General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News  
Creator: Tom Brokaw/Mark Mullen  
Event Date: 10/16/2007  
Air/Publish Date: 10/16/2007

Resource Type: Video News Report  
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.  
Copyright Date: 2007  
Clip Length: 00:02:30

Description

A new generation of urban Chinese women find that they have more choices than ever before in education, careers, and marriage.

Keywords

Women, Single, Empowerment, Empower, Gender, China, Chinese, Urban, Choice, Education, Marriage, Speed Dating, Wealth, Shanghai, One-child policy, Disparity

Citation

MLA
Transcript

Women Empowered in China

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
And now to our series here this week about the extraordinary changes under way in China. Tonight, it's about the new power of women. While the US is well beyond that term "women's lib," this is now the age of female empowerment in China, which, of course, is a huge change. Again tonight, our CHINA RISING report from our NBC News correspondent in Beijing, Mark Mullen.

MARK MULLEN reporting:
Christine Yu of Shanghai is single, sophisticated and successful. For fun, she dances, often with a paid instructor...

Ms. CHRISTINE YU: Right now I am a senior internal auditor.

MULLEN: ...and practices English at a language club. Hobbies she enjoys for her own benefit, she says, not to attract men.

Ms. YU: I'm very picky, I think, you know.

MULLEN: At 29 years old, Christine is part of a new generation of young, urban Chinese women who say they simply have more choices than their mothers did when it comes to education, careers and especially marriage.

And considering there's now 20 percent more men than women in parts of China, Christine says, why compromise.

Ms. YU: If I don't love him, how could I, you know, have kids with him?

MULLEN: The gender imbalance is a consequence of almost 30 years of a one-child policy here combined with an historical preference for sons over daughters. But 25-year-old entrepreneur Sabrina Wei says this preference for males ironically has only empowered educated career women, now in great demand by suitors.

Ms. SABRINA WEI: I always want to strive for the best, and I can wait.

MULLEN: Words that make even commitment-minded bachelors sweat. Speed dating events, something new to China, are often packed, guys hoping five minutes of charm can lead to a lifetime of
companionship. Still, it's estimated 30 million men won't be able to find wives.

Unidentified Man #1: It's essential to--for a man to make more money.

MULLEN: Men told us they feel pressured to be high rollers just to have a shot at marrying a woman from the big city.

Unidentified Man #2: Now the house and the car may be--may be the most important thing.

MULLEN: In this traditional country, women--including media mogul Hong Huang, considered China's Oprah--say women need to put men on notice.

Ms. HONG HUANG: What Chinese men need is a good slap in the face and a wake-up call.

MULLEN: And, until they do, Christine Yu is more than happy to spend her time alone, choreographing her hobbies. Mark Mullen, NBC News, Shanghai.