



# Chapter 11

## The different effects of government policies or welfare programs on men and women

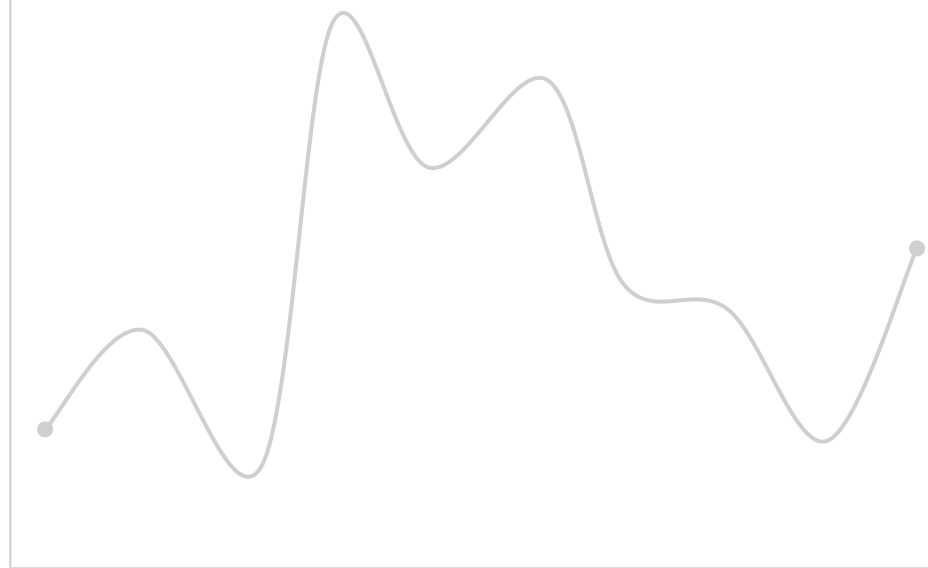
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## The economic concept of the marriage market



Source – Hoffman, S. and Averett,  
S. 2021,

Women and the economy, Ch.4

# Marriage Market



- 📍 Gary Becker's Concept – Model of the marriage market (Demand and Supply)
- 📍 Examples of marriage markets – China, public marriage market where parents post advertisement to find a partner for their children
- 📍 Marriage Market – Process to find the marriage partner
- 📍 Apply economic concepts like a typical market with demand, supply, price, and quantity at equilibrium points.



#changedestiny

SK-II: Marriage Market Takeover (Please turn on subtitle)

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# Marriage Market




Equilibrium is the number of people who marry and the benefits (or outputs) of marriage (divided between husband and wife).

- Quantity is the number of men and women who are in the marriage market.
- Price in the marriage market is an amount of output that men and women receive (Utility/Benefit)

$S_F$  = Outputs that women receive;  $S_M$  = Outputs that men receive

$Z_{MF} = S_F + S_M$  ; where  $Z_{MF}$  is total output of household ( $Z_{MF} - S_F = S_M$ )

