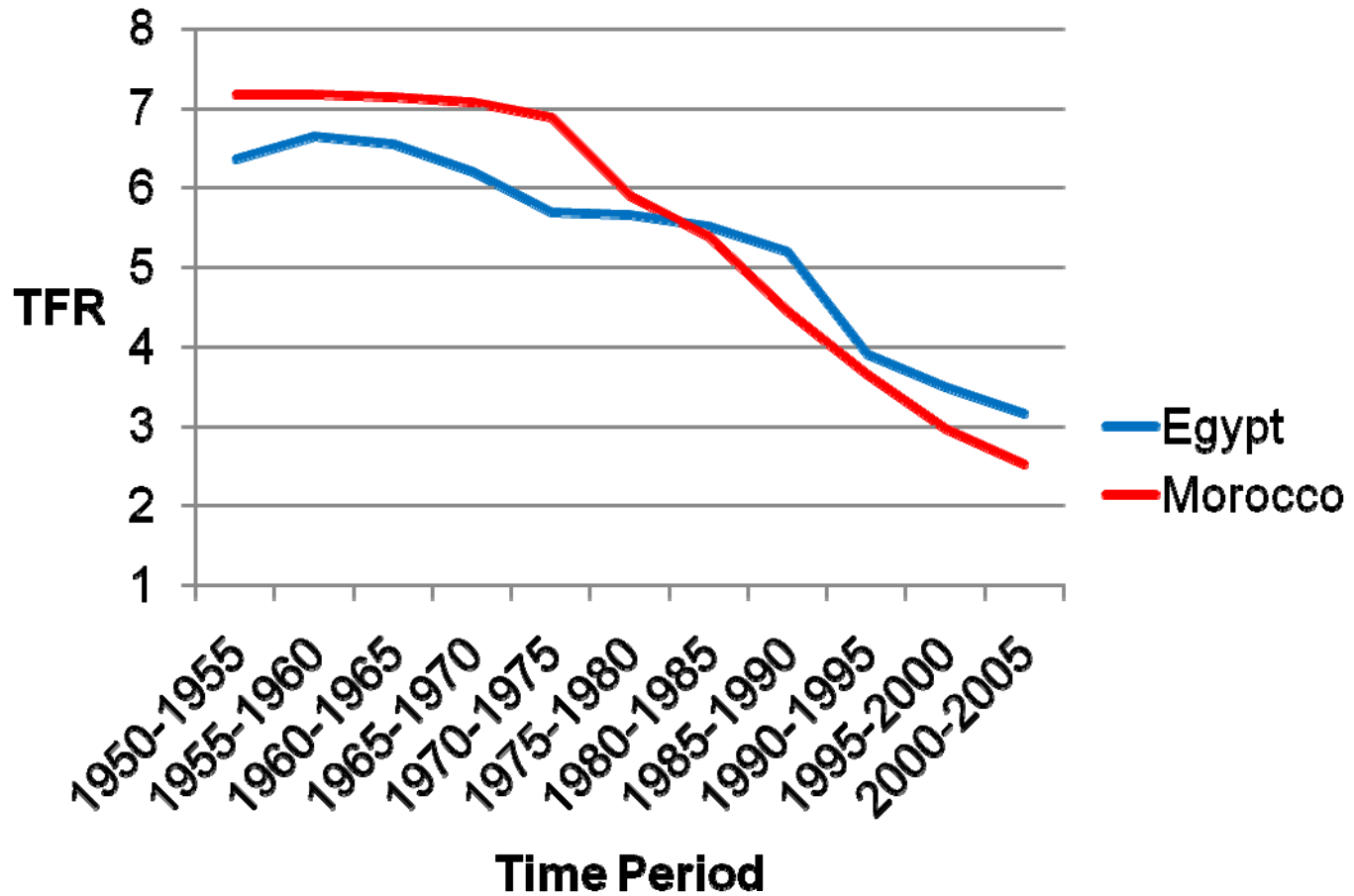




Fertility Transition in Egypt and Morocco

Laila El-Zeini

Total Fertility Rate



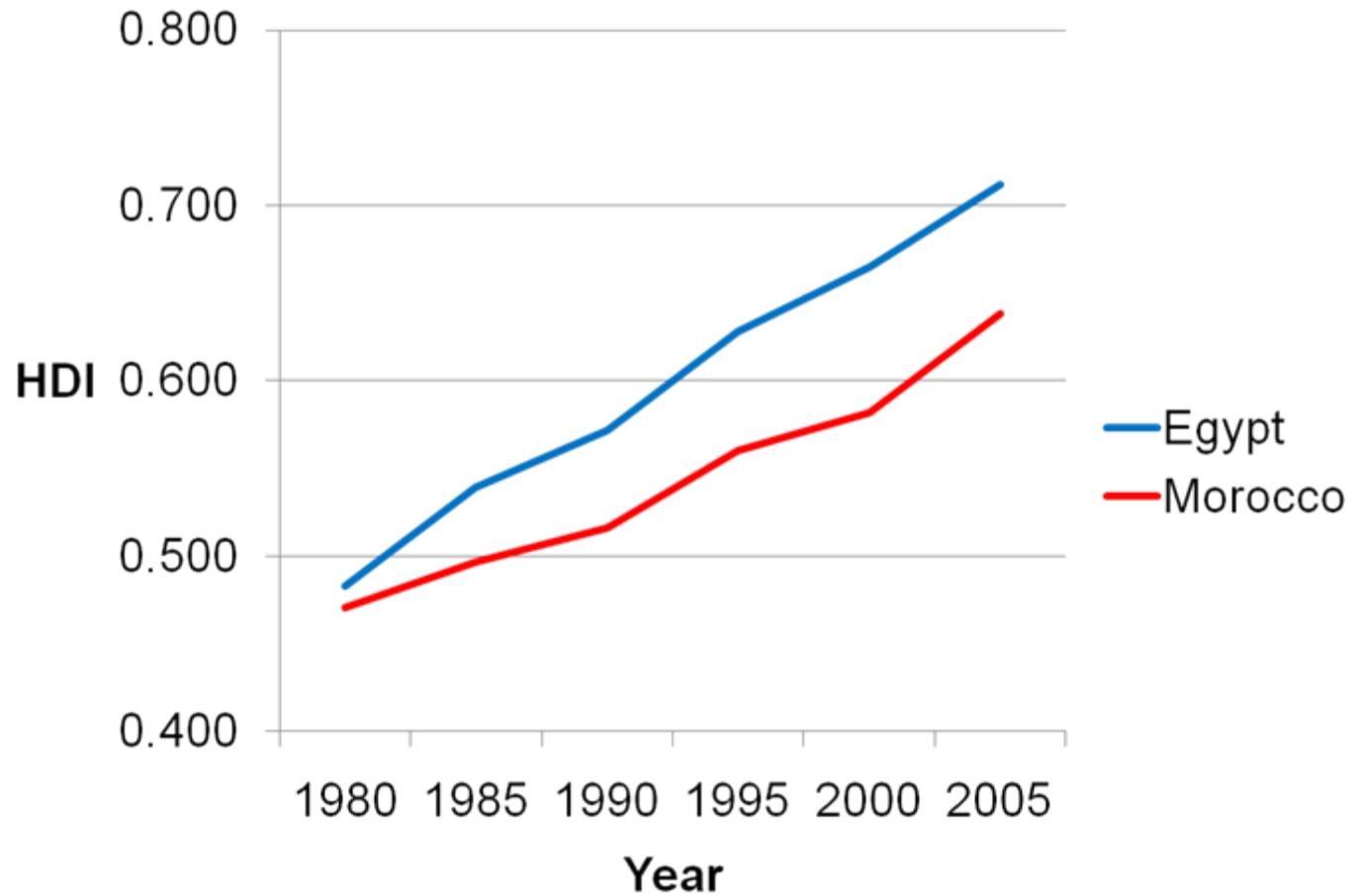
Unexpected Difference

- Egypt started the transition earlier
- Higher education in Egypt
- Comparable economic development, with Egypt slightly ahead
- Faster improvement in child survival in Egypt

