

The Nation

Date: 07:08:2007

Station: Islamabad

Breastfeeding basic right of newborn

OUR STAFF REPORTER

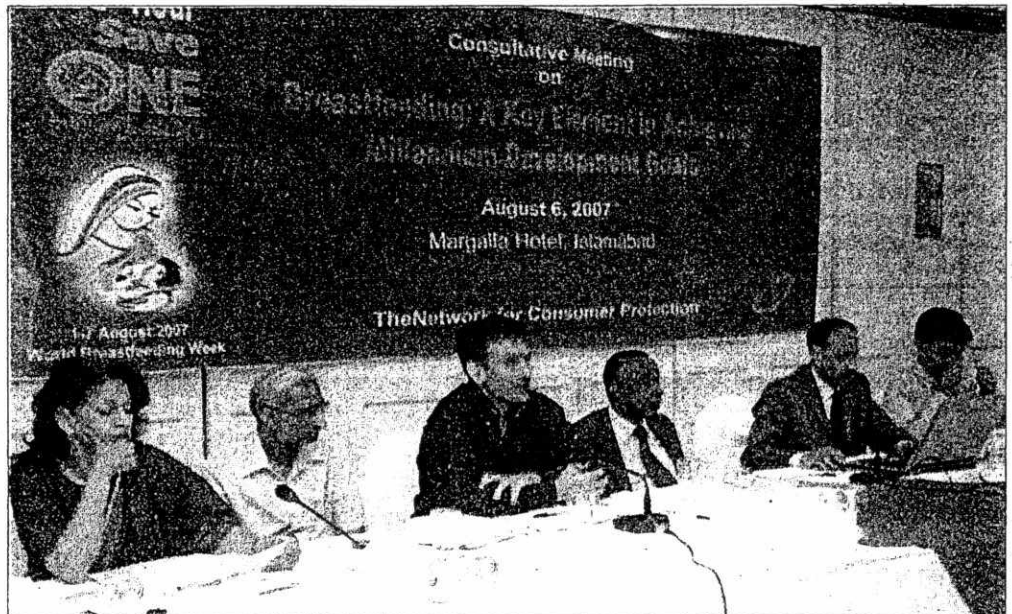
ISLAMABAD - The Network for Consumer Protection on Monday organised a consultative meeting on breastfeeding titled "A key Element in Achieving Millennium Development Goals". The meeting was arranged in connection with the Breastfeeding Week being celebrated from August 1 to 7.

World Breastfeeding week was first celebrated in 1992 and is now observed in over 120 countries by UNICEF and its partners, including the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action at the World health organization.

Speakers at the seminar were of the view that Breastfeeding is the basic and foremost right of a newborn. It is natural for all mothers to breastfed their babies. They said early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for six months can reduce neonatal mortality by 22 per cent. This has profound impact on infant mortality and child mortality.

Beside this the low birth weight is one of the major causes of malnutrition in Pakistan. This leads to the infections and adds into neonatal mortality.

The consultative meeting was aimed to discuss the initiation of exclusive Breast feeding in the context of broader policy with regard to MDGs gasps and implementation on breastfeeding ordinance. Global infant and young child feeding strategy and health promotion needs of BF.



Country Director WHO Dr Khalif Bile Muhammad (3rd from left) speaking at seminar on 'Breastfeeding' on Monday.—Staff photo