# Supply and demand for marriage markets

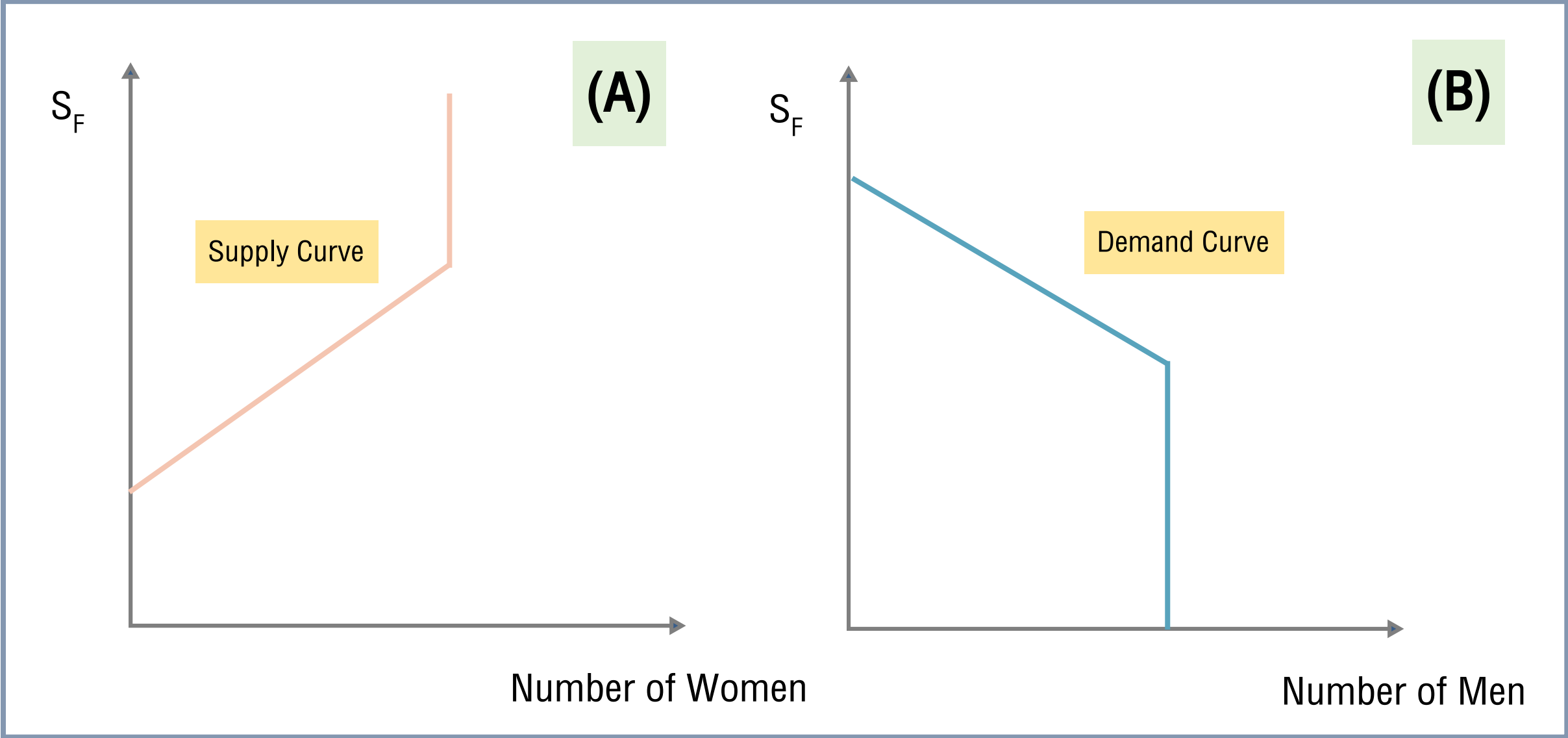
 **Supply curve of women** to marriage shows the number of women willing to marry at each level of  $S_F$

- $S_F$  Low – no woman who wants to marry. Then, when  $S$  increase, there will be more women want to get married until reach a certain level of  $S_F$  that all women are willing to marry. The supply curve is a straight line going up.

**The supply curve of a woman to marriage is an upward slope and vertical.**

From  $Z_{MF} - S_F = S_M$  when  $S_F$  is high  $S_M$  is low (inverse relationship)

**Figure 11.1 Supply and demand for marriage markets**



# Supply and demand for marriage markets



**Demand curve of men** to marriage shows the number of men willing to marry at each level of  $S_F$  ( $S_F$  and  $S_M$  Inverse relationship)



$S_F$  high – No man want to marry, however, at times go by  $S_F$  keep decreasing, this will push more men want to marry until reach a certain level of  $S_F$  all men are willing to marry. The demand curve is a straight line going down.

The demand curve of men to marriage is a downward slope and vertical.

