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The Role of the Blang Pulo Village Government in Integrated Stunting Reduction Efforts

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ABSTRACT

Stunting is one of the public health problems that affects the quality of human resources. Efforts to reduce stunting require integrated involvement from various stakeholders, including the village government as the frontline of community services. This study aims to examine the role of the Blang Pulo Village Government in integrated stunting reduction efforts. The research method used is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results show that the Blang Pulo Village Government has played a role in reducing stunting through program planning, implementation of health and nutrition activities, cross-sector coordination, and community empowerment. However, several obstacles were identified, including limited budget, low community participation, and less optimal coordination. Therefore, strengthening the commitment of the village government and enhancing synergy among stakeholders are needed to improve the effectiveness of integrated stunting reduction programs.

Keywords: Role of Village Government, Stunting, Stunting Reduction, Integrated Approach

1. INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a condition that affects a child's growth and development. This condition can occur because they don't get enough food, are frequently ill, or don't receive enough social and emotional stimulation. The World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards state that a child is considered stunted if their height for their age is more than two standard deviations below the median[1]. Genetics does not cause stunting, which is a condition where someone is short. Generally, people are unaware that stunting can begin in the womb and is caused by growth problems that occur at a very young age. Pregnant women with chronic energy deficit (CED) can have children with low birth weight (LBW) because they are thin, short, or both. Barker's theory states that if the fetus

[1] https://www.who.int/news/item/19-11-2015-stunting-in-a-nutshell diakses pada tanggal 2 agustus 2022.

experiences growth problems in In utero, they are at risk of developing degenerative diseases as adults.

The anthropometric height-for-age (TK/U) index can be used to determine whether a person is stunted. This index indicates linear growth that occurs before and after birth, indicating that the person has experienced prolonged malnutrition due to inadequate food or health care. Stunting occurs when a person's linear growth does not reach their genetic potential due to poor diet or disease. Stunting occurs when a child's height or length is shorter than normal for their age.[2]

Stunting is a condition in which a child experiences developmental problems that make them shorter than their peers. This is largely due to nutritional deficiencies. Many people don't realize that short stature is an indication of long-term dietary difficulties that hinder a child's development. However, it's important to note that short stature doesn't always indicate stunting, although stunted children may appear short. If a child's height or length is less than -2 standard deviations (SD), they are considered stunted. This is especially true for children under 2 years of age, and they need to receive appropriate therapy immediately.[3]

Stunting is a health problem that occurs due to factors that occurred in the past. Some of these include insufficient consumption of healthy foods, repeated exposure to infectious diseases, premature birth, and low birth weight (LBW). This lack of proper nutrition usually occurs after birth, but it can also begin in infancy. while the baby is still in the womb. Furthermore, nutritional problems, especially stunting, slow the growth of young children and have lifelong negative effects.

Research has shown that stunting is closely associated with low income as adults, low educational attainment, and fewer years of schooling. Children who experience stunting are more likely to grow up with less education, poorer children, less healthy children, and more likely to suffer from non-communicable diseases. Therefore, stunting is a common indicator of poor human capital, which reduces a country's future productive capacity.

Stunting is quite common in Indonesia. The biggest challenge in preventing stunting is ensuring that all programs, activities, and funding sources for stunting prevention work together at the district/city and village levels. The stunting rate in Indonesia remains quite high, at 21.6 percent, despite the government targeting a reduction of 14 percent, which is still far above the WHO safe limit of less than 20 percent. This is because many adolescent girls experience anemia and malnutrition before marriage, which can cause their children to be born with low birth weight.[4] The 2024 Indonesian Nutrition Status Study (SSGI) also shows that the stunting rate in Indonesia is still 21.6 percent. This means that one in four Indonesian children suffers from stunting. Currently, the government is working to address stunting in the 10 provinces that are most important to them. These provinces have the highest stunting rates in Indonesia: East Nusa Tenggara, West Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, Gorontalo, Aceh, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and Kalimantan. West, Southeast Sulawesi, and Central Sulawesi. East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), West Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), and Aceh are some of the provinces with the highest stunting rates. Aceh is one of seven provinces where stunting remains quite common. The government is concerned about the high rates of malnutrition and stunted growth (short stature). The stunting rate in Aceh currently stands at 21.7 percent, higher than the national average of 27.5 percent and ranking fourth in Indonesia. Both internal and external factors contribute to the high stunting rate in Aceh Province. There is a shortage of nutritionists at all

[2] Atikah Rahayu,*"Study Guide – Stunting Dan Upaya Pencegahannya Bagi Mahasiswa Kesehatan Masyarakat"*, CV. Mine, Yogyakarta, 2018, Hlm 4

[3] https://hellosehat.com/parenting/kesehatan-anak/penyakit-pada-anak//stunting/. diakses pada tanggal 27 juli 2022.

