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Gender Capability in Facing the Reality of the Impact of Forest Fires in Central Kalimantan

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ABSTRACT

Gender is an agent of change and also great dual agent for families, public and their communities. Women play an important role in natural resources management and participate in household life. The greatness of the gender as double agent is shown when a disaster occurs which affects economic and social condition. Natural disasters that often occur in Central Kalimantan due to the impact of climate change. This study aims to determine the extent to which gender is capable of solving problem with the impacts of climate change and what solutions and supports can improve gender equality. The research was conducted in 3 sub-districts in the Central Kalimantan region, namely Palangkaraya, Pulang Pisau and Kapuas. The method used was descriptive method by conducting interviews to determine gender capacity and adaptation to the impact of forest fires. The ability of gender in Central Kalimantan to deal with climate change shows that gender is a great agent when facing the declining economic conditions caused by forest fires and can still take care of the household. So that this condition requires support and concern for gender equality which can change difficult things when the impacts of climate change are present and can be used as a reference for reducing the impacts of climate change.

1. Introduction

Gender is an agent of change and also great dual agent for families, public and their communities. According to Ananda et al., (2019) loss of property, income

from agriculture during a disaster makes women have to work harder to ease and help the family economy. This clearly proves that women are extraordinary agents of change. In addition, women also play an important role in natural resource management and participate in supporting household life. The greatness of gender as a double agent is shown when a disaster occurs which affects economic and social conditions. Hastuti (2016) stated that loss of economic resources, loss of assets due to disasters is something that must be borne by them and the importance of women's involvement will be a good strategy in restoring peatlands due to the impact of forest fires. Forest fires in the Kalimantan region draw attention to their impact and the realities that gender must face. Especially the forest and land fires disaster on peatlands which causes economic losses. Prevention of forest and land fires sometimes excludes women, even though those who feel it the most are women and also have a very important role. (Safitri 2020)

Disasters make women more vulnerable to poverty. When a disaster occurs and the actual gender role is very real, it looks like the household also helps the husband to earn a living. In this condition, it is necessary to strengthen gender in the face of natural disasters, be it floods, drought or forest fires. So that the roles and experiences of gender are related to the feminist political ecology approach to the multi-layered impacts on nature and women's abilities as well as women's experiences in forest and land fires and restoring peatlands (Maslahah 2020). On this occasion an interesting topic will be discussed from research on gender roles in Central Kalimantan and the realities they must face regarding the impact of forest fires.

Natural disasters that often occur in Central Kalimantan due to the impacts of climate change and their interrelationships are things that need attention. Natural disasters in the form of forest fires greatly affect the work of the community, especially those who earn money as farmers and this is also the loss of water sources for the community. Forest fires are caused by nature through the friction of dry trees, lightning strikes, volcanic eruptions that trigger fires and are carried by gusts of wind and some are deliberately burned by humans (Nasution and Taufiqurrahman 2020). As a result of forest fires, many losses arise, ranging from loss of livelihoods, peatlands, and culture due to changes that lead to exploitation (Syihab et al., 2020).

Based on data from the Central Bureau of Statistics 2020, the loss of land in Central Kalimantan due to forest fires that occurred from 2015-2019 is around more than 6,158 ha and according to Papiliya (2020) in Pulang Pisau more than 98,784.73 ha. The large amount of land lost raises concern and support in overcoming the impacts of forest and land fires with gender roles. This study aims to determine the extent to which gender is capable of facing with the impacts of climate change and what solutions and supports can improve gender equality.

2. Research Method

Times and places

The research is conducted in July-September 2020 in 3 sub-districts in the Central Kalimantan region, namely Palangkaraya, Pulang Pisau and Kapuas and are areas with forest fires.

Research method

The method used was descriptive method by conducting interviews to determine the ability and gender adaptation to the impact of forest fires as primary data. The determination of the number of respondents varies at each interview location with an unlimited number exceeding the community sampling standard. The people interviewed were women from farmers, traders and civil servants who were warders and in areas affected by forest and land fires. The crucial question during the interview was what was done during the fire and after the forest fire, the reality for women and what steps they took in these conditions.

3. Result And Discussion

Kalimantan Women Dan Forest Fire

The reality of forest fires is a bitter reality for people in Central Kalimantan, especially women. When a disaster occurs, women experience more severe suffering due to differences in status and access to networks, information on natural resources and the economy. Women are more vulnerable to being exposed to climate change, due to gender imbalances and the impact of climate change is more pronounced so that it cannot be separated (Rusmadi 2016). Women endure many injustices in the process of adaptation to climate change and are only used as political actors and underdevelopment increases oppression for them, in which a term appears, namely women are identified with nature and men are associated with culture (Scorviana and Setiadi 2018). Women are an equally important factor in determining life-related levels of attention and involvement (Mando et al., 2019). Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (2020) more than 80 percent of Central Kalimantan women work as farmers and 20 percent are divided into traders, and only a small proportion become civil servants.