**Figure 11.1 Supply and demand for marriage markets**

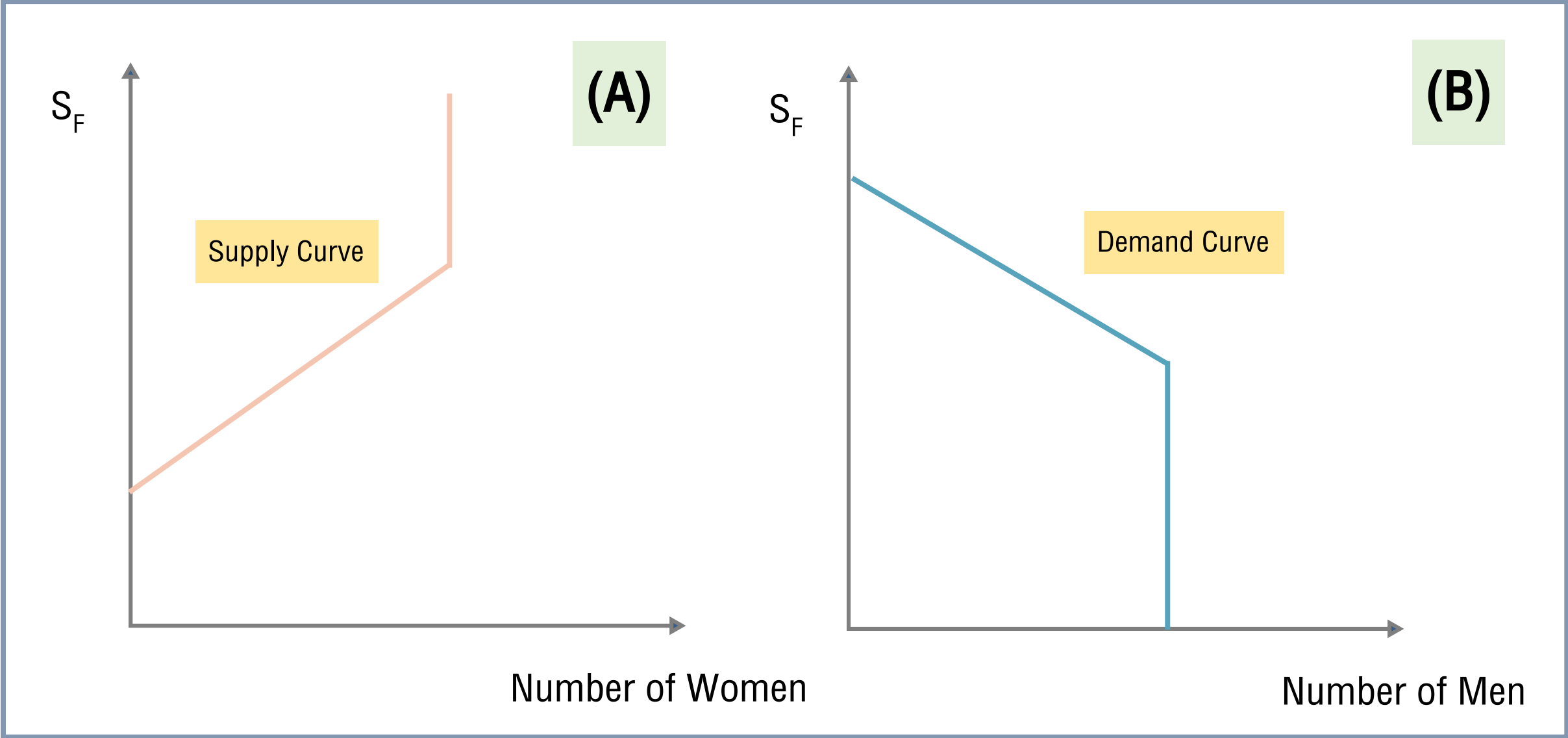
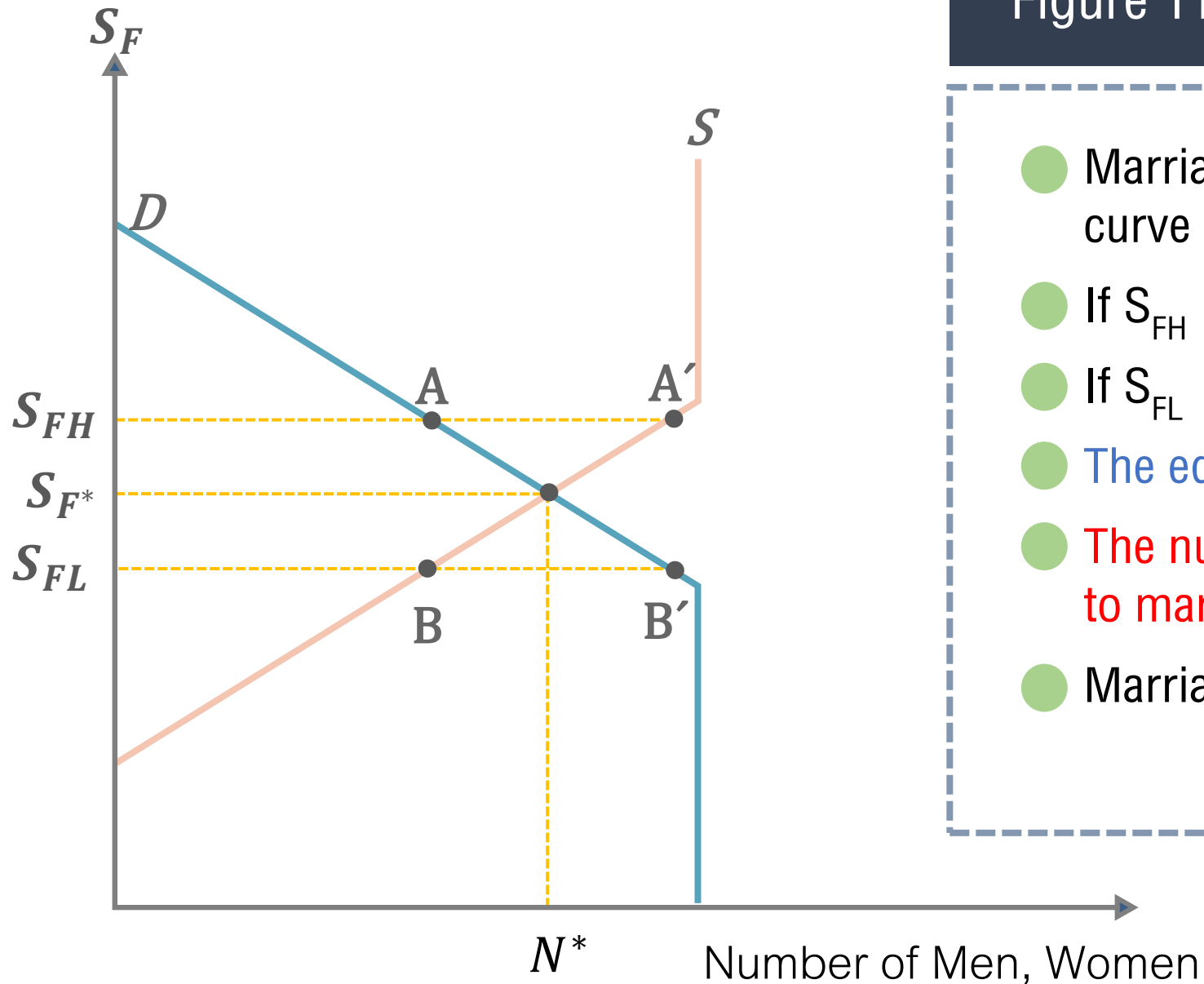


