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Enrichment: Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN HANDLING STUNTING IN BANGKALAN REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the implementation of stunting handling policies in Bangkalan Regency, focusing on Regent Regulation No. 6 of 2019. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data was collected through activity documents, interviews, and observations. The findings reveal that while the policy has led to some successes, such as reducing stunting rates and improving child nutrition through collaborative efforts between health workers, the community, and local government, challenges remain. These include uneven economic empowerment, limited public awareness about maternal and child nutrition, insufficient private sector support, and underutilized local potential. The research highlights the need for a collaborative implementation model to address these gaps and ensure sustainability. Key recommendations include enhancing cross-sector collaboration, increasing public awareness campaigns on health and nutrition, and fostering stronger private sector engagement. The proposed model emphasizes continuous monitoring and policy adaptation to maintain progress in reducing stunting rates. By addressing these areas, the research underscores the importance of a holistic and sustainable approach to tackling stunting in Bangkalan Regency.

Keywords: implementation; public policy; stunting

INTRODUCTION

According to Basic Health Research (Riskesdas) data from 2022, the prevalence of stunted children under five in Indonesia reached 24.4%, making it the country with the second-highest burden of stunted children in Southeast Asia and fifth in the world (Kirana et al., 2017). Stunting is a growth disorder that results in children having a height lower than the age standard due to insufficient nutritional intake over a prolonged period (Anggara Setya Saputra et al., 2022; Putri & Nurcahyanto, 2021; Yusdiana et al., 2023). The stunting rate in Indonesia remains above the WHO standard, which sets a limit of 20%, and the government aims for a 3% reduction per year to achieve 19% by 2024 (Fanani et al., 2019). In East Java Province, the stunting rate in 2022 was recorded at 23.5%, with Bangkalan Regency having the highest prevalence at 38.9% (Januarfitra & Kurniawati, 2022; Tsaralatifah, 2020). This indicates that Bangkalan Regency continues to fall within the high stunting category based on the Indonesian Nutrition Status Research (SSGI) conducted in 2021.

Bangkalan Regency, located in the western part of Madura Island, is a strategic area as the main gateway to Madura Island with an area of 1,260.41 km² (Prabowo et al., 2020). However, Bangkalan is the second poorest region in East Java, with the poverty rate reaching 21.57% in 2021, increasing from 186.11 million in 2019 to 215.97 million in 2021 (Zachra et al., 2023). Labang sub-district has a high prevalence of stunting, with villages such as Pangpong (18.64%), Sukolilo Barat (14.41%), and Sendang Laok (11.02%) being the main contributors (Mardiyanti et al., 2023). Despite access to health services, including Polindes and Posyandu, stunting rates are still high, indicating the need for more effective intervention efforts in nutrition, parenting, and improving the community's economic welfare (Faizah et al., 2024; Febrian & Yusran, 2021; Gusdiva et al., 2024; Iqbal & Yusran, 2021; Sukanti & Faidati, 2021).

Stunting is a chronic nutritional problem that is influenced by various factors, including community culture and traditions. In Madura, local cultures, such as food restrictions for pregnant women and the practice of discarding colostrum, contribute to the high rate of stunting (Astuti et al., 2025; Dalili et al., 2024; Dermawan et al., 2022; Fitriahadi et al., 2023; Illahi & Muniroh, 2018). In addition, early marriage is also a factor that worsens the condition because it can lead to family disharmony, divorce, and lack of adequate nutritional intake for children. Based on data from the Bangkalan Health Center, in 2022, 23.5% of pregnant women experienced anemia, and in February 2023, this figure reached 31 cases out of 223 pregnant women (Mariana et al., 2018; Pebrina et al., 2021;

Yulita et al., 2022). Visits by children under five to the Posyandu in Bangkalan District are also still low, only 54.3%, far below the East Java average of 73.6% (Askandary et al., 2024; Azimi et al., 2024). Low community participation in Posyandu is influenced by the level of education, employment, maternal perceptions, and the lack of active Posyandu cadres (Arsyad et al., 2020; Astuti et al., 2025; Limato et al., 2018; Sujarwoto & Maharani, 2022). Limited facilities and lack of provision of additional food are also obstacles in organizing Posyandu (Basrowi et al., 2024; Hardiyansyah, 2018; Tiyas, 2024).