Forest and land fires in Indonesia occurred on a large scale in 2015, around 1.7 to 2.6 million and were followed in 2019, including the Central Kalimantan region (Adiwijaya 2018). Forest fires that occurred in Central Kalimantan in addition to the need for use of plantation land which continues to increase (Rezainy et al., 208). Forest fires have an impact on the environment such as reducing water levels and on health aspects (Ferrawati and Pasha 2020). The reality of the consequences of forest fires on women due to less manageable land can shut off a large proportion of income sources.

Gender ability in dealing with the reality of forest fires

The ability of gender in Central Kalimantan to deal with climate change shows that gender is a great agent when facing the declining economic conditions caused by forest fires and can still take care of the household. According to the results of research by Subono et al., (2020) conducted in Central Kalimantan, women played an important role in peatlands, and by involving women can reduce and help the ecological and economic aspects of society. So that this condition requires support and concern for gender equality which can change difficult things when the impacts of climate change are present and can be used as a reference for reducing the impacts of climate change.

The importance of gender issues in the formulation of climate change policies, because gender has the persistence to survive when it is affected by climate change (Latifa and Fitranita 2013). The ability of gender in dealing with the impact of forest and land fires in this study, namely; making adaptation strategies in dealing with the impacts of forest fires, and managing forest use with local wisdom and are described as follows.

1. Develop an adaptation strategy to deal with the impacts of forest fires

The importance of adaptation for women to be able to go through and survive in the face of climate change disasters such as forest fires, because adaptation can affect the ecology and economy of a community group (Hardoyo et al., 2011). Adaptations that were carried out by women in Central Kalimantan during the forest and land fires and after the forest and land fires were like surviving and living with modest economic conditions. This habit of survival is carried out for daily agricultural laborers who do not own land and who have limited land and this is accompanied by a statement by Rasyid (2014) who stated that when forest and land fires occur, they cause many losses in forest areas so that activities around them are interrupted and big losses arose. This strategy can be called a passive strategy that is carried out by some women through saving costs that are used daily in the family in order to survive (Azizah et al., 2017).

The strategy for the reality of forest and land fires should be accepted by the community when it occurs and can be used as an adaptation strategy during and after forest fires, namely receiving government assistance and equalizing forest fire disaster management methods and the need for guidance related to innovations that are in line with the conditions and interests of the community (Akbar et al. , 2011). In addition, the need for training for women is a very important strategy so that women can survive more. By increasing knowledge through training of an individual or group, the individual or group can survive and minimize the impact of the economic crisis (Santoso 2012). There is a need to increase awareness in knowing the impact of forest fires and improving community skills (Muttaqin 2015).

Forming groups in the management of peat products such as *purun* which can be an economic added power for women in Kalimantan (Kartini et al., 2019). If the forest land is on fire, you can still take advantage of the abundant of *purun* from the waters in Kalimantan.

2. Managing forest use with local wisdom

Local wisdom is usually associated with indigenous peoples and is identified with people who live in a forest or rural area far from urban areas by maintaining the forest as part of their life so that they protect it with all their might. In the condition of forest fires in Central Kalimantan, there are several local wisdoms that women can do so that the impacts of the forest and land fires can be minimized or overcome. Like local wisdom, the Dayak Ngaju people in Central Kalimantan carry out rituals and the process of selecting and managing land as well as preparing land by burning (Hadiwijoyo et al., 2017). The impact of forest fires can be said to decrease if management and conservation policies are carried out based on management and local wisdom policies so that they are not mixed with personal and corporate interests that lead to exploitation such as plantations and even for HTI land (Industrial Plantation Forest (Salam 2017)

Safitri (2020); Ariyanto et al., 2014 said that forest fires can be minimized by using local wisdom culture in the process of selecting land, clearing it and the process of logging, and this has a limit on burning forests for land clearing which has been regulated by law with a limit of 2 ha with the aim that not much damage to land and also accompanied by firebreaks.

In Safitri's (2020) research, there were solutions for women in Pulang Pisau in terms of managing peat without burning, this process began in 2016 and was successful in 2018 so that women who work as farmers can have income without destroying the forest or when the condition of their land in the forest area was affected by fire due to local wisdom technology for using peatlands without burning. This process can also be linked to the recommended adaptation for gender as an addition to knowledge as well as the best solution so that gender in Central Kalimantan, with a large enough area of peatland, can survive and earn income in conditions caused by forest fires.

4. Conclusion

Gender capacity in dealing with the reality of forest fires can be done through adaptation strategies as well as using successful local wisdom techniques such as peat management without burning and the need for support from the government and the community regarding training and the formation of post-fire groups to increase knowledge and increase equity gender.