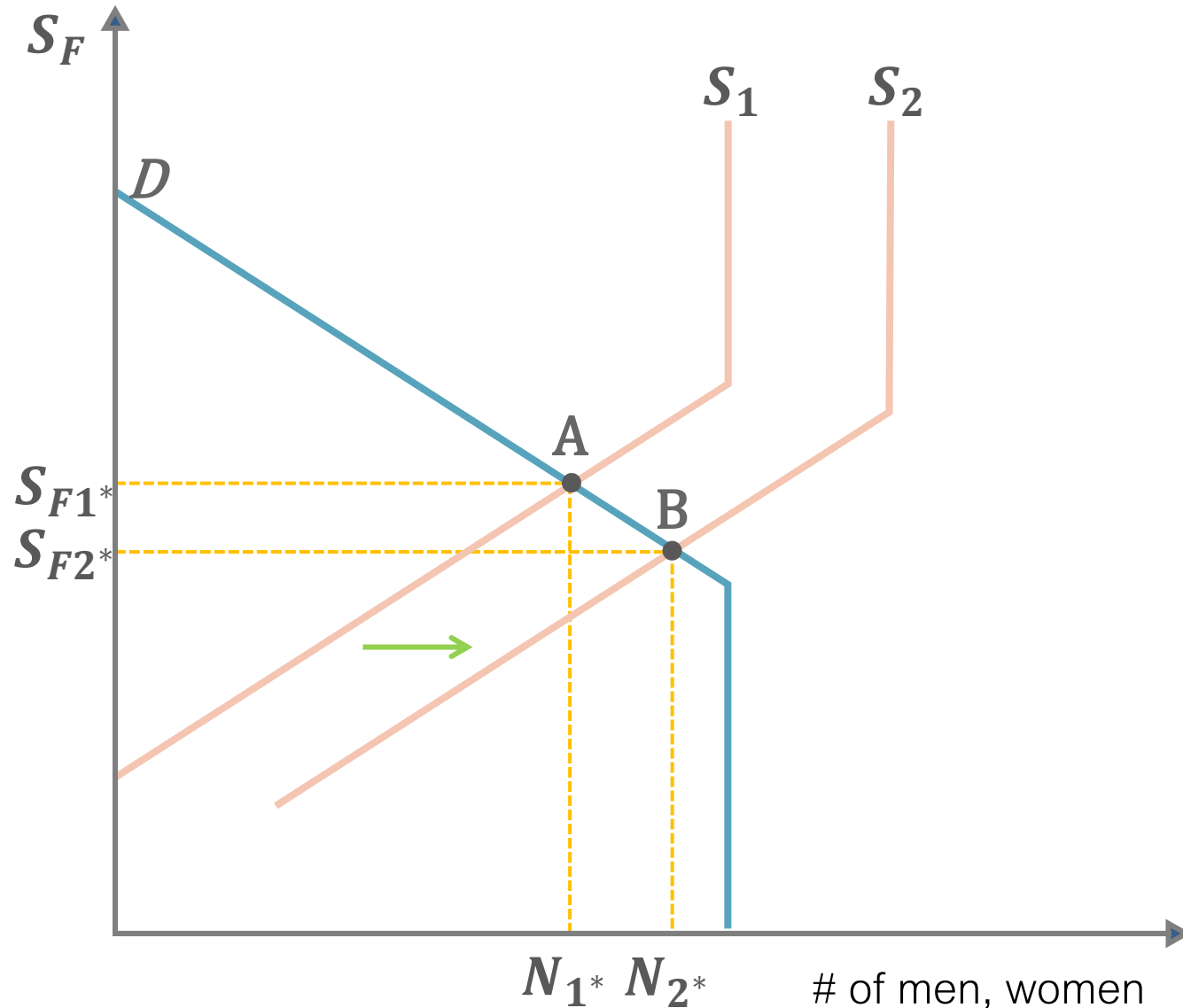
Figure 11.2 Marriage market equilibrium



- Marriage market equilibrium The demand curve intersects the supply curve.
- If  $S_{FH}$  too high, excess supply  $A-A'$
- If  $S_{FL}$  too low, excess demand  $B-B'$
- The equilibrium will be at the price  $S_F^*$
- The number of women and men who want to marry is equal  $N^*$
- Marriage market equilibrium

(A)