The government plays an important role in addressing stunting through cross-sector coordination and specific and sensitive interventions. Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 and Governor Regulation Number 68 of 2021 are the basis for accelerating stunting reduction in East Java, including Bangkalan District (Aryastami, 2017; Hermawati & Sastrawan, 2020; Sunaryo et al., 2022; Wardani et al., 2023; Wiguna et al., 2021). The Bangkalan Regency Government has stipulated Regent Regulation Number 6 of 2019 as a legal basis for dealing with stunting (Fitri, 2018; Fitriahadi et al., 2023; Fitriani Pramita Gurning et al., 2021). However, the implementation of this policy has not been fully optimized, given the high stunting rates in several sub-districts. The impact of stunting is very serious, ranging from an increased risk of morbidity and mortality and low levels of intelligence to the long-term impact of low-quality human resources and increased risk of degenerative diseases (OECD PISA).

This research has novelty in comparing the Implementation of policy theory with the reality of its implementation in Bangkalan Regency. The government has a major role in managing the success of collaboration, but the lack of dialogue space between stakeholders leads to suboptimal Implementation of Policy. Stunting prevention requires a more comprehensive approach and adequate resources. The social phenomenon that occurs shows that the Bangkalan Regent Regulation Number 6 of 2019, as the last line of effort in handling stunting, still faces challenges in implementation in the field, so further evaluation is needed to ensure its effectiveness in reducing stunting rates in this region.

The urgency of this research stems from the critical need to examine the implementation of policy to address stunting in Bangkalan Regency. This research also plays a role in identifying obstacles and potential solutions to enhance policies in the health sector, contributing positively to developing strategies and innovations for facing future challenges related to the stunting phenomenon. From the entire description presented in the background of this problem, it is evident that the complexity of the threats we may face in the future includes the impact of stunting on the next generation, along with the efforts of the government, especially health workers, to address it. Various threats lead to increased morbidity and mortality, impaired cognitive, motor, and verbal development in children, and higher health costs. In the long term, these issues may result in suboptimal growth, risks of obesity and other diseases, reduced reproductive health, diminished learning ability, and decreased productivity and work capacity. Therefore, this research focuses on implementing policy to address stunting and examines how the activities of stakeholders contribute to public health, particularly maternal and child health. This research aims to evaluate the success and impact of the Implementation of policy and identify obstacles and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of policies in addressing stunting.

This research involved an in-depth analysis of how the program's implementation of the stunting response succeeded in reducing the rate from 38,9% to 10,2% and improving the welfare and health of the community. This means that the success shows good acceptance and support from the community, as well as the positive impact of the policy in reducing the incidence of stunting. This research provides a new contribution by analyzing more deeply based on the researcher's findings, namely the influence of customs, religion, socio-culture, marriage at a young age, and the use of local food (sorghum, moringa, and fish as PMT ingredients), which can be taken into consideration in improving further stunting handling policies.

This research aims to analyze policy implementation and its impact and develop an effective policy model for handling stunting in Bangkalan Regency. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich studies related to the implementation of health policies. Practically, the results can recommend the government formulate stunting policies, contribute to the Health Office's implementation, and become a reference for further research to understand the implementation of stunting handling policies in Bangkalan and Indonesia at large.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a phenomenological method to understand the implementation of stunting handling policies in Bangkalan Regency in depth. This approach aims to explore the experiences and views of stakeholders through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The research locations were in several areas of Bangkalan Regency with purposive sampling of informants involving the Head of the Health Office, village midwives, cadres, community leaders, and parents of toddlers who experienced stunting. Data collection techniques were carried out through direct observation in the field, interviews with policymakers, and analysis of official documents related to stunting policies and program implementation. To ensure data validity, this research applied triangulation of sources, techniques, and time and extended observation to obtain more accurate information.

