



# The Role of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program in Batu City

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**Abstract.** The high incidence of stunting in Batu City and the importance of solving stunting problems in Batu City have created a caring community, namely Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City. This study uses an interpretive research paradigm with a qualitative approach and a descriptive case study research design. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, which were supported by observations and literature studies. The data analysis technique uses Miles and Huberman's work steps. Five research participants were selected by purposive sampling. The study concludes that the main role of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) is to monitor and map families with stunting toddlers, conduct health advocacy and health empowerment, and build coalitions and relationships for stunting prevention.

**Keywords:** stunting · caring society · community movement · intellectual movement

## 1 Introduction

Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City is a community that cares about health problems, especially the problem of stunting. Health problems or stunting problems in this article are social issues around us that are part of cultural issues and social integration related to the themes of quality of life, equality, self-realization, participation, and human rights, as well as criticism of the morality of life that viewed from the aspect of communication and collective identity [1, 2].

As we remember in his speech to commemorate the 74th Independence of the Republic of Indonesia, President Joko Widodo explained the link between reducing stunting rates and the progress of human resources in the future [3]. More than 2 million under-five deaths in the world each year are indicated to be caused by stunting [4]. Children with a history of stunting in adulthood are more susceptible to disease and are at risk of suffering from chronic diseases which in turn greatly affect their productivity [5].

Stunting rate in Batu City was 35 percent in 2017 based on a nutrition monitoring survey and 28.3 percent in 2018 based on data according to Riskesdas, 25.4 percent in

2019, and 23.8 percent in 2020 based on data from the Batu City Health Office [6, 7]. Where the location of the focus of stunting distribution in Batu City is in Oro-Oro Ombo Village there are 145 toddlers, then Sisir Village has 140 toddlers, Sidomulyo Village has 134 toddlers, Giripurno Village has 171 toddlers, and Sumberbrantas Village has 94 toddlers [7].

Based on the issue of stunting, Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City position itself as a community movement or intellectual movement that is inspired or even a manifestation of Critical Theory on the discourse of capitalism, resistance to discrimination as well as anti-war and anti-establishment, which in the process critical theory as a reflection theory provides enlightenment and emancipation [8–10]. The emancipatory potential of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) as a community movement and intellectual movement focuses on the struggle to liberate the life world, namely the reform of public services (social and health policies) to adopt a participatory model [1]. In the end, this is the main reason for the author to appoint Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City as discussion in this article. This article intends to describe the role of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting).

## 2 Method

The paradigm used in this research uses an interpretive research paradigm [11, 12]. While the qualitative approach chosen as the research approach is a descriptive case study [13, 14] as type of research. Research participants are Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City. Determination of actors using purposive sampling technique while the data collection technique is in-depth interviews supported by observations and literature study. The data analysis technique uses Miles and Huberman's work steps, that is reducing, displaying, and verifying [15].

## 3 Results

The research participants were five people who were Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) in Batu City, all of whom were women with an age range of 35 to 50 years. The purposive sampling criteria are: (1) a member or part of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting), (2) participating in Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) from the beginning, (3) attending an initial meeting of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting).

Batu City is a part of East Java which has an area of about 199.09 Km<sup>2</sup> and consists of three sub-districts (Bumiaji District, Batu District and Junrejo District). Batu City is located at 122°17'E to 122°57'E and 7°44'S to 8°26'S [16]. Batu City have a unique typology. As a city, Batu City does not describe as an urban or industrial area. What we

find in Batu City is an area dominated by tourism, agricultural and plantation areas as well as a panoramic view of the forests and mountains around the area. What is unique is that of the 24 villages, the classification of villages with rural status is only three villages (Torongrejo Village, Giripurno Village and Sumberbrantas Village), while 21 villages have urban status [17, 18].

Rural communities are characterized by traditional and simple, influenced by the dominance of religion or the domination of tradition, strong relationships between individuals in kinship, upholding the value of togetherness and cooperation, homogeneous composition, and emotional social relations. Meanwhile, urban society/civil society is characterized by modern and complex, strongly influenced by bureaucracy and science and technology, heterogeneous composition, rational and competitive social relations [17, 19].

Based on data from Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting), the incidence of stunting in Batu City in 2020 was 1,230 toddlers with an average rate of  $51.25 \approx 52$  toddlers in the 24 villages. The highest incidence of stunting occurred in Tulungrejo Village, which was 158 toddlers. Meanwhile, the lowest incidence of stunting occurred in Dadaprejo Village, which was 11 toddlers [17].

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Meaning and Determinant of Stunting

Research participants explained that stunting is a terrible thing and very socially embarrassing, confirm stunting status, it is necessary to have an examination by a doctor and even a pediatrician. Stunting is a body condition that is shorter than normal conditions that will affect intellectual intelligence. Research participants argued that the stunting problem originated from a lack of coordination from the Health Office on nutritional problems in the Batu City. From this opinion, the author has not been able to provide further studies because more in-depth analysis is needed through Giddens' Structuration Theory.

Furthermore, research participants argue that the main problem of stunting is the availability of sufficient food or poverty factors, but in the case of Batu City it is quite different. Batu City is a food barn area and in fact, the incidence of stunting is quite high, so the main cause of stunting is a matter of public knowledge that affects improper lifestyle and eating patterns, marriage and pregnancy at an early age, and poor home sanitation. From this opinion, it has been answered that the problem of stunting is not a problem caused by structure but is a cultural problem in the community which includes knowledge, education level, diet, and parenting. Where this is in line with "The Conceptual Framework of the Determinants of Child Undernutrition" by UNICEF's, "The Underlying Drivers of Malnutrition" by IFRI, and "Faktor Penyebab Masalah Gizi Konteks Indonesia" by Bappenas.

