International Symposium
November 6th and 7th, 2008 at the Center for the Advancement of Working Women (CAWW)

Fertility and Social Stratification
Germany and Japan
in Comparison

Friday, November 7th, 2008
Section 4: Health Care

“Increasing Childlessness and its Solution by Reproductive Technologies – A Solution Only for the Rich?”

PowerPoint by
Corinna Onnen-Isemann
(University of Vechta)

If you use any information from this presentation, please have the courtesy to properly cite this source. Thank you.
Increasing childlessness and its solution by reproductive technologies

Prof. Dr. Corinna Onnen-Isemann
Tokyo Nov., 7th 2008
Childless marriages

- 1989 8.4 %
- 2008 20.0 %
## Childless women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of birth</th>
<th>in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>28?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medical reproductive technology

- The only possibility to achieve the goal set by society

= to have a family with children of one's own
Question at issue

„Reproductive technology is a solution against increasing childlessness“
Social structure of patients

- Mean age women: 37.6
- Mean age men: 34.5
- Female patients: 38551
- All social milieus
- Baby-take-home-rate:
  - 16.9 (IVF),
  - 17.1 (ICSI),
  - 22.3 (IVF/ICSI)

Source: DIV 2006
Kinds of patients

- Primary childless women...
  - had never born a child

- Secondary childless women...
  - had already born a child, can’t give birth to another child
Reasons for the treatment

- Orientation at the female „normal biography“
  - Marriage as presupposition for a family
  - Children cause a partly interruption of employment
Costs

- Psychological
  - extremely strain during the treatment
- Social
  - different behavior concerning adoption
- Financial
  - expensive for the patients
  - expensive for health insurances
Theory: Presumption

1. People with higher income tend to be in jobs where they are often used to push through their interest against others. Therefore they can better negotiate with their health insurance about the coverage of costs.
2. People with higher incomes have private health insurances.
3. Reproductive medical treatment isn’t financed completely by public health insurances.
Deduction:

1. People who undergo reproductive medical treatment have more money available than average patients and vice versa: most patients of reproductive medical therapy are rich.

2. If modern assisted reproduction should be a solution against increasing childlessness, and if the use of this technique is increasing as well, we would help single-sided the upper class of our society to fulfill their wish for a child.

3. People with lower money even cannot procreate....