



## Stunting Literacy Strategy of the Library and Archives Office: Increasing Public Awareness and Understanding

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research is to provide a detailed explanation of the stunting literacy approach implemented by the Labuhanbatu Utara Regency Library and Archives Office to increase public awareness and understanding of stunting. This research uses qualitative analysis using the Miles and Huberman paradigm to gain insight into the librarian's point of view. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. The Library and Archives Office of Labuhanbatu Utara Regency implemented various initiatives aimed at increasing public understanding and awareness of stunting. These activities include improving literacy collection development by offering a variety of library materials, fostering partnerships with related organizations, and providing access to Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) services. Working with BKKBN, the Health Office, academics and health workers. Social promotion and campaign: Involves disseminating information through several media channels and organizing social campaigns. Devotion of local government Collaboration between various agencies Compilation of extensive literacy resources to address stunting. To achieve success, it is crucial to have active involvement and support from community members and leaders. Barriers Limited resources Limited availability of information Lack of collaboration among government organizations Recommendations Increase collaboration and synchronization among agencies Increase availability of information Improve librarian skills Conduct program monitoring and evaluation Conclusion Labura district has made great strides in improving understanding of stunting. These efforts deserve recognition and are expected to be continuously improved to achieve the goal of reducing stunting rates in Labuhanbatu Utara Regency.

## Introduction

Stunting remains a significant global nutrition problem affecting children under the age of five. Stunting is characterized by below-average height and weight and begins in the womb, continuing until the child is 23 months old. It persists in infants under the age of five, including toddlers, or during their first 1,000 days of life (Saputra et al., 2023). The government's health development program for 2020-2024 prioritizes addressing stunting, along with reducing maternal and infant mortality, controlling infectious diseases, and managing non-communicable diseases (MOHRI, 2020).

Infants in developing countries, such as Indonesia, face several nutritional problems, including wasting, anemia, low birth weight, and stunting. (Yulita et al., 2023).. These problems have long-term impacts on children's health and growth, and hinder their ability to reach their full potential in the future. Wasting is a medical disorder characterized by progressive weight loss in children, resulting in weight significantly below the normal growth curve or low weight for

their height (underweight). The syndrome is accompanied by acute and severe weight loss. Diarrhea is usually the catalyst for wasting, resulting in significant weight loss in children without affecting their height (Yankes, 2022).

Vitamin B12 and folic acid deficiency anemia is a condition in which the body is deficient in essential nutrients needed to produce healthy red blood cells. These deficiencies can cause symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath (Makarim, 2022). Anemia can inhibit long-term brain and cognitive development in newborns. LBW is the condition of newborns weighing below 2,500 grams (Siloam hospital medical team, 2023). Anthropometric measurements, such as weight, length, and head circumference, are used to assess the development and growth of neonates (Wahyuni & Palembang, 2022).

According to SSGI data for 2022, the stunting prevalence rate in Labuhanbatu Utara district was 7.3%, a decrease of 23.6% from 2021, affecting 382 under-fives. North Labuhanbatu Regency has achieved the highest stunting reduction among all districts in North Sumatra Province and is fourth nationally in terms of stunting reduction (Diskominfo/KL, 2023). Hendriyanto Sitorus, Regent of Labuhanbatu Utara, emphasized the importance of stunting prevention through two different approaches: nutrition-specific interventions and nutrition-sensitive interventions. Specific nutrition initiatives target children during the first 1,000 days of life (HPK) (Diskominfo/KL, 2023).

Libraries have the potential to play a role in driving stunting reduction through transformation towards social inclusion. Social inclusion means ensuring all people, including marginalized groups, have equal access to information and services. Libraries are now available to the underprivileged through library transformation projects, extending their reach beyond the academic community to include rural areas, which make up a significant part of the population. (Ihsan, 2023). The library, as an educational institution, must have a collection of literature that is appropriate to the field of knowledge of its users. The aim is for users to see the library as a reliable reference, a valuable source of information, and a platform for acquiring skills to overcome the various challenges they face (Ningsih & Sayekti, 2023).

The Labuhanbatu Utara district library is transitioning into a social inclusion library that provides programs and services that increase knowledge about nutrition and health, providing access to information and education about stunting for users. Literacy measures have often proven ineffective in increasing public understanding and awareness of stunting. A study conducted in 2023 by Maria Yulita Dhening and Frans Bapa Tokan from Widya Mandira Catholic University found that a large number of individuals lacked an understanding of the importance of literacy in addressing and reducing stunting (Yulita et al., 2023).

Although the Labuhan Batu Utara Regency Library and Archives Office has made efforts to implement a stunting literacy program, there is currently no research that specifically addresses the tactics used in libraries to increase public understanding and awareness of stunting. This creates a knowledge deficit about the achievements that have been made and the remaining needs to increase public awareness. In addition, although literacy programs have been implemented by the Labuhan Batu Utara District Library and Archives Office, there is still no definitive identification of the causes that contribute to the stunting of reading skills development. This results in a lack of understanding of the factors that can enhance or hinder the effectiveness of adopted literacy initiatives.

Based on this research gap, research on stunting literacy strategies at the Regional Library and Archives Office of Labuhan Batu Utara Regency is very important to do. Although the library already has a stunting literacy program, this research can provide recommendations for

descriptive strategies in increasing public understanding and awareness of stunting. Based on this, deeper research is needed to analyze the effectiveness of stunting literacy in libraries. Thus, this study can make a positive contribution to improving community literacy about stunting and ultimately help reduce the prevalence of stunting in the area.

