



Prevention and Reduction of Stunting through the use of Village Funds

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze the implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning the Details of Priority Use of Village Funds in efforts to prevent and reduce stunting in Arjowilangun Village, along with the supporting and inhibiting factors. This study uses a qualitative approach with research procedures that produce descriptive data. The research location was in Arjowilangun Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency. The data sources were primary and secondary data. The data collection techniques used were observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique used in this study was the interactive data analysis model from Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014). The results of the study show that the implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds in efforts to prevent and reduce stunting in Arjowilangun Village has been going quite well. The Arjowilangun Village Government has worked according to its commitments and applicable regulations. In addition, it is known that there are factors that support the program's implementation, namely the existence of regulations prioritizing stunting prevention and a capable and transparent implementation team. In contrast, the inhibiting factors are limited budget due to the absorption of Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa (BLT DD), lack of awareness among the community, and parents of toddlers who work as immigrants.

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Stunting, Village Funds.

1. INTRODUCTION

Legally, a village is a customary law community that has the authority to regulate and supervise its own affairs and has clear boundaries. The Village Consultative Body (BPD) and the Village Government coordinate local affairs. The village government supervises and controls community affairs in accordance with applicable regulations. Per PERMENDAGRI No. 20 of 2018, the village government is responsible for village financial management, including planning, implementation, organization, reporting, and accountability. Because it covers components of equitable development that directly impact the community, the budget managed by the village government plays an important role in regional and national development.

The effectiveness of regional autonomy is highly dependent on village governments, which are key organizations in the structure of the Republic of Indonesia, directly involved with the community, and responsible for overseeing the daily administration of the village. The effectiveness of village governments in carrying out their duties as public servants will determine the development outcome. Implementing village autonomy as stipulated in Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages is highly dependent on financial components.

The Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Regulation No. 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Dana Desa (DD) Priority Use in 2024 regulates the priority use of Village Funds. This regulation mandates that the Village Government can allocate Village Funds per their priority use, which is further elaborated in the Village Budget (APB Desa). Ministerial Regulation No. 7 of 2023 stipulates that reducing and preventing stunting is the main

objective of the Village Fund. Malnutrition causes stunting, a significant health problem in children, because it causes them to grow slower than ideal for their age group. Children who are stunted are not only shorter than average, but they are also at higher risk of contracting several diseases that affect children their age. Stunting can impair brain development and metabolic disorders affecting hormones, carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins. However, its impact can have far-reaching consequences, including increased childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cognitive decline. With a stunting rate of 36.4% in 2018, according to data collected and published by the World Health Organization (WHO), Indonesia ranks third among Southeast Asian countries. For reference, in 2017, the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia reached 29.6%, according to the 2015 Nutrition Status Monitoring (PSG). In 2018, the figure reached 30.8%, but this year it has dropped to 27.7%. According to the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), the national stunting rate was 24.4% in 2021. This figure dropped to 21.6% in 2022. However, the Indonesian Health Survey (SKI) 2023 results show that the figure is 21.5%. Government officials have set a goal of reducing the prevalence of stunting to 14% by 2024, so this is clearly still a long way off. Meanwhile, 17.7% of children in East Java experienced stunting in 2023. Meanwhile, the prevalence rate of stunting in Malang Regency remains 19.5%.

The number of families with stunted children in Arjowilangun Village reached 30 toddlers 2024 as of July 2024. In Arjowilangun Village, many children suffer from stunting, which can affect their health and growth. Stunting can significantly negatively impact the growth of Indonesia's future generations, especially in health, education, and the economy, if this condition is not addressed seriously. Therefore, the Indonesian government considers stunting to be a critical issue. The 2019-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) focuses on creating a superior and highly competitive human resource, with a reduction in stunting prevalence as one of the indicators of human resource quality. DD is among the government's efforts to minimize stunting rates. Arjowilangun Village is the only desmigratif village (Productive Migrant Village) located in Kalipare District, Malang Regency. A desmigratif village is where most residents work abroad as migrant workers or outside the region. As a migrant village, Arjowilangun Village is a hub for migrant workers in Malang Regency. In other words, many residents of Arjowilangun work as migrant workers, so most children whose parents work abroad are cared for by their grandparents or siblings.

