

Women's Empowerment and Fertility: Policy Lessons

Outline of talk



Defining the issue



SECTION 1

HOW DOES GREATER CONTROL OVER
CHILDBEARING EMPOWER WOMEN?

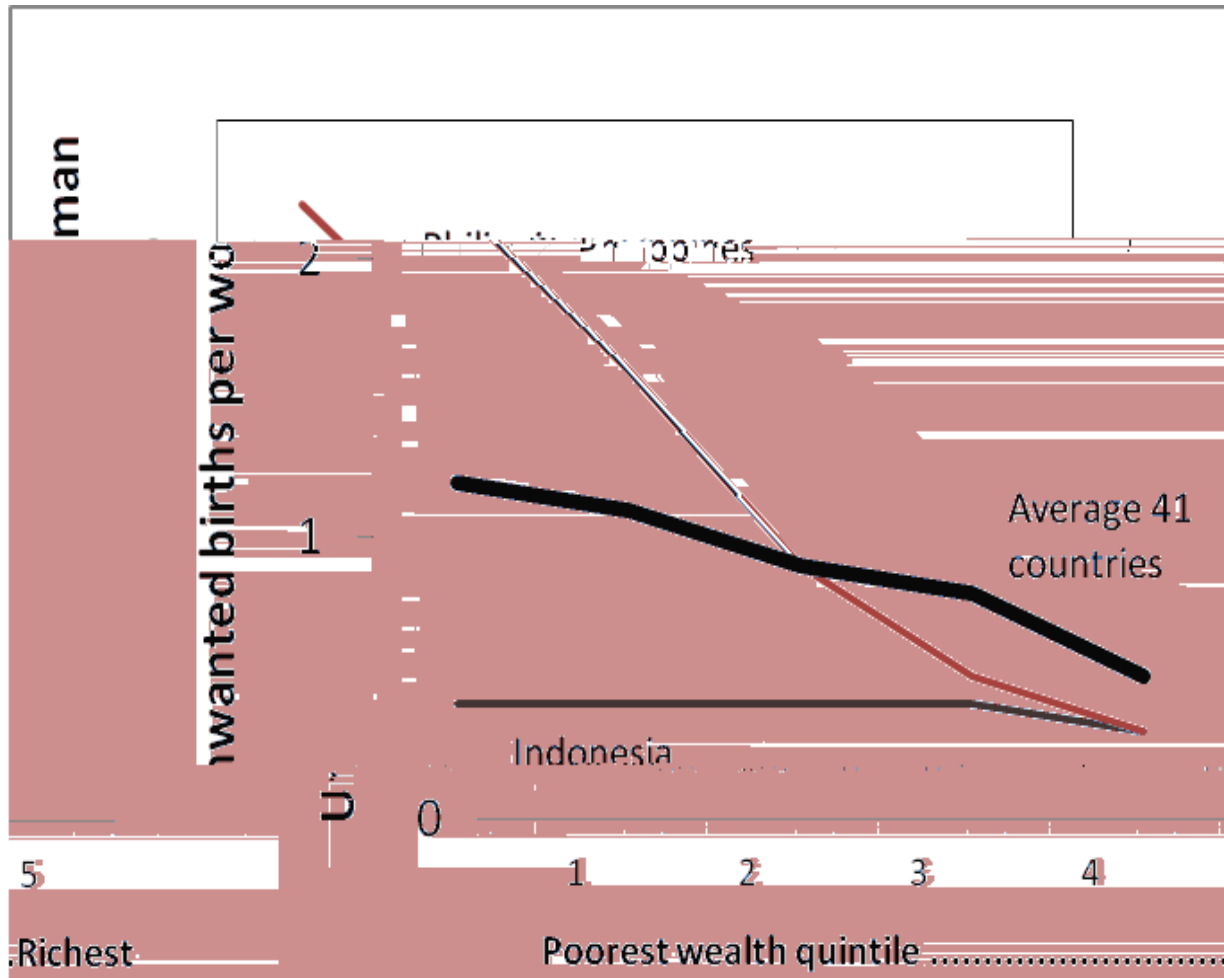
a) Increases female labour-force participation & earnings



b) Lowering physical & financial barriers to contraceptive access most help to the least disadvantaged women