How does the North Labuhanbatu Regency Library and Archives Office implement the stunting literacy strategy, and what are the variables that encourage or hinder its effectiveness. The main objectives of this study are to explain the stunting literacy strategy implemented by the North Labuhanbatu Regency Library and Archives Office, and to find out the elements that contribute or hinder stunting literacy.

The main goal of the Global Nutrition Targets for 2025 is to reduce the prevalence of child stunting. This goal is also an important step in achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal of Ending Hunger (Beal et al., 2018). In Indonesia, stunting is characterized as a condition in which a child's height is below -2 standard deviations (SD) of the WHO average child growth standards (Wicaksono & Harsono, 2018).

The main causes of stunting are chronic malnutrition and recurrent infections. Adolescent mothers can be a factor in chronic nutrition problems, but adolescent mothers who are less able to ensure adequate nutritional intake for their children because the mother is still in the growth stage and pregnant adolescent mothers will compete for nutrients with fetal development so that the fetus is more at risk of stunting (Santosa et al., 2022). Infections such as diarrhea can also interfere with the absorption of nutrients and exacerbate stunting conditions. (Imam, 2020). In addition, environmental factors such as inadequate sanitation, limited availability of drinking water, and lack of nutrition awareness also contribute to the increased vulnerability of children under the age of five to stunting (Akmal et al., 2022).

The impact of stunting is extensive, covering various aspects of health, education and the economy. In terms of health, stunting can lead to inhibited brain development, a weak immune system, and an increased risk of developing chronic diseases in adulthood (Soliman et al., 2021). In terms of education, children who are stunted are more at risk of learning difficulties and achieving low academic performance (Argaw et al., 2022). The economic impact of stunting is also significant, as it can reduce individual productivity and income and increase the economic burden on families and the country as a whole (Akseer et al., 2021).

The role of the Library Social inclusion is an important process in ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to participate in society and enjoy its benefits. (Ruhukail, 2021) Social inclusion has significant benefits, such as improving well-being and quality of life, strengthening communities, and promoting economic growth (Maknun et al., 2022). Libraries play an important role in promoting social inclusion through various programs and services (Inawati et al., 2022). One of them is the provision of information and education on nutrition, maternal and child health, and child stimulation to the general public (Fatimawati et al., 2022). In addition, libraries can also hold community empowerment programs to increase community knowledge and skills in overcoming stunting (Ekariani, 2023).

Literacy and Stunting Prevention In the context of stunting prevention, literacy plays an important role in increasing public understanding and awareness of the importance of nutrition, maternal and child health, and stunting prevention measures (Yulita et al., 2023). Library Inclusive Programs and Services Libraries can provide a range of inclusive services to support social inclusion and stunting prevention. These services include disability-friendly services, such as Braille book collections and wheelchair access, as well as special programs for other marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, refugees and the elderly. (Hidayat et al., 2022).

The stunting literacy strategy carried out by the Labuhanbatu Utara Regency Library and Archives Office has been described in detail in this article. In an effort to increase public awareness and understanding of stunting, the office organizes various inclusive programs and services, such as providing a collection of library materials on stunting, posters, audio visuals and mini theatres.

## Methods

This research uses qualitative research methodology, specifically using a case study approach. Qualitative research is a systematic investigation of the characteristics and manifestations of an event, focusing on its quality, context, and point of view. However, this research does not involve an examination of its extent, frequency, or location (Busetto et al., 2020). The case study approach was used because the purpose of this research was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the specific phenomenon of collection management at the Library and Archives Office of Labuhanbatu Utara Regency. This paper highlights the importance of qualitative research in assessing library services and decision-making and offers practical advice for researchers on how to conduct such research.

This research was conducted at the Library and Archives Office of Labuhanbatu Utara Regency. The reason for choosing this place is because the Library and Archives Office of North Labuhanbatu Regency is one of the regional libraries that has provided comprehensive literacy services, so it is an interesting choice for researchers to conduct research.

This research uses data collection approaches such as interviews, observation, and documentation. Librarians were interviewed to obtain information about the administration of book and archive collections. Observations were made to see firsthand the collection management process at the Library and Archives Office of North Labuhanbatu Regency. The documentation process is carried out to collect written information regarding collection management, including books, and relevant regulations.

This research uses qualitative analysis with the Miles and Huberman model as a data analysis technique. Miles and Huberman's approach consists of four different steps, namely (1) Data presentation (also referred to as data display) and (2) Data reduction (also known as data reduction). (3) Data verification, also known as data validation, is the process of ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the data. (4) Inference drawing refers to the act of making conclusions or reaching decisions based on the analyzed data (Wandi, 2013).

Miles and Huberman emphasized that during the data analysis stage in qualitative research, researchers must first understand the basic principles of data analysis. Data analysis in qualitative research has been possible since researchers began working in this discipline. By conducting data analysis, one can derive themes and formulate hypotheses. To proceed with topics and develop hypotheses, it is important to ensure that they are aligned with the research objectives and problem definition.

