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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, the pandemic might have some effect on gender equality. As Dr. Geron Grom points out mainly concerning that females are more likely and severely exposed to the negative effect from COVID-19 due to the current social roles and the economic impact. The evidences from prior global pandemic suggest that females are less likely to return to education after these pandemic due to their circumstances. Moreover, females predominate in informal jobs which are more sensitive to the recession from the pandemic due to the lack of social protection, unemployment compensation, etc. leaving them with less ability to cope with these downturns. However, the effect might not be the same towards different societies with different gender roles and attitudes.

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

When it comes to policy regarding COVID-19, one of the effective ways to counter it is ^{health aspect} vaccination, which I believe that most countries should be able to manage this well enough so that it reaches the more vulnerable and exposed groups first and there should not be any discrimination including gender difference. Addressing the economic aspect, Brazil has an interesting policy implemented regarding the vulnerable groups. Brazil's Emergency Aid Program provides support to the vulnerable household through cash transfer to informal and low income workers. Moreover, they also provide partial compensation to furloughed workers as well as tax breaks.

These policies potentially provide cushion and ability to cope with the downturns to the vulnerable group as well as supporting higher health spendings.