

ACCELERATING STUNTING REDUCTION BY PORONG COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER IN SIDOARJO REGENCY

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Abstract. Stunting is a health issue in Indonesia that causes children to suffer from chronic malnutrition, which hinders physical growth and brain development. Children who experience stunting tend to have shorter stature and less than optimal growth and development. The Porong Health Center is one of the health centers innovating by implementing digital services and winning an award through the KOPI PAHIT application. The purpose of this study is to analyze and describe the strategies of the Porong Health Center in Sidoarjo to accelerate the reduction of stunting. In this study, the author applied a qualitative research process with the aim of providing a comprehensive and detailed description of the research study. Data collection was conducted through interviews, observations, documentation, and literature reviews. The findings of this study indicate that the Porong Health Center in Sidoarjo's strategy to reduce stunting has successfully shown a significant decrease, although there are still fluctuations in stunting rates in some villages due to economic factors and food security. The health center has improved maternal and child health services. The innovative KOPI program increased community participation. It successfully raised community awareness through education and guidance. It successfully optimized the data monitoring and evaluation system. It also successfully improved cross-sector collaboration

Keywords: accelerating stunting reduction; strategy; stunting

I. INTRODUCTION

The health problem currently occurring throughout Indonesia is stunting. This condition occurs when a child suffers from chronic malnutrition, which hinders both physical growth and brain development. Children affected by stunting generally have a shorter stature compared to their peers and tend not to develop optimally, both physically and mentally. The Ministry of Health defines stunting as "a growth and development disorder in children caused by chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections, characterized by height or length below the standard."

The government has drafted the 2020-2024 National Priority Program, namely the Team for the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction in Toddlers, which is included in the seven national priorities. The Government of East Java Province is committed to accelerating the reduction of stunting, as outlined in Presidential Regulation No. 72 of 2021 on "Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting," which mandates the formation of a Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team at the provincial, regency, and municipal levels. This Presidential Regulation also serves as the legal basis for the National Strategy for Accelerating Stunting Reduction, which began in 2018, and strengthens the institutionally mandated intervention plans for the implementation of accelerated stunting reduction. The Governor of East Java urged all local heads to continue implementing specific and intensive interventions. All

District/City Health Offices, Provincial Regional Hospitals, and District/City Hospitals are required to coordinate and formulate strategic steps.

The Sidoarjo Regency Government also continues to monitor and address malnutrition issues, particularly stunting in children, as part of its efforts to improve public health. Sidoarjo Regency continues to make efforts to reduce stunting rates. Due to the high stunting rates in Sidoarjo, the Sidoarjo Regency Government issued Sidoarjo Regent Regulation No. 89 of 2021 on the accelerated integrated reduction of stunting. The Sidoarjo Government has also made the reduction of stunting prevalence a top priority in the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020-2024. The acceleration of stunting reduction refers to improving dietary patterns, promoting nutrition-conscious behavior, enhancing food and nutrition security systems, and improving access to and the quality of nutrition services in line with advancements in science and technology. To achieve this acceleration, Sidoarjo Regency has formed a Stunting Reduction Acceleration Team to ensure maximum implementation. Following the issuance of the Regent's Regulation, there is also Regent's Regulation No. 89 of 2021, Article 10, which states that "stunting reduction in the region is carried out by involving multiple sectors through program synchronization at the regional, sub-district, and village/neighborhood levels." Following the issuance of the regulatory policy of Regent Regulation No. 89 of 2021 on

“integrated acceleration of stunting reduction,” there is also a Letter of Certification from the Regent of Sidoarjo No. 188/197/438.1.1.3/2022-2024. Additionally, the Secretary of the Sidoarjo Regency issued Decision Letter No. 188/12515/438.6. 1/2022 on regional innovation, as stipulated in Regent Regulation No. 31 of 2023, Article 8, which states that in order to foster an innovative climate within the Sidoarjo Regency Government, each regional agency must have at least one regional innovation aligned with its core duties and functions each fiscal year. Regional innovations are aimed at optimizing the performance and public services of the local government so that the constitutionally mandated goal of ensuring the welfare of the community can be achieved.

