

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





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 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’





Hirkani's Daughters



Women Who Scale
Modern Mountains
to Combine
**Breastfeeding
and Working**



Compiled 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



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

Expenche: Rs. 5000/room = \$ 100



Widespread IYCN Trainings with State Governments & UNICEF

↓
Activists

↓
IYCN Movement



Hirkani's Rooms

One of the outcomes of IYCN Movement



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HIRKANI'S ROOM

HIRKANI'S ROOM



Quilt by: Dr. Alka Kuthe
BPNI Mahasashtra

HIRKANI,
THE GREAT DAUGHTER OF INDIA

DR. ALKA KUTHE (I.P.P., B.P.N.I. MAH.) DIVYANGEE, SUP,
ADHVARYU, SAM

Hirkani
Room
Quilt
by Dr.
Alka
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at
WABA
Conf

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- Govt Health Care Providers in Maharashtra

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Colleagues at Medical Colleges in Mumbai & other parts of Maharashtra

