Relationship of Public Value to The Implementation of Stunting Policy in Bengkulu Province

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Abstract

This article aims to explain the policy of implementing stunting in Bengkulu Province which is related to public values. The problem is focused on the condition that Bengkulu is one of the regions that has a fairly high stunting percentage rate in 2022, namely 22 percent where in the context of tackling stunting problems, the Bengkulu Provincial Government seeks to formulate and implement policies or regulations that are in favor of public values. The Provincial Government of Bengkulu has launched various programs in an effort to accelerate the prevention of stunting which includes parenting and assisting mothers and children, eating patterns, and environmental sanitation. In order to approach this problem, references from Timo Meynhard’s theory (2020) are used, where the measurement of public values consists of Moral-Ethics, Aesthetic-Hedonistic, Instrumental-Utilitarian, and Socio-Political. The data were collected through interviews, literature studies, documentation studies, some relevant information derived from statutory policies and related reports and were analyzed qualitatively. This study concludes that stunting prevention policies in Bengkulu Province must focus on the context of implementing policies that are synergistic between local governments by emphasizing nutrition, the environment and household sanitation, as well as education related to stunting prevention and treatment which are two-way in nature and are supported by a budget for run the work program.

Keywords: Stunting Prevention; Public Value; Policy Implementation

INTRODUCTION

Stunting can be interpreted as one of the problems in children who are infected as a result of a long-term lack of nutritional intake which results in disrupting the child’s growth period. Child stunting is the result of long-term chronic consumption of low-quality diets combined with morbidity, infectious diseases and environmental problems (Semba et al, 2008). The critical consequences of stunting have led to the setting of a global nutrition target to reduce the number of stunted children under five by 40% by 2025 (Titaley et al., 2019). Stunting is a chronic nutritional problem caused by multiple factors and occurs across generations where in Indonesia, people often think that short or tall bodies are hereditary, so that wrong perceptions in society need serious attention from the community, government and relevant authorities (Budiastutik & Nugraheni, 2018).

There are several previous studies that explain the process of handling stunting and correlations about stunting in general. Efforts to tackle stunting in Indonesia are of particular concern when the policies implemented do not have a significant impact on achieving the stunting reduction target, so there is a need for implementation that goes directly to the grassroots of the problem (Saputri & Tumangger, 2019). In addition, there is research which explains that the description of an inappropriate environment occurs in the scope of food health such as food management that is not optimal, intake of food that is not good to the context of water that is not boiled causes infection (Sianipar et al., 2021). UNICEF and WHO emphasized that household health, especially related to drinking water, needs to be given proper attention by looking at adequate water sources in the community’s homes and processing them according to needs such as boiling, followed by household sanitation and household waste disposal using adequate latrines (Torlesse et al., 2016). Then, health services become an instrument that can be linked to the stunting prevention process where regular nutrition counseling is needed as an effort to prevent stunting followed by providing education on early detection of stunting which can significantly increase mother’s knowledge about stunting prevention in children aged 0-24 months (Sari et al., 2021). The understanding that arises in this context is the ability of policy makers to see the conditions that occur within the scope of health services to the community related to the dangers of stunting, so that the long-term impact will be obtained that the community has begun to understand that nutrition, the environment and knowledge are very crucial to fulfill. The relatively slow decline in stunting in toddler is also caused by several factors such as people’s habits/culture which are difficult to change towards a clean and healthy lifestyle, geographical conditions, and problems of food insecurity (Essa et al., 2021). In addition, WHO standards show that healthy children from around the world who are raised in healthy environments and follow recommended feeding practices have significant growth patterns (De Onis et al., 2006). This condition can be related to the survival of a decent and sustainable society with the public sector as the axis of handling the problem of stunting. Toddlers from households with a large number of household members tend to experience stunting compared to toddlers from families with a sufficient number of household members (Pratiwi & Wahyuningsih, 2018).

The aim of the research is to describe the condition of stunting in Bengkulu Province which refers to the implementation of stunting prevention policies by linking the public value approach as the basis for implementation. Correlations that can be used in an effort to link public values with existing policies in Bengkulu Province by looking at several interconnected factors starting from understanding before marriage to factors towards prevention to treatment for children in the stunting patient category.
This is also a major problem where the determinants of stunting that need to be emphasized are in the context of the political economy, health and water, sanitation and the environment (Beal et al., 2018). The explanation of this research will be described in descriptive form which aims to describe individuals, events, or situations by studying them as they are and looking at the characteristics of a population, identifying problems that exist within units, organizations, or populations or seeing variations in characteristics or practices between institutions or even countries (Siedlecki, 2020).