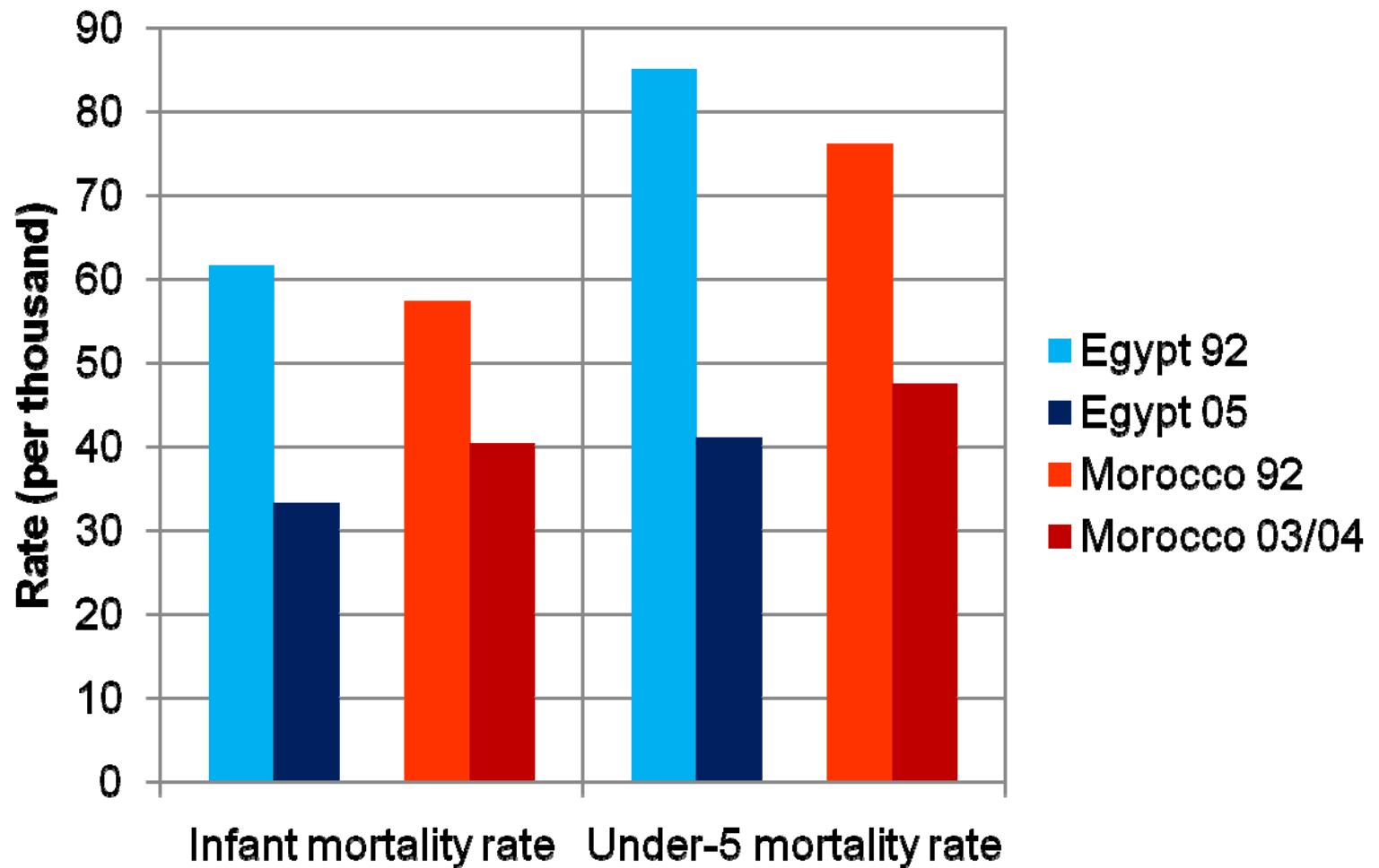
Development Indicators in 2006

Indicator	Egypt	Morocco
Adult literacy (%)	71.4	54.7
School enrolment ratio (%)	76.4	59.6
Per capita GDP (PPP \$)	4,953	3,915

Human Development Index



Infant and Child Mortality



Moving Predictions

- Berelson **1978**
Prospects of TFR reaching 2.5 in year 2000
Egypt – *possible* / Morocco – *unlikely*
- Mauldin & Ross **1994**
Prospects of reaching replacement by year 2015
Both *probable*, but prospects *higher in Egypt*
- United Nations Population Prospects **2008**
Period where fertility expected to reach replacement (projected TFR = 2.07)
Egypt 2035-2040 / Morocco 2020-2025

Potential Explanations ?

- Migration streams
- Diffusion from neighboring, more developed, countries
- Changes among the “leaders”
- Late marriage

Issues with Available Explanations

- Focus on cross-sectional differences not on differences in pace of change
- The links from macro differences to micro decision-making are ignored
- Unwarranted inference of attitudes from behaviours

Decomposing Fertility Differences

1. Nuptiality / Marital fertility rates
2. Wanted / Unwanted fertility
 - Wanted: Limiting / Spacing
 - Unwanted: Non-use /
Discontinuation /
Failure
3. The leader-follower model
(educational differentials)

Data

- Two DHS surveys for each country
Egypt: 1992 & 2005
Morocco: 1992 & 2003/04
- Question: why is the pace of fertility transition faster in Morocco?
- Main comparison: country differences in the change in TFR across time

