

2017 – 2018  
Annual Report

# The Veerni Project

We are Strong, We are Brave, We are Amazing  
WE ARE VEERNI GIRLS



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# Mission Statement

The name “Veerni” means *confident, determined women of strength and fortitude*. It embodies the soul of our project.

Veerni’s mission is to educate and empower adolescent girls from the desert area around Jodhpur, to enable them to lead healthy, productive lives, free from poverty, coercion and disease. To this end, we provide a high quality secondary education, in a safe and supportive environment.

Veerni believes that true democracy depends on the full participation of women in their communities, and that education is the most effective means to this end.

The Veerni Project has moved from public health into the secondary education of girls, as well as their wellbeing. We cover health and nutrition, while preparing them for a life in which they are capable of exercising their human rights.



**The core belief of Veerni is that there can be no true democracy without the full participation of women in their communities, in the country at large. Education has to be the most effective intervention to this end.**

**Other specific impacts have been:**

- Veerni girls have become role models in their communities and are inspiring girls to continue their education
- The current student body is 85 girls
- Increased number of applicants; this year we received over 196 applications for the 16 spaces available
- Consistently strong academic results: we've had 111 graduates between 2005 and 2017
- Of those 111 graduates, 80 have gone on to pursue higher education
- Improved new premises and attendance in two high quality high schools
- Improved health outcomes are due to individual health plans, regular doctors' visits, live-in nurse, vaccinations, nutrition plans, hygiene instruction, including awareness of all aspects of women's health

**Ensuring a safe environment is a priority for Veerni**

### The New Building



The Veerni Institute moved to our new premises on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. It took four days to complete the set-up of all the facilities, thanks to a concerted team effort by all the dedicated Veerni staff. We are now located at Ram Raj Nagar, Chokha, Jodhpur.

The Veerni Institute provides for all the girls' needs: bedding, stationery, books, uniforms, healthy food and security – this is very important, as well as admission into two excellent schools.

During their studies, the Veerni Institute offers the girls a loving, safe, and supportive social environment. They celebrate personal milestones and national holidays together, while learning, from each other and the staff, to value openness towards people of different backgrounds. Our aim is to help them become educated, confident, strong young women equipped for a changing world.

### **Entrance Test:**

We conducted an entrance test on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The test was taken by 196 girls, 75 of which were child brides. Only 2 girls passed, demonstrating the low standards of village primary schools. 16 new girls were enrolled, including 9 child brides. The latter were chosen because of their precarious and dangerous situations. All the parents agreed with our terms, giving permission to the girls to finish their education. For the child brides, parents agreed not to send them to their prospective husbands until the end of schooling, and potential higher education.

### **Life at the Institute:**

- 7:30 am to 1:45 pm - Lessons
- After lunch - Rest and Homework
- 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - Extra tuition and further homework
- 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Relaxation and fruit time
- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Sports, games, computer & sewing classes
- After dinner - Study Period
- 10:15pm - Lights out

On Saturday evenings, the girls get together to sing, dance, and act.

The last 2 Sundays of the month, the girls spend quality time with parents and relatives.

**Veerni fosters self-confidence through participation in debates on issues concerning female human rights. We encourage the girls to express themselves in front of their peers, as well as visitors and volunteers. Confidence building is an integral part of our mission.**



### Social diversity:

Veerni is committed to social diversity, bringing together girls from different castes. 65% are from the lower castes. The girls share dorms, bathrooms and meals, and develop lifelong friendships. The older girls also fill a mentoring role for the younger ones. Many of the lower caste girls come from the Dalit communities, a population that remains one of the most oppressed and exploited communities in India. Veerni is very proud of our social diversity; our goal is to increase diversity further, as there are many other communities requiring support for their daughters.

