



Social Welfare Policy and Cross-Sectoral Participation: For Resilience Overcoming Stunting in Indonesia

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Abstract

Efforts to reduce poverty must have an impact that can reach the various problems caused by poverty. This research aims to analyze social policies related to poverty alleviation and cross-sectoral participation in overcoming stunting problems that occur in Indonesia. This research uses a qualitative-exploratory research method to examine the Government's Social Policy in overcoming poverty and its impact on stunting which involves cross-sector participation in its implementation. Then the data is collected from interviews, field observations, and applicable literature, then to analyze the results using Nvivo 12 Pro. The location of this research uses a regional case study in Indonesia, namely the Bantaeng Regency area. The results of this study show that the contribution of government social policies in overcoming poverty has a very positive impact on reducing the number of stunting that occurs in Bantaeng Regency. Several programs issued by the government focus on increasing consumption and fulfilling community nutrition by assisting with food. Then cross-sectoral participation in handling stunting in Bantaeng Regency has also been going well, because it not only involves the local government but also involves the military. However, this study found that there was a lack of involvement of the private sector in efforts to help the government deal with the problem of stunting. So that this is a weakness in handling stunting, therefore in handling stunting based on government programs there needs to be a binding regulation to involve the private sector.

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Introduction

Efforts to overcome poverty must be implemented immediately so that people can live prosperously (Sachs, 2006; Grindle, 2004). Because poverty can have an impact on layers of society and result in prolonged social inequality. Therefore, the role of the government, the private sector, and the community must collaborate in sustainably achieving development goals (Scheyvens et al., 2016; Mintrom & Thomas, 2018). This is a form of concern for people who are still immersed in social welfare problems. These efforts have been made by the government by issuing a policy of Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 15 of 2010 concerning the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction. The policy is a foothold for the central government and local governments to be able to move to overcome the problem of poverty. Because every citizen has the right to be empowered, given services, and can be guaranteed a decent life from the government (Mintrom & Thomas, 2018). To organize social welfare for the community, the government is guided by the mandate of the law Article 27 paragraph 2 and Article 34 which states that every citizen, including the poor and abandoned children, is cared for by the state and has the right to work and a decent life for humanity. However, considering that social welfare problems in Indonesia are very complex, the handling of social welfare problems is often incomplete and not integrated (Fitri, 2019). One of the social welfare problems caused by poverty is stunting.

One of the impacts of poverty is the problem of stunting in developing countries. Stunting is a problem that can be caused by various factors, including economic and food factors. Poverty is one of the things that can cause stunting in toddlers (Wicaksono & Harsanti, 2020). Stunting is a condition of growth failure in children under five caused by chronic malnutrition and recurrent infectious diseases (Jauhar et al., 2022). So one of the main focuses in efforts to achieve sustainable development goals in eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition (Haddad, et al., 2015; Mensi & Udenigwe, 2021). In dealing with the stunting problem caused by poverty, there needs to be a policy that specifically handles it (Subramanian et al., 2016; Rokx et al., 2018; Babu et al., 2014). In supporting the policy, it is necessary to involve the government, private sector, and the community in reducing the stunting rate in the community (Subramanian et al., 2016; Rokx et al., 2018; Babu et al., 2014).

In Indonesia, the policy that became one of the footholds in dealing with stunting in the leadership of President Joko Widodo was the presence of Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2021 concerning the Acceleration of Stunting Reduction. This policy is a step that aims for all elements of government both at the central level and the government in the regions to jointly overcome the problem of stunting in Indonesia (Rokx et al., 2018). The prevalence of stunting in Indonesia is around 21.6% in 2022 and the prevalence of stunting has decreased since 2021, namely 24.4%. Then the figure is targeted to be 14% in 2024 (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2023). Therefore, the strategy to accelerate the reduction of stunting prevalence must be more focused by prioritizing areas that have the most significant impact on the causes of stunting in each region, programs must be designed based on comprehensive data and situation analysis, executed consistently, guarded by a strong monitoring and evaluation system, and involve various government parties, the private sector and the community. The main focus in addressing stunting that is more advanced lies in the potential of the resources used. In this case, the potential of natural and human resources owned by a country that needs to be managed and developed for the sustainability and welfare of society.