Data analysis was carried out in stages through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing using interactive methods. In the process, researchers continue to evaluate and refine the findings by re-verifying in the field to ensure the credibility of the research results. The research structure consists of eight chapters, starting from the background, theoretical research, research procedures, description of the object of research, policy analysis, preparation of implementation models, research findings, conclusions, and suggestions. This research is expected to provide theoretical insights into public policy in the health sector as well as practical recommendations for the government to improve the effectiveness of handling stunting in the area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Policy Impact Analysis Stunting Management
Handling Stunting in Perspective Top Approach

The Bangkalan Regency government's activity program, which involves various parties—including collaboration with health workers, religious leaders, TNI, and POLRI community leaders—aims to implement programs in the local area that relate to IEC and motivation in the health sector, as part of the local government's duties and functions. Through several initiatives, the Bangkalan District government not only physically improves the health level of the local community but also fosters a positive awareness and mentality regarding health within the community.

The stunting management activities through the implementation of several existing programs by the Bangkalan district government not only ensure a decrease in the incidence of stunting but also contribute to improving public health. This program is an integral part of health improvement efforts that aim to form a healthy community that cares about and has a high awareness of health, especially about nutrition for pregnant women and nutrition for children under five. So, the stunting handling program carried out by the Bangkalan district government not only has an impact on reducing the incidence of stunting but also makes a significant contribution to building the awareness and enthusiasm of the local community in creating a clean and healthy environment.

Welfare level of the local community

The percentage of poor people in Bangkalan Regency in March 2024 was 18.66 percent, a decrease of 0.69 percentage points against March 2023, which amounted to 19.35 percent. The number of poor people in Bangkalan Regency in March 2024 amounted to 190.94 thousand people, a decrease of 5.72 thousand to March 2023, which amounted to 196.66 thousand people. In March 2024, on average, poor households in Bangkalan Regency had 5.26 household members. Thus, the average poverty line per household was Rp2,877,309 per household. When viewed by employment, the percentage of the poor who work in the agricultural sector tends to be greater than that of the poor who do not work in the sector. In 2023, 51.88 percent of the poor aged 15 years and above worked in the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, the % of the poor population aged 15 years and over who work not in the agricultural sector is 19.98%. The people of Bangkalan Regency optimize the area around the coast for various other economic activities, such as aquaculture, salt ponds, marine tourism, and public transportation.

A healthy population is expected to be a strong capital in development. Health indicators are needed to measure the degree of public health, the achievements of government programs in health sector development, and the condition of services and access to public services in the health sector.

The government has carried out program interventions to improve the degree of public health, especially by providing easy access to public services in the health sector, such as puskesmas, pustu, and others. The main targets are to reduce maternal mortality, reduce the prevalence of malnutrition,

and, most importantly malnutrition, reduce the mortality rate of malnutrition and malnutrition, and most importantly, reduce the infant mortality rate, which in turn will increase life expectancy.

In addition to health facilities, government programs have been carried out for the above targets, including continuing to improve the competence of health worker resources and distributing them to remote villages with good services of national standards. Equitable and affordable health services are believed to be able to improve the degree of public health, such as providing free health services for the poor, improving health facilities and infrastructure through the poor, improving health facilities and infrastructure through the building of puskesmas, hospitals, policies and posyandu supported by the provision of adequate medical equipment and drugs. In improving health status, government programs related to health should be directly accessible to the public in a broad, cheap, and affordable manner in remote areas throughout Bangkalan

In 2023, the percentage of children under five (aged 0-59 months) in Bangka Lan District who have received BCG immunization is 94.91 percent. Then, the percentage of toddlers who have been immunized with DPT in 2023 is 90.18. The percentage of children under five who have been immunized with Polio in 2023 is 91.10 percent. The percentage of children under five who have been immunized with Measles in 2023 is 79.47 percent. While the percentage of toddlers who have been immunized with Hepatitis B in the year is 82.65 percent.

