# Stake Holder Convergence towards Stunting Prevention at Gampong Level

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#### ABSTRACT

The Law No. 29 of 2019 regarding the management of nutritional problems for children due to disease is the responsibility of the regional and central governments in saving lives by requiring special handling related to stunting. This study requires cooperation between the government and the family. Therefore, this study aims to examine how the convergence of each party by looking at stunting prevention programs and efforts at the village level, especially in the Pandrah area, Bireuen Regency, Aceh using an ethnographic approach. This approach is in the form of knowledge and the reality of daily life of the community and or family on eating patterns and behavior, nutrition, nutrition and community knowledge about stunting in children. The results showed that there were several factors for stunting such as heredity, environment and parenting patterns. These three factors require joint work between agencies in terms of prevention or prevention from the government and the community by establishing the Bu Gateng program and the community also knows the health pattern of cultural events at the village level, so that it has strengthened in supporting stunting prevention efforts.

Keywords: Convergence, Stunting, Cultural Wisdom, Bu Gateng.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Stunting is a problem of malnutrition in toddlers, it can be seen from the condition that the child's height is shorter than the height of children his age in the child growth standard according to WHO. Stunting is a global problem faced by Indonesia. For the last three years, nutritionists have monitored that stunting has the highest prevalence compared to other nutritional problems such as malnutrition, underweight, and obesity. Health and nutritional conditions like this will make the mother before and during pregnancy and after delivery can affect fetal growth and the risk of stunting. Other factors that affect the mother are the mother's body posture (short), the distance between pregnancies is too close, the mother is still a teenager, and lack of nutritional intake during pregnancy.

Stunting is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets which are included in the 2nd

sustainable development goal, namely eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 and achieving food security. So that stunting can occur as a result of malnutrition, especially during the First 1000 Days of Life.

In order to tackle the stunting problem, convergence is needed between related parties in the gampong. Convergence according to [1] is a broad collective agreement, which is defined as the tendency of people to grow more equal, by developing similarities in structure, process, and implementation. According to [2] mentions convergence as "moving toward union or uniformity", meaning the movement towards unification or equalization.

Aceh is one of the provinces in Indonesia with a stunting prevalence rate above 20% because based on Riskesdas 2018, the prevalence of stunting under five in Aceh is the highest in Indonesia. One of them is Bireuen



District, Pandrah District, which is the locus of handling the implementation of the integrated stunting reduction intervention program. This becomes very important to study because the stunting issue is a global issue by looking at what programs and efforts are being carried out, as well as the role of agencies in stunting prevention in Pandrah Bireuen District because the community and the government must participate and play a role in health services by increasing the program. government and foster a healthier lifestyle.

#### 2. METHOD

This research is an ethnographic research, ethnographic research is a type of descriptive qualitative research that aims to explore a socio-cultural reality naturally, in this case in the form of knowledge and the reality of daily life of the community and or family on eating patterns and behavior, nutrition, nutrition and knowledge. community about stunting in children.

The data collection techniques used in this research are participant observation, in-depth interviews with informants, FGDs for the data verification process, documents and literature studies. However, the emphasis is on the live in process with informants who have stunting children, health workers in villages and hamlets and all parties involved in the stunting prevention process. On going analysis is the basis for the data analysis process.

### **3. RESULTS**

The problem of chronic malnutrition is stunting (short), that is a problem that has received a lot of attention in recent years. The term stunting was first coined by Warterlow (1970) in [3] to describe the inhibition of growth in body length so as to produce short children who are not in accordance with their age. Poverty, low education, the health of pregnant women and the health of newborns to children aged two years are considered to be closely related to the incidence of stunting. Childhood is a very important period.

According to H.L Blum in [4] regarding health theory (classical theory) looks at the degree of health which is very closely related to heredity, environmental behavior and health services. Where these four factors have a positive effect on each other and greatly affect a person's health status. This is also related to the pattern of changes related to social, cultural and economic problems in the community environment in preventing stunting.

There are three (3) villages in Pandrah sub-district, Bireuen district which later became the locus of stunting. Among them are the villages of Nase Me, Panton Bili and Seuneubok Baroe. With the number of stunting cases being higher than other villages, these villages were then used as stunting loci. Public awareness of stunting children in the village is still very minimal. This is then also a factor that causes stunting in children.