Research related to stunting reduction has been conducted by Kodish, in this study identifying factors that contribute to running policies or programs in overcoming stunting in rural Malawi. The factors that are considered to be the key to the success of the program are structured Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), reliable coordination, systematic program design, openness of program planning information, multisectoral involvement in implementation, technological innovation, systematic collaboration between stakeholders, and high health nutrition capacity of the program (Kodish et al., 2022). Then the research from Hatimah & Lutfiansyah, the research was conducted in Cirebon Regency. The research conducted is that handling stunting includes the need for change, attitudes, behavior, and mindset of the community that must be changed to handle it. As for community empowerment efforts in handling parenting, synergy and collaboration of various government agencies and social organizations are needed (Hatimah & Lutfiansyah, 2021). Then one of the causes related to stunting is the lack of education about stunting, the need for interventions related to nutrition for toddlers. So the government program to deal with stunting is to maximize the village family planning program (*Keluarga Berencana*, KB) (Purwandiyah, 2017). The location of the research was conducted in Sumedang, West Java. Then the role of village officials in utilizing the village fund budget to help the central government program so that the acceleration of stunting handling can be achieved to reduce the prevalence of stunting throughout Indonesia (Indra & Khoirunurrofik, 2022).

Based on previous research conducted previously, it can be seen that there is a gap, where in previous studies in efforts to handle stunting only looked in terms of success factors, collaboration and the role of the budget. However, previous studies did not discuss the obstacles faced in handling stunting. As well as what programs have been realized by the government and the private sector in dealing with stunting that occurs. This study will use a program-based stunting handling approach and cross-sector participation to reduce stunting prevalence. Where programs from the government and efforts from the non-government sector have an important and strategic role to reduce stunting cases. The results of this research are expected to provide recommendations for the government in dealing with stunting problems that occur in Indonesia. Also, synergy from various cross-sectors is expected to work together to improve the quality of human resources.

Research Methods

This research uses a case study of a district in Indonesia, namely Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia, which is a research location chosen purposively. Where case study research is conducted by examining cases to provide an in-depth understanding or re-explain a generalization process. In other words, the case is positioned as a means (instrument) to show an in-depth explanation and understanding of something other than what is usually explained. Through the case under study, the researcher intends to show that there is something unique that can be learned from the case, which is different from the explanations obtained from other objects. The research location was chosen for Bantaeng Regency because it is one of the regions in Indonesia that has succeeded in reducing the stunting rate every year, even reaching 21% in South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

This study uses primary and secondary data to support the process of identifying government programs and sectoral participation in handling stunting (Vartanian, 2010). Primary data was obtained from the observation process and literature review (Vartanian, 2010). Meanwhile, the secondary data used was obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Bantaeng Regency, and related agencies, as well as various other sources, deemed relevant to this research, both field research and library research, which were obtained directly or indirectly from parties that manage data, such as: statistical offices, technical agencies, and research institutions.

Departing from these problems, this research uses qualitative methods. The qualitative method was chosen as a way of analyzing, understanding, exploring, and explaining not only theoretically but with facts in the field related to how stunting is handled and cross-sectoral participation in handling stunting problems with a case study of a Regency / City in Indonesia, namely Bantaeng Regency. After the data is obtained, the data is then analyzed and interpreted as developed (Miles Matthew et al., 2014), with the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and data verification to get conclusions in the form of new findings that are useful for further researchers. Then analyzed with the research tool Nvivo 12 Pro qualitative Figure 1.

