

Implementation of the Great Parents School Program in Stunting Prevention in Bebekan Village, Taman District

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study analyzes the implementation of the School of Great Parents (SOTH) Program, which aims to reduce stunting in Bebekan Village, Taman District, Sidoarjo Regency, and improve parents' knowledge and skills in caring for toddlers, particularly regarding stunting and pre-stunting. **Method:** The methodology used in this study is descriptive qualitative, referring to George C. Edward III's implementation theory, which focuses on four indicators: communication, resources, implementer attitudes, and bureaucratic structure, with data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation involving health cadres, Working Group 4, and mothers with toddlers. **Result:** The results show that program communication is running relatively well through socialization, human resources and existing facilities are adequate despite limited funds, implementers show high commitment even without incentives, and the bureaucratic structure follows established procedures. **Novelty:** The conclusion of this study emphasizes that SOTH plays a significant role in increasing parental awareness, but community participation and financial support need to be increased, highlighting the unique contribution of evaluating stunting prevention programs through the lens of internal implementation mechanisms at the village level.

INTRODUCTION

Stunting is a significant nutritional problem that can affect a child's growth and development due to a lack of adequate nutritional intake. One of the main factors that inhibits growth is a lack of nutrition during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life, which can result in delays in growth [1], [2], [3]. Stunting occurs due to low nutritional intake in the first thousand days of life, which has an impact on the child's physical development and decreases their ability to learn and be productive in the future [4]. Stunting can be defined as a condition where a child's height is lower than the standard set for their age, caused by chronic malnutrition, repeated infections and environmental factors [5]. The effects caused by stunting can include physical disorders, height and weight that are not ideal or equivalent to children of the same age, impaired brain performance and decreased metabolism in children [6]. Stunting is a complex problem and a serious challenge for human resource development in Indonesia. This condition not only impacts a child's physical growth, but also cognitive development and productivity in the future [7]. Currently, Indonesia still faces serious challenges related to stunting, Indonesia ranks highest in the world for stunting prevalence, with a figure of around 24.4% in 2021 so that the government issued the latest regulation on the problem of stunting, namely Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction which includes aspects of National Strategy, Implementation, and Coordination between stakeholders [8]. This Presidential Regulation also recently revoked Presidential Regulation Number 42 of 2013 which discussed the National Movement to Accelerate Nutrition

Improvement. Indonesia has a target to reduce the prevalence of stunting to 14% by 2024 with various policies and interventions from various sectors. In its implementation, local governments have an important role as the spearhead in efforts to accelerate stunting management.

The Sidoarjo Regency Government, a region experiencing rapid economic development and urbanization, recognizes the importance of addressing stunting to improve the quality of human resources and regional competitiveness. According to data from the Health Office in 2021, the stunting prevalence rate in Sidoarjo was 23.5%. Although this figure is lower than the national average, the local government remains committed to reducing it through various policies. This commitment is evident in the issuance of Sidoarjo Regent Regulation Number 89 of 2021, which regulates integrated efforts to accelerate stunting reduction, serving as the legal basis for implementing programs and interventions related to stunting in the region [10]. One strategic step taken is the Great Parents School (SOTH) Program, designed by the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) in collaboration with the local government. This program is an innovation to improve parents' knowledge, attitudes, and skills in caring for toddlers, and serves as an educational step to address social and health issues, particularly those related to stunting.

In the Implementation in Bebekan Village, Taman District, Sidoarjo Regency, which is one of the areas in Sidoarjo Regency that implements the Great Parents School (SOTH) program implemented by the Village Family Planning Assistant (PPKBD) in collaboration with PKK Cadres Pokja 4 and Bebekan Village Health Cadres named Bina Keluarga Balita (BKB) Kenikir Bebekan. The Sidoarjo Regency Government, which is an area with rapid economic development and urbanization, realizes the importance of addressing stunting issues to improve the quality of human resources and regional competitiveness. According to data from the Health Office in 2021, the stunting prevalence rate in Sidoarjo was 23.5%. Although this figure is lower than the national average, the local government remains determined to reduce it through various policies. This commitment is evident in the issuance of Sidoarjo Regent Regulation Number 89 of 2021, which regulates integrated efforts to accelerate stunting reduction, serving as the legal basis for the implementation of programs and interventions related to stunting in the region. One strategic step taken is the Great Parents School (SOTH) Program, designed by the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) in collaboration with the local government. This program is an innovation to improve parents' knowledge, attitudes, and skills in caring for toddlers, and serves as an educational step to address social and health issues, particularly those related to stunting [11]. The SOTH Program activities begin with child health checks covering weight, height, skills, gymnastics, and games. The program is implemented in structured stages, complemented by pre- and post-tests to assess participant understanding. The program consists of 14 topics, such as family life planning, self-concept and parenting, the role of parents and paternal participation, early childhood health and nutrition, clean and healthy living habits, stimulation for motor and communication development, the importance of the first 1,000 days of life, and the implementation of the eight family functions. The material is delivered in an interactive and fun way for easy understanding. Through this activity, parents gain increased knowledge and parenting skills, awareness

