



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analysis of Stunting Convergence Policies in a Socio-Cultural Perspective in Wetland Area (Case Study in Hsu Regency)

Taufik Arbain¹, Muhammad Saleh², Andini Octaviana Putri³, Meitria Syahadatina Noor^{3*}, Fakhriyah³, Syahrial Shaddiq²

¹Faculty of Social and Politics Sciences, Lambung Mangkurat University, Indonesia

²Faculty of Economics and Business, Lambung Mangkurat University, Indonesia

³Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Lambung Mangkurat University, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

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***Corresponding Author:**

drmeitria@ulm.ac.id

The high number of stunting cases in many districts/cities in Indonesia, according to the data released by World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2019, cannot be separated from the effectiveness of policies in dealing with these cases, including socio-cultural aspects (environment policy), and relations between policy actors. Made by the local government both at the central, provincial and district/city levels. Socio-cultural factors, as in many studies, are aspects that greatly influence the rate of acceleration of stunting cases, especially in developing countries. This research is dedicated to conducting a meta-analysis of risk factors for stunting in children under five using a mixed method approach and an in-depth analysis of the implementation of stunting convergence policies based on socio-cultural aspects and aspects that are thought to be related to the effectiveness of stunting convergence policies. Based on the results of statistical tests found in Sungai Pandan District, Hulu Sungai Utara (HSU) Regency, factors such as body length at birth, history of Early Breastfeeding Initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and feeding practices are related to stunting. The conclusion is that there are good regulations from the Central Government, Provincial Government and Regency Government, policies on the use of village funds in handling stunting and integration of handling between stakeholders have had effective implications for convergence policy efforts for handling stunting both in Sungai Pandan HSU District. It's just that there is still a lack of oversight of policies and programs so as to contribute to slowing down the convergence of stunting management.

INTRODUCTION

Background

This research departs from important issues related to the reality of high cases of stunting in many districts/cities in Indonesia as data released by WHO and the Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2019. This fact is inseparable from the effectiveness of policies in dealing with this case, including aspects socio-cultural aspects (environment policy), and relations between policy actors made by the local government both at the central, provincial and district/city levels. Socio-cultural factors, as in many studies, are aspects that greatly influence the rate of acceleration of stunting cases, especially in developing countries [1, 2].

Talking about the incidence of stunting in Indonesia, the results of the 2018 Basic Health Research show the figure is 30.8% [3]. The following year the prevalence of stunting referred to the 2019 Indonesian Toddler Nutrition Status Study fell to 27.7% and the results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Study in 2021 fell again to 24.4% [4, 5]. Even though it shows a downward trend, this figure is still below the national target set for 2025, which is 22%, and the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan, which is 14% in 2024 [6].

Based on data from the Indonesian Nutrition Status Study 2021, South Kalimantan Province ranks 6th in the prevalence of stunting and exceeds the national prevalence rate of 30%. North Hulu Sungai District which is a Stunting Locus in 2020 has succeeded in reducing the prevalence of stunting, from 36.69% in 2019 to 20.9% in 2021. However, this figure is still a concern and is still below the national target set out in the National Medium- The Term Development Plan 2020-2024 is 14% in 2024 [5].

The World Health Organization (2013) divides the causes of stunting in children into 4 broad categories, namely family and household factors, inadequate additional/complementary food, breastfeeding, and infection [7]. Like the theory put forward by WHO that maternal factors such as child marriage and teenage pregnancy are risk factors for stunting. Based on data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2018 the early marriage rate in South Kalimantan Province was 17.63% where this figure was above the national rate (11.21%) and South Kalimantan Province was ranked the 4th highest for marriages aged <18 years [6]. The results of research conducted by Yulius *et al* (2020) showed that there was a relationship between early marriage and the incidence of stunting in toddlers ($p=0.01$). In addition to young marriages, inadequate fulfillment of nutrition during preconception, pregnancy, and lactation also poses a risk of stunting in children under five. This can happen because there is a culture of abstinence from eating that is still found in society. Research conducted by Zahroh FF (2020) shows that there is a relationship between a culture of abstinence from food and the incidence of stunting ($p=0.000$) [8]. Food taboos in Indonesia are still a problem because there are still many foods that should be consumed but are still taboo. As a result of this food taboo, pregnant women and nursing mothers do not dare to eat certain foods so that it can reduce their nutritional intake and ultimately affect the nutritional status of the mother and also her child and one of the long-term impacts is stunting in children [9].

