

Women's Leadership in Addressing Chemicals and Waste Issues

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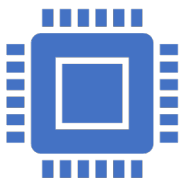




IPEN's gender case study

- Through SHARPS activities, I became aware of the problem of industrial accidents and realized the importance of preventive activities.
- I became interested in the local community and environmental pollution issues as I realized the consequences of POSCO's activities in my hometown.
- Having been pregnant and giving birth during SHARPS, I became more interested in children's health issues.
- Currently interested in the issue of women workers in the semiconductor and electronics industry

Risks for Women in Semiconductors and Electronics Industry



The semiconductor industry is not a clean and transparent industry: the risks involved are unknown



Semiconductor factories use 1000s of chemicals, 25% of which are CMRs



In a patriarchal and hierarchical workplace, discrimination based on the job title is commonplace
ex) Men: Engineers vs. Women: Operators



Lack of training on chemical hazards is common among female victims of Samsung's occupational diseases



Women's bodies are more vulnerable to exposure to carcinogens



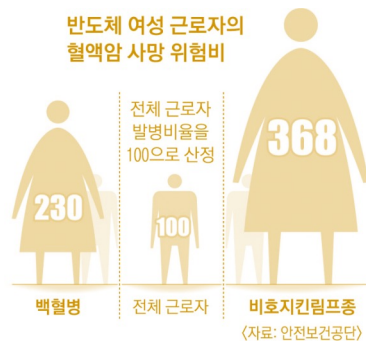
Companies, bosses, and coworkers don't listen and therefore, are not willing to make changes.

**Health & safety of women workers:
reproductive toxicity issues and
occupational diseases of workers' children**

- Semiconductor workers and whistleblowers are mostly women in their 20s and 30s
- Breast cancer, ovarian cancer, menstrual irregularities, miscarriage, infertility, etc.
- A worker's sick child raises the possibility of the recognition of occupational diseases for children



Hazard ratios for blood cancer deaths among female semiconductor workers



Leukemia/all workers/Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma



Trends in the prevalence of congenital malformations in the children of Samsung Electronics Hynix semiconductor workers at age 0

- A civil society study based on data from the National Health Insurance Service(2008-2012) found that women working in electronics and semiconductors have a significantly higher rate of miscarriage and infertility than women in the general workforce. (2013)

-Risk of spontaneous abortion up to '1.8 times'...

Risk of menstrual abnormalities up to '1.4 times'

- May 22, 2019, OSHA concludes 'semiconductor work environment likely contributed to blood cancer' in 10-year epidemiological study

- Female semiconductor workers have a higher risk of dying from blood cancer than all workers, according to study



Park Min-sook worked for seven years at a Samsung semiconductor plant. She later suffered infertility and a miscarriage, and then was diagnosed with breast cancer. *Photographer: Anastasia Taylor-Lind for Bloomberg Businessweek*

South Korea is 20 years behind the U.S.

on reproductive health issues and management of reproductive toxicants.

- The U.S. banned the use of ethylene glycol ethers (EGEs) in the semiconductor industry as early as the 90s due to their known reproductive toxicity, including infertility.
- Samsung Electronics announced on Nov. 2014 that it does not use ethylene glycol ethers (EGEs) in its semiconductor production process.

Reproductive toxicity and harm to children's health as a result of workplace exposure has been largely unrecognized until now in Korea.



**Kim Min joon (18)
was born with one
kidney missing**



Park Soobin (14) was also born with a kidney missing



**Lee Joohyo (23)
suffered from
"inborn colorectal disease"**



We urge proper revision of the workers' compensation system!



**Recognize fetal damage as occupational disease!
We urge proper revision of the workers' compensation system!**



SHARPS held press conferences, seminars and discussions

Make the problem visible

SHARPS will publish a book of interviews in 2022 about women workers' health rights and the health impacts on their children.

Contains interviews with victims and the experiences and concerns of expert activists

Aims to look at the issues of reproductive toxicity and second-generation occupational diseases from various perspectives, including gender perspectives and structural issues.

Ebook to be published soon



Thank you for listening



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