FACTORS AFFECTING THE OCCURRENCE OF STUNTING AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE IN PEMALANG, CENTRAL JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Stunting in infants is a manifestation of the long-term impact of several factors related to poverty, social and culture, increased exposure to infectious/non-infectious diseases, food insecurity, and public access to health services. Pemalang was included in 10 cities/districts of Central Java that received priority for stunting intervention. In order to prevent stunting it is essential to examine the causes of stunting in children in these areas. This study aimed to investigate the factors affecting the occurrence of stunting among children under 2 years of age in Pemalang, Central Java.

Subjects and Method: This was an observational analytic study conducted in the working area of Kebondalem Health Center, Pemalang, Central Java, in July 2019. A total of 142 children under 2 years of age was selected for this study. The dependent variable was stunting. The independent variables were maternal education, paternal occupation, family income, family indicator, complete immunization, nutritional intake, and hygiene. The data were collected by anthropometric measurement and questionnaire. The data were analyzed by logistic regression.

Results: Of 142 children under 2 years of age, 74.6% had low maternal education. A total of 46.5% fathers were employees. A total of 42.3% had low family income. Working fathers (OR= 0.04; 95% CI= 0.01 to 0.43; p= 0.007) and harmonious family (OR= 0.43, 95% CI= 0.08 to 0.63; p= 0.004) were associated with lower risk of stunting. Low family income (OR= 9.50; 95% CI= 1.02 to 88.55; p= 0.048) was associated with higher risk of stunting. Complete immunization, nutritional intake, and hygiene, did not show significant association with the risk of stunting.

Conclusion: Paternal occupation, harmonious family, and family income, are associated with the risk of stunting.

Keywords: stunting, risk factor

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