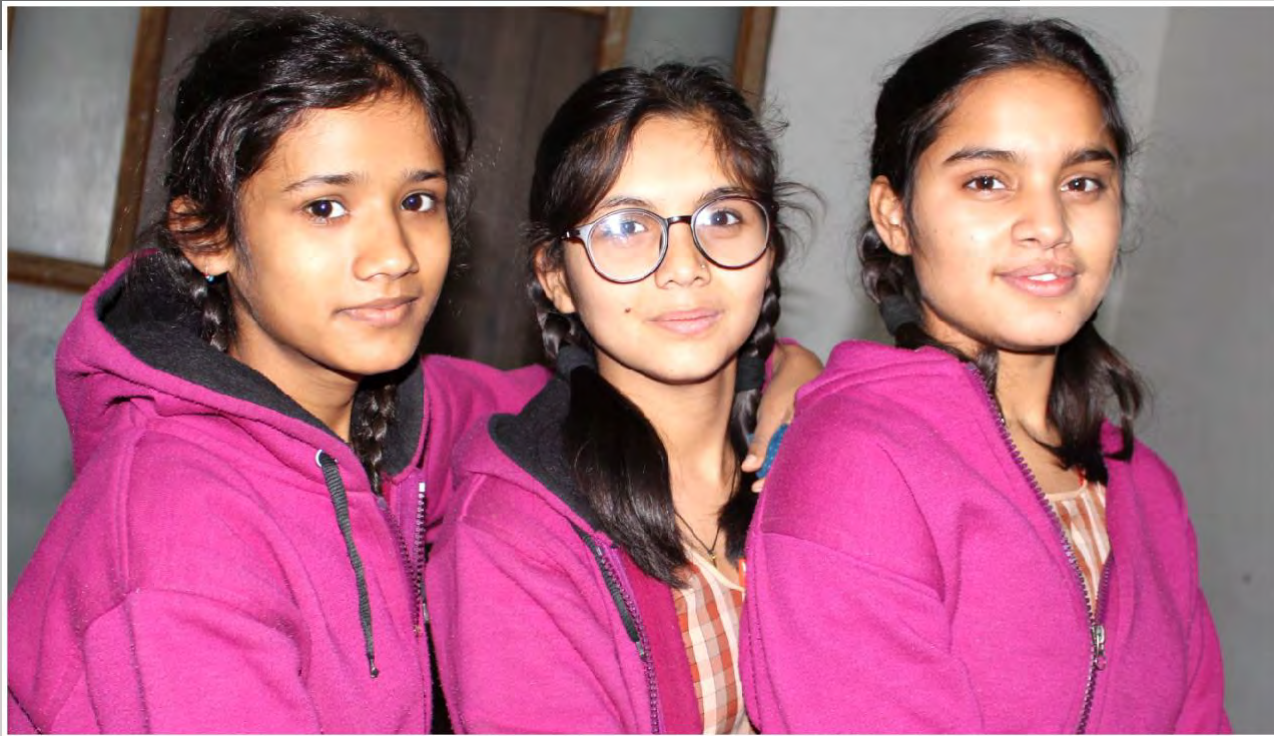


Veerni P Project



**ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022**



CONTENTS



The Mission of Veerni Sansthan NGO

1

Achievements since the Veerni Project became independent

2

Achievements related to setting up the charity organization in India

3

Activities of the Veerni Project - 2021-2022

4

Other Activities of the Veerni Project

12

Academic Results for the academic year 2021-2022

13

22-23 Estimated Budget for Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika Program

14

Acknowledgements

17

Message from Director: Mahendra Sharma

18

Message from Veerni Founder: Jacqueline de Chollet

19

Activities of the Veerni Project - Video Links

20



The Mission of Veerni Sansthan NGO

Veerni's mission is to educate and empower girls from the many disadvantaged villages situated on the remote outskirts of Jodhpur and to allow them to live healthy and fulfilling lives free from social and economic discrimination. Every young girl admitted to the Veerni Institute will become a 'Veerni' **a young woman of strength and courage**, in her own right, having received academic and vocational education. She will develop the social skills to help her to become confident, economically independent and a supportive member of her family and her community.