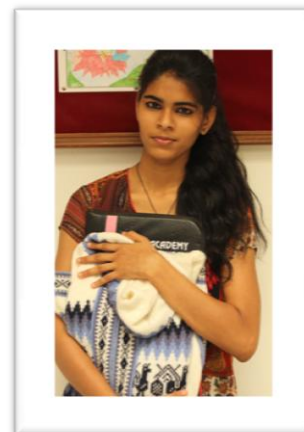
### Veerni Institute Results:

#### Results for the academic year 2017-2018

Class	Number of girls	Passed
Class 6 <sup>th</sup>	09	09
Class 7 <sup>th</sup>	11	11
Class 8 <sup>th</sup>	15	*
Class 9 <sup>th</sup>	12	12
Class 10 <sup>th</sup>	09	*
Class 11 <sup>th</sup>	19	19
Class 12 <sup>th</sup> (Science)	03	03
Class 12 <sup>th</sup> (Arts)	06	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>*54 so far</b>
<b>*Note: Results of Classes 8, 10 and 12 are still awaited.</b>		

## Student Highlight:

Every year, a head girl is selected from the senior classes to maintain discipline among the girls and to encourage the rest of them to do well in their studies, as well as maintain cleanliness in their dorms. All the selected Head Girls have done a great job and managed their leadership roles perfectly. This year, Menakshi served as head girl. She has been a wonderful student and an inspiration to her fellow classmates. She is graduating this year and will be going to college.



## Institute news:

The new academic session began in July. Veerni accepted five new girls, following a decision to accommodate 85 girls in total, at no extra cost. There was a local contribution to cover the education of 10 girls, while the extra catering costs were covered by our catering company. These are small, but meaningful, gestures from the local community.

## Staff News and Changes:

Mr. Mahendra Sharma, Mr. Parbat Singh, and Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma continue their dedicated service to Veerni. Mrs. Saroj Devi has been appointed as new matron, following the promotion to senior matron of Dev Shree Rathore, a Veerni graduate. Now in her third year with Veerni, Mrs. Rathore has recently married and intends to continue to work with us. Syona Rao, a volunteer nurse from the government hospital, comes in daily to care for the girls. Pradeep Gandhi is our professional accountant and Mahendra Singh our administrative assistant. We have appointed Mr. Shiv Prakash Hatila as computer teacher. We have also engaged Mr. Jeevan Ram to teach in our village Literacy Centre. Mr. Singh and Mr. Volens act as maintenance and security staff. Two women have been hired as cleaning staff. Meals are catered by a team of cooks and assistants. Veerni is fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

## Schools:

Schools reopened on July 1<sup>st</sup> and have been providing the bus facilities for the girls. The two schools Veerni girls attend are:

### **Apex Academy Senior Secondary School:**

Apex is a reputable private school in Jodhpur with 2000 students. It has strong academic results, with good discipline, guidance and tuition support. It is a co-educational school, with Hindi and English mediums, and offers all three streams: Science, Commerce and Humanities. 47 Veerni girls study here.

### **Gopal Bal Vatika Senior Secondary School:**

Gopal Bal Vatika is a well-known private school in Jodhpur. It is co-educational, with Hindi and English mediums, good discipline, guidance and support. It offers two streams: Commerce and Humanities. 38 Veerni girls study here.

## Village Literacy Centre:

In the village of Meghwalon ki Dhani, a literacy center runs daily to help the girls with their studies as the village school has 50 students for 2 teachers and the children are far behind. The teacher Jeevan Ram teaches for 2 hours a day English science and mathematics. This is to ensure that the girls who take the entrance examination for Veerni are capable of coping with the studies at the Jodhpur schools.

This is the classroom where 50 children study in classes 1 to 5. This is also the classroom where the wonderful Veerni child brides and nursing students started their schooling before joining the Veerni Project.