[4] https://paudpedia.kemdikbud.go.id/berita/prevalensi-stunting-indonesia-2022-masih-diatas-standar-who-37-pasangan-usia-subur-alami-anemia?id=812&ix+11 diakses pada tanggal 2 agustus 2022.

Community Health Centers (Puskesmas), and community awareness programs are still lacking. External issues include the community not utilizing Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu) properly, as well as inappropriate cultural habits regarding feeding infants and toddlers.

Lhokseumawe City, especially in rural areas, faces numerous challenges related to stunting. There were 35 cases of stunting in the Blang Pulo area, as stipulated in Law Number 17 of 2023 concerning Health. Therefore, the role of local government is crucial for regional development, particularly in the health sector, which faces various possibilities and threats, one of which is the ongoing problem of stunting prevention and management.

The Regional Government, through the Mayor of Lhokseumawe, issued Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021 concerning Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management in Lhokseumawe City in response to the increasing number of stunting cases in Aceh Province, particularly in Lhokseumawe City. In response to the high number of stunting cases and as a As part of a coordinated effort between the central government and the Lhokseumawe regional government, the local government has issued this mayoral regulation. To address and prevent stunting in Lhokseumawe City, Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021 regulates integrated stunting prevention and management. The purpose of this regulation is to help end stunting in Lhokseumawe City. However, stunting rates in Lhokseumawe City have not decreased despite these restrictions. Background information and Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021 concerning Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management encouraged the author to research "The Role of the Blang Pulo Village Government in the Implementation of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management."

Additionally, a 2015 study by Aridiyah et al. on "Factors Affecting Stunting in Children and Toddlers in Urban and Rural Areas" examined how variables such as maternal education, family income, nutritional knowledge, age at initiation of supplementation, zinc and iron adequacy, medical history, and genetics contribute to stunting in children in urban and rural areas.[5] However, several questions remain; for example, it is possible that environmental variables, lack of access to clean water, and poor sanitation were not included in this study, which may explain stunting. Unlike the author's own research, which reflects the author's own views, this study did not focus on the function of village government. The multitude of applicable laws and regulations also contribute to this variation.

A 2016 study by Ni'mah and Nadhiroh, titled "Factors Associated with Stunting in Toddlers," also addressed these findings. Factors strongly associated with stunting in toddlers include maternal nutritional knowledge, birth date, exclusive breastfeeding, family income, and maternal education.[6] Addressing stunting in toddlers requires a comprehensive, multisectoral program to increase household income, educate mothers, improve their nutritional understanding, and promote exclusive breastfeeding. Various factors contribute to stunting in toddlers, including maternal nutritional awareness and consumption during pregnancy, lack of access to services, and inadequate sanitation and clean water. However, several aspects remain unexplored, such as maternal nutritional awareness and the lack of comprehensive studies on parenting patterns and their impact. Genetic variables that may influence stunting in toddlers are the focus of the authors' research; however, this particular study did not address this.

Furthermore, Lamria Sari Situmorang's 2023 study, titled "Implementation of Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction," identified adolescents, prospective brides, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and toddlers aged 0–59 months as demographic groups to be targeted in efforts to accelerate stunting reduction, according

[5] I Dewa Nyowan Supariasi dan Heni Purwaningsih*, Faktor-faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Kejadian Stunting Pada Balita Di Kabupaten Malang,* Karta Rahardja, 2019, Vol. 1, No. 2, Hlm. 56.