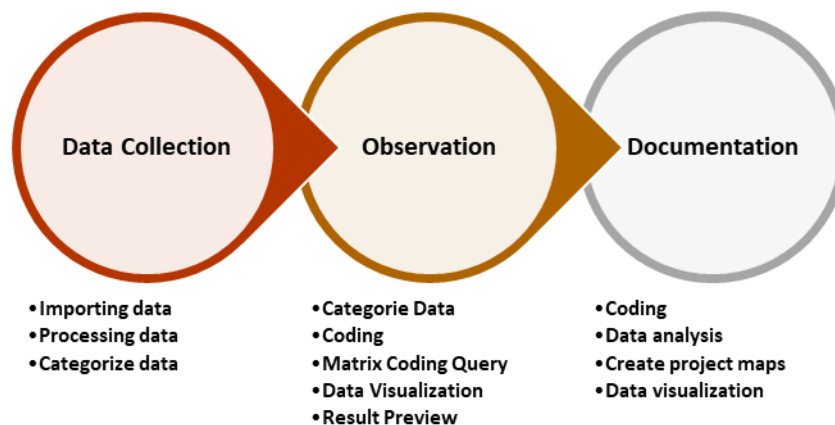


Figure 1. Data collection techniques and data analysis with NVivo 12 Pro. Source: Processed by the researcher, 2023

As shown in Figure 1, the techniques used in analyzing the data included three stages: data import, data processing, and data categorization. The second stage is observing the data and making field notes, which are then divided into data categorization, coding, matrix coding, matrix coding queries, data visualization, and preview results. Then the third stage is the documentation stage, which has four stages: coding, data analysis, project map creation, and data visualization. This was assisted by using Nvivo 12 Pro as a qualitative data analysis tool to obtain findings that can be recommended for future research through matrix coding analysis (Woolf & Silver, 2018).

Results and Discussion

Overview of the Research Site

Bantaeng Regency is geographically located 125 km south of the capital of South Sulawesi Province. Its area reaches 395.83 Km² with a population of 200 900 people in 2023. Bantaeng Regency is divided into 8 sub-districts 46 villages and 21 sub-districts. In the northern part of this area, there is a plateau that includes the Lompobattang mountain range. While in the south, stretching from west to east, there is a lowland that includes coastal areas and rice fields. Bantaeng Regency, which covers 0.63% of South Sulawesi, still has a natural potential to be developed further. It has ± 39,583 hectares of land. Bantaeng Regency has 1,262 hectares of limited-production forest and 2,773 hectares of protected forest. The total area of forest area according to its function in Bantaeng Regency is 6,222 Ha. The potential of Bantaeng Regency is that the Agricultural Sector has superior commodities that can be developed in the form of corn, soybeans, potatoes, pineapples, bananas, sweet potatoes, and cassava. Then the Plantation sector has commodities including Cocoa,

Coffee, Coconut, Cloves, cashews, castor, kapok, Candlenut, pepper, nutmeg, tobacco, and Va-nilla. The fisheries sector's commodities are capture fisheries, pond culture, mariculture, aquaculture, and seaweed. The livestock sector commoditizes cattle, goats, buffaloes, and horses. The industrial sector is the basic metal industry, mining, construction, and housing. Bantaeng Regency has a tourism sector that can be developed. Because in this area there are historical relics that are very interesting to visit. It is not surprising that the local district government is very concerned about tourism. This is evidenced by the renovation of various natural attractions into interesting places, such as the natural baths of Bissappu, and historical relics such as Balla Tujua which is the pride of the local community.

Addressing Poverty Issues in Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia

Poverty is one of the problems that almost all countries feel the impact (Liu et al., 2020; Razak et al., 2017). Because poverty is caused by economic aspects and uneven public welfare (Singh et al., 2022). So the role of the government is needed to overcome poverty problems that result in welfare problems. These efforts are actually not only the responsibility of the government, but all elements of the private sector and society also need to be involved so that social inequality can be resolved. Poverty is caused by many factors including age, education level, working hours, number of dependents, differences in access to resources, low motivation, income distribution, and differences in access to capital.

In general, the number of poor people in Indonesia in September 2022 was 26.36 million, an increase of 0.20 million people against March 2022 and a decrease of 0.14 million people against September 2021. The percentage of the urban poor population in March 2022 was 7.50 percent, rising to 7.53 percent in September 2022 (Sopiah, 2023). From this data, it can be seen that there was an increase in the number of poverty in 2022 from March to September. So that this is one of the reasons that the government must be serious in dealing with poverty problems in Indonesia.

In contrast to the number of poor people in the research location conducted, namely in Bantaeng Regency. The poor population in 2021 in Bantaeng Regency was 17.78 thousand people, then in 2022, the poverty rate decreased to 17.22 thousand people. The graph related to the poor population in the Regency can be seen in Figure 2.