## Activities:

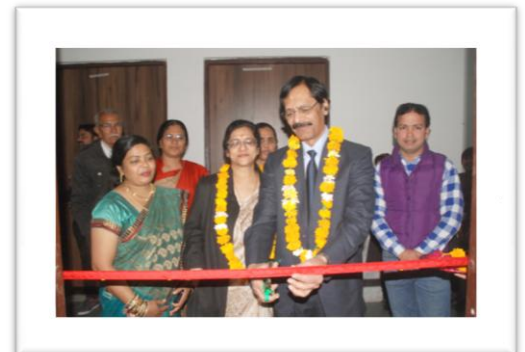


## Extra Tuition

Veerni now offers extra tuition at the Apex and Gopal Bal Vatika Schools for classes 9, 10, 11 and 12. We have also arranged extra tuition at the Veerni Institute for classes 6, 7 and 8, instructed by Mrs. Devshree, Mrs. Vimlesh and Mrs. Saroj.

## Computer Lab

A new computer lab was established on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. A cardiologist, Dr. Sanjeev Sanghvi, and Mrs. Sanghvi, were invited to inaugurate it. Dr. Sanghvi is the head of department of the cardiac division at the MDM Government Hospital. The computer lab was established with 22 computers, tables and chairs. All the computers are connected to the internet. Printers, scanners and a projector have also been installed in the facility. For the next academic year, starting in early July, an additional teacher will be hired for the computer lab and 40 girls will be taught in each session. They will be provided with advance computer courses along the basics of a tech education. We wish to extend all our thanks to our generous donor for this important addition to the work of the Veerni project.



## Parents' Meeting

On the third and fourth Sunday of each month parents visit their daughters to see their progress. Parents of classes 6 to 9 visit on the third Sunday of every month and parents of classes 10 to 12 visit on the fourth Sunday of every month. On the day of parents' meeting, Veerni organizes tea and biscuits for the parents.



### November 19<sup>th</sup>

Many mothers came to visit their girls. It is clear that mother-daughter bonds have improved significantly. Originally, mothers were distant, now they hold hands and demonstrate real affection to their daughters.

### Stories of Mothers and Daughters:

Damyanti is 12 years old and in class 6. From the Rajput community, she lives in Khutilayila, a village 50km away near Pali. She loves being able to study, as well as dance and draw. Her mother was married at 23; she sews for relatives but makes no money. She hopes that her daughter will become independent. Her husband Ganga works as a driver and he is supportive of his wife and daughter.

Khusbhu is a new student in class 7 at Gopal Bal Vatika. She is 12 years old and comes from Pilasni near Kakelav. Khusbhu's father, Durga Ram, is a day laborer, and she has an older brother. Her mother Meena is an Anganwari worker and earns well for a village woman, however, she is not permitted to leave the village without her husband's or in-laws' permission.

Mayawati is from the SC community, a child bride living in Rajwa. It took her two years to get a place at the Institute, and she is now in class 8 at Gopal Bal Vatika. Her sister Mamtawas, also a child bride, graduated last year and is now in nursing college. None of Mamta's friends have passed class 10. Her mother, Indra Devi, was a child bride at 15 and is illiterate. She was obliged by her father-in-law to continue producing children until two sons were born; she now has five children.

Varsha is from the SC community and is the youngest in her family. She is now in class 9, after being at Veerni for two years. Her mother, Mina was also obliged to have five children in order to produce two boys. Her family was below the poverty line, so she had no other choices available to her.

## **Art and Crafts**

All the girls take part in our new arts and crafts program to provide them with essential creative activities. Mrs. Saroj Kanwar gives these classes regularly.



## **Events and Celebrations**

### **Graduation Party**

The graduation and farewell party for class 12 was organized at the Veerni Institute on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and was attended by all Veerni staff members. There was dancing, singing and poems performed by the girls. A quiz competition was also held. The event was presented by Akansksha and Man Kanwar. The graduating girls all got a framed photograph of their time at Veerni. There were nine girls who graduated from Veerni: Krishna, Bhati, Nirma, Kausaliya, Meenakshi, Riniki, Anu, Shobha, Puja and Suman.



### **Lecture on the English language**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a lecture on the English language was organized at the Veerni Institute. Mr. Adhiraj, Director of St. Xavier School, was invited for the lecture. He gave an interesting talk on the English language; he told the girls that they should not think of the English language as a burden, but



that they just need to give it some extra time and it will make it easier for them to learn the language.