The Vision

Veerni envisions a world where all girls, regardless of class, caste, and economic status, can exercise their basic human rights and make independent life choices. It is our belief that true democracy depends on the full participation of empowered women within their communities and that education is the most effective instrument to secure this end.

Brief History

In 2005 the Veerni Institute was established to provide secure and full-time boarding solutions for village girls. This quickly became the Project's prime and most important mission. Over the next nine years, the Institute was run solely by a dedicated Veerni team, headed by Mahendra Sharma.

VEERNI is “Caste Blind”

Veerni's vision was to establish secure boarding and schooling facilities for all village girls in need regardless of their caste. From 2009 onwards Veerni started accepting girls from the lower castes. Two years later by 2011, because of intensive activity of the Veerni Staff in 45 different villages, the Institute housed 63% of lower caste girls. These numbers continue to increase annually.

The Veerni Project

Achievements since the Veerni Project became independent

Scaling-up the Veerni Project

In 2018 the demand to accept more girls was growing and the decision was taken to move once again to even bigger premises.

Facilities at the Veerni Institute:

- ⇒ Upgraded new premises.
- ⇒ Capacity of 90 girls
- ⇒ Girls accepted to a better-quality private high school.
- ⇒ Beautifully decorated and ventilated dormitories and clean bathrooms.
- ⇒ Well-equipped computer lab with internet and Wi-Fi facilities.
- ⇒ Well-equipped IT classes with a library.
- ⇒ Well organized sports ground with sports equipment.
- ⇒ A safe and secure space for the girls to develop and live in while attending school.
- ⇒ Establishment of Veerni Balika – a separate institute which was opened for an additional 20 girls situated in the same area which has allowed the project to increase the number of girls accepted from 90 to 110.

Academic Achievements

- ⇒ Consistently strong academic results: achieved 100% results from 2015 to 2021.
- ⇒ No incidence of academic failure.
- ⇒ Low incidence of drop out – only one girl left due to parental death.
- ⇒ Number of applicants has increased tremendously since 2015. Demand now comes from families in new villages where Veerni has not previously worked.
- ⇒ Increased number of graduates going on to higher education.

Education and Co-curricular activities for the Veerni Girls:

- ⇒ Providing quality education by sending girls to good private schools.
- ⇒ Providing Computer and the teaching of English.
- ⇒ Providing all girls with “Digital Tablets”.
- ⇒ Organizing sports activities.
- ⇒ Self-Defense course for the Veerni girls.
- ⇒ Providing a vocational guidance and general counseling program in the 12th and final year of high school for those interested in continuing to advanced academic or technology courses.

Health Care

- ⇒ HVP Vaccines provided to the Veerni girls.
- ⇒ Regular weekly doctor visits and an in-house trained nurse provide the girls with quality health care.
- ⇒ Improved health outcomes (such as the successful treatment of anemia) have been due to individual health plans, regular doctors' visits, live in nurse facilities, vaccinations, nutrition plans, hygiene instruction.

The Annulment of Child Brides

- ⇒ 40% of the Veerni students at any one time are child brides. As a direct result of the outstanding educational work done by Veerni and the excellent results achieved by the students, there has been a marked increase in the number of villages that have taken the decision to abandon the practice of child brides. In addition, we are pleased to report that there has also been a definite rise in the number of Veerni girls who choose to annul their marriages.
- ⇒ A proud moment for Veerni came in 2016, when the villagers from Meghwalon Ki Dhani publicly announced that all their married Veerni daughters were now permitted to annul their marriages. A formal ceremony was held in the village to announce the complete abandonment of this age-old and illegal cultural tradition of child brides.
- ⇒ Veerni therefore plays an important role in protecting child brides and keeping the girls safe until they reach the independent age of 18.
- ⇒ Various international media (NPR, National Public Radio in the USA) and national articles (Hindustan Times, Marie Claire, and several other publications), have been published since 2015 on the work of the Veerni Project. Veerni has not only gained a lot of publicity but also some long-term funding because of this media exposure.