First, Nase Mee Village is one of the villages located in Pandrah sub-district, Bireuen Regency, Aceh Province. Gampong Nase Mee is included in the category with the highest stunting children among other villages in Bireuen district. As a village with a stunting child locus, and continues to be included in the list of stunting child measurements every year. According to Aulia Soni, the Nase Mee Village Midwife, the number of stunting child cases in this village in 2020 was four (4) children, this is a small number from previous years. According to Aulia Soni, age does not determine the child is said to be stunted, however, the growth and development of each measurement will be a factor in the child being said to be stunted if every year the child's body size does not reach the normal size (ideal height).

There are several factors that trigger or cause stunting in children: first, genetic factors, although this factor has very little effect on children, genetics is also a factor in children experiencing stunting.

Second, environmental sanitation factors, environmental health is essentially an optimum environmental condition or condition so that it has a positive effect on the realization of optimum health status as well. The scope of environmental health includes: housing, disposal of human waste (feces), provision of clean water, waste disposal, disposal of dirty water (waste water), livestock housing (cages), and so on. Unfavorable environmental conditions allow for various diseases, including diarrhea and respiratory tract infections. Local midwives stated that children in households that do not have access to a toilet are more likely to suffer from stunting than households with access to a toilet.



Figure 1.1. interviews with stunting victims

According to the opinion of Stern (1988) in [5] suggests that the influence of environmental factors where children experience development. Talents that are brought at birth will not develop properly without the support of a good environment. On the other hand, a good environment will not be able to produce optimal child development if the child does not have the talent needed to develop. According to Djumransjah in [5] also asserts that although the innate conditions are the same, the influence of the environment on humans can be proven that the process of human development is not only determined by innate factors and environmental factors. However, it is human activity itself that determines or plays a role in its development.

Third, the pattern of child care, the problem of stunting in general is the parenting pattern of mothers who provide food intake to toddlers poorly or the mistakes of parents who provide food intake to their toddlers, causing chronic disease or can increase the risk of infectious diseases in toddlers so that toddlers experience stunting [6].

In overcoming these various factors, there is a collaborative process between parties involved in controlling stunting at the gampong level, such as village midwives who intervene on stunting families and children, the head of the PKK and KWT (Group of Women Farmers) who provide food ingredients to meet the nutrition of toddlers. stunting. PKK women cultivate various kinds of vegetables such as spinach, mustard greens, kale, tomatoes, eggplant and others. They also make small ponds to cultivate fish. Posyandu cadres in collaboration with PKK ensure that they provide healthy and nutritious food for pregnant women. The village head (geuchik) also plays a very important role in stunting prevention by allocating a budget for programs to address stunting problems in the gampong. However, what often happens is that there is no budget that supports the implementation of the program.

## The Role of Families in Tackling Stunting

Education is a learning process which means that in education there is a process of growth, development, change for the better, and more mature, so that it can produce changes in individuals, groups or communities. The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by Lestari et al. which showed that the level of mother's education was not significantly related to the incidence of stunting in children. Another study also showed that maternal education did not have a significant relationship with the incidence of stunting in children aged 1-2 years.



Figure 1.2. Interview with Bireuen District Health Office

Parental education is very important in providing food for their children, the knowledge gained both formal and non-formal is very important in choosing the type of food consumed by baduta and other family members. Maternal nutrition education aims to increase the use of available food resources. From this it can be assumed that the level of adequacy of energy and nutrients in children under five is relatively high if the mother's nutritional education is high. Mother's education plays a very important role in mother's knowledge in selecting nutritious food ingredients and seeking help for health services that can affect children's growth and development.

According to the head of the PKK, Nase Mee Village in Pandrah District, this KWT (Women Farmer Group) provides food ingredients to meet the nutrition of stunting toddlers. PKK women cultivate various kinds of vegetables such as spinach, mustard greens, kale, tomatoes, eggplant and others. They also make small ponds to cultivate fish. Every two months we will harvest and process the materials to be distributed evenly to children who are stunted. The KWT program runs under the supervision of the Bireuen District Health Office and Social Service.

There are different perceptions about the definition of stunting among the gampong community. The understanding of the gampong community about stunting is that children who are malnourished or who are very thin because they do not get good or perfect nutritional food intake. The availability of food at the community and family level is actually not a crucial problem in Nasime Village in particular and Pandrah in general, because all nutritional intake and nutrition for pregnant women and children are available and abundant in rural areas which are also not too far from the beach and mountains.

