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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?

Initially, "normal" economic crises, would have a greater impact on the employment of men.

However, the COVID-19 outbreak has been a 'shecession' in which women are more negatively impacted in labor market. Women mostly work in heavily affected sectors and the crisis has created an increased demand for childcare. In terms of working from home, men tend to be more readily adaptable to a changing work environment during a crisis than women. Women are impacted more due to their occupations that mostly related to the sectors, such as wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services. Moreover, the increasing in childcare needed from the lockdown from COVID-19 (children need to study online) significantly impacts those providing primary care, mostly women. Thus, the COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts. I do agree with the statement.

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

- Pay more attention to females as frontline care givers, we need to reduce their risk of exposure by ensuring that they have the right equipment and the right resources, we need to ensure that women can access health services.
- Protecting the poor and protecting those who are most vulnerable about figuring out how they can preserve their occupations and their livelihoods.
- Ensuring the healthcare services to all levels (individuals, households, nation).