Achievement related to setting up the charity organization in India

- ⇒ **Veerni's registration as an NGO:** Possibly the biggest administrative achievement so far has been the registration of Veerni as a Nonprofit organization. The Veerni Sansthan NGO was registered on March 2nd, 2015 and is registered under Societies Registration Act 1958. The organization is also registered under section 12AA, 80G of Indian Income Tax.
- ⇒ **Obtaining the FCRA Certificate:** Major achievement for Veerni Sansthan: FCRA stands for "Foreign Contribution Regulation Act". This is an Indian Government law which controls and supervises receipt of all foreign contributions or aid transferred from outside of India. Without the FCRA authorization Veerni would not be able to function. This certificate was given after a few years of intense investigation of the project by various government sectors and government inspectors. The permission was granted on December 4th, 2019, for a period of five years, when it needs to be renewed.

ACTIVITIES OF THE VEERNI PROJECT JANUARY 2021 TO MARCH 2022

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 closed until January 30. Online classes continued 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 is 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 started again daily. The Veerni team, Veerni matrons, nurse and teachers have been making 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 Veerni Institute celebrated Indian Republic Day. Veerni staff and the girls of classes 9 to 12 attended the event. Republic Day celebrations take place with great enthusiasm 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 senior classmates. 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 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 warm wishes for a bright future to Class 12, congratulating them on their wonderful journey at the Veerni Institute. Vimlesh and Siyona (Veerni nurses) also congratulated the Veerni girls.

The girls shared their wonderful Veerni experiences with the junior girls and promised they will always stay connected with the Veerni Project. The program ended with snacks and 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 fun as all the Veerni girls celebrated this vibrant festival. Veerni, following green and global practices, 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 take place at the Veerni Institute. Parents receive school information and updates on the girls' progress. Parents are always keen to know how their daughters are doing at the Institute.



Excursions:

- **Visit to Science Park:** The students of classes 6 and 7 of the Veerni Institute went on an educational field trip to Science Park on March 28th and 29th. 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 learned about 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.
- **Machia Biological Park on March 30th and 31st 2022:** The Veerni girls of classes 6 and 7 visited the Machia 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 Hinglaj Mata Temple Visits:** All the Veerni girls visited the famous temple of Jodhpur called Pal Balaji Temple on February 20th, 2022, and on February 26th, they visited a nearby temple, Hinglaj Mata Temple.



Birthday Celebrations: A new initiative began at the Veerni Institute in the month of January to celebrate the birthday of each Veerni girl. On her birthday, cake and chocolates are given to all. This new initiative creates great enjoyment and fun shared by all.

International Women's Day celebration: The Veerni Project 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. Mrs. Vimlesh told the girls that every year on March 8, International Women's Day is celebrated globally. 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 is nothing that women and girls cannot do. The Veerni girls performed several activities on that day and organized a cultural program. They performed group dances, solo performances, and skits. The entire Veerni staff also attended the event, delivered the lecture, and motivated the girls. The event ended with snacks and 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 distributed sanitary napkins to the village women and girls.



Motivational lectures: Throughout the academic year and this challenging 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 innovative ideas to the girls and provide fresh solutions to problems that they have been 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 stress and make sure the mental health of the Veerni girls does not deteriorate. 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 an immense 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 a replica of board exam. Board exams are quite important for a student. It is a gateway to career options. 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 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 yet.

New girls' admission for next academic year: The Veerni Project has started the admission process 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 new students. We have already received more than 300+ applications for 14 seats. Still, there are 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 ACTIVITIES 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 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.