Parenting styles of parents are undoubtedly different from those of grandparents. Grandparents tend to apply traditional parenting styles to their grandchildren due to their limited knowledge of balanced nutrition and proper diet. This has a significant impact on child growth and development. One example is stunting. Stunting is a condition in which a child experiences physical growth retardation due to long-term nutritional deficiencies. This condition can hurt a child's life. Arjowilangun Village is the largest food aid recipient in Kalipare Subdistrict, with 1,111 beneficiary families, or 22% of the total number of families receiving food aid. In addition to the high number of food aid recipients, Arjowilangun Village also receives assistance for 74 families at risk of stunting. This figure shows that Arjowilangun Village receives significant assistance for families at risk of stunting (KRS) in Kalipare District, Malang Regency. This indicates that the Village Government must appropriately use the funds allocated for stunting prevention per Regulation Number 7 of 2023 of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds. Based on the above background, this study raises the following questions: How will Village Funds for the 2024 fiscal year be used to prevent stunting in Arjowilangun Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency? What factors support and hinder the village government in using Village Funds for the 2024 fiscal year to prevent stunting in Arjowilangun Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency?

The researcher hopes this study will be helpful for the following: Theoretical benefits can help contribute to/strengthen policy implementation theory. Practical benefits can contribute to policymakers in Village Fund allocation management. They can be used as input/consideration for village governments to apply the principles of good village governance in village financial management, especially in managing State Budget Village Funds.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Along with various government phenomena and activities, the public has a broad understanding of public Policy, both directly and indirectly. Experts have put forward many opinions with various definitions. Public Policy never appears in a "special room," says Nugroho (2014:105). Public Policy is the related learning carried out by the government,

why they do it, and the consequences. In other words, public Policy is the study of how, why, and the consequences of active (acting) and passive (not acting) government actions.

Hakim (2003), in Sadhana (2011), states that public policy studies examine the government's choices on public concerns. The failure of the bureaucracy to provide services and resolve public issues is one of the factors causing several problems the government faces. These failures include information failure, complex side effects, motivation failure, rent-seeking, second-best theory, and implementation failure. Thoha (2008: 106-107) presents a different perspective on Policy. He says that Policy can be a complex effort undertaken by the community to benefit the community. In contrast, Policy can be seen as a method or approach to resolving conflicts and providing incentives.

Public Policy is "something that the government chooses to implement or not," according to Dye's (1975) definition in Syafie (2006:105). According to this interpretation, the government can decide which policies to adopt and which to reject based on the problem's nature and the Policy's objectives. Nugroho (2014) quotes Anderson, who defines Policy as "a relatively stable action with a purpose carried out by an actor or group of actors to resolve a problem or issue of interest." Policy is defined similarly. Policy is a deliberate plan of action created by an entity or group of entities to address an issue. When determining what constitutes government policy, it is important to remember that this definition must take into account the actual actions of the government, not just proposals. Planned actions alone are insufficient to define public Policy; a more complete picture will include the actions taken. As stated by Sadhana (2011:65), the main objective of public Policy is to ensure that all citizens enjoy a sense of justice and order, with the ultimate goal of promoting the welfare of the entire community. From this definition, public Policy is a series of actions to solve social problems consistent with the values and principles the general public embraces. At every level of the policy-making process, one or more stakeholders shape the final product.

There are two ways to examine how policies are implemented, and both are described in the evolution of research on public policy implementation: the top-down and the bottom-up methods. For example, when developing an analytical framework for implementation studies, the top-down and bottom-up approaches are essentially based on the same assumptions. On the one hand, the top-down approach was dominant in the early days of policy implementation studies, while differences in perspective led to the bottom-up approach. The focus of both views is the extent to which the actions of administrators and bureaucrats are consistent with the processes and objectives set by policymakers.

