

A Study on Safety of Women in Charcoal Production: A Case Study in Kuala Sepetang, Perak, Malaysia

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Abstract:

Charcoal from mangrove forest is an important source of energy for domestic and industrial use in many countries. Kuala Sepetang, Perak is the largest producer of charcoal in Malaysia, with ~100 workers. In this case study, by investigation and statistic, the team came to know that women are somehow involved in this business. Basically, the role of women in charcoal production is very limited. This can be justified, because the charcoal production is very hard to work on. In reality, Malaysian female workers in charcoal processing enterprises still meet a number of difficulties especially health limitations and time for family and children. The percentage of women working in a heavy and dangerous environment is high where charcoal is produced, smoke has been released into the air almost daily resulting a very dangerous health problem to them. Therefore, some ways have been obtained by a responsible organisation from Kuala Sepetang to increase their safety in working environment.

Key words: Women, charcoal, domestic, environment, Perak.