

Why do women bear the brunt of the virus fallout in the workplace?

According to experts the reverberating economic shock of the coronavirus crisis has created a significant setback for women, like many work in the badly exposed services sector. The nature of the outbreak means that women are much more likely than men to lose or quit work in vulnerable low-paying workplaces, such as conference venues, bars, hairdressing salons, pubs, hotels and restaurants, which faced extensive shutdowns. School closures have aggravated the issue as more women than men tend to take care and teach their children, even while working from home. The services sector, which includes areas such as hospitality and tourism, has been affected by lockdowns enforced by governments around the world seeking to avoid the spread of the disease. As lockdowns ease and infection rates and deaths decline, the services sector is always the last to re-open as it continues to rely on a large number of people in close touch. Within family groups, mothers have been 1.5 times more likely than fathers to lose or quit their jobs since the crisis began, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

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