

# **Picture of Women's Life Devastation by Mining In East Kalimantan, Indonesia**

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More than 35 % of Indonesian upland territory has been licensed as mining concession, of which 11.4 million hectares is located within protected areas. Since legally established in 1967, more than 3,576 mining concessions have been granted by the government. However, mine sector contribution to Indonesian government' net income is only 2% -4%. The amount is very unequal to the impacts caused by the sector toward local people and environment across Indonesia archipelago. One of the most suffering from mining activities islands is the Kalimantan (Borneo), especially the eastern Kalimantan.

East Kalimantan is marked as part of Borneo Island that is recognized as the world third biggest island, following the Greenland and Papuan island<sup>2</sup>. The Borneo island widths 10% of Indonesian total area and is dwelled by 2.5 millions of population live in 1,276 villages. The comparison between male and female population are balanced. The major livelihoods of the people are farmers, folks fishing, and fish pond raisers.

East Kalimantan (Kaltim) has been very interesting to investors from mine, oil, and gas sector. There are at least 106 mine companies operating in Kaltim with total concession area of 11 million hectares, or is equal with 44.85% of island width.<sup>3</sup> In addition to that, if added with areas of private forest concessions (HPH and HTI) those extractive industries manage concessions area of up to 73.07 % of East Kalimantan's territory.<sup>4</sup>

## **In what condition is women now ?**

In the Kaltim, women's population are reaching nearly 50% of total population, meaning that it isn't a small proportion. The fact that people facing problem regarding their access to local resources is also felt by women. They even sometimes bear bigger problem than what men's have. Although men and women together impoverished by invasion of capital, women tend to have it more than men do. They were evicted from their cultivations so that they can earn incomes and becoming dependent on the other family members.

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<sup>2</sup> . Ecology of Kalimantan , 2000

<sup>3</sup> . Mine Map Data of Kalimantan and data base of Jatam Kaltim

<sup>4</sup> . Data by BPS Kaltim

Women impoverishing mostly take place in villages. Based on central bureau for Statistics (BPS) the 75% of citizen poverty is founded on rural areas, while urban poverty only counts for 25%. The number of poor citizen even sharply increased from 184,970 persons to 237,300 persons in 2002.<sup>5</sup> This has been ironic therefore as we recognize that natural resources exploitation is mainly conducted in rural areas. Thus, it suggested that natural resources exploitation doesn't significantly lift up people's wealth yet even caused in poverty.

**Table : Poor Citizen of East Kalimantan<sup>6</sup>**

Year	Sum	Villages		Cities	
		Sum	Percentage	Sum	Percentage
1998	779,415	452,535	58.06%	326,880	34.07%
1999	401,760	239,756	59.53%	162,604	40.47%
2000	532,751	243,971	45.79%	288,780	54.21%
2001	392,137	184,970	47.17%	207,158	52.83%
2002	313,040	237,300	75.81%	75,700	24.19%

Source : Data of BPS Kaltim, 2002

Poverty cases are also founded at locations where mine companies operate. According to field investigation carried out by Work Team on Mine and Women (TKPT) Kaltim, there are problems suffered by women and are brought by mine companies' operational activities, such as:

**a. Economic impacts :**

**(1) Stealing of Women's Livelihood Sites**

Mine industries' concessions are always overlapping with people's livelihood sites. Conflicts have been created since companies stole and claimed people's territory. *"Unocal takes away our lands and they install gas pipes on it. We can't plant crops on pipes"*, said Mrs. Komariyah, woman from Kutai village whose plantation seized by two American mine companies (PT Unocal and VICO) and used for piping path<sup>7</sup>. Mrs. Komariyah can't no longer cultivate her lands.

