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In-class Exercise (Individual task)

From the World Bank VDO Expert - Discuss the issues females face during the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2020/05/22/why-are-women-and-girls-threatened-by-coronavirus>

(1) Do you agree that “This pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality”? Why?

Yes, I agree with the statement. It actually has differential impacts on men and women, on boys and girls. More women than men around the world are in the front line of the healthcare profession as nurses, physician assistants, and other frontline workers—in some country, it's as high as 85 to 90%. Pandemics and crises put tremendous pressure on systems which means that services are stretched, and capacity will be really thin. In addition, the jobs in the sectors where women predominate are the ones that are first and hardest hit. In many countries, women predominate in the informal employment which are the types of jobs that don't come with fringe benefit like social protection, health insurance and unemployment compensation. Besides, there's a digital divide where boy have greater access to the internet than girls, they might actually monopolize the one computer in a poor household home. And if that's the case, it means that boys may be prioritized over girls in terms of having greater access to learning materials, and girls may actually fall behind in terms of learning opportunities and learning outcomes, vice versa.

(2) Using a country as an example, explain what policies the government of that country has implemented to address this problem.

First, Government should seriously pay attention to females as the frontline caregivers. Reduce their risk of exposure by ensuring they have the right equipment and resources, greater access to health services. Besides, building the stronger framework for caregiving also important whether it's at the community level or employer provide, or government subsidizes. Second, the poor and those who are most vulnerable should be protected. Not only the cash transfer, but also figuring out how helping people preserve their jobs and their livelihood. In addition, strengthening the financial system is crucial—ensuring liquidity of better bankruptcy regulations—for instance.