

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRIORITY VILLAGE PROGRAM
FOR STUNTING PREVENTION IN CISAAT
SUB- DISTRICT, SUKABUMI REGENCY**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the effectiveness of the priority village program for the prevention of stunting in Cisaat Sub-District, Sukabumi Regency. The urgency of this study is driven by the lack of public awareness about the importance of preventing stunting, inefficiencies in aid distribution, and the shortage of *posyandu* (integrated health service posts) supervisors to regularly monitor the growth of toddlers. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with a snowball sampling technique and six informants. The result of this research is that the priority village program for stunting prevention has not been maximally implemented, due to the inability to conduct examinations by stunting experts, lack of human resources, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and low public understanding of the importance of stunting prevention. The study recommends the need for training and capacity building for health workers, ensuring the availability of facilities and infrastructure, increasing the number of human resources for comprehensive and effective monitoring, and enhancing communication and coordination among all parties. Innovative approaches in community outreach are also required to raise awareness about the importance of stunting prevention.

Keywords: *Effectiveness of the program, Stunting Prevention, Priority Village, Cisaat Sub-District*

A. INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition of impaired growth in children that occurs over the long term, caused by a complex interplay of various factors. Common causes of stunting include inadequate maternal nutrition during pregnancy, insufficient nutrition for infants and young children, poor hygiene, infectious diseases, and

suboptimal child feeding and care practices. The consequences of stunting can encompass both short-term and long-term impacts on a child's health and development, such as impaired physical growth, cognitive development issues, altered productivity, and increased susceptibility to diseases.

According to the Indonesia Nutrition Status Survey (*SSGI*), the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia is 21.6%, while the government's target is to reduce this to 14% by 2024. Based on data, West Java has recorded Sukabumi Regency as the area with the second-highest stunting prevalence in West Java, at 27.50%. Sukabumi Regency, which consists of 47 districts, includes Cisaat District, which has seen the largest increase in stunting cases among the districts. According to data from the Sukabumi Regency Health Office, Cisaat District experienced an increase in stunting cases, numbering 307 cases from January to August 2022-2023 (Sukabumi Regency Health Office, 2023). Therefore, the *Peraturan Bupati Sukabumi Nomor 14 Tahun 2022* on Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting at the Village Level in Sukabumi Regency.

The Priority Villages Stunting Prevention Program is a government policy that selects several villages as the main focus for stunting prevention. The aim is to provide continuous attention to address the issues causing high stunting rates and to improve the quality of life for children. The programs implemented in these Priority Villages include three initiatives: (1) *Pepeling* (Entrepreneurs Caring for Stunting), (2) *Laminating* (Fish Pond Daycare for Stunted Children), and (3) *Bunda Langsing* (Stunting Child Land Cultivation Garden).

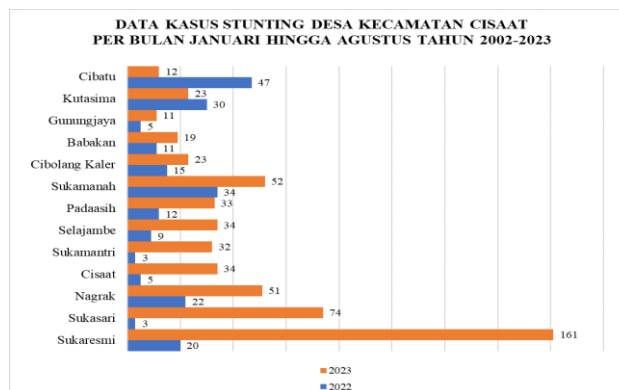


Figure 1 Data on Stunting Cases in Villages of Cisaat Sub-District from Januari to August 2022-2023
(Source: Sukabumi Regency Health Office, 2023)

