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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COLLABORATION IN ACCELERATING STUNTING REDUCTION IN BONE REGENCY

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Abstract

This study intends to explain and analyze the Effectiveness of Collaboration in Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting in Bone Regency by looking at five indicators, namely: common goals, mutuality, collaborative environment, trust, and the characteristics of the collaboration participants. The method used is descriptive qualitative method with data collection techniques including: observation, interviews and documentation. Data analysis techniques consist of data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the general goal of collaboration to accelerate stunting shows success.

Keywords: *Effectiveness, Collaboration, Stunting.*

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1. Introduction

Stunting or commonly referred to as stunted toddlers is one of the nutritional problems experienced by toddlers in the world today, especially in poor countries and developing countries. The problem of stunting has quite serious impacts, including causing failure to thrive, inhibiting cognitive and motor development, not optimal physical body size, decreased intellectual capacity, permanent disturbance of the structure and function of nerves and brain cells, causing decreased productivity. In the future, stunting will become an economic burden for a country. With the extraordinary impact that will be faced by a nation, stunting is a problem that must be immediately intervened by the government.

Based on data from the World Health Organization (WHO) In 2017, 22.2% or around 150.8 million children under five in the world were stunted. Still according to the same data, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that in 2019 the decline in stunting was only 0.9%, namely to 21.3% or around 144 million toddlers still experiencing stunting.

The 2016 Global Nutrition Report notes that the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia is ranked 108 out of 132 countries. It is also noted that in the Southeast Asia region, stunting in Indonesia is the second highest after Cambodia. Meanwhile, children are the nation's assets in the future. You can imagine how the fate of Indonesia's human resources will be in the future if currently many Indonesian children suffer from stunting. This country will not be able to compete with other countries in facing global challenges. Therefore, to prevent this, the problem of stunting must be seriously addressed.

In Indonesia, stunting is a serious problem and is also a major nutritional problem being faced. Based on Basic Health Research data, the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia from year to year in a row from 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2018 was 36.8%; 34.6%; 37.2%; and 30.8% (Ministry of Health RI, 2018). The high prevalence of stunting in toddlers in Indonesia requires efforts to tackle and prevent stunting from an early age. The government in compiling RPJMN 2020-2024 activities related to public health programs focuses on priority programs such as reducing maternal mortality, infant mortality, reducing the prevalence of

stunting and wasting in toddlers, which are then followed by supporting indicators (Ministry of Health RI, 2020). This is in line with one of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes the second goal, which is to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and achieve food security by 2030.

Stunting is caused by multidimensional factors, such as not fulfilling the nutritional needs and being exposed to recurrent infectious diseases for a long time (chronic) (Fadjriah et al., 2021; Hidayanti, 2023). In addition, maternal pregnancy factors such as gestational age, maternal height, body mass index, weight gain during pregnancy, availability of a balanced protein-energy diet, are the main factors associated with birth weight, birth length, and postnatal stunting (Prendergast, 2014).

In the context of handling stunting, the Indonesian government prioritizes prevention, a multi-sector approach, and an integrated data system. In 2018, 100 districts in 34 provinces were designated as stunting reduction locations. Prevention and reduction of stunting involves collaboration with various cross-sectors, bearing in mind that stunting is a very complex problem that cannot be solved by one party alone (Kumanireng et al., 2021). It is hoped that this cross-sector cooperation will reduce the stunting rate in Indonesia so that the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target can be achieved, namely reducing the stunting rate by up to 40%.

Stunting control itself recognizes the term specific and sensitive interventions. Specific interventions are short-term programs that focus more on health services. Specific nutrition interventions are carried out using two methods, namely during pregnancy and after pregnancy (Ekayanthi & Suryani, 2019). Meanwhile, sensitive interventions are efforts to empower communities in areas that are the focus of stunting and are more long-term in nature.

South Sulawesi Province is one of the provinces that has a prevalence of stunting that is almost the same as the national figure, namely 30.1% and is in thirteenth place with the highest prevalence of stunting in toddlers in Indonesia. As many as 13 districts/cities out of 24 districts/cities in South Sulawesi Province have a prevalence of stunting above the provincial rate. Based on this condition, Bappenas

designated South Sulawesi Province as a stunting convergence area with 11 regencies, namely Enrekang, Bone, Gowa, Takalar, Jeneponto, Sinjai, Selayar, Pangkep, Pinrang, Tana Toraja, and North Toraja as the locus for handling and preventing stunting (Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, 2020).