Health Facility Utilization

Reducing the maternal mortality rate (MMR) is very important; one way is to ensure that medical personnel and neonatal services carry out every delivery assistance. In this regard, they have implemented a delivery process that meets health SOPs. Therefore, the government always strives to expand access, service facilities, and health workers by increasing the number and quality. Such as increasing the number and quality of health services. Such as increasing midwifery services by placing midwives in villages as stated in the Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan 2010, which has been stipulated in Presidential Regulation No. 5 of 2010, namely increasing the development and utilization of health human resources that are equitable and of high quality.

Efforts to provide health workers have not shown maximum results because, in 2023, the percentage of women of childbearing age in Bangkalan Regency based on the place of delivery showed that many chose to give birth at Polindes/Poskesdes (50.49 percent) at the top and followed by giving birth at puskesmas/pustu at 13.86 percent.

The education level of the local community

The mandate in Article 31 of the Constitution and the RPJM states that education is the right of every citizen, which aims to educate the nation's life. Nine-year compulsory education was started to be compulsory for all citizens, especially the school-age population. The measure of development success today cannot only use the success of economic development; economic development, which was once used as the main reference for regional development's success, is no longer considered the main indicator of regional development. In fact, some countries have high national income, but the Human Development Index (HDI) is still low. Therefore, it is agreed that the success of development is not only focused on the object to be built but rather on the active role of the subjects involved in development. This means that the success of development is not only measured by the rise and fall of economic growth in a region but also by the development of its human resources.

The success of development, especially human development, can be partially assessed by seeing how much the most basic problems in society can be resolved. These problems include poverty, unemployment, education, food security, and upholding democracy. The quality of reliable human resources is determined by education because education is the window of knowledge. Education is considered to have a strategic role as the key to the nation's progress. The strategic role of education, namely as an inseparable tool in efforts related to the results of educational development, is to look at the indicators so that they can be used as a basis for future development planning. The indicators include the School Participation Rate, the Highest Education Completed, the Average Years of Schooling, and the Quality of Education Services.

Impact of Stunting Handling Implementation of Policy

The stunting handling program, especially in reducing the incidence of stunting from 38.9 percent, reflects the local government's commitment to implementing improvements in health levels,

especially toddler nutrition. In implementing these activities, the local government always complies with the authority and laws and regulations, this directly supports the local government's efforts to improve the health status of the local community. The Bangkalan District Government runs this program by considering the capabilities of related agencies and the needs of the community, especially those toddlers who are still identified as stunted. the implementation of this policy is directed to have a real positive impact, making toddlers grow healthy and nutritionally adequate and their growth and development in accordance with their age as well as pregnant women and nursing mothers. Through cooperation between the Bangkalan district government and several related agencies, this program is a real step in reducing the incidence of stunting and improving the health level of the local community.

The outcome of the implementation of the stunting management policy in Bangkalan Regency will provide a comprehensive picture to the central government. The results are expected to provide a basis for leaders to evaluate the effectiveness and positive impact of the program on the health of the local community. This picture is likely to include performance evaluation, achievement of stunting locus targets, and the resulting social and economic impacts. Thus, reporting on these activities is an important tool for leaders to make further policies related to handling stunting in the future. A comprehensive and accurate report will provide an in-depth view of the program's success, strengthen sustainable policies, and increase community benefits.

Impact Analysis

The evaluation of the stunting management program activities in Bangkalan District shows several positive aspects, namely:
A. The determination of activity targets is based on data on the highest incidence of stunting (stunting locus area). This has the potential to increase the positive impact of activities and get full support from the community as the target object of handling stunting.
B. The implementation of activities in accordance with the implementation plan for handling stunting shows thoroughness and seriousness in completing the target objectives. This approach can ensure maximum results and good-quality program implementation.
C. The collaboration between local government activity planning and Pokja achievements shows efforts to align strategic goals in realizing the space, tools, and conditions of the goal. This supports the unit in fostering and empowering health workers in its region, creating collaboration between health and development aspects.

