



Family and Fertility: Reproductive Rights in China

IMOW Curated Tours

This tour examines the relationship between fertility and economic sustainability amongst female migrant workers in China. It features a slideshow about women in China who face tough personal choices about their lives, their bodies and their futures. The presentation package includes a downloadable multimedia slideshow, PowerPoint slides and a script.

The content in this presentation is part of the International Museum of Women's virtual *Economica* exhibition, which addresses the relationship between women and the global economy. To offer the audience more context about the museum and this project, we suggest presenting the *International Museum of Women: Exhibiting Change* tour or playing the related video prior to your presentation(s).

We encourage you to immerse yourself in the content, personalize it, and give the presentation your own flair. Suggestions for presenters, approximate timing, and details about the tour follow.

[Note: The slideshows and related content for *Economica* are also available in Spanish on the IMOW website at www.imow.org/economica]

TOTAL LENGTH: 6 minutes, with Extension Ideas

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO DOWNLOAD from www.imow.org/education/tours

- "Womb Economics" slideshow
- Presentation PowerPoint

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Computer with Quicktime Player and Microsoft Office PowerPoint
- Projector
- Screen
- Audio/speakers
- Microphone

SPEAKER TALKING POINTS

Launch the PowerPoint presentation



Slide 1

Purpose: Brief introduction to the Museum

Key Talking Points:

- The International Museum of women is an innovative virtual museum, offering online and physical experiences in multiple languages and locations. The museum acts a creative catalyst for social change, using art and multi-media to engage new worldwide audiences in activism for women's human rights.
- Its online exhibition ***Economica*** features multimedia slideshows that illustrate the relationship between women and the global economy. This mini exhibition tour focuses on the interplay between economic and reproductive rights amongst migrant workers in China.

Slides 2-4

Purpose: Provide background information on the situation for women migrant workers in China

Key Talking Points:

- More than one in ten Chinese are migrant workers
- Approximately one third of those workers are women. In some southern factory towns, women make up almost 70% of the workers
- In 1979, China enacted its “one-child” policy, using abortion, forced sterilization and other means to curb population growth, especially in rural areas
- Many female migrant workers are punished for getting pregnant or giving birth. An All China Women's Federation survey indicated that 21% of workers were fired after getting pregnant or giving birth
 - Many workers do not have access to proper sex education or contraception
- Conversely, in other developed nations, such as France, Germany and Japan, women are encouraged to have children to counter the economic consequences of declining birth rates

Slide 5

Purpose: Provide background information for the slideshow “Womb Economics”



Key Talking Points:

- China is now the world's third largest economy, after the European Union and the United States
- Millions of rural Chinese have moved to urban areas for work, adding to the overcrowding of the cities
- Most spend 11-12 hours at work every day, seven days a week, getting paid far below the legal minimum wage
- Many workers are expected to send money home to support their families, further reducing the amount they have for everyday living

Slides 6-7

Purpose: Get audience to think about issues presented in the slideshow

Key Talking Points:

- As you watch the slideshow, think about the following questions:
 - What happens when public policies intersect with personal choices?
 - What are the specific impacts on women?

Minimize PowerPoint, open Quicktime video

Play *Womb Economics* slideshow (4 minutes)

Minimize Quicktime Player, switch back to PowerPoint presentation

Slide 8

Purpose: Offer some proposed solutions on a societal level

Key Talking Points:

- The experience of these young women in China is just one example of how policies that promote or discourage childbearing can create a problematic divide between wealthy and poor women--both within the same country and between the Global North and South--because some women's children are seen as desirable while others are seen as a burden



- Too often women—especially from developing countries—are valued only for their labor and economic productivity as workers
- Women’s needs and experiences should be front and center in policymaking, especially for laws that shape how families choose if and when to have children, how they balance their work and life responsibilities, and how working environments can foster well-being and happiness
- Until that happens, women will have to continue to make tough choices about fertility and childbearing
- The bottom line is: women’s needs and public policies must converge

Slide 9

Purpose: Let audience know about related content on IMOW website

Key Talking Points:

- To learn more about women and reproductive rights, you can:
- [Read IMOW’s interview](#) with author Michelle Goldberg
 - Goldberg wrote a book exploring how women’s rights, including reproduction, abortion and gender bias, are at the center of the world’s most critical problems
- [Look at photos of the maternal health situation in East Timor](#)

Slide 10

Purpose: Provide tangible action items for audience members

Key Talking Points:

- Visit the International Museum of Women’s website at www.imow.org to find other content related to this issue. There you can browse Community Voices, which features content from members of the IMOW community, listen to podcasts, access interviews with women’s rights champions, read essays and reports written by experts and interact with various media and artistic pieces
- [Promote the use of comprehensive sexual education curriculum](#) *It’s All One*, produced by the International Women’s Health Coalition
 - It presents a unified approach to Sexuality, Gender, HIV, and Human Rights Education
- [Participate in Engender Health’s Action Campaigns](#), where you can subscribe to Action Alerts



- Spread the word about important issues around gender equity – talk to your family members, friends, neighbors – make sure your voice is heard!
- Follow IMOW online

EXPLORE MORE

- [Find organizations](#) that work around reproductive rights and groups that support the rights of migrant workers
- [Access additional stories](#) about women in the workforce

EXTENSION IDEAS

If you are looking for ways to extend your presentation beyond 6 minutes, below are a few suggestions. You can mix and match the ideas to fit your needs, or come up with your own!

- Play two or more *Economica* slideshows together; choose from any of the seven
- [Use the transcript from IMOW's interview with Michelle Goldberg](#) and reinforce the following statement: "A fundamental principle has to be: trust women. If you give women the support that they need to make decisions, both about their own economic lives and their own fertility, so many other problems have a way of falling into place. Family planning should be used as a tool of empowerment, as something that absolutely needs to be available to those women who do choose it. You don't need to force women, you don't need to trick them, you don't need to bribe them; you just need to give them opportunities."
- [Display the photographs of M. Scott Brauer](#), who went to examine the lives of women living in Guanyun County, a depressed region in Jiangsu Province, China
(*Note: this requires access to an internet connection*)
- [Take information from the comprehensive sexual education curriculum *It's All One*](#), produced by the International Women's Health Coalition, and present it to the audience. Some suggested topics include: Sexual Health and Well Being Require Human Rights (Unit 1), Gender (Unit 2), Decisions About One's Own Fertility (Unit 7)