Collaboration in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency has been carried out since 2019, and has reduced the stunting rate. However, this decrease is still far from what was expected, so that Bone Regency still has a relatively high stunting rate in South Sulawesi. There are several problems in collaborating to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency, including the still weak communication between the stakeholders involved, the low participation of the public and the private sector. This means there is still a lack of trust (trust). This lack of trust will lead to low mutuality or mutually beneficial relationships so that the expected goals will take a long time to achieve. In the Decree of the Regent of Bone Number 188 of 2022 it has been stated that one of the tasks of the team to accelerate stunting reduction in Bone Regency is to organize cooperation and partnerships with stakeholders, but stakeholders are still lacking in implementing partnerships, stakeholders still tend to work on their own. This means that stakeholders have their own characteristics that affect the expected collaboration.

Collaboration with cross-sectors of course requires clear goals, trust, this is very important because if there is no trust between stakeholders then the institutions or organizations that should work together will run on their own without a shared commitment so that the expected common goals will be difficult to achieve (Fairuza, 2017). And, if collaboration is to be effective, there must be reciprocity that occurs between fellow stakeholders (mutuality), collaboration that occurs must also be mutually beneficial, so that the possibility of conflict will be low.

2. Methods

The type of research used is descriptive qualitative research. By using qualitative research it is intended to obtain a clear picture and obtain complete and more valid data regarding the problems studied. Researchers try to analyze and describe the effectiveness of

collaboration in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency. The location of this research is in Bone Regency. The choice of research location is because Bone Regency is a district with a high stunting rate, and is the place where stunting reduction and prevention efforts have been implemented in South Sulawesi Province since 2019. The main instrument used to collect data in qualitative research is the researchers themselves. Researchers as human instruments function to determine the focus of research, select informants as data sources, collect data, analyze data, interpret data, and make conclusions on the findings or data obtained. In addition, to complete the data, an interview guide was used.

3. Results and Discussion

General objectives in Collaboration to Accelerate Stunting Reduction in Bone Regency

Common goals are a key factor for successful collaboration. Shared goals will bring and keep the group together. Agreement on goals between actors involved in collaboration is one of the absolute conditions for success in achieving goals.

The general goal of collaboration in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency is to reduce the stunting rate in Bone Regency. Where these goals have been aligned from the start so that all Regional Apparatus Organization (OPD) have the same goal. This was stated by Mrs. AR as the Secretary of the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) of Bone Regency, saying that:

“Previously the leading sector was the Health Service but after several periods, it moved to the BKKBN. The collaboration was carried out with the aim of accelerating the reduction of stunting. It is important to do this in collaboration because stunting cannot be overcome if you only rely on one OPD because stunting is influenced by several factors not only from health, collaboration or cooperation with various parties is needed so that stunting can be reduced”

The same thing was said by Mrs. SI as the Head of the Family Resilience and Welfare Division, BKKBN Bone that:

"In handling stunting, collaboration must be carried out. Stunting will not be reduced if there is no collaboration or cooperation with various parties, because the causes of stunting are varied, not only influenced by malnutrition, but are influenced by various factors. Aligning these goals by adhering to references or guidelines, namely how stunting can be suppressed"

Mr. ARA as the Secretary of the Bone Regency Social Service also said that:

"What the collaboration wants to achieve is to reduce the stunting rate in Bone. Aligning common goals is done at meetings. So beforehand it was agreed that the purpose of holding this collaboration is to jointly reduce the occurrence of stunting so that when the goal is clear, the next step is to find a way or what steps will be taken to achieve that goal."

Based on the results of the interview, it was understood that the common goal to be achieved in this collaboration was to reduce the stunting rate in Bone Regency. Where these goals have been aligned from the start so that all OPDs have the same goal. When the goal is clear, the next step is to find a way or what steps will be taken to achieve that goal. Even though the strategy is different, the goal remains the same. Because to deal with stunting, collaboration must be carried out. Stunting will be difficult to suppress if there is no collaboration with various parties because stunting is influenced by various factors so that its handling must involve many actors as well.

After knowing the general goals to be achieved from collaboration, it is necessary to know the strategies and procedures used to achieve these goals. From the research results it is known that the strategy used to reduce stunting rates is different for each OPD because each actor has a different role and has a different program. The following are the results of the interview put

forward by Mr. ID as the head of the Food Availability and Insecurity Division of the Bone Regency Food Security Service (KETAPANG):

"Each OPD has its own strategy for achieving goals because each OPD has its own work plan or program, so the strategy is different. Our contribution to reducing stunting is more towards maintaining balanced nutrition by providing seeds such as vegetable seeds so that the yard can be utilized and the nutrition will also be fulfilled. If there are parties who are not proactive in carrying out their roles, then during the meeting we will ask what are the obstacles so that a solution can be found."