[6] Ni'mah, Khoirun dan Nadhiroh, Siti Rahayu. (2016). *Faktor yang Berhubungan dengan Kejadian Stunting pada Balita.* Jurnal Media Gizi Indonesia, *Vol. 10 No. 1*, hlm. 13–19. Dipublikasikan 22 Desember 2016.

to the study. Previous research conducted by the researcher differs from this study in several important respects. For example, although the author cites Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the acceleration of stunting reduction and Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021 concerning integrated stunting prevention and management in Lhokseumawe City as legal bases, Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 does not address the role of village governments in their direct interactions with local communities.[7]

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This article uses normative juridical research, namely legal research that positions law as a system of norms, particularly regarding principles, norms, and rules of legal regulations. This normative research aims to identify the meaning or legal basis, both written law[8], unwritten law, and religious provisions related to the Role of the Gampong Blang Pulo Government in Integrated Stunting Reduction Efforts. The data sources in this study are secondary data obtained from the literature, which consists of primary legal materials such as the 1945 Constitution, the statutory regulations include the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Mitigation, and Lokseumawe Mayor Regulation Number 32 of 2021 concerning the Role of Villages in Integrated Stunting Prevention and Mitigation. The supplementary legal sources used are legal publications that are not official documents. Textbooks, legal dictionaries, and legal magazines are examples of legal publications. Secondary legal materials include expert opinions, textbooks, journals, and cases relevant to the research problem. Tertiary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries and encyclopedias, support the primary and secondary legal materials.[9] Data collection was conducted through library research, and data analysis was conducted using qualitative analysis methods, namely by exploring laws and library materials and then writing descriptively.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. The Role of the Blang Pulo Village Government in Integrated Stunting Reduction Efforts,

The concepts of recognition and subsidiarity have transformed the way the state controls villages and made them subjects of development. Regulations on village status prevent villages from being entirely under the control of district or city governments. The goal of village governance based on the principles of recognition and subsidiarity is to make villages self-sufficient so that their communities can thrive. Villages are also expected to contribute to improving public services and the well-being of their communities. Therefore, communities are now crucial for sustainable development, particularly in initiatives aimed at stopping and reducing stunting.[10]

Stunting is a long-term developmental problem in toddlers that occurs when they don't get enough food or nutrition. This occurs when a child consumes food that doesn't meet their nutritional needs for their age. This is common in many places, including Lhokseumawe City. The problem of stunting in Lhokseumawe City is a very important issue today. There are various cases of stunting in

[7] Lamria Sari Sitomurang, *Impelementasi Peraturan Presiden Nomor 72 Tahun 2021 Tentang Percepatan Penurunan Stunting.* Universitas Medan Area, Hal.76

[8] Bambang Sunggono, Metodologi Penelitian Hukum (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2016): 93.

[9] Johnny Ibrahim, Teori & Metodologi Penelitian Hukum Normatif, (Malang: bayumedia publishing, 2012): 392.

[10] Muhammad Halwan, *Kedudukan dan Konsekuensi Kewenanangan Perangkat Desa dalam Undang Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014*, Al-Amwal, September 2019,Vol. 4, No. 2.

various communities in Lhokseumawe City. Table 1 shows the distribution of stunting sufferers in Lhokseumawe City.

Villages have the highest number of cases in four public health facilities, with an average of 100 cases annually. Muara Satu Community Health Center is one of the community health centers in Lhokseumawe City with the highest number of cases. Blang Pulo Village is located in Muara Satu District and covers 2.80 km^2 of the total area of Muara Satu District, which is 55.90 km^2. There are three hamlets in Blang Pulo Village, which has a population of approximately 3,392. Lhokseumawe Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021 concerning Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management in Lhokseumawe City serves as a guideline for stunting management in Blang Pulo Village.

Villages have the authority to stop stunting by establishing regulations in the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APB Gampong) aimed at improving public service programs. As stated in Chapter III Article 3 paragraph (1), the Village Government can establish regulations in the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APB Desa) to improve public service programs.

The village government is working to improve community nutrition and prevent stunting at the village level as part of its efforts to improve public services. Mr. Azhari, the Head of Blang Pulo Village, said in an interview, "Our main concern right now is the problem of stunting in our village." We are still working with the Community Health Center (Puskesmas) and the Integrated Health Post (Posyandu) to prevent stunting. The Lhokseumawe City Government is also continuing its efforts to help address stunting. Furthermore, the issuance of regulations related to stunting has raised public awareness. Furthermore, our current initiatives include collaborating with Puskesmas and Posyandu officers and ensuring the availability of clean water. Access to clean water is also a challenge, so providing clean water is part of the stunting prevention effort.