Figure 11.3 The change in equilibrium - the ratio of men and women to marriage

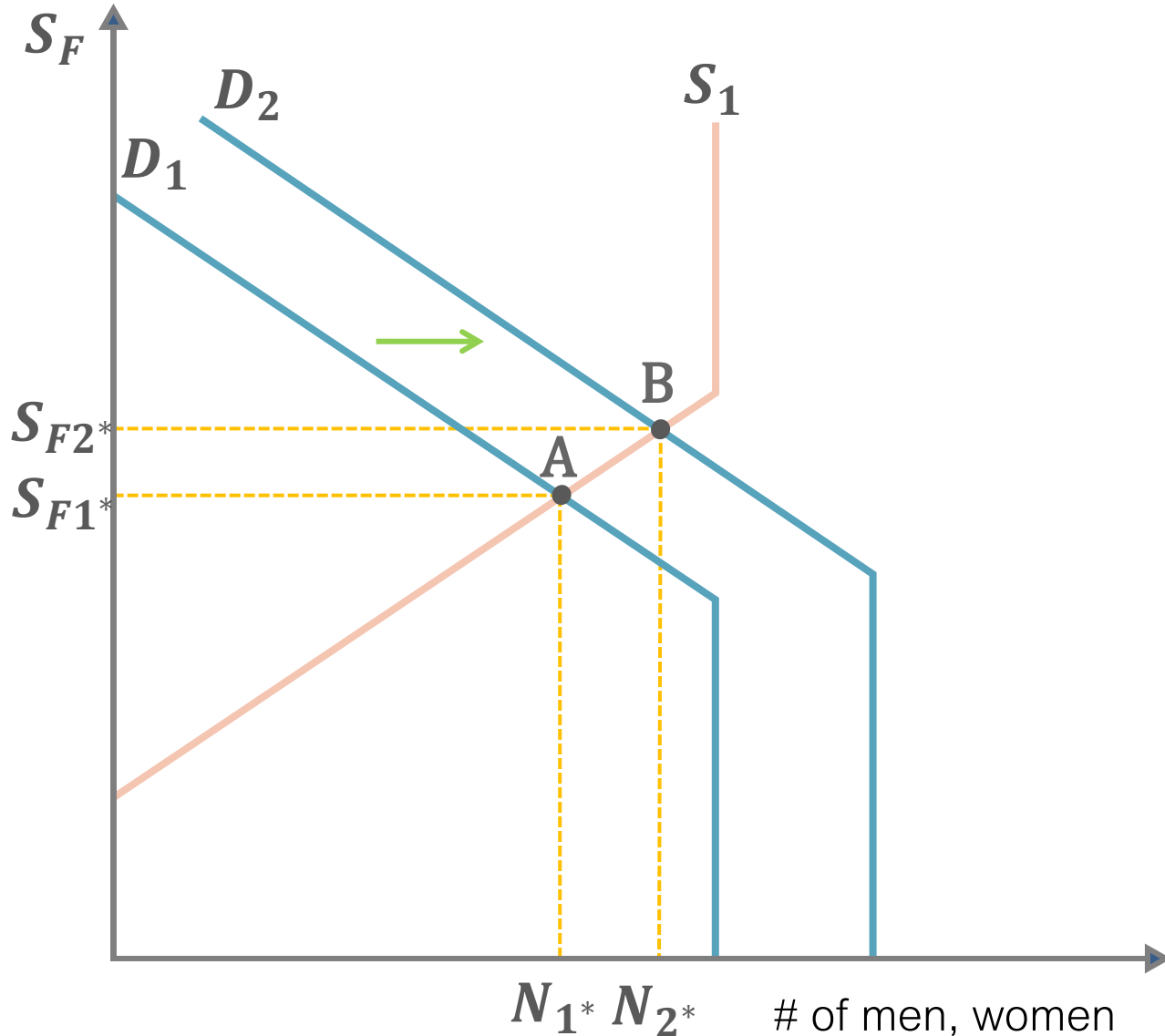


### Case A

- Changes in the proportion of men and women in the country can have an impact on the marriage market
- More women than men
- Initially at A, then  $S_{F1}^*$  and  $N_1^*$
- Later, women outnumbered men
- supply curve shift from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$
- equilibrium adjusted to B, price change to  $S_{F2}^*$
- The number of married men and women will increase  $N_2^*$
- Women get worse; men get better.

(B)