The steps of data analysis, as outlined by Miles and Huberman, can be summarized as follows: (1) Data visualization; Data presentation involves systematically collecting and organizing information according to relevant categories or groups. Data can be presented in several ways such as written text, visual representations such as photographs, graphs, and tables. (2) Data reduction refers to the process of refining data by eliminating unnecessary and irrelevant information and adding incomplete data. (3) Data Validation/Data Analysis Data interpretation involves understanding the meaning of a set of data that has been presented, not only by observing what is explicitly stated, but also by seeing or interpreting what is indicated from the data presented. (4) Conclusion drawing (Wandi, 2013). Drawing conclusions is the act of

summarizing the significance of research findings in short and clear sentences that are easy to understand. Drawing conclusions involves repeated assessment of the accuracy of the conclusions, especially in relation to alignment and coherence with the research title, objectives, and problem formulation.

During the data collection stage, the researcher identified and engaged several individuals as informants or data sources for this study. The findings of this research are expected to provide valuable input for the Library and Archives Office of Labuhanbatu Utara Regency, so that they can improve the quality of their collection management.

## Results and Discussion

### Stunting Literacy Collection Development

*"The stunting literacy collection in the library not only contains informative books but is also enriched with attractive educational posters and easy-to-understand audio-visual materials. These various formats of information are donated from the BKKBN office in the collection of books and posters, audio-visual media in the form of stunting education videos taken from YouTube to be played in audio-visual services." (Extract 1)*

This quote explains how the library employed the use of various media formats, to pass information on stunting to the public. Inasmuch as they are incorporating books, posters, and audio-visual materials, the library wants to meet other diversities of the community such as learning modality and literacy. This approach is considered in line with the theory of multimodal learning, which postulates that it is easier for people to learn in the classroom, when information is presented in different ways, so as to involve different cognitive processes (Mayer, 2009). But while this cuts this strategy has excellent advantages, it also poses great issues, especially to a quality and exactness of the content.

Although using filmed educational content from sources like YouTube is convenient, it has drawbacks in terms of the potential provision of incorrect information or existence of only a simplified view of a number of health-related problems. Following the necessity of good quality materials, Zimmerman and Snow (2012) explain that health education materials should be accurate to influence the right behavior among the targeted persons. If care was not taken, the materials that the library might be using could contain half-baked and or wrong information that may result in misleading or not adequately capturing all aspects of stunting. This issue becomes even more important considering the fact that in recent years, people get most of their health information from such places as YouTube (Lewandowsky et al. , 2017). Consequently, a content vetting process must be incorporated into the library's strategy because many of its resources will be purchased from other organisations with a varying degree of quality and credibility associated with the information they disseminate.

Such materials have to be relevant to the local context of the people, as well. In Indonesia, child stunting is much more than merely a nutrition problem; it is a social, cultural, economic and environmental crisis (Wicaksono & Harsanti, 2020). Apart from transportation, behaviour is also shaped by ecological systems as proposed by Bronfenbrenner in 1979, where people are surrounded by a number of environmental processes ranging from the microsystem to the macrosystem. Hence, educational materials that have been prepared and not considering the cultural and environmental setting of Labuhanbatu Utara may not impress the culture of the community or resolve stunting issues appropriately. This goes a long way to emphasise that there is need to create content based and relevant to the local issues affecting the people.

*"The library not only provides traditional books but also offers audio-visual services, including stunting education videos sourced from various platforms. These materials are aimed at simplifying the complex issue of stunting, making it more accessible to the general public." (Extract 2)*

In extending improved access to health information, audio-visual aids employed to explain the matter of stunting is an indication of a well thought out approach towards heightening the health literacy of the public. This approach is in consonant with Cognitive Load Theory (Sweller,1988) which postulates that minimizing the complicity of information aids individual's cognitive system to facilitate the processing and retention of knowledge. However, in carrying out this process the danger of reductionist approach is always lurking around in the sense that possible complexities of the issue under consideration may be over-simplified and some important features may be overlooked.

Stunting is one of the most comprehensive non-communicable diseases that are associated with nutrition and poor health among women and the environment such as poor hygiene (Prendergast & Humphrey, 2014). Much as it can be effective to explain this matter through audio-visual items, especially for the less literate members of the society, there is a tendency of distorting information and make it too 'shallow'. According to Nutbeam (2000), health literacy is not just about receiving and/or understanding health information but also about being able to utilise the information. If the educational materials which a library provides do not contain information concerning various aspects of stunting, it would mean that the public may be left with inadequate knowledge to act accordingly or seek additional information and or assistance.

In order to avoid this risk, the library should employ the use of multiple levels of information where the simplest forms are used to convey the information, but the the more detailed forms are also provided for the interested individuals. This is also in agreement with Paas et al. (2003) who opine that, breaking information into layers then presenting it as such can build up understanding progressively. Through offering sets of informations to increase the level of information that a reader is exposed to, the library serves the entire community because everyone is guaranteed of receiving information sufficient to fight stunting.

*"The reliance on external donations for stunting education materials raises concerns about the long-term sustainability of the library's efforts to provide comprehensive stunting literacy to the community." (Extract 3)*

This quote raises an important concern in the stunting literacy programme in the library, for example, lack of educational materials due to inadequate donations. These are no doubt beneficial, but it also results in the programme having outside support, on which its survival could be threatened if it stopped. Local capacity development and the search for mechanisms of minimizing dependence on aid become one of the main discussions in the development of public health initiatives noted Rifkin (2014). In the context of the library, this means building up the organisational skills to produce its own educational resources.

