

Original Article

Implementation of Accelerated Stunting Reduction at the Biromaru Public Health Center, Sigi Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the implementation of stunting reduction policies at the Biromaru Public Health Center, Sigi Regency, a conceptual model using Edward III's theory from the aspects of Communication, Resources, Disposition, and Organizational Structure. The research method used is qualitative research, namely observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Based on the study results, it can be concluded that the stunting reduction policy implementation at the Biromaru Public Health Center in Sigi Regency has not run optimally. This is evident from the inadequate implementation of the aspects of Communication, Resources, Disposition, and Organizational Structure. Several obstacles hinder the implementation of stunting reduction policies. The resources at the Biromaru Health Center in Sigi Regency are lacking, especially in terms of facilities like scales and height measuring devices. Not all posyandu centers receive these resources due to budget limitations, which vary by village. This affects the optimal implementation of the policy. Regarding the Organizational Structure and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), while they have not yet been established, all officers maintain a good working relationship, as confirmed through interviews showing their collaborative efforts in the program.

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Stunting Decrease

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INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a critical nutrition issue globally, with developing countries like Indonesia facing a significant challenge. The severity of the problem lies in its associations with an increased risk of disease, higher mortality rates, diminished physical resilience, lower cognitive capabilities, reduced productivity, and suboptimal brain development, leading to delays in motor and mental growth. To comprehensively understand the root causes, conduct a detailed analysis, and explore potential solutions, we must consider

several key factors¹.

Several factors cause children under five to experience stunting as written by ². Stunting in children under five is a consequence of several factors often associated with poverty, including nutrition, health, sanitation, and the environment. Five main factors cause stunting, namely poverty, social and cultural, increased exposure to infectious diseases, food insecurity, and community access to health services. Factors associated with chronic nutritional status in children under five are not the same between urban and rural areas, so efforts must be tailored to the influencing factors.

Nutrition is a very complex and important issue to address in Indonesia. Especially since Indonesia is one of the countries with the most complete nutrition problems. Several studies mention that nutrition problems in Indonesia tend to continue to increase, not comparable to some other ASEAN countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. One of the nutritional problems in Indonesia that is still problematic today is stunting³. From the data on the nutritional status of the Sigi District Health Office in August 2021, there were 16.7% of stunted children.

stunting cases, for the Puskesmas working area in Sigi Regency which has the highest stunting rate, is in the Biromaru Puskesmas working area where there are 377 (20.9%) cases of stunting toddlers in 2021, and the lowest cases of stunting toddlers are in the Lindu Puskesmas working area where there are only 18 (4.2%) cases of stunting toddlers⁴.

Stunting prevalence data from the work area of the public health center that has the highest stunting in Sigi Regency, namely Biromaru, recorded that in 2019 there were 488 cases of stunted toddlers, in 2020 there were 474 cases of stunted toddlers, and in 2021 there were 308 stunted toddlers recorded in the Biromaru health center work area⁵.

As a form of commitment to accelerate stunting reduction, the government has issued Presidential Regulation (*Perpres*) Number 42 of 2013 concerning the National Movement for the Acceleration of Nutrition Improvement, but this regulation has not been able to accommodate efforts to accelerate stunting reduction effectively so that it was replaced, Presidential Regulation (*Perpres*) Number 72 of 2021 concerning acceleration of stunting reduction. This regulation is to strengthen the framework of interventions that must be carried out and institutions in the implementation of accelerated stunting reduction.

To effectively address the issue of stunting in Sigi Regency, it is imperative to strengthen the analysis of the implementation of the Presidential Regulation, which necessitates the formulation of a corresponding District Regulation (*Perbup*). In this case, District Regulation Number 14 of 2020, specifically focusing on the acceleration of stunting reduction, serves as a critical instrument. This *Perbup* mandates the active participation of various cross-sectoral entities in the stunting

reduction acceleration program. A robust analysis of this situation reveals several key points: The existence of a District Regulation (*Perbup*) aligned with the Presidential Regulation underscores the importance of a well-structured legal framework in addressing the issue of stunting. It provides the necessary legal authority for implementing measures at the regional level. The involvement of cross-sectoral entities is a vital component of an effective stunting reduction program. By engaging multiple sectors such as healthcare, nutrition, education, and social welfare, it acknowledges the multifaceted nature of the problem and the need for a coordinated approach.

