Why Maternity Entitlements?

Food, Health, Care for the Mother: Optimal health, development and survival of the Child

National Convention: Right To Food Campaign
Hyderabad, 7-9 April, 2006
Dr Arun Gupta/Dr Deeksha Sharma

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India
New Delhi
Maternity entitlements –
It’s Woman’s Right.
First year is critical!

- Malnutrition strikes in infancy from 11% at 0-6 months reaches its peak by 23 months, then flat.
- 36 million under three/nearly 60 million U-5 are underweight and undernourished thus underdeveloped.
- 2.4 million children die and 2/3rd in first year.

Brain development

Underweight (-2sd) NFHS-2
Over 60 million

Child deaths U-5 (Lancet 2003)
16 Lacs during first year and 8 lacs during next 4 years
What happens with infants?

- Only 40% EX BF for the first 6 months,
- 33% adequately CF 6-9 months.
- Brain development is dependent on level of interaction with the child.
Under Weight U-3 (-2sd)

This cannot be “poverty”
Under-5 deaths preventable through universal coverage with individual interventions (2000)

*Breastfeeding: Exclusive for first 6 months and continued for 6 to 12 months

Source: Jones et al. LANCET 2003;362:65-71
Risk of neonatal mortality according to time of initiation of breastfeeding

Pediatrics 2006;117:380-386
Risk of neonatal mortality according to established breastfeeding pattern

- Exclusive: 1.1
- Predominant: 1.6
- Partial: 5.6

_Pediatrics_ 2006;117:380-386
Breastfeeding!

- We are a breastfeeding nation
- We are “drop outs” in EX BF/CF
- 90% coverage can achieve reduction in infant mortality rate (IMR) (Lancet Study)
Global consensus

- Efforts should be targeted to pregnant women and children under two.
  - “Repositioning Nutrition as central to Development: A strategy for large scale Action”, March 2006
Evidence supports!

- Employed mothers often terminate breastfeeding within a month of resuming work.

Maternity entitlements!

- **Financial Assistance**
- **Healthcare**
- **Awareness of rights**
- **Nutrition Education**
- **Additional Food**

**Pregnancy**

- Exclusive BF for 6 months

**Maternity Leave for All (Org./Unorg.)**

- Continued BF with CF for 2 yrs

**Nursing breaks & facilities at work place**
Effect of breastfeeding support household visits by trained local mothers

What is breastfeeding education?

It includes

- Good Information
- Assistance at birth and later
- Answers to their question
- Counsel to prevent sore nipples, engorgement, and help if they come up
- Counseling on complementary feeding
- Counseling on feeding options for HIV IF
Breastfeeding Support Centers
Breastfeeding Support Centers
Reorganize resources, programmes, each step requires assured resources

- **Prenatal- 0-6 months**
  - Baby care /breastfeeding support centers
  - Skills training, Counseling, care of Women maternity leave

- **6 m-3 yrs**
  - HEALTH Immunization etc

- **3 -6 yrs.**
  - FOOD SUPPLY for Hunger/ PSE
Emerging Issues

- Repositioning of ICDS- RCH – focus on development and survival, shift ‘SNP-food” to education with MDM.
- Baby care centres / breastfeeding support centres/counselling home visits by skilled workers
- “One-hour breastfeeding support at birth” as entitlement, can it be included in “Supreme Court order”
- Length of maternity leave to six months; who will fund? (if not the employers)
- Informal sector workers: how they get benefits
- Family housewives’ entitlements: community responsibility.
Thank you