



MEET

USHA

Age: 19 years

Village: Mg. ki Dhani

Achievement: First
Girl from her village
who cleared class
12th.

Veerni Graduate:
Year 2012-13

Usha Lotiya is 19 years old and graduated (grade 12th) from the Veerni Institute this year (2012). Usha was born to a very poor family with 5 children in a village called Meghwlaon ki Dhani. She is coming from the lower caste called Meghwal, which comes under Schedule Caste category. In her community, people do not give much attention to girls' education and they believe in early marriage for their daughters, practice of child marriage is very common in her village.

Usha is also a **child-bride**. She has three younger sisters and one younger brother. Usha's father is working on daily wages as a laborer in city areas, he is illiterate. Her mother is a housewife and also uneducated. Despite Usha's interest in her study,

her parents stopped her education after grade 6th due to weak financial condition.

In the year 2007-08, "Veerni project" had opened a literacy



centre in the village Meghwlaon ki Dhani. Seeing her keenness for education, Veerni's staff motivated her parents to send her to our literacy centre. Usha was enrolled in class 8th and passed her examination on the first attempt. Afterwards, Veerni wanted to enroll Usha at the Veerni Institute to continue her

education, but convincing her parents to allow her to continue school was a challenge for the Veerni staff, her parents did not want to send her to Jodhpur (city) and they refused to send her to the Veerni Institute. But the Veerni staff motivated them persistently and briefed them on the benefits of the girls' education. In the end Usha's parents agreed and they sent her to the Veerni Institute.

Before joining the village literacy centre, Usha had also attended the sewing course organized by Veerni and had learnt sewing. After the training she sewed her family's & neighbors' clothes and made lots of money. She became an earning member of her family. Usha also thanked Veerni's sewing center and now sewing has become her favorite hobby.

Usha joined the Veerni Institute in the year 2009-10 in grade 9th. It was a totally



new experience for her. Now she had a vision and wanted to follow her education at any condition. She says: "I knew I had to work extra hard to clear my class 12th from the Veerni Institute." Her hard work paid off, she passed her class 12th with good marks. Before joining the Veerni Institute, Usha was a quiet student but after spending three years at the Veerni Institute, she has developed into a self-assured young girl, she shared, "I am the first girl in my village that cleared class 12th and I feel very proud about it". Usha added, "I am eternally grateful

to the support that The Veerni Project gave me. Apart from the opportunity to study and complete my schooling, the institute helped me to become a more confident person. Now my father also realized the value of my education. He told my mother that he is proud of me."

Five years from now, Usha hopes that she will get a college degree and will get a good job. Usha's mother has a very particular wish for her daughter: employment of any kind, her mother says – "I want my daughter to have a college degree so she can earn money for herself and for her family." But now Usha is concerned about her college fee.

Usha concluded: "The Veerni has not only changed my life but it has changed my parents thinking towards girls' education, now I can dream big and

would like to thank the Veerni for this life changing opportunity."

