



Village fund management accountability in efforts to reduce stunting in Pantai Labu Sub-district

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to examine the accountability of village fund management in reducing stunting. Stunting is still a common health problem in various regions, especially in rural areas. Village funds are an important source of financing for health and nutrition programs at the village level. Therefore, it is important to understand the extent to which village fund management contributes to stunting reduction efforts. This research methodology used secondary data analysis and interviews with stakeholders at the village level. The results showed that accountability in village fund management plays an important role in stunting reduction efforts. Factors such as transparency, community participation, and effective oversight have a great impact on ensuring that village funds are used efficiently for nutrition and health programs. However, the study also identified several barriers to achieving the desired level of accountability. For example, a lack of community understanding and awareness of village funds, as well as weaknesses in reporting and monitoring systems. Therefore, further efforts are needed to improve the accountability of village fund management, including community education and improved monitoring mechanisms. The results of this study provided valuable input for the government and other stakeholders in their efforts to address stunting at the village level. Accountability in village fund management can be a key factor in ensuring that available resources are used effectively and sustainably to improve child nutrition in rural areas.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the Determination of Priorities for the Use of Village Funds for the 2022 Fiscal Year as stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 7 of 2021, among others, it states "The use of Village Funds for national priority programs by Village authority, namely stunting prevention to create healthy and prosperous villages (Panji et. al., 2022). Handling stunting is carried out with specific and sensitive interventions. Specific interventions are carried out by targeting pregnant women and children in the First 1000 Days of Life (HPK). Meanwhile,

sensitive interventions are aimed at the general public through various development activities outside the health sector, such as the construction/rehabilitation of village health posts/policies and Integrated Healthcare Centre, counseling and provision of healthy food to improve toddler nutrition, health services for pregnant and lactating mothers, construction of sanitation and clean water, construction of latrines, training, and development of community health cadres (Rini, 2019).

According to the village fund handbook published by the Minister of Finance in 2017, village funds are defined as the budget sourced from the state budget earmarked for villages to carry out development and community empowerment through City/Regency APBD funds. According to Government Regulation No. 60/2014, village funds are funds sourced from the State Budget designated for villages that are transferred through the Regency/City Regional Budget and used to finance governance, development implementation, community development, and community empowerment.

The implementation of the Village Fund Allocation (ADD) policy in Kubutama Village, especially in stunting prevention efforts, runs quite smoothly. This can be seen from the preparation stage in the form of preparing the List of Proposed Activity Plans (DURK), implementing each activity to the stage of preparing accountability (Dewi Prihatini and I Nyoman, 2020). However, the achievement of the objectives of the Village Fund Allocation has not been optimal. This can be seen from the achievement of the objectives of the Village Fund Allocation (ADD), namely improving the administration of government, development, and society, increasing the capacity of community institutions in the village in planning, implementing, and controlling development, and encouraging increased community self-help participation.

The implementation of stunting reduction program spending at the North Sumatra Provincial Health Office in 2019 contained three main components needed to deal with stunting, namely good parenting, good diet, and easy access to clean water and adequate sanitation. (Muhammad Heru Akhmadi, Ilyas Theresia Pasaribu).

In stunting reduction interventions, stunting reduction efforts are divided into 2 (two), namely specific nutrition interventions and nutrition-sensitive interventions. The distribution mechanism is carried out using 3 (three) distribution methods, namely lump-sum distribution, expected distribution, and mixed distribution. The provision of PMT is specifically for pregnant women in stunting locus districts/cities. Stunting loci are areas that are considered to have a high prevalence of stunted children. In North Sumatra, there were five districts/cities that became stunting loci in 2019. The stunting locus districts/cities are Langkat, Padang Lawas, Simalungun, North Nias, and Gunung Sitoli City. Physical realization until the end of the activity was 100%, but in terms of the use of funds it was around 82.9%, this occurred because there was a discrepancy between the components in the DPA and the KRISNA KPPN application. The figures in the DPA are by the plan, where the procurement and distribution costs are separate, while in the application there are no distribution funds, meaning that the distribution funds are included in the procurement funds, so in the end the existing management funds are used for distribution and there are no activities for monitoring support for additional food procurement.