Seeing the impact that will arise from stunting, various efforts have been made to overcome stunting in Indonesia. With regard to stunting management policies, there are several suggestions as Walt and Gilson (1994) suggest that an analysis of the implementation of stunting convergence policies can be carried out through a health policy triangle approach (The Health Policy Triangle). This approach is used to assist in understanding and systematically analyzing health policy. The Health Policy Triangle consists of four elements, namely: content, context, process, and actor [10].

Based on the description above, this study aims to conduct a meta-analysis of the risk factors for stunting in toddlers. and an in-depth analysis of the implementation of the stunting convergence policy based on socio-cultural aspects and aspects that are thought to be related to the effectiveness of the stunting convergence policy so far. The expectations in this study can be used as a reference in strengthening convergence policies and other intervention programs related to the prevention and control of stunting in Banjar District and Hulu Sungai Utara District. South Kalimantan Province.

METHOD

This study used a mix method design, namely a combination of quantitative and qualitative research with a sequential explanatory research design. Quantitative research using a cross sectional approach, aims to analyze risk factors for stunting in toddlers. The reason for this is because collecting quantitative data will be supported by obtaining qualitative data both from in-depth interviews, FGDs and observations so that explorations related to stunting convergence policies from various socio-cultural aspects can really be analyzed carefully. Furthermore, qualitative research was conducted to obtain a thorough and in-depth study of the implementation of the stunting

convergence policy which was also reviewed from a socio-cultural perspective, in this case early marriage and the culture of abstinence from eating in society, and also its relation to the relations of policy actors.

The population for quantitative research in this study were all toddlers in North Hulu Sungai District, whose sub-district is a locus of stunting. The number of samples obtained in this study were 63 people. The inclusion criteria were that toddlers had no infectious diseases during the last 6 months. The instrument used in the quantitative research was a questionnaire related to the risk factors for stunting in toddlers. Measure the height of a toddler using a microtoise or baby length board. The main instrument in this qualitative research is the researcher himself. The research instrument in this qualitative research was an in-depth interview guide or a list of questions used during in-depth interviews or Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with informants. Equipment needed such as a tape recorder and stationery to document the results of activities.

The independent variables in this study were age at first marriage, family income, mother's education, number of children, length at birth, exclusive breastfeeding, feeding practices, hygiene practices and health care practices. Meanwhile, the dependent variable in this study is the incidence of stunting in toddlers. Quantitative data analysis using the Chi Square Test nonparametric statistical test with a confidence level of 95%, qualitative analysis by coding and data reduction.

RESULTS

Quantitative Analysis Results

Table 1. Frequency and Distribution The Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency (n=76)	Percentage (%)
Age of First Marriage		
<19	17	27
>19	46	73
Family Income		
<Rp. 2,887,488,-	30	47.6
≥Rp. 2,887,488,-	33	52.4
Mother's Education		
Low	24	38.1
High	39	61.9
Body Length at Birth		
≤48 cm	2	3.2
>48 cm	61	96.8
Number of children		
≤2	23	36.5
>2	40	63.5
Exclusive breastfeeding		
Exclusive breastfeeding	19	30.2
Not Exclusive Breastfeeding	44	69.8
Feeding Practices		
Not good	2	3.2

Good	61	96.8
Hygiene Practices		
Not good	1	1.6
Good	62	98.4
Health Care Practice		
Good	48	81
Not Good	5	19

Table 2. Frequency and Distribution of Stunting Incidents

<i>Stunting Incidents</i>	Frequency (n=63)	Percentage (%)
Stunting	12	19
Not Stunting (Normal)	51	81

Table 3. Factors Associated with Stunting Incidence on Children Under Five Years Old

Variables	Stunting Incidence (%)		P Value
	<i>Stunting</i>	Normal	
Age of First Marriage			0.719
≤19	23.5	76.5	
>19	17.4	82.6	
Family Income			
<Rp. 2.887.488,-	20	80	0.854
≥Rp. 2.887.488,-	18.2	81.8	
Mother's Education			
Low	29.2	70.8	0.185
High	12.8	87.2	
Number of children			
≤2	21.7	78.3	0.745
>2	17.5	82.5	
Body Length at Birth			
≤48 cm	100	0	0.034
>48 cm	16.4	83.6	
Exclusive breastfeeding			
Not Exclusive breastfeeding	22.7	77.3	0.018
Exclusive breastfeeding	10.5	89.5	
Feeding Practices			
Not good	0	100	0.001
Good	19.7	80.3	
Hygiene Practices			
Not good	0	100	1.000
Good	19.4	80.6	
Health Care Practice			
Not Good	40	60	0.239
Good	17.2	82.8	

