



Disposing of rubbish carelessly is sparking disaster: Global Warming and Climate Change

JRKDem – Gombrek FM
Indonesia

According to data of the Environment Ministry, in 1995, the average person in urban areas in Indonesia produced 0.8 kg of waste every day. This amount continued to increase, up to 1 kg per person per day in 2000. It is estimated that landfill waste for each person will reach 2.1 kg per day in 2020.

One of the causes of environmental damage, which is becoming a big "homework" for the Indonesian people, is waste disposal of garbage, especially plastic waste. Especially because plastic is hazardous waste and it is difficult to organize.

It takes many years for plastics to biodegradable perfectly in the soil. In addition, if burned, the plastic waste will produce toxic fumes that are harmful to health. Plastic waste also can cause flooding, because it clogs the waterways, dikes and rivers.

One example of a region that is prone to floods and environmental pollution caused by rubbish is the village of Kamal Muara, Penjaringan subdistrict, North Jakarta. It was revealed by Mursad, a representative of neighborhood in the area. According to him, most people in the village often dispose the rubbish carelessly so that causes many clogged drains.

Insert 1 :

"When we talk about the rubbish, people here are rarely working together to clean the environment. I note they are disposing of trash too carelessly although there are disposal place. It makes the water channel clogged due to litter".

He added, when it is the rainy season, his area is always flooded because there are no drains. As a result, their activities become compromised.

Insert 2 :

"Yes..., if the rainy season (there are floods) because no drains there. People's activities are disturbed. Because the waterways are clogged so the water does not flow into the river and to the water pump".

Besides it, because of the flooding and waste bins, the water wells in his area are dirty and can't be used for daily activities.

Insert 3 :

"Yes, there is lot of impact. It was (affected) because the water is mixed with dirt. The well water is black and it can not (be used) to wash plates and shower is difficult "

Meanwhile, Mr. Irfan, the leader of the village, (organized) a discussion organization in the village of Kamal Muara where a lot of waste is dumped carelessly because of the loss of clean culture and of the culture of mutual help (gotong royong) in the community.

Insert 4 :

"Actually, when you talk about the garbage problem, we (look) back to ourselves, to each other. In the past time of our parents, we never saw rubbish scattered but, in this time, the culture as it was has gone so we see a lot of the rubbish everywhere. Moreover, our sense of mutual help (gotong royong) was lost and all of the kind. At least when there is voluntary work (to clean the environment) it was never followed by a lot of people".

Furthermore he said the lack of public awareness to maintain the cleanliness of the environment coupled with the lack of cleanliness facilities are major factors of rubbish not being managed properly in his village.

Insert 5 :

"Concern for the environmental conditions, which have already started to disappear, moreover many people do not care that cleanliness facilities are inadequate. The rubbish facilities are lacking. But actually, it cannot be said to be an inhibiting factor for maintaining the cleanliness of environment as long as the person is aware that hygiene is a collective responsibility and it is part of the faith. That cannot be realized yet so that we see a lot of the rubbish, whether it is household waste and all kind of stuff".

Rubbish that is disposed carelessly is not only a cause of odors and also one of the causes of flooding but, also, it has impacts on the health of surrounding communities, such as those served by Indo Daeng, one of the women cadres of PKK (the coaching of family welfare) in the Kamal Muara village.

Insert 6 :

"Children are sometimes affected by fever, cough, runny nose because their house is flooded with water. So, they have diarrhea as well. The legs of mothers are affected by water fleas because rainwater is rather hard, not like saltwater. Every week, an average of five kids per neighborhoods (RT)... Every week, they are exposed to cold cough. Usually, they went to the community health center so if I happened to mention my treatment, I often meet them".

He added that, when the rainy season come the Rob flood occurred in his region almost twice every month and most of the peoples' houses were flooded.

Insert 7 :

"If the average of Rob water is twice a month, it means that, in our region, there are still many houses that are flooded when the Rob season is like this. Especially if it is in the RT.4, there are no exits or way to dispose, so the water can enter but it can't get out".

Associated with the impact of the rubbish on health, Renee Picasso Manoppo of Disaster Management Consultant and former program manager for climate change at the Diakonie

Katastrophenhilfe - Indonesia said that the rubbish which is disposed carelessly can cause various kinds of germs, diseases and air pollution.

Insert 8 :

“The rubbish that certainly contributes to air pollution due to odor and all sorts... It will impact on health moreover with global warming like this. The diseases which are caused by the heat, they will grow faster”.

According to him, the rubbish burning, which is done by the community in bulk and continuously, can cause greenhouse gas effects which would then lead to global warming.

Insert 9 :

“The rubbish is piled up so much that people will tend to burn it. If the burning is done by almost all societies, especially the plastic rubbish, eventually it will have an impact on our atmosphere. The atmosphere that is dense, that affects the release of the energy of sunlight, is coming into the earth to be reflected back to space. So when the dense of atmosphere due to the fumes from factories and waste incineration on a large scale, then the atmosphere becomes denser. If our atmosphere becomes dense, the energy released by the earth back into space will not lose everything and will return to the earth. That is the greenhouse gas effect, eventually triggering the global warming”.

Furthermore, he explained, when the effects of greenhouse gases increased and the global warming occur, it will make the climate change occur and rising sea surface temperatures that can eliminate several islands in Indonesia.

Insert 10 :

“So, if the increased greenhouse gases means the heat gets hotter and hotter, it will disrupt the process of our seasons. It will be shifted because at the time in some places there will be heavy rain while other places there will be drought because the heat has been uneven as it used. If the global warming occur as a result of the climate change, the rising temperature of sea water resulting in melting ice in some places in the south pole, the ice in the south polar will melt so (it will) increase in the sea level, then there are some islands (that will be) lost and the coastline will change. In some areas on the coast, now seawater has entered into (flooded). In Indonesia already, about 22 islands have been lost”.

Therefore, according to him, the community should immediately stop burning the rubbish and plant trees to reduce the global warming.

Insert 11:

“The easiest for us to do is to plant trees or reforestation. It is very effective. The barren forest was replanted. Due to the forest, air pollution that occurred is filtered and therefore Indonesia is said to be one of the lungs of the world because it filter the pollution from developed countries. If our forests disappears then it will bigger impact. The most effective (thing) to do is reforestation and reduced the use of plastic bags is also most important, while the government should be thinking of effective ways to recycle the rubbish”.

This feature is presented by the Community Radio Network for Democracy (JRKDem) and with cooperation with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

I'm Noor Chasanah conveying to you.

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