The Porong Community Health Center is one of the community health centers that has innovated by implementing digital services and has successfully won the award for First Place in Public Service Provision in 2023 with a Public Service Index of 4.52/A. One of the services provided is through the Porong Innovation Compilation to Prevent and Address Stunting, commonly abbreviated as “KOPI PAHIT,” which can be accessed via smartphone (Android), making it easily accessible to the public anytime and anywhere with an internet connection. This digital service innovation was implemented due to the high stunting rate in Sidoarjo at 23.9% and in the Porong Health Center's service area at 28% in 2019. Through the KOPI PAHIT innovation, the Porong Health Center has seen a decrease in stunting rates. The following are the stunting prevalence rates at the Porong Health Center:

Table I
Prevalence of Stunting at Porong Community Health Center

Year	Stunting Rate
2021	10%
2022	3,61%
2023	1,90%
2024	0,84%
2025	0,74%

Source: Porong Community Health Center, 2025

The table above shows data indicating that the prevalence of stunting at the Porong Community Health Center is low and has decreased significantly. Knowing the nutritional status and stunting of toddlers in real time, easily accessible anywhere, parents can monitor the health of their toddlers and be more active in consulting with health workers. The KOPI PAHIT innovation is included in the stunting prevention and reduction innovations owned by Sidoarjo Regency. KOPI PAHIT has also received the Top 99 Public Innovation Award from the Ministry of State Apparatus and Regional Government (Kemenpan RB), and the Regent of Sidoarjo hopes it can be implemented across all health centers in Sidoarjo.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study applies a qualitative research process. Qualitative research methods are used with the aim of providing comprehensive and detailed information on the research study. The study examines the strategies of the Porong Sidoarjo Community Health Center in accelerating the reduction of

stunting so that it can answer the truth about a phenomenon occurring at the research location.

The research focus can serve as a guideline for researchers to refine the issues that are the subject of this study. The focus of qualitative research is still tentative and will evolve after the researcher enters the field. In accordance with the research questions and objectives, which are to analyze and describe the strategies of the Porong Sidoarjo Community Health Center in accelerating the reduction of stunting. This research is aligned with the problem formulation, objectives, and theoretical framework, ensuring that the research focus aligns with Fred R. David's Strategic Management Theory (as cited in Fali Suhadi, 2019). This theory encompasses Strategy Formulation, Strategy Implementation, and Strategy Evaluation. The research location is in Porong Subdistrict, Sidoarjo, and the Porong Health Center, Sidoarjo, located at Jl. Juwet Utara No. 265, Juwet, Juwetkenongo, Porong Subdistrict, Sidoarjo Regency, East Java.

The informants in this study were the Head of the Porong Community Health Center, the person in charge of the External Nutrition Public Health Program, midwives and cadres working at the integrated health service post, and mothers who received stunting intervention.

Data collection was conducted through interviews by asking questions to informants, then the data obtained was recorded or documented. Observations were made by directly observing the environment that was the focus of the study. Documents were also collected in the form of photos, images, videos, sound recordings, and data.

Data analysis techniques are used by researchers from the beginning of determining the focus of the research until the end of the research. According to Miles and Huberman (Sugiyono, 2020), “qualitative data analysis is conducted interactively and continuously until the research is completed or the data has been obtained.” The data analysis technique in this study uses an interactive model.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In a study titled “Accelerating Stunting Reduction by Porong Community Health Center in Sidoarjo Regency,” the discussion focuses on three key aspects. First, Strategic Formulation includes the vision and mission of Accelerating Stunting Reduction, identifying opportunities and challenges faced by the Porong Community Health Center, explaining the weaknesses and strengths of the Porong Community Health Center, creating alternative strategies, and selecting the appropriate strategy for implementing Accelerating Stunting Reduction. Second, Strategic Implementation involves setting goals for Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting, designing policies to motivate employees, allocating existing resources to implement Accelerating the Reduction of Stunting by effectively describing the organizational structure, preparing finances, and developing information management. Third, Strategy Evaluation involves observing external and internal causes that led to the implementation of the strategy, measuring the performance of the Accelerated Reduction of Stunting

program, and taking corrective actions if the chosen strategy fails.

