**Proposal**

**Group number:** 18

**Group member:**

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**Research question**:

Is there a relation between gender and unemployment rate across Victoria during COVID19?

**Topic**:

inclusiveness (men and women’s unemployment rate), health (COVID 19)

**Background:**

A region’s inclusiveness refers to the spatial inclusiveness, social inclusiveness and economic inclusiveness. Thus, inclusiveness is very important as it emphasizes on the people’s equal rights and equal access to infrastructure and sufficient job opportunities.

During the COVID 19 period from 2020 and so on, a great number of Victorians lost their jobs due to the pandemic restriction. During covid, Victoria experienced a rapid increase of unemployment rate from February 2020. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020), the number of unemployed people in Victoria reached its peak in the last decade. However, with the government’s effort, the economy revived, and the unemployment rate starts to fall from June 2021 which indicates that people started to get back to work. However, the slope of men’s unemployment rate drops quicker than women’s unemployment rate, indicating that women experienced greater difficulty after August 2021.

On the other hand, the adoption of online study requires more parenting on children. According to 9 News (2020, July) almost 700,000 Victorian students returned to online learning during the lockdown. Additionally, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020), childcare, family considerations ranked the 5th place on the main reasons why people worked from home during COVID 19 period. This suggests that more parenting for children and family considerations was required during COVID 19. Moreover, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), females spent 8:33 hours per day caring for children while men spent 3:55 hours per day on average. This suggests that women participate more in childcare.

In conclusion, these information indicate that the instant increase of childcare need under COVID may require more family considerations from women. Therefore, this study aims to prove that that women’s employment rate may be affected due to childcare.

**Innovative information:**

Although a lot of studies have analysed factors influencing women’s unemployment, there has never been a period as COVID 19 where most schools in Victoria were closed and more family childcare was necessarily needed.

Therefore, this study will research whether there is a relation between gender and unemployment rate across Victoria during COVID19 by analysing how childcare may affect women’s employment through comparing the trend of women and men’s unemployment rate after August 2021, where most people started to get back to work while school remained shut down.

**People caring and stakeholders:**

Victorian Female employees and their household are the main stakeholders of this study as women’s unemployment rate may directly affect women’s income therefore influencing the household spending.

Victorian government and education department should care about this study as this study will research whether shutting down school creates more barriers in inclusiveness. This may provide evidence for the Victorian government and education department to develop better contingency plans and provide efficient support for women in the future.

**Data set:** git hub repository link:

**Data processing:**

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| **The idea for possible outcome (In order)** | **Proving method** | **Data processing method** | **Data processing outcome** |
| There are differences on unemployment rate due to gender during covid. | Plot the unemployment rate of men and women during covid. | **Data pre-processing:** filter the data needed.  **Data visualization:** Plot a line chart to demonstrate the trend of male and female unemployment rates during covid 19 period. | A line chart with  **Title**: ‘Victorian Unemployment Rate during COVID’  **Legend**: men, women, person  **X axis**: Time (from 2020.2-2021.2)  **Y axis**: Unemployment rate |
| School shuts down from 2020.2 to 2021.2. | Research relevant news and article. | NA | NA |
| Economy revives from 2020.6, people start to get back to work. | Plot the Australia’s GDP trend. | **Data pre-processing:** filter the data needed.  **Data visualization:** Plot a line chart to demonstrate the trend of Australia’s GDP during covid 19 period. | A line chart with  **Title**: ‘Australia’s GDP growth during COVID’  **X axis**: Time (from 2020.2-2021.2)  **Y axis**: GDP growth |
| Women get back to work more slowly than men. | Calculate the slop of unemployment rate and find than slope(men) is greater than slope(women) | **Math**: Calculation | Slope\_Men = num  Slope\_Women = num  Slope\_Men > Slope\_Women |
| This may be due to childcare. | Draw a pie chart of reasons why people choose to work at home and find that childcare holds a great proportion.  Compare the time women and men spend on daily childcare and finds that women spend more time than men. | **Data visualization:**  Draw a pie chart of reasons why people choose to work at home.  Draw a bar chart to show the comparison of the time men and women spent on childcare. | A pie chart with  Title: ‘Factors influencing people’s work during COVID 1’  A Bar chart with  Title ‘Average Time Men and Women Spend on Childcare’  **X axis**: Men and Women  **Y axis:** Average time spend on childcare |

**Challenges**:

There may be multiple factors influencing the women’s unemployment rate except from childcare. Data may be unreliable or inaccurate.

**Reference:**

*4125.0 - Gender Indicators, Australia, Jan 2012*. (2012, January). Australian Bureau of Statistics. https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by+Subject/4125.0%7EJan+2012%7EMain+Features%7ECaring+for+children%7E4120

*Labour Force, Australia, February 2021*. (2021, March 18). Australian Bureau of Statistics. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release

Marsh, S. (2020, July 12). *Almost 700,000 Victorian students to return to remote learning during lockdown*. Breaking Australian and World News Headlines - 9News. https://www.9news.com.au/national/coronavirus-victoria-students-return-to-remote-learning-during-second-lockdown/30dbc8d3-6a2d-4845-9bdf-87b057756880