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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 with the statement because, according to the World Bank expert, women are especially affected in their ability to earn an income as well as their ability to cope overall in a stressful situation as a result of the pandemic’s recession. This is especially true in the case of developing countries which are especially in need of progress in gender equality and where women often predominate in the informal industries.

Due to the job loss and school closure, a lot more responsibilities are needed in order to take care of the household and those who are sick. For example, some girls are unable to return to school even when face-to-face classes finally open due to having to participate in the labor market or because of the caregiving responsibilities they have at home. Additionally, more priorities are often given to boys in terms of granting better access to the internet. One example of this is that, in a household, they are more likely to monopolize the use of their single computer at home.

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

Using Canada as an example, it can observe that the government had set many social policies to address the problem of gender inequality during the pandemic times. For example, the government worked with the Canadian Women's Foundation in helping to distribute the funding of millions of dollars in emergency pandemic relief funding. More specifically, with the help of the Foundation, over CA\$93 million from this emergency grant was funded towards gender-based violence prevention and intervention programs. In total, this is able to help approximately four million people in each Canadian region. Not only that but the government also further invested in the long-term advancement of gender equality by establishing a plan to improve the Canadian early learning and childcare system with up to CA\$30 billion. This investment was done in order to increase women’s participation in the

workforce to drive overall economic growth and make life easier for Canadians. Internationally, Canada is also recognized as one of the world's leading donors as further investments were also made to address inequalities in both unpaid and paid care work. With CA\$100 million in support of low- and middle-income countries and a CA\$300 million pledge to the Global Partnership for Education, as well as another CA\$10 million in emergency support to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and promote the rights of girls.

References

Canadian Women's Foundation. (2022). *The Facts: Learn the Reality About A Pandemic's Effect On Women*. Canadian Women's Foundation.

<https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/women-and-pandemics/>

Government of Canada. (2021, June 30). *Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide*. Prime Minister of Canada.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>