#### 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

EP



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?

#### **Inspiring Story of 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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'

LA LECHE LEAGUE

# Hirkani's Daughters

Women Who Scale Modern Mountains to Combine Breastfeeding and Working

Complect and edited by Jennifer Hicks



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

हिर्कणों कक्ष स्तृत्वासाल साधार

परिश केंद्र

To fulfil Mother's Rights & Obligation of every Workplace \ Public Place

Quest to provide Appropriate Environment and Sensitivity to All Hirkani's Daughters





#### Hirkani's Room: Display Material and the Beneficiary



# Requirements\_1

# Minimum Size

- **Privacy**
- Security
- **Ventilation**
- Comfort

**MApparatus & Reading Material** 



### Felicitating Mother in Hirkani's Room at District Bus Stand



Sensitizing Female Staff Members at Raigad Zilla Parishad & Collectoratebefore 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

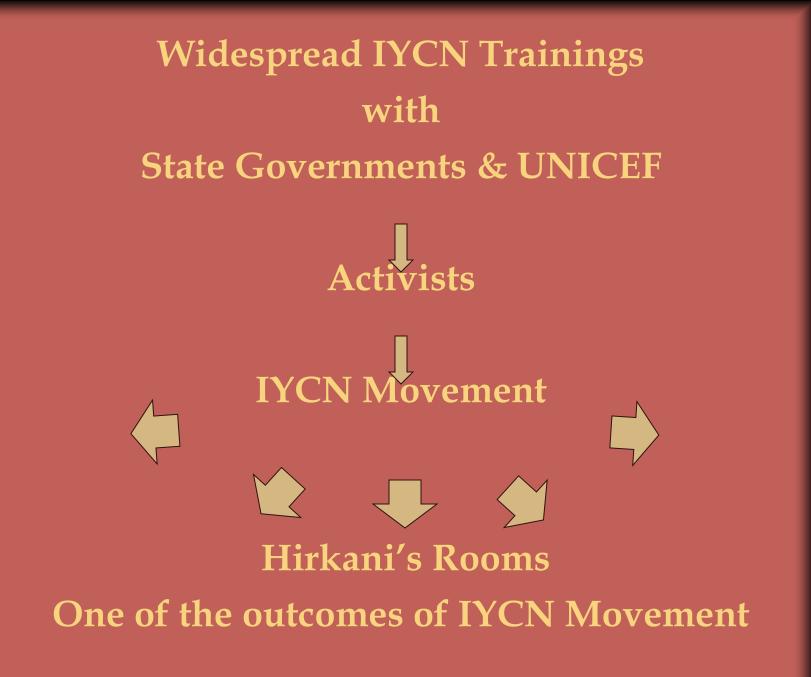


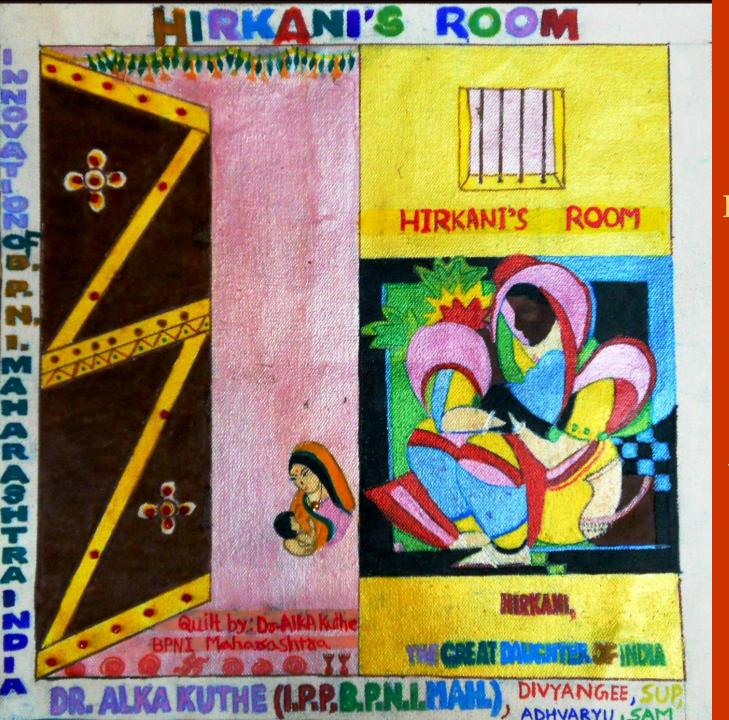
State of Maharashtra, India: Population >100 Million

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

Expence: Rs. 5000/room = \$ 100







Hirkani Room Quilt by Dr. Alka Kuthe at WABA Conf

# Acknowledgements

- Sovernment of Maharashtra
- Nutrition Mission
- Department of Women and Child Develop.
- Dept of Health & Family Welfare
- Govt Health Care Providers in Maharashtra
- ី UNICEF India & Maharashtra
- **©** Colleagues at BPNI Maharashtra
- I Our Mother Support Group & Consultants
- Colleagues at Medical Colleges in Mumbai & other parts of Maharashtra

