

## Documentaries & Factual - Human/Social Interest



### The Baby Makers

**Episodes:** 2 x 60 mins

**Language:** English

**Year:** 2022

**Producer:** Mediacorp Studios

**Distributor:** Mediacorp

Alarm bells are ringing over falling birthrates. If there are fewer workers and more elderly, what will happen to economies and our standard of living? This series explores the efforts to make it easier to have children and spotlights the people trying to make it happen.

In Asia and beyond, we look at government programmes, the new wave of entrepreneurs tapping into the lucrative Femtech market, and the next frontiers in science, including artificial intelligence to help fertility. There are predictions that one in five babies will be born with some sort of assistance from reproductive technology. We look at the issues through the eyes of would-be parents, as well as the doctors and scientists who are dedicated to bringing new bundles of joy into the world.

Narrator: Dilly Barlow

Information correct at time of printing

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## Episode 1 – Let’s Make Babies

Alarm bells are ringing over falling birthrates.

This episode explores the reasons behind declining fertility and the efforts by governments and doctors in different parts of the world to improve the situation.

In Singapore, a new law will allow single women to freeze their eggs.

South Korea has the lowest birth rate in the world and a new generation of youth is not interested in marriage and children. We look at a university course that forces students to go on dates.

In a busy maternity ward in Israel, we see the results of the country’s pro-birth attitudes. But it could be too much of a good thing. The population could double within decades, putting a squeeze on housing and schools.

Denmark strikes a balance with a consistent fertility rate over recent years. Its liberal approach includes free IVF treatment for a couple’s first child, and women can access fertility treatment up to the age of 46.

Can these policies help overcome the world’s population dilemma?

## Episode 2 – Future Babies

There are predictions that one in five babies will be born with some sort of artificial assistance.

This episode looks at scientists and researchers who are developing the latest fertility technology, including AI-assisted IVF, at-home ultrasound using your mobile phone, and artificial wombs that could one day help severely premature babies.

And we meet the new wave of entrepreneurs tapping into the lucrative ‘Femtech’ market in Japan and Singapore. They’re offering cheaper and less intrusive methods to help natural conception, created by founders who have been through the fertility journey themselves.

There won’t be a one-size-fits-all solution to declining birth rates, but societies can focus on adapting and doing their best to help those who do want babies.

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