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The Important Role of Village Government in Accelerating Stunting Prevention

Yunita Intan Hapsari^{1*}, Agus Sholahuddin¹, Budhy Prianto¹¹University of Merdeka Malang

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Abstract: Development basically doesn't just talk about infrastructure, but development talks about how to develop people. Stunting is one of the problems in human resource development in Indonesia (Ministry of Health, 2017). This research aims to describe and analyze implementing policies for accelerating Integrated Stunting Prevention in the Pakel District and supporting and inhibiting factors. This research uses a qualitative approach with procedures that can produce descriptive research data. The research location is in Sukoanyar and Suwaluh villages, Pakel District, Tulungagung Regency, using interview data collection techniques, document data and observation. The data analysis technique in this research uses the interactive data analysis technique model from Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014). The result of this research is that the accelerated implementation of integrated stunting prevention shows the role of the village government in carrying out convergence in program budget planning and village development activities to support stunting prevention. Government commitment regarding acceleration of stunting prevention. The Suwaluh and Sukoanyar Village governments have implemented Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning the acceleration of integrated stunting prevention by directions for the village government in its implementation. Factors that influence the role of village government in accelerating stunting prevention in Pakel District include supporting factors, including communication, resources and bureaucratic structure. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include education and social and economic aspects.

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Stunting, Role of Village Government, Integrated.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Development does not just talk about infrastructure, but development talks about how to develop people. Stunting is one of the problems in Indonesia's human resource development (Ministry of Health, 2017). A public health problem is considered severe if the number of stunting is 30–39% and severe if the number of stunting is $\geq 40\%$ (WHO, 2013). Stunting describes the status of chronic malnutrition in society during the growth and development period from the beginning of life. UNICEF in 2013 noted that around 1 in 4 children under five in the world experienced stunting (Unicef, 2013). Riskesdas's results regarding stunting rates found that 37.2% of children under five in Indonesia were stunted, with details of 17.9% of children being short and 19.3% being concise (Riskesdas, 2018). Research shows that children who experience stunting during toddlerhood risk having low cognitive levels,

poor learning and psychosocial achievement (Diaz *et al.*, CC, Tonani R, Contente MMMG, Vicente SA de F, 2015). The impact of stunting can last a lifetime and can affect the next generation (Unicef, WHO, 2020).

Indonesia's Vision 2020-2024 focuses on developing human resources (HR), a dimstart in developing the health sector. Priority programs in the health sector include maternal and toddler/child health. So far, the government's approach to overcoming the stunting problem is quite reasonable, as evidenced by various steps to deal with three stunting problems (Ipan, Purnamasari H, 2021). The government hopes that every regional government can implement the five pillars of reducing and preventing stunting from the provincial to the village level (Media Indonesia, 2019). The first pillar is leadership commitment and vision. The second pillar is a national campaign and behavior change

communication. The third pillar in this government's priority program is converging central, regional and village programs. The fourth pillar, a strategy to accelerate and prevent stunting rates, is food and nutrition security. The fifth pillar is monitoring and evaluation.

The third pillar in this government's priority program is converging central, regional and village programs. Therefore, the implementation of village government is inseparable from the implementation of regional autonomy. Village government is the leading unit (spearhead) in service to the community and a strategic spearhead for the success of all programs. The active participation of all community members is very much needed to ensure the sustainability and success of accelerating stunting prevention in an area, for example, through Posyandu.

The government faces various problems in its efforts to improve the public's health status, so stunting rates in the region have decreased because of its limited ability to provide operational costs for health services. To help the central government reduce the high status of stunting currently occurring in our country, we can start from the villages in our country. Often, problems like this are difficult to overcome in villages because it is difficult for the central government to reach them. Apart from that, the existing infrastructure in the village usually needs to be improved. The location or location of the village is one of the factors inhibiting the government from monitoring the situation in the village.