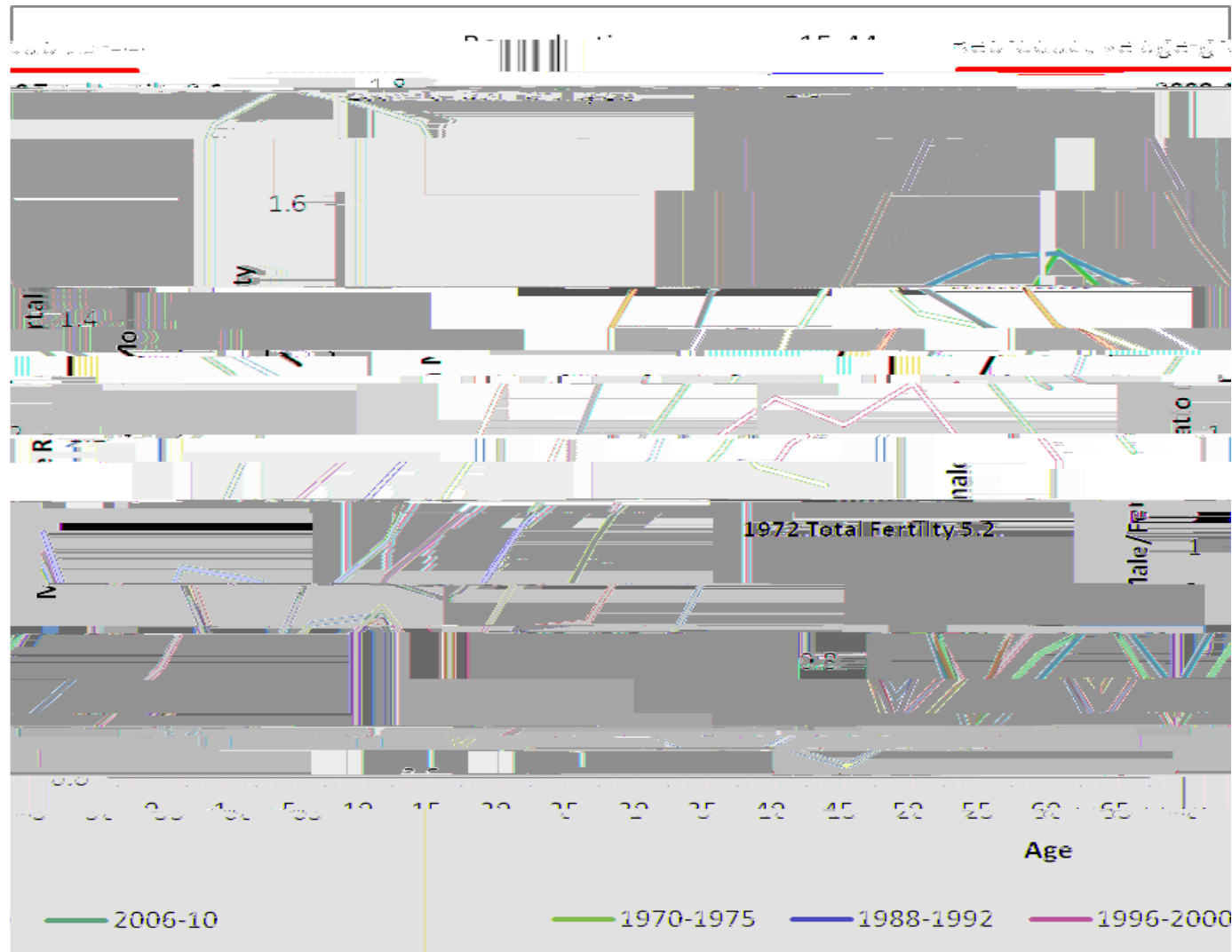
Unwanted fertility is higher among the poor, and effective family planning programs can reduce this gap



c) Lower fertility helps improve women's health



Fertility decline helps improve women's health



Source: Government of India, Sample Registration Bulletin 16(1), June 1982, and SRS Based Abridged Life Tables 1988-92,

d) Lower fertility & birth planning enhances children's life chances



SECTION 2

WHAT CONSTRAINS WOMEN'S CONTROL OVER THEIR CHILDBEARING?

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b) Limitations on mobility outside the home

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- *For women:*