

Name .. Paemika Khangthong

Student ID .. 6204640616

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?

According to the expert, pandemic is not genderneutral, which greatly contribute to gender stereotypes. This means that women and girls are less likely to receive equal opportunities, achievements, and thus become successful as compared to men. However, the impact of pandemic on men and women, boy and girls varies across countries. For example, more women than men are in the front line of healthcare profession (e.g. nurses).

I disagree that the pandemic (COVID-19) will reverse the progress towards gender equality. According to the past pandemics (e.g. Ebola, SARS), boys are more likely to return back to school, as well as have greater access to technology and/or internet. While most girls were found to be engaged in labor market and caregiving responsibilities. The implication is that boys may be prioritize over girls in terms of learning opportunities. Moreover, the pandemic may have greater differential affect on women than men. This is due to the fact that the professions in which women predominate were mostly to experience the hardest hit, such as higher unemployment, lack of income and the ability to cope. Nonetheless, women were found to engage in informal employment across the world, which unfortunate have no fringe benefits social protection, health insurance, and unemployment compensation.

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

Chosen country : Colombia

According to the World Bank expert, government has to ensure that women can access to essential services (e.g. healthcare services), and that they have the right equipment and resources to reduce the risk of exposure. Another important policies addressed is the protection of the poor and those who are vulnerable, with regards to cash transfers and the help to preserve their jobs. Colombia has done well on cash transfer. According to the report done by UNDP, the government of Colombia provided an extraordinary subsidy to 2.7 million households that benefit from the cash transfer program where mothers are the main recipient, which positively support women with low income or precarious employment.