. Deora, Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma (nurse), and Mrs. Syiona Kalasua (volunteer), provides regular medical coverage to the girls. Each girl has a complete health card that contains all the details related to her health. Dr. Deora visits once a week, and the nurse is available on a daily basis, ensuring that the girls receive the best possible care.

In addition to medical care, Veerni Institute also provides health education lectures on a regular basis. The lectures cover a range of topics, including eye health, seasonal diseases, the use of sanitary napkins, skin diseases, a healthy diet, and other important health items.

**Promoting Menstrual Health:** In a commitment to menstrual health and hygiene, sanitary napkins were distributed regularly. This initiative aims to ensure the well-being and dignity of every girl at the institute.

**Nutritional Support with Protein Supplements:** Starting on October 6th, the Veerni Institute initiated the distribution of protein supplements. This step emphasizes the holistic well-being of the girls, providing them with essential nutrients for their physical development.





**Best Healthy Girl Award:** In October, Dr. Deora introduced the Best Healthy Girl Award, with three categories: 1) Below 13 years, 2) Above 13 years to 15 years, and 3) Above 15 years. The girls who won the awards are:

- **First Prize:** Ms. Anushya, age 13; Ms. Dimple Kanwar, age 14; Ms. Mamta, age 18.
- **Second Prize:** Ms. Vanshika, age 13; Ms. Poonam, age 14; Ms. Seema, age 18.
- **Third Prize:** Ms. Kratika, age 13; Ms. Sanju, age 14; Ms. Manisha, age 16.

The girls were thrilled to receive these awards, and the rest of the Veerni girls were motivated by this new initiative. Overall, all the Veerni girls are healthy and happy.





### Following things have been distributed to the Veerni girls:

- **New Shoes for Every Girl:** On October 18th, Veerni Institute took a step towards comfort and confidence as each girl received brand new shoes, supporting them in their educational journey.
- **Institute's Outfits for Classes 4th to 7<sup>th</sup>:** As of November 5th, girls in classes 4th to 7th received new hostel outfits, promoting a sense of unity and identity within the Veerni community.
- **Warm Blankets for All:** November 19th brought warmth to every girl at the Veerni Institute as new blankets were distributed, ensuring a cozy and comfortable environment during the colder months.
- **Identity Card Distribution:** On October 20th, identity cards were distributed to all girls, providing them with a tangible symbol of belonging and recognition within the Veerni Institute.
- Veerni team ensures the monthly well-being of each girl by providing a Hygiene Kit. Each kit includes hand sanitizer, sanitary napkins, washable masks, bathing and laundry soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, and body lotion. This initiative reflects our commitment to maintaining a healthy and hygienic environment for our girls.





## Parents Meetings at the Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika Centre:

During the quarter, Veerni Staff held successful meetings with parents to discuss their daughters' progress. The Veerni girls eagerly awaited these meetings as they provided an opportunity to meet their parents and share their stories with them.





### Sports Activities:

Veerni organizes sports activities every day to develop all the skills, and every year, sports competitions are organized. On October 21st and 22nd, many sports activities were held by the sports instructor Mr. Maan Singh, including three-legged races, duck walk races, tug of war, kabaddi, long jump, and relay races. These activities were enjoyed by the Veerni girls.





## Event and Celebrations:

**Dusshera and Diwali Festivities Celebrations:** Veerni Institute celebrated Dashera and Diwali festivals on October 24th and November 5th, 2023, respectively. The girls wore new uniforms and celebrated Diwali by bursting crackers and eating sweets. Also, the Veerni Institute was decorated into a beautiful and welcoming environment thanks to the hard work of all the girls and Veerni matrons.





**Farewell Celebration for Ms. Saroja Kanwar – former Veerni Matron:** On November 26th, the Veerni Institute orchestrated a heartfelt farewell party in honor of Ms. Saroj Kanwar, the former Veerni Matron, who secured a government teaching position. Recognizing her exceptional contributions, Mr. Mahendra Sharma presented Ms. Kanwar with an appreciation letter, acknowledging her exemplary service at Veerni. Ms. Jacqueline and Ms. Sophie, gracing the event, expressed their admiration for Ms. Kanwar's dedication and presented her with a thoughtful woolen shawl.

As part of the celebration, Diwali gifts were distributed to all the girls and Veerni staff, a generous gesture from Ms. Jacqueline and Ms. Sophie. The farewell program was attended by Mr. Mahendra Sharma, Mr. Manish Roa, and Mr. Parbat Singh. Mr. Sharma delivered an emotional speech to inspire and motivate the girls, while Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma expressed gratitude in a heartfelt vote of thanks.

In a touching conclusion to the program, the Veerni team extended their appreciation to Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet and Ms. Sophie Fauchier for their unwavering support and hard work towards the Veerni Project. The team expressed their gratitude by presenting thanks letters to both Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet and Ms. Sophie Fauchier, acknowledging their invaluable contributions.