1. Strategic Formulation

a. Vision and Mission

The formulation of the vision and mission of the Porong Community Health Center is based on the vision and mission of the Regent of Sidoarjo in Regent Regulation No. 89 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Integrated Stunting Reduction. In order to realize the vision and mission, measurable achievement strategies are required. The Porong Community Health Center can optimally achieve its vision and mission by developing appropriate concepts and strategies to address various issues related to stunting. A mission is a translation of a vision that contains the goals to be achieved within a specified time frame or as a strategic plan to realize the established vision. The mission of the Porong Community Health Center in Sidoarjo related to stunting is to commit to effectively reducing stunting rates through innovative, data-driven, and sustainable approaches.

b. External opportunities and threats

The opportunities available to the Porong Community Health Center include government support for the national program to accelerate the reduction of stunting and regional policies for maternal and child health programs, as well as the availability of funds. The Porong Community Health Center has developed the KOPI PAHIT Program Innovation, which has been recognized and employs a data-driven approach with specific and sensitive interventions, utilizing technology to monitor children's nutrition. The Porong Health Center also collaborates with various government and private sector stakeholders related to accelerating the reduction of stunting and providing nutritious food and health education. Community awareness is increasing due to educational programs and the active role of community health workers.

External threats faced by the Porong Health Center include changes in community behavior, such as inappropriate childcare practices and feeding habits. Limited access to nutritious food is caused by the economic constraints of some families. Human resource and infrastructure limitations are due to high workloads and a shortage of nutrition experts focused on family nutrition education and support. Consistent monitoring and evaluation are hindered by the lack of valid and systematic real-time data. Local social and cultural conditions, such as community beliefs regarding the acceptance of health interventions and stigma toward high-risk pregnant women and children with poor nutrition.

c. Strengths and Weaknesses

The strengths of the Porong Community Health Center include innovative public health programs such as KOPI PAHIT and the use of technology in monitoring the nutritional status and health of mothers and children. It has competent and dedicated health workers, such as those experienced in maternal and child health services, as well as active posyandu cadres who support stunting interventions. This aligns with the statement in the journal (Izzuddin et al., 2024), which explains that the community has adopted healthy living habits due to adequate resources. Policy support, cross-sector collaboration, and standardized, affordable services for the community are

also key factors. This is because the center provides free services and has a good referral system to higher-level healthcare facilities. Commitment to community education and empowerment through active health promotion and the use of communication methods such as social media.

The weaknesses of the Porong Health Center include limited human resources and infrastructure due to high workloads and a shortage of nutrition experts focused on family nutrition education and counseling. Consistent monitoring and evaluation are hindered by the lack of valid and systematic real-time data. Local social and cultural conditions, such as community beliefs regarding the acceptance of health interventions and stigma toward high-risk pregnant women and children with poor nutrition, also pose challenges. These weaknesses must be addressed to optimize efforts to accelerate the reduction of stunting.

An alternative strategy implemented by the Porong Community Health Center is to improve the quality of maternal and child health services by optimizing child growth and development monitoring at health posts using applications, increasing the coverage of ANC (Antenatal Care) services to ensure that pregnant women receive adequate nutrition. Strengthening education and changing community behavior through campaigns, training, and raising public awareness with short videos and infographics. Strengthening community empowerment and cross-sectoral collaboration. Enhancing the monitoring and evaluation system. Additionally, implementing innovations through the flagship KOPI PAHIT program and the CSR program.

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that the Strategic Formulation carried out by the Porong Health Center has been successfully implemented in accordance with the established strategy, as it includes the process of developing future steps aimed at advancing the vision and mission, and selecting key strategies to achieve the goal of accelerating the reduction of stunting.

2. Strategic Implementation

a. Program Objectives

The goal that the Porong Community Health Center wants to achieve is a significant reduction in stunting rates. This is done by improving the coverage and quality of maternal and child services, increasing public awareness of parenting and nutrition. This is in line with research (Rizki, et al., 2024) which states that efforts to reduce stunting include providing the community with an understanding of stunting. Collaborating across sectors and monitoring and evaluating stunting programs more optimally by utilizing technology.

b. Employee Motivation

Employee motivation is necessary because it is related to the performance of health workers in providing optimal service and job satisfaction. This is in line with research (Sugito, 2025) that work motivation can create positive synergy in creating a productive work environment. The Porong Health Center implements several strategies to motivate employees, including creating a conducive work environment to foster strong teamwork and mutual support among staff. It also provides incentives and recognition for healthcare workers with the best performance and achievements, particularly in priority

programs such as accelerating the reduction of stunting. Through these strategies, healthcare workers deliver optimal services to the community.

c. Structure, Budget, and Information Management System

Supported by an organizational structure in which the main duties and functions to be carried out are in line with the implementation of the stunting reduction program at the Porong Community Health Center. With solid collaboration between the village government, Posyandu, health cadres, PKK, and the community, efforts to prevent stunting can be effective. Each party has complementary roles and responsibilities, creating an environment that supports optimal child growth and development and is free from stunting.

