

# The Veerni Project

## Newsletter

January 2021



VEERNI GIRLS ARE BACK



# Reopening of the Veerni Institute

## Introduction to Schools Re-opening in Jodhpur

On January 5th 2021 a decision was taken by the State of Rajasthan to reopen all schools and other educational institutions such as colleges, universities and coaching centres throughout Rajasthan. Schools were instructed to reopen their institutes from January 25th but it was only one week prior to this that the State published its guidelines (SOP's) according to which management of all institutions would need to work. At this initial stage, schools have been permitted to run classes only for IX to XII standard students. Certain mandatory restrictions and ground rules have been established which include a written consent form that all parents are obligated to sign taking responsibility upon themselves when allowing their children to return to school. A second regulation stipulates that only 50% of the pupils will be allowed to attend at one time in classrooms, and this on an alternating basis.

Our management staff met with the Board members to brainstorm how to put into action all the required SOP's, which included:

- Sanitization of the entire building, furniture, equipment, kitchen, toilets, water tanks as well as ensuring that there is a continuous supply of available sanitizers. It was suggested to also include foot operated sanitizers.
- Installation of partitions between the beds in the dorms keeping regulation distancing.
- The display throughout the Institute of Covid awareness posters and the distribution to each girl of a sanitizing kit and separate water bottle.
- Complete health check-up for each girl on arrival prior to admission to Institute.
- Seating arrangements in the dining room must adhere to regulation social distancing.
- An isolation room must be set up in the Institute.
- No social events, prayers or other activities may be held.



## Arrival of the girls with parents:

In accordance with the State announcement to re-open schools, Veerni first welcomed 17 girls from Class 10, on January 25. This group was followed on January 30th by 11 girls from Class 12. We anticipate that during the first or second week of February we will see the arrival of 36 more girls from Classes 9 to 11.

It is now evident that many of the city's schools are only partially occupied and cannot function fully because a large percentage of parents are hesitating to sign the above mentioned consent. **However, we are pleased to inform that, despite the high risk involved in returning our girls to their studies, all the Veerni parents have signed the necessary obligation form. In doing this they have demonstrated their faith and trust in our management and in our capability to organise and monitor the new situation created by the pandemic.**

Below we will detail the essential changes that Veerni has successfully applied and put into action following government regulations.

Following regulations we are only permitted to house 54 girls in the main Veerni building. The other 10 will be placed at the smaller Veerni Balika hostel.

We consulted with experts in the medical field as to how to proceed when inviting the girls back to the Institute. It was advised that each girl go through a thorough medical check-up prior to being admitted back into the Institute.

The girls were invited to arrive accompanied by a parent at specific times so as to avoid crowding. The outside grounds at the entrance were marked with large well-spaced white circles showing each family where to stand and a number of Counselling Tents manned by our staff were set up to receive and kit-out each girl with hand sanitizers and a new water bottle. It was here that both parents and students first had their temperatures taken on arrival. Explanations and briefings were given in great detail as to how each girl needs to conduct herself under the strict Covid rules and regulations inside and outside the buildings.

In addition each girl underwent a complete health check-up as instructed by Dr. Deora. If there was the slightest suspicion of Covid the girls were sent for testing. In the end two girls were sent to be tested and happily they both came back with negative results.

