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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?

Yes. Regarding the education, school closures and economic necessity can lead boys and girls to drop out. However, boys tend to go back quicker and some girls just don't return because they might either in the labor market or have caregiving responsibilities.

Regarding the labor force, the jobs in the female-dominated sector are the ones that are first and hardest hit. Moreover, globally, women predominate in informal employment which don't come with fringe benefits. Hence, the impacts from pandemic might affect women more and differently than men and, thus, gender equality is worsened.

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

Attention is needed to be paid more to female as the frontline caregivers. For example, in the US, the government introduce bill to grant student loan forgiveness to frontline health workers.

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-padilla-introduce-bill-to-grant-student-loan-forgiveness-to-frontline-health-workers->