

## Relationship of Knowledge and Attitude to the Role of Health Personnel in Management of Stunting Events in School Children, Tuah Negeri District, Musi Rawas Regency

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### Abstract

Prevention of stunting is carried out by health service providers in an effort to create the next generation of the nation that is healthy, reactive and productive. The purpose of this study was to see the relationship between knowledge and attitudes with the role of health workers in dealing with stunting in school children. Method : Quantitative research with cross sectional design. The population is 63 Sample The was conducted on 55 respondents who met the inclusion criteria. The measuring instrument in this study is a questionnaire sheet with data analysis using Univariate, Bivariate, and Multivariate tests. The research was conducted in March 2021 in the working area of the Air Beliti Public Health Center. Result: there is a significant relationship between attitudes and the role of health workers in preventing stunting in school children ( $p = 0.043$ ), and there is no relationship between knowledge and the role of health workers and the role of health workers in dealing with stunting ( $p = 0.446$ ). The results of the multivariate analysis using the logistic regression method showed an effect of 5.925 times on the role of health workers in dealing with stunting. Conclusion: from the results of the study, it was found that there was a relationship between attitude and the role of health workers in dealing with stunting in school children, it was suggested to health workers to improve good attitudes as a control effort by developing programs with more interesting innovations and teaching posyandu cadres. so that cadre mothers can convey and inform those who are pregnant, and have pre-school and elementary school age children so that the incidence of stunting can be reduced.

### Keywords

Knowledge, Attitude role of health workers; stunting



## I. Introduction

Based on the results of the Nutrition Status Monitoring (PSG) in 2015, the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia was 29%. In 2016, this figure decreased to 27.5%, but in 2017 it increased again to 29.6%. According to (Kemenkes RI, 2018), the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia was ranked fifth in the world. Of the 159 million stunted children worldwide, 9 million of them live in Indonesia. The released data from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2018 about the prevalence of under five children stated that Indonesia was the third country with the highest number of prevalence cases in the South-East Asian Region after Timor Leste (50.5%) and India (38.4%) at 36, 4% (Ministry of Health RI, 2018).

The prevalence of stunted children under-five in South Sumatra Province in 2019 decreased to 29.0% with an average annual change of approximately 1.3%. However, it was still high when compared to the WHO standard of 20%. Based on a report from the Community-Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting Application (e-PPGBM) during the

period of January and February 2020, it was recorded that 10,169 children under five suffered from stunting (Rahmadhita, 2020).

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Indonesia has made efforts from international scale to national in its role in preventing stunting at the international level by joining the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. It is called the "Gerakan 1.000 Hari Pertama Kehidupan" known as 1,000 HPK (Millennium Challenge Account, 2015). In South Sumatera Province, stunting prevention is carried out through the revitalization program of Posyandu, the health service post, down to the village level with a method that invites pregnant women to consume good foods from pregnancy till the child reaches five-years-old (GATRA, 2019) underneath Rumah Inovasi Kesehatan (Rumah Intan).

The three replicated stunting innovations were Garpu Genting (Gerakan Peduli Cegah Stunting) from Pian Raya public health center in Musi Rawas Regency, the Fun for Mom innovation (breastfeeding babies for fun) from Sako public health center in Palembang City, and the Pak Camat innovation (an Integrated Monitoring of Prospective Mothers) from Simpang Periuk public health center in Lubuk Linggau City (Ministry of Health, 2018).

Stunting prevention is carried out by health service providers, in this case, by the skillful health workers of a public health center. To prevent stunting, it is important for health workers to conduct interpersonal counseling through home visits, the health service post, and the public health center (Sewa et al., 2019). The good health workers of the public health center are competent health workers who are able to provide services according to the standards and to provide support for facilities in the process of community empowerment. The health workers of health service post have an important role in community empowerment, especially in stunting prevention efforts (Teja, 2019)

Health workers must have a good knowledge about stunting, providing services to the community. Hence, health workers can provide correct information, intervene in health services properly, and build public trust (Maulana. M., 2016). Based on the data from the Public Health Office of Musi Rawas District from 2019 to 2020, the number of children under five who suffered from stunting seemed to be a significant increase. The research was located was in the Air Beliti public health center with the fourth highest stunting rate in Musi Rawas Regency, which recorded 115 toddlers out of 3,104 (26.9%) as of November 24, 2020. The stunted number of toddlers in the Tuah Negeri District experienced a significant increase from 73 in 2019 to 115 in 2020 (Dinas Kesehatan of Musi Rawas, 2020).