Indeed, one way to build on sustainability is through the promotion of capacity to the librarian. The library, for example, may be able to help train its staff on how to create the content which will need to be developed, produce multimedia items such as videos or health literacy, as well as use the tools which are available locally. Besides minimizing the dependence on external funding for the existence of the library, it also makes sense to realize that this way, its content can be closely oriented to the needs and contexts of the target population. According to the newest World Health Organization (2013) guidelines on health education, materials should be culturally and contextually relevant; it means they will be fitted to be understood by the target

population and produce necessary behavioral alterations. Through its own resource development, it allows for an efficient program for stunting literacy to be in place for the long haul, therefore, effective.

Further, liaising with organizations within the community, schools and day care centers could foster the provision of more constant and steady flow of the provisions. Such collaborations may help in sharing of ideas and innovative measures in enhancing the library's efficiency in disseminating effective health information. In their study, Kretzmann and McKnight (1993) argue that it is possible to enhance the development of the communities through the identification and building on community's strengths. It is for this reason that the library can develop strong local linkages and emphasize on capacity development in the provision of stunting literacy which can survive the vagaries of any political climate.

These quotes offer a composite picture of the part played by the library in fighting stunting through the literacy material. A particularly noteworthy element is the utilization of various forms of education materials requires that the quality; relevance of educational materials with the context; and sustainability of such resources must be guaranteed to complement the progress of the program.

Educational videos such as those televised on outward platforms like YouTube are convenient yet such platforms ought to be effectiveness scrutinized prior to the airing of content; especially content that may be misleading or contain very basic information that will not respond adequately to the topic of stunting. Evaluating the results of various studies, Lewis et al. (2010) and Zimmerman & Snow (2012) raise the issues of using non-filtered web materials for learning and underline the importance of selective and appropriate use of the materials.

Audiovisual aids can make child nutrition education more accessible, particularly for individuals with low literacy levels, as the material can be difficult at times. However, there is a need to avoid over simplification, this is well supported by Sweller's Cognitive Load Theory and Nutbeam's health literacy framework. An approach of developing multiple interfaces to the information, where the low-level details are embedded within high-level descriptions, could be useful in this regard to make sure that the library's educational mission is as simple as well as complete as it could be.

For the library to sustain the stunting literacy, then the program should minimize on donor funding. The guidelines provided by Rifkin (2014) and World Health Organization (2013) pay much attention to the local people's capacity and cultural material to be used in health education. If the library organizes and finances librarian training, as well as forms local partnerships, the library can develop a self-running program, untouched by severe alterations and shortages while covering the community's demands.

Even though the library has assembled a feeble literacy collection in order to advance in public health education, its efficacy should be measured according to the capability of the institution to resolve these vital issues. It, thus, becomes important to ensure that the materials developed are accurate, relevant, and sustainable so that the goal of a healthier program can be achieved and therefore the overall goal of a healthier community. This discussion does not only point out the weakness but also helps in mapping the future improvement, thus, devising the library's efforts for the increased effectiveness in the future.

### **Cooperation with Related Parties**

*"The North Labuhanbatu Regency Library and Archives Office has established strategic partnerships with various relevant stakeholders to improve literacy programs*

*aimed at reducing stunting. This initiative is in line with the direction of the Regent."*  
(Extract 4)

This quote is important while highlighting partnerships because the key partnerships of the library are strategic as they reflect broader governmental policies on partnership. Such alignment gives legitimacy to the library's initiatives and attests to the fact that the initiatives are locked into the overall public health agenda of the region. This form of co-ordination with governmental policies can therefore be viewed as policy consistency in public health, whereby local endeavours are integrated with national or regional objectives in order to achieve the greatest effect (McKee et al. , 2015).

However, the dependence on the governmental guidance is not without its weakness: Of particular concern here is the fact that very health-related campaign activities that are aligned well with political ideologies, goals, and or plans of specific governments can be compromised if the latter cease to support the former or if there is a change of government and the new one does not give the same level of importance to stunting prevention. This is a phenomenon that is widely described in the literature on public health where the success of every program greatly depends on political will and support (Gilson et al. , 2014). The library must therefore try to think of how it can insulate itself politically so that it can continue implementing its stunting literacy program whether there is a change of guard or change of policy direction. This could include establishing a significant measure of organisational support from the communities and developing a new diversified funding model which will include NGO or public private partner.

Moreover, the activities practiced in the program are consistent with the government policies and hence, increase the program's coverage and funding. However, one has to question about the benefits and problematic of alignment with official bureaucracy. This can be attributed to the fact that public sector collaborations entail a lot of procedures that are bureaucratic in nature hence taking so much time in making decision and in getting things done (Mills, 2012). These processes may require flexibility and perhaps getting to know influential personalities or markers in the government or use other techniques to shorten the institutional bureaucracies between the library and the government.

*"The cooperation involves the participation of the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) and other government agencies involved in the field of public health and welfare. Through this collaboration, libraries can obtain the latest resources and information on stunting management."* (Extract 5)

The stunting literacy program of the library with the participation of the BKKBN as well as other government agencies underscore the role of intersectoral partnership in promoting good health among the people. The collaborations help in cooperation of funding, knowledge, and information which are very essential in the case of nutrition deficit's such as stunting across several sectors (Rasanathan et al. , 2017). Partnering with such agencies such as the BKKBN guarantees that the library educational materials are the most up to date in terms of public health information thereby improving the credibility of the library embarked on programs.