of the importance of quality parenting, and motivation to implement better parenting methods [12]. By delivering this material, it is hoped that in this modern era, raising and educating children will become more complex, thereby reducing stunting rates, especially in Bebekan Village. The following is a recapitulation of stunting and pre-stunting data in Bebekan Village.

Table 1. Recapitulation of Stunting Data in Bebekan Village, September 2024.

No	Pos	Toddler Names	Tggl is Born	Nutritional Status			Status
				TB	BB	Nutrition	
1	POS 1	Doubt	04/07/2022	Normal	Normal	Not enough	Pra-Stunting
2	POS 2	M. Haider	19/06/2021	Normal	Not enough	Not enough	Pra-Stunting
3	POS 3	M. Rizky A	05/12/2021	Normal	Not enough	Not enough	Pra-Stunting
4	POS 3	Erlangga	07/06/2020	Short	Not enough	Not enough	Stunting
5	POS 3	Zafran P.	01/06/2022	Short	Normal	Good	Pra-Stunting
6	POS 3	Attalah	04/09/2021	Short	Normal	Good	Pra-Stunting
7	POS 3	Adzkatul	01/11/2022	Normal	Not enough	Good	Pra-Stunting
8	POS 3	Inara	27/03/2020	Very Short	Very less	Not enough	Stunting
9	POS 4	Salma A	29/01/2020	Short	Not enough	Not enough	Stunting
10	POS 4	Aisyatun Z	12/10/2021	Short	Very less	Not enough	Stunting
11	POS 4	Mr. Hadi Revan	19/03/2021	Normal	Not enough	Not enough	Pra-Stunting
12	POS 6	Airangga	22/10/2021	Short	Not enough	Not enough	Stunting
13	POS 7	M. Father	12/10/2022	Short	Not enough	Not enough	Stunting

Source: [13]

The Great Parents School (SOTH) program was conducted in Bebekan Village, Taman District, in October 2024 and was adjusted to the curriculum or material presented. In its implementation, it was carried out with 8 meetings. The target of participation in the Great Parents School (SOTH) program is parents who have toddlers in the Bebekan Village area. However, it is also emphasized that in this program, the parties who are highly prioritized are parents who have pre-stunting toddlers because they require special or more attention to prevent an increase in stunting cases in Bebekan Village. This program is implemented by the Sidoarjo Regency Government to make Sidoarjo Regency a "Zero Stunting" area.

Several previous studies also emphasized the implementation of the Great Parents School (SOTH). One of them is a study by Absor which discusses SOTH mentoring as a community empowerment step in improving the psychosocial quality of children in

Poncol Village, Sine District [14]. This study shows that the SOTH Program can improve children's social and emotional abilities by changing the way parents educate, especially in terms of communicating, managing emotions, and understanding psychosocial needs. This program also strengthens harmonious relationships within the family, although there are still obstacles in the form of a lack of ongoing support and resources. The results of this study provide important suggestions for the development of similar programs to be more successful in supporting children's development optimally. There is also a previous study by Agustina and Dwijayanti [15] which revealed that stunting prevention in Lakarsantri Village was carried out through various efforts, including integrated health post activities, information provided by cadres and community health centers, provision of nutritious supplementary food, and increasing the role of parents in meeting the nutritional, health, and developmental stimulation needs of children according to their age. In addition, there is also research by Kinasih and Nugroho [16], research entitled Implementation of the Parenting Program at the Great Parents School (SOTH) located in Kedungsoko Village, Plumpang District, Tuban Regency, shows that SOTH has a positive impact in improving parenting skills and attitudes. The success of this program is supported by the role of the government, the availability of modules, and the active participation of cadres, while the main challenge lies in the limited time of participants and facilities. Overall, this program helps parents realize the importance of quality parenting patterns to support children's development optimally.

