

# TheNews

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## Govt urged to notify rules of breastfeeding ordinance

Islamabad

Representatives of various civil society organisations have urged upon the government to notify rules and guidelines of 'Protection of Breastfeeding and Young Child Nutrition Ordinance 2002'.

They were of the view that the delay in framing the rules has created issues related to non-compliance of the ordinance, which was promulgated in 2002, as its guidelines and rules are still pending for approval.

They said besides framing of the ordinance, the proper imple-

mentation and monitoring of the ordinance is also necessary as in the country, 77 infants die out of 1000 live births every year. Out of these 57 are those who die before reaching one month of age due to diarrhoea, pneumonia, respiratory infections and malnutrition. A major source of these diseases is lack of exclusive breastfeeding, use of unhygienic bottles, formula milk and teats, they claimed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the government had passed the 'Protection of Breastfeeding and Young Child Nutrition Ordinance' in October 2002

to protect breastfeeding practices from the commercial onslaught of the industry and to fulfil international commitments.

The exclusive breastfeeding rate in the country is the lowest among South Asian region, which is 37.1 per cent. Where as the rate of bottle-feeding is higher in the country in south Asian region, which is 32.1 per cent.

When contacted an official of the Ministry of Health said that the government is committed to protect the health of its citizens and it would soon notify the rules and regulations of the concerned ordinance. — APP