Article 6 paragraph (1) of the Lhokseumawe Mayor's Regulation on stunting also clearly states that village governments must undertake various efforts to reduce and prevent stunting in order to improve community nutrition and prevent stunting:

a) Increase the capacity of village officials, KPM (Family Welfare Beneficiary Families), and the community through training, outreach, and technical guidance;
b) Monitor the implementation of stunting prevention programs/activities;
c) Evaluate the implementation of stunting prevention;
d) Measure village performance achievements and report them to the Mayor through the Sub-district Head;
e) Regularly update data as a basis for developing stunting prevention program/activity plans for the following year;
f) Ensure that each stunting convergence target receives and utilizes the five basic intervention services;
g) Provide a budget for stunting prevention in the Regional Budget (APBD).
h) Provide training, outreach, and technical guidance to help village officials, beneficiary families (KPM), and the community become more competent;
i) Monitor the implementation of stunting prevention programs and activities;
j) Evaluate the implementation of stunting prevention, measure village performance achievements, and report to the Mayor through the Sub-district Head;
k) Regularly update data as a basis for developing stunting prevention program and activity plans for the following year;
l) Ensure that each stunting convergence target receives and utilizes the five basic intervention services;
m) Provide a budget for stunting prevention in the Regional Budget (APBD).

Steps taken to improve nutrition and prevent stunting are based on the Mayor's Regulation on Stunting. Mr. Azhari, Head of Blang Pulo Village, emphasized that: Health workers at the Community Health Center (Puskesmas) and Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu) are the most crucial parties in

helping the community stop stunting. Health checks for pregnant and breastfeeding women are one of the most common services. The village government is making greater efforts to assist health workers in preparing for health checks and reaching the community.[11] A work strategy needs to be developed for implementing stunting prevention activities, and not just assisting Community Health Centers (Puskesmas) and Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu). Village efforts so far have largely focused on community engagement and assisting Community Health Centers (Puskesmas) and Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu) in providing routine check-ups to breastfeeding and postpartum mothers and children. Although the Mayoral Regulation on Stunting explicitly states what villages must do to stop stunting, it still occurs.

As part of the stunting prevention initiative, the provision of clean water has been beneficial. Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu) have also provided healthy and nutritious supplementary food for toddlers. Furthermore, the Posyandu program emphasizes the importance of maintaining the health of pregnant and/or breastfeeding mothers. Posyandu has undertaken numerous initiatives to combat stunting, such as ensuring regular health checks for pregnant and/or breastfeeding mothers. However, there is no program to help this hamlet achieve food security. Several of the activities mentioned above have been implemented to help reduce stunting in Topore Village. Furthermore, Article 6 paragraphs (2-3) of the Stunting Regulations state that:

a) Villages have the authority to determine budget priorities through the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBG) in order to carry out their duties as referred to in paragraph (1);
b) The village collaborates with cross-sector regional agencies within the regional government, community institutions or groups, social and/or professional institutions, universities, the business world and other interested parties to carry out its duties as referred to in paragraph (1).

Therefore, the author also asked about the village's obligation to develop a stunting management plan that aligns with the stunting management plan in the Kaur area of Blang Pulo Village. Mr. Azhari explained that: "Our main goal is clear: ensuring everyone has access to clean water and sanitation, nutritional guidance, and maternal and child health services. We also monitor these developments by engaging the community. The city government is always monitoring us, so it's important to keep that in mind. The government is reviewing the performance of sub-district and village governments regarding their participation in the accelerated stunting management program."[12]

One of the village government's efforts to help accelerate stunting mitigation is ensuring that the community has access to clean water and good sanitation. To ensure that the community of Blang Pulo Hamlet has access to clean water, this hamlet has also built clean water supply infrastructure. Nutrition counseling is another effort that helps accelerate the handling and prevention of stunting. Community health centers (Puskesmas) and integrated health posts (Posyandu) conduct routine checks to ensure the availability of maternal and child health services. To do this, the author spoke in detail with the heads of the Puskesmas and Posyandu to review the programs that have been implemented based on the Stunting Regulation.[13] The author spoke with Mrs. Hanum, a health worker at the Integrated Family Planning Posyandu, and she said: The Posyandu of Blang Pulo Village checks children regularly to ensure they Weighing and measuring their heads to ensure they are not

[11] Azhari, Kaur, wawancara penulis di Gampong blang pulo, pada tanggal 12 Juni 2025 Pukul, 09.30 WIB

[12] Azhari, Kaur, wawancara penulis di Gampong blang pulo, pada tanggal 12 Juni 2025 Pukul, 09.30 WIB

[13] Hanum, Kader posyandu, wawacara penulis di Gampong blang pulo, pada tanggal 13 Juni 2025 Pukul, 09.30 WIB

stunted. We also provide comprehensive vitamin supplements through the Community Health Center (Puskesmas) and Integrated Health Post (Posyandu). Vitamin supplements may be limited, but you can still obtain them yourself.

