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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-threatenedby-coronavir
us](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2020/05/22/why-are-women-and-girls-threatenedby-coronavir
us)

(1) Do you agree that “This pandemic will reverse the progress toward gender equality”? Why?

In my opinion, the pandemic will reverse the progress made toward gender equality. Particularly in developing countries where many female workers work in informal or illegal industries. During the pandemic, women's ability to work and earn an income is impacted on a daily basis. As a result, women have more responsibilities in the residence than men. Those infected with the virus are not only unable to work, but they are also unable to perform household tasks. Furthermore, some younger females will not be able to return to school for education because, after the pandemic ended, many of them dropped out and needed to focus on household duties, which they will also be unable to educate online. Men are frequently given higher priority in terms of improved internet access. In the household sector, for example, they are more likely to dominate the use of their only one home computer.

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

According to research, women make up the majority of staff members in businesses where there are the maximum Covid-19 jobs lost, such as retail, lodging, and catering services in the UK. As a whole, more women have been relieved of duty in the country, with young women carrying the majority of the burden. Furloughing is expected to increase significantly as a result of the nationalist government lockdown by the end of January 2021, reaching 2.32 million for women and 2.18 million for men. In addition, 46% of mothers who were laid off by the pandemic mention a shortage of adequate babysitting as the reason, as well as a straightforward gender disparity in overall, for only 51% of qualified women claiming, compared to 60% of eligible men.

So the government wanted to help women start their own businesses, especially in the tech industry, and also to address the problem in which there are fewer female entrepreneurs than male entrepreneurs. They claimed that the women's wage gap in the United Kingdom was not caused by earning men and women different pay for the exact same job. But, both men and women are going on the same careers and same type of jobs. The government has launched the “ Gender Equality Roadmap ”, which goals include consulting on increasing transparency in family leave and pay policies, enhancing care givers' workplace protections, reviewing workplace sexual assault laws, investigating the financial health of women, and establishing a workforce consisted of employers as well as other organizations to take into account on backup security pregnancy and motherhood discrimination. The government will collaborate with business owners in industries with the greatest gender imbalances to identify as well as officially approved strategies for addressing gender inequalities in every workplace as much as possible.

References

UK launches Gender Equality Roadmap. Mercer. (n.d.). Retrieved October 26, 2022, from <https://www.mercer.com/our-thinking/law-and-policy-group/uk-launches-gender-equality-roadmap.html>

Covid-19: Empowering women in the recovery from the impact of the pandemic. (n.d.). Retrieved October 26, 2022, from <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/covid-19-empowering-women-in-the-recovery-from-the-impact-of-the-pandemic/>