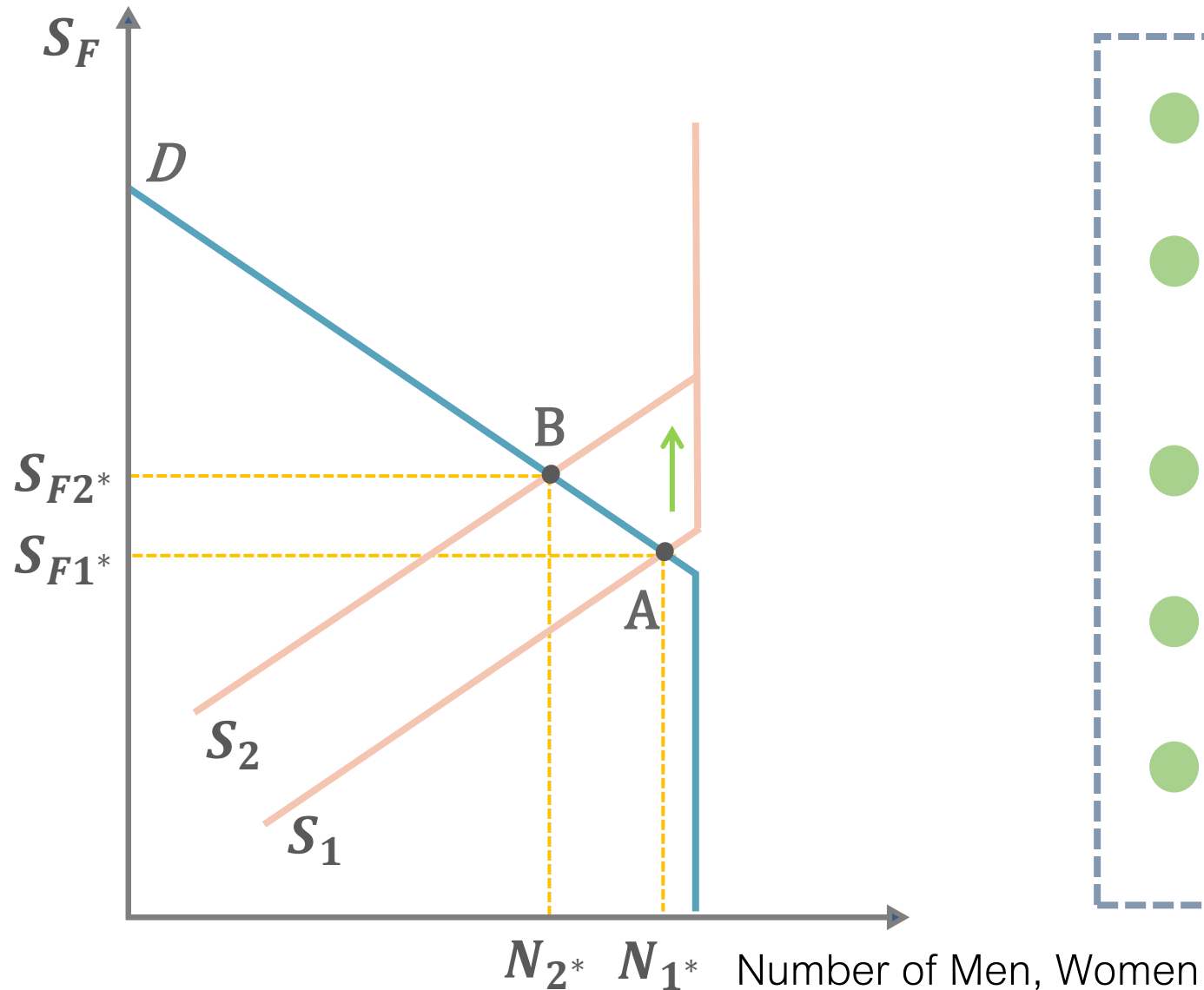
Figure 11.4 The change in equilibrium - the ratio of men and women to marriage



### Case B

- In some countries, there is a preference for sons over daughters. The proportion of men and women in the country affects the marriage market.  
More men than women
- Demand curve shifts from  $D_1$  to  $D_2$
- The equilibrium rises at a price  $S_{F2}^*$
- The number of married men and women will increase  $N_2^*$
- Women get better; men get worse.

Figure 11.5 The change in equilibrium - women's wages and marriage



- Higher wages for women will increase the welfare of women in being single
- Therefore, the decision to marry  $S_F$  must be higher than before. Supply curve shift from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$
- The equilibrium point will change from A to B, where  $S_F^*$  increases to  $S_{F2}^*$
- while a number of women and men who wanted to marry decreased to  $N_2^*$
- Marriage market equilibrium