Decomposing Fertility Differences

1. **Nuptiality / Marital fertility rates**

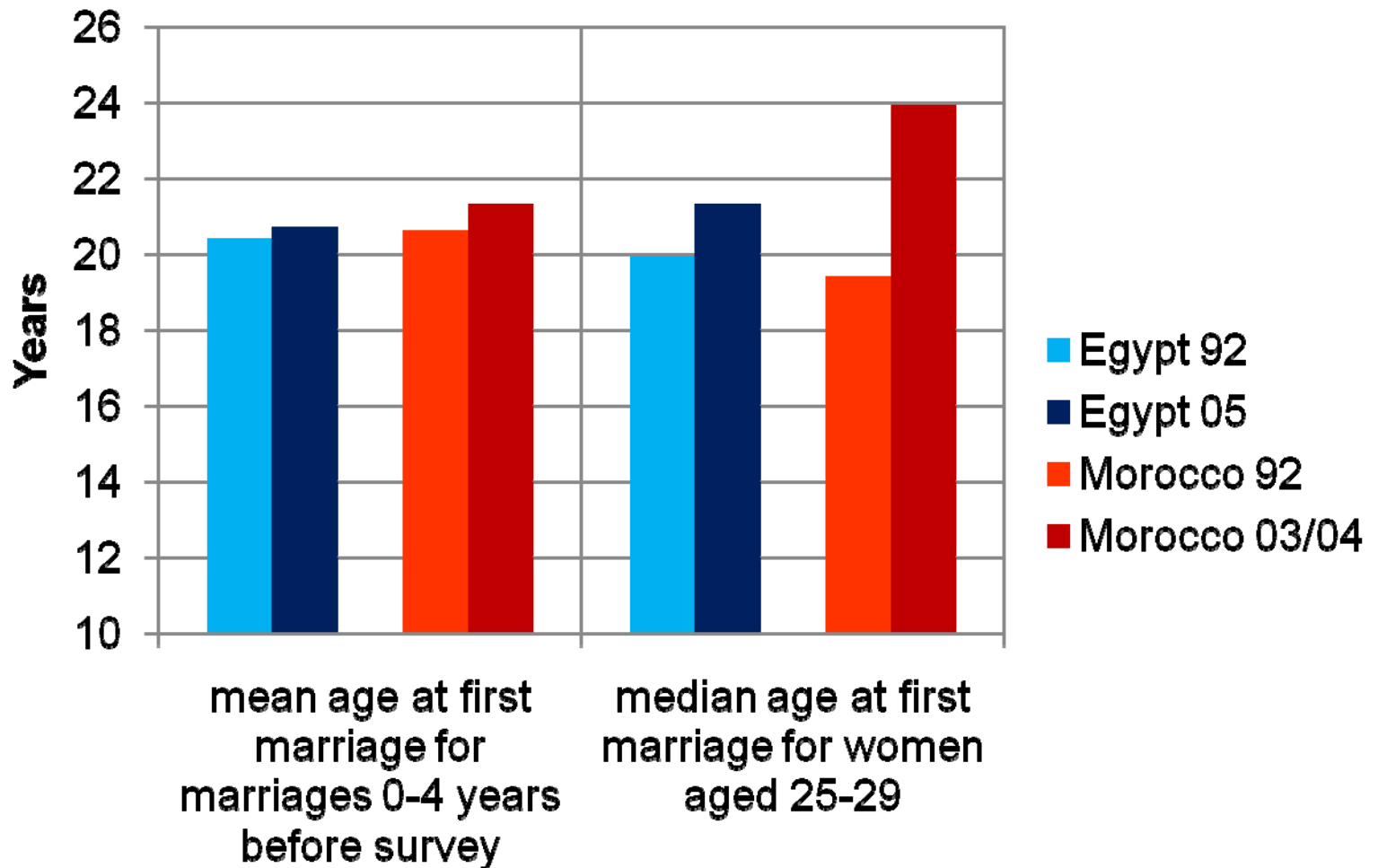
2. Wanted / Unwanted fertility

- Wanted: Limiting / Spacing

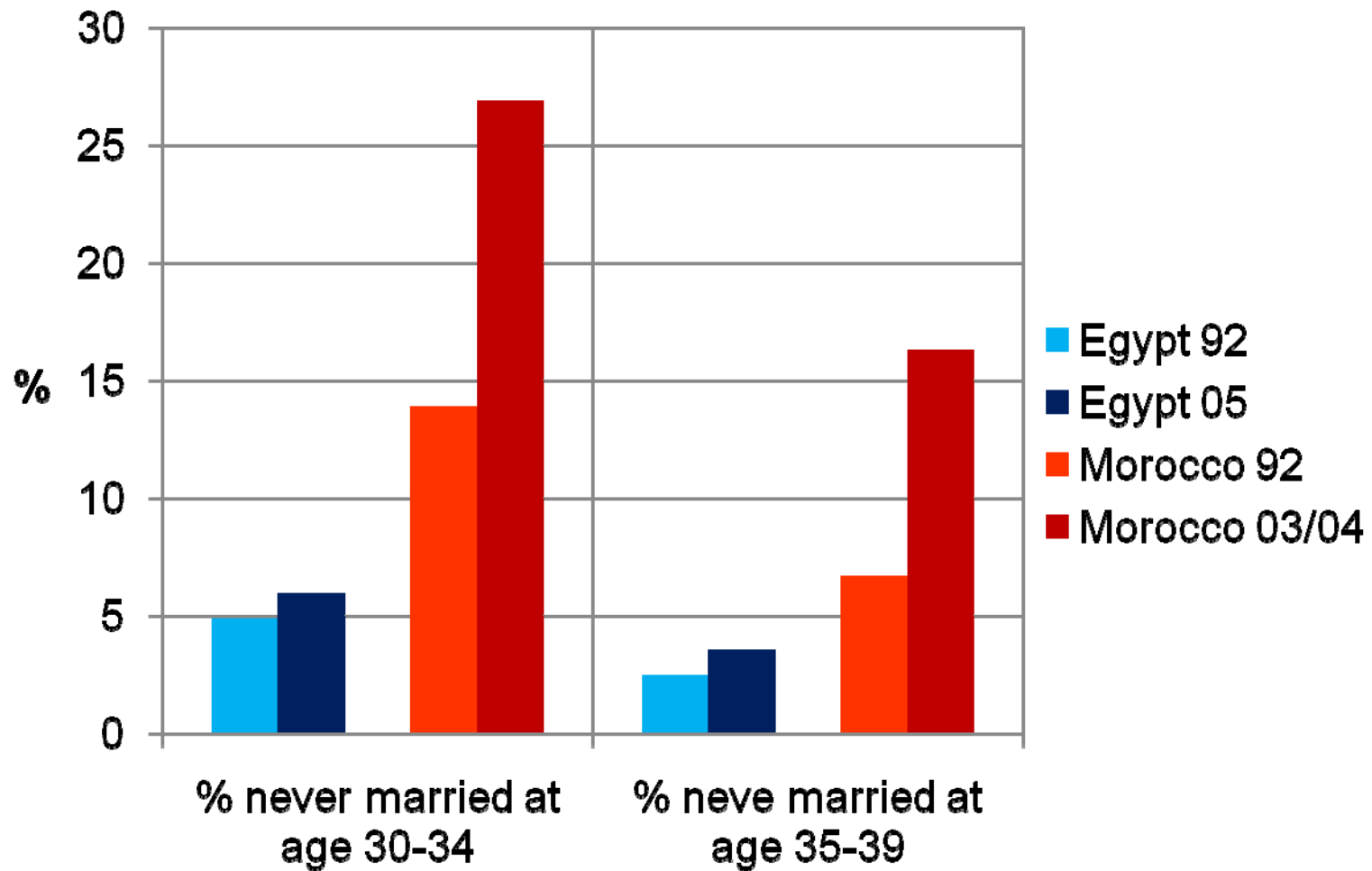
- Unwanted: Unmet Need /
Discontinuation /
Failure