Bappeda Tulungagung Regency, based on the August 2022 Weighing Month, there are 2,214 toddlers with a stunting prevalence of 4.25% spread across 20 villages spread across 13 sub-districts. This number places Tulungagung Regency in 18th place in East Java. Five sub-districts with the highest prevalence of stunting cases are Responsgunung, Sendang, Ngunut, Pagerwojo and Pakel sub-districts. In 2023, the party determined 20 villages in 13 sub-districts to be the locus for handling stunting; this year, the party added 20 more villages to become the locus for handling stunting in 2024. The villages in question are Sukoanyar village and Suwaluh village in Pakel District. According to the SSGI survey team, stunting cases in Tulungagung Regency increased from 13.10% to 17.30%, caused by less-than-optimal visits by toddlers to the Integrated Healthcare Center for measurements and weighing.

The high number of cases in DEsa Sukoanyar and Suwaluh Villages is in line with the Decree of the Regent of Tulungagung Concerning Priority Villages for Stunting Prevention and Management as well as Specific and Sensitive Nutritional Interventions in Tulungagung Regency that Sukoanyar and Suwaloh Villages are included in the list of priority villages to reduce stunting rates in Tulungagung Regency in 2023. Based on cases that appeared in Tulungagung Regency, which made

researchers interested in researching stunting in Tulungagung Regency.

This research aims to describe and analyze the implementation of policies for Accelerating Integrated Stunting Prevention in the Pakel District along with supporting and inhibiting factors. The benefits of this research are expected to contribute to the development of public administration science, providing an overview of the role of village government in accelerating stunting prevention in Tulungagung Regency, being able to provide an overview and insight for the government and stakeholders who play a direct role in the role of village government in accelerating stunting prevention in Tulungagung Regency.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Stunting is an increasingly common problem in developing countries, including Indonesia. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), one in three children is stunted. Around 40% of children in rural areas experience stunted growth (Hasandi *et al.*, 2019). The consequences of stunting can be short-term and long-term, including increased morbidity and mortality, poor child development and affected learning abilities, increased risk of infection and non-communicable diseases in adulthood, and reduced productivity (Beal *et al.*, 2018).

The principles of implementing regional autonomy are democratization and justice, paying attention to regional potential and diversity, compatibility between central and regional relations, and increasing regional independence by placing broad and complete regional autonomy in districts or cities. The policy is limited to provincial areas, and provincial areas and villages are placed on recognizing genuine autonomy. Thus, there has been a paradigm shift in village government settings, especially in terms of authority. It is understood that the central and regional governments no longer intervene directly but provide guidance, training or learning. Strong and independent village government conditions can be created in the context of empowering village governments.

The impact of stunting on children will be seen in the short and long term. In the short term, it impacts physical growth, namely that the child's height is below the average for his age. Apart from that, it also impacts PECognitive development because disruption of brain development can reduce children's intelligence. Meanwhile, in the long term, stunting will cause children to become vulnerable to diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, blood vessels, cancer, stroke and disability in old age. Specific Nutrition Interventions are interventions aimed at children in the First 1000 Days of Life (HPK), generally carried out by the health sector and are short-term in nature. KegiSensitive nutrition interventions include providing and ensuring access to clean water, Providing and ensuring access to sanitation,

Fortifying food, and Providing access to health and extended family services.

The term government comes from the word "Order," which means ordering something to be done, so it can be said that the government is the power that governs a country or the highest body that governs a country, such as the cabinet is a government. Government is defined as actions (methods, things, affairs). The government is all state apparatus/equipment to carry out all duties and authority/power of the state, including legislative, executive and judicial powers (Akhyar *et al.*, 2020; Farada Yoga, Sadana and Prianto, 2023).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

The research approach used in this research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. Descriptive research is intended to describe a factual situation or area of a particular population systematically and accurately.

3.2 Research Location

The research will be conducted in Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village, Pakel District, Tulungagung Regency.

3.4 Research Informants

This research uses purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques. The researcher feels that the sample taken knows the most about the problem to be researched, making it easier for the researcher to explore the object/social situation being studied. This is because the small number of data sources still need to be able to provide data as a data source. The researchers used seven informants.

3.4 Data Types and Sources

In this research, researchers used primary data and secondary data. Primary data was collected through interviews and observations. Secondary data in this research was obtained through official documents, notes, and reports on convergence action exposure materials, which contain an analysis of the stunting situation in Tulungagung district and statutory regulations that can provide information and support regarding the role of the village government in accelerating stunting prevention in Pakel district. Data sources in this research are events, informants, and documents.

