

# Women's Empowerment and Fertility: Policy Lessons

# Outline of talk



# Defining the issue



## SECTION 1

HOW DOES GREATER CONTROL OVER  
CHILDBEARING EMPOWER WOMEN?

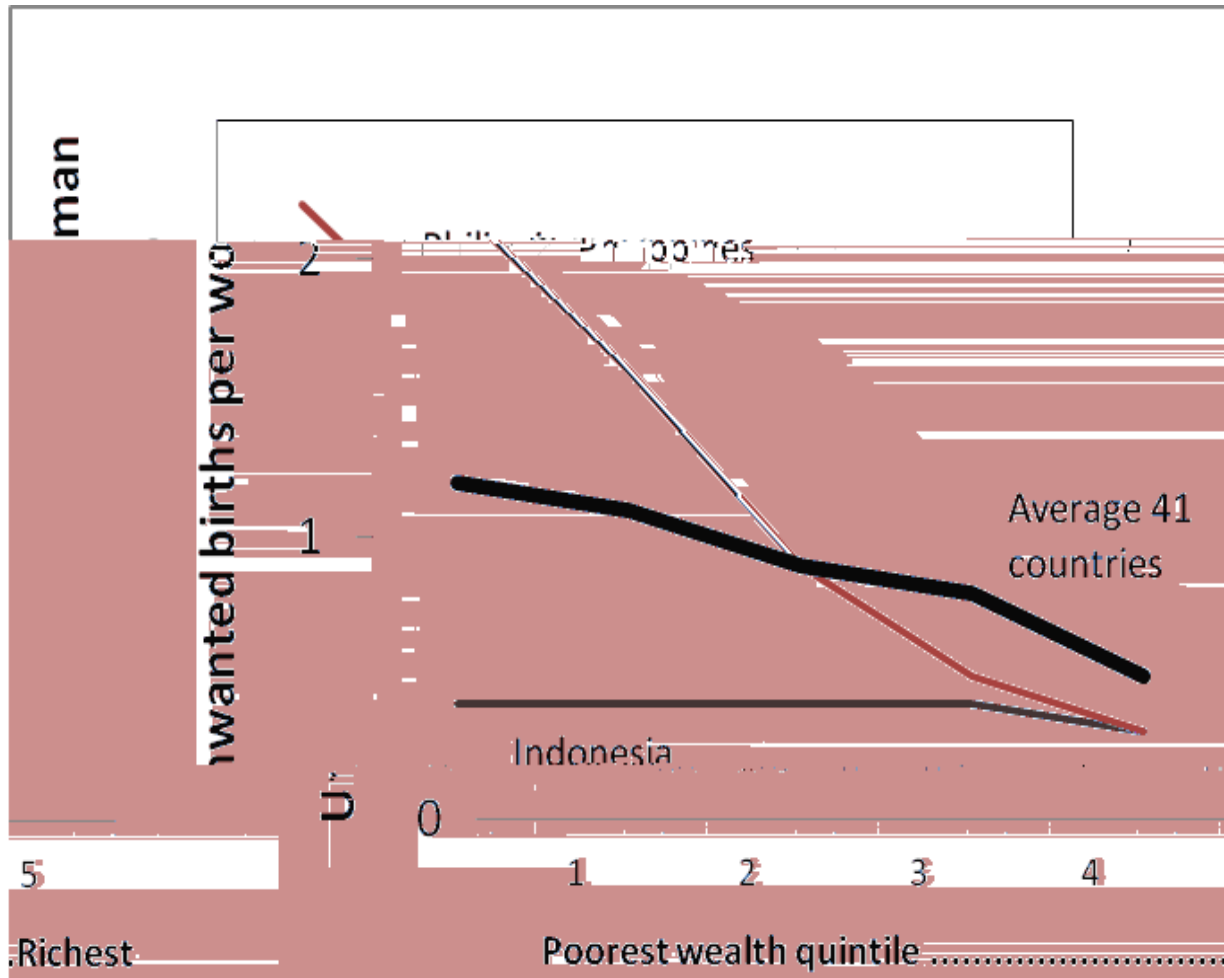
## a) Increases female labour-force participation & earnings