Based on field observations, several issues were identified in the implementation of the School of Great Parents (SOTH) program in Bebekan Village, Taman District. These include: first, a lack of parental awareness regarding stunting in children, with parents unsure how to manage or prevent its continuation. Second, low parental participation in these activities is often due to parents' busy schedules, a lack of awareness of the program's importance, and a lack of understanding of the benefits it offers.

Based on the research issues above, the author is interested in identifying the research results with the title Implementation of the Great Parents School Program in Preventing Stunting in Bebekan Village, with the implementation theory that will be chosen in this research is George Edward's theory, this theory states that the success of implementing public policy has 4 factors, namely (1) Communication; (2) Resources; (3) Implementer Attitude; and (4) Bureaucratic Structure.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive type, aiming to gain an in-depth understanding of the implementation of the Great Parents School Program (SOTH) in preventing stunting in Bebekan Village, Taman District, Sidoarjo Regency [17]. The selection of informants was carried out using a purposive sampling technique, namely selecting research subjects based on certain criteria related to the focus of the study. Data sources consist of primary and secondary data [18]. Primary data was taken directly from key informants, including Family Planning Field Officers (PLKB), Village Family Planning Assistants (PPKBD), Heads and cadres of Working Group 4, health cadres from Bebekan Village, and mothers who have children with pre-stunting or stunting status. Meanwhile, secondary data was collected from previous research articles, health cadre documents, anthropometric reports, and other relevant archives. Data collection was

carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document studies, so that researchers could obtain a complete picture of the program implementation. Data analysis was carried out interactively following the Miles and Huberman model, which includes three steps: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing and verifying conclusions. The analysis process continues from data collection to the final stage of the research, with the aim of producing accurate and in-depth interpretations related to the implementation of the SOTH Program [18].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the Great Parents School (SOTH) Program in an effort to prevent stunting in Bebekan Village was examined using the public policy implementation theory put forward by George C. Edward III. This theory highlights that implementation is a crucial phase in public policy, because no matter how well the policy is formulated, without proper preparation and planning in the implementation phase, the policy's objectives will not be achieved [19]. Therefore, to achieve policy objectives, well-designed planning and implementation are required. Edward III emphasized that the success of implementation is greatly influenced by four main factors, namely communication, resources, attitudes or behavior of implementers, and also bureaucratic structures.

1. Communication

According to Edward III, communication is defined as a process in which information is conveyed from the sender to the recipient. In implementing public policy, communication plays a crucial role in ensuring that implementers fully understand what needs to be prepared and implemented. Therefore, providing accurate and organized information is a key prerequisite for effectively achieving policy goals and objectives [20]. The following information is from an interview with Ms. Yuli Astutik, Village Family Planning Supervisor (PPKBD). "*Bebekan sub-district is one of the sub-districts where there are 13 stunted toddlers. Regarding the SOTH socialization activity, we gathered all mothers of toddlers affected by stunting and pre-stunting. We also invited representatives of toddler mothers from each post. To implement this activity, we collaborated with the PLKB (Family Planning Field Officer) of Taman District and also the Posyandu cadres of Bebekan Sub-district.*" (interview March 20, 2025). The explanation of the statement regarding the communication of the delivery of IKD information from Mrs. Yuli Astutik was further emphasized by the interview statement from Mrs. Rizka Rahmawati as the Head of Working Group 4, who delivered the following statement. "*Regarding the socialization of this SOTH activity, we invited mothers of toddlers affected by stunting and pre-stunting, we also invited representatives of toddler mothers from each Post. Thank God, during the implementation of this activity which lasted for several days, it ran smoothly, without the slightest obstacle. And all the information provided could be understood by the toddler mothers because at the end of each material we always gave a post-test so we could find out whether the information related to stunting and its prevention was understood or not. We are grateful that during the implementation of this program, every toddler mother we invited was enthusiastic to participate in this activity, although there were still two or three who could not attend because their toddler mothers were working.*" (interview March 20, 2025). From the statement above, Bebekan Village has conducted a Great Parents School (SOTH) Socialization activity which has been attended by Mothers of Stunting

and Pre-Stunting Toddlers, representatives of mothers of toddlers per post and in collaboration with Posyandu cadres and Working Group 4. The following is a picture of the socialization of the Great Parents School (SOTH) activity in Bebekan Village, Taman District.