Village Fund management carried out by the Village Government requires accountability in managing these funds. Where the accountability conveyed must be transparent and honest. Accountability is something that must be done. It is said to be accountable if it is able to explain the circumstances of decisions taken and activities carried out. Information provided in a reliable, accurate and timely manner is a sign of good accountability. Accountability can also show whether village officials can work well, correctly, ethically and responsibly for possibilities that may occur, such as misuse of village funds and reducing existing village funds. not used on target. Accountable village fund management cannot be separated from the competence of village officials so that

village fund management can be carried out well. Apart from competence, it must also be supported by commitment so that it can run optimally (Yusri & Chairina, 2023).

Accountability According to accountability, it concerns the ability of village officials to carry out accountability for all activities that have been carried out and are related to the development of village government. Accountability can be achieved if there is community participation by conveying aspirations and contributions in the process (Umaira & Adnan, 2019).

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study used qualitative methods to answer the research questions. The questionnaire was administered by adopting and modifying the questionnaire from previous researchers with a sample of Pantai Labu. To conduct this research process, data is needed, so primary data and secondary data are used. To obtain primary data, data collection techniques in this study are through, 1) Questionnaires or Interviews, namely data collection techniques through submitting several questions and statements to village officials in Pantai Labu Sub-district, 2) literature study, namely collecting data or reports containing information related to the object of research and 3) observation, namely visits to the field.

The management of village funds in stunting prevention efforts has been studied by several previous researchers. In this study, the Accountability Analysis of Village Fund Management to reduce stunting uses the Accountability variable as novelty and novelty.

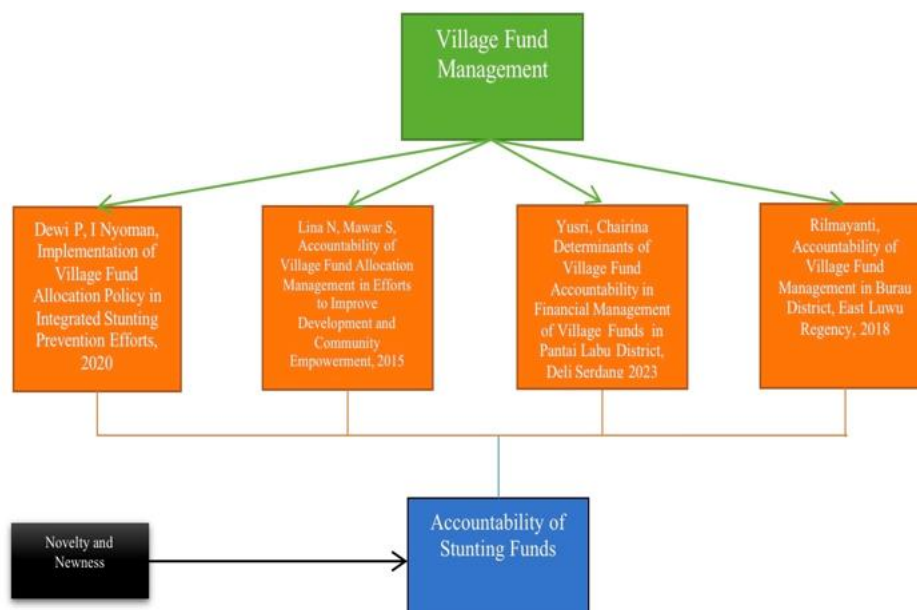


Figure 1. The current state of the research

Methods: This study used quantitative methods to answer the research questions. Questionnaires were administered by adopting and modifying questionnaires from previous researchers with a sample of village officials in Pantai Labu sub-district. Research Model: To conduct this research process, data is needed, so primary data and secondary data are used. To obtain primary data, data collection techniques in this study are through, 1) Questionnaires or Interviews, namely data collection techniques through submitting several questions and statements to Pantai Labu village, 2) Literature Study, namely collecting data or reports containing information related to the object of research and 3) Observation, namely a visit to the field.