3. The leader-follower model (educational differentials)

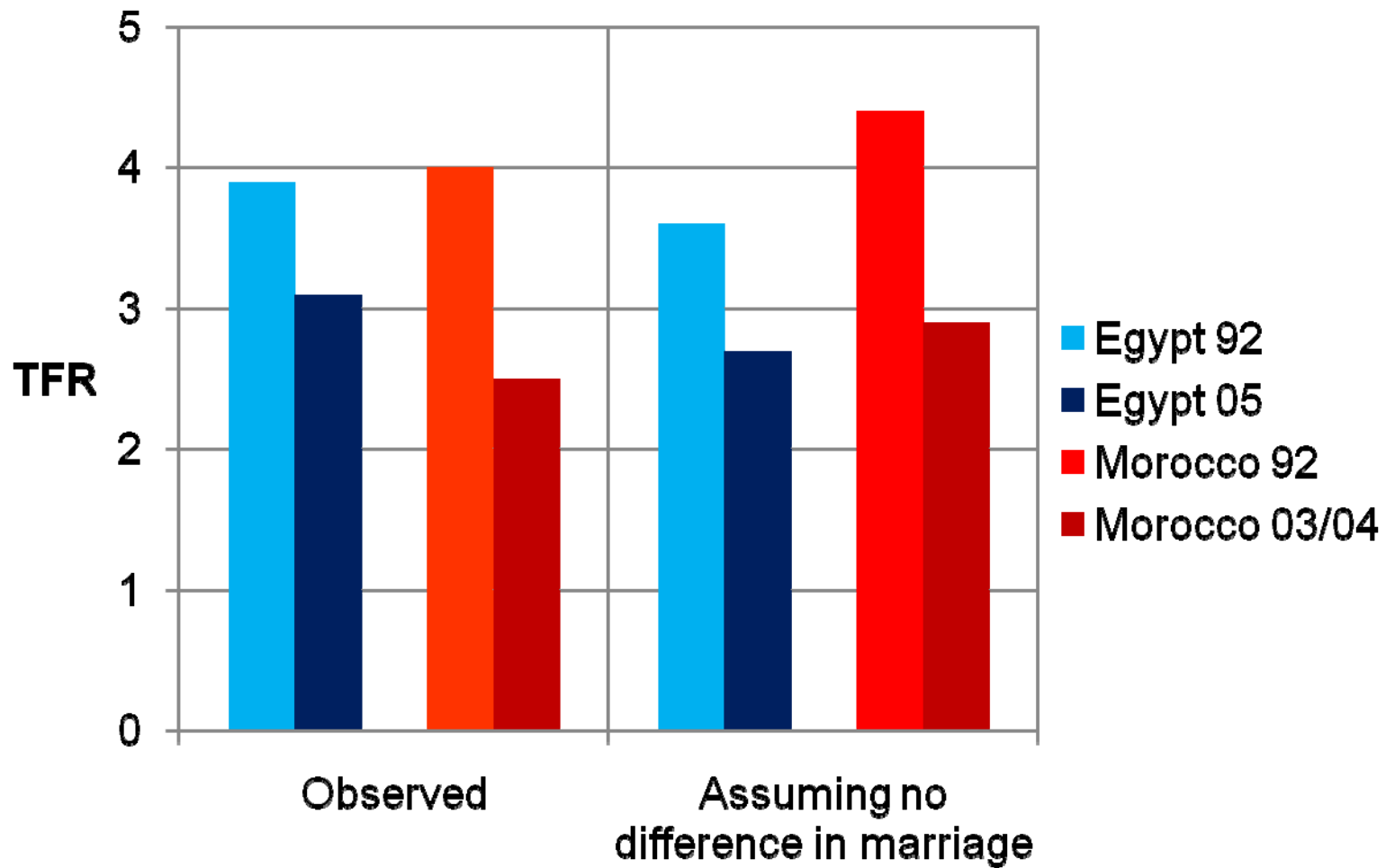
Nuptiality: Age at First Marriage



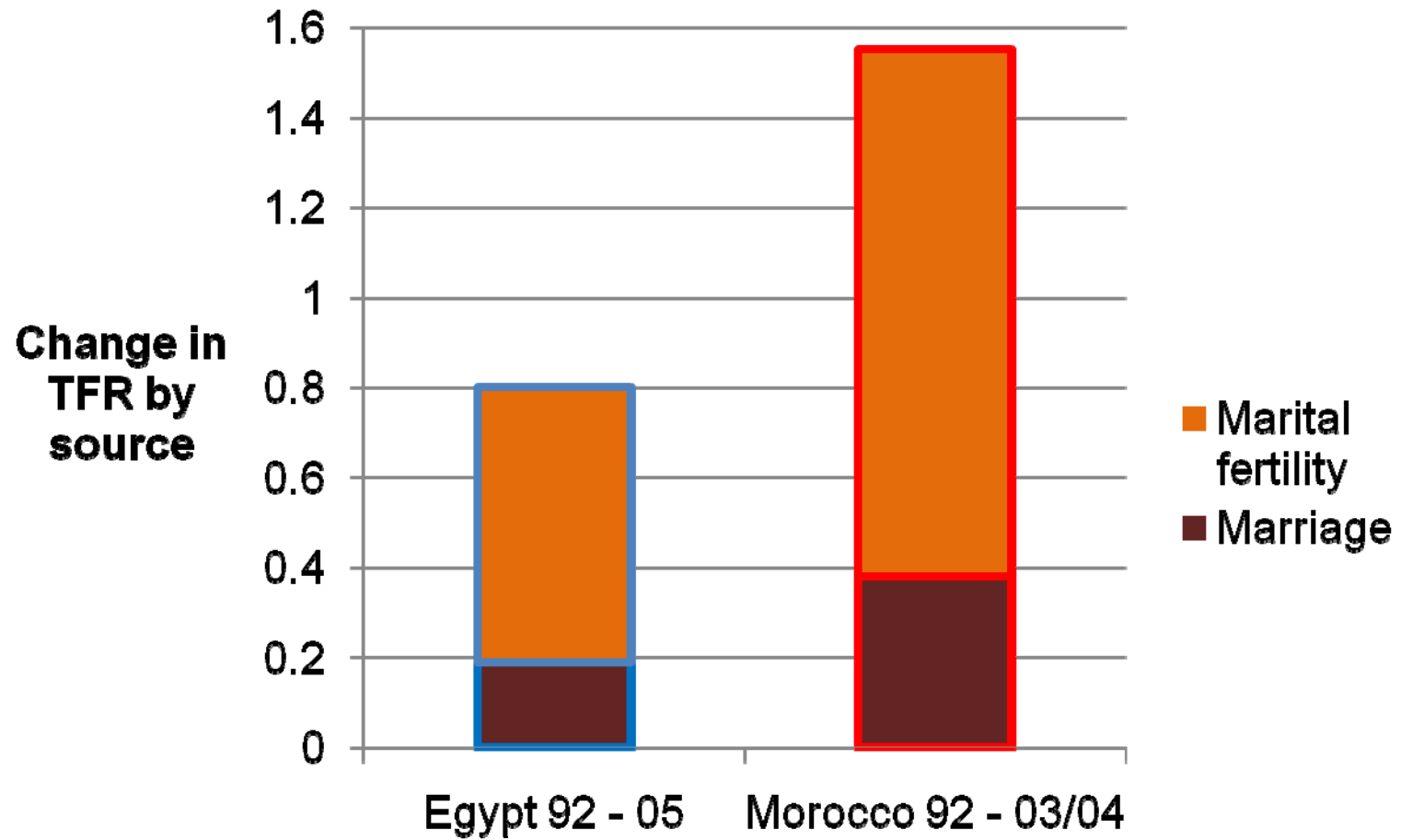
Nuptiality: Celibacy



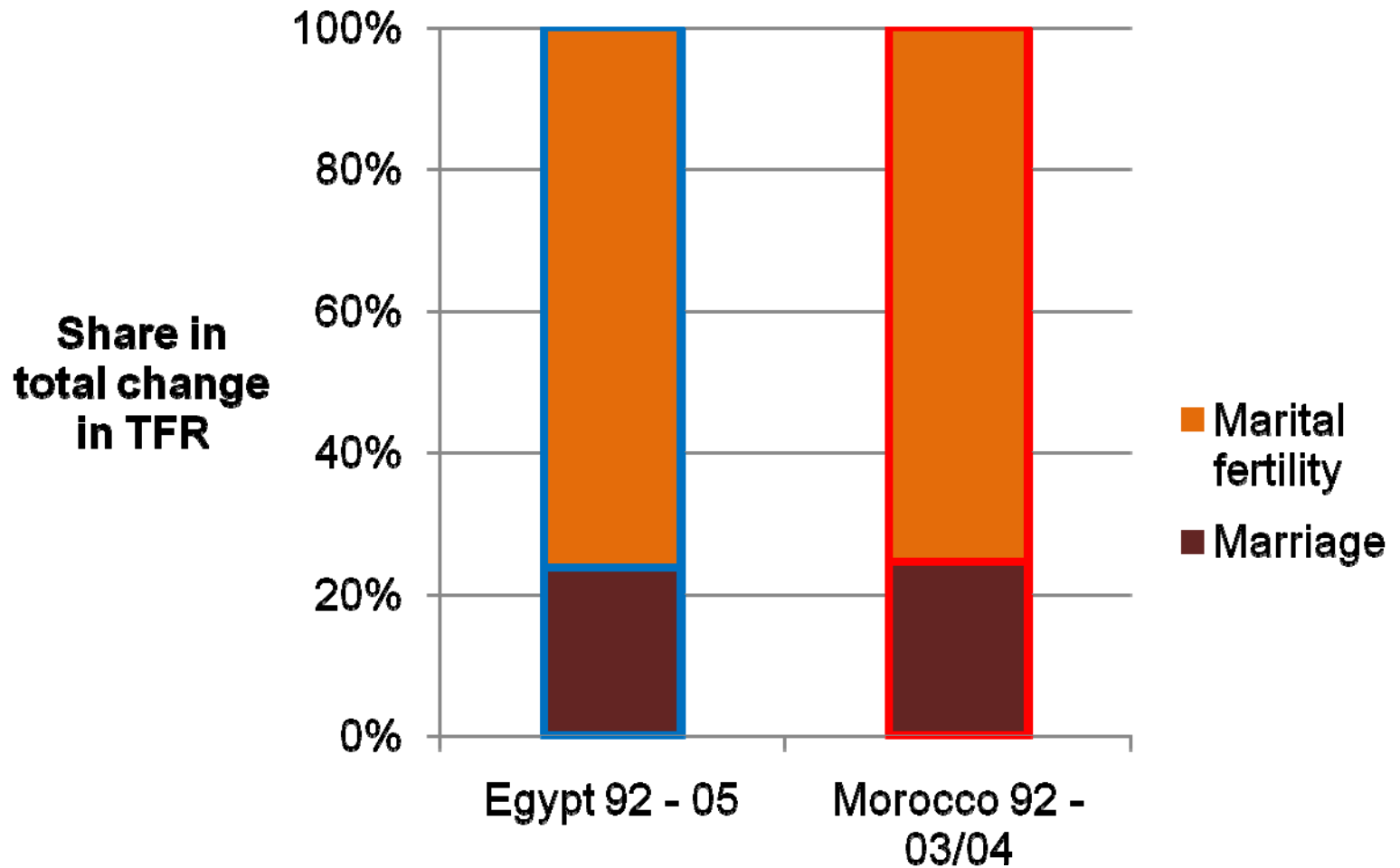
Effect on Fertility