Although evaluating stunting management program activities in Bangkalan District shows a positive approach in targeting based on the highest stunting incidence rate, the thoroughness of implementation, and collaboration with achieving a reduced stunting incidence rate, constructive criticism is still needed. According to Karmanis & ST (2021), the evaluation should focus more on the direct impact on the beneficiary community's welfare so that the activities' sustainability and effectiveness are more measurable. In addition, Purwanto & Sulistyastuti (2012) explain that aspects such as active community participation and long-term impact monitoring should also be the focus of the evaluation to ensure that activities really contribute to improving the quality of life of local communities.

Implementation Constraints and Solutions

Various obstacles in the implementation of policies in handling stunting appear to involve economic aspects, administration, financial support from the private sector, lack of family planning extension workers and community long-term family planning methods, and lack of motivation for prospective brides to have their health checked before marriage. participation analysis of these constraints suggests the need for improved timeliness in administration, better coordination with relevant parties, and more adaptive planning. Cooperative mechanisms such as self-management could be a necessary alternative to overcome administrative constraints and maintain smooth program implementation. Public awareness about health checks before marriage is also important.

Efforts to overcome obstacles in implementation refer to a series of actions taken to identify, reduce, or eliminate obstacles that arise during the implementation of a program, policy, or project. The main objective of these efforts is to ensure the smooth running of activities and achieve the desired results in accordance with the set objectives. These efforts can involve various strategies such as process improvements, changes in implementation methods, improved coordination between

stakeholders, or adjustments to changes in environmental conditions or policies. The importance of overcoming obstacles in implementation lies in the readiness and ability to respond to the dynamics that may occur during implementation so that the program or policy can remain relevant, effective, and have a positive impact as expected.

The solutions taken in response to the constraints faced in the implementation of Implementation of policyin handling stunting reflect proactive and adaptive efforts. Overall, the solutions reflect appropriate responses to the constraints that arise with strategic adjustments, good coordination, and a focus on transparency and administrative efficiency. Some of the solutions proposed to overcome each obstacle in the implementation of Implementation of policyin handling stunting show quite effective efforts in responding to the obstacles that arise.

As an additional step, regular evaluation and reflection on the implementation of these solutions can provide further insights, improve aspects that still need improvement, and ensure that program implementation is as optimal as possible. Proposed solutions to overcome obstacles to Implementation of policyin addressing stunting include further consideration of the need to evaluate the intensity of coordination for efficiency, the importance of timeliness of solution implementation, and strengthening monitoring of coordination implementation with relevant agencies.

Implementation of policyModel Handling Stunting
Analysis of Existing Implementation Model.

There is great potential to improve the welfare of the local community, but improvements and refinements need to be made so that the program can run more effectively and sustainably, as the shortcomings have been pointed out. If the identified shortcomings are taken into account and the scheme is implemented, it can be developed into a model that can be replicated and developed in other areas.

In the context of stunting implementation activities focused on reducing the incidence of stunting, the relevant performance indicators to measure the success of the program should reflect the multidimensional impact of the program, such as:

A. The economic aspect can be measured through the impact of programs that have been implemented on the local economy, such as increasing household income and developing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that may be involved in the process of handling stunting.
B. Social aspects include improving the quality of life of people who receive PMT (supplementary feeding) assistance, which can include improving the nutritional value of existing toddlers.
C. Environmental aspects related to the stunting handling program include efforts to improve the quality of the surrounding environment by reducing clean water pollution and environmentally friendly healthy lifestyles and utilizing existing natural resources, namely the bangkalan district is rich in fish that are high in protein to reduce the incidence of stunting.
D. Institutional aspects include strengthening cooperation between the government, community, and health workers in the implementation of stunting management policies and increasing the capacity of human resources involved in the program.

Collaboration between health workers, local government, and the community in implementing the management policy of the stunting program shows the strong collaboration between all parties in implementing the program. The analysis of public Implementation of policyin this program shows a partnership between health workers, the community, and local government. So, referring to the previous chapter, which discusses the relationship between the top-down approach and the theories proposed in this research, such as the theory of development planning, public policy, stunting handling programs, and sustainable development, which is considered to ensure that the work plan prepared by the bangkalan district government has complied with the principles of public administration.