Top-down approach: The top-down approach is a term used to refer to implementation studies that prioritize policy design. This method treats the decision-making process as a whole, in which political leaders provide clear decision-making proposals implemented in increasingly specific ways through administrative means. This top-down approach begins with decisions made by the government, examines how well or poorly administrators implement those decisions, and then looks for reasons for the success or failure of the Policy. (Tachjan, 2006:10).

Bottom-up approach: Adam Smith, an expert on Policy who focuses more on the bottom-up perspective of policy implementation, believes that policy implementation is more effective. According to Smith in Islamy (2001:90), from the perspective of social and political change, policy implementation is a policy process in which the government creates policies to change the goals of community groups. This bottom-up approach, often considered the "promised land," begins by identifying the framework of actors involved in service provision in one or more local areas and interrogating them about their direction, strategies, activities, and contracts. In addition, this model uses "contacts" to develop networking techniques to identify local, regional, and national actors involved in the planning, financing, and implementation of the same governmental and non-governmental programs. This approach provides a mechanism for transitioning from lower-level bureaucrats to the highest decision-making levels in the public and private sectors. In this context, Policy is implemented through negotiations (both explicit and implicit) between members of the organization and their clients.

3. METHOD

3.1 Research Approach

This study uses a qualitative approach, which requires using and utilizing quantitative data by collecting, organizing, and presenting information for learning and analysis purposes. In this study, qualitative methods are used because they provide precise results when the researcher and the data are in proximity, and are also more flexible and adaptable.

3.2 Research Location

Primary data is data obtained directly by researchers based on sources found in the field. Primary data can be in the form of opinions from informants, whether individuals or groups, the results of observations, or empirical research. To obtain empirical data, researchers conducted interviews with several informants they considered capable of providing the information needed in accordance with the focus of this study.

3.3 Data Analysis Techniques

Qualitative data analysis was conducted interactively and continuously until completion. The data analysis used by the researcher was the Miles Huberman data analysis model. Based on Miles and Huberman in Saldana (2014), the analysis steps were as follows: Data collection. To obtain reliable information, the author carried out the task of gathering information. Documentation, field observations, and interviews with research participants were used to gather information. Data consolidation: The process of selecting, simplifying, and transforming field data is called data consolidation. Data consolidation occurs continuously throughout the research and may occur before all data is collected. Information collected at the research site can be presented in detail if consolidation is done collectively. The research is simplified and summarized, and the main topics are selected and concentrated. Then, the search for themes or patterns is carried out continuously throughout the investigation, along with other data analysis steps, such as presentation and verification of results. Initially, this refers to the need to strengthen information. This is different from the concept of information reduction, which significantly reduces the quality of information and deletes information collected in the field.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Result

Overview of the Research Location: Arjowilangun is a village in Malang Regency that borders Blitar Regency. The Arjowilangun area is divided into five hamlets: Barisan, Panggang Lele, Lotekol, Lodalem, and Duren. Arjowilangun Village is the most advanced and modern village in Kalipare Subdistrict. This village is also the most significant contributor of migrant workers in the Kalipare subdistrict. Therefore, this village is often called the country's foreign exchange hero. As a form of appreciation, there is a Posdaya Purna TKI Cooperative building named "Senang Hati" which was inaugurated by the Regent of Malang, Rendra Kresna, on July 4, 2012, where this village is the base for migrant workers in Malang Regency. Implementation of Village Fund usage in efforts to prevent and reduce stunting. Regarding the commitment of the Arjowilangun Village Government, Kalipare District, Malang Regency, in implementing the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning the Details of Priority Use of Village Funds in efforts to prevent stunting, the Village Head made the following statement:

"We, as the Village Government, are always committed to implementing this Policy carefully, thoroughly, and appropriately in accordance with applicable regulations. In every preparation of the Village Government Work Plan, we always involve every element of the community. For the health sub-sector, I have appointed a village official named Mr. Kasuwianto as the Technical Implementer of Activities, in addition to Mrs. Aris Setyawati as the Village Midwife and Mrs. Okta as a Cadre. Then, it can be seen from several stunting prevention programs that have been running, such as Improving the Nutrition of Pregnant Women with Chronic Energy Deficiency (KEK), Posyandu Services, Immunization, home visits by cadres, and Stunting Discussions. These programs are not new programs that will be implemented in 2024; they have been running since previous years. Therefore, every year we are committed to always giving our best and correcting the mistakes and shortcomings of previous years. Procurement of goods and services to support the proper implementation of these programs. Thus, it is hoped that we can reduce the stunting

rate in Arjowilangun Village. In addition, in terms of accountability, the Arjowilangun village government has never been involved in any problems, especially in the sub-field of health, during checks carried out by the inspectorate."

(Interview on July 10, 2024)

The Community Empowerment (KPM) Stunting Coordinator conveyed the following:

"When it comes to commitment, I am indeed committed to helping the village in implementing these Posyandu activities. I don't look at the amount of honorarium I receive; what matters is my sincere intention to help the community, especially children who are malnourished. In addition to helping with Posyandu activities, I also make home visits. I conduct home visits as directed by the Village Midwife. There are 5 children I visit every month. During each home visit, I provide additional nutritious food such as meat products, vitamins, and milk. I also always provide information on the importance of proper nutrition for children. I also strive to always remind them of the impact of stunting on children's lives and their future. Thanks to our persistence in implementing these programs, we have achieved fairly good results. This is evident from the decrease in stunting rates, defined as children with very short height and poor nutrition, from 12 children in 2023 to 10 children in 2024." (Interview on August 8, 2024).

Regarding the regulations used by the Arjowilangun Village Government for the use of Village Funds in efforts to prevent and reduce stunting, the Village Head stated the following:

"For the regulations used as a reference for the use of village funds, we always communicate with the village facilitator. Communication with village facilitators is carried out to minimize mistakes made by the village government. Specifically for stunting prevention and reduction, the regulation used is the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Village Fund Use Priorities. One of them is the prevention and reduction of stunting in the village, and the activities that the village government can carry out in the prevention and reduction of stunting are mentioned in detail in the Policy." (Interview on July 10, 2024)

The Village Midwife stated, "Regarding the regulation, I follow the TPK, so I am not familiar with which regulation the village uses as a reference for implementing the stunting prevention and reduction program. However, I know what programs and goods can be funded by the Village Fund budget. My role here is to convey the procurement of programs and goods suitable for implementing the stunting prevention and reduction program in Arjowilangun Village. The procurement of these programs and goods will then be presented at the RKP Meeting." Interview (August 8, 2024)

Supporting and Hindering Factors in the Use of Village Funds (Study on the Implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds in Stunting Prevention Efforts in Arjowilangun Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency)

To identify the supporting factors in stunting prevention efforts in Arjowilangun Village, the researcher conducted interviews with the Village Head, TPK, Village Midwife, and Cadres. The Village Head made the following statement:

"The main supporting factor is the existence of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds, which states that one of the priorities for the use of village funds is the program for the prevention and reduction of stunting in villages. If it were not a priority in the use of village funds, perhaps the community would not have agreed to the funds being used for the prevention and reduction of stunting during the development planning meeting. This is because the community tends to view the use of village funds as being for infrastructure development. In addition, the TPK, village midwife, and cadres understand the budgetary situation and the conditions of the village community. Therefore, they can maximize the handling of stunting with the available budget." (Interview on July 10, 2024)

Furthermore, Mr. Kasuwianto, as the TPK, made the following statement:

"Apart from the ministry's policies that support stunting prevention and reduction efforts, the village administration itself has a tradition of good cooperation. So, if I encounter obstacles in my work, they will help me. Good cooperation between village midwives and cadres also facilitates the implementation of stunting prevention programs. Additionally, relevant parties such as the sub-district and village facilitators are always ready to answer any questions regarding stunting prevention and reduction programs." (Interview on July 10, 2024)

