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In-class Exercise (Individual task)

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

I agree that the Covid-19 epidemic will have an inverse impact on gender equality development. Although several study publications claim that the epidemic has a greater impact on males than women, women are also affected negatively. Women may be more affected than males by the economic downturn. They are not only unemployed, but also underpaid. In addition to formal labor, women are predominantly employed as informal laborers. As a result, the informal worker is the sort of job that does not receive social protection from the government.

Furthermore, many students drop out during the pandemic due to school closures, economic difficulties, and family costs. As a result, they do not return to school once the restriction policy is lifted during the pandemic. Although boys and girls have an equal right to a quality education, males have a greater return rate to school than girls for whatever reason, whether they have household responsibilities or are in the job market. Furthermore, girls face more technological restrictions and problems when learning online than boys. There is a digital gap in many nations, with males having better access to the internet and technology to obtain learning materials. As a result, females may fall behind in terms of learning opportunities and results.

Finally, the covid-19 outbreak has worsened gender inequality because many women are out of work and vulnerable owing to the informal sector. Furthermore, due of larger barriers to technology adoption and household resources, females drop out of school at a higher rate than boys.

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

Thailand's Ministry of Education offers subsidies to university and secondary school students. The Thai government provides financial aid to families with children enrolled in the Thai education system in elementary and secondary school. The fund is an educational fund that provides a 2,000 baht tuition subsidy to each student. Furthermore, tuition fee in university level is subsidized in three steps: 50% for the first 50,000 baht, 30% for the next 50,000 baht, and 10% for 100,001 baht or above. These subsidies pay a child's education tuition throughout the pandemic and assist them in returning to school or college. Students in both high school and university have a better chance of finishing their education.

