Disadvantaged Women Issues Hazardous Materials Toxic

February 24, 2017

JAKARTA, KOMPAS—Women left behind in the issue of toxic materials. In fact, in a variety of domestic activities, women are exposed to toxic materials. Toxic hazardous materials contained in the various processes of heating, cooking stoves, cosmetics, and groceries. In general, awareness in communities and industries related to hazardous waste is still minimal.

As stated in the study titled “Gender Perspectives on Management of and Forestry,” Thursday (02/11), in Jakarta.

The workshop was held for gender mainstreaming program under the Gender Working Group Secretariat of the Bali Convention, Rotterdam, and Stockholm. The team was formed in 2012. Indonesia together with Nigeria chosen as a pilot project for the program.

Engage Women Executive Director for a Common Future Satha Gahiron said, “It is very difficult for ordinary people to understand the terms for hazardous materials if it is not given special knowledge. The impact is so severe, women working in the plastic bag industry has a lot of breast cancer.” In the plastic industry, many toxic substances are produced from plastic harvested.

Rudi Sulistiyanto, Indonesia Country Director Pana Korth / Blacksmith Institute, said “Women are in charge of family health are often excluded from training (training).”

Household appliances exposed to hazardous materials (HHI) include Teflon and in the process uses perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which are carcinogens or cancer-causing. Another example, many furnishes with seat cushions containing foam that is carcinogenic.

In the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) listed 12 toxic substances were banned, two types of which are restricted, and 6 hazardous toxic organic substances that are hyperacids (continual production). Substance banned of landmass, including the banned use.

Researchers from the Center for Chemical Research Institute of Sciences, Indonesia, Agus Haryono, said there was no data to know how much people are exposed to POPs for research minimal. In fact, Indonesia could not be analyzed because the laboratory for diagnosis was not there.

Senior advisor Bali Poblen, Yurun Mentawai, said Indonesia is lagging in response to the issue of HHI. “The program is still low awareness, coordination among ministries is not good because each ministry has different interests, different terminology. If the environment ministry called toxic or hazardous materials, while in the trade is called hazardous materials only (HMM).”

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