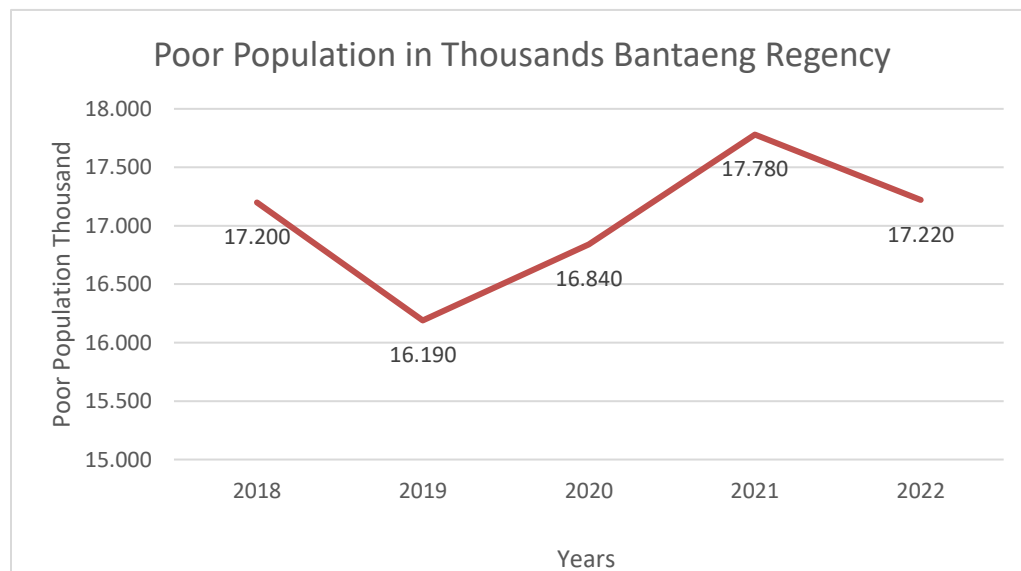


Figure 2. Number of Poor People Per Year in Bantaeng Regency. Source: Processed by researchers from data collection, 2023

Based on the Figure 2 above, it can be seen that the graph of the number of poor people in the Regency changes every year. In 2018 the number of poor people in Bantaeng Regency was 17,200 and experienced a significant decrease in 2019 with a total of 16,190 people. However, this number experienced a drastic increase in 2020, which touched 16,840 people. The impact of the increase in the poverty rates was almost felt by all regions due to the COVID-19 pandemic that attacked in 2020. This agrees with what was conveyed by Gibson & Olivia that the COVID-19 pandemic hurts poverty and the government must quickly make efforts to intervene in this matter. Furthermore, in 2021 the number of poverty in Bantaeng Regency increased by 17,780 people (Gibson & Olivia, 2020). However, in 2022 the poverty rate in Bantaeng Regency decreased to 17,220 people. The target for Bantaeng Regency in 2023 as stated in the Regional Medium Term Development Plan (*Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah*, RPJMD) is a targeted decrease of 7.4%. This was conveyed by the Deputy Regent of Bantaeng who said that "The Regional Poverty Reduction Coordination Team must commit to overcoming the problem of poverty with the data in the DTKS, as a target in poverty reduction programs carried out by all government agencies and the private sector" (Nursam, 2021). Based on this statement, it can be ascertained that the local government of Kabupaten Bantaeng is very open and expects the involvement of all government agencies and the private sector in order to participate in efforts to carry out poverty reduction programs.

Poverty Reduction Program in Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia

The problem of poverty will not be resolved if there is no serious effort from the government to make regulations or programs that aim to provide public welfare (Galvin & Healy, 2020). The issue of handling poverty is one of the targets in the United Nations, namely point 1 'No Poverty' in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program (Apriantoro et al., 2022; Sumner et al., 2020). Efforts to address poverty must be accelerated by clarifying regulations and systematic programs (Giurge et al., 2020). Poverty reduction programs have a significant impact on the economic conditions of people who are classified as underprivileged. This is by research conducted by Rojas, which says that social programs have a huge impact on people's welfare (Rojas, 2015). Therefore, the Indonesian government has issued several policies contained in poverty management programs.