***Significant at 5% Level**

From the results of statistical tests, it was found that several variables were related to the incidence of stunting in Sungai Pandan Subdistrict, HSU Regency, namely the factor of body length at birth (p-value = 0.034), exclusive breastfeeding (p-value = 0.018) and feeding practices (p-value = 0.001).

Qualitative Analysis Results

Early Marriage Culture

Two informants who have non-stunting children stated that they married at the age of less than 21 for the first time and married at the age of 22. Based on the results of the interviews, it is known that most of the goals and motivating factors for the informants to marry early were due to not continuing their education, because socio-economic factors, and matters related to socio-culture in society.

Eating Culture

Based on interview excerpts, it is known that most of the informants stated that in 1 day they ate more or less 3 times with the types of food consumed including rice, fish and vegetables. The type of food consumed is rice accompanied by various side dishes and vegetables. The most frequently consumed side dish is animal protein. As for fruit consumption, it is consumed with various frequencies. Furthermore, during the celebration of holidays such as religious days or weddings, the type of food consumed is more varied with the amount and frequency that is more frequent than usual.

Furthermore, related to food restrictions during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. It is known that informants who have stunted or not stunted children do not have any food restrictions even though in society they still have taboos and myths about certain foods, such as vegetables such as bamboo shoots and pineapple or other foods that are considered to have an impact on pregnancy.

Stunting Convergence Policy Analysis

The stunting convergence policy analysis in this sub-chapter elaborates on survey data (quantitative) with field findings in the form of FGDs, in-depth interviews and cross-checks on factual and theoretical data, especially from a socio-cultural perspective.

DISCUSSION

Stunting Status in Toddlers

Based on the results of the FGD with the HSU Communication and Information Service in 2022, stunting cases in Sungai Pandan Subdistrict are the second highest case of other subdistricts in Hulu Sungai Utara Regency, where in 2022 overall stunting cases have started to decrease to 20.6% or are in the order of sixth in South Kalimantan. This reality explains that efforts to reduce stunting are carried out massively with various programs and policies that synergize between Central Government policies and Regional Government policies such as mutual coordination between regional work units and Village Government policies that assist village budgeting in encouraging convergence policies for handling stunting which reaches 30% with a food security program as part of a stunting reduction program in the village. More than that, this was strengthened by the existence of a Regent's Regulation concerning the HSU District Food and Nutrition Regional Action Plan for 2018-2022 in order to answer the Minister of Finance's Regulation regarding the use of village funds and supported by the latest regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration No. 8 Year 2022 Concerning Priority for Using Village Funds.

The reality of the HSU Regency Government in responding to the problem of handling stunting with various policies that were made, so that it came to the attention of the Provincial Government and the Central Government which issued Regent Regulation No. 46 of 2019 concerning Regional Action Plans for Food and Nutrition for Kab. HSU Year 2018 – 2022. This regulation is a strategic step in the

convergence policy for handling stunting at HSU with actions to strengthen food resources and provide nutritious food for the HSU community, especially couples of childbearing age and toddlers and children.

As found by the in-dept interview and FGD that the HSU Government coordinates with the Provincial Government in sharing budgets and sharing activities, including policies from the Central Government which are integrated with SKPDs such as the Health Service, the Village Community Empowerment Agency, the Population and Civil Registry Service, the Population Control Service and Family Planning, the Food Security Service, the Public Housing Service, Settlement Areas and the Environment, and the Social Service in the assistance program from the Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as the Education Office which oversees policies in the form of education, especially Early Childhood Education Schools. This step is to confirm who is doing what, both policies are vertical in nature where programs and budgets come directly from the Central Government and are carried out by related agencies.

The implementation of this convergence policy is interpreted in which the Village Government becomes the spearhead in efforts and convergence actions for stunting management which are strengthened by policies that encourage the use of village funds, especially 30% in the empowerment sector in the food security budget program.