However, studies have shown that such collaborations are only possible if the organizations, which are collaborating, have good intersectoral and interorganizational collaboration and communication. As Kickbusch and Gleicher rightly point out that for intersectoral action for health to succeed there must be not only alignment of vision, mission, objectives but also process, trust and communication between sectors. What we do not have will result in centralized or distributed but ill-coordinated initiatives, hence compromising the best outcomes even with good intents. The library should, therefore, take an active role of encouraging a

smooth mutual communication between partners and there could be annual or half yearly meetings of a specially formed library and partners coordination committee or there could be use of online forums or other communication tools that ensures healthy continuous flow of information.

Furthermore, although having linkages to the BKKBN opens up a possibility to access important materials, it is also essential to raise a question about the continuity of the access to these materials. An issue that the government agencies may arise from is changes of priorities or budget that may interfere with the level of support offered to the library. Wagenaar and Murray (2012) warned that single-source support created the danger of uncertain futures; therefore, it is good to engage in diversification of partnerships through recruiting academic institutions, NGOs, and private entities. This way, the library can build a larger network of partners and thus design a program that is less exposed to the whims of some of the partners.

*"Collaboration with academics and health practitioners: In addition, the library also collaborates with academics from UINSU and Londut Village Health Center who have expertise and experience in nutrition and stunting in stunting counseling activities."*  
(Extract 6)

The quoting respects the need to incorporate the academic background of professional and business facilities together with the health care experience into the stunting literacy program of the library. The inclusion of academic and health professionals means the information that circulates in the library is not only accurate, but also up to date and relevant to the health problems of the community. The collaborations are important in taking research to practice; a process that despite the challenges which have been highlighted in literature is central to advancing practice-based interventions in the public health sector (Glasgow et al. , 2012).

However, there is the need of evaluating the sustainability and effectiveness of these collaboration mechanisms. Although the benefits of academic partnerships are obvious, such ventures are mostly funded, and this source of funding is unpredictable. In their review also Mitchell and his colleagues (2019) identify that a key weakness is that such collaborations are brittle to rhythm of funding or academic leadership eras, and institutional strategic directions. The library should therefore try to institutionalise these partnerships to means that they are not exclusive project based means that even if the funding stream or some of the core workers change, the relationships are preserved.

Another factor of significant importance is the process of ‘popularising’ scientific findings and disseminating them among society. Most academics, as well as health practitioners work within highly circumscribed knowledge systems, and it is here that you can find a major disconnection between academic language and concepts and ideas that are comprehensible to the layman (as far as health is concerned this is as underscored by Kreps & Sparks, 2008). It means that the library has to perform as the knowledge intermediary which contributes to the fact that the target audience would receive the information processed and adapted from the specialists in the sphere. This process involves both ‘downward’ communication simplification and ‘indigenisation’ of communication material which is very important in public health communication (Nutbeam & Muscat, 2020).

*"This cooperation also provides many benefits not only for the community but also for institutions that work together on how to manage activities with different backgrounds into one goal."* (Extract 6)

This quote brings out the fact that the library stunting illiteracy program has resulted in mutual beneficial partnerships being created. Apart from the aim to improve the public’s knowledge

and control over stunting, the partnership is advantageous for the institutions involved because they can learn from each other's experiences and materials. This bi-directional advantage is well articulated in community asset-building where coalitions for partnership are fashioned in ways that ensure that the collective gain results from the leveraging of individual capacity or resource (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993).

Nevertheless, to realize such mutual benefits, the various and varying interests and objectives of the partners need to be well Balanced or rather appropriately managed. Every participant of the partnership has its own list of preferences and limitations, and sometimes goals and objectives may differ considerably from each other. In their case on multi-stakeholder collaborations, Berger et al. (2014) stress that for the multi-stakeholder collaboration to be effective, it is critical to identify each stakeholder's interest and motivation, and where there is congruent interest, tactfully create harmony and place all the stakeholders in a common pool of a common vision. The library as a coordinating centre should go further and make sure that it is constantly improving the relationships with its partners, and the voices of all the parties are considered equally important in the decision making process.

Moreover, the library has to be very careful in steering as well as assessing the results of these partnerships. Although specific tangible advantages of using resources and other authorities in the partnership are apparent, these interested parties should also consider the overall effectiveness of a library partner in relation to the stunting literacy program in the long haul. This implies the designation of objectives that are specific, quantifiable for the partnership and the comparison of the progress made against these goals at agreed time intervals. Another pair of authors, Heidelberg and Palenberg (2014), pointed to the fact that monitoring and evaluation activities are critical in determining the real outcomes of partnerships and in making appropriate choices between their continuance and changes.

Altogether, the four quotes represent the dynamism and possibilities of inter-organizational cooperation in the context of the library's stunting literacy program. These partnerships involve all these stakeholders, each of them offering different asset and knowledge towards the elimination of stunting in the community. However, the effectiveness of these partnerships depends on successful management of those challenges such as reliance on political will, the coordination of intersectoral activities, sustainability of the academic support and the compatibility of various institutional objectives.