Academic Results for the academic year 2021-2022

The Veerni Institute

Class Details	Total Number of Girls appeared	Result	
		First division	Second division
Class 6th	08	08	-
Class 7th	08	08	-
Class 8th	15	15 – A Grade	
Class 9th	13	07	06
Class 10th	16	14	02
Class 11th	16	16	-
Class 12th	14	14	-
Total Girls	90		

The Veerni Balika

Class Details	Total Number of Girls appeared	Result	
		First division	Second division
Class 6th	01	01	-
Class 8th	07	07 A – Grade	
Class 9th	05	04	01
Class 10th	06	06	-
Class 11th	01	01	-
Total Girls	20		

THE VEERNI PROJECT

22-23 Estimated Budget for Veerni Institute and Veerni Balika Program

S. No.	Particular	Veerni Institute (90 girls)	Veerni Balika (20 girls)
		Estimated Budget	Estimated Budget
1	Operating Expenses	\$81,990.00	\$26,302.00
2	Education and Medical Support Exp	\$49,642.00	\$11,048.00
3	Human Resources (Admin Staff and Institute Staff)	\$72,354.00	\$9,883.00
4	Administrative Expenses	\$3,945.00	\$833.00
5	Additional Expenses	\$2,778.00	-
	Total Without Rent	\$210,709.00	\$48,066.00
		\$258,775.00	
Note:			
The GFH had paid advance rent of \$35,000.00 for the building of the Veerni Institute			
Detailed Budget follows			

VEERNI INSTITUTE					
Estimated Budget: April 1 st , 2022 to March 31 st , 2023					For 90 girls
S. No.	Particular	Unit	Per girl	Yearly (90 girls)	Remark
1. Operating Expenses				USD\$	
1	Food	For 1 girl	\$ 749.00	\$ 67,410.00	For 90 girls @ \$749
2	Electricity and Water charges		\$ 83.00	\$ 7,470.00	For 90 girls @ \$83
3	Repair and Maintenance		\$ 27.00	\$ 2,430.00	For 90 girls @ \$27
4	Bedding and Laundry	For 1 girl	\$ 26.00	\$ 2,340.00	For 90 girls @ \$26
5	Art and Craft	For 1 girl	\$ 26.00	\$ 2,340.00	For 90 girls @ \$26
Total -1: Operating Expenses				\$ 81,990.00	
2. Education & Medical Support Exp					
1	School fees	For 1 girl	\$ 371.00	\$ 33,390.00	For 90 girls @ \$371
2	Stationery (Books, copies)	For 1 girl	\$ 23.00	\$ 2,070.00	For 90 girls @ \$23
3	School Uniforms	For 1 girl	\$ 54.00	\$ 4,860.00	For 90 girls @ \$54
4	Education tour	For 1 girl	\$ 23.00	\$ 2,070.00	For 90 girls @ \$23
5	Medicines and Sanitary Napkins	For 1 girl	\$ 35.00	\$ 3,150.00	For 90 girls @ \$35
6	English Program		-	\$ 3,472.00	
7	School Bus -Conveyance Charges	For 1 girl	\$ 7.00	\$ 630.00	For 90 girls @ \$7
Total -2: Education and Medical				\$ 49,642.00	
3. Human Resources					
(A) Administrative					
1	Director	1	\$ 903.00	\$ 11,739.00	\$903 per month for 13 months
2	Assistant Manager	1	\$ 486.00	\$ 6,318.00	\$486 per month for 13 months
3	Supervisor cum Admin in -charge	1	\$ 403.00	\$ 5,239.00	\$403 per month for 13 months
4	Accountant	1	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,875.00	\$375 per month for 13 months
5	Office boy	1	\$ 208.00	\$ 2,704.00	\$208 per month for 13 months
7	CA/legal consultancy fee	1	-	\$ 1,042.00	Annually
8	Driver	-	\$ 292.00	\$ 3,796.00	\$292 per month for 13 months
9	Travelling Expenses	-	-	\$ 3,333.00	-
Total (A)				\$ 39,046.00	
(B) Hostel Staff					
1	Matron	2	\$ 375.00	\$ 9,750.00	\$375 per month for 2 matrons, for 13 months
2	Nurse	2	\$ 375.00	\$ 4,875.00	\$375 per month for 13 months
3	Security guard	2	\$ 208.00	\$ 5,408.00	\$208 per month for 2 guards for 13 months
4	Cleaning staff	2	\$ 250.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$250 per month for 2 cleaners for 13 months
5	Computer teacher	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$250 per month for 13 months
6	Doctor's fee	-	-	\$ 2,275.00	Annually
7	Psychological teacher	-	-	\$ 625.00	As and when required
8	Career counselors and guest speakers	-	-	\$ 625.00	As and when required
Total (B)				\$ 33,308.00	
Total -3: Human Resources				\$ 72,354.00	
4. Administrative Expenses					
1	Telephone, internet, office stationery		-	\$ 3,042.00	Annually
2	Promotional material		-	\$ 903.00	Annually
Total -4: Administrative Expenses				\$ 3,945.00	
5. Additional Expenses					
1	Unforeseen and HPV Program		-	\$ 2,778.00	Annually
Total -5: Additional Expenses				\$ 2,778.00	
G. Total (1 to 5)				\$ 210,709.00	
Total Annual Expenses for 1 girl				\$ 2,341.00	

