



**We took measures to act responsibly**  
**COVID-19 - VIRUS OUTBREAK**



**AT A GLANCE**

**Thanks to our staff, appropriate measures were taken**

The girls are back home safely with their parents

As you are aware, on March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization declared Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) a pandemic and reiterated the call for countries to take immediate actions and scale up response to treat, detect and reduce transmission to save people's lives. As a global community we are all affected, personally and professionally.

As an urgent measure to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare ordered the closure of all educational institutions including schools, colleges, gyms and other public places until further notice. The Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education examinations for class 8th, 10th and 12th have been postponed as have examinations for classes 6th, 7th, 9th, and 11th.

On March 18th, the Rajasthan government imposed Section 144 in the entire state which prohibits the gathering of five or more persons at any place.

On March 19th, the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the nation urging for resolve and restraint and adopting social distancing.

He has also asked fellow citizens to follow 'Janta curfew' (voluntary self-isolation) on Sunday March 22nd, 2020 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Fortunately for the Veerni girls, an interactive talk on the novel Corona Virus had already been held on March 7th at the Institute.

The speaker, Dr. A.S. Deora, educated the girls about the virus, how it is spread from person to person, the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, the disease it causes and how the girls and their communities can protect themselves from it and prevent its spread.

Dr. A.S. Deora explained that the first symptoms of COVID-19 infection are fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat and difficulty breathing.

He warned the girls that the virus is extremely contagious and spreads through small droplets from the nose or mouth of a person with COVID-19 when they cough or sneeze. People can also catch COVID-19 by touching objects or surfaces where the droplets fall and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.



## He advised the following precautions against the disease:

**Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**

**Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth unless you wash your hands first.**



Parents were also briefed about this virus by the Veerni staff.

The entire country is on total lock down for 21 days until of April 15th 2020. The government will review the situation at that time and we will keep us informed.

In compliance with the local authorities and directives, on March 20th 2020 all 110 Veerni girls – 90 from the Veerni Institute and 20 from Veerni Balika, were sent home with their parents, armed with essential information, bars of soap and strips of paracetamol. They also were given all study materials such as books, notebooks and other stationery.

The parents came at very short notice and some from distant villages as far as 70 kilometers or more and often with little public transport. Thankfully, most parents have a basic means of transport like scooters.

If the girls have not been sent home on that particular day in the right time frame, it would have proven very difficult to get the girls home because of the lockdown.

The Veerni Director, Mahendra Sharma is in regular contact with some of the parents and they are giving an update on day to day life in the villages.

For the time being the villages have a supply of food. But in the future, if needed, the government will put in place a program that can provide health

**Practice respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze, then dispose of the used tissue immediately.**

**Stay at home if you feel sick and during curfew.**

**Avoid close contact with people, who are sick, maintain at least three feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.**

**Avoid crowds.**

and food teams to the villages to deliver basic supplies. The government has promised that the villages will not suffer a shortage of food and medical care.

Regarding the Veerni institute there are two guards in the building and two helpers who live in with food facilities. There is a CT camera that the director can control from a distance. In the case of Veerni Balika, because the owner of the building lives on the ground floor with his family, the building is secure.

Both buildings will be thoroughly disinfected according to government guidelines.

This occurrence demonstrates the devotion and professionalism of the Veerni staff. This daunting task was accomplished smoothly and efficiently within the time frame.

We wish to acknowledge the Veerni program and their staff for sending 110 girls home within a warning of four hours by the authorities. The parents were supportive and understood the situation.

A big thank you from the Fondation Veerni and the Global Foundation for Humanity board members to the entire Veerni Project Team. It was a remarkable feat and they deserve all our congratulations.

Mahendra Sharma and members of the team are in touch with the local administration with an offer to help in distributing essential food to villages in need.