

South Asia Regional Webinar: COVID 19 Lockdown effects on Status of Women Scientist

Gendered Impacts of CoVID 19: Perspectives of Nepali Women Engineers and Practitioners

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- Introduction
- Methodology
- Findings
- Recommendations

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• **Introduction:**

- Lock down since march 24, 2020 (restricted movements and activities)
- Disrupted services (particularly no physical access to work; to field visits for monitoring and verifications)
- Confined to desk works (designs, drawings, reports, virtual meetings)
- Issues concerning quality of work done at fields (due to lack of monitoring as in some cases works continued)

COVID 19 is a health issue having a long-term a socio-economic impact.

All are affected but women are more disproportionately affected – women engineers and practitioners are not exceptions.

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- **Methodology: Qualitative method**

- Review of available literatures, news articles (secondary source of information)
- Telephone interviews with women engineers and practitioners (primary source of information – open ended questions)
- Consolidation from both

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- **Findings: Positive impacts**

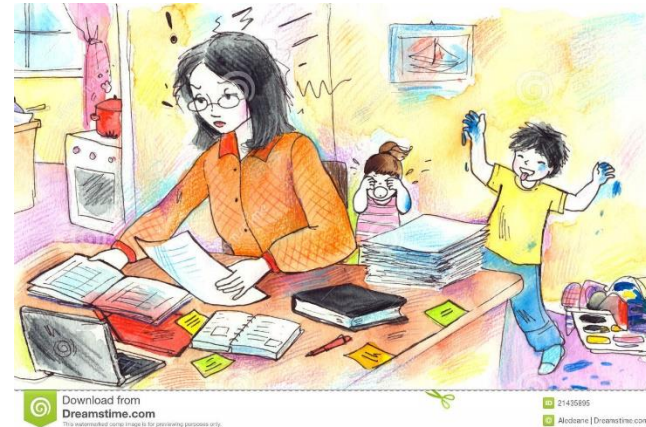
- Change in practice of sharing household care work burden with men family members
- Flexible working hours has helped cope with the heavy work burden
- Improved bonding with family with more quality time spent at home
- Time to attend to ignored hobbies (culinary arts, gardening etc.) which were otherwise not prioritized
- Learning new skills (optimum use of technology, on-line tools/apps)
- Financial savings, home grown and cooked healthy food
- Travel time/cost saved



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- **Findings: Negative impacts**
- Increased care work burden (more on women – homeschooling, elderly)
- Disrupted services and restricted mobility (affect on physical well-being)
- Restricted activities with physical distancing affecting social life
- Affecting mental health
- Use of all paid leaves (financial impact)
- Less work hours resulting to lesser pay (financial impact)



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- **Recommendations:**

- More evidences needed – gender disaggregated and intersectional data that looks into the impacts of lock-down
- Support policies for flexible working hours that understand the needs of family care work
- Support to increase paid family leave and paid sick leave, or introducing no reduction in pay for reduced working hours (special circumstances like this)
- Introducing subsidies and vouchers for the use of telecommunication technology for work
- Promote good practice of sharing care work burden that will change the social norms (more gender balanced distribution of family care work burden)
- Support to adapt to new contexts by learning new technology and maximizing opportunities (virtual training, web-based works suitable for women professionals)
- Continue to ensure physical and mental well-being by staying positive and spreading positive messages (through webinars...)
- Encourage and establish “work from home” culture in the future to strengthen family bonding (with the advancement of technology, it has been proven that office duties can be fulfilled by working from home.....)

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Thank you !