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### Women rent out wombs, sell eggs to beat crisis

Agencies  
Monday, November 24, 2008 22:47 IST



CHICAGO: In these tough times, many young women are turning to the baby business. The number of surrogate mothers or egg donors is up 30 percent. The people at Alternative Reproductive Resources say since the economic downturn they've been putting in a lot more phone time each and every day. "If we got 50 to 60 calls before, it's probably 75 to 100 calls now," company president Robin von Halle said.

All from women — inquiring about how they can help someone realise the dream of having a baby. They earn money in the process. A qualified egg donor is compensated \$7,000; gestational surrogates receive \$25,000. Some even mention money as their primary motivation on the very detailed applications.

But Tina Sprague, a gestational surrogate, said cash isn't solely what motivated her to work with ARR. She delivered twins for another family in January. The stay-at-home mother of two says getting paid was nice, but for her it was primarily about the altruistic experience.

"The end result primarily is I'm making a family for someone else," Sprague said. She cautioned anyone considering surrogacy that it requires frequent, regular doctor visits; self-administered shots to prep for pregnancy and generally a lot of work.

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