**RESEARCH METHODS**

This research uses a post-positivism approach which looks broadly by bringing together theory and practice, allows recognition and encouragement for the researcher’s motivation and commitment to the topic, and recognizes that many correct techniques can be applied to collect data and analyze data (Henderson, 2011). Research based on qualitative descriptive is considered capable of achieving research objectives and trying to find and understand phenomena, processes, or perspectives and views (Bradshaw et al., 2017). Stanley (2015) and Colarafi and Evans (2016) explain that data collection can be carried out using a qualitative descriptive research approach where the main sources in data collection are often semi-structured interviews, focus groups, observation and document review (Bradshaw et al., 2017). For this reason, this research data collection conducted interviews with the Head of the Bengkulu Provincial Health Office and the Head of the Health Services and HR Division of the Bengkulu Provincial Health Office. This aims to get an overview and to be able to create a correlation between research theory and reality which combines the results of interviews, literature studies, and policy documents. Table 1. Describes the theory used to explain several dimensions of public value as the main basis for research, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Content and Dimensions of Public Values</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moral-Ethics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related to subjective moral and ethical standards about how humans should be treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight for equality, justice, ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aesthetic-Hedonistic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting from basic needs for survival to positive hedonistic experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive for happiness, joy, relaxation, beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilitarian-Instrumental</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive for utility, efficiency, and effectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also includes subjectively perceived financial or economic value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political-Social</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive for positive relationships, social identity, or group membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting from mutual cooperation and solidarity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Table Source: Timo Meynhardt & Anna Jasinenko, Measuring public value: scale development and construct validation

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Stunting Policy in Bengkulu Province**

In an effort to tackle the problem of stunting, regulation from the central government in the form of Presidential Regulation No. 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction is the main basis for implementing work programs and forming derivative policies within the regional scope (Ministry of Law and Human Rights, 2021). Furthermore, the Provincial Government of Bengkulu issued
a related policy in the form of Decree of the Governor of Bengkulu Number P.HLD.P3APPKB of 2022 concerning the Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Bengkulu Province and Instruction of the Governor of Bengkulu Number 440/1711/Dinkes Year 2022 concerning Administration of Blood Supplement Tablets to Young Girls at Middle School Level/MTs, SMA/MA/SMK and Special Education (PLB) in Bengkulu Province. In addition, in realizing the main stunting reduction program, the Bengkulu Provincial government has implemented the "RAFFLESIA ACTION TOWARDS STUNTING-FREE 2030" which is a stunting prevention program which includes;

Adolescent girls, women of childbearing age and pregnant women are given blood-boosting tablets, Children are given exclusive breastfeeding, Vitamin A immunization, deworming and detection stimulation, Early intervention for growth and development, Basic health service facilities that are alert and able to address nutritional problems, Focus on a thousand days The first is life through an integrated family approach, Carry out community movements for healthy living in every life cycle, Family nutrition education through empowerment of local wisdom, Nutrition surveillance is carried out actively at posyandu, Immediate intervention in cases of KEK pregnant women, Comprehensive malnutrition and malnutrition, Access Clean water and environmental sanitation are available and meet health requirements. Broadly speaking, the Bengkulu Provincial Health Office specifically emphasizes 3 (three) important factors in efforts to prevent stunting which are still related to the RAFFLESIA ACTION, namely; Parenting and Assistance Patterns, Diet and Environmental Sanitation.

Ethics-Morals

Several factors that refer to the conceptual framework from WHO regarding child stunting can be related to societal factors consisting of political economy, health, education, culture and society, agriculture and food systems, and water, sanitation and the environment (Stewart et al., 2013). The policy from the Bengkulu Provincial government related to public values related to the worth of human life was explained by the Head of the Health Service where the Bengkulu Provincial Government divided into 2 (two) policy programs namely prevention and treatment if a child who has been diagnosed with stunting. The practice of stunting prevention that is carried out includes paying attention to the nutritional intake and nutrition of infants, toddlers, pregnant women and nursing mothers and periodic and ongoing health checks for infants, toddlers and pregnant women. The focus of treatment for infants and toddlers who are categorized as stunted children can be done by providing the first step by maintaining high nutritional and nutritious food intake. It is necessary to pay attention to the health of mothers and children by not ignoring malnutrition resulting from hunger so that it affects the ability to have physical and economic access related to sufficient, safe and nutritious food (Black et al., 2008). Thus, in an effort to implement policies related to nutrition and nutrition, the health sector at the district/city level needs to maximize the public sector, namely health workers not only waiting for reports of stunting cases, but it is better to ensure that it is directly related to additional nutrition for stunted children to mothers. pregnant.

Estetis-Hedonistik

Stunting in childhood increases the risk of death, cognitive function deficits, poor motor development, and loss of potential for physical growth so that the long-term consequences of stunting in children can lead to structural imbalances, unfulfilled academic potential, poor reproductive health, and increased risk of infection (Manggala et al., 2018). Nutritional status can be seen from the state of status in the human body related to food consumption, and is influenced by internal and external factors such as age,
gender, physical activity, disease and socioeconomic conditions, especially in toddlers, attention must be paid to the balance between physical and mental development, mentally (Marsaoly et al., 2021). In an effort to prioritize the availability of basic needs, policy innovations for tackling stunting in Bengkulu Province, the Health Office explained that one of the work programs implemented in efforts to reduce and treat stunting is by providing a variety of foods that are considered capable of increasing a child’s willingness to maintain child growth and development. This step was taken bearing in mind that there are several problems such as in Kaur and Lebong Regencies where there are children who find it difficult to be fed a balanced nutritional diet. The Bengkulu Provincial Health Office assesses that at least the nutritional intake for children must be fulfilled by a maximum of protein such as tempeh/tofu, eggs or fish. To meet these nutritional intakes, it is hoped that families will be able to accommodate at least the availability of balanced intake and be assisted by assistance given directly to children in the form of additional food to be able to support children’s growth and development.