**Veerni Institute hosted a big gala on November 28th**, organized by the girls to honour Mrs. Jacqueline and Mrs. Sophie. The event began with Mr. Parbat Singh lighting the lamp, followed by a cultural dance performance by the Veerni girls. Mrs. Jacqueline gave a motivational speech, encouraging the girls to study hard. Class 11 and 12 girls who participated in cultural activities received certificates from Mrs. Jacqueline. Mrs. Sophie appreciated the decoration prepared by all the girls and gave certificates to the girls of classes 8th, 9th, and 10th who participated in cultural activities.





Ms. Durga, a former Veerni girl was also invited to motivate the Veerni girls, she shared her inspiring journey, emphasizing that life is full of struggles and obstacles, but they should never lose one's passion. She encouraged the girls to continue their studies after graduation. Jaswant, also a Veerni graduate, is currently pursuing a diploma in fashion designing, motivated the girls to move forward and develop their skills.

Mrs. Vimlesh delivered the vote of thanks speech, and all the girls enjoyed refreshments at the end of the program.



**Recognition for Academic Excellence:** On October 6th, Dr. A.S. Deora graced us with his presence to recognize and reward the smart and diligent girls at Veerni Institute. This acknowledgment encourages and celebrates their academic achievements.



**Annual Sports Competition:** Veerni Institute hosted its Annual Sports Competition on November 27th, with special guests Mrs. Jacqueline and Mrs. Sophie in attendance. The competition was a spirited affair among the houses, with Brewo's house emerging as the victorious team. The girls from Brewo's house celebrated their triumph with joy, receiving a well-deserved trophy and medals. This annual tradition not only promotes physical fitness but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and healthy competition among the girls.





**Pizza Party:** On November 23rd, the Veerni team hosted a pizza party at their new land, inviting all the girls and guests to join in the festivities. The girls were thrilled to enjoy a delicious pizza feast and participate in an Antakshari game. For many of the girls, it was their first-time eating pizza, making the experience all the more special.





**New Year Celebration:** On 31<sup>st</sup> December, the Veerni girls celebrated the new year with a party at the Veerni Institute. During the party, the girls performed dances and plays, and Ms. Jasmine along with the Veerni team was present. A big cake was cut during the occasion, and the girls enjoyed themselves thoroughly.





## Visitors at the Veerni Project

The following guests visited the Veerni Project during this quarter:

S. No.	Name	Date
01.	Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet, and Ms. Sophie Fauchier	21 Nov 2023
02.	Lady Lucy Chadlington	21 Nov 2023
03.	Mr. Wayne Peters	02 Dec 2023
04.	Ms. Margaret	03 Dec 2023
05.	Ms. Jasmine Schmid	12 Dec 2023





Lady Lucy Chadlington and Mr. Wayne Peters visited the project to explore the Veerni land and discuss future plans for the Veerni building construction. Detailed discussions with the architect were held, providing insights into the construction process.

Ms. Jasmine visited the project as a dedicated volunteer for the second time. Her one-month stay involves collaborating with Veerni graduates, contributing to their ongoing growth and development.

We express our gratitude to all our visitors for their valuable time and commitment to furthering the goals of the Veerni Project. Their insights and support play a crucial role in shaping the future of our initiatives.



### **Warm Reception for Esteemed Guests:**

The Veerni girls enthusiastically extended a heartfelt welcome to our esteemed guests upon their arrival at the Veerni Institute. Here are the highlights of the welcoming events: -

- November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023: Girls warmly received Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet, Ms. Sophie Fauchier, and Lady Lucy Chadlington. Expressing their hospitality, the girls presented floral garlands to the guests and showcased a vibrant cultural dance. Before guiding the guests through the Veerni Institute, the girls adorned them with petals of roses, adding a touch of grace to the welcoming ceremony.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023: Mr. Wayne Peters was greeted with genuine warmth as the girls presented him with a Garland and heartfelt greeting cards. The Veerni staff then provided an insightful overview of the Veerni Institute's activities, and Mr. Peters had the opportunity to interact with the Veerni girls, fostering a sense of connection and camaraderie.



### **Other Activities**

#### **Veerni Team Visits Mayuraskhi Nursing College to Meet Former Girls Pursuing Nursing Diploma:**

On November 29th, the Veerni team, accompanied by Ms. Sophie, visited Mayuraskhi Nursing College. The college is home to four former Veerni girls, Nandani, Snehlata, Laxmivijay, and Mayawati, who are currently pursuing a diploma in nursing. During the visit, the Veerni team toured the college and inquired about the girls' education. The girls were delighted to meet the Veerni staff.