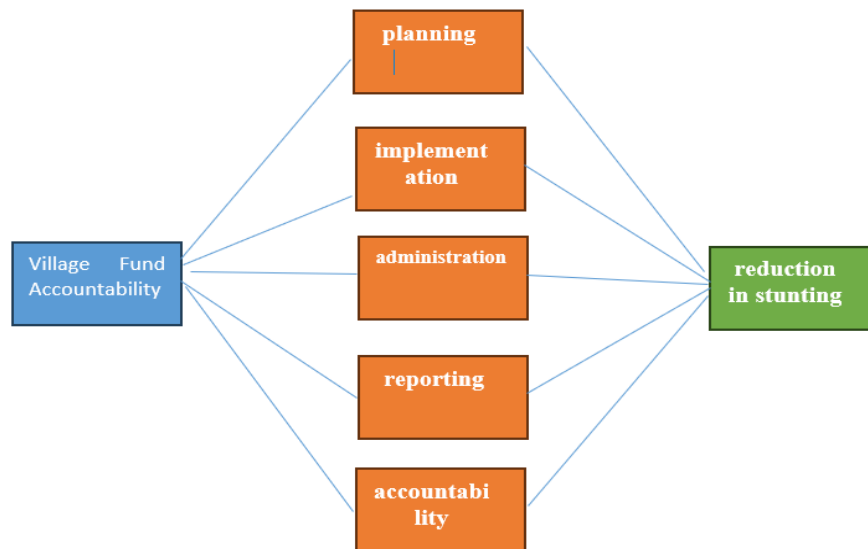


Figure 2. Research Model Research Model

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the results of interviews and debriefings related to the budget for stunting, it is clear that all villages have allocated village fund budgets for stunting reduction by the Priority Use of Village Funds in 2023 (Permendesa No. 8 of 2022). However, village funds are still not allocated in a targeted manner because they are allocated without looking at data on stunting cases (by name by address) and data on families at risk of stunting (by name by address). This is because not all villages in Kecamatan Pantai Labu have data on stunting cases and data on families at risk of stunting.

Table 1. Villages in Pantai Labu sub-district that have data on stunting cases and data on families at risk of stunting

| NO | Village | Data stunting | Data on families at risk of stunting |
|-----|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Bagan Serdang | Not yet | Not yet |
| 2. | Labu Pekan Beach | Not yet | Not yet |
| 3. | Binjai Bakung | Not yet | Not yet |
| 4. | Pematang Biara | Not yet | Not yet |
| 5. | Denai Kuala | Not yet | Not yet |
| 6. | Ramonia Plantation | Not yet | Not yet |
| 7. | Old Denai | Not yet | Not yet |
| 8. | Ramonia I | Not yet | Not yet |
| 9. | Denai Bird's Nest | Not yet | Not yet |
| 10. | Ramonia II | Not yet | Not yet |
| 11. | Durian | Not yet | Not yet |
| 12. | Rantau Panjang | Not yet | Not yet |
| 13. | Clitoris | Not yet | Not yet |
| 14. | Regemuk | Not yet | Not yet |
| 15. | Sentang Dome | Not yet | Not yet |
| 16. | Sei Tuan | Not yet | Not yet |
| 17. | Paluh Sebaji | Not yet | Not yet |
| 18. | Middle | Not yet | Not yet |
| 19. | New Pumpkin Beach | Not yet | Not yet |

Based on the data contained in the table above, it can be seen that Pantai Labu village still do not have stunting data issued by the Deli Serdang Health Office and data on families at risk of stunting issued by the Deli Serdang Population Control, Family Planning, and Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office. Both data are needed by the village in preparing the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDes) so that budgeting can be allocated in the Village Budget (APBDes). If both data are not owned by the village, then there is no basis for preparing the Village Fund budget to reduce stunting in a targeted manner. The results of discussions is villages only budget the Village Fund for stunting reduction in general, not directly to families with stunted children or families at risk of stunting. Generally, the Village Fund budget for stunting reduction is only the provision of additional food (PMT) at Posyandu. However, if both data are owned by the village, then the village can budget the Village Fund for activities that can prevent stunting, such as budgeting for clean water facilities, sanitation, slum house repairs, and improving nutrition for underprivileged families.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This research concludes that the management of funds for the stunting budget has been carried out but is not yet on target because villages in Pantai Labu Sub-district do not yet have stunting data and data on families at risk of stunting. Therefore, it is hoped that the villages in Pantai Labu District will use stunting data and data on families at risk of stunting in preparing plans for 2024, so that efforts to reduce stunting can be realized and on target.

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