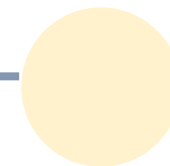
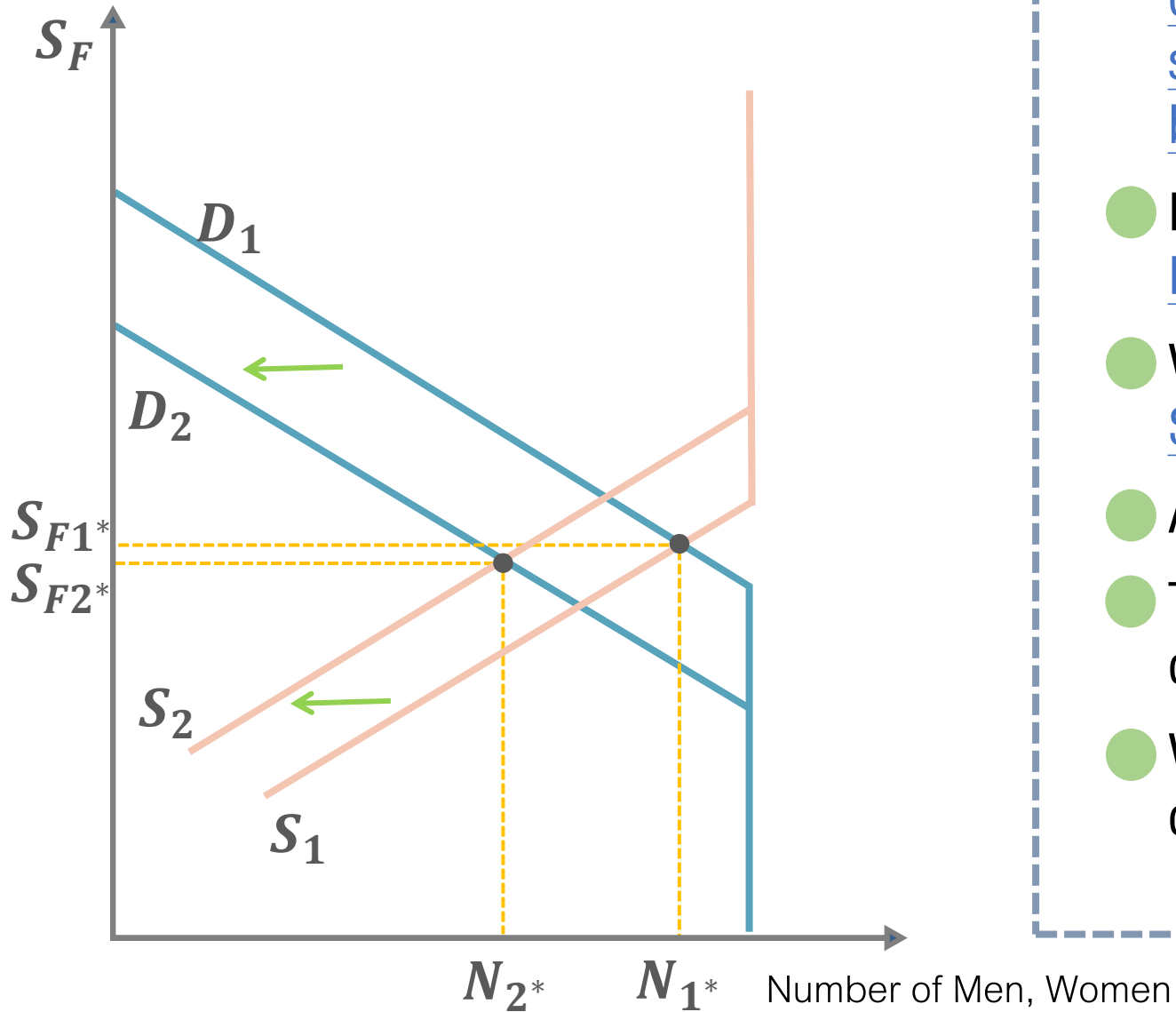


Figure 11.6 Change in equilibrium—  
Contraception and sexual concepts



- Environment change. Or, there is not much difference between being married and being single. The value of being single is high for both men and women.
- Men have a lower demand for marriage. Demand curve shifts from  $D_1$  to  $D_2$
- Women have a lower supply of marriage. Supply curve shift from  $S_1$  to  $S_2$
- A new equilibrium - equilibrium price  $S_{F2}^*$
- The number of married men and women will decrease  $N_2^*$
- Women are worse; men are better because demand shifts more than supply.