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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?

In my opinion, the COVID-19 pandemic will not reverse the progress toward gender equality. Women are facing employment challenges. More than other crises, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting sectors of the economy with a large share of women workers. Women also tend to hold less secure occupations. As a result, female labor force participation rates fell faster than male labor force participation rates in some countries, and the longer the pandemic lasts, the greater the risk of long-term unemployment or lower participation rates, because women who are out of the labor force may lose necessary skills to return to the labor market.

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

the Government of Singapore has committed to doing “more to support every Singaporean, at each stage of life, to build a stronger and more cohesive society”. From this text, the Government of Singapore introduced a new COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) to help workers who have lost their jobs, been placed on involuntary no-pay leave or suffered significant income loss. Besides Government support, there may also be other options to smoothen incomes or otherwise help individuals and households to tide over periods of unemployment. One option is unemployment insurance, where workers or employers contribute regular premiums to fund payouts for members who fall into involuntary unemployment. However, this has the risk of blunting incentives to return to employment. Another option is for workers to set aside savings for use during periods of unemployment. This could be mandated or kept voluntary, with incentives such as tax deductions and top-ups to encourage saving.