### **Republic Day Celebration**

Republic day was celebrated on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by the Veerni girls with great enthusiasm at the Institute. Sweets were distributed to the girls for the occasion.

### **Teachers' Day**



Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Veerni Institute. The students of class 12 adopted the roles of the Veerni teachers and staff for the day. The girls also prepared a cultural program of dancing, singing, and plays. During the event, prizes were distributed to the students who achieved good marks in their last academic year. They received a dictionary, a pen and a diary.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

At Veerni, we celebrate every girl's birthday by distributing cakes and everyone participates in cultural activities in a familiar atmosphere. We have tried to create an environment where the girls can enjoy and be themselves.

### **Independence Day**

The Veerni Institute celebrated Independence Day on August 15<sup>th</sup> with cultural programs and other patriotic activities. Sweets were also distributed to the girls.

### **Sunday celebrations**

Every Sunday girls celebrate with song and dance at the Veerni Institute.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, we held an event, organized by the Veerni girls, at the Leria Hotel to celebrate. It was a unique and exceptional experience for the girls.



- The event was a true celebration of the hard work, success, and amazing accomplishments of our students and staff. Two students, Krishna Raj and Shobha, presented at the event. Last year, Krishna barely spoke, and in just a year's time, she impressed with her strong presenting skills, even in English.
- All of the members of the Veerni staff were recognized for their dedication. Particular, we commemorated Parbat Singh's long services to Veerni by presenting him with a shawl. We also celebrated the wonderful contributions of our volunteers, Manish and Syona.
- The girls wrote and performed a play about a child bride. The main character, Anandi, was taken out of school to marry and live with her very traditional in-laws. When her husband dies in an accident, she is left a child widow, with no prospects for the future, as she has no education. The message was powerfully depicted by the girls: child marriage is a form of imprisonment and an uneducated girl is powerless.
- The second part of the program, showcased the girls in fantastic Bollywood dance performances, followed by dinner served at the hotel.



### Excursions:

A trip to Osian Temple was organized for all the girls on September 3rd, located 60 kilometers away from the Veerni Institute. A bus was hired for the trip. At Osian, they saw the temple and also visited Arna-Jarna temple. The girls enjoyed Camel Safari in the desert of Osian, which was a life time experience for all the girls. After enjoying entire day at Osian, the girls had dinner.



Veerni girls along with the Veerni staff visited Mont Abu on September 6th. They saw Dilwara Temple, Sunset Point, and Nakki Lake. This trip was enjoyed a lot by all the girls.



## Medical activities:

### Health Camp

In September, all 85 girls had a health checkup at our new location, Veerni Sansthan. They were examined by Vimlesh, our nurse, Syonia Rao, volunteer nurse, and Dr. Deora, the Veerni doctor. A holistic approach was adopted, covering physical, social, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. An assessment of growth, nutritional status and immunization status were included, with particular attention to anemia. Anemia is a major issue for women in India; it is called the silent killer.

- According to the Indian National Family Health Survey, statistics reveal that one in every two Indian woman are anemic. Up to two in every five maternal

deaths is directly related to anemia. In India, more than 50% of young women aged 15 to 19 suffer from anemia, while 47% are underweight.

- This problem is particularly prevalent in rural areas for young women aged 15 to 19.
- Rajasthan is a patriarchal region where women are still heavily dependent on men, especially for financial resources, therefore treatment is difficult to obtain.
- 15 anemia cases ranging from mild to moderate were diagnosed; 13 came from our new intake, while 2 girls from last year were found to be mildly anemic, following insufficient care during the summer break. We aim to inform mothers of this vital health issue during their monthly visits to the Institute.
- Anemia is often the result of early discrimination against girls, they are frequently undernourished and their health is not a priority.