6	Rent paid in Advanced-addendum (\$35,000/90= \$388.88.) Total annual exp for 1 girl with Rent -addendum	\$388.88	
Total Annual Expenses for 1 girl with Rent addendum		\$	2,729.88

VEERNI BALIKA

Estimated Budget: April 1 st , 2022 to March 31 st , 2023					For 20 girls
S. No.	Particular	Unit	Per girl	Yearly (20 girls)	Remark
1. Operating Expenses				USD\$	
1	Food	For 1 girl	\$ 749.00	\$ 14,980.00	For 20 girls @ \$749
2	Rent and Maintenance			\$ 8,022.00	Annually
3	Electricity and Water charges		\$ 63.00	\$ 1,260.00	For 20 girls @ \$63
4	Repair and Maintenance		\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00	For 20 girls @ \$50
5	Bedding and Laundry	For 1 girl	\$ 26.00	\$ 520.00	For 20 girls @ \$26
6	Art and Craft	For 1 girl	\$ 26.00	\$ 520.00	For 20 girls @ \$26
Total -1: Operating Expenses				\$ 26,302.00	
2. Education & Medical Support Exp					
1	School fees	For 1 girl	\$ 371.00	\$ 7,420.00	For 20 girls @ \$371
2	Stationery (Books, copies)	For 1 girl	\$ 23.00	\$ 460.00	For 20 girls @ \$23
3	School Uniforms	For 1 girl	\$ 54.00	\$ 1,080.00	For 20 girls @ \$54
4	Education tour	For 1 girl	\$ 23.00	\$ 460.00	For 20 girls @ \$23
5	Medicines and Sanitary Napkins	For 1 girl	\$ 35.00	\$ 700.00	For 20 girls @ \$35
6	English Program		-	\$ 788.00	
7	School Bus - Conveyance Charges	For 1 girl	\$ 7.00	\$ 140.00	For 20 girls @ \$7
Total -2: Education and Medical				\$ 11,048.00	
3. Human Resources					
Hostel Staff					
1	Matron	1	\$ 278.00	\$ 3,614.00	\$278 per month for 13 months
2	Nurse	1		\$ 375.00	Nurse from Veerni Institute will be used
3	Security guard	1	\$ 208.00	\$ 2,704.00	\$208 per month for 13 months
4	Cleaning staff	1	\$ 208.00	\$ 2,704.00	\$208 per month for 13 months
5	Doctor's fee	-		\$ 486.00	Doctor from Veerni Institute will be used
Total -3: Human Resources				\$ 9,883.00	
4. Administrative Expenses					
1	Office Stationery, telephone exp. and Unforeseen expenses			\$ 833.00	Annually
Total -4: Administrative Expenses				\$ 833.00	
G. Total (1to4)				\$ 48,066.00	
Total Annual Expenses for 1 girl				\$ 2,403.00	

