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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, because the effects from this pandemic impact males and females differently. Education-wise, the rate of female participants in education may fall due to the new normal form of education (online - digital divide: less digital access), the need to join the labor force to earn more income for the household, and the caregiving duties. Girls that dropped out may come back to school later but in a slower rate than boys or not come back at all resulting them to fall behind and lack of better job opportunities. Labor-wise, women faces higher chance of being unemployed because their fields of careers are the ones that got hit first and hardest. Moreover, many of them is in informal jobs where no social protection is provided. Overall, it looks like many stepstones towards gender equality are reversed little by little from the pandemic.

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

Gender sensitive and gender transformative in Australia

Australian government acknowledged that "Existing social protection programs may require beneficiaries to meet conditions in order to continue to receive payments however, women/mothers typically bear the burden of meeting this conditions so where possible remove or relax conditionalities from cash transfers or the work requirement from public works programs to reduce social contact, alleviate time pressures on women and reduce demands on staff to monitor compliance." Also, they intend to work with women's rights organisations and service providers to provide messaging on equitable gender relations and family well-being.