

**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
SEWA KUTIR COMPLEX, KINGSWAY CAMP, DELHI-110009
(Women Empowerment Cell)**

F.No. 60(790)/DWCD/WEC/Master Avyaan/Court Case/2018-19 ²¹⁴⁴⁵ Dated :- 20 DEC 2019

POLICY ON SETTING UP CHILD FEEDING ROOMS IN PUBLIC PLACE

Introduction

Importance of breast feeding for baby's nutritional requirements and disease resistance is well recognized and evidence based. How it helps in healthy growth and development and further in strengthening bondage between mother and baby is also well known. In infancy, no gift is more precious than breast feeding. These are among the reasons why International organizations such as WHO lay so much emphasis on exclusive breast feeding for first six months of birth and accordingly, Government of India has also been running programmes and schemes which promote breast feeding. But these initiatives and baby's natural right to feed on mother's milk get extremely restricted and often denied than never in the urban space, while visiting public place, for want of such facility which can provide safe, secure, hygienic and private space where mother can feed and nurse her baby without disturbance and the baby does not get deprived of its feed. This document is the first such policy document which addresses the issue on providing feeding room in public place and recognizes the need for having feeding rooms in places such as bus terminus, railway stations, shopping malls, cinema halls, hospitals and such other public places. The policy provides for guidelines on essential features that need to be incorporated while setting up and earmarking such facilities in public buildings.

Aim and Objective

The aim and objective of this policy is to sensitize and enable the urban planners, architects and engineers to earmark conspicuous space in the public buildings and retrofit such existing buildings with feeding rooms where there are none. It also intends to include provision of feeding room in planning process of new buildings which are envisaged to come up for public use so that the natural needs of mother and baby are taken care in all public buildings in Delhi. It also intends to orient the character of public place to be mother-child friendly.

Focus Points

In order to ensure biological and natural right of a mother to nurture her infant in public environment, the nursing rooms should be set up at all Bus Terminals, Bus Depots, Railway Stations, major Metro Stations, Court premises, Shopping Complex, Govt. Private & Commercial buildings, Cinema Halls/PVRs, Departmental Stores and Malls. The location of Child Feeding Room should be provided with way finding signage and in site plan for its easy reach.

[Signature]
20/12/2019

Essential Features


An ideal Child Feeding Room for safe and secure environment for nursing mother and child should be as under:-

1. Room size should be adequate enough depending upon foot falls.
2. Sharp edges and hard corners shall be avoided inside the care room.
3. Provision of at least one nursing counter with sink, mirror and disposal bin will be made.
4. Use of non slip floor surfaces, easily cleanable finishes etc. is preferable.
5. It should be built as a rest room for the purpose of baby care room or nursing station or changing soggy diapers or feeding of infant preferably on the ground floor of the public building.
6. It should be easily accessible to all including persons with disabilities.
7. The area should not have access to others and a female attendant will be posted outside the area/room.
8. The room should be equipped with adequate nursing chairs, tables and washbasin.
9. A nursing room should have a child friendly atmosphere which should be properly lit and ventilated.
10. There should be a washroom attached to nursing room.
11. If the area does not have adequate space for a separate room, then nursing area should atleast be shielded with curtains or flex walls etc from public view.
12. An emergency alarm bell/button should be provided alongside the light button for mother to call someone in case of emergency.
13. Décor and design should appeal to aesthetics.

Regulation

The Policy makes it essential that all public buildings are provided with feeding rooms. It is also suggested that necessary amendments in building by laws are made in this regard and as far as practicable feeding room should not be made part of permissible FAR.

This has the approval of Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister/ Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Department of Women and Child Development.


20/12/2016
/c (S.B. Shashank)
Director, WCD