3.5 Data Collection Procedures

The data collection technique used by the researcher is a semi-structured interview where the researcher uses a series of complete and detailed questions, also known as an interview guide, to obtain research objectives. Observations on the collaborative relationship between the Tulungagung Regency government and the private sector in developing tourism potential as well as documentation studies by focusing

on collecting data through data and archives from the Tulungagung Regency Health Service, as well as a collection of books that are relevant and several collections of articles in print and media. From the Internet.

3.6 Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

The author used interview, observation and documentation techniques to collect data and information. Data were analyzed using the theoretical concepts of Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014), namely data collection, data condensation, data presentation, drawing conclusions and verification.

4. RESEARCH RESULT

Based on the interview results, Tulungagung Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention as a guide for village or sub-district governments in planning and implementing various activities that can support reducing stunting in their respective regions. As a convergence action to accelerate stunting prevention, such as situation analysis of stunting reduction programs, preparation of activity plans, stunting consultations, development of human development cadres, stunting data management systems, stunting measurement and publication, and annual work reviews.

Efforts to prevent and reduce stunting are the duty and responsibility of all levels of the Tulungagung Regency Government under the auspices of the relevant agencies, the village government, and the community in stages. Therefore, researchers have researched implementing Tulungagung Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention and Reducing stunting in an integrated manner by the research subjects and settings that the researchers determined in the previous chapter.

Reducing stunting is the focus of the Pakel District Government's tasks, where generally, all tasks or targets to be achieved have been stated in the Village Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMDes). Researchers conducted research and observed the RPJMDes in two villages, namely Suwaluh and Sukoanyar, where the research took place. The result is that efforts to prevent and reduce stunting are included in the RPJMDes.

The implementation of Tulungagung Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention is by the substance contained therein. Every village or sub-district has implemented Stunting Prevention Convergence (KPS) activities per Articles 5,6,7,8 and 15. In addition, each village or sub-district has established a Human Development Cadre (KPM), formed a Healthy Village House (RDS), and established a Village Stunting Prevention Acceleration Team by Article 9 of the Tulungagung Regent's Regulation. The results of the

researchers' research regarding this matter stated that Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village, Pakel District, had correctly implemented the orders and directions in the Tulungagung Regent's Regulations.

The high number of cases in Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village is in line with Regional Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Specific and Sensitive Nutrition Interventions in Tulungagung Regency, which states that Suwaluh and Sukoanyar Villages are included in the list of priority villages to reduce stunting rates in Tulungagung Regency in 2019. 2024. Apart from that, the government's response was also shown to be followed by strengthening the role of village governments as in Regent Regulation 52 of 2019 concerning the Role of Villages in Integrated Stunting Prevention and Reduction Efforts. This is to provide legal certainty for the Village Government in implementing programs for integrated stunting management.

The role of the village government is to accelerate integrated stunting prevention interventions at the village level by implementing budget policies in the Village APBD, including Village Funds based on statutory provisions. The authority of the village government to determine funding allocation priorities in the Village APBD. Researchers also interviewed people whose children were stunted by social assistance, which was included in the facilitator aspect from the local village government, and said that once every 3 months, they received milk and biscuits, and from the Integrated Healthcare Center, they were also given processed food.

The community revealed that assistance from the village government was more about providing additional food (PMT) for children experiencing stunting and pregnant women experiencing complaints. Six-packs of weight-increasing milk are given every three months and directly to people whose children are stunted. It was also concluded that other assistance apart from providing additional food was food raw materials such as chicken and eggs obtained from APBN funds, and there was the Gemarikan program (Gemar to Promote Fish Eating), which encouraged people to consume and process fish into a variety of foods. Over time, children who are stunted experience weight gain and indications of stunting such as BGM (Below *et al.*) and BGT (Midline Weight) weight increase to normal.

The supporting factor for the communication pattern formed is health education delivered via Instagram social media developments. The Village Government complies with applicable regulations, including providing advice and support to its residents. The Human Resources (HR) owned by Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village are very diverse: Posyandu Cadres, Village Midwives, Community Health Centers and the Tulungagung District Health Service. The flow

of the organizing system starts from the district scope. There is the Tulungagung District Health Service, then down to the community health center in each sub-district area as the long arm of the DKK, then down again to the village area where there are village midwives. The plot is like the description.

