

Article

The Effectiveness of The Stunting Reduction Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Baturamandi District, Balangan Regency

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Abstract: The program to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Teluk Masjid Kekematan Village, Baturamandi Regency, with phenomena that researchers can find, among others, lack of funding from villages to run the program, not optimal in running the program, and still high stunting rates. This study aims to determine the effectiveness of the program to accelerate the reduction of stunting and what factors influence the effectiveness of the program to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Teluk Mesjid Village, Baturamandi District, Balangan Regency. This study uses an approach with a descriptive research type. Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. With 10 informants. As well as the data collected, then the data is analyzed using techniques including data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Then the data credibility test includes extending observations, triangulation, negative case analysis, using reference materials and member checking. The results of the study on the Effectiveness of the Program to Accelerate the Reduction of Stunting in Teluk Mesjid Village, Baturamandi District, Balangan Regency are still ineffective, this can be seen from 10 indicators, 3 indicators that have been effective, 3 indicators that are quite effective, and 4 indicators that are less effective. Effective indicators are meeting user needs, standard operating procedures and on target. Then indicators that are quite effective are activity mechanisms, organizational policies to achieve goals, and quality of services and services. Then indicators that are less effective are the ability to carry out work programs, achieve goals, achieve program targets, and reduce stunted babies. The driving factors are organizational policies, activity mechanisms, and fulfillment of needs. Inhibiting factors are limited budgets, human resources, lack of coordination and lack of understanding of the community or parents of babies and toddlers about maintaining diet and parenting patterns. To increase the effectiveness of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Program in reducing stunting rates in Teluk Mesjid Village, Baturamandi District, Balangan Regency, it is suggested that the Head of Teluk Mesjid Village can allocate the village budget to run the program, supervise performance and provide guidance to health workers in implementing the program and pay more attention to coordination. Health workers can carry out the program optimally, can participate in cadre training, can carry out activities well, and pay more attention to coordination. For the community or parents of infants and toddlers to be able to maintain a healthy diet and parenting style and directives from cadres or midwives nutritionists to participate in health activity programs in the village.

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1. Introduction

Stunting is one of the public health issues that continues to be a challenge in human resource development in Indonesia. Stunting occurs due to chronic malnutrition over a long period, hindering the growth and development of children. The impact of stunting

not only causes physical growth disturbances but also affects cognitive development, reduces productivity, and increases the risk of degenerative diseases in adulthood [1], [2]. Therefore, addressing stunting has become one of the national development priorities as an effort to create healthy, intelligent, and productive human resources [3].

The Indonesian government has established various policies to accelerate the reduction of stunting prevalence, one of which is thru Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 on the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction [4]. The regulation defines stunting as a growth and development disorder in children due to chronic malnutrition and repeated infections, characterized by height or length below the established standards. This policy emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach thru the synergy of the central government, local governments, healthcare workers, village governments, and active community participation in efforts to prevent and address stunting [4].

The success of the stunting reduction acceleration program is greatly influenced by the effectiveness of program implementation at the regional and village levels. Various interventions such as nutrition education, fulfillment of nutritious food needs, improvement of maternal and child health services, and community empowerment require resource support, cross-sector coordination, and commitment from all stakeholders [5], [6]. The effectiveness of the program becomes an important indicator to assess the extent to which the goal of reducing stunting prevalence can be achieved according to the established targets.

In Balangan Regency, efforts to accelerate the reduction of stunting have been implemented thru various programs, including the Community Movement aimed at improving the quality of life of the community thru the application of healthy living practices, improved parenting patterns, and family nutrition fulfillment. However, based on initial observations in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, the implementation of the program still faces various obstacles. Some of the issues found include the limited village funding to support the program's implementation, the activities not being fully maximized, and the still high stunting rates in the village. These conditions indicate that the program's implementation has not fully achieved the expected goals, thus an evaluation of its effectiveness is needed [7], [8].