Marriage or Marital Fertility?



Marriage or Marital Fertility?



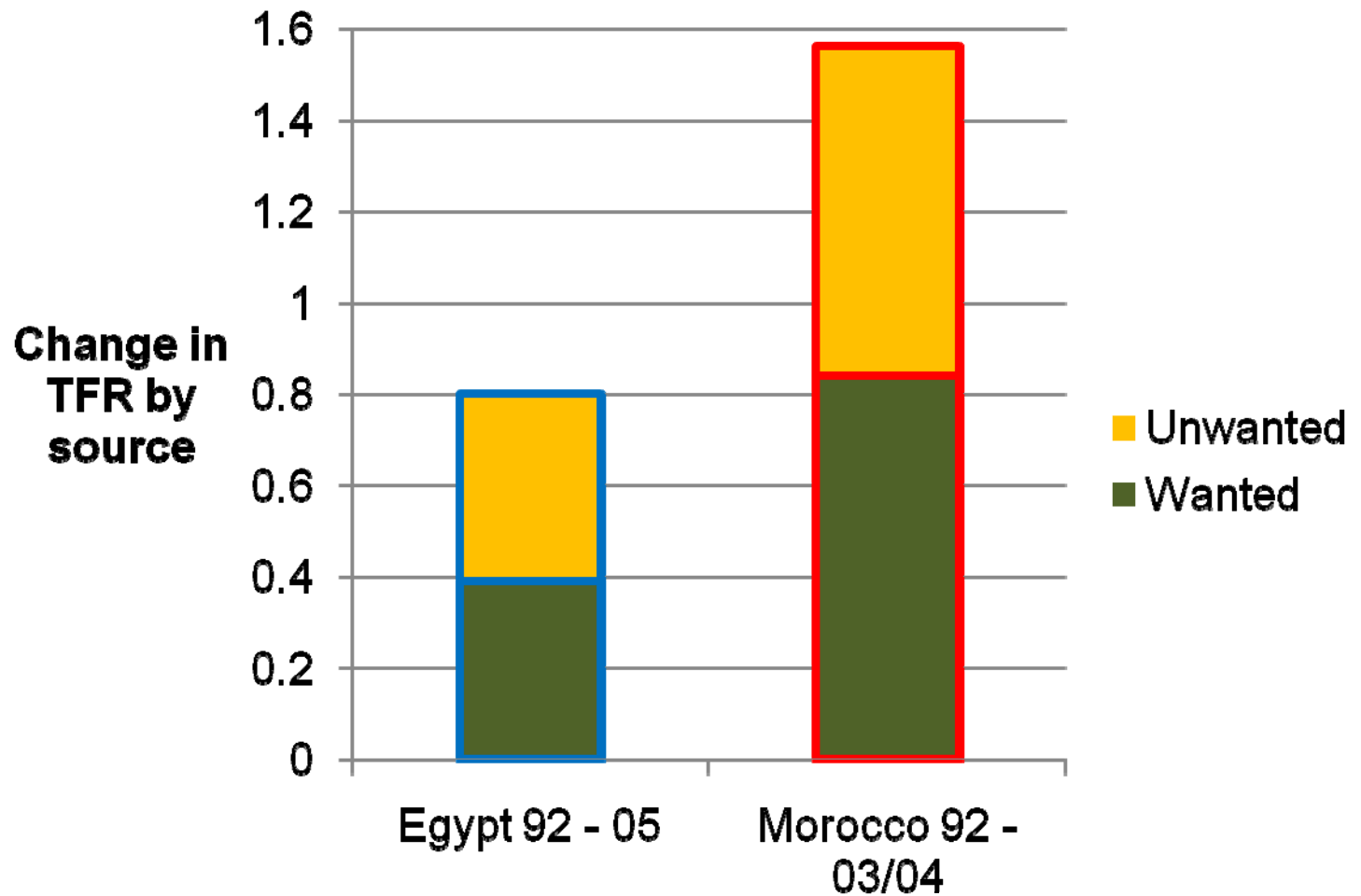
Conclusion 1.

- Although marriage explains the difference in TFR between the two countries, it does not account for the difference in the *pace* of fertility transition

