

ABSTRAK

Latar Belakang: Malnutrisi pada anak, terutama stunting dan weight faltering, masih menjadi masalah kesehatan yang serius di Kabupaten Sumba Timur, meskipun telah ada upaya nasional untuk mengatasi masalah gizi. Persepsi dan pengelolaan masalah ini oleh pemerintah desa menjadi faktor penting dalam keberhasilan program kesehatan.

Tujuan: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji persepsi dan peran pemerintah desa terhadap masalah malnutrisi anak di Sumba Timur dengan fokus pada stunting dan weight faltering.

Metode: Menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif, analisis data dilakukan dengan teknik analisis tematik. Penelitian dilakukan di Desa Pabera Manera dan Ndapayami. Subjek penelitian meliputi kepala desa, sekretaris desa, Dinas Kesehatan, Dinas Pemberdayaan Masyarakat dan Desa, TPG Puskesmas, Bidan desa, kader posyandu, kader pembangunan manusia, Tenaga Ahli Pendamping Desa, dan orangtua sasaran stunting.

Hasil: Penelitian menunjukkan adanya kesenjangan besar dalam pemahaman masalah kekurangan gizi di kalangan pemerintah desa. Banyak dari mereka tidak menyadari konsekuensi jangka panjang dari stunting dan weight faltering, dan cenderung hanya menanggapi masalah gizi yang akut tanpa melihat faktor sosial ekonomi yang lebih luas. Dalam menjalankan perannya, pemerintah desa terikat dengan peraturan dan pemerintah daerah.

Kesimpulan: Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya peningkatan pendidikan dan pelatihan bagi pejabat desa mengenai gizi dan pengelolaan kesehatan publik. Peningkatan keterlibatan pemerintah desa melalui kepemimpinan yang terinformasi dan strategi keterlibatan komunitas dapat mengurangi signifikan masalah kekurangan gizi pada anak di desa.

Kata Kunci: malnutrisi anak, stunting, *weight faltering*, persepsi pemerintah desa, Sumba Timur.

ABSTRACT

Background: *Malnutrition in children, especially stunting and weight faltering, remains a serious health problem in East Sumba District, despite national efforts to address nutritional issues. The perception and management of these problems by village governments are crucial factors in the success of health programs.*

Objective: *This study aims to assess the perception and role of village governments in addressing child malnutrition in East Sumba, with a focus on stunting and weight faltering.*

Method: *Using a qualitative research design, data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis techniques. The study was conducted in the villages of Pabera Manera and Ndapayami. The research subjects included village heads, village secretaries, the Health Department, the Community and Village Empowerment Department, Community Health Center (Puskesmas) staff, village midwives, integrated health post volunteers, human development volunteers, Village Assistant Experts, and parents of children affected by stunting.*

Results: *The research indicates a significant gap in understanding the problem of malnutrition among village governments. Many of them are not aware of the long-term consequences of stunting and weight faltering; and tend to only respond to acute nutritional problems without considering broader socioeconomic factors. In carrying out their roles, village governments are bound by regulations and local government policies.*

Conclusion: *This study emphasizes the importance of improving education and training for village officials regarding nutrition and public health management. Increased involvement of village governments through informed leadership and community engagement strategies can significantly reduce the problem of child malnutrition in rural areas.*

Keywords: *malnutrition, stunting, weight faltering, village government perception, East Sumba.*