As Arbain's view (2018) efforts to deal with stunting are in the context of responding to population challenges in order to increase quality human resources so that they become intelligent residents both as consumers, producers and actors of development [11].

Age of First Marriage

As table 1 data related to the distribution of the frequency of the Age of First Marriage in Sungai Pandan Subdistrict, it was found that marriage was at the age of > 19 years reaching 73% for both men and women. Referring to the provisions of the National Population and Family Planning Agency that early marriage is <21 years old, the cases that occurred in Sungai Pandan District were not ideal.

This is in accordance with the facts that generally occur in Hulu Sungai Utara, based on data from Hulu Sungai Utara in figures for 2021 released by the Central Bureau of Statistics where in 2018 there were 15 cases, in 2019 it increased to 53 cases, and in 2020 increasing to 168 cases [12]. This high rate was even found in other sub-districts, the age of first marriage was <18 years.

As field findings show that the high rate of early marriage is dominated by them; (a) socio-cultural construction factors. The HSU community in general still considers it taboo for unmarried girls even though there is an ideal age limit that is often conveyed by the government. This social construction is strengthened when more and more people marry off their daughters and sons, especially when accompanied by the growth of jobs for boys who feel capable of supporting their new families. The implications for early marriage are not only in the aspect of knowledge on reproductive health and other health, but also affect the output of junior high school graduates/equivalent who do not continue to senior high school/equivalent.

Poverty is one of the reasons why parents marry off their young children due to the inability to send them to school, the inability to provide a living and the opportunity for people to propose to their children, especially having an attractive appearance in the village. Moreover, socio-cultural construction provides space for early/child marriage. The poverty factor is an accompaniment of other factors such as education which also contributes to the high rate of early marriage at HSU. Arbain (2018) states that child and young age marriages affect maturity in building a household, reproductive health, care and handling of offspring to create a quality generation [11].

Interestingly, as field findings show, that the growth of employment opportunities correlates with an increase in the young population with low education, which encourages them to make the choice of

early marriage. The findings from the FGD results show that child marriage is a contributing factor to the stunting problem. HSU District in the last 5-10 years has been the district with the highest incidence of child marriage. Whereas the lack of education about reproductive health and education for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers influences the choice of decisions in ideally caring for pregnancies and toddlers, alert to fetal development so as to avoid stunting.

Data in table 3 of the survey results found no relationship/relationship between the Age of First Marriage and the incidence of stunting indicating that the government's efforts to reduce stunting rates are getting stronger, not only calling for the ideal age of first marriage, but also calling for knowledge on reproductive health, the importance of understanding related to intake. nutritious food for pregnant women and how to eat for toddlers to new families.

So, this reality strengthens the survey data as shown in table 3 regarding the correlation between the age of first marriage and the stunting cases that occurred in Hulu Sungai Utara, because the government of Hulu Sungai Utara through the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection seeks to fulfill and protect children and families. realizing Child-Friendly Districts, establishing Family Counseling Centers and others as a policy step in assisting the convergence of stunting management.

Family Income

Based on table 3 it is known that there is no relationship between family income and the incidence of stunting in Sungai Pandan District ($p=0.133$). In this context, as the field findings from the FGD stated, residents of this sub-district think that low or high income has nothing to do with the incidence of stunting. This is due to the fact that stunting can occur in people with high incomes because they are very stingy in spending on variants and nutritious food. There is still a mindset that it is more important to spend money on material needs (clothing) than spending on food that increases nutritional intake, as a matter of fact there is no relationship between the incidence of stunting and family income. It seems that this culture is very strong in the North Hulu Sungai women. Likewise, for men, most of the money is spent on smoking, so lack of literacy is more related to the importance of nutritional intake.

However, those who have knowledge, even though they have a low income, may have an awareness of nutritional intake, especially the life of rural communities who use their yards by planting fruits such as bananas, papayas, guavas, mangoes and others, in addition to education in fish farming. As a result of observing this fact, it is very visible to the people of Sungai Pandan how the lower middle class manages family life by utilizing fish farming and plantations. Moreover, the current Village Government through village resilience programs encourages efforts to optimally utilize the village's agricultural, plantation and fishery potential. As found in the FGDs and in-depth interviews, the village government in Sungai Pandan sub-district has become the spearhead of convergence efforts and actions for handling stunting, which are strengthened by policies that encourage the use of village funds, especially 30% in the empowerment sector.

