

**Dr. Gajendra S. Hathi, M.D.(Pediatrics), DCH (CPS) (Topiwala National Medical College)**

Founder Member of BPNI, Advisor to BPNI Maharashtra

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**Background:** Dr. Hathi was born in an economically weak family in Rajkot, Gujarat in 1940, he had to rely on help from relatives and philanthropic organisations to complete M.B.B.S. in Jamnagar. During his college years he participated in the Inter University Youth Festival at New Delhi and was interested in debates, elocution, singing and drawing.

**Qualification:** He joined Topiwala National Medical College (TNMC) and luckily studied paediatrics as that was the only seat available at that time to an outsider! He completed DCH (CPS) in 1967 and M.D. in 1969. He joined R.N. Cooper hospital after a year and headed the Pediatric department for 25 years, while teaching UG and PG students.

**Career:** Dr. Gajendra S. Hathi was motivated to join the breastfeeding movement by Dr R.K. Anand who was the Asst. Honorary at BYL Nair hospital during his post-graduation.

**Outstanding achievements:**

- Dr. Hathi was the founder secretary-general of Mumbai branch of Indian Academy of Pediatrics in 1984-85.
- Founder secretary-general of Mumbai branch of Indian Academy of Pediatrics.
- He was the National Treasurer of central IAP for 4 years and secretary general for another 4 years.
- Dr Hathi conducted a number of breastfeeding workshops and training camps all over India through IAP, BPNI and BPNI (Maharashtra).
- Advisory support to BPNI Maharashtra
- His 2 PG students had thesis topic on breastfeeding
- Translated the book on breastfeeding by Dr. R.K. Anand.
- He also co- authored a booklet on child care.

Dr Hathi keeps fit by doing physical exercise, gymming and yoga. Carefree and jovial in nature, he is not overly religious. Married to Dr. Harsha, he has two sons - Maulik and Manan.