Additionally, this approach highlights the following: the presence of District Regulation Number 14 of 2020 indicates a commitment to consistency and alignment with national policies. This ensures that regional efforts are in harmony with broader national objectives in addressing stunting, fostering a unified approach to the problem. District regulations allow for tailoring solutions to the specific needs and challenges of Sigi Regency. This reflects an understanding of the unique local context and enables the development of targeted interventions to combat stunting effectively. The involvement of multiple sectors in the acceleration program necessitates a robust accountability and monitoring system. An in-depth analysis should focus on how the local government tracks progress, ensures compliance, and measures the impact of the program to adapt and improve interventions over time. Such an analysis serves as a crucial foundation for effective policy implementation and ultimately achieving meaningful reductions in stunting rates.

This study aims to determine the implementation of a stunting reduction policy implementation at Biromaru Health Center, Sigi Regency conceptual model using Edward III theory from aspects: Communication, Resources, Disposition, and Organizational Structure.

METHOD

The type of research used is qualitative research, namely observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Qualitative research is research that seeks to find theories derived from data. Therefore, the theory used in the research is very influential. Whether

starting from the discovery of the phenomenon to the conclusion of the research.

RESULTS

Communication

Communication is the process of interaction between humans and humans and also between humans and the environment, two or more individuals influence each other's ideas, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes.

Based on field research at the Biromaru Health Center, Sigi Regency, communication on the guidelines for implementing the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program have been carried out well and have been consistent with making information and motivation for early prevention of stunting problems such as educational counseling on exclusive breastfeeding, nutrition counseling, counseling on the 5 Pillars of STBM, for pregnant women and parents of stunted toddlers, as well as to adolescent girls there is educational counseling and provision of ve from the Biromaru Health Center, which is to ensure public health and prevent children at risk of stunting. Factors that influence the implementation of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program are when they directly intervene in problems in the field such as conducting counseling to educate the community and the communication is carried out repeatedly by the Biromaru Puskesmas so that it will make the community understand more about stunting.

As observed in the field research conducted at the Biromaru Health Center in Sigi Regency, this concept of communication holds true in the context of implementing the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program ⁶. The research findings affirm that effective communication has been integral to the success of the program. It has been consistently employed to provide information and motivation for the early prevention of stunting, addressing issues such as exclusive breastfeeding, nutrition, and the "5 Pillars of STBM." This comprehensive approach encompasses educational counseling for pregnant women, parents of stunted toddlers, and adolescent girls, ensuring that the community receives the necessary guidance and support from the Biromaru Health Center. The repeated communication efforts by the Biromaru Puskesmas team have played a significant role in enhancing community

understanding of stunting-related matters. Such communication practices align with established theories of communication as a process of interaction and influence among individuals⁷.

Resources

Resources are an important factor for effective program implementation, without resources, programs or policies are just paper or documents. In the context of public policy, resources have a very decisive role, because with adequate and quality resources the policy will be communicated to the target recipients of the policy as well.

In the research found in the field, the resources that have been given to the target community, seen from Human Resources (HR) are quite adequate, the number of personnel is sufficient, marked by the provision of training to cadres, but from the facilities there are still lacking such as scales and height gauges, not all posyandu get it they only give one village one tool while in each village has 45 posyandu this is because the budget is lacking and the budget depends on each village so that the Puskesmas in implementing the policy is not maximally implemented.

The research conducted at the Biromaru Health Center in Sigi Regency highlights the crucial role of resources in the effective implementation of public policies. Resources, encompassing both human and material assets, are the backbone of any program's success⁸. While the study reveals a satisfactory allocation of human resources, signified by training for cadres, it also brings to light a significant shortfall in essential material resources, specifically scales and height gauges. This scarcity is attributed to budget limitations that result in the allocation of just one set of tools for each village, despite multiple Posyandu centers within each village. The impact of this resource constraint underscores the substantial influence of resource availability and allocation on the practical execution of public policies, in line with existing scholarly literature

Disposition

Disposition or implementation attitude is needed in policy implementation, even though communication and resources to support policy implementation are good, but if policy implementation has a bad attitude, then of course policy implementation will not be effective⁹.