The stealing of people's lands are not only occurred at oil and gas mining but also at coal mining locations, for example is the case of people of Sekerat village that have been

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> . Kaltim Pos, 10 Mei 2003

<sup>7</sup> Gender Study report, TKPT Kaltim 2002

victimized by PT. Kaltim Prima Coal (KPC)/ Rio Tinto, the biggest coal mine company around south-east Asia. There are about 20,482 hectares belonged to 287 households have been stolen. It means that there are 287 women lost livelihood sites. Although company paid compensation but it was only for Rp. 11,000/ha, or a USD 4.5 per hectares (the price also covered growing crops compensation and other goods on it).<sup>8</sup>

## **(2) Disappearance/forced Alteration of Women's Livelihood**

Land confiscation conducted by PT. KPC/Rio Tinto had caused in series of impacts to villagers of Sekurau Bawah village used to work as palm sugar makers and fish ponds raisers. Since lands have been taken away, they do no same as livelihood. Men go to forest working as tree cut labor or do fishing at sea. The production number of palm sugar have been sharply declining and give them with smaller incomes subsequently.

What women has could be more ironic as they can only make palm sugar now. Female farmers who don't make palm sugar have completely earn nothing. They becoming totally depend on men (husbands, fathers, brothers, even sons). *"... We used to feel alright although if husbands were away as we could still eat, because there were rice, vegetables are available, if we want fish for meal, we could just simply grab it from the pond. Even for neighbors who needed those fishes they could just take it themselves, when they held celebration they could just take it without any payment. But after KPC took away our lands we have nothing left, women can't eat if men don't work as tree cutter or other jobs for earning moneys, this is because we must buy everything we need now...this is really hard to stay alive now."*<sup>9</sup>(storied by Mrs. Mar).

Some women have also started to work as charcoal makers, which is the job don't desired by men. Men prefer to choose cutting trees and getting engaged with illegal logging, or to be as fishermen. Although they have organized *land-reclaiming movement*, women can't no longer make charcoal since woods have been hard to find due to rampant illegal logging. And again, women are to be depending on men.

## **(3) Disappearance/Decline of Women's Earning**

Female folks fishing live in Bagang kampong, near to oil and gas mine location of PT UNOCAL, have been impacted by fluid waste dumped by the company into sea waters. The fish catch of folks fishing in Rapak lama village was then declined for this. They must have

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<sup>8</sup> studi dampak Jalur Hijau PT KPC, TKPT Kaltim, Februari 2002

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Report

sail further from the coast, looking for the uncontaminated waters and bring effect in more operational cost required. The women of Terusan village work as Benur (shrimp offspring) collector have earn lower income as well. Women and children use *Porok* and *Rumpong* as for collecting shrimp offspring. They could just put these tools on the coast, or at deeper places like on the edge of mangrove and Nipah forest around river mouth. The decline of this shrimp collecting has reached 95% as they used to collect 10,000 offsprings/day, now they can only bring home 300 offsprings, and sometimes they get nothing at all. During the north wind season, waste of Unocal enters Terusan beach, and consequently shrimp disappearing.<sup>10</sup> The same incident was also founded in Mahakam Delta waters. There were 16 million shrimps in 450 hectares fish pond died since Indonesia and Vico carried out Siesmic and Rig construction.

Women community at mining site of PT. KEM/ Rio Tinto has been gold miners for generations, but they must relieve from this occupation since PT KEM operated. They couldn't have maintain cultivation since PT. KEM took their lands. They used to earn Rp. 17,000,/day from gold mining, an enough amount of money to meet daily expenditures. Unfortunately business can be done no more since KEM operated. Situation of hard for finding job has then been common sighting around the village. Their economic have also sharply dropped. Farmland eviction and ban on folks mining have caused in lost of communities' livelihoods.<sup>11</sup>

#### **b. Social Impact:**

Mining operation have resulted other impacts from social standpoint, such as alteration on traditional rule used to be respected and have been the cause of conflicts created. Invasion of mine companies have also brought the new values that very much different with local values. Facts suggested that prostitution place present in all mine concession area as for serving the biological need of male mine workers. This can be seen at Unocal concession which also accompanied by presence of prostitution places in Rapak Lama that have created complicated problem in the community. Inter families quarrel frequently occurred at prostitution place that usually end up with violence against women.

#### **c. Environmental Impacts :**

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<sup>10</sup> op.cit,

<sup>11</sup> Report of Case Monitoring KEM, TKPT Kaltim 2003

Contamination of women's neighborhood by mine industry waste bring impacts destroying life quality and health of women.