4.2 Discussion

Implementation of Village Fund usage in efforts to prevent and reduce stunting. Based on the results of the study, it can be seen that since the planning process, the village government, together with village midwives and cadres, has always prioritized the prevention and reduction of stunting program () in accordance with the Policy of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds. The village government also involves all elements of the community in the process and formulation of the Village Government Work Plan so that all elements of the community understand the importance of implementing stunting prevention and reduction programs. In addition to the planning stage, the village government, village midwives, and cadres constantly strive to implement stunting prevention and reduction programs well during the implementation stage. This can be seen from the Stunting Discussion program, which always involves various elements of the community and health officials to conduct evaluations and procure goods and infrastructure to support the smooth running of stunting prevention and reduction programs. Village midwives and cadres are important in implementing stunting prevention and reduction programs. This is because village midwives and cadres are directly involved in meeting with the community during the implementation stage. Good cooperation between the village government, village midwives, and cadres has gradually reduced the stunting rate in Arjowilangun village from 30 stunted toddlers with 12 toddlers having very short height and malnutrition in 2023 to 30 stunted toddlers with 10 toddlers having very short height and malnutrition in 2024. What the Arjowilangun Village Government has implemented is in line with the definition of Policy put forward by Anderson in Nugroho (2014), which defines Policy as *"A relatively stable, purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern."* Policy is a course of action with a specific purpose set by an actor or a group of actors in addressing a problem or issue.

Based on the study's results, when using regulations as a reference for Village Government management of Village Funds, they always communicate with village assistants and sub-districts to minimize errors. In the context of policy implementation theory, what has been carried out by the Arjowilangun Village Government is in line with policy implementation theory, particularly *the top-down* theory. The Arjowilangun Village Government uses the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Regulation Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds to implement programs to prevent stunting. The programs outlined in the Policy were then adjusted to the needs of the Arjowilangun village community in the Stunting Discussion, which was also attended by health workers from the community health center and the sub-district, as well as village assistants, to ensure that the program was on target. After the program was established, it was then implemented in the community. The implementation of the stunting prevention program was in line with the *top-down* approach described by Tachjan (2006:10). This approach assumes that the policy process is a series of commands in which political leaders articulate clear policy preferences that will be implemented in increasingly specific ways as the Policy progresses through the administrative machinery that serves it. This *top-down* approach begins with government decisions, assesses the extent to which administrators implement or fail to implement these decisions, and then seeks the underlying causes of the success or failure of policy implementation.

Based on the study's results, the budget allocated for stunting prevention in Arjowilangun Village is sourced from the Village Fund. The Village Fund is regulated in Government Regulation Number 60 of 2014 concerning the Village Fund sourced from the State Budget, Article 1, paragraph 2: The Village Fund is a fund sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget intended for villages, which is transferred through the Regency/City Revenue and

Expenditure Budget and used to finance the administration of government, implementation of development, community guidance, and community empowerment.

Based on the research results presented, the success of implementing the stunting prevention program is inseparable from human resource capabilities. Human resource capabilities in this study refer to the abilities of implementers such as the village government, village midwives, and cadres, as well as the awareness of the community as recipients of the stunting prevention program. According to Amir (2011:86), capability is the ability to exploit or make good use of resources within oneself and within an organization, as well as the potential to carry out certain activities or a series of activities. Capabilities can be seen from two contexts, namely the individual and collective contexts. This study's collective context refers to the stunting prevention program implementation team, consisting of the village head, TPK, village midwives, cadres, and the beneficiary community.

When viewed from an individual context, capability can refer to technical skills, interpersonal skills, leadership, and the ability to adapt to the environment and its dynamics. In an organizational context, capability refers to the ability to innovate, adapt to organizational dynamics, manage resources effectively and efficiently, and achieve organizational goals. Therefore, capability refers to various factors or elements enabling individuals, groups, or organizations to achieve specific goals.