The top-down top-down approach emphasizes the role of the central government as the main director in the Implementation of the Policy process. In this model, policies are formulated at the top level, and their implementation is directed to actors at the lower level, such as local governments or technical implementers. A clear example of this approach is the stunting management program in Bangkalan District, where the central government sets policies, program socialization, and implementation guidelines that all parties must follow. The model approach is considered quite relevant as an analytical tool by considering comparison and implementation approaches Bedasari et al. (2021) explains that This approach was effective in ensuring wide coverage of PMT (Supplementary Feeding) in a short period of time despite facing challenges such as community resistance in some areas.

Implementation of policyshould be a 'top-down' process in terms of what implementers do to make their Implementation of policymore effective, a 'top-down' approach to the subject. This approach assumes that we can view the policy process as a series of orders in which political leaders articulate a clear policy preference that will be implemented in increasingly specific ways as the policy travels through the administrative machinery that serves it. This 'top-down' approach starts with government decisions, assesses the extent to which administrators implement or fail to implement these decisions, and then looks for the underlying causes of successful or unsuccessful Implementation of Policy. This approach provides a clear direction for implementation research. It emphasizes the extent to which the stated objectives are achieved and the activities of the legally mandated implementation machinery that offer clear indications of what the implementers should understand and what the objectives are.

Implementation of the Innovation Collaboration Model with a Top-Down Approach.

The partnership between health workers, the community and the local government of Bangkalan Regency shows a strong collaboration between all parties in the implementation of the Implementation of policyprogram in handling stunting in Bangkalan Regency. The analysis of public Implementation of policyin this program reflects the partnership between health workers, the community, and local government. Based on the theory of health improvement planning, public policies, programs related to these policies, and continuous evaluation, we can ensure that our plans adhere to these principles.

The strategic policy to reduce the prevalence of stunting in Bangkalan Regency is carried out with several policy steps, namely the issuance of Bangkalan Regent Decree Number 6 of 2019 concerning the reduction of stunting in Bangkalan Regency. In terms of performance, the local government must have standards and programs, and previously, there was an East Java Governor Decree Number 68 of 2021 concerning reducing stunting in East Java. two strategic policies. These for stunting reduction are strategic steps and are very important to coordinate in an integrated manner and jointly target priority target groups or stunting locus areas that live in villages or sub-districts to prevent stunting. So, a policy strategy is needed to reduce the stunting rate (Rahayu et al., 2018). In addition to the policy strategies mentioned above, the Indonesian government has a program (Rizal & van Doorslaer, 2019) related to specific and sensitive interventions issued by the Ministry of Health through the Community Health Center (Puskesmas) and Integrated Service Post (Posyandu) through the 1,000 First Days of Life (HPK) Movement.

Some of the programs to reduce stunting through malnutrition programs that have been implemented are:
A. Rembug Stunting Program
B. Gassing Program (Anti-stunting Movement)
C. GOPO (Gojek Posyandu)
D. Canting (How to overcome stunting)
E. SOTH (School for Great Parents)
F. SATE MANIS (One egg prevents chronic undernutrition)
G. DASHAT MASSKU (Healthy Kitchen to Overcome Stunting for Prosperous and Quality Society)
H. Integrated and focused programs across Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD)
I. Gardu Catin program in an effort to prevent stunting in brides-to-be
   Of all the above programs in detail and in detail the activities carried out include:
A. Supplementary feeding of pregnant women to address chronic energy and protein deficiencies
B. Program to address iron and folic acid deficiency;
C. Program to address iodine deficiency
D. Deworming to prevent worms in pregnant women
E. Program to protect pregnant women (Suhada, 2018) from malaria.

Based on the described policies, programs, and activities above, the Bangkalan Regency Government has collaborated between national and regional policies. This means that the Bangkalan Regency Government has implemented stunting management policies from the central government / national and followed by policies from the Bangkalan Regency Government itself. In implementing these programs and activities, collaboration between OPDs is needed, not only the Health Office but also related OPDs such as the Public Works Office, the Education Office, and the Community and Village Empowerment Office Policy.