PT KEM.Rio Tinto operation have been devastating women's environment. This can be seen on some examples, such as; Firstly, Air pollution. Air surrounding have been polluted by dust of company's road that spreading over community's residence and breathed by people causing in many community members have respiratory, eye, and stomach diseases. Furthermore it also disturbing some people's business like food and beverages shop, disturbing crops growth as covered by thick dust. Secondly, hills were dug until considerable depth and landscapes have been altered in some locations around PT. KEM operation area. Thirdly, waste pollution has resulted in water contamination indicated by dirty river water that caused in skin itches to people. Contamination of Kelian river water caused by drifted 1,200 drums contained cyanide in 1991. The incident had caused people had skin itches, swelled, and wounded. Beside that, on 2-4 April 1998 lots number of fish died on Kelian river caused by waste contamination dumped through pipes into pool located on river side and went through Gah Macan River. In addition, the company has also been using river Mencikut as vehicle washing location that made the water no longer usable for drinking.<sup>12</sup>

Damaged environmental status has eventually impacted to women's life quality. And it could in turn bring effect to whole community's life persistence.

#### **d. Impact on Violence against Women**

Violence against women that occurred are including those either carried out in term of state/military power or that in term of sexuality such as sexual arousal and rape.

Of all 21 cases of sexual violence against women, there are 17 cases of extreme violence against women (rape), and 16 cases of all were conducted by KEM employees. Those cases were all happened between 1987 – 1997.<sup>13</sup>

#### **e. Impact on the Model of Community's Health Maintenance**

Other significant reproductive role of women is keeping the health quality of family. In rural areas, such a role is extremely significant since no sufficient health facility is available. Women used to maintain the role by majoring the traditional knowledge on herbal medicinal and health keeping. However, since many community's land were occupied by company

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<sup>12</sup> Portrait of Problem on Mine and Women in three locations, Retno, TKPT Kaltim 2002

<sup>13</sup> op.cit

many medicinal plant species' gone rare or even extinct. Of all medicinal plants grow there, at least 40% of all have declining in population while the other 29% extinct. This occurrence have bring significant impact to community's health maintenance as they used to only utilizing local resources like medicinal plants for health keeping, but now they must pay some money for purchasing medicines at drugstores. This is how mine operation has impact in decreasing community's health quality.

#### **f. Depoliticizing of Women**

Women has never been involved in every meeting carried out by government as it think it'll be enough to talk to men only regarding land matter. Low level of Women participation had caused in they don't understand the political and social matters. They never been aware of issues on struggle for land and knowing nothing about the progress of their land dispute cases. Regardless their high contribution during land cultivation, they don't participating in decision making of land dispute.<sup>14</sup>

The control over land is still held only by men. Women don't aware of many things related to land management such as farmers institution. Any matters regarding with farmers association, only men understand it because women never attended farmers institution meetings, farmers/fishermen/cattle raiser awareness raising meeting.

#### **g. Addition in Women's work Volume**

Land occupation by PT. KPC have also bring impact on addition in women's work volume because men used to work on farm, now working as logger or fishermen that make them stay out of home longer. AS the result, more household problems are handled by women themselves, while in fact they have lost their economic access from eviction. Women's self economic reliance has vanished. This has somehow placed women on lower position than men.

### **Postscript**

Mine Company's presence have in fact threatened both women's productive and reproductive roles. The lost of women's cultivation site have closed down the productive role of

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<sup>14</sup> op.cit

women and put off women access and control to economic sector while principally, people's access to production assets like land will also support their other access to such things like politic, information and decision making as well as other social relationships.

Dark portrait of women victimized by Mining in east Kalimantan have worsened by minimum contribution provided by all parties including state, public, even NGO toward women matters. This can be understood since state or capital paradigm still use family-based approach while discussing mining problems. This paradigm is originated by major idea stating that men usually act as family head has democratically represents all members' interest. Ratification of "*the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*" have apparently contributed nothing for defending women' interest that victimized by mining operations. Barely government attention is given to problems related to women. This is indicated by no such women perspective in the new established mining Act. Even when Indonesian president is a woman, the new established oil and gas Act no. 22/2001 have no such sidedness to women's problem and interest.