As part of the village government's initiative, health workers at the Puskesmas and Posyandu in Blang Pulo Village are always active. They not only check children weekly, but also pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. The Puskesmas and Posyandu even distribute multivitamins to children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. Health workers also advise pregnant women to have regular prenatal checkups. Furthermore, pregnant women who regularly attend Posyandu are always advised to avoid smoking and eat well during pregnancy. This includes consuming a healthy, balanced diet and getting enough iron, folic acid, and iodine.

For toddlers, Community Health Centers (Puskesmas) and Integrated Health Posts (Posyandu) also monitor their growth and development through immunization programs, particularly basic immunizations. They also teach breastfeeding mothers about exclusive breastfeeding until the child is 6 months old and how to provide adequate complementary foods. This aligns with Article 4 of the Mayoral Regulation on Stunting, which states:

a. Pillars for accelerating stunting;
b. The role of villages in reducing stunting;
c. Strategies and methods for communication on behavior change/interpersonal communication;
d. Healthy living community movements;
e. Acceleration of integrated stunting prevention, targets, indicators, and activities;
f. Program implementers;
g. Guidance and supervision;
h. Monitoring and evaluation;
i. Research and development; and
j. Funding.

The author then questions how the Blang Pulo Village Government should assist in handling and preventing stunting cases. Based on Article 18 of the Regional Regulation on Stunting, the following agencies must be consulted for guidance and supervision regarding the implementation of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management in the City: the Village Government, the Sub-district Government, and all relevant Regional Apparatus (Bappeda, Health Office, Maritime Affairs, Fisheries, Agriculture, and Food Office, Education and Culture Office, Social Services, PP and PA, Dalduk and KB Office, Lhokseumawe City Ministry of Religious Affairs, Community and Village Empowerment Office, Islamic Sharia Education and Dayah Office, Public Works and Public Housing Office, Environmental Services Office, and other relevant Regional Apparatus).

Azhari explained that the city government is still developing a convergence plan for stunting prevention, involving village leaders and health workers at the Muara Satu Community Health Center. Ongoing efforts include community education, support for pregnant women, and data collection on pregnant and postpartum women. However, the impact of prevention has not been optimal. The village program complies with the Mayor's Regulation, which refers to the Presidential Regulation, and village participation is key to stunting management through cross-sectoral coordination and strengthening the role of sustainable villages.[14]

The Presidential Regulation and the Mayor's Regulation on integrated stunting prevention regulate the important role of villages in stopping stunting. Villages implement convergence programs through priority and supporting interventions involving community leaders and village officials. Article 14 paragraph (2) of the Mayor's Regulation emphasizes the responsibility of village governments in implementing convergence for stunting prevention at the village level. These tasks

[14] Azhari, Kaur, wawancara penulis di Gampong blang pulo, pada tanggal 12 Juni 2025 Pukul, 09.30 WIB

include developing specific and sensitive intervention strategies according to the roles of relevant agencies, as well as preparing activity summary documents that include program types, budgets, activity focuses, and the parties involved.

The Muara Satu Sub-district Head, along with the sub-district government, collaborates with community empowerment activists, village development actors, and Human Development Cadres (KPM) who are members of the Village Nutrition Center (RGG) to plan and implement stunting prevention programs according to the work plan. Each party develops measurable and time-bound technical steps. The involvement of village stakeholders is key to implementing specific and sensitive nutrition interventions, particularly targeting households during the first 1,000 days of life (HPK). Monitoring is carried out to ensure services are on-target and comply with regulations. The village head reports on activity implementation at the Village Meeting every December, while the Village Consultative Body (BPD) oversees the convergence of stunting prevention efforts in accordance with Mayoral Regulation Number 32 of 2021.[15]

Based on the results of the supervisory discussion, various proposals and recommendations were put forward to enhance the effectiveness of stunting prevention activities at the village level. One key aspect emphasized is the active involvement of village communities in stunting prevention and control programs. This is in line with the principle of Community Participation as stipulated in Article 12 paragraph (3) of Mayor Regulation Number 32 of 2021, which includes efforts to maintain physical fitness through daily physical activity, the adoption of healthy dietary practices, cessation of smoking and alcohol consumption, regular health check-ups, maintenance of environmental hygiene, and the use of proper sanitation facilities.