From the results of the interviews above it is known that the strategies used by each actor or OPD in reducing stunting rates are different, because each OPD has its own work plan or program. This was clarified by Mrs. KA as the head of the Community Health Department of the Bone Regency Health Service (DINKes):

"The strategy for stunting to decrease quickly is to ensure that all babies in the puskesmas area can monitor their growth and development, and appeal to the public to always bring their toddlers to the posyandu for monitoring such as measuring height, weight, education for pregnant women, giving birth at health service facilities, and administering vitamins. This is our strategy in breaking the chain of stunting. Regarding the procedure, there is no separate procedure that regulates it. Just follow the national strategy. This is a weakness because the constraints and needs experienced by each district are different. Our contribution or role is quite a lot because we intervene in specific areas. Because there are 2 kinds of interventions, namely specific and sensitive interventions. Specific interventions are more directed to the direct causes of stunting, so we always

monitor growth and measure and administer vitamins and others. If there is an OPD that is not proactive, when the meeting is held it will be questioned the reason why it is not proactive so that it hinders progress”

Based on this, it is known that the Health Office's strategy in reducing stunting rates is to ensure that all babies in the puskesmas area can monitor their growth and development, and appeal to the public to always bring their toddlers to the posyandu for monitoring, as well as giving additional vitamins. The strategy from the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) of Bone Regency is in accordance with what was disclosed by Ms. AR as the service secretary that:

"The strategy is to always hold coordination meetings and field visits, and jointly monitor and strengthen outreach. For example, if the health office socializes about nutrition, then the women's empowerment service conducts socialization about how to give proper parenting. Our role is more to provide education to women about good and correct parenting styles. If there is an OPD that is not proactive, it will be seen when the evaluation is carried out "

The strategy of the DP3A is to always hold coordination meetings and field visits, and jointly monitor and strengthen outreach. Meanwhile, the strategy of the Bone Regency Social Service (DINSOS), as revealed by Mr. ARA as the secretary of the Social Service, is:

"The strategy of the Social Service is to provide assistance to people who are classified as underprivileged so that their needs can be met so that it will minimize the occurrence of stunting. We are more about providing social assistance to families in need. Almost all of them are proactive, if there are those who are not proactive, a personal approach will be taken to find out what is actually the obstacle so that they are less active”

The strategy of the DINSOS is to provide assistance to people who are classified as underprivileged so that their needs can be met so that it will minimize the occurrence of stunting. Whereas Mrs. SI as the head of the BKKBN Family Resilience and Welfare division said that:

"The strategy for achieving goals has been regulated in the STRANAS, but OPD also has its own strategy but still refers to the existing national strategy. There are no separate procedures to regulate, the procedures that are followed are only from the national strategy and guidelines for implementing District/City stunting reduction interventions. Our contributions and roles are different. Each has its own role. For example, the food security service has a role in increasing access to nutritious food. Almost all OPDs involved are active in carrying out their respective roles because an evaluation will be carried out.”

Based on the interview results above, it can be concluded that the strategy used to reduce stunting rates is different for each Regional Apparatus Organization (OPD) because each actor has a different role and has a different program. However, although the strategy is different, the goal remains the same. Even though it has its own strategy, it still refers to the existing national strategy. One of the strategies implemented is monitoring the growth and development of toddlers and always advising mothers to bring their toddlers to the posyandu to measure height and weight, provide additional vitamins, socialize proper parenting patterns, and social assistance to people who are classified as underprivileged so that their needs can be met so as to minimize the occurrence of stunting. Regarding the procedure, there is no separate procedure that regulates it. Only following the national strategy, this is a weakness because the needs and constraints of each region are of course different.

In addition to different strategies, the contribution or role of each actor is also different. Like the health office, they are more focused on their role in specific nutrition interventions or the direct causes of stunting. Intervention in stunting is carried out with two interventions, namely specific and sensitive nutrition interventions. The Food Service itself, in its role is more directed to maintaining nutrition so that it remains balanced by providing vegetable seeds so that the yard can be utilized and nutrition will also be fulfilled. Regarding OPDs that are less active, if there are OPDs that are not proactive in collaboration, then at the meeting they will be asked what causes the actor's inactivity so that all actors will discuss to find a solution. However, almost all OPDs that are members are active in collaboration. Commitment is a fairly long process to go through and it takes trust to be able to commit, for this reason trust between fellow actors is needed so that commitment can be established. OPD, which has joined the SK team for accelerating stunting reduction, is committed to reducing stunting. A sign of a commitment so that stunting can be reduced as soon as possible is by carrying out several programs and outreach.