Based on the picture above, according to data from the Sukabumi Regency Health Office, there are two villages in the Cisaat Subdistrict designated as Priority Villages, namely Sukaresmi and Sukasari. The issues stem from the lack of community knowledge about the importance of nutrition for child growth, poor food hygiene and sanitation, and complaints from each village office in the Cisaat Subdistrict about the sudden distribution of aid, leading to ineffectiveness and lack of preparation in aid distribution. Additionally, some neighborhoods (*RWs*) in the villages lack *posyandu* (integrated health service post) supervisors to regularly monitor child growth: 1 *posyandu* in Cisaat village, 2 *posyandus* in Sukaresmi, 2

posyandus in Selajambe, 2 *posyandus* in Sukasari, and 2 *posyandus* in Gunungjaya. Therefore, the researcher is interested in examining this issue in a study titled "The Effectiveness of Priority Village Programs for Stunting Prevention in Cisaat Sub-district, Sukabumi Regency".

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Policy

Pasolong, in his book titled "Public Administration Theory" (2019:9), explains that public administration is a form of cooperation carried out by a group of people or institutions to perform government duties in meeting the needs of society effectively and efficiently.

Thus, public administration is a collaborative process involving a group of individuals or institutions. The goal of this collaboration is to carry out government tasks effectively and efficiently. In this context, public administration aims to meet the needs of society through optimal resource management and policy implementation. Public policy includes government actions in addressing various problems in society. Public policy includes decision-making and organizing activities in various development sectors that aim to achieve national goals and public welfare.

The Scope of Public Administration

Based on Pasolong (2008:21), there are eight scopes of public administration: 1) public policy, 2) public bureaucracy, 3) public management, 4) leadership, 5) public service, 6) civil service administration, 7) performance, and 8) public administration ethics. Meanwhile, Henry (2008:8) outlines several scopes viewed through elements other than the development of public administration itself: public organization, public management, and implementation.

From the above descriptions, it can be interpreted that the scopes of public administration encompass public policy, public bureaucracy, public management, leadership, public service, civil service administration, performance, and public administration ethics.

Effectiveness Model

Measuring effectiveness is neither easy nor straightforward due to involvement of many factors or perspectives. According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), there are 5 principles of effectiveness: 1) policy accuracy, 2) implementation accuracy, 3) target accuracy, 4) environmental accuracy, and 5) process accuracy.

Program

According to Arikunto (2016:4), a program is a system that encompasses a series of activities conducted continuously, not just once. Similarly, Widoyoko (2009:8) explains that a program is a series of carefully planned activities implemented continuously.

Based on the above opinions, it can be interpreted that a program is a system consisting of a series of activities carried out continuously, not just once, to achieve predetermined goals.

Stunting

According to WHO (2020), stunting refers to children whose height is significantly below the average for their age (less than -2 standard deviations), primarily due to inadequate nutrition intake, recurrent infections, and disruptions during pregnancy. This aligns with the assertion by Arbain et al., (2022:14) that stunting results from several factors including low birth weight, insufficient stimulation and appropriate care for children, inadequate nutrition intake, recurrent infections, and various environmental conditions.

Based on these opinions, stunting is characterized as a condition where a child's growth is impaired, resulting in their height being shorter than the standard for their age (less than -2 standard deviations). Stunting is caused by a combination of factors including inadequate nutrition intake, recurrent infections, disruptions during pregnancy, low birth weight, insufficient stimulation and appropriate care, and various environmental factors.

The Process of Stunting

According to Yunardi (2021:2), stunting begins from pre-conception. The process of fetal growth and development in the womb is greatly influenced by the maternal intrauterine environment. The fetus receives nutrients from the mother's body reserves of protein and fat, which are linked to the mother's nutritional status throughout her life before pregnancy. The maternal nutritional condition affects the shape and size of the placental surface, which is crucial for transporting nutrients to the fetus. Additionally, the genetic potential of the offspring is influenced by the nutritional status of the grandmother's eggs.

Symptoms of Stunting

According to Sofianal et al., (2019:2), symptoms of stunting include delayed physical growth such as being short for their age, body proportions that may appear normal but the child looks younger, low body weight, relative overweight compared to height, and delayed bone growth.

