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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 with this statement, The pandemic will make most things worse including slowing the progress toward gender equality. The pandemic can affect many girls not to return to the education system due to some being in the labor market or they might have caregiving responsibilities. I do think that social norm is the boost to the gender discrimination during the pandemic, I think in many Chinese or Asian household tend to support their boy more than girl and when Covid-19 pandemic hit some poor household may support only their boy to continue in the education system and let their girl help the house work and put women in to the traditional role. I think Covid-19 also increases inequality in many countries. Some poor households can't access the internet which is the key to education during the pandemic and mostly boys are the ones who monopolize the only computer or tablet that households have. There are more factors slowing down the progress in equality such as most women working in the service sector which will receive the direct effect from the pandemic and 70% of the healthcare workers risking their lives are women.

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

Iceland is the country that put a lot of attention on the gender pay gap at the beginning and implemented equal pay and equal pay to leave in 2018 so there are less effects on their gender equality compared to other countries. Government can't do anything much to change the social norm beside education that can educate the newer generation to respect all genders and treat all the same, so besides the government subsidized the best they can do is to set the same standard to all genders at the beginning.