Various programs have been run by the Bantaeng Regency government in dealing with the poverty problem that occurs. It is intended that the poverty rate in Bantaeng Regency can be reduced through various programs aimed at overcoming poverty. The programs run in Bantaeng Regency based on other research, namely the KUBE-FM program from the Bantaeng Regency Social and Manpower Office, which shows that the program implementors in implementing the program have not been effective because they are still weak in inter-organizational communication (Munawir et al., 2019).

Table 1. Poverty alleviation program

Name Programs	Objective	Target Objective	Program Format
KUBE-FM	Improving family income and social welfare	Poor Communities	Business Group Assistance
Family Hope Program	1. Health. Pregnant women. 2. Child Education 3. Social Welfare. For the elderly over 60 years old and severely disabled.	Pregnant Mothers, Breastfeeding Mothers, Having Toddlers, School-age Children	Cash Assistance Through Family Welfare Card

Non-cash food assistance program	1. Reducing the burden of expenditure through partial fulfillment of food needs 2. Provides more balanced nutrition	Poor Communities	Non-Cash Assistance Through Family Welfare Card
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Source: Processed by researchers from various sources, 2023

Based on Table 1 these programs, the majority of targets in the programs that have been run by the government focus on poverty reduction. In addition to several programs, the targets are in the education and health sectors incorporated in the family hope program. The program is one of the programs that is considered to be able to reduce the stunting rate, the low quality of education in Indonesia. Then the KUBE-FM program which aims to increase the income of the poor by providing business assistance to the community. Then the next program is the non-cash food assistance program by providing assistance to the community through a transfer mechanism to the beneficiary's account to be spent on stalls that have been appointed by the government and bank cooperation. The program aims to increase the consumption of the poor and reduce the stunting rate.

The impact of the program on poverty in Bantaeng Regency is quite significant because it is able to reduce the poverty rate that occurs. This was conveyed that the existence of the program has eased the burden on the poor and has also provided several changes to the beneficiary families of the program (Sartika, 2021). The community's response to the presence of the program is considered quite positive because the presence of the program allows the community to meet their daily needs. In addition, the program can also improve the quality of education of the beneficiary families. So this is considered to be one of the program strategies that can solve several problems in the community.

The Impact of Poverty Reduction Programs on Stunting in Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia

One of the impacts of poverty is the increase in stunting cases in the community. So that this is one of the reasons poverty must be quickly resolved. The link between the problem of poverty and stunting that is targeted by the United Nations is the sustainable development goals (SDGs) program in point 1 "No Poverty" and Point 2 "End hunger". So there is a need for policy collaboration that can solve several social problems in one program. If you look at the condition of stunting in Indonesia, the results of the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey in which the prevalence of stunting in Indonesia fell from 24.4 percent in 2021 to 21.6 percent in 2022 (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2023). This shows a positive impact on reducing the number of stunting that occurs in Indonesia. However, it is still far from the stunting reduction target instructed by President Joko Widodo who said that "The stunting prevalence in Indonesia in 2024 is targeted at 14 percent. This is not only the task of the government, but the involvement of the private sector and the community also needs to be involved.

The prevalence condition of stunting at the research location is in Bantaeng Regency. The success of Bantaeng Regency in becoming one of the districts that can reduce the stunting rate should be appreciated. This is evidenced by the comparison between stunting cases in 2021 and in 2022 which has decreased. So that in 2022 the number of stunting rates for toddlers in Bantaeng Regency is 807 toddlers with a specification of 198 toddlers with very short status, and 611 toddlers with short status. So of the total number of toddlers in Bantaeng in 2022 as many as 13,809 toddlers, then those who experience stunting are around 807 toddlers. In contrast to 2021, the number is very high when compared to 2022. The number of toddlers in 2021 in Bantaeng Regency is 12,350 toddlers, then those who are stunted are around 1,752 toddlers with a division of 609 ballitas with very short status and 1,143 toddlers with short status. Therefore, the success of handling stunting is a positive

effort towards improving human resources. This is inseparable from the influence and impact of a government program and the involvement of sectors outside the government in reducing stunting rates. For more details regarding the comparison of stunting rates in Bantaeng Regency, see Table 2.