While alignment of the library with government policies brings the program legitimacy and resources, it creates also a problem of dependence on the political agenda that may change over time. To counter this risk the library should aim for operation more independence by tapping other sources of funding and ensure it has a good public support base. This approach has political implication in the accomplishment of this public health initiatives of interest owing to the aspect of political insulation discussed by Gilson et al. (2014) when suggesting that dependency on political will is dangerous in the implementation of health programs. The current case of the library serves as an example of how it is possible to consider the political approach that would guarantee the continuation of stunting literacy programmes irrespective of the possible changes in the political power.

Integration of the BKKBN, and other related government departments help to legitimise the program and acquire updated related materials. Nonetheless, these partnerships can only be fruitful when enhanced by good and effective communication and co-ordination as postulated by Kickbusch and Gleicher 2012. Some forms of intersectoral collaborations depend on the capacity to synchronize processes and trust between different intersectoral collaborators. Another important implication is that the library has to be actively involved in this coordination

process, may be by setting up separate communication and dispute settlement lines, as pointed out by Berger et al. (2014) since bureaucratic hassles can always slow down the system and the library has to ensure that every nodal point receives the resources it requires on time.

The use of academic and health practitioners as part of the program depends on academics' and practitioners' diverse skills and experiences; however, there must be adequate provisions for their integration because academic-paper translation involves rigorous organization processes that may result in production values if not properly managed. The library must therefore assume the role of knowledge intermediary, translating composite academic data to smaller components that can be understood and put to use anywhere that people live. This role turns out to be very important in closing the gap between research and practice as observed by Kreps and Sparks, (2008), when they observe and analyze the problem of translating technical knowledge for the public. Such collaborations when made more official and certain parts of them made to extend beyond specific projects, as Mitchell et al. (2019) propose, are more sustainable and make the library's educational endeavours much stronger and have longer staying power.

Of course, the potential benefits are mutual for these partners, although managing the set of initially rather disparate interests and in the same time ensuring that nothing will distract the collective effort from the primary health concern of minimizing stunting levels. One way is that the library has a coordinating role in all these partnerships so that the goals are always in alignment, everyone trusts and supporting each other, and the outcome of the partnership arrangements are being actively assessed so that informed decisions can be made. Heidelberg and Palenberg (2014) insist that the strengths of these approaches and the ways in which the partnerships make a difference can be understood only if proper monitoring and evaluation frameworks are put in place.

As this paper has explained, the cooperation with related parties is in fact the foundation of the library's stunting literacy program, but which requires the ability of inter-organisational governance to overcome the various challenges. It has also suggested how through improving the programme in areas of dependency, coordination, sustainability and alignment the library can work to improve the resilience and efficiency of its programme to contribute positively to the health and knowledge of the community. It is also not only about pointing out the advantages of the current approach but also about suggesting further steps to make the work of the library more effective and meaningful in the future.

### **Supporting and Inhabiting Factors**

*"The support from local government and community leaders is a significant enabler, as it fosters a conducive environment for the program's initiatives." (Extract 7)*

This quote highlights the need for local government and community leaders as one of the enablers to stunting literacy program. This way, they are the active participants in the environment that shapes the overall context of the program and renders the help in its successful implementation. Fisher, 2000 stated that CBPR frameworks highlight leadership from the community in public health interventions because of the improved understanding that the sustainable programs are those that respect cultural diversities of the section, planned and implemented by the people in that particular section.

However, the support of local leaders can be advantageous in a number of ways, and it once again casts the programme into a realm of political dependency which carries with it the potential for a number of issues in the long-term. For instance, political changes and leadership could lead to decreased funding or complete elimination of the program due to the changes

inter alia the policy agenda that comes with a new leadership. Shiffman & Smith (2007) have elaborated how political commitments are volatile and get alter from time to time due to some reasons like change of government, shifts in political power alignment and other political properties among others. In this regard, the risk should be managed by orienting the program toward the development of institutional capacity that would provide for its activities' insulation from political volatility by linking it to numerous schools and community-oriented establishments. Moreover, there is one definitely dangerous and questionable strategy: the program should not depend on local political support as much as it does, so it should have financial security in other ways; for example, private sector partnership and/or community fundraising.

*"Limited budget and lack of skilled librarians are identified as significant challenges that inhibit the expansion and quality of the stunting literacy program." (Extract 8)*

This quote speaks of the main problems of scarcity of financial and human resources that is very essential in the growth and delivery of the stunting literacy program. Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) is applicable to these constraints for it holds that organizations depend on resources in their environment that can shape the organisational strategies and performance. In the case of stunting literacy program, the financial limitation and shortage of professional human resource constraint the ability to perform the tasks and responsibilities in delivering quality intervention services and extend its coverage.

The financial challenges that the program encounters are equally not strange in many public health and educational interventions in the low- and middle-income countries. From the sources of World Bank (2018), it has been identified that libraries are underfunded and strained for resources to develop and deliver new services or considered professional growth. This disadvantage is worsened by the factor that the) institutions which offer library science programs have produced many librarians but few of them are skilled, this implies that the delivery of the programs may not be efficient due to little innovation in the type of education content. In the recent past, skilled librarians have been proactively involved in selecting materials, fostering the involvement of the community, and making sure that the services offered by the library meet the needs of the community as emphasized by Bertot et al. (2016). Lack of such skills can put a program on a very limited pedestal hence the need to give emphasis to such skills.

