Hirkani’s Room:
Innovative Concept by BPNI Maharashtra

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Hirkani’s Room

Facility:
Workplace / Public Place

Express and Store breastmilk
or
Breastfeed

This is Stage I.
Stage I

Employers most likely to provide

Mothers more likely to use
Hirkani’s Room at a Rural hospital in Tribal Area
Stage II: Crèche: no caretaker

Stage III: Crèche + caretaker

Mother to bring baby
or
Employer to provide
space / manpower

NOT EASY TO COMBINE.
Who was Hirkani?
Hirkani was a milkmaid who lived at the base of Raigad fort during the times of the great king Shivaji. Hence her story dates back to the middle of 17th century i.e. about 350 years back. Tales of her courage and love for her baby are often told in the state of Maharashtra. Historians debate whether Hirkani was real or legend. However her mothering instinct is real and universal.

Hirkani was a working mother who had to leave her baby behind to go up to Raigad to deliver the milk on the occasion of full moon night of ‘Kojagiri’. Unfortunately she got delayed and could not leave the fort before sunset when the fort doors were closed for the night. An official permission to open the gates would have taken away many valuable hours. Her baby was already awaiting her return for quite some time. She stood frustrated at the top of a vertical cliff looking down at the dim lights of her village more than a thousand feet below in the dark valley. Soon the mother’s love and determination took over against all odds and she climbed down the cliff to embrace and breastfeed her baby.
Hirkani’s story

Represents working mothers world over who challenge a mountain of difficulties to combine BF & Work
‘Hirkani’s Room’
Concept by BPNI Maharashtra
2008
as a continuum
of
‘Hirkani’s Daughters’
Book published by La Leche League: Name inspired by Hirkani whose story became the lead story & the cover picture is that of Raigad’s Hirkani Cliff
Inauguration of Hirkani’s Room
B.J. Medical College: Pune
To fulfil Mother’s Rights & Obligation of every Workplace \ Public Place

Quest to provide Appropriate Environment and Sensitivity to All Hirkani’s Daughters
Beneficiaries at
Inauguration of Hirkani’s Room
Hirkani’s Room: Display Material and the Beneficiary
Requirements_1

- Minimum Size
- Privacy
- Security
- Ventilation
- Comfort
- Apparatus & Reading Material
Felicitating Mother in Hirkani’s Room at District Bus Stand
Sensitizing Female Staff Members at Raigad Zilla Parishad & Collectorate before opening of the First ever Hirkani’s Room in India
Sensitizing Male Staff Members at Raigad Zilla Parishad & Collectorate before opening of the First ever Hirkani’s Room in India
State of Maharashtra, India:
Population >100 Million

Hirkani’s room: Now a State Project
> 1000 Rooms
established

Expence: Rs. 5000/room = $ 100
Widespread IYCN Trainings
with
State Governments & UNICEF

Activists

IYCN Movement

Hirkani’s Rooms

One of the outcomes of IYCN Movement
Hirkani Room Quilt by Dr. Alka Kuthe at WABA Conf
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