### **Our goal is to ensure that no Veerni girl is anemic**

Dr. Deora visits every Thursday to treat the Veerni girls. A full time nurse, Vimlesh Sharma, visits everyday along with a volunteer nurse, Syiona who also provides her services on daily basis. The nurse stays at the institute from 12:30pm to 6:30pm. Veerni also has a well-stocked first-aid kit, with all the necessary medical supplies to deal with minor illness and injuries.



The Veerni matron has been trained for an emergency and how to use the first-aid kit in such an occurrence. Veerni also has a car and an available staff member who lives on the premises to take girls to the hospital for treatment, if necessary, night or day. Nurse Syiona has been pivotal in helping Veerni develop good contacts in the hospital.

### **Healthy Food and Sports**

Food is an essential part of girls' lives. It gives the energy and nutrients to grow and develop, be healthy and active, to move, work, play, think and learn. To achieve overall good health, Veerni provides nutritious meals to the girls. Good food is a basic need and it is of prime importance in the attainment of normal growth and development.



Healthy eating can help prevent many chronic diseases.

At Veerni, we carefully monitor the girls' diets to ensure we're providing them all the nutrients for their bodies to work properly and repair themselves. At this age, children grow very quickly and are usually very active, so they need plenty of calories and nutrients. Veerni provides three daily nutritious meals to the girls with fruit in the afternoons.



Veerni also provides extra supplements by serving Ovaltine with their milk every morning. Ovaltine is a brand of drink mix that contains essential vitamins and minerals. It has great health benefits for the girls.



## Veerni Sansthan Board Meeting:

On November 27th, the board meeting of the Veerni Sansthan was held at the Veerni Institute. In attendance were Rev. Manish Rao, Director Mahendra Sharma, our nurses Vimlesh Sharma and Syiona, Admin in-charge Mahender Singh, and Meenakshi, who acted as a representative of the Veerni girls. Jacqueline de Chollet and Sophie Fauchier were also in attendance.

## Volunteers:

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Angelina from Australia visited the Veerni Institute as a volunteer. She and did art and painting work with the girls for the week.

Christine and Wendy stayed with the girls at the Veerni institute from September 11<sup>th</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup>. They helped the girls to improve their English and also helped the girls with a skit performance.



## Visitors:

In August, we were visited by Deeya Sharma from WE CARE, USA. WE CARE helped raise funds for Veerni. Deeya spent time with the girls and discussed healthy and unhealthy societies and behaviors, emphasizing the importance of hygiene and education. She also did art projects with the girls and introduced Veerni girls to the WE CARE executive board via Skype.



On October 31<sup>st</sup>, a group for ladies from Boston, MA visited the Veerni Institute. The group spent time interacting with the girls and visiting our dorms, computer lab, sewing room, and medical room. It was a fantastic trip, organized by Maria Shepherd.



Gillian Kettaneh visited from November 11<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jacqueline de Chollet arrived on November 11<sup>th</sup> and stayed through the month of November enjoying her time with the Veerni girls.

Sophie Fauchier and her daughter Jojo visited from November 11th for three weeks. They have a close relationship with the girls and Jojo is their star. In the mornings they would both depart for the market and come back with bales of fabric, ribbons and beads and proceed to make bags and many lovely items that could be sold. The girls helped and learned a lot. Jojo is a wizard on the sewing machine and, within no time, fabrics and ribbons were turned into items as if by magic. Everyone had fun at the same time. Veerni loved their visit and can't wait for them to return this year. We thank them both so much.



Christy Sommers, Director of the Princeton Bridge Year program, came to visit the Institute on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Her organization places volunteers from the USA into various charitable organizations. It is currently based in Varanasi, but potentially moving to Jodhpur. A young woman with extensive experience working in West Africa, Bangladesh, and other countries, Christy speaks several languages and has studied across Europe. She could help place volunteers with Veerni to teach English. A relationship with Princeton could be invaluable, given that Princeton Library will house the Veerni archives.

Niraj Kake from the US visited Veerni from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. His keen interest in the project was evident throughout his visit. He noted that he had never seen this type of work in India. His engagement with the students was so strong, he made a promise to write to Babli in class 11, as she is alone and has no visitors on Parents' Day.



