

Clinics to Promote Breastfeeding in Bahrain

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MANAMA — Clinics will be established soon in all medical districts to assist mothers and families on breastfeeding-related problems, an expert has said.

Family Physician at the state-run hospital Dr Fahima Al Mutawa told a workshop last week that the clinics would be dedicated to highlight the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants.

“They would try to correct some misconceptions about breastfeeding in society, mainly the wrong notions about its effects on the beauty of women.”

According to UN Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional fact sheet published during the World Breastfeeding Week, the 25 per cent rate of continued breastfeeding at 20-23 months is also low in MENA region compared to many other regions for which data is available: 39 per cent globally, 40 per cent in developing countries and 50 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. Continued breastfeeding rate is highest in Oman (73 per cent), Bahrain (41 per cent) and Sudan (40 per cent).

She said that all public hospitals and some private hospital had become infants-friendly by promoting breastfeeding from the early minutes of birth. According to a study by the Bahrain Centre for the Studies and Research, the average period of breastfeeding here is 14 months and it differs according to the educational backgrounds of mothers. The study shows that the practice of breastfeeding was less among highly educated mothers compared to those with low and average education.

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