Table 2. Comparison of Stunting Cases in Bantaeng Regency in 2021-2022.

2021					2022				
Number of toddlers	"Very Short" Toddlers	Toddler "Short" Status	Total	(%)	Number of toddlers	"Very Short" Toddlers	Toddler "Short" Status	Total	(%)
12.350	609	1.143	1.752	14.19	13.809	198	611	807	5.84

Source: Electronic Data-Community Based Nutrition Recording and Reporting (E-PPGBM), 2023

Handling stunting is a strategic issue that is the goal of various countries. So that it becomes one of the priority programs towards social welfare. So that cross-sectoral involvement is needed in efforts to deal with poverty which has an impact on the problem of stunting (Widianingsih & Paskarina, 2019). Meanwhile, in Bantaeng Regency, efforts have been made to tackle stunting from various sectors. This includes what has been done by the Bantaeng District Health Office which established an inte-grated nutrition management centre in Pa'jukukang District, Bantaeng Regency. The integrated nutrition centre building has become a reference for other regions in han-dling stunting in South Sulawesi. Then one of the sectors involved in handling stunting in Bantaeng is the role of Kodim 1410/Bantaeng which collaborates with the Bantaeng district government regarding the implementation of the foster father program that can handle stunting (Pratiwi & Imsar, 2022). This proves that the Indonesian National Army (Tentara Nasional Indonesia, TNI) also contributes to the handling of stunting in Bantaeng Regency. Then the efforts made by the National Population and Family Planning Agency in dealing with stunting are launching the Healthy Kitchen to Ad-dress Stunting (*Dapur Sehat Atasi Stunting*, DASHAT), in the program is expected to change people's behaviour patterns, in the preparation of balanced nutrition that starts with the family (Patha, 2022).

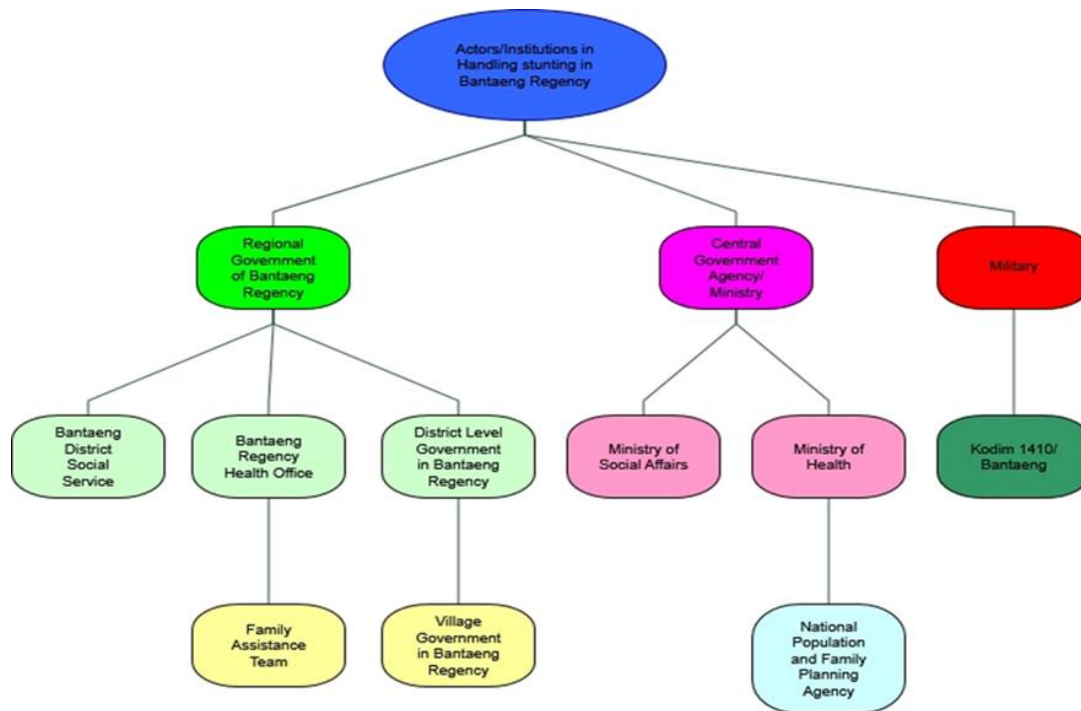


Figure 3. Visualization of Nvivo 12 Pro "Mind Map" of Cross-Sector Participation in Handling Stunting in Bantaeng Regency. Source: Processed by researchers from various sources. 2023