Research on the effectiveness of stunting reduction programs has been extensively conducted, but the results indicate that the success of the program is greatly influenced by the social conditions of the community, resource support, inter-agency coordination, and the commitment of program implementers at the local level [9], [10]. Therefore, evaluating the effectiveness of the program at the village level becomes important as a basis for formulating more targeted program improvement strategies.

Based on the description, this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the Stunting Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency, and to identify the factors that influence the effectiveness of its implementation. The research results are expected to serve as evaluation material for the local government and village government in improving the quality of the stunting reduction acceleration program implementation, so that the target of reducing stunting prevalence can be achieved sustainably.

2. Materials and Methods

This research uses a qualitative approach with the aim of understanding and deeply describing the effectiveness of the Stunting Acceleration Reduction Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency. The qualitative approach was chosen because it can provide a comprehensive picture of the program's implementation, the various obstacles encountered, and the factors influencing the program's success based on the experiences and perspectives of both the implementers and the community as the program's target [11], [12].

The type of research used is qualitative descriptive research. Descriptive research aims to systematically, factually, and accurately describe the phenomena occurring in the field. Thru this approach, the researcher strives to reveal the actual conditions related to the effectiveness of the Stunting Acceleration Reduction Program by presenting the facts obtained during the research process [11], [13].

The research was conducted in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency. The data sources in the research consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly thru interviews with informants involved in the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program, while secondary data were obtained from various documents, reports, regulations, and archives relevant to the research [11], [12]. The selection of informants was carried out using non-random sampling techniques, considering the involvement and knowledge of the informants regarding the program being studied. The number of informants in this study is 10 people, consisting of elements from the village government, health workers, posyandu cadres, and the community beneficiaries of the program.

Data collection was carried out using several techniques, namely observation, interviews, and documentation [11], [12]. Observation is used to obtain a direct picture of the program's implementation in the field. In-depth interviews are conducted with informants to obtain more detailed information regarding the program's effectiveness and the factors influencing it. Meanwhile, documentation is used to complement the research data thru various supporting documents related to the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program.

Data analysis is conducted interactively by referring to the Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña model, which includes three stages: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing[14]. Data condensation is carried out by selecting, simplifying, and focusing on data relevant to the research objectives. Next, the data is presented systematically to facilitate the researcher in understanding patterns and relationships between the data. The final stage is the continuous drawing of conclusions throughout the research process until valid findings regarding the effectiveness of the Stunting Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency are obtained.

3. Results and Discussion

The research results indicate that the effectiveness of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency has not been optimal, although some indicators have shown quite good results. The analysis was conducted based on four dimensions of program effectiveness, namely program success, satisfaction with the program, input and output levels, and overall achievement of objectives [15], [16].

In the dimension of program success, the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program has been carried out in accordance with the established mechanisms thru cooperation between village governments, posyandu cadres, and Puskesmas. The program implementers are considered to have sufficient capability in carrying out the activities, but it is not yet optimal because some of the planned programs could not be fully implemented. From the perspective of activity mechanisms, the program implementation has followed the applicable procedures, allowing for routine activities such as counseling, monitoring toddler growth, providing supplementary food, and educating parents. The program's target has also been appropriate as it is focused on infants and toddlers experiencing stunting, as well as families needing assistance in nutrition and parenting. However, the achievement of the program's objectives has not been fully successful because only part of the program could be realized, while the stunting rate in Teluk Mesjid

Village remains relatively high, so the target for reducing stunting has not been optimally achieved [7], [8], [17].

In the dimension of program satisfaction, the research results show that the needs of the beneficiaries have been met thru the provision of supplementary food every month to toddlers experiencing stunting. In addition, the services provided by healthcare workers and posyandu cadres were considered quite good thru educational activities on balanced nutrition, child-rearing practices, and the importance of toddlers' presence in posyandu activities. Health workers also actively motivate parents to regularly participate in the stunting reduction acceleration program. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the services still needs to be improved in order to encourage changes in community behavior toward maintaining health and ensuring the sustainable nutrition of toddlers [5], [18].