So, the common goal to be achieved in this collaboration is to reduce the stunting rate in Bone Regency. Where these goals have been aligned from the start so that all OPDs have the same goal. When the goal is clear, then the next step

is to find a way or what steps will be taken to achieve that goal. Even though the strategy is different, the goal remains the same. Because to deal with stunting, collaboration must be carried out. Stunting will be difficult to suppress if there is no collaboration with various parties because stunting is influenced by various factors so that its handling must involve many actors as well.

General Goals in Collaborating to Accelerate Stunting Reduction in Bone Regency

Problems will be easily overcome if the collaboration actors' understanding can be unified. The pooling of relevant knowledge

between stakeholders will enable collaborating actors to learn together and achieve common goals. In this process, strategies will be found to achieve the goals of collaboration. Effective collaboration is to build a shared understanding through sharing between parties by providing an alternative solution to a problem. This understanding will form an effective decision-making mechanism through a process that focuses on common problems. Sharing understanding is done with a clear mission, the same understanding of the problem, and identifying shared values.

The initial steps to starting a collaboration to accelerate stunting reduction in Bone Regency departed from the relatively high stunting rate, a team to accelerate stunting reduction was formed to reduce stunting rates so as to achieve one of the SDGs goals, namely reducing stunting rates by 40% by 2025, and ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and achieving food security by 2030.

In theory (Debbie Roberts, 2016) states that common goals are an important part of collaboration that can unite all stakeholders to achieve the goals set. Purpose is a key factor for successful collaboration. Shared goals will bring and keep the group together. Agreement on goals between actors involved in collaboration is one of the absolute conditions for success in achieving goals.

Based on the results of the interviews and analysis, the thing that underlies the collaboration or the problem to be solved in this case is by looking at the fact that the stunting rate in Bone Regency is quite high, so this problem is the basis for the collaboration. If these problems are not resolved immediately, it will have a negative impact on human resources in Indonesia, especially in Bone Regency. Overcoming the problem of stunting certainly requires a strategy.

The strategy used to reduce stunting rates in Bone Regency is different for each OPD because each OPD has different roles and programs. One of the strategies undertaken is to monitor the growth and development of toddlers and always encourage mothers who have just given birth to bring their toddlers to

the posyandu so that they can take body measurements and provide additional vitamins so that their baby's growth will be monitored. Another strategy is the dissemination of correct parenting patterns, because at this time, mothers are often found who do not know proper and correct parenting patterns, which will lead to stunting in their children. Another strategy is the provision of social assistance to people who are classified as underprivileged. Poverty is one of the factors causing stunting, so the strategy adopted is to provide social assistance such as rice, eggs, as well as direct cash assistance and others which are expected to meet the needs of mothers and babies so as to minimize stunting.

In addition to different strategies, the roles of each actor are also different. In handling stunting, two interventions were carried out, namely a sensitive nutrition intervention and a specific intervention. The health office focuses more on its role in intervening with specific nutrition or those that are the direct cause of stunting. The food security service, DP3A, social services, are more focused on sensitive interventions or indirect causes of stunting, such as maintaining balanced nutrition and fostering proper parenting patterns.

Even though each Regional Apparatus Organization (OPD) has a different strategy and role, they still have the same goals to be achieved. However, there is no separate procedure that regulates the acceleration of stunting reduction in Bone Regency. However, only following the national strategy is a weakness, because the needs and constraints of each region are of course different.

Achieving the goal of collaboration requires the commitment of all stakeholders. Commitment is a fairly long process to go through and it takes trust to be able to commit, for this reason trust between fellow actors is needed so that commitment can be established. Actors who have joined the Decree of the Regent of Bone Number 188 of 2022 concerning the formation of a team to accelerate the reduction of stunting are committed to achieving the goal. A sign of commitment is by carrying out several programs.

So, the common goal to be achieved in this collaboration is to reduce the stunting rate in Bone Regency. Where these goals have been aligned from the start so that all OPDs have the same goal. With the same goal, this will bring and keep the group together. Because stunting is influenced by many factors, stunting cannot be handled by one party alone, so a collaboration is carried out so that stunting can be reduced immediately.

Conclusion

Based on the results of research related to the effectiveness of collaboration in accelerating the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency, it shows that the effectiveness of collaboration according to the view of (Debbie Roberts, 2016) has not fully met the indicators. The general goal to be achieved in this collaboration is to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Bone Regency. The strategy for achieving the goals of each actor is different because each actor has different roles and programs.

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