Source: [21]

Figure 1. Socialization of the Great Parents School (SOTH) activity in Bebekan Village, Taman District.

The above phenomenon, if linked to the Implementation theory according to Edward III for communication indicators, is appropriate because based on interviews, the Bebekan Village has carried out socialization by inviting mothers of toddlers and collaborating with health cadre mothers. Information related to stunting prevention was carried out directly and in a structured manner, which shows that the communication aspect in policy implementation has been carried out well [22]. In addition, in the implementation of this program there were no obstacles and it can be clearly understood by all parties involved. Thus, one of the communication indicators of Edward III's theory in this case can be said to be successful, because information related to stunting prevention has been conveyed well by the implementing party, thus supporting the smooth implementation of the Great Parents School (SOTH) program.

2. Resource

Therefore, achieving policy objectives requires well-structured planning and implementation. Edward III emphasized that successful implementation is heavily influenced by four key factors: communication, resources, implementer attitudes and behaviors, and bureaucratic structure. The following information is from an interview with Yuli Astutik, the Village Family Planning Supervisor (PPKBD). She explained the following: "*Thank God, we've met the human resources requirement. We're collaborating with the Family Planning Field Officers (PLKB), the PPKBD (Regional Development Planning Agency), Working Group 4 (Pokja 4), and health cadres. We also happen to be the speakers at this Great Parents School. The only obstacle facing mothers of toddlers is their lack of attendance. There are still two or three who can't attend due to work.*" (interview March 20, 2025).

Table 2. Implementation of activities in the Great Parents School Program (SOTH).

No	Name	Executor
1	Luluk Manfaati	Family Planning Officer (Field)
2	Yuli Astutik	Village Family Planning Supervisor
3	Rizka Rahmawati	Head of Working Group 4
4	Suntitika Puji	Working Group 4 Cadres
5	Susanti's Ethics	Working Group 4 Cadres
6	Vinita Hananda	Integrated Health Post Cadres
7	Sulistyo	Integrated Health Post Cadres
8	Siti Chuzaifah	Integrated Health Post Cadres
9	Emy Rikanti	Integrated Health Post Cadres

Source: [13]

Regarding financial resources, they are also needed to support the implementation of the Great Parents School (SOTH) program so that it is right on target.

The following are the results of an interview with Ms. Luluk Manfaati as a Family Planning Field Officer (PLKB). *"The budget for the SOTH program in Bebekan Village was obtained from donors because this activity has not been included in the village's annual budget, and this activity is a sudden event, so the budget was obtained from donors in Bebekan Village. With a nominal value of 12,000 for snacks and 15,000 for boxed meals, it is in the form of food and drinks directly. Then there are no incentives for cadres in this activity because we are cadres and implementers of this work in the form of social service, we serve the community."* (interview March 20, 2025).

Table 3. Great Parents School Program (SOTH) Budget.

No	Budget Requirements	Total	Amount
1	Snack 12.000 x 40 Orang	Rp. 480,000 x 8 days	Rp. 3,840,000
2	Food and Beverage 15.000 x 40 People	Rp. 600,000 x 8 days	Rp. 4,800,000

Source: [23]

Regarding infrastructure resources, Bebekan Village has adequately supported the SOTH program, with a village hall equipped with mats, fans, a projector, and tables and chairs. The following is an interview with Mrs. Atika, the mother of a toddler. *"The facilities in Bebekan sub-district during this activity are all adequate and complete. There are tables, chairs, mats, fans, and several children's toys that make our children not fussy when we, the mothers of toddlers, attend this Great Parents School."* (interview March 24, 2025).

From the statement above, if it is linked to the implementation theory of Edward III for the resource indicator, it is appropriate because most mothers of stunted and pre-stunted toddlers participated in this SOTH activity, although there were still two or three people who did not attend one of the Great Parents School meetings, but they could still understand because there were also material books provided. Meanwhile, regarding financial resources, this was obtained from donors because the SOTH activity in 2024 was not included in the annual budget of Bebekan Village because this program was only

conceptualized in mid-2024. and the existing infrastructure in Bebekan Village is also complete and suitable for holding the Great Parents School Program in the future.

