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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?

* I agree

* health sector: more women than men are in the frontline of the healthcare sector. They need to work more without higher wages.

* previous crisis: girls don't return to work after they have been home. During covid, when women and men have been home unemployed. Many women still stays at home even after the crisis instead of going back to work.

* She-session, the job in the sector like health, caretaking is the ones that hit the hardest and those sectors is also female-dominated professions.

* Because, women affects more to covid 19 effects this will lead to step back instead of progress.

* But I also disagree, this crisis may also have promoted gender equality. This crisis is not like other old crisis. It has made some businesses have flexible jobs and could also lead to that fathers are taking more responsibilities.

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

* <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/women-at-the-core-of-the-fight-against-covid-19-crisis-553a8269/#section-d1e1112>

Country: Italy

* In Italy affected working parents with children below 12 have the possibility to take 15 days of leave, paid at 50% of the salary or unpaid for parents with children above 12. Alternatively they can have a voucher of EUR 600 (EUR 1 000 for medical workers) for alternative care arrangements. This possibility is open to both employees and the self-employed.

* The most common forms of support are a reduction, deferral or cancellation of social contributions for the self-employed, providing access to emergency capital or unemployment benefits.

* Less common approaches include a moratorium on tax for SMEs and the self-employed and a temporary suspension of mortgage payment (on principal residence) for the self-employed reporting quarterly loss income greater than 30%, as for example in Italy.

* Italy are also implementing responses to ensure that **households can remain in their homes** if they struggle to cover rent, mortgage or utility payments due to a job or wage loss