

ABSTRACT

Kapok or Randu is a tropical plant that is easy to find in Indonesia that has a slick character, oily, has a short fiber and is resistant to water. The resulting fibers have the same color of fibers, shapes and textures as cotton, but cotton fibers are less suitable to be processed into yarns and fabrics in the fashion industry because they require large amounts of composite materials and machines in large industrial or bulk scale in the production process. This also occurs in the paper industry, where the kapok fiber is only a mixture of wood materials in the paper making process. Until now the function of fiber kapok only as raw material filler interior products like mattress, pillow and bolsters. Even in textile the development of kapok fiber is still limited to sheet fabric with weaving techniques. Therefore, this study aims to utilize and develop kapok fiber into paper raw materials with felting and pulp techniques. Felting and pulp technique in the process of making kapok paper is done after proving that the processing of kapok fiber as textile by spinning technique on kapok fiber manually and with spindle drop spinning tool did not succeed. In exploration by the felting technique and fiber pulp fiber shows the potential of fiber into paper after going through the hot-pressing stage with various formula variables. Data collection methods conducted both qualitatively and quantitatively include methods of observation, interviews, literature and experiments.

Keywords: *felting, fiber, kapok, paper, pulp.*