## 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

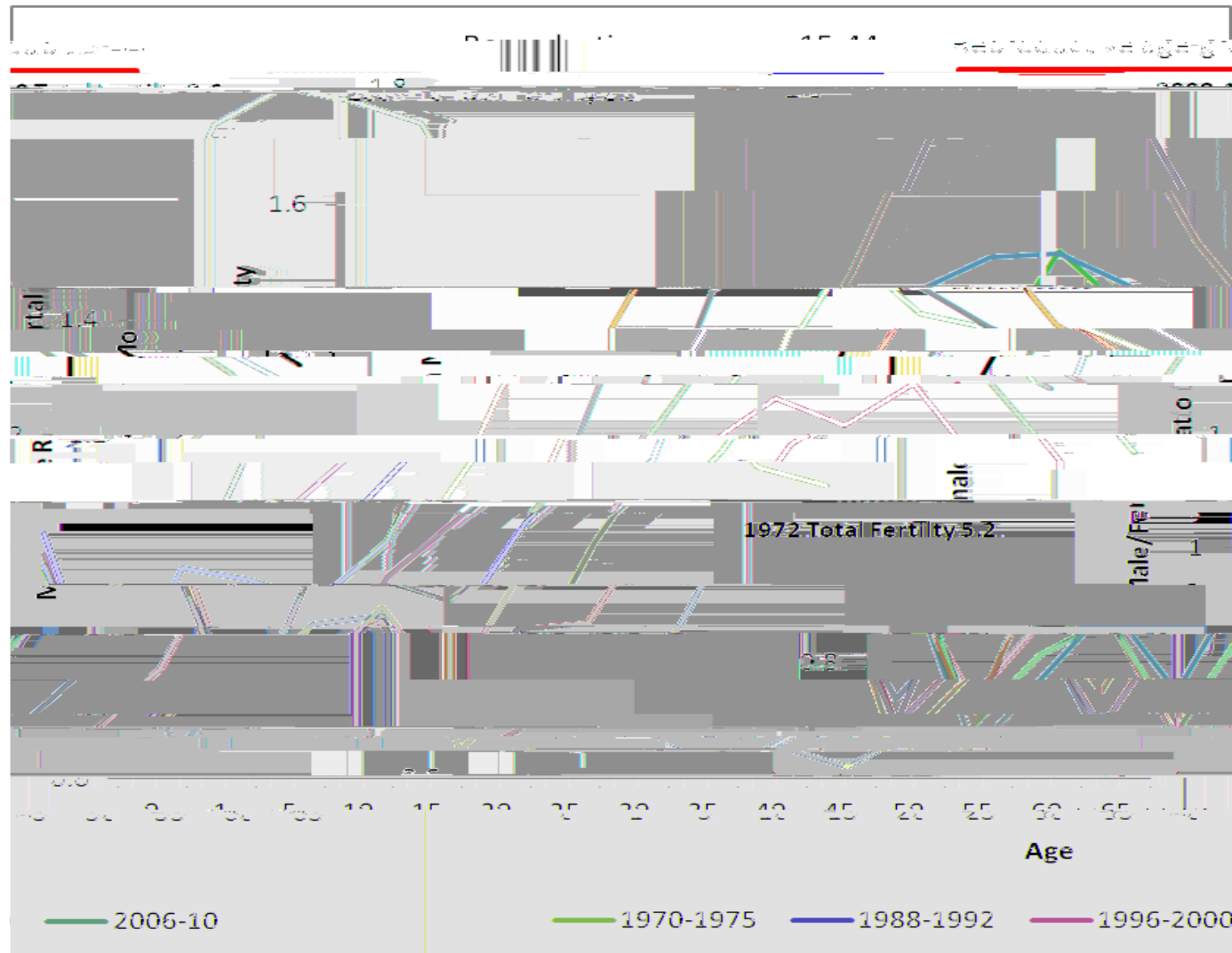


## c) Lower fertility helps improve women's health





# 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:*