In the Village Administration, the Rembuk Stunting program is implemented as a forum for planning and deliberation related to strengthening the convergence policy for stunting management in the village, such as the posyandu program, providing supplementary food, and education on healthy living and campaigning on diet and parenting patterns including developing the potential of agriculture, plantations and rural fisheries. In a theoretical review, what is being done by the North Hulu Sungai Regency Government in the convergence policy for handling stunting is categorized as steps of social policy where social policy refers to what is done by the government as an effort to improve the quality of human life through the provision of various income allowances, community services, poverty programs and other social assistance programs [13].

Mother's Education

As table 3 survey findings in Sungai Pandan District there is no relationship between maternal education and the incidence of stunting ($p=0.185$). This finding is in line with the results of the FGD, where a high level of education automatically understands and receives more education and information related to the interests of their future children. Cases in Sungai Pandan Subdistrict were also found, even if a person did not have a higher education, due to the massive education carried out by local government actors/stakeholders regarding stunting management, it had the impact of increasing knowledge and awareness of stunting alert.

So the findings of this survey are precisely the determinant factor, namely the strength of the convergence policy for stunting management in the form of outreach, education, information dissemination, the existence of posyandu and other policies that are integrated in supporting the convergence policy for stunting management. The ease with which mothers can access information through routine activities in the village, whether carried out by the Village Government, the Health Service and other agencies, has a significant impact in emphasizing that the handling of stunting is highly dependent on the extent to which the government is present to the community in overcoming their problems.

In this case the government encourages with its policies to increase the knowledge of citizens related to stunting awareness in family life. That according to the expert's view there is a role for social policy to be carried out, where social policy is a government decree made to respond to issues that are public in nature, namely overcoming social problems or meeting the needs of the general public. As a public policy, social policy has preventive, curative, and developmental functions. As a form of state obligation in fulfilling the social rights of its citizens [14].

Number of children

Based on table 3 it is known that there is no relationship between the number of children and the incidence of stunting ($p=0.745$) in Sungai Pandan District. Statistical tests show that there is no effect of numbers on the growth and development of children under five years of age. The results of the FGD found that the experience of giving birth and caring for the first child had major implications for skills in caring for the next child. Whereas women who have given birth tend to be careful, maintain the health of the fetus and educate themselves by diligently participating in activities in the village. Especially now that there is an awareness policy against stunting and very massive information provided by the government. The massive amount of information related to stunting has had an impact on the public to take a prudent attitude and care about their health, especially those who are pregnant. This information is related to the communication of convergence policies on stunting management in Hulu Sungai Utara District. The fact that the banners and external communication spread in strategic locations in rural and urban areas has had a major impact on the effectiveness of the messages made by the Government of Hulu Sungai Utara. In addition, residents who are currently pregnant and/or have toddlers are the age group who are literate in IT on average, although not fully literate in IT related to information related to health and education about stunting.

The effectiveness of this message ultimately influences people's perceptions of how to grow awareness of the importance of education related to stunting. In this case, according to the expert's view, George Edward III, that the effectiveness of policy implementation is influenced by components; (a) Communication, (b) resources (c) disposition and (d) bureaucratic structure. This means that aspects of communication and relations between actors in handling stunting go through relevant and mutually synergistic aspects.

Body Length at Birth

Based on table 3 it is known that there is a relationship between body length at birth and the incidence of stunting ($p=0.034$) in Sungai Pandan District. These findings provide support for the

explanation of the Sungai Pandan Subdistrict community during the FGD. It was stated that the understanding of the people of Sungai Pandan Subdistrict, if they found a newborn in an abnormal condition as babies whose body length was proportional at birth was understood to be due to a lack of nutritional intake in the mother during pregnancy. This condition in society sometimes becomes a source of ridicule if the mother is known to have a middle or high income but is stingy in spending money on nutrition for the fetus, thereby disrupting growth during the womb and slowing down the fetus.

The FGD also found that even though they have started to understand what is meant by stunting, or disproportionate height, they do not yet understand that stunting is not just a problem of midgets (dwarfs), but there is still a lack of knowledge that the problem of stunting is related to brain development. the "minimalism" as a very important factor in human growth.