The Causes of Stunting

Stunting arises from various factors including poor nutrition, inadequate sanitation, infectious diseases, and social and economic aspects. According to WHO (2013), there are 5 major categories that can cause stunting: (1) family and household factors, (2) inadequate complementary feeding, (3) certain issues in breastfeeding practices, (4) infections, and (5) endocrine disorders.

Efforts to Prevent Stunting

Yunardi (2021:6) suggests that strategies for preventing stunting are primarily focused on three key aspects: 1) Parenting practices, 2) Dietary patterns, and 3) Improvements in sanitation and access to clean water.

C. RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques rely on primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is obtained through observations and interviews using snowball sampling method with informants directly involved in assessing the effectiveness of the priority village program for preventing stunting, including the Head of the Governance Section of Cisaat Sub-District, Heads of Welfare Affairs in

Sukaresmi and Sukasari Villages, Head of Nutrition Division at the Community Health Center (*Puskesmas*) Cisaat, and representatives from the village community. Data validation is conducted using source triangulation and technique triangulation. Data analysis employs data analysis techniques following the Miles and Huberman model (in Sugiyono, 2022), involving data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

D. DISCUSSION

Nugroho (2022:650-652) explains five variables for measuring effectiveness, including policy accuracy, implementation accuracy, target accuracy, environmental accuracy, and process accuracy. In this study, to measure the effectiveness of the stunting prevention and reduction program in Cisaat District, Sukabumi Regency, researchers conducted an analysis using the effectiveness model proposed by Nugroho (2022:650-652), outlined as follows.

Policy Accuracy

According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), "policy accuracy" is based on how well a policy can achieve a desired goal. This includes whether the policy has been formulated according to the characteristics of the problem to be addressed, and whether it has been developed by an institution with the authority (institutional mission) appropriate for the policy's characteristics.

Based on the research findings, it is evident that the implementation of the priority village program for stunting prevention is not fully aligned with the established policies. The main constraints include the inability to conduct stunting assessments by required experts as stipulated in the policy, and the lack of adequate tools. As a result, data on the number of stunted children cannot be measured objectively.



Figure 2 The activities mentioned are part of the Joint Movement for Stunting Literacy, Immunization, Dengue Fever Prevention, Tuberculosis Control, and Maternal Health Care, as well as Clean and Healthy Environment with PHBS
(Source: Researcher, 2024)

Based on the picture above, the Sukabumi Regency Government continues to make efforts and commitments to reduce stunting rates. They participated in the launch of "Geber Si Jumo & Jamillah" (Joint Movement for Stunting Literacy, Immunization, Dengue Fever Prevention, Tuberculosis Control, Maternal Health Care, and Clean and Healthy Environment with *PHBS*) in West Java, which was

attended by students from *MTS Yasti*. The expected outcome of this program is to promote clean and healthy lifestyles and engage adolescents in stunting prevention activities.

According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), policy accuracy is determined by how well the policy can achieve its desired goals. This includes whether the policy has been formulated according to the characteristics of the problem to be addressed and whether it has been developed by an institution with the appropriate authority for the policy's characteristics. Although not fully aligned with established policies and not yet achieving desired goals, Cisaat District continues to vigorously work towards reducing stunting rates through several launched programs.

Implementation Accuracy

Implementation is the stage where an activity, plan, program, or policy is carried out. According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), implementers or those responsible for policies include not only the government but also three implementers of a policy: the government, government cooperation with the community, or government cooperation with private entities governing specific policies.

Based on the research findings, it is evident that the implementation of the priority village program for stunting prevention has been well-coordinated and communicated among relevant parties. However, there are significant challenges such as differences in understanding and goals due to changes in sub-district heads, difficulties in routine monitoring due to limited human resources and inadequate facilities for stunting identification. Additionally, low public awareness of stunting and ineffective socialization efforts pose additional challenges.

Target Accuracy

According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), "target accuracy" relates to three aspects. Firstly, whether the targets align with the established plans. Secondly, whether the targets are ready for intervention. Thirdly, interventions in policy implementation that involve updating previous policies.