Acknowledgements:

The Veerni Project wishes to extend its deep appreciation to all those who have made the Veerni Project possible over the last year. Our special thanks to the Boards of the Global Foundation for Humanity – USA and the Fondation Veerni – Switzerland.

We wish to thank our generous donors: Shirley Johnson-Lans, Bill MacArthur, Puneet Batra and Nandita Shangari, InMaat Foundation, Ramesh and Suba Parmar, Sara and Andy Barnes, Ajit and Shakuntala Asher, Jaelyn Eberle and David Taylor, Rona Kiley, Katrina Cary, Girls Learn International, Deeya Sharma and the We Care Club at Skyline High School, Marianne McKim, Farah Thandi, Natasha Thandi, Debbie Schneider, Srivats Madhavan, and to all our donors through PayPal, Network for Good and The American Online Giving Foundation, Benevity's foundation partner.

Your generosity astounds us, and our work is possible because of your support!

A very big thank you to Sophie Fauchier for her devotion to the Veerni Project.

Very importantly, we would like to recognize the Veerni Sansthan Project team in Jodhpur headed by Mahendra Sharma for all they did to ensure the continuation of the Veerni Project through such challenging times. This came about because of their devoted commitment to the girls and their close relationships with their families. As a result, all 110 girls remained in education, and this ensured their excellent exam results, and most importantly, kept them safe and healthy. There are few words to adequately express our heartfelt thanks to them and to Kathy Fico for her work and devotion to the Global Foundation for Humanity.

Message from Director Mahendra Sharma

As we close out 2021-2022, it is time for us to reflect upon and share our achievements, learning, and intentions for the future.

The challenges that started in March 2020 have followed us all into this year. The 2nd wave of COVID-19 across India has hit us harder than the first one. The year again witnessed lockdowns, schools, and businesses shutting down, recession, job losses, illness, and deaths. The pandemic was ruthless and waged an indiscriminate war on the rich and the poor alike. It was utterly heartbreaking to see so much helpless suffering on such a large scale.

While the challenges were umpteen, the Veerni Project through its sheer resilience converted every challenge into an opportunity. In these times, Veerni embarked on a challenging journey to provide education to the Veerni girls through its unique educational programs called "School at Doorsteps and Digital Education Program" to all the 110 Veerni girls. When the lockdown was again imposed, the Veerni team visited villages to provide education to the Veerni girls. Veerni also established the digital classrooms for the students of the Veerni Project under the ITC Program (Information, Communication, and Technology). Under Veerni's digital education program, Veerni distributed more "Tablets" with education contained to the Veerni girls.

In the middle of the year, when the dip started to happen in the Covid cases, Veerni reopened both the centers to full capacity. After reopening, Veerni conducted all the school classes at the Veerni Institute, schoolteachers were coming to the Veerni institute on daily basis and teaching all the classes at the Veerni building. By the end of the year, the Veerni Institute was again full of life and filled with lots of positive voices of the Veerni girls.

The year of 2021-2022 was indeed a challenging year but Veerni again emerged from them with more strength which is reflected in the annual results of the Veerni girls. In the hardest time, Veerni girls achieved a remarkable feat, and all the girls cleared their exams with a good percentage.

In all areas of our organization—staff, the Veerni girls and their parents, associate schools, and teachers have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic and changed according to the situation. From our programs like "School at doorsteps to ITC Program, we adjusted well, and with new innovative ways, we have 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. As a result, all the Veerni girls remained in education, there were no dropouts from the Veerni Institute during the pandemic which is a great success of the Veerni Project.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Board of the Global Foundation for Humanity, to the Board of the Fondation Veerni, and to the many contributors who provide financial and moral support to ensure the continuing success of the Veerni Project. This support has proven to be invaluable for us.