3. Implementer's Attitude (Disposition)

According to Edward III, the attitude of the implementer or disposition is the willingness, commitment, and consistency of policy implementers to implement the policy earnestly so that the policy's objectives can be realized. The following is the result of an interview with Mrs. Yuli Astutik, the Village Family Planning Supervisor (PPKBD). She stated the following. *"Regarding the division of tasks in the implementation of SOTH, it is in accordance with each individual's job description. As implementers and cadres of the integrated health post (Posyandu), we are committed to continuing to support and implement existing government programs, especially those related to stunting. We understand that we may not receive incentives for every activity, but because we are all committed to always serving the community, this is one of our social activities."* (interview March 20, 2025).

From the statement above, if it is linked to the implementation theory according to Edward III, this disposition indicator is appropriate, because it can be seen that the cadres of working group 4, PPKB, PLKB and Posyandu cadres of Bebekan Village are committed to supporting all government programs, especially those related to stunting, even though all forms of work or participation of these organizers are social in nature, this is real evidence that they serve the community.

4. Bureaucratic Structure

According to Edward III, bureaucratic structure is a key factor in implementing public policy. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are guidelines that govern how tasks and responsibilities are carried out within an organization. In an interview with Yuli Astutik, the Village Family Planning Supervisor (PPKBD), she stated the following: *"Regarding the procedures for implementing the SOTH program, we already understood the program's implementation because there was a meeting before starting this program. We followed the instructions or directions from the PLKB (Family Planning Field Officer) as well. For the initial stage, of course, we recorded all stunted and stunted toddlers, then we issued meeting invitations and explained all the materials during the meeting. After 8 days, we will close this Great Parents School class with a graduation ceremony held throughout the Taman sub-district. During the implementation of this program there were no obstacles whatsoever, thank God it went smoothly."* (interview March 20, 2025)



Figure 2. Graduation of SOTH Program Participants.

Source: [21]

Table 4. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Great Parents School (SOTH) Program.

No	Steps	SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)
1	First	Coordination and data collection of stunted and pre-stunted toddlers through Posyandu Post Anthropometric reports
2	Second	SOTH material is compiled based on the SOTH module
3	Third	PPKBD makes invitations and invites parents of stunted and pre-stunted toddlers to participate.
4	Fourth	The implementation of SOTH was carried out in Bebekan Village in stages over 8 meetings.
5	Fifth	Pre-Test and Post-Test are conducted to monitor learning outcomes and check attendance as a graduation requirement.
6	Sixth	Graduation of mothers of toddlers held throughout the sub-district

Source: [13]

From the statement above, if it is related to the implementation theory according to Edward III, the bureaucratic structure is appropriate because it is implemented in accordance with the SOP that has been determined and directed by the PLKB, namely Coordination and Data Collection of stunted and pre-stunting toddlers through Posyandu Post Anthropometry reports, preparation of materials, giving invitations to the implementation of socialization, implementation of SOTH, Pre-Test and Post-Test and ending with graduation. During the implementation of the SOTH program, it ran smoothly and was easy to understand regarding the materials provided.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : This study aims to evaluate the implementation of the School of Great Parents (SOTH) Program to prevent stunting in Bebekan Village, Taman District, Sidoarjo Regency, using the implementation theoretical framework proposed by George C. Edward III, and the results indicate that communication took place well through direct and structured socialization so that the community could receive information about stunting prevention effectively, resources in terms of personnel and facilities were adequate though limited funding was a major obstacle, the disposition of implementers showed high commitment even without incentives, and the bureaucratic structure worked according to operational procedures so the program could run in an orderly and directed manner. **Implication :** Overall, the SOTH Program has been proven to have a significant impact on improving parental knowledge, attitudes, and skills in caring for children as a strategic step to prevent stunting from the family side, highlighting the importance of communication, consistency of implementers, and

procedural clarity in village-level health programs. **Limitation** : However, the effectiveness of this program is still affected by low community participation, especially among families with toddlers experiencing stunting or pre-stunting, and limited budget support which constrains broader implementation. **Future Research** : Therefore, the success of future programs depends heavily on active community involvement, increased coordination between sectors, and ongoing policy and resource support, which should be further explored through comparative studies and broader evaluations across diverse village contexts to strengthen sustainable stunting prevention strategies.

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