Based on the research findings, it is understood that the policy of the Priority Village Program for Stunting Prevention represents an intervention aimed at renewing previous policy implementations. Regarding the established targets, the outcomes achieved have not met expectations and have not shown significant progress. Challenges such as lack of community knowledge and awareness, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and the need for closer cooperation with various stakeholders continue to hinder target achievement.

Based on the picture below, it shows that policy implementers collaborate to socialize understanding of stunting and provide supplementary food assistance at least once a week to pregnant women experiencing Chronic Energy Deficiency (*KEK*). Assistance is targeted at groups in genuine need, with the aim of maximizing its impact in preventing stunting cases.



Figure 3 Socialization and Provision of Supplementary Foods (PMT)
(Source: Researcher, 2024)

Environmental Accuracy

According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), there are two environments that determine a policy. Firstly, the interaction relationship between the institution formulating a policy and the policy implementers. Secondly, the external environment such as public opinion on the policy that has been made.

Based on the research results, it is known that the interaction relationship between government and non-government organizations is functioning well, enabling them to vigorously work towards reducing cases of stunting in the community. As for public opinion on the implemented policy, it is positive, with expectations that policy implementers will carry out their roles maximally to continue reducing stunting cases.

Process Accuracy

Process is a series of steps applied in the implementation of work, where the outcomes achieved reflect the quality of the procedures used. According to Nugroho (2020:650-652), policy implementation consists of 3 processes: 1) Policy acceptance, 2) Policy adoption, and 3) Strategic readiness.

Based on the research findings, it is evident that despite strong commitment from policy implementers to carry out the program, its implementation still faces challenges such as low public awareness of the importance of stunting prevention, low participation in integrated health posts (*posyandu*), insufficient attention to children's nutritional intake, and financial issues that make parents reluctant to attend *posyandu* activities. In some *posyandu*, parents are required to set aside money each month for food and drinks during the *posyandu* activities. This has caused many people to avoid attending *posyandu* because they feel financially burdened.

Based on the picture below, it shows that education organized by the community health center (*puskesmas*) to provide information and education to mothers with toddlers. These meetings are held once a week where mothers can learn about various aspects related to nutrition, child care, and development.

As for the research results, although policymakers have a strong commitment to implementing this program, its execution still faces challenges such as low public awareness of the importance of preventing stunting, low participation in *posyandu*, and financial constraints that make parents reluctant to attend *posyandu*.



Figure 4 Socialization Class for Toddler Mothers
(Source: Researcher, 2024)

E. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the previously described research findings regarding the effectiveness of the priority village program for stunting prevention and reduction in Cisaat District, Sukabumi Regency, the researcher conducted the study based on or referring to Nugroho's theory, namely:

1. Policy Accuracy

The implementation of the priority village program for stunting prevention and reduction is not fully aligned with the established policy. The main constraints include the inability to conduct stunting assessments by the required experts and limited availability of adequate tools. As a result, data related to the number of stunted children cannot be objectively measured.

2. Implementation Accuracy

In the implementation of the priority village program for stunting prevention and reduction, coordination and communication among relevant parties have been effective. However, there are significant obstacles such as differences in understanding and goals due to changes in district heads, difficulties in routine monitoring due to lack of human resources and inadequate infrastructure for stunting identification. Additionally, low public awareness of stunting and ineffective socialization pose additional challenges.

3. Target Accuracy

Based on the set targets, the achieved results have not met expectations and have not shown significant progress. Challenges such as lack of knowledge and awareness among the community, insufficient facilities and infrastructure, and the need for closer collaboration with various stakeholders continue to hinder target achievement.

4. Environmental Accuracy

The interaction between government and non-governmental organizations has been effective, enabling vigorous efforts to reduce stunting cases in the community. Public opinion on the implemented policy is positive, they hope that policy implementers can execute it to the fullest extent possible to continuously reduce stunting cases.

5. Process Accuracy

Despite strong commitment from policy implementers to execute the program, its implementation still faces challenges such as low public awareness of the importance of stunting prevention, low participation in integrated health posts (*posyandu*), insufficient attention to children's nutritional intake, and financial issues that make parents reluctant to attend *posyandu* sessions.

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