A representative from the Health Office, Mrs. Meydiana, stated that the success of stunting prevention and management is strongly supported by community involvement. Therefore, the government strives to create a supportive environment for the adoption of healthy lifestyle behaviors, particularly by raising public awareness of the importance of balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, and a living environment free from harmful substances as a sustainable strategy for stunting control.[16]

3.1.1. Obstacles and Efforts in the Implementation of Integrated Stunting Prevention and Reduction in Blang Pulo Village

Regulation 72 of 2021, which addresses the acceleration of stunting reduction, has long established regulations for stunting prevention. This regulation serves as a national reference and foundation that provincial, district, and city governments can use to accelerate efforts to address nutritional issues. Restrictions imposed by the mayor have even extended to prevention initiatives, including at the village level. However, local governments in this region feel there is a lack of initiatives aimed at preventing stunting.

The Integrated Stunting Prevention and Mitigation Program in Blang Pulo Village, Muara Satu District, Lhokseumawe City, faces several obstacles influenced by variables such as:

1. Lack of Understanding about Stunting

Public awareness of the importance of stunting prevention is still lacking, especially among breastfeeding and pregnant mothers. This occurs despite the implementation of a number of initiatives aimed at preventing stunting, such as campaigns to raise awareness of mayoral regulations. However, the public is still unaware of the laws and regulations related to stunting prevention because these efforts are considered inadequate. One effort aimed at improving community nutrition and preventing stunting is to disseminate policies on stunting prevention and management, as expressly stated in Article 16 paragraph (1) letter C. In addition, paragraph (1) of

[15] Elfina, Secretary of Muara Satu District, Interview with the Author in Blang Pulo Village, on June 14, 2025 at 09.30 WIB

[16] Meydiana, Health Office Staff, Author's Interview in Blang Pulo Village, on June 15, 2025, at 09:30 AM (WIB).

Article 30 states that: In monthly meetings of the PKH Companion Group in each assisted village under the city government, PKH Companions educate and guide families.

Family Hope Program (PKH) Beneficiaries (KPM) on Integrated Stunting Prevention and Management.

Therefore, it is important to educate villagers about stunting so they have a comprehensive picture. At the Integrated Health Post (Posyandu), she was interviewed by health worker Ms. Hanum, who said, "So far, our community outreach activities have largely focused on raising awareness about the importance of good child feeding to prevent stunting. The Posyandu is a common venue for such activities." Unfortunately, outreach efforts to educate the community about stunting prevention have been inadequate due to low levels of community involvement in these activities. As a convergence initiative for stunting prevention and management in villages, this outreach activity raises awareness and understanding of village development activities focused on accelerating stunting prevention and management, as well as its convergent management, among community members and village officials. Therefore, measures to reduce stunting are highly anticipated and require the active participation of stakeholders.

2. Lack of supporting facilities and infrastructure

One of the challenges in preventing stunting is infrastructure and supporting facilities. To prevent stunting, communities must actively. Traditionally, the health system relies solely on public health facilities, also known as community health centers (Puskesmas). Providing healthy supplementary food for children is one way to improve community nutrition and reduce stunting. To meet the nutritional needs of breastfeeding mothers, horticultural products and village pharmacies are also being developed. However, due to the lack of infrastructure and facilities in the village, this has not been implemented effectively. An employee at the Integrated Family Planning Health Service Post (Posyandu), Mrs. Hanum, noted that toddlers do not receive sufficient healthy supplementary food. "Supplies of supplementary food for toddlers are very limited, if not non-existent," she said. While providing adequate supporting facilities is a first step in preventing stunting, the conditions in our Posyandu are still far from ideal. Furthermore, there are times when the supply of vitamins and ideal food for pregnant women for newborns and children is insufficient.[17]