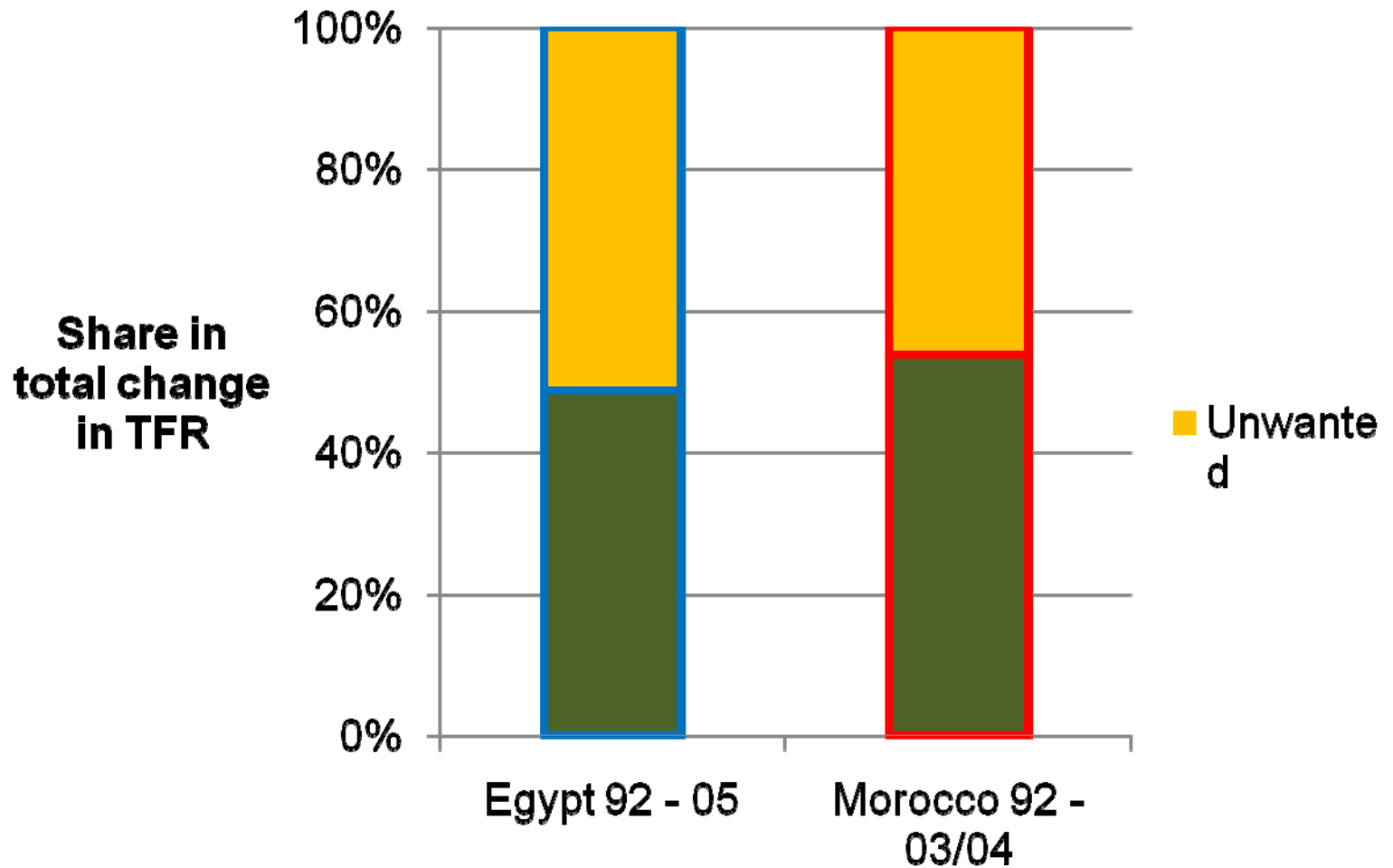
Decomposing Fertility Differences

1. Nuptiality / Marital fertility rates
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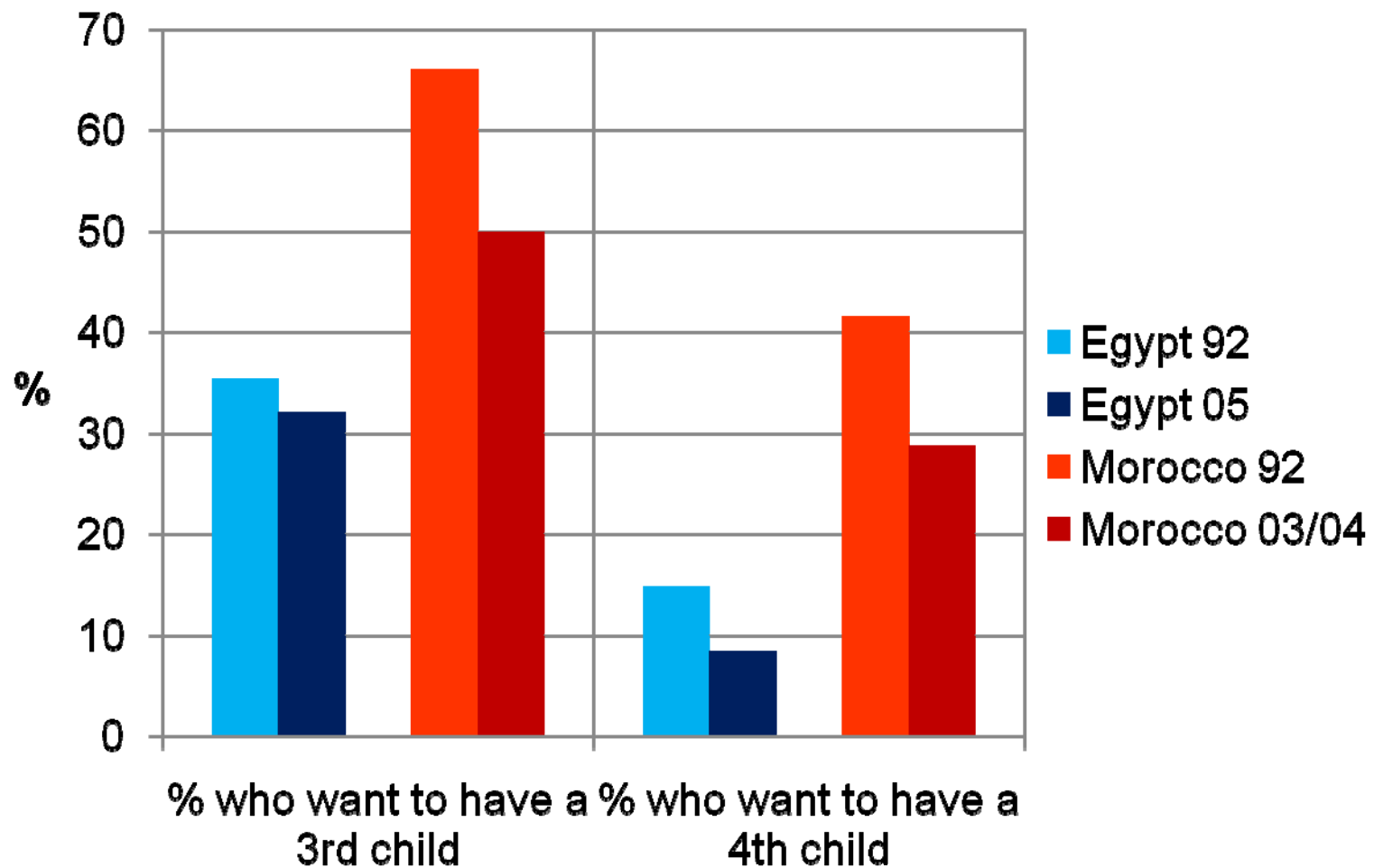
Wanted or Unwanted Fertility?