To address these issues, the program may consider other ways of financing, including collaboration with international INGOs, grant from the international organizations in the sphere of health, or sponsorship of the large companies. Also, investing in the training and development of the librarians through procurement of online courses, workshops, or collaboration with professional academic institutions is a way of improving their performance while at the same time they are constrained by the cash limited budget. This approach fits the best within the principles of capacity building, which centers on the process of enhancing local capabilities in the long-term realisation of health programs (Laverack & Labonte 2000).

*"The community in Labuhanbatu Utara district showed high enthusiasm in participating in stunting literacy activities organized by the library and related parties." (Extract 9)*

This quote demonstrate the high level of community appreciation and participation in the stunting literacy activities, which is one of the important signs that show the need and the prospect of the program. From diffusion of innovations theory (Rogers, 2003) it becomes evident that the effectiveness of any public health intervention is the degree to which it is

accepted by the intended population. High rating of community involvement is a clear indication that the program's activities are perceived as beneficial and relevant; hence are likely to be adopted and continued in the long-run thus enhancing the health of the people involved.

However, one also should remember that such a warm-hearted community will not last indefinitely, so the question of long-term engagement appears. Interest can diminish prematurely if the program is not being able to cater the needs of the community anymore or if it can no longer show substantial results. In their article, Mohan & Stokke (2000) highlight some of the issues that shape the understanding of development participation such as the need to engage in the perpetuation of community participation in development knowledge systems and practices, the need for flexibility in the development initiatives and programmes and the need to show the results conclusively. To maintain this kind of excitement, the program could use a bottom-up feedback system through which the community is always asked what they need and what they want to be done for them, and through which the program activities are adjusted. This way, not only would the level of activity remain high but the program would also be able to adapt to dynamics of the community and its recipients.

However, providing rewards for long term participation could add to the value of engagement even more. For example, the program might honour a person or group that is doing a good job at spreading word on stunting literacy or give tokens of appreciation to participants depending on the number of sessions that they attend. This strategy is based on behavioural economics where the theory postulates that incentives can be used to foster change and sustain the change as well (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008).

*"Despite consistent efforts, there are still several factors that hinder the stunting literacy program at the Labuhanbatu Utara Regency Library and Archives Office, such as limited access to information for people in rural and remote areas."* (Extract 10)

This quote identifies a significant inhibiting factor: the almost negligible mobilization of information for persons in rural and underserved regions. This is an issue especially where the physical and digital infrastructure is relatively poor, which leads to an effective 'digital divide' that further widens health literacy disparities. The Digital Divide Theory points to the fact that those in the technologically advanced world profit from the modern information and communication technologies while those in the stratum of the least-developed nations become even more disadvantaged.

The ramifications of this digital divide are chilling especially as they pertain to stunting literacy program. The affected populations are those in rural and remote areas and these are the ones that have worst access to the information and resources they require in order to avoid stunting. This can result in information poverty whereby there is lack access and use of information that could in ones live be of immense value. In order to overcome this challenge, the program may consider other forms of disseminating information which may include mobile libraries, printed material to be taken in various centers or radio broadcasting since the reach can be got to compared to that of online platforms.

Additionally, the program could work with other non-governmental organizations and local administration in developing community-based information centres where stunting relevant information and resources could be accessed where other forms of connectivity are not accessible. These centres could therefore act as the central political points through which education and mobilisation can occur, thus including all such populations in the resultant activities of the programme. This is in line with Lievrouw and Farb's (2003) conceptualisation

of ‘alternative information infrastructures’, which argue for place-based and contextual fix solutions to information chasms.

*"The program's success is supported by the high level of enthusiasm and active participation from community leaders, such as the village head and health officials, in helping to increase community involvement in stunting literacy activities." (Extract 11)*

This shows why Village heads, health officials, among other community leaders need to take up the agenda of the stunting literacy program and engage their communities. These leaders play a very important role in the success of the program for they are the key opinion makers within the community in question and they help create the much needed positive word, as well as encourage the rest of the members of community to participate in the program (Putnam 2000). According to Putnam’s Social Capital Theory, social capital has regard to ‘connections among persons and the trust in these connections,’ where people work together towards a common goal (Coleman, 1988). From these leaders, the program can build on its social capital and thus improve on its function and scope.

This, however, opens up the possibility of some emerging challenges associated with the choice of a few leaders. In other case if these leaders are out of the scene or their influence is waned then will be very hard to carry on the program. Portes (1998) has expressed the possibility that social capital can be particularly fluid and depends on relations’ stability and trust. To tackle the issue, the program ought to strive at reaching out to more people in the community such that it can garner more support from greater association of the youth, the women, and other religious bodies. Such an approach would also facilitate broader community mobilization in support of the programme so that if one leader pulls back, the work will still proceed apace.

The program may support leadership development interventions with the view of strengthening the leadership capacity of young people in the community. This would not only guarantee a good source of leadership in individuals who are interested and capable in the task but would also help to build a more elastic and richer leadership pool in the event that there are challenges in the program. The above are underpinned by the empowerment theories asserting that only capacity development for leadership at the grassroots level enhances continuation of community based programmes (Zimmerman, 2000). In the light of the five quotes discussed in this paper, one is well equipped with a general impression of the enabling and constraining factors that may impact on the extent to which the stunting literacy program can be effective in the Labuhanbatu Utara Regency Library and Archives Office. Some of these aspects include; community and local government support, challenges attributable to limited resources, skilled human resources and inequality in information.