From the perspective of input and output levels, the implementation of the program has adhered to the applicable Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), ensuring that all activities are carried out in accordance with the technical guidelines from health institutions. However, the achievement of program targets is still not optimal because only some activities could be carried out due to limited resources and budget. This condition has impacted the suboptimal results achieved in reducing the prevalence of stunting in Teluk Mesjid Village [15], [16].

In the dimension of overall goal achievement, the research results show that the program's targets are appropriate because they are focused on infants and toddlers experiencing stunting, as well as families in need of assistance. However, the main goal of the program, which is to reduce stunting rates, has not been fully achieved. This is evident from the still high number of toddlers experiencing stunting compared to the previous year. This condition is influenced by the low understanding of some members of the community regarding nutritious eating patterns, proper child-rearing practices, and the less than optimal participation of the community in following the entire series of programs that have been organized [1], [2], [7].

In addition to analyzing the effectiveness of the program, this research also identifies the factors that influence the implementation of the Stunting Acceleration Program. The supporting factors found include the commitment of village governments and community health centers in implementing the program, well-structured implementation mechanisms, and the fulfillment of toddlers' needs thru the provision of supplementary food and regular health services. Such support becomes an important asset in maintaining the sustainability of the program and improving the quality of services to the community [5], [9], [18].

On the other hand, there are several inhibiting factors that cause the program's effectiveness to be suboptimal. Budget constraints are the main obstacle because not all programs can be implemented as planned. In addition, the number of healthcare workers, especially nutritionists, is still limited, so the implementation of assistance has not yet reached all targets optimally. Another obstacle is the coordination between the village government, health cadres, and the community health center, which still needs to be strengthened to make the program implementation more integrated [18], [19]. The low awareness of the community regarding the importance of a nutritious diet, proper parenting, and the utilization of health services also contributes to the still high stunting rates in Teluk Mesjid Village [7], [9], [10].

Overall, the research results indicate that the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village has provided benefits to the community thru health services, nutrition education, and supplementary food provision. However, the effectiveness of the program still requires strengthening, especially in increasing budget support, adding human resources, enhancing cross-sector coordination, and improving community participation and awareness. These efforts are expected to enhance the

program's success, enabling the target of accelerating stunting reduction to be achieved more effectively and sustainably.

4. Conclusion

The research results show that the effectiveness of the Stunting Acceleration Program in Teluk Mesjid Village, Batumandi District, Balangan Regency falls into the fairly effective category, but it has not yet fully achieved the set objectives. From the aspect of program success, the implementation mechanism has been carried out according to procedure thru coordination between the village government, posyandu cadres, and community health centers. However, the implementation capacity of the program has not been optimal because only part of the program could be realized due to limited resources and budget. The program's target has been appropriate, namely infants and toddlers experiencing stunting along with their families, so that interventions such as growth monitoring, nutrition education, and supplementary feeding can be directly provided to the target group.

In terms of program satisfaction, the needs of the beneficiaries have been met thru health services, counseling, and the provision of supplementary food, which are carried out regularly. In addition, the implementation of the program has adhered to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), ensuring that the service process runs according to regulations. However, the achievement of the program's targets has not been optimal because not all planned activities could be carried out. This condition has impacted the achievement of the program's main objective, which is to reduce the prevalence of stunting in Teluk Mesjid Village. The still high stunting rates are influenced by budget limitations, limited human resources, suboptimal coordination among implementers, and low community awareness in applying nutritious eating patterns and appropriate caregiving for toddlers.

Based on these findings, improvement efforts are needed thru increased budget support, strengthening coordination between village governments, community health centers, and posyandu cadres, as well as enhancing human resource capacity thru ongoing training. In addition, education for the community regarding the importance of nutritional fulfillment, proper parenting, and active participation in posyandu activities needs to be conducted more intensively to raise public awareness. With the synergy between the government, healthcare workers, posyandu cadres, and the community, it is hoped that the implementation of the Stunting Acceleration Program can run more effectively so that the stunting reduction target in Teluk Mesjid Village can be achieved sustainably.

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