## II. Research Methods

This research was quantitative with an analytical survey method with a cross-sectional design. The research was located in the elementary school in the Tuah Negeri district. The population in this study was elementary school children in the Tuah Negeri District. The sample in this study were elementary school-children in the Tuah Negeri District in the working area of Air Beliti public health center as long as they met the inclusion criteria and passed the exclusion criteria as many as 55 respondents. The sampling technique for this research used purposive sampling to select several schools as samples. The sample was adjusted to meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria, with a total sample of 55 people. The process of data collection used a questionnaire, while the data analysis used univariate, bivariate, and multivariate tests.

## III. Results and Discussion

**Table 1.** Data on Respondent Characteristics

<b>Age</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
< 30 Year	22	40,0
30-40 Year	23	41,8
41-50 Year	7	12,7
>50 Year	3	5,5
<b>Sex</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Woman	45	81,8
Man	10	18,2
<b>Education</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Over D3	39	70,9
Bachelor	16	29,1
Total	55	100,0

Table 1 showed that (41.8%) of the 55 respondents are between the ages of 30 and 40, (81.8%) are female, and (70.9%) are D3 graduates.

**Table 2.** Frequency Distribution of Health Workers Role

<b>Role of Health Workers</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Well	8	14,5
Very good	47	85,5
Total	55	100,0

From table 2 above, it can be obtained from 55 respondents that (85.5%) of health workers had a very good role.

**Table 3.** Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Low	8	14,5
Tall	47	85,5
Total	55	100,0

From table 3 above, it can be obtained from 55 respondents (85.5%) had high knowledge.

**Table 4.** Frequency Distribution of Respondent's Behavior

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Does not support	35	63,6
Support	20	36,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100,0</b>

From table 4 above, it can be obtained that 55 respondents (63.6%) had unsupportive behavior.

**Table 5.** The Relationship between Knowledge and the Role Workers

Knowledge	Role of Health Workers				<i>P</i>
	Well		Very good		
n	%	n	%	n	%
Low	5	62,5	5	11,1	0,44
High	20	42,6	29	22,9	
Total	25	100,0	30	100,0	

According to table 5, there is no relationship between knowledge and the role of health workers in reducing the incidence of stunting in elementary school children ( $p=0,446 > 0,05$ ).

**Table 6.** The Relationship between Behavior and the Health Worker's Role In Reducing the Incidence of Stunting in Elementary School Children

Attitude	Role of Health Workers				<i>p</i>
	Well		Very good		
	n	%	N	%	
Does not support	20	57,1	15	42,9	0,043
Support	5	25,0	15	75,0	
Total	25	100,0	30	100,0	

According to table 6, there is a relationship between behavior and the role of the health worker in reducing the incidence of stunting in elementary school children ( $p=0,043 < 0,05$ ).

**Table 7.** Logistic Regression Multivariate Analysis

<b>Variabel</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>95%CI</b>	
Age	0.146	0.801	1.157	0.372	3.599
Gender	1.359	0.272	3.893	0.345	43.998
Status	0.919	0.302	2.508	0.437	14.390
Education	0.119	0.881	1.127	0.237	5.355
Knowledge	1.212	0.242	3.362	0.440	25.675
Attitude	1.779	0.019*	5.925	1.332	26.351
Action	-0.914	0.233	0.401	0.089	1.800
Health Office Support	0.241	0.870	1.272	0.072	22.434
Performance	-0.884	0.313	0.413	0.074	2.305
Facility	-0.159	0.873	0.853	0.123	5.940
Constant	-5.682				

The result of logistic regression analysis showed that the behavior of a good health worker had a 5.925 times impact on exerting the incidence of stunting, hence it was 5.925 times greater than the very good one.