Instrumental-Utilitarian

Several cases related to nutrition and child nutrition did not work effectively where the priority of the stunting target was that children did not have sufficient nutritional intake because both parents were unable to prioritize the importance of nutritional intake for children to avoid stunting. Policy makers should shift to an emphasis on stunting as an indicator of overall child health and nutrition rather than underweight (Dewey & Begum, 2011). For this reason, a work program that can be implemented is in the form of optimizing the role of health workers within the scope of the puskesmas to carry out actions from house to house in supervising the nutrition of children and breastfeeding mothers so that they are maintained. The establishment of a work team related to stunting prevention is considered by the Health Office as an effective step specifically to prevent or supervise patients with stunting where they no longer provide direct assistance in the form of money which under certain conditions is misused by parents. In addition, in the context of treatment, if there is a case of stunting in children, additional supplements containing complete vitamins, calcium and iron can be given routinely and supervised by health workers in a more specific scope. Meanwhile, stunting hinders cognitive and physical development in children, causes lower productivity and increases the risk of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease in adulthood (Widyaningsih et al., 2021). Thus, the emphasis in this work program is explained that the government of Bengkulu Province directly wants the optimal growth and development of children and avoids several possible future diseases.

The economic system determines how income, benefits, and assets are distributed in society (Milman et al., 2005). It is necessary to pay attention to the rational economy in efforts to reduce stunting which is divided into 2 (two) instruments, namely private sources including food and family capabilities and public sources which include accessibility, quality of health care, sanitation, and macro and micro nutrition for the public (Hoddinott et al., 2013). The Health Service through the HR service explained that in relation to the stating budget, it is expected that each district/city must budget for a stunting prevention program in the APBD. The realization that is possible is at least 3 percent of the APBD while 2 percent of village funds are allocated specifically for stunting within the scope of the village such as assistance for providing nutrition, nutritional intake and adequate infrastructure for the public sector in the health sector.
Social Politics

Socio-Politics can be interpreted by shared values attached to social relations and building positive group relations (Meynhardt & Jasinenko, 2020). The role of the organization on this dimension within the scope of the organization must contribute to social cohesion, a sense of belonging, and overall positive social relations to create public value by providing services or products directly that support social relations and cooperation, or indirectly by providing access to everyone or by supporting the values of solidarity and cooperation within a community (Meynhardt & Jasinenko, 2020). The government’s involvement in efforts to implement stunting prevention policies in general guarantees concrete steps to reduce stunting rates. The Governor of Bengkulu, through the Bengkulu Provincial Health Office, wants the stunting problem to be resolved as an ongoing agenda. Outreach to the community related to stunting includes nutrition and child nutrition, the environment, sanitation and provision for prospective partners before marriage also needs attention. Then, some emphasis is placed on the stunting socialization process including sanitation and the environment with the implementation of more specific policies related to open defecation, hand washing, and management of drinking water, garbage and household waste (Latifa, 2018). The current work program in efforts to prevent stunting relates to providing information for mothers so they are able to gain an understanding regarding child care patterns that can prevent stunting, more specific explanations related to nutrition and nutrition to shape the growth and development of children, as well as an emphasis on the environment a clean and sanitary living environment. The Government of Bengkulu Province continues to strengthen public services where every health center and health worker in the local area is able to accommodate stunting problems. For this reason, the direct involvement of the public sector in the prevention and treatment of stunting in Bengkulu Province is crucial which is not only one-way by relying only on the government, but it is hoped that prospective mothers and pregnant or breastfeeding women are able to participate actively to see the potential that exists related to the danger of stunting to the nearest health institution or sector to the house.

CONCLUSION

Conducting research related to the implementation of stunting reduction policies in Bengkulu Province related to public values, the focus is on policies that are synergic in nature between the Provincial, Regency/City and Village Governments. This is based on the emphasis on work programs which include socialization before marriage, nutrition for mothers and children, complete vaccination for babies, and the scope of health such as sanitation of the home environment and public service facilities from the government, especially at the district/city level, namely the puskesmas. For this reason, in an effort to support every need for the implemented work program, the Bengkulu Provincial government also emphasizes the budget allocations included in the APBD of the Provincial, Regency/City and Village Governments.

It is hoped that the discussion of this research will be able to reach every potential target community as well as people who need to be provided with an understanding regarding stunting prevention. The phenomenon that can be told is that the community is able to collaborate and is two-way so that the implementation of the stunting policy can run optimally in accordance with public needs and targets achieved in the regional and national scope.

REFERENCES


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