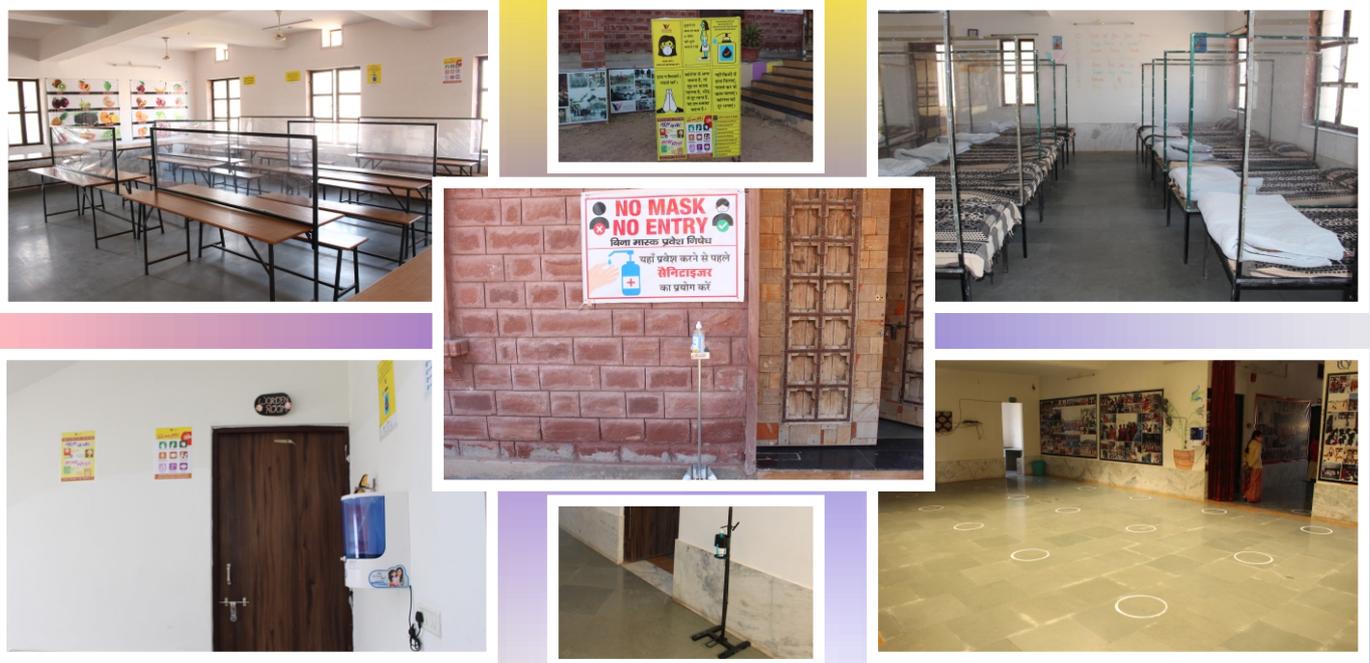
It was recorded that girls had suffered weight loss.

The parents were shown a small video clip on one of our laptops where they could see all the new arrangements and facilities that had been organised inside the institutes.



Covid Awareness posters have been placed in various strategic positions throughout the 2 buildings – in the dorms, the dining rooms, the class rooms and along corridors and stairways. Foot operated sanitizers were purchased and have been installed in easily accessible places.

In addition a special room has been designated and prepared for cases in the event that isolation becomes necessary.



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## **In-House organization and Education at Veerni**

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With the above in mind the Veerni team held long discussions to find an alternative teaching environment for the girls. Thinking “out of the box” a courageous decision was taken to concentrate all our classes “in-house” and to hold all studies on our own premises. We believe that it is in the best interest of the girls to continue their studies within the confines of the Institute instead of venturing out to mingle with other girls from their school, thereby endangering their own health and possibly being infected by Covid-19 virus. We have achieved this by transforming the large basement open space into a classroom. Tables have been arranged in such a manner that no one will sit in close proximity to anyone else.

To this purpose we also met with the school principal and management board and received their permission and assistance to move forward. We are satisfied with the arrangement at present where teachers come to conduct daily classes at the Veerni Institute for 5 hours a day. Because we presently have only 50% occupancy we can comfortably seat the girls while maintaining social distancing both from the teachers as well as from each other.

Another added value resulting from this is that, because the classes are smaller in number, the girls are also receiving far greater personal attention boosting their studying capabilities and achievements.

## Reorganization of all other Facilities for the girls

According to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructions that have been issued we have had to provide different sleeping, washing and eating arrangements for the girls.

**Dormitories:** As can be seen from the photographs here, each bed has been partitioned off from the others. Bathrooms are regularly sanitized and only 4 girls can shower at one time.

**Dining room:** Similarly the dining room tables have been cleverly partitioned down the middle thus protecting the girls from each other during meal times.

Girls are divided into two groups, meals provided in two separate sittings.

In both the above cases we will continue to add and make new arrangements as more girls join the Institute in the coming weeks and months.

**Homework:** During these hours the girls are divided into two separate classrooms.



## Education in the Villages:

The State authority has directed schools to promote the continuation of online learning for all the classes but to date no new instructions regarding reopening of classes 6 to 8 have been issued. **Therefore the Veerni teams continue to visit the girls at their homes on a regular basis to monitor their progress. The team provides new lessons and collects the old ones.**



# Photo Gallery



**Note:-** To see the latest video clip please click the below link  
[https://youtu.be/i\\_wcci5T6Qs](https://youtu.be/i_wcci5T6Qs)

**DATE :-** February 5th, 2021.

  
**(MAHENDRA SHARMA)**  
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VEERNI PROJECT