The problem is dietary habit and knowledge about nutrition and nutrition from premarital age to toddler and toddler age. The pattern of coordination between agencies needs to be multifunctional, for example the Office of Religious Affairs should not only prepare knowledge about household but also add knowledge about halal and good food for families to get good nutritional intake. Knowledge of prospective mothers about nutrition and health problems is still lacking in Nasime Village. Giving blood-added tablets to adolescent girls and pregnant women is also very necessary because it affects the growth of the baby.

The character of the people who don't care and difficult to change their lifestyle. So the efforts made are less influential on the community, making it difficult to tackle stunting optimally. The family has been given guidance by posyandu cadres regarding health, making programs to grow healthy food and medicinal plants, utilizing the home environment. However, the program did not work because when it was not supervised by posyandu cadres, the community did not care anymore. Families are given more direction when there is a posyandu. It should not only be the mother and daughter who should hear, but the father as well. The role of the father is needed to be sensitive to the fulfillment of the nutrition of mothers and their children. Family support is needed to increase the coverage of exclusive breastfeeding and early complementary feeding. Therefore, from the village midwife a class for pregnant women was held, with the aim of them getting knowledge and information on how to take care of their health, fetuses and toddlers later. This class for pregnant women is held once a month.

Then events related to customs and culture are still very strong in Pandrah, all of these events are very supportive of the fulfillment of nutrition and nutrition for pregnant women, breastfeeding, toddlers and toddlers, while the events are udep and mate feasts, tujoh beulen, peuticap, seunejoh if someone dies, the celebration of the Prophet's Birthday is commemorated for up to 4 months in a row alternating between villages, hamlets and settlements.

The local wisdom, which is full of cultural and religious values, is used as the pinnacle for

campaigning for stunting prevention by caring for nutrition and nutrition and health for pregnant women and children by the Bireuen Regency government, namely Bu Gateng. The menu for my plate, known as the Bu Gateng programs, consists of rice, fish, eggs, meat, chicken, vegetables and fruit. This is solely done to ensure that the nutrition of pregnant mothers and fetuses in the womb get healthy and nutritious food so that it can reduce stunting rates among the community.

The Bu Gateng program is one of the Gampong Government's efforts to prevent stunting. The Posyandu in collaboration with the family welfare empowerment of gampong ensures that they provide healthy and nutritious food for pregnant women who are present at the time of posyandu activities in their respective villages. This program is carried out by the puskesmas using village funds, which is carried out 7 times a year for all pregnant women. There are also 4 times a year. The amount given by Bu Gateng depends on the available budget in the village. Usually, we give Bu Gateng at the same time as Integrated Healthcare Center activities in the village.

At first the Me Bu Gateng program ran very smoothly, every month the posyandu cadres were enthusiastic about cooking and providing Mrs. Gateng for pregnant women. This program runs for one year, in 2020. After that, this program stalled in the middle of the road. At that time, one of the village officials (tuha peut Gampong) said that the me bu gateng program should not be carried out again, because it was considered that village funds had run out but there was no benefit, this program was not effective in overcoming the problem of stunting children. Since then, village funds have been completely stopped for the purposes of the bu gateng program, so that until now the program is no longer running.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

The conclusion from the study of agency participation in the prevention of stunting at the Gampong level in Peudada District, Bireuen Regency, there are at least four conclusions that can be described. First, so far there has been a process of joint work between agencies in terms of stunting prevention at the village level, this is in accordance with regulations through the Bireuen Regent Regulation Number 29 of 2020 concerning integrated stunting reduction in Bireuen Regency. Second, the pattern of knowledge about health, and nutrition is still a problem in stunting prevention, while the availability of food is very adequate for the needs of the community. Third, still alive and developing cultural events that support adequate nutrition and nutrition. Fourth, the Bu Gateng program is one of the Gampong Government's efforts to prevent stunting.

## NOTE

The problem of stunting children should be a common concern. It's not just a few parties that are responsible. The efforts of the village side should be appreciated, even though the handling of stunting children is not yet perfect, but efforts are still being made to overcome this problem. The public is expected to gradually realize how dangerous stunting is in children. Implementation of regular posyandu, immunization, socialization to change a clean lifestyle for the community are the main efforts that can be done to overcome the problem of stunting children. It is our common hope, so that the problem of stunting children can be resolved and in the future there will be no more problems like this.

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