Based on visualization using Nvivo 12 pro (in Figure 3) related to participation across institutional sectors in handling stunting in Bantaeng Regency, it can be analyzed that the involvement of institutions/institutions is well coordinated. This is evidenced by the role of several ministries including the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Health, which have provided programs that are very helpful in reducing stunting in Bantaeng Regency. In addition, the role of the local government has also been running by involving several regional apparatus organizations to run programs from the ministries, such as the Social Service, the Health Service, and the sub-district level government to the village level government. In addition, from the results of the analysis carried out, the role of the military also contributed to the handling of stunting in Bantaeng Regency. The involvement of the army, in this case, is Kodim 1410 in Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia. However, from the results of the analysis carried out, the role of the private sector is very minimal in efforts to handle stunting. So that this is a weakness in handling stunting in Bantaeng Regency, Indonesia.

Discussion

The results of the analysis related to poverty alleviation programs and cross-sectoral participation in dealing with stunting in Bantaeng Regency have gone well. This is evidenced by the involvement of elements of the central government, local government and the military in overcoming the problem of stunting. Based on the programs that have been issued by the government, it has had a positive impact on the problem of poverty and the impact of stunting. The role of the government in making policies is very important in dealing with poverty problems that have an impact on stunting problems. this is in accordance with what Grindle said that good governance can be a more realistic goal in achieving the goal of reducing poverty (Grindle, 2004). Cross-sectoral involvement is needed in dealing with social problems, which is one of the keys to achieving goals. In line with what Loosemore said, cross-sector partnerships from the perspective of the stakeholders involved will affect the collaborative potential and social value outcomes for the intended beneficiaries

(Loosemore et al., 2021). So this is the reason for the importance of cross-sector collaboration in running stunting prevention programs in Indonesia.

Equally important are the programs issued by the government in eradicating poverty and preventing stunting. Because the government has the power to intervene through policies made to create a program. The presence of poverty alleviation programs from the government can indirectly overcome the problem of stunting at once. Because various poverty alleviation programs in Indonesia in terms of goals and processes combine various problems such as education, health, economy in one program. So that when the program runs optimally, it can solve several problems at once. This is in accordance with what was conveyed by Mhlanga who said that it is important for governments in developing countries to invest more in the use of artificial intelligence and increase related research so that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to innovation, infrastructure development, poverty alleviation are achieved at once (Mhlanga, 2021).

So it can be said that the presence of poverty reduction policies, if managed well, can solve several important problems. Therefore, poverty alleviation strategies must be expanded so that they can reach the problems caused by poverty. This is in line with research conducted by Xu who said that programs in handling poverty can solve several problems that are the target of sustainable development goals (Xu et al., 2019). Therefore, it is necessary to increase the resources needed to run a program so that its objectives can be achieved, starting from human resources, budgets and other resources.

Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis and visualization carried out related to poverty reduction programs and cross-sector participation in dealing with stunting in Bantaeng Regency, it has been running effectively. So that this makes the people of Bantaeng Regency together with the government able to run the programs that have been issued by the central government. In addition, one proof of cross-sectoral participation in handling stunting also involves the military, in this case the Indonesian National Army. So that with the poverty alleviation program issued by the government, it can directly reduce the stunting rate in Bantaeng Regency. Because some of the poverty alleviation programs are implemented, one of the goals is to improve people's nutritional consumption through the food assistance provided.

However, the finding of this research is that there is a lack of private sector participation in efforts to tackle stunting in Bantaeng Regency. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government to involve the private sector by presenting binding regulations so that the handling of stunting can be maximized. It is hoped that this research can be a recommendation for stakeholders to design more strategic policies. Then this research is also expected to be a recommendation for the government so that when designing a program, its impact can solve social problems that occur.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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