On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Sita Schutt's friends, Bee Robb and her husband, Andrew, visited from London. They toured the facilities and interacted with the girls.



Joanne Fulton and Gloria Friedman from the US visited on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Their visit was arranged by a travel agency from Delhi called Far Horizon. Joanne is a social worker, who is now in a private practice. Her career has focused on healthcare and teaching at the college level. Gloria is the Director of External Relations for the Legal Assistance Foundation. They both heard about Veerni through NPR. They saw the Veerni Institute and interacted with the girls and were very impressed with Veerni's work.

Marion Richardson from Israel visited on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the wedding of a former Veerni Girl, Sunita Rathore. Here is a photo of Marion with Sunita and Harsh.



Michael Marr, a member of the Veerni Foundation in Switzerland, visited the Institute on January 29<sup>th</sup>. He organized and led a visit of 25 people from the Credit Suisse group on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The girls welcomed them with garlands. He was impressed to see the progress of Veerni in the months since his last visit.

Veerni welcomed and briefed them about the project. After a full tour, their visit ended with a performance of a Rajasthani cultural dance by the girls, which was greatly appreciated by the guests. They distributed T-shirts to all the girls and were very impressed with the work of Veerni.



Joyee Deb, Chair of the Operating Committee of the Global Foundation for Humanity visited from February 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> with Nilita Vachania, filmmaker, and her daughter Zayira. While interacting with the girls, many questions were raised about their studies, hobbies and dreams. The Veerni girls in turn asked some questions concerning the guests' families and work. Nilita and Zayria also organized a photography workshop for 15 Veerni girls, in which they taught girls how to take pictures and how to edit them on the computer, which was followed by a presentation of the girls' work.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, Joyee, Nilita and Zayria visited the village of Meghwalon ki Dhani along with the Veerni team. They saw the Veerni literacy center and met with the teacher Jeevan Ram. They interacted with the girls who were attending the centre. Women of the village also came to meet them and young children followed them around everywhere chatting. On the journey back to Jodhpur a ‘traditional Veerni tea party’ was held under a big desert tree.



**THE VEERNI INSTITUTE PROGRAM -ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2018-19**

<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		<b>2018 – 2019</b>
<b>A. Institute and School Program Expenses for One Girl</b>		
1	School Fee	\$304
2	Food	\$775
3	Institute rent (water, power, maintenance)	\$417
4	Stationery	\$31
5	Uniform	\$45
6	Bedding, Laundry, etc	\$23
7	Salaries of Institute Staff, Health and Other Services	\$341
	House-mother's salaries (2 matrons)	\$ 7,593
	Nurse salary (one nurse)	\$ 4,008
	Two Security guard's salaries (two)	\$ 5,417
	Cleaners (One)	\$ 2,167
	Computer Teacher (Two)	\$ 3,600
	Doctor's Fee (2 visits and on call)	\$ 423
	Psychologist / gynecologist (on call)	\$ 1,008
	Medicines / sanitary provisions, etc.	\$ 2,495
	Career Counselors & Guest speakers	\$ 242
	Educational tour	\$ 2,625
	Upkeep exp	\$ 1,177
	Total Expenses for 90 girls	\$30,755
	Expenses for one girl	\$ 341
8	Sewing Centre / Arts & Craft Centre	\$18
9	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$5
	Total expenses for one girl per annum	\$1,959
	Total expenses for 90 girl per annum	\$176,310
	<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>\$176,310</b>
	<b>B. Literacy Program in local village of Meghwalon ki Dhani (to prepare girls to enter the Veerni Institute)</b>	<b>\$ 2,137</b>
	<b>Total (B)</b>	
	<b>C. Administrative Expenditures and Salaries</b>	
1	Salary of the Veerni staff	\$ 24,798
	Director's Salary	\$6,977
	Assistant manager	\$4,333
	Supervisor & administration	\$3,933
	Finance Manager (Part time)	\$2,669
	Office clerk	\$3,575
	Chartered accountant annual fee	\$1,980
	Driver hiring charges, including diesel, vehicle insurance and maintenance	\$1,331
	Total – 1	\$24,798
2.	Administrative expenditures (office stationery, telephone, and internet)	\$ 1,141
3.	Promotional Material	\$ 1,815
	<b>Total – C</b>	<b>\$ 27,754</b>
	<b>G. Total (A+B+C)</b>	<b>\$ 206,201</b>