Based on the results of the study, it can be obtained from 55 respondents (41.8%) aged 30-40 years old, (81.8%) female gender, and (70.9%) D3 graduate, and it can be obtained results from 55 respondents (85, 5%) about the very good role of health workers. This is supported because the health workers at the research location always make efforts to prevent stunting, by conducting counseling and food processing activities as additional food for children who experience growth disorders. However, this is not in line with the research conducted by (Wulandari & Kusumastuti, 2020), which found that there was no role for midwives (83.3%) and health cadres (21.35%), and that mother behavior in preventing stunting was more dominant. Health workers can provide health education with different methods to increase mothers' knowledge about stunting.

Based on table 3 above, the results have been obtained from 55 respondents (85.5%) with high knowledge status. The results of the analysis showed that there was no relationship between knowledge and the role of health workers in dealing with stunting in school-children ( $p = 0.446 > 0.05$ ). In accordance with the results of the study, it was found that most of the respondents were highly knowledgeable, as seen from the results of the correct answers of the questionnaire. That is, they knew that health workers made efforts to prevent stunting by carrying out various activities that supported the reduction of stunting, such as the number of times supplemental foods were given and they knew the activities and efforts in stunting prevention during providing service to pregnant women (Mu'minah, 2020).

However, there were also respondents who had low knowledge regarding the role of efforts in dealing with stunting. This can be seen in the incorrect answers of respondents, such as giving Fe tablets and services for pregnant women during pregnancy. This is due to the different understanding and attention of each respondent, coming from different backgrounds and different educations, so that there is a variety of delivery to the community, hence resulting judging and various opinions about stunting from the community. This is not in line with research (Kalundang et al., 2017). It was found that high knowledge about nutrition programs related to stunting prevention was influenced by each respondent knowing their respective duties in implementing nutrition programs, as well as suggestions and nutritional assistance given to the community in accordance with the common goals of the health care center, so that the efforts of the nutrition program in overcoming nutritional problems are carried out properly (Ali et al., 2018).

Based on the results of the study, 55 respondents (63.6%) had an unsupportive attitude. The results of analysis showed that there was a relationship between attitudes and the role of health workers in preventing stunting in elementary-school children ( $p = 0.043 < 0.05$ ). From the results of the study, it was found that most of the respondents were unsupportive, which was influenced by the attitude of the respondents when giving explanations that did not match with what the community wanted, such as an explanation of the consumption of Fe tablets in pregnant women, but there was also a good attitude from the health workers who supportive. This can be seen from the suggestions and motivation given to the community regarding children's nutritional status improvement, and explanations given when the community consulting about good intake for their children. Health workers explained and listened to complaints from the community about the obstacles they face in providing sufficient intake for their families that cause inadequate intake. This research is in line with research (Mursiti & Sri Setiasih, 2020) that found there is a relationship between attitude and counseling program about the practice of

exclusive breastfeeding among the members of a health cadre in the village. From these results, it shows that the more positive the attitude, the better the counseling practiced by the members of a health cadre.

This study's results are not in line with research conducted (Cahyati, 2019) that there is no relationship between the attitude of health workers and dropping out of patient for services and treatments ( $p = 0.64$ ). From the researcher's perspective, the attitude of the health worker is measured based on hospitality, attention, and explanation of any problem. When the respondent receives a good service, it will allow a good response. Likewise, it is stated in (Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 36 of 2014 concerning Health Workers, 2014) that the competence of health workers is the ability of a health worker based on knowledge, skills, and professional attitudes to be able to carry out health practices in the community.

#### IV. Conclusion

From the results of the study above, it can be concluded that there was a significant relationship between attitudes and the role of health workers in preventing stunting in school children ( $p = 0.043$ ), and there was no relationship between knowledge and the role of health workers in dealing with stunting ( $p = 0.446$ ). It is recommended for health workers to increase their efforts to reduce stunting not only by providing counseling but also adding knowledge and giving new innovations that make people willing to take action, such as activities to increase the creativity of the community in making additional food for their children, hence the children will not be boring.

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