**Village Visit:** On December 1st, the Veerni team, accompanied by Ms. Jacqueline and Ms. Margaret, visited Bhakri, a village previously adopted by Veerni. The aim of the visit was to meet Veerni's former promoter, Ms. Kamli, and learn about the progress of the village. Ms. Kamli was delighted to meet Ms. Jacqueline and the Veerni team. During the visit, the Veerni team interacted with several school-going girls and learned about their interests in education. Girls who were interested in pursuing higher education were encouraged to apply to Veerni.





## Fundraising Events Update

### Venice Marathon



They did it again!

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, board members Sita Schutt and Sophie Fauchier, repeated their last year successful fundraiser during the annual Venice Marathon in aid of the Veerni Project. This year, they were joined by two of Prospero World team, the incomparable and unparalleled Veerni founder Jacqueline de Chollet, along with Veerni Director Mahendra Sharma who flew in from India a mere 24 hours before the race to be with us.

All last year participants brought new donors into the fold to help guide Veerni into its next exciting phase -- creating a permanent home to cement the legacy of quality education for girls in rural Rajasthan.



Veerni banner  
is up on the  
Venice Grand  
Canal



Veerni  
presentation



7am at  
departure



Finishing line  
rewarded  
with a medal!



## Australian Fundraiser:

40 friends came together on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Tish's home in Avalon, north of Sydney to celebrate Indian culture and raise money for the Veerni Fondation.

This included a group of nine friends who will be visiting Veerni in early March and are greatly looking forward to meeting Veerni's staff and of course the girls. This group, all keen cooks, provided a wonderful selection of Indian dishes. Lamb Korma, Butter Chicken, vegetable curry, Beef Vindaloo, dahl, and samosas, all served with delicious chutneys and side dishes.

Guests could also try their hand at block printing, mehndi and rangoli art. A short video of the Veerni Institute was shown and Marina and Tish both spoke about their experience of visiting Veerni, meeting founder Madame Jacqueline de Chollet, the wonderful director Mahendra Sharma and the inspiring young women who are Veerni.

This connection with the school is a result of a chance meeting and a conversation over coffee in Pushkar one morning in November 2022 with Sophie Fauchier. One of those serendipitous, 'sliding door' moments that can lead to wonderful opportunities.

The evening raised AUS\$2,300, with donations coming in from friends who couldn't attend on the night but were also inspired by the story and work of Veerni in empowering young women in Rajasthan.





## Empowering Success: A Proud Veerni Alumna Returns as a Government Teacher

On the remarkable day of November 30th, the Veerni team Ms. Vimlesh Sharma and Mr. Mahender Singh, accompanied by Ms. Sophie, had the privilege of visiting Maina, a former Veerni girl who has now ascended to the esteemed position of a first-grade Government Teacher in the village of Mathaniya. The encounter left the Veerni team and Ms. Sophie in awe as they witnessed Maina's extraordinary progress and achievements.

Inspired by Maina's journey, the Veerni team extended a heartfelt invitation for her to visit the Veerni Institute and share her inspiring story with the current Veerni girls. Maina graciously accepted the invitation, expressing her eagerness to motivate and inspire others.





## **Europe Visit of Mr. Mahendra Sharma:**

Mahendra Sharma, Director of Veerni Sansthan, visited Europe from October 20 to 28 to strengthen ties between Fondation Veerni and its donors. During his visit, he provided comprehensive insights into the daily operations of Veerni Sansthan. An integral aspect of this visit was his participation in the Venice Marathon, which provided an opportunity to engage with many of Veerni's prominent supporters and highlight the meaningful work and endeavors undertaken by the Veerni Sansthan.

**Venice:** On October 21, Mr. Sharma, along with Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet and other board members Sita Schutt and Sophie Fauchier, briefed nearly 35-40 people about Veerni Sansthan. On October 22, he attended the Venice Marathon.

### **Switzerland:**

On October 24, Mr. Sharma met with the board members of Fondation Veerni at Lausanne to discuss Veerni's work and future planning. They also discussed the construction of the Veerni Institute building. Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet, Ms. Francoise Zweifel, Mr. Tibor Gyursi Favre, Mr. Roy Chacko, and Ms. Sheila Coker Besson were present at the meeting.

On October 26, Mr. Sharma and Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet met with Ms. Donatella Pascolini, president of Fotis – Giving Children Hope Through Education, and the two committee members Ms. Vivien Hollis and Ms. Pamela Gromadzki in Nyon, Switzerland. Fotis has been a longtime supporter of the Veerni Sansthan. They discussed the operation of the Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika, and a proposal for the construction of the Veerni Institute was presented. Ms. Donatella Pascolini was happy to hear about the future plans of the Veerni Sansthan.



We hope you enjoyed reading about the Veerni Project's activities and achievements this quarter. We look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future.

**Activities of the Veerni Project :- Video Links**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f53EiDESok>





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