THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY AND STUNTING IN CHILDREN AGED 6-23 MONTHS, IN NORTH BUTON, SOUTH EAST SULAWESI

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ABSTRACT

Background: Globally it was estimated approximately 156 millions (23%) children are stunted. The prevalence of stunting in children is 29% in Indonesia, which is the highest rate in South East-Asian countries. Stunting may cause delayed mental development and low intellectual capacity. The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between household food security and stunting in children aged 6-23 months.

Subjects and Method: This was a case control study carried out at Bonerombo community health center, Kulisusu sub district, North Buton district, South East Sulawesi. A sample of 126 children under two was selected by total sampling consisting of 63 stunted children and 63 normal children. The dependent variable was stunting. The independent variables were food security, maternal height, and low birth weight. The data were collected by questionnaire and analyzed by logistic regression.

Results: Stunting was associated with food insecurity (OR=2.70; 95% CI: 0.94 to 8.77; p=0.040), maternal height <150cm (OR= 2.03; 95% CI: 1.14 to 3.65; p<0.001), and low birth weight (OR= 3.02; 95% CI: 0.98 to 11.04 p= 0.030).

Conclusion: Stunting is associated with food insecurity, maternal height <150cm, and low birth weight.

Keywords: food security, stunting, children under two

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