The inhibiting factor, namely the education factor, is essential in planning future offspring. Choosing an equally educated partner also influences good parenting patterns for children. However, many people need the opportunity to achieve the highest level of education. Maternal education is the basis for achieving good child nutrition. The mother's education level is related to the mother's ease in receiving information about nutrition and health from outside. The education level of lower economic families is mainly in the low category; this is due to the economic limitations they experience, so they are unable to continue their education at a higher level.

Apart from that, parents' role significantly contributes to children's nutrition, especially their children who are stunted. This is because parents are a child's first family and where the child grows and develops by fulfilling his nutritional needs. The level of parental education can influence stunting; this may be influenced by each parent's ability to obtain information. Information can be accessed through formal education, such as school, and non-formal education, from media, such as the Internet, TV, radio, etc.

From the interview above, it can be concluded that the level of parental education influences stunting, which will be connected to parenting patterns and appropriate treatment for the child. Mothers with a higher level of education will more quickly receive information from outside, compared to mothers with a lower level of education, so the low level of parental education is one of the factors of stunting in Pakel District.

The people of Pakel District generally make their living as farmers. The income generated must be shared equally to meet basic needs such as clothing and food. Family income affects a person's ability to get food, affecting children's nutrition. Poverty is one of the things that can stunt toddlers. Based on 2019 BPS data, the majority of stunted children come from families that are classified as poor.

The existence of poverty means that families cannot provide sufficient quality and quantity in providing nutrition to toddlers. Families with middle to lower socio-economic status have limited ability to obtain a variety of foods, so they are at risk of consuming food with insufficient nutrients. Inadequate food security in families can result in nutritional problems in children, such as stunting. Apart from income factors from socio-

economic aspects that cause stunting, parenting patterns are also related to children's growth and development.

Access to information obtained by society from various sources will influence a person's parenting behavior. If people still have difficulty accessing health information, especially regarding stunting, they will be at risk of experiencing poor parenting patterns compared to people who can easily access information. The knowledge gained will also be different, and its daily implementation will be different. For example, people who quickly get information about stunting, such as the factors that cause it or how to prevent it, will be responsive in providing good parenting patterns. In contrast to people who find it difficult to get information because of their lack of knowledge, the parenting style is limited according to their abilities because inappropriate parenting habits can result in poor cognitive and motor development in children.

The conclusion from the three sources interviewed regarding the role of the Village Government in preventing stunting is that the socio-economic aspect can be viewed from an economic perspective, namely income. Erratic family income risks not providing optimal nutrition for children who experience stunting. They are limited in purchasing food that meets their nutritional needs, so food security for children comes from earning enough to eat without supplementing nutrition. Meanwhile, from a social perspective, namely child-rearing patterns.

5. RESEARCH DISCUSSION

The main problem of stunting is that the truth is that the problem of chronic malnutrition is caused by inadequate nutritional intake from pregnancy to the first 1,000 days of life, causing children's physical growth to be shorter than children their age, which also has an impact on the growth of brain tissue, which ultimately affects the quality of resources when they grow up.

Stunting in children must be a concern and be watched out for. This condition can indicate that the child's nutrition is not adequately met. If left untreated, stunting can have long-term impacts on children. Children experience obstacles to physical growth, and inadequate nutrition also affects the strength of the child's immune system and brain development. As stated by previous researchers, the connection between handling and the government's efforts to address problems that arise in society is that the attitude taken by the government must be able to overcome or control an existing problem. So, handling carried out by the government can be interpreted as an action taken by the government to solve problems currently occurring in people's lives. This treatment can be government services for public needs or improving public services.

The government's role is to prepare a direction to balance the implementation of the village

government's role in stunting through the issuance of regulations. As a regulator, the government provides a basis for the community as an instrument to regulate all activities of the village government's role in accelerating stunting prevention. Stunting cannot only be handled by the family or the government alone. Support and cooperation from all parties are needed to resolve stunting adequately. However, it is essential to remember that in the process of handling stunting, the government and society will always be in contact; for this reason, a good relationship is needed between the government and society in a joint effort to deal with stunting. It should be noted that the problems faced are about more than just stunting. After stunting is finished, we can be sure that there will be many problems waiting to be resolved; of course, the government and society will bring the government and society together again, and for this reason, both government and society need to maintain good relations.

