

**A SURVEY ON BREAST FEEDING AND IT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MOTHERS' EDUCATION AND FAMILY SOCIAL ECONOMIC LEVEL**

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**Aims:**The aims of this survey was to determine the breast feeding in mothers of Larestan province and the influence of education and family economic status on it. **Design:**In 1999 to 2000 , 2238 mothers who refered to health and medical centers in Larestan were selected. Subjects reproductive behavior,breast feeding profiles, educational level,economic situation,childs' feeding profile,time of start solid foods,... were evaluated using a trained interviewer and a questionnaire. **Results:**Results showed that as the mothers' educational level increase the age of mothers' first delivery also increase and she wants to delay her first pregnancy and to have fewer children ( $p<0.005$  , $p<0.05$ ) and as a result there is a reduction in family size.With increase in mothers' educational level there is an emphasize on breast feeding( $p<0.05$ ).There was a meaningful significance between the level of education and the length of breast feeding( $p<0.005$ ).The results showed that the social economic status of the family had no effect on the age of the first pregnancy,types and kinds of supplemental formula and the length of breast feeding, while there was a meaningful significance between this variable and the time of start of solid food. **Conclusions:**The authors conclude that it is feasible to combine breast feeding and infant stimulation instruction in an educational program for women of low socio-economic status and that the use of this program can help reduce risk factors both for malnutrition and developmental retardation.

