

Comparison of India with South Asian countries on the progress on policy and programmes related to breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding

If India were to invest in this area, India can expect to improve its situation and rank among the 7 South Asian countries. Table below reflects on the 10 policies and programmes related to breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding and compares with other countries. This is based on assessment reports conducted by the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi). Sri Lanka scores the highest 91/100, and India a mere 45. Bangladesh is at 86, Afghanistan at 80, Maldives at 69.5, and Bhutan & Nepal at 55. All countries score higher than India. Sri Lanka, one can see scoring maximum “Green” among ten areas, and maintains a high rate of exclusive breastfeeding. India could learn from Sri Lanka how they did it. According to WBTi, India has not made much progress; scored 45 in 2005 and remains at 45. Whereas other countries have; for example Afghanistan scored 27 in 2005 and now at 80. Sri Lanka scored 72 in 2005 and now is 91.

Ten Areas of policy and programme monitored	AFGHANISTAN – Assessment Year 2015	BANGLADESH – Assessment Year 2015	BHUTAN – Assessment Year 2016	INDIA – Assessment Year 2018	MALDIVES – Assessment Year 2015	NEPAL – Assessment Year 2016	SRI LANKA – Assessment Year 2019
1.National Policy, Programme and Coordination	10.0	9.5	9.5	1.5	9.5	7.5	10.0
2.Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative	7.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.5	10.0
3.Implementation of the International Code	10.0	9.0	2.0	8.5	9.0	5.0	7.0
4.Maternity Protection	6.5	5.5	7.5	6.0	5.5	1.0	6.0
5.Health and Nutrition Care Systems	9.0	9.0	6.5	5.0	8.0	5.5	10.0
6.Mother Support and Community Outreach	6.0	9.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	10.0
7.Information Support	9.0	10.0	4.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
8.Infant Feeding and HIV	6.5	9.0	8.5	6.0	10.0	5.5	10.0
9.Infant Feeding during Emergencies	7.0	10.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	10.0
10.Monitoring and Evaluation	9.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	10.0

Total Score (Policy and Programmes)	80/100	86/100	55/100	45/100	69.5/100	55/100	91/100
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Exclusive Breastfeeding (0-6 m)	58%	55%	51%	57%	48%	70%	82%
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Source: [World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative \(WBTi\), 2019.](#)