The budget is also prepared for the implementation of the Stunting Reduction Acceleration Program through several sources such as the Health Operational Assistance Fund (BOK) which is used to finance program operations such as cadre training, Supplementary Feeding (PMT), and monitoring the growth of toddlers. The Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) supports cross-sectoral interventions such as sanitation and access to clean water. Village Funds are used to support maternal and child health programs at the village level. Partnerships with CSR or NGOs to support innovation in community-based stunting education and interventions.

The development of an information management system was also carried out to support the implementation of the stunting reduction acceleration program so that it could be better monitored, accountable, and data-driven. The Porong Community Health Center took several steps to achieve this, including integrated recording and reporting using the e-PPGBM (Electronic Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting) application to monitor the nutritional status of toddlers. Additionally, data integration within the Health Center Information System (SIK Puskesmas) is utilized for monitoring pregnant women and infants. Furthermore, the Digital Posyandu Application is employed to expedite access to data on infant growth.

3. Strategy Evaluation

a. Reviewing External and Internal Factors

External factors that form the basis of the Porong Community Health Center's strategy include government support through policies and regulations outlined in the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) and the National Family Planning Program (BKKBN). Cross-sectoral collaboration and engagement with local governments, community organizations, and the private sector in funding and education. Additionally, leveraging digital technology for monitoring stunting through health applications such as e-PPGBM, SIK Puskesmas, and Digital Posyandu.

The internal factors underlying the strategy of the Porong Community Health Center are competent human resources with expertise in nutrition, maternal and child health, and health promotion. It has innovative programs and holistic approaches such as KOPI PAHIT and integrates various health services for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. It collaborates across sectors, such as with health cadres, village governments, and the Health Office in Internal factors that form the basis of Puskesmas Porong's strategy include competent human

resources with expertise in nutrition, maternal and child health, and health promotion. Having innovative programs and holistic approaches such as KOPI PAHIT and integrating various health services for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Collaborate across sectors such as health cadres, village government, and the Health Office in program implementation. Also, involving community leaders and community organizations in socialization and intervention.

b. Performance Measurement

Performance results are measured by various indicators, namely quantitatively and qualitatively, which show a decrease in stunting rates in the Porong Health Center work area. Where the percentage of stunted toddlers decreased according to e-PPGBM data in line with national targets. There was an increase in the coverage of nutrition and health services for children under five. The KOPI PAHIT program has succeeded in becoming an innovation model that increases community participation in stunting prevention. Increased community awareness through education and assistance with changes in community behavior related to parenting and complementary feeding. Puskesmas conducts routine monitoring and evaluation so that the data monitoring and evaluation system is optimized.

c. Corrective Action

Puskesmas Porong conducted an evaluation of the strategy. To find out this, Porong Health Center conducted an evaluation after implementing the stunting reduction acceleration strategy. Puskesmas Porong revised the strategy evaluation with a more adaptive approach by adjusting interventions based on the specific needs of each village/target group. Optimizing social media with more interactive education and using local influencers. Adjusting budget allocations and resources to make the program more effective and targeted. Also, applying more innovative intervention methods by utilizing technology in nutrition assistance.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The general conclusion regarding the Porong Sidoarjo Health Center Strategy in Accelerating Stunting Reduction has succeeded in accelerating the reduction of stunting rates through nutrition surveillance data and toddler status data which shows the stunting rate at the Porong Health Center with e-PPGBM indicates a significant reduction in stunting rates in accordance with the national acceleration target. However, there are still fluctuations in stunting rates in some villages due to economic and food security factors. Successfully increased the coverage of maternal and child services through specialized and sensitive nutrition interventions. However, there are still pregnant women who do not optimally utilize ANC (Antenatal Care). Puskesmas Porong also implemented the innovative KOPI program, which has become a model of innovation that increases community participation in stunting prevention and was awarded by the local government as the best innovation. Successfully increased community awareness through education and mentoring, although it takes time and a more intensive approach. Successfully optimized the data monitoring

and evaluation system. And succeeded in increasing cross-sector collaboration.

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