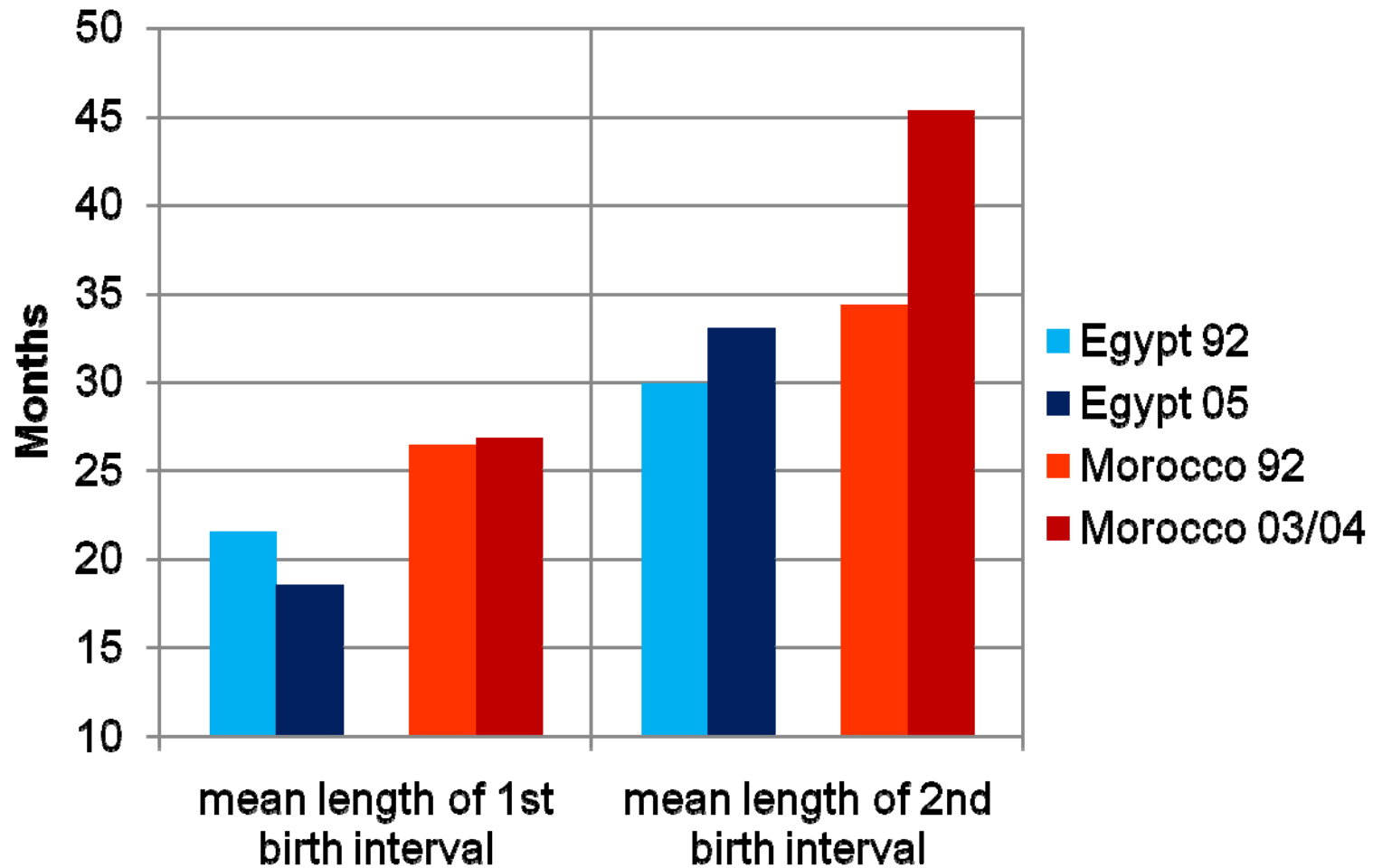
Wanted or Unwanted Fertility?



