

Name Warisara Pongtawevirat

Student ID 6304641795

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 do agree to a certain extent. This is because jobs in the sector where women are dominators has indeed were the first and hardest hit especially the frontline healthcare profession like nurses. The result from this is higher unemployment rate as the virus is increasing the burden of unpaid care, leading to a large gender gap globally.

In the video, the expert also talks about how the pandemic has increase more dropout resulting from school closures. The chances of female students returning to school is lower than male especially in countries where boys are prioritised. This could lead to gender education gap, reversing the progress towards gender equality.

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

one solution mentioned by the expert is to help people preserve their jobs and livelihood by strengthening the social protection system and the financial system.

Countries are offering financial support to help with the cost of alternative care. For example, in Italy, they have a policy that working parents with children below 12 affected by the pandemic have the possibility to take 15 days of leave, paid at 50% of the salary or unpaid for parents with children above 12. Alternatively, parents can have a voucher of a certain amount of money for alternative care arrangements.

There are also policy options to support women, workers and families facing job and income loss. Italy's government had provide unemployment benefits and related income supports through a one-off payments to workers in urgent needs. Some self-employed workers will receive a lumpsum payment for the month of March of EUR 600.