Taking all of this into account, the author concludes that stunting prevention initiatives have not been fully implemented. Unfortunately, there are still insufficient places to provide the nutrition and nutrients children need. Furthermore, there is a lack of adequate supporting facilities to assist in early stunting prevention, such as integrated health posts (Posyandu). The author also spoke with a housewife named Ibu Nyak Hasanah, who provided information about the services she offers. "We used to provide our children with health check-ups and staple foods like eggs and porridge for breakfast, but we stopped doing that because we thought it wouldn't help their illnesses. Another clear indicator of this is the absence of intervention programs that could be strengthened by providing nutritious food and vitamin supplements for toddlers and children. As a result, access to.

3.Community Culture

The habits, opinions, behaviors, and mindsets of village communities significantly influence the implementation of stunting prevention measures implemented by local governments. Changing community lifestyles deeply rooted in local cultural traditions presents a complex challenge to public health interventions. Stunting prevention strategies are often designed with the assumption that communities will maintain certain cultural practices, necessitating a sensitive approach to local values. An interview with Ms. Hanum, a health worker at the Integrated Family Planning Service Post (Posyandu), explained that there is a common perception among parents that short stature in children is a genetically inherited factor. This perception can mask the real risks of stunted growth due to malnutrition or less than optimal health conditions from birth. A deeper understanding of the relationship between culture, parenting, and children's nutritional status is necessary to design effective and sustainable stunting interventions at the community level.[18]

[17] Hanum, Posyandu Cadre, Author's Interview in Blang Pulo Village, on June 13, 2025, at 09:30 AM (WIB).

[18] Hanum, Posyandu cadre, interviewed by the author in Gampong Blang Pulo, on June 13, 2025 at 09.30 WIB

Table 1. 1. Data at Community Health Centers in Lhokseumawe City in 2025

No	Health Center	Stunting Case	% Stunting
1	Blang Mangat	58	8,76 %
2	Blang Cut	80	12,08 %
3	Muara Dua	108	16,31 %
4	Muara Satu	102	15,41 %
5	Banda Sakti	122	18,43 %
6	Mongeudong	109	14,47%
7	Kandang	83	12,54%
	Jumlah	662	100%

Source: Lhokseumawe City Health Office 2025

Table 2. Data on the Highest Stunting Cases in Lhokseumawe City Community Health Centers in 2025

No	Health Center	Stunting Case	% Stunting
1	Muara Dua	108	16,31 %
2	Muara Satu	102	15,41 %
3	Banda Sakti	122	18,43 %
4	Mon Geudung	109	16,47 %
	Jumlah	**441**	**66,63 %**

Source: Lhokseumawe City Health Office 2025

4. CONCLUSION

In Blang Pulo Village, Muara Satu District, Lhokseumawe City, the village plays a role in integrated stunting prevention and management by implementing a stunting prevention convergence program. This program includes nutrition counseling, social protection, early childhood education (PAUD) services, clean water and sanitation provision, and intervention services for mothers and children. The Blang Pulo Community Health Center (Puskesmas) and the Integrated Health Post (Posyandu) collaborate with the local government to implement this program. In addition, the Village Nutrition Center (GKG) is actively involved in monitoring and evaluating the stunting prevention and management program, as are community empowerment activists, village development actors, and Human Development Cadres (KPM). Lack of adequate outreach due to diverse community perspectives on how to address stunting, inadequate distribution of food and vitamin supplements as part of intervention activities, and the deep-rooted cultural belief that short stature in children is hereditary all contribute to the challenges and obstacles experienced in Gampong Blang Pulo's efforts to prevent and reduce stunting.

5. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

The author's contribution in this article is the emphasis on the importance of the role of the Blang Pulo Gampong Government in the implementation of integrated stunting prevention and reduction. The author highlights that the gampong government holds a strategic position as the frontline institution in coordinating various programs and activities related to stunting prevention, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. This article contributes by describing the specific roles of the gampong government, including the allocation of village funds, strengthening the role of posyandu cadres, improving maternal and child health services, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration with health workers, community leaders, and relevant institutions. Furthermore, the author emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach that combines nutrition education, sanitation improvement, and community empowerment as sustainable efforts to reduce stunting. Overall, this article provides a comprehensive understanding of the role of the gampong government in supporting the acceleration of stunting reduction at the local level.

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