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**“ANALYSIS OF STUNTING MANAGEMENT HANDLING IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OF JENEPONTO DISTRICT”**

ABSTRACT

Background : Stunting is a chronic malnutrition condition resulting from inadequate nutrient intake over a long period of time, leading to serious health problems, including increased infant mortality and impaired cognitive abilities. Globally, 149.2 million children under five are stunted, with high prevalence in Asia and Africa. Indonesia has seen a decline in stunting rates, but certain areas, such as Jeneponto, still face significant challenges. **Objective :** This study aims to comprehensively assess the management of the stunting management program by the Jeneponto District Health Office. **Method :** Through a qualitative approach, including in-depth interviews with key health officials, and utilizing thematic analysis through Nvivo for data processing. This study explores aspects of implementation funds, policy acceptance, compliance with protocols, the appropriateness of interventions to community needs, and program coverage and fluctuations. **Results :** The results show that the Health Office has allocated funds from various sources, including central and regional budgets, for stunting interventions. Acceptance of stunting management policies involves coordination of cross-sector teams and government regulations. Adherence to protocols is maintained through coordination meetings and information dissemination, while the appropriateness of the program to local social and economic conditions is the focus to ensure effectiveness. The coverage of the program was recorded as fluctuating, reflecting challenges in consistent implementation. **Conclusion :** The study underlines the importance of program sustainability through regular monitoring and evaluation. Suggestions include increasing the involvement of other sectors and inter-agency coordination to improve program effectiveness and coverage.

Keywords: *stunting intervention, program management, cross-sectoral coordination, health policy acceptance, monitoring and evaluation.*