Exclusive breastfeeding

Based on table 3, it is known that there is a relationship between breastfeeding and the incidence of stunting in Sungai Pandan District ($p=0.018$). The results of this study are in line with the FGDs conducted with community leaders in Sungai Pandan District. That they culturally really believe that breast milk in the context of early breastfeeding on babies by their mothers provides great benefits even though they are unable to explain the benefits medically. Understanding and knowledge that has been going on for a long time has become a basic guideline that breastfeeding is far better than giving formula milk to their babies. More than that, serving formula milk will lead to large expenses for households.

It was further conveyed in the findings of this research, that the existence of exclusive breastfeeding is an understanding of the traditional value of the importance of direct breastfeeding, encouraging them to make every effort to be able to provide exclusive breastfeeding to the baby by pumping, or consuming foods that stimulate the mother to produce milk. This pattern is a model for the social life of the people of Sungai Pandan District.

Feeding Practices

Based on table 3, it is known that there is also a relationship between feeding practices and the incidence of stunting in Sungai Pandan District ($p=0.001$). Feeding practices are feeding behaviors that are applied by mothers to babies every day for the growth process and children. Various feeding practices must be carried out from infancy and the mother must know and be able to adopt a healthy diet. Based on the research results, it is known that most mothers who marry early practice good feeding practices for children under five years of age.

As found in the FGDs that the practice of giving food is related to massive policy communication in the form of counseling and outreach, it is well implemented by the Village Government through community empowerment programs, the Health Service with the Posyandu program, the Education Office for Early Childhood Education students, the National Population and Family Planning Agency and the Office Social.

The importance of education on this feeding practice is because there are still people who do not understand what types of food have high nutritional value for the fetus and toddlers. As the FGD findings show, there are facts that are reinforced by cases of neglectful eating patterns, where children are allowed by parents to choose their own food that is considered comfortable and tasty so that toddlers are quiet and don't cry, but have minimal nutritional content such as market snacks or instant food, pentol and others, thus minimizing the feeling of being lazy to eat according to an ideal diet. This condition seems to be something commonplace, to the point of neglecting the growth and development of children and toddlers. Such cases cause confusion in the diet of toddlers, including nutritional intake during pregnancy.

It's just that there is still a lack of supervision of each program that is carried out, for example the distribution of nutritious food assistance which should be given to the target (infants, or pregnant women) instead becomes food for their parents. In addition to monitoring the distribution mechanism and consistency of activities.

In responding to this challenge, as found in the FGD the HSU District Government in addressing the stunting problem issued Regent Regulation No. 46 of 2019 concerning the HSU District Food and Nutrition Regional Action Plan for 2018 – 2022. This regulation provides a pathway as a strategic step in the convergence policy for stunting management in HSU with actions to strengthen food resources and provide nutritious food for the HSU community, especially couples of childbearing age and toddlers and children.

Hygiene Practices

Based on table 3, it is known that there is no relationship between hygiene practices and the incidence of stunting ($p=1,000$). In this context it is interpreted that a healthy environment needs to be created so as not to affect the child's health status. As found in the FGD in Sungai Pandan District, the sanitation aspect does not seem to have much effect, because the condition of housing infrastructure is relatively good because it involves an adequate level of income and the existence of an environmental sanitation program policy from the Village Government through the Village Fund Allocation. Environmental sanitation as a part that also affects environmental health, this is evidenced by the ongoing Pansimas policy, making public toilets, repairing village environmental road infrastructure in Sungai Pandan District and several other supports which are integrated with village fund budgeting policies.

At this point in the FGD it was explained that there was a massive policy being carried out by the HSU Regency Government regarding healthy living so that the dynamics of accelerating people's lives for a healthy life occurred. Moreover, the integration of the Rembuk Kampung program in Hulu Sungai Utara Regency involves a variety of stakeholders and regional work units including the Office of Public Works and Spatial Planning and the Environment, especially those dealing with sanitation infrastructure facilities.

The Rembuk Stunting Program of the Hulu Sungai Utara Regency Government is not only interpreted as how to deal with stunting from the aspect of providing nutritious food, health counseling, examining infants and toddlers, but also regarding handling aspects that contribute to the slowdown in the convergence of efforts to handle stunting. Among the programs are education on environmental hygiene, use of clean and healthy water, waste management, development of yards into spaces for plants to support nutrition and so on.