The accomplishment of the initiative "Addressing Stunting in Bangkalan District" effectively supports the objectives of enhancing and promoting community awareness by improving the quality of

family life preparation, ensuring adequate nutritional intake, and advancing parenting practices. The implementation of this initiative has fostered community stability and trust in government and health professionals, elevated the quality of life within the community through various implemented programs, and provided health and welfare services that support daily living requirements. However, the execution of these activities encountered challenges in certain areas afflicted by extreme poverty and low family incomes, resulting in suboptimal fulfillment of balanced nutrition for families. In order to address this challenge, the provision of supplementary feeding activities (PMT) for toddlers, in the form of safe and high-quality snacks, as well as other supportive initiatives focusing on quality and food security, is imperative. Collaborative mechanisms, such as self-management, could serve as a viable solution to facilitate the implementation of these programs.

This initiative's collaboration among healthcare professionals, communities, and governmental bodies exemplifies a successful innovation program. It highlights the importance of community support and the adaptation of implementation strategies to align with local aspirations, which collectively enhance health outcomes, promote well-being, mitigate the incidence of stunting, and fortify relationships among healthcare workers, local government, and community members. In summary, these findings underscore the application and ramifications of effective public policy and its execution and the successful dissemination of program innovations achieved through the collaborative efforts of healthcare professionals, government authorities, and communities. These initiatives significantly contribute to the improvement of health and welfare in the Bangkalan district.

This research has theoretical implications for understanding the effectiveness of collaboration among health workers, the government, and the community in addressing stunting in Bangkalan Regency through a top-down approach. This approach demonstrates how policies directed from the highest organizational level can be effectively executed through collaboration among various parties. According to Rogers, the top-down approach enables government institutions to clearly direct policies while health workers and communities contribute to their implementation. In the context of addressing stunting, this collaboration facilitates information dissemination, enhances public awareness about maternal and child nutrition, and promotes innovation in parenting, environmental hygiene, and access to health services. This model can serve as a reference for other regions in tackling public health issues sustainably.

In terms of practical implications, this research shows that collaboration between health workers, communities, and the government in various stunting management programs can improve the health and well-being of communities. It also strengthens relationships between stakeholders and creates a healthier environment. Therefore, this model of collaboration can be adopted by government and non-government organizations in achieving better health development. In addition, this research provides guidance for relevant parties to design and implement similar activities that positively impact society. As a proposition, this research confirms that the collaboration of government, health workers, and communities with a top-down approach to program socialization and implementation has significantly reduced stunting rates. The novelty of this research lies in the in-depth analysis of cultural, religious, and social factors and the utilization of local foods (such as sorghum, moringa, and fish) in the provision of supplementary feeding (PMT). The success of this program in reducing the stunting rate from 38.9% to 10.2% shows the effectiveness of the approach used and the high level of community support. These findings can be considered in improving stunting management policies in the future, especially by considering socio-cultural aspects and local wisdom.

CONCLUSION

This research concludes that the implementation of the stunting policy in Bangkalan Regency, which refers to Regent Regulation No. 6/2019, has succeeded in significantly reducing the stunting rate from 38.9% to 10.2% through a collaborative approach between health workers, local government, and the community. The success of this program can be seen from the increasing public awareness of maternal and toddler nutrition, environmental hygiene, and good parenting. The collaborative model implemented, including the provision of supplementary feeding (PMT), ensures the sustainability and relevance of the program to local needs. The superiority of the top-down approach in policy socialization and implementation allows these programs to run effectively with broad support from the community.

To enhance the impact of stunting policies, it is recommended that local governments prioritize comprehensive awareness campaigns focused on maternal and child nutrition to educate families and

communities about the importance of these issues. Moreover, establishing formal partnerships with private sector stakeholders can provide additional resources and innovative solutions to stunting-related challenges. It is also crucial to create feedback mechanisms that promote collaboration among health workers, community leaders, and local government officials to ensure that policies are continuously adapted based on real-time data and community needs. By implementing these targeted strategies, the Bangkalan Regency can not only improve the health outcomes of its youngest population but also foster a sustainable approach to combat stunting in the long term.

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