Meanwhile, based on the results of field research, namely at the Biromaru Community Health Center, Sigi Regency, that the disposition of the guidelines for the implementation of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program has gone well according to what is expected so that the policy has run effectively. Puskesmas Biromaru conducts online-based monitoring, namely EPPGBM, which is carried out every month through a special application from the Sigi District Health Office, and is connected to the Regent of Sigi Regency.

The field research at the Biromaru Community Health Center in Sigi Regency underscores the critical role of disposition or implementation attitude in policy execution. It is evident that even when communication and resources are well-managed, a positive disposition among those responsible for implementation is essential for effective policy execution¹⁰. In the case of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program, the research findings indicate that the disposition of the guidelines for implementation aligns with expectations and has thus contributed to the program's success. This positive disposition is exemplified by the implementation of online-based monitoring, specifically the EPPGBM, conducted monthly through a dedicated application from the Sigi District Health Office. This level of proactive implementation attitude and accountability aligns with the principles of effective policy implementation

Organization Structure

In the field research, there is an evaluation in the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program, the evaluation is carried out by the Biromaru Puskesmas nutritionist and reported at the end of each year to the Health Office through a special application. Biromaru health center in organizing the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction policy has been running well but seen from the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) they have not made it and all officers have a good relationship, as evidenced by the results of interviews that officers work together to speed up the service process.

The organizational structure in handling stunting involves cross-sectoral coordination by BAPPEDA and is led by the Regent of Sigi, for the sensitive basis of the stunting program involves BKKBN and the Health Office, from the Sigi Regency Health

Office down to the Public Health Center which is from the Head of the Public Health Center to the manager and formed Pos Centing (*cegat stunting*).

DISCUSSION

The results of the field research conducted at the Biromaru Health Center in Sigi Regency provide valuable insights into the critical factors influencing the success of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program. Effective communication has emerged as a linchpin, with consistent efforts to educate the community on stunting prevention. These efforts, encompassing exclusive breastfeeding counseling, nutrition guidance, and the promotion of the "5 Pillars of STBM," reflect the Health Center's unwavering commitment to raising awareness and understanding among the community, particularly pregnant women, parents of stunted toddlers, and adolescent girls. Additionally, the research highlights the significance of resource availability, both human and material. While human resources appear sufficient with training for cadres in place, a shortage of essential equipment, such as scales and height gauges at Posyandu centers, poses a material resource challenge. Overcoming these budget constraints and ensuring equitable distribution of necessary tools across Posyandu centers is vital for the program's success. Together, these findings underscore the essential interplay of effective communication and adequate resources in driving the Stunting Reduction Acceleration program towards its objectives.

Moreover, this study highlights the positive disposition and implementation attitude of those involved in the program. The personnel at the Biromaru Health Center exhibit a strong commitment to the program's success, as evidenced by their adoption of online-based monitoring and regular reporting of progress. This proactive approach, backed by a clear sense of responsibility and accountability, contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy implementation. The organizational structure and cross-sectoral coordination are equally vital components in addressing stunting. The involvement of various stakeholders, from the local Health Office to the Regent of Sigi, coupled with collaborative efforts with agencies like BAPPEDA and BKKBN, underscores the

comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to tackling the issue of stunting. Although there is no formal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place, the study found that strong working relationships among personnel compensate for this, with team members collaborating to expedite service delivery. In summary, the research underscores the integral role of a positive disposition, effective communication, and a well-structured organizational framework, alongside the need to address resource constraints and formalize operational procedures, for the long-term success in reducing stunting in the region

CONCLUSION

Based on the results, it can be concluded that the Implementation of the Stunting Reduction Policy at the Biromaru Health Center, Sigi Regency, is as follows. Implementing the stunting reduction policy at the Biromaru Health Center in Sigi Regency from 4 (four) aspects, namely, communication, disposition, resources, and organizational structure, has not fully run optimally.

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