

# Impact of the coronavirus pandemic on young women on low incomes.

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## Overview of the Data Fellowship

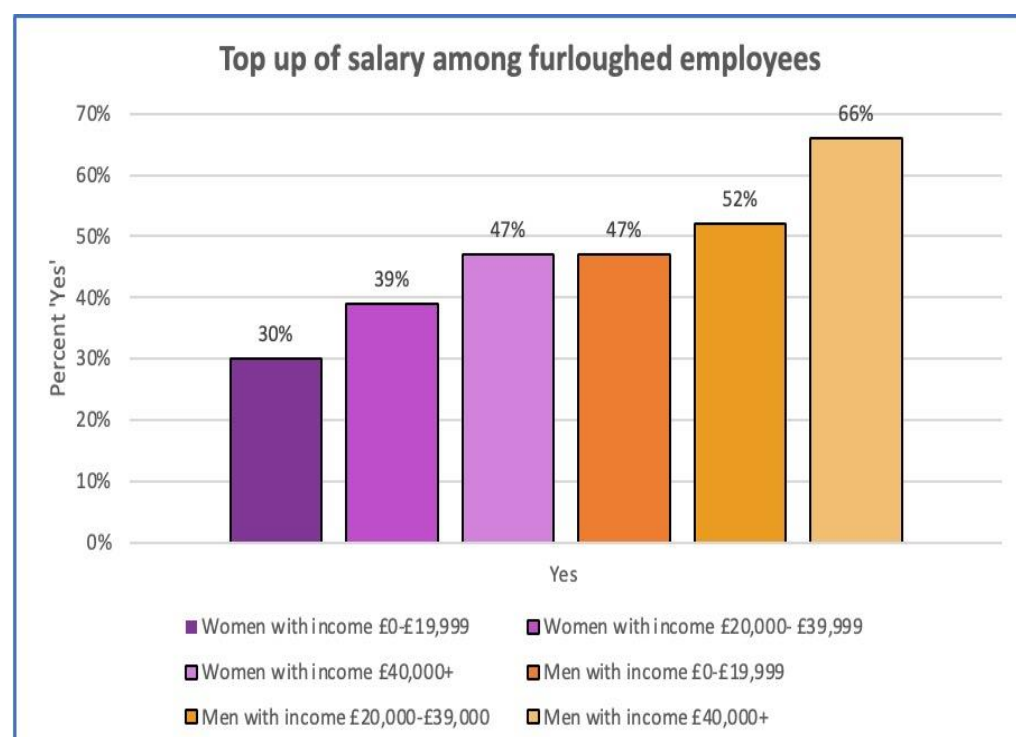
I completed an eight-week internship at The Fawcett Society, the UK's leading charity campaigning for gender equality. I was responsible for analysing quantitative data to understand how the coronavirus pandemic impacted young women on low incomes. The purpose of researching women's experiences during the pandemic is to ensure that women are included in decision-making and not left behind or ignored.

## Data Analysis

I used the survey data conducted by The Fawcett Society and partner feminist organisations to identify key trends and patterns. This was a national project with a sample of 1,026 adults in the UK aged 18 to 30, aiming to understand the experiences of young people during the pandemic. Women on low incomes were disproportionately impacted during the pandemic and this was supported by doing a test of significance. A research briefing was then created to describe the statistics effectively and offer policy solutions. To create an impactful briefing, data visualisation techniques, like bar charts were used by inputting the relevant data in excel and using appropriate colours, headings, and labels. Sets of data on excel were further investigated to show the comparison of results between women on low incomes and women on higher incomes, and men of all income levels. Most importantly, analysing data allowed me to understand the importance of using statistical evidence to make a case for policy recommendations.

## Findings

Figure 1: furlough top up from 80% to 100% by employers for men and women of different incomes (The Fawcett Society, 2021).



- Figure 1 is one of the many findings in the survey, it shows that young women from low-income households were least likely to have their salary topped up by their employer. This is likely due to women working in sectors hit hardest by covid, such as hospitality.
- Overall, the survey polling data showed that young women on low incomes are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus crisis. We found that they were significantly impacted in terms of finances, education, mental health, and their future. This points to a worrying trend of greater inequality as a result of the pandemic. Therefore, The Fawcett Society recommend policies that support young women, including extra financial support, stronger safety net and investment in care.

## Key Skills Learnt

Quantitative data skills - working with large polling data allowed me to understand how to interpret data and findings effectively on excel. I also learnt the importance of presenting quantitative data in an accessible and persuasive manner, for example through bar charts, so it is more impactful for the target audience.

Qualitative data skills – analysing Fawcett's coronavirus diaries in which women recorded their experiences weekly and monthly gave me insight into creating themes and highlighting important case studies. I participated in qualitative analysis training, specifically on framework methods that create a case and theme-based approach to identify key themes and contradictions. This gave me the ability to work with large amounts of rich data to identify the most relevant pieces of information.

Teamwork and collaboration – attending weekly meetings and working with partner feminist organisations was effective in helping me develop confidence and communication skills. It was necessary to voice my opinions and carefully listen to my team to gain a fresh perspective. Collaborating with the team and partner groups also helped solved difficult problems with the briefing report.

Media – I contributed to media work and learnt how to frame findings to attract the audience. Also, speaking with a journalist allowed me to develop an insight into how the press works, and the process of gaining media coverage on vital gender issues.

To learn more about how young women on low incomes were impacted, visit: <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/coronavirus-impact-on-young-people>.

To learn more about The Fawcett Society's work on the impact of the pandemic, visit: <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/the-impacts-of-coronavirus-on-women>.