The government's role as a facilitator is a group of people who have a common goal and help make plans to achieve that goal. In addition, a facilitator is a process guide, making a process more accessible or more confident to use. Meanwhile, facilities are anything that can facilitate and expedite the implementation of a business, which can be in the form of objects. The government's role as a facilitator is to create conducive conditions for the implementation of development to bridge various community interests in optimizing regional and village development. To see the role of the village government as a facilitator in the village government's handling of stunting, the author describes the sub-indicator as facilitating activities related to the role of the village government.

Factors that support the implementation of handling stunting in Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village include communication media in providing outreach on programs and counseling regarding stunting in the form of stunting consultations which are attended by the village head, village midwife, stunting acceleration team, agencies that are integrated in communication, which is formed in the form of health education delivered via social media Instagram by current developments. The village government applies communication patterns to the community in socializing efforts to reduce and prevent stunting. News published on the internet, Instagram, and social media is easy to reach, and there is counseling for residents through Posyandu. The direct role of the community in the stunting management program is an essential key to the program's success. Primarily awareness of the importance of fulfilling nutrition and maintaining a clean environment.

The role of village government is limited to providing health knowledge to village communities so that village communities can become aware of it themselves. Rather than directing village communities to

implement stunting management programs, the village government is expected to provide public services related to stunting management per one of the NPS indicators, Serve rather Than Steering. For example, the village government holds classes for pregnant women and nutrition for the village community so that the community understands the importance of maintaining the nutritional health of pregnant women and toddlers.

In the role of village government in handling stunting, even though the implementers feel they know what and how to do it, have the desire to carry it out and have sufficient resources, implementation still fails if the existing bureaucratic structure hinders the coordination needed to implement the policy. Complex policies require the cooperation of many people, and waste of resources has the potential to affect individuals and, in general, will affect the results of implementation. The changes will undoubtedly affect individuals and, in general, the system in the bureaucracy. Based on the results of this research regarding the Bureaucratic Structure obtained from informants, most informants revealed that the Bureaucratic Structure in the Community Health Center area is excellent and ideal. It remains to be seen how all sectors are prioritized in tackling stunting.

Factors that hinder the implementation of stunting management in Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village include getting married at a young age, which is considered normal, especially if it relates to trusted beliefs and customs. However, it is miserable that, without realizing it, this is one of the factors that causes children to be born stunted, especially if the mother has a low level of education. One of the village government's efforts is to be present as a community servant who provides information regarding stunting and nutrition for pregnant women and children. Serve rather than steering, which is an indicator of NPS, experiences obstacles in its implementation because the community is reluctant to accept advice from the government, even if it is for the common good, so sometimes the government turns around and becomes a controller for the community. This is, of course, an obstacle for the government to provide good public services, so apart from the skills of the village government, awareness is also needed from the community itself.

The social aspect is the relationship with society, the ability to interact with society and the target of contributing to fellow citizens. Social life is significant, so life becomes more meaningful and enjoyable. We cannot live without interaction with the environment and fellow humans. In achieving the fulfillment of aspects of social interests, paying attention to achieving balance in life is essential.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions from this research are based on the results and discussion of the research that has been

presented, namely regarding the government's commitment to accelerating stunting prevention. Suwaluh Village and Sukoanyar Village governments have implemented Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019 concerning accelerating integrated stunting prevention according to the village government's instructions. Regarding facilities, the role of the village government, as stated in Regent Regulation Number 52 of 2019, is the budget policy, which includes village funds, such as the village government distributing additional food. Factors that influence the role of village government in accelerating stunting prevention in Pakel District include supporting factors, including Communication, Resources and Bureaucratic Structure. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include Education and Social and Economic Aspects.

Suggestions that researchers can give in the future to relevant village governments, especially villages that are particular locations perAccelerate stunting prevention so that we continue to strive to reduce the incidence of stunting in babies and toddlers while at the same time trying to provide understanding to the community from adolescence to maintain a healthy lifestyle and healthy food management, as well as knowledge about parenting patterns so that the community can actively participate in stunting management programs. Screening of prospective brides and pregnant women to carry out routine checks at the nearest health facility. The public can increase knowledge about reducing stunting in toddlers, healthy lifestyles and healthy food management through health education, the internet, books and other information media.

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