## Additional Requirement:

Additional requirement	
HPV Vaccines for two classes (11 and 12) 30 girls @ \$ 100 per girl	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
Workshop for parents and capacity building course for nursing staff	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
Purchase of kitchen utensils, refrigerator, power-backup generator	<b>\$ 5,500</b>
Total	<b>\$10,500</b>

## **VEERNI SANSTHAN**

### **Statement of Accounts**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

<b><u>S.N.</u></b>	<b><u>Head of Account</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b> <b><u>1<sup>st</sup> April 17 to</u></b> <b><u>31<sup>st</sup> March 18</u></b>	<b><u>Receipt</u></b>
01.	Opening Balance on 01 <sup>st</sup> April 2017		\$ 11,972
02.	Received from JNP+ Sansthan (A du Projet Veerni) (USD \$ 80,000) = 5055021		\$ 80,000
03.	Received from Meera Sansthan (Fondation Veerni) (USD \$ 92,653) = 6004255 on 11-20-2017		\$ 92,653
04.	Interest		\$ 1,336
05.	Local donation		\$ 12,412
03.	Head of expenses		
	(1) Veerni Institute (Hostel & School Program)	\$ 153,081	
	(2) Exp on Literacy Centre at M ki Dhani	\$ 1,643	
	(3) Administrative Expenditure & Salaries	\$ 18,757	
	(4) Other Expenses-One time expense	\$ 6,904	
	(5) Computer lab setup	\$ 15,625	
	Total Expenses	<b>\$ 196,010</b>	
	Total Receipts		<b>\$ 198,373</b>
		Balance	<b>\$ 2,363</b>

## Conclusion:

Veerni is 25 years old. It has been a long journey from village life to secondary education, to young women achieving college degrees and entering the work force. Veerni is proud of its achievements but much remains to be accomplished.

Veerni continues to give excellence in education, career guidance and health care. This last year has brought many changes: a new location, better amenities, outer space for sports, improved security, additional programs such as computer training; but importantly, Veerni

works on developing self confidence in these young girls. The results are often spectacular in as much as a young girl of 12 will arrive and keep her head down and answer in whispers. The following year she gets up in front of the whole institute and delivers a talk. This approach is developed with concern for every one of them with the help of a dedicated staff. Together they form a large loving family.

However much needs to be done. This coming academic year will see an increase in the number of girls to 90, a new medical program of the HPV vaccine, an English after school teaching program among other improvements. The Veerni staff are going for refresher courses, whether in health or computer training, to improve their skills and keep current on teaching methodologies.

Veerni continues to educate a large number of child brides and the demand is growing every day from parents. One of the main requests is for Veerni to take younger siblings of the girls in the Institute. This year over 200 candidates applied for very few spaces. As a result, it is the aim of the Veerni Project to raise funds for starting Veerni II, a program for 25 to 50 girls depending on the generosity of our funders. This program could be run along the existing facility and the girls would benefit from the computer lab and other facilities. They would attend the same schools. Veerni also has the possibility of entering into a relationship with another school, one that would teach some of the older girls in situ. Veerni is exploring all of these options in order to respond for more girls, given the increasing demands from villagers. Veerni has created a demand that it cannot fill. We must endeavor to take as many girls as the project can possible accommodate. Funding will be vital.

As we all know, young women in India, if educated and trained, will change their country and bring a social transformation that will benefit all. These young women will be an inspiration to many. Together, let's help them achieve their dreams.

Jacqueline de Chollet 2018.

## **Acknowledgements:**

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

- Nelson Mandela



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