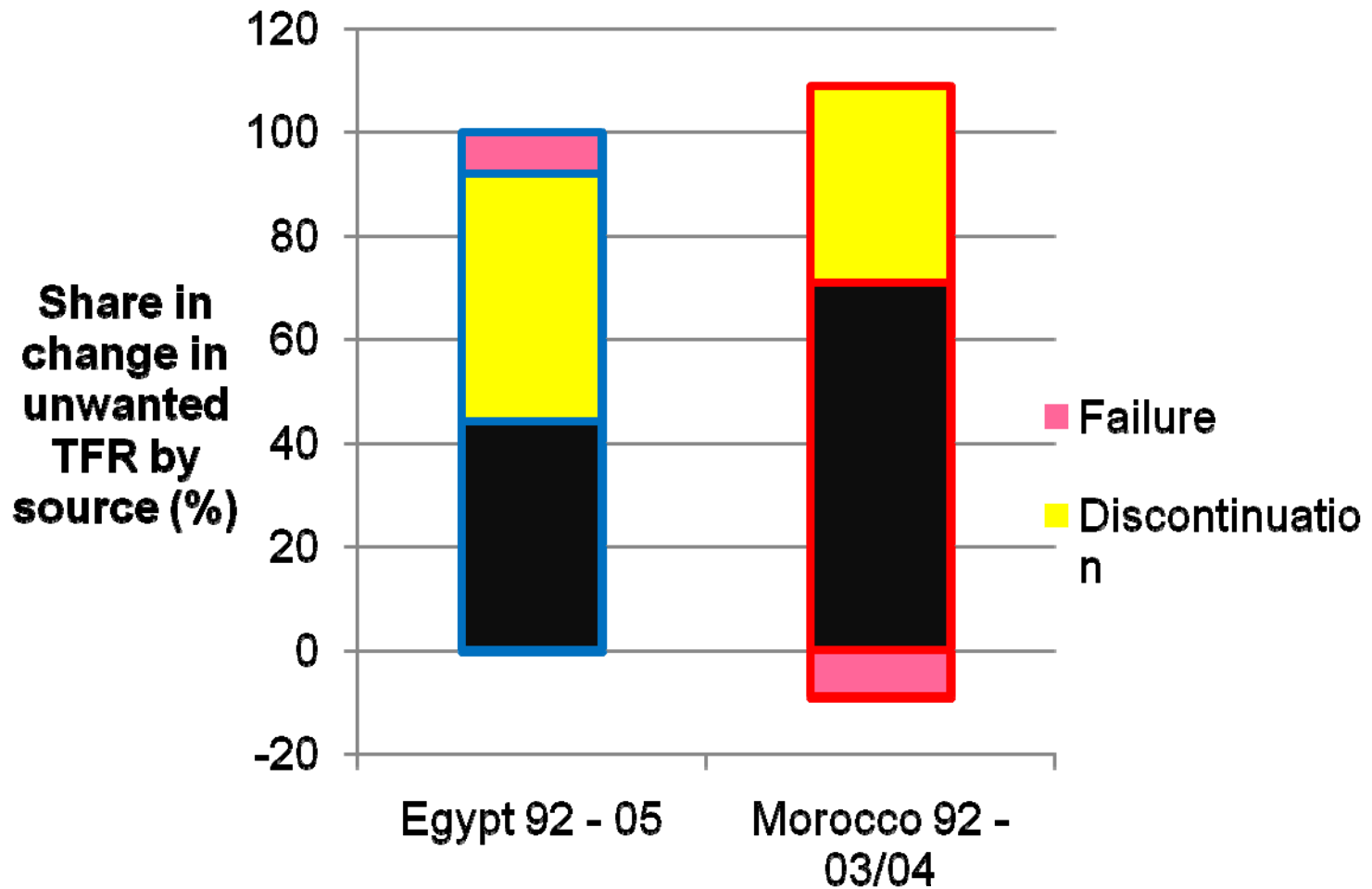
Wanted Fertility: Limiting



Wanted Fertility: Spacing



Change in Unwanted Fertility: Sources



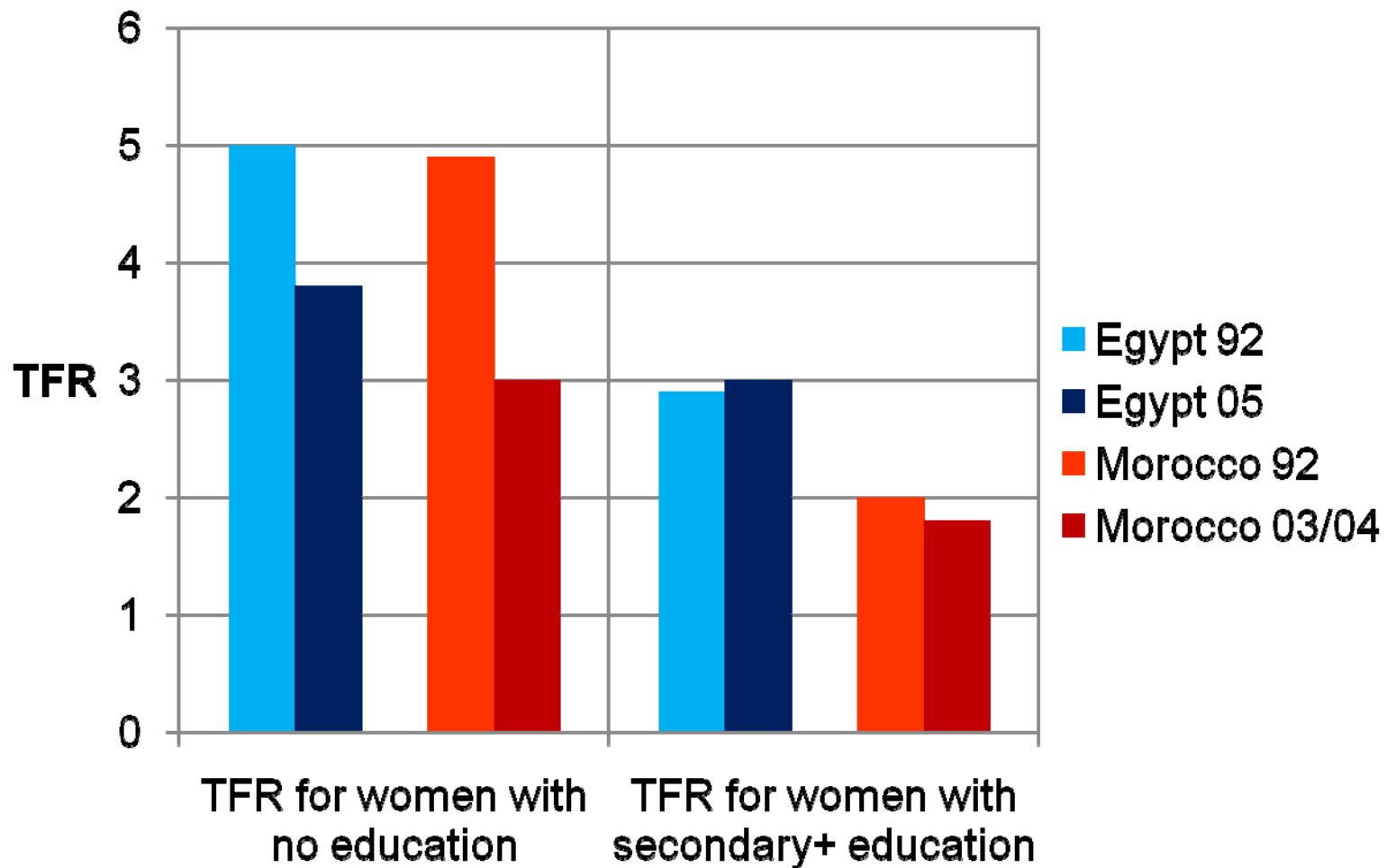
Conclusion 2.

- Fertility preference is changing more in Morocco than in Egypt. But desired family size is still higher in Morocco.
- Both wanted and unwanted TFR are declining in Morocco because of the postponement of the two first births.
- Egyptian women are becoming more capable of controlling unwanted fertility through better family planning practices.

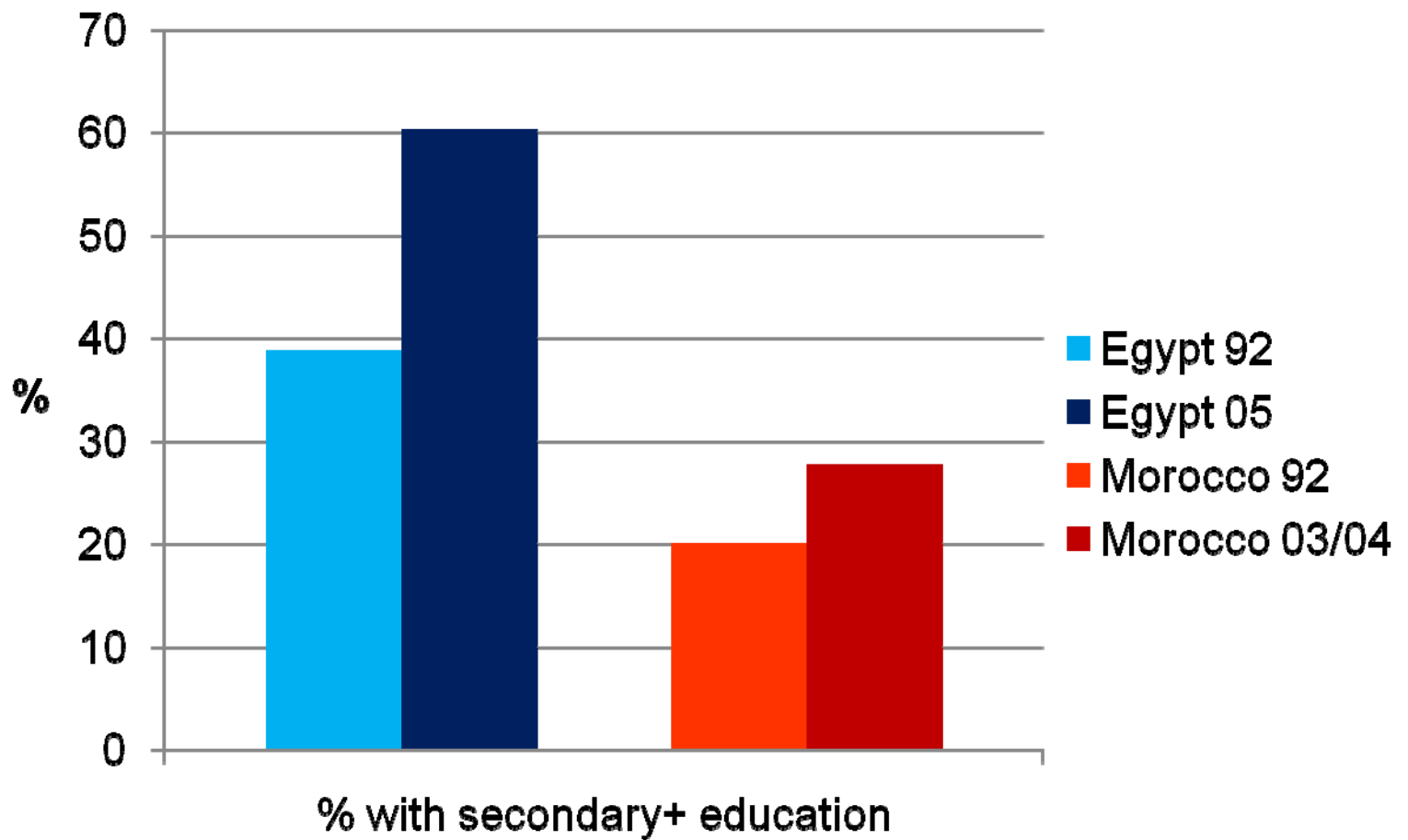
Decomposing Fertility Differences

1. Nuptiality / Marital fertility rates
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 - Wanted: Limiting / Spacing
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Failure
3. **The leader-follower model**
(educational differentials)

Educational Differentials



Educational Composition



Conclusion 3.

- The pattern of educational differentials suggests a scope for further declines in Morocco.
- The change in educational composition in Egypt makes it hard to predict future trends.

Concluding Remarks

- The low level of TFR in Morocco is mainly due to postponement of births + the effect of celibacy or very late marriage
 - Causes and consequences?
 - Is it temporary response to economic stagnation? Will it continue in the future?
- Change in attitudes as an outcome of change in behaviour
- Lagged effects of high unemployment in Egypt

Two Alternative Stories

1) Morocco -- fast modernization;
diffusion of small family-size
ideals

Egypt -- stagnation; increasing
conservatism

2) Morocco -- fast but volatile

Egypt -- slow but sure

The More Likely Scenario

- Morocco:
Continuation of the decline but at a slower pace
- Egypt:
Acceleration of the fertility decline