It was further found in this FGD that the stunting convergence policy was carried out in several steps, namely the Direct Intervention step in the form of handling carried out by the Health Office as a work unit of regional apparatus which is responsible according to its field. Then there is the Sensitive intervention policy, namely the convergence policy for handling stunting which is carried out by involving other actors as a support and supporter of convergence policies such as the Education Office with educational programs and school-skipping campaigns through the Healthy Living Program, the Ministry of Religion of HSU Regency through preaching healthy living and encouraging the birth of quality human beings and so forth.

The convergence policy for handling stunting at HSU is carried out in collaboration with the younger generation and adolescents, in particular strengthening the campaign to postpone early marriage to all levels and schools and tertiary institutions. This collaborative step was taken to reinforce the effectiveness of the implementation of the stunting management convergence policy in Hulu Sungai Utara District. From a policy perspective, the convergence policy program for handling stunting in Sungai Pandan District, Hulu Sungai Utara Regency, provides the meaning as Vinod's view in Arbain

(2018: 37) that policies regarding the needs of the masses that are oriented towards improving life and the environment must pay attention to aspects of social capital, natural capital and physical capital. Social capital is defined as the strength of community entities and individuals who are aware of improvements in their communities, such as building a spirit of mutual cooperation, trust in efforts to improve and empower. While Natural Capital, is how awareness grows to safeguard the future of natural resources that contribute to human and community life such as improving the environment, caring for forests, reforestation and handling the environment in responding to global warming. While physical capital is related to the presence of policies and programs that deal with physical infrastructure in general environmental improvement, both residential and outdoor infrastructure [11].

The efforts of the North Hulu Sungai Regency Government are also in line with the views of population expert Jamaludin Ancok (1996) in Arbain (2018), namely that the population has survival if they are able to control the interaction of population parameters with environmental parameters and development parameters where each variable such as fertility, mortality, morbidity and migration affects the use of the environment as a means of livelihood and the development of part of the activity space [11].

Health Care Practice

Based on table 3, it is known that there is no relationship between health care practices and the incidence of stunting in Sungai Pandan District ($p=0.239$). These quantitative results are in line with the FGD findings, that health care is a very important factor to be understood by the community. The existence of awareness of concern for health encourages them to prioritize health checks or at least stay away from symptoms of illness (morbidity).

The link between Health nursing practice and the incidence of stunting as a result of the FGD findings is understood that the intense efforts of the Village Government and the Health Office in implementing the HSU District Government's *rembuk* stunting program in the form of attending examinations on pregnant women, toddlers and children have had a major impact on awareness of the importance of Health nursing practice.

That the psychology of the mothers participating in *posyandu* and *polindes* is well constructed and encourages them to be enthusiastic about attending health check-ups, weighing toddlers, providing nutritious supplementary food every time there are activities including stunting *rembuk* activities. Interestingly, this *polindes* activity presents education on the importance of health, including in the promotion of the *Germas* program, namely the Community Movement for Healthy Living.

Based on the results of the FGDs, Health service activities always provide free medicines for pregnant women and nursing mothers in the form of giving vitamins, providing additional food and efforts to be aware of stunting. So far, it has been recognized that if health services and *polindes* activities do not run smoothly, residents use drugs and vitamins to sell.

That the high frequency of health service activities in the village community empowerment program and the existence of the *Rembuk Stunting* program have implications for increasing public awareness of the importance of nursing practice, especially when the socialization of stunting is always given the danger if a child is stunted. Such misgivings encourage public awareness of the importance of nursing practice.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion obtained is that the factors of body length at birth, exclusive breastfeeding and feeding practices are related to the incidence of stunting. The findings from the FGD results in the Sungai Pandan sub-district that the factors of length at birth, exclusive breastfeeding and feeding practices are associated with the incidence of stunting are not independent. This means that the

problem begins because of the upstream aspect, namely poverty, and socio-cultural construction that neglects eating patterns, parenting patterns, participation in polides activities, early marriage, food consumption and lack of knowledge about health causes stunting to persist.

The existence of good regulations from the Central Government, Provincial Government and District Government, policies on the use of village funds in handling stunting and integration of handling between stakeholders have had effective implications for convergence policy efforts for handling stunting both in Martapura Barat Banjar District and Sungai Pandan HSU District. supervising policies and programs so as to contribute to slowing down the convergence of efforts to tackle stunting.

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