### 4.2 Identity of Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting

Research participants explained that the Team of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) came from the

community and figures in women's organizations. Then it was continued by developing his ideas on PKK cadres throughout Batu City. The main actor of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) has access and a strategic position to coordinate directly with public health institutions and related local government agencies in tackling stunting, even the movement has an alternative function as monitoring public health institutions in the implementation of stunting handling work programs. So that we can describe the relationship of the walking movement as a partner in empowering the community and advocating for stunting families, including monitoring or monitoring the activities of the Health Service in efforts to prevent stunting. In line as explained by Katz that voluntary communities have the same goals as health professionals and public health institutions will take the initiative to produce a greater level of coalition cooperation and relationships [20, 21].

Actor of RPPS comes from the middle class with a good job of up to 60%. In terms of formal education, 56% are university graduates, even 16% are master's degree graduates. Meanwhile, in terms of economic conditions, it is a group with adequate economic conditions. That's more interesting is that 100% of the movement's actors are women. In line with the thoughts of Habermas (1981) and Melucci (1980, 1985) that social movement actors are the new middle class, the younger generation, people with high formal education with good economic conditions [1, 9, 22, 23]. What is different about the actors of the stunting prevention social movement with the concept of Habermas and Melucci is that they are not the younger generation.

### **4.3 Role of Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting**

#### **Stunting Monitoring and Mapping.**

Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting conducts stunting monitoring in the community through surveys on families of stunting toddlers. This stage begins with a discussion on making a questionnaire followed by a field survey. Furthermore, the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) actors with PKK cadres mapped the position of families' houses with stunting toddlers and made a simple map of each hamlet or each RW with a description of the house with stunting toddlers. Home visits to families with stunting toddlers as part of the monitoring process carried out through interviews and observations, these visits are intended as a form of social support for families with stunting toddlers. The interview also explored other problems, such as the smoking behavior of family members, family economic conditions, and the size of the family, including the ownership of health social security.

#### **Advocacy and Empowerment.**

According to Katz, community care activities are designed for advocacy and empowerment, influencing experts and institutions in the community, educating the community and community leaders about health issues [21]. RPPS also conducts health advocacy and community empowerment. The health advocacy carried out includes direct services to stunting children, promoting health, encouraging changes in the views of community leaders, and facilitating access to public services. Meanwhile, empowerment activities

include education and training aimed at increasing the knowledge of mothers in tackling stunting and increasing family income. In addition, volunteers for the acceleration of stunting prevention involve experts, community institutions and community leaders in the planning and implementation of stunting prevention.

### **Building Coalition and Relationships.**

As explained by Sukmana in the book “Konsep dan Teori Gerakan Sosial”, a movement has an invisible and temporary network that is often the basis for collective action as a support for successful mobilization. This can be found in the RPPS which has a very wide network and most of its members are important figures in other organizations which have a positive impact on supporting the success of the mobilization of the movement.

Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) has a real goal of making people healthy (reducing the incidence of stunting) as is the goal of health professionals and public health institutions. A very close relationship with health professionals based on the initiator of this movement is a health professional so that he has direct access to health professional organizations and personal health professionals. And relations with public health institutions also work as partners in empowering the community and advocating for stunting families, including monitoring or monitoring the activities of the Health Office in stunting prevention efforts. As explained by Katz, concerned community groups have a common goal with health professionals and public health institutions will take the initiative to produce a greater level of coalition cooperation and relationships [20, 21].

### **Increasing Cross-Sectoral Cooperation in Tackling Stunting.**

At the village level, Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) collaborates and coordinates with PKK cadres in each village in Batu City primarily in recapitulating the results of interviews and observations to find out the map of problems in the village. Furthermore, the results of the problem mapping will be included in the “Rebug Desa”, which is a cross-sectoral meeting at the village level that will discuss the village problems through participatory discussions. Participants in the “Rembug Desa” are at least above the village head, the head of the TP PKK, civil servants, BPD, community leaders, PL-KB, community midwives, and the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) themselves.

At the city level, Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) encourages cross-sectoral cooperation. The main objective of the collaboration is to provide budgetary support and policy support related to stunting prevention more intensely. One form of the success of the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) is the issuance of the Mayor of Batu Decree Number: 188.45/241/KEP/422.012/2021 on 28 June 2021 concerning the Establishment of a Coordination Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Handling in Batu City in 2021–2022. In the decision, the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) was included as part of the Coordination Team which included elements of the government (cross-sectoral), health professional organizations, and health service institutions. The

continuation is in the form of Posts for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention (Pos Percepatan penanggulangan Stunting) in villages.

## 5 Conclusion

Research participants who are part of the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) interpret stunting as a social problem and a mental problem, not just a physical problem. Stunting itself is caused by cultural problems in society which include knowledge, education level, diet, and parenting. Actors in the Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) come from elements of the community and figures in women's organizations, as well as the new middle class, people with high formal education with good economic conditions. The main role of Volunteers for Stunting Acceleration Prevention Program (Relawan Percepatan Penanggulangan Stunting) is to monitor and map families with stunted toddlers, conduct health advocacy (covering direct services to stunting children, promoting health, encouraging changes in the views of community leaders, and facilitating access to public services), and community empowerment, covering education and training. The training aimed at increasing the knowledge of mothers in tackling stunting and increasing family income), building coalitions and relationships for stunting prevention, and increasing cross-sectoral cooperation in stunting prevention. The last role is based on the birth of the Post for the Acceleration of Stunting Prevention or Pos PENCEPATAN PENANGGULANGAN STUNTING (Posting).

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