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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?

In my opinion, I agree to the statement. According to the video clip, she mentioned about Biology, physiology, Social and economics roles in different society and also the health sectors and education. From all those factors, girls tend to don't return to school when pandemic hits. As the because of school closures and economic necessity, boys are more likely to go back quicker but girls are just don't return due to the conditions of they're in labor market and caring responsibilities. Moreover, in many countries, boys are able to access to the internet greater than the girls are. This means that boys have the ability to access the learning materials and opportunity easier than the girls do. Another main factor is that girls are placed in the economy and the impact of labor force which is women dominate in informal employment. Therefore, the pandemic affects girls and women differently during the COVID-19 in the society.

There are many ways to solve this issue. For example, we need to extend social protection program (cash transfer to the workers). In the part of government and institutions, for instance, pay attention to female as a frontline caregiver, ensure that they have right and resources and are able to access health services and also not only provide cash transfer but also find a way to help people to preserve their jobs and their livelihoods.

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

In Portugal, women seem to be more exposed to the severity of psychological/emotional effects of COVID-19 crisis and to the increased burden domestic and care duties during confinement. Also, the pandemic affects disproportionately the housework and women care routines reduction time during the lockdown.

According to the increasing of household and emotional burdens arising from the COVID-19, it affects work-family negotiations and conflicts of paid work and family demands and dedicate to professional work.

In this case, the institutions have an increasingly research-oriented strategy translating into a significant disproportion of the performance management policies regarding tenure, recognition and promotion.