We would like to express special thanks to the founder of the Veerni Project - Ms. Jacqueline de Chollet who has been an inspiration for all of us. She accompanied and supported us during these hard times and guided us. We also take this opportunity to thank all the Veerni team; they are the key to the continued success of the Veerni Project.



Mahendra Sharma

Message from Veerni Founder Jacqueline de Chollet

"The sky is filled with stars invisible by day." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

This last year has been a remarkable year for Veerni despite the many challenges – larger than any encountered in Veerni's 29-year history - met during the last year. As a result, there are many stars in Veerni as mentioned above. The Veerni staff has been nothing short of heroic in their devotion to the girls and their families. Throughout these months, Mahendra has provided the inspired leadership so needed not only to all those involved in the management but to the girls and their families. To help them throughout the year, to access their education, not to abandon their studies and importantly their hopes for a better future. The project also provided help to the families in very way they could, including food and medical supplies. The long-term relationship with villages made it all possible. as Veerni always said, the project is present in more ways than one and has gained the trust of the villages over many years.

Why is the work of the Veerni project so important and has never been more imperative? Despite the advances over the years, India remains a country where much is needed in terms of women's development. According to the latest figures of the Global Gender gap report 2021, out of 156 countries India ranks 146 in Gender Equality, and 151 in women's economic participation. Raising women's participation to the same level as men can boost India's GDP by 27%.

The Veerni Project is participating in making this vital change. Our favorite quote describing Veerni is “a drop in the ocean, but the ocean is made of drops”. Veerni may be small, but its meaning is way beyond its scope.

The exam results are awesome, the only word I can use in these troubled times. A bright future is still a reality for the Veerni girls. One of the great successes of the past year is that none of the 35 girls who are child brides have been sent to their families. One less mouth to feed could have been a great temptation to many parents facing increased poverty but they remained faithful to their daughters' education. This is an achievement worthy of Everest proportion. Remarkably the fathers proved very supportive of their daughters, a quantum change in as previously it was the mothers who campaigned for their daughters. This transformation is due in great part for to the involvement of the whole family in the development of the Veerni girls and the realization that educating girls is an important investment for the future. This recent development is due to the close relationship between the members of the Veerni Project and the Veerni village families.

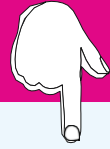
I wish to thank all the members of the wonderful and caring devoted Veerni team, with Mahendra Sharma as its leader. To our close donors who have kept their faith in the Veerni Project and ensured its future.

Veerni is, due to the generosity of our donors, able to ensure several years of education to any new girl enrolled this year. The demand has never been higher for the 14 places available.

With my deepest thanks to all involved in the Veerni Project.

Jacqueline de Chollet

Activities of the Veerni Project - Video Links



<https://youtu.be/k9MuWyrVkeE>

<https://youtu.be/xXxMpXWqjI0>

https://youtu.be/i_wcci5T6Qs

<https://youtu.be/R0sERaEmW6E>

<https://youtu.be/1MrmLDk7uCU>

<https://youtu.be/uBrZQ0hCjm4>

<https://youtu.be/OnEBNLdaBEc>

<https://youtu.be/DhJ2t3X7VrE>

<https://youtu.be/DAsbqOwgYDM>



VEERNI

EMPOWERING GIRLS

ADDRESS

Global Foundation for Humanity

35 Cunningham Drive
Monroe, NY 10950
Phone: (845) 248-1736

Email: globalfdn35@gmail.com
<https://www.gfhveerni.org>

Veerni Registered Address

5C - 26, Kudi Bhagtasni
Housing Board
Jodhpur - 342001 (Rajasthan) - India
Veerni Sansthan