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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-threatenedby-coronavirus>

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

Personally, I do not agree that the pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality. It cannot be denied that the pandemic totally had an impact on both men and women. The school closure and other economic necessity lead both men and women to drop out of the school. Then after the pandemic women tend to not return back to school or return but much less than men due to the caregiving responsibility, take care after their children and enter into the labor market. Thus, I viewed this as one of the issues which can delay the progress enhancing gender equality. However, it is obvious that women have played a more important role in society as the frontline of healthcare professions such as Nurse and physician assistants. In my opinion, I think that this leading position can represent women in a higher position in society which can enhance and encourage more women to join the labor market and it might also drive a higher position for women and women could be more acceptable in the labor market. To conclude, I do not agree with the statement that the pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality as I do believe that the pandemic has provided both positive and negative impact on both men and women so it could not be said that the pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality.. There might be some impact slowing down the progress of gender equality due to the not returning back to school issues but they still have a positive impact toward women as well as women have become one of the leading roles in the healthcare sector which is very important right now. This can represent the change in the role of female in Labor market and in the society as well.

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

Country : Thailand

First, take out all social distancing measures to save lives and allow people to live their normal lives; however, the country should focus more on female worker which is frontline healthcare givers and publish the policy that support women in several ways such as reduce their risk of exposure, ensuring that they have the right equipment and resources and make sure that women can access to the healthcare services as well. Also, support women with formal employment that will provide women with social protection, health insurance, and unemployment compensation since all of this can encourage more women to be in the labor market.