According to the Head of Arjowilangun Village, the stunting prevention program implementation team can perform its duties. Starting from planning, implementation, and accountability, there have been no obstacles during monitoring and evaluation by the sub-district and inspectorate. On the other hand, the community as beneficiaries are still unaware of the negative impacts of stunting. As a result, they ignore the nutritional value of the food toddlers consume. The tendency of the community to underestimate the problem of stunting certainly also makes the output of the stunting prevention program less than optimal. This is in line with the opinion of George C. Edwards III, who states that policy implementation is influenced by four main factors: communication, resources, the disposition (attitude) of the implementer, and bureaucratic structure.

Supporting and inhibiting factors in the use of Village Funds (Study on the Implementation of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds in Efforts to Prevent Stunting in Arjowilangun Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency). Based on the research findings described above, we can conclude that the supporting factors for the implementation of Village Fund usage in efforts to prevent stunting in Arjowilangun Village are: The existence of regulations stipulating that stunting is a priority in the use of Village Funds, namely the Policy on the Detailed Priorities for the Use of Village Funds () of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023. Thus, in planning, the village government can prioritize stunting prevention programs using village funds. The program implementation team's capability consists of Technical Activity Implementers, Village Midwives, and Cadres, who can carry out their duties from planning, implementation, to accountability. Transparency among the program implementation teams facilitates the implementation and accountability of the programs.

Barriers Based on the results of the study described above, we can see that the barriers to the implementation of Village Funds in efforts to prevent stunting in Arjowilangun Village are: Cuts to the Village Fund budget for the BLT DD program, which absorbs a significant amount of the budget, meaning that the village government cannot maximize the budget for stunting prevention programs. Lack of public awareness regarding the importance of nutritional balance in toddlers' diets and lack of knowledge about the negative impacts of stunting. Toddlers who are not cared for directly by their parents because their parents work outside the region or abroad.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the researcher's analysis results, the following conclusions were drawn: Based on what has been and is being implemented by the Arjowilangun Village Government, it can be said that the Arjowilangun Village Government is committed. The Arjowilangun Village Government has performed its duties in the planning, implementation, and accountability stages of using village funds in stunting prevention efforts. This is also supported by the decline in

stunting rates in Arjowilangun Village from 30 toddlers with stunting and 12 toddlers with very short height and malnutrition in 2023 to 10 toddlers with stunting and very short height and malnutrition in 2024. The regulation used by the village government as a reference for the use of village funds in stunting prevention efforts is the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2023 concerning Details of Priority Use of Village Funds. The budget for the stunting prevention program came from village funds amounting to IDR 96,474,000. The Arjowilangun village government published the Use of Village Funds on the village website to ensure transparency. It put up banners in front of the village office and every hamlet in Arjowilangun Village. The team implementing the stunting prevention program has the human resource capabilities. This is evident in the planning, implementation, and accountability processes, as there have been no obstacles during monitoring and evaluation by the sub-district and inspectorate. However, as the beneficiaries, the community is not yet aware of the negative impacts of stunting.

Supporting factors for implementing village funds in stunting prevention efforts include: regulations prioritizing stunting prevention, a capable program implementation team, and transparency among program implementation teams. Factors that hinder the implementation of village funds in stunting prevention efforts include: limited budget for stunting prevention programs and a lack of public awareness about the negative impacts of stunting on toddlers, as well as toddlers who are not cared for directly by their parents because their parents work outside the region or abroad. The following are our recommendations based on the conclusions of the research presented: Provide education or information about the importance of stunting prevention programs to participants in the development planning meeting so that the budget for implementing stunting prevention programs can be increased by reducing the budget for other programs, such as infrastructure development, so that stunting prevention programs can be implemented more optimally to reduce stunting rates in Arjowilangun Village significantly. Collaborating with the health office to educate the community about the negative impacts of stunting on toddlers by holding seminars to raise awareness and knowledge about the importance of providing nutritious food to toddlers to prevent stunting.

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