Being GO and community supported is a major enabler as it fosters governance support for the undertakings of the program. Such support compliments the goals of CBPR, in that incorporating the local cultures within a community’s intervention plans is crucial and prevents the interventions from being the imposition of external ideas on a community (Balai et al., 2013). However, the support from the key assistance has to be used wisely and cannot be fully relied on since political changes threaten the provision of the program. It is therefore important to establish a long term sustainability of the program, some of which include; Developing institutional capacity, and Diversifying funding source. Grant providers should consider the recommendations made by Shiffman & Smith (2007) on how to sustain such a program in the long run. The major weakness is difficulty in establishing expanding and improving the services due to limited funds and blended caliber of the librarians involved in the program. According to Resource Dependency Theory, these constraints affect program’s strategic decision making, thereby constraining its efficiency. To mitigate these challenges, the program

could consider ways of sourcing for funds like through the PPP and seek to educate and train more librarians to make them more competent (Bertot et al., 2016).

Community engagement is the supporting factor highly noticeable, high levels of enthusiasm and participation denote relevance as well as efficiency of the programs. According to Rogers (2003), long term participation in the community is crucial for fostering behavioural change that is long term. But this engagement then needs to be sustained through ongoing modification for changing needs and rewards for continued participation (Mohan & Stokke, 2000; Thaler & Sunstein, 2008). Restriction in the availability of information to people in the rural and remote areas is among the main challenges working against the concept; this is due to the digital divide. In order to overcome such a problem, the program could use other means of the information distribution, for instance, mobile stations with books and information points in the villages (Lievrouw & Farb, 2003). They assist in overcoming the digital divide and make it possible to have a more equitable distribution of program's outcome.

Last but not least, the engagement of the community leaders within the program is perhaps the most influential supporting factor that facilitate the program's coverage and success. According to Social Capital Theory by Coleman (1988) the overall social capital is made up of the aggregate of actual and potential resources that are available in all meetings and that the networks and level of trust that exists in any given society determine the level of collective rationality. But the program cannot ignore the possible limitations of such leadership provincialism and must always seek to mobilize as many people in community as possible as well as support leadership development (Portes, 1998; Zimmerman, 2000). The information which has been gathered concerning the supporting and the inhibiting factors that exist in the stunting literacy program can be deemed useful in the evaluation of the program. What has been outlined above shows that through the involvement of the local governments and influential members of the communities, the program can overcome or at least minimize on the above challenges by addressing the issues of resource bottlenecks, involving the communities in the program, closing the digital divide, and developing a wider base of support. Besides identifying key success factors this discussion also dictates the above and beyond course of action necessary to tie up the loose ends for the library and create a fully rounded long term successful program.

## **Conclusion**

A common finding of this research work is the significant role of local government and community leaders to help provide required support environment for implementation of public health programmes. Not only does their participation lend credibility to the program but it also assists in the mobilization of resources and participation of communities. But as a result of such support, the program needs institutionalization so that it becomes sustainable from a political point of view and necessary changes and shifts in local priorities are made. A broader funding diversification and the integration of its activities into community settings are widely viewed as critical factors that will help protect the program into the future.

The study also also looked into challenges; financial constraints and paucity of professional librarians that limits the program from growing and offering better services. This underscores the need to look for other source of funding and trying to enhance the capabilities of library personnel to deliver efficient and effective services. By rectifying these resource challenges, the program will be in a position to do justice to the community's needs as well as increase its coverage to other needy groups. Out of all the support factors, the one gave the highest level of enthusiasm and participation was community engagement which confirmed the subject relevance and future benefits of the program. But to sustain such engagement in the long run, it needs to be adjusted from time to time to suit the needs of the community, and there needs

to be provision of some motivators which encourage people to be more active in the community. The pursuit of such a goal, therefore, underlines the need for participatory feedback that would keep the program on its toes while catering for the community that formed the subject of the study.

One of the major barriers highlighted in the study is false and the lack of access to information which is compounded by the divide. To overcome this challenge, there is a need to consider the use of other modalities of passing information including moving libraries and community information centers to access those groups. All these strategies are very essential to make sure that all the people in the community are benefited through the program. Community leadership has really supported the program and ensured that as many people in the community get involved as is possible by involving village heads and health officials. But this, in a way, narrows down the support base and too much dependence on specific individuals; therefore, need to have more people support by expanding the supporter database and giving efforts to leadership training to strengthen people in order to have more and strong community champions.

The stunting literacy program conducted at the Libarary and Archives Office of Labuhanbatu Utara Regency is good attempt to tackle a major public health challenge. This paper finds that favourable relations with the community, collaborations and the adaptability of the strategies of the program are the key success factors of the program. However, to make it sustainable and efficient more needs to be done here, the following areas of challenge needs to be met; limitation of funds and information, availability of information, dependence on certain leaders. If these suggestions will be adopted in the program, the improvement in the impact will be achieved, and its function in enhancing the general welfare of the people residing in the region will be further bolstered. The implication of this research is that it serve as a useful guide that can aid other similar endeavor by showing them the best practice that need to be followed to ensure the onset of sustainability of the community health literacy program.

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