



Optimizing Village Fund Policy Through the Health Program in Jembatan Merah Village Tomilito District North Gorontalo Regency

**Rahmatia Manasa*^a, *Ellys Rachman*^b, *Laksmyn Kadir*^c

^a Universitas Bina Taruna Gorontalo, Jl. Jaksa Agung Soeprapto No. 40, Kota Gorontalo 96115, Indonesia

^b Universitas Bina Taruna Gorontalo, Jl. Jaksa Agung Soeprapto No. 40, Kota Gorontalo 96115, Indonesia

^c Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Jl. Jendral Sudirman No. 06, Kota Gorontalo 96115, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are: (1) To determine and describe the optimization of Village Fund Policy through health programs in Jembatan Merah Village, Tomilito District, North Gorontalo Regency, and (2) To find out the factors that hinder the optimization of village fund policies through health programs in Jembatan Merah Village Tomilito District North Gorontalo Regency. This type of research uses descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The data in this research consists of primary data obtained from observation, in-depth interviews with informants, as well as secondary data derived from sharing sources. The results of the research show that: (1) the optimization of village fund policies through the health program in Jembatan Merah Village is not running effectively and efficiently (optimally). Because the implementation process was hampered by the allocated budget, there were delays in the disbursement process so several programs that had been planned could not be implemented. Apart from that, the budget allocated for health programs is still considered inadequate to finance priority programs in improving health services in Jembatan Merah Village; (2) The inhibiting factor in optimizing village fund policies through health programs is seen from the aspect of human resources that implementing officials are sufficiently trained, but community participation is still very low.

Keywords: Optimization, Village Fund Policy, Health Program

1. Introduction

Health programs in villages are an effort to improve the quality of community health in villages [1]. This program is implemented by carrying out various activities such as health education [2], the health team provides education about various diseases [3], how to prevent them [4], and how to deal with the disease if it has already been affected [5]. Counseling is also provided about healthy eating patterns, environmental hygiene, and personal hygiene [6]. Health checks, the health team carries out routine health checks to check the public's health status [7]. In this examination, early detection of certain diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer is carried out [8]. Treatment, If someone is sick, the health team provides treatment for free or at an affordable cost. There are several types of treatment carried out, such as traditional and modern medicine. Construction of health facilities, construction of health facilities which includes the construction of community health centers, and medical centers [9]. This facility is adapted to the needs of the community in the village, thereby facilitating access to health services. Health cadre training, health cadre training in villages aims to improve the quality of health services in villages. Health cadres are residents who are selected and trained to become health workers in the village. Health programs in villages are very important to improve the quality of public health and to reduce the risk of disease [10]. Therefore, this program must continue to be implemented and improved according to the needs and conditions of the local community. However, based on field facts in Jembatan Merah Village with a budget of Rp. 841,415,000 in 2020 only 4% was allocated to health programs and in 2021 with a budget of IDR 884,729,000 it increased to 14% allocated to health programs. When compared with WHO provisions, achieving an ideal level of health requires a budget of 15% to 20% of the total budget. Therefore, in Jembatan Merah Village, achieving an ideal level of health is still very difficult, considering the very minimal budget allocation.

So health problems are still found in Jembatan Merah Village in particular and in Tomilito District in general. The health problem in question is stunting. Data on stunting in the Tomilito sub-district is quite high. The stunting figure in August 2022 in Tomolito subdistrict was 44 people, consisting of 5 people in Jembatan Merah village, 4 people, 3 people in Milango village, 6 people in Leyao village, 3 people in Bubode village, 2 people in Bulango Raya village, Molantadu village had 4 people, Huidu Melito village had 7 people, the figure stated in Tanjung Karang village was 5 people and in Mutiara Laut village there were 5 people. The table above also shows that the stunting rate that occurs in Tomilito District has decreased, although there has been a decline, there are several villages that cannot be separated from the environment which is still dirty, and community behavior that does not pay attention to environmental cleanliness so that it can have an impact on disrupting children's health and maternal health. Pregnant women even have stunting problems, one of which is the Jembatan Merah village.

Jembatan Merah is one of the villages in Tomilito District, North Gorontalo Regency with a total of 328 families and a population of 1157 people. Preliminary study data carried out by researchers from May to July 2022 shows that in the research area, some residents of Jembatan Merah village practice open defecation, for example in Gudang Arang hamlet which is located right on the coast, Ilomonu hamlet which is close to the river. It was recorded that 207 families had latrines and 121 families practiced open defecation. This happens because there is no availability of latrines and people's habits of not using latrines. One of the factors that influence the high stunting data in Jembatan Merah Village also illustrates that the existing level of sanitation is very low. This is due to various factors, including the lack of toilets in the community and the behavior of people who still like to defecate in the open, even though there are toilets available in their environment. From the results of the initial survey conducted in Jembatan Merah Village, Tomilito District, it was also found that the allocation of Village Funds for health development activities in 2021 was more focused on infrastructure. Another problem is the lack of budget for the construction of adequate latrines or according to standards, so it has a greater potential to cause environmental health problems which also have an impact on stunting. The existence of latrines that do not meet standards can trigger the emergence of infectious diseases due to poor hygiene and sanitation (for example diarrhea and worms) which can interfere with the absorption of nutrients during the digestive process. Apart from the problems above, in Jembatan Merah Village there are also health problems such as infectious diseases, namely typhus, diarrhea, and malaria due to environmental cleanliness, inadequate water sources, and lack of access to health services. A dirty environment and lack of environmental sanitation can cause disease transmission. Accumulation of rubbish, waste, and contaminated water can become a nest for bacteria and viruses. Some skin diseases, such as scabies, eczema, and head lice, are more common in villages due to direct contact with dirty environments and contact with livestock.

Health problems that occur in villages are usually caused by various factors, including limited access to health services due to geographical locations that are difficult to reach [11], and lack of health facilities such as health centers, clinics, or doctors in the area. Low levels of knowledge about health and healthy lifestyles generally occur in rural areas. So, people don't know enough about the importance of maintaining health or even recognizing the symptoms of certain diseases. Poor environmental sanitation conditions such as limited access to clean water, piles of rubbish, and environmental pollution can be factors that trigger the spread of disease. People living in villages generally experience low socio-economic conditions. Lack of access to education, employment, and health facilities can cause health problems such as malnutrition, infections, and other health problems. There are unhealthy living habits such as smoking, consuming alcohol, unbalanced eating habits, and lack of physical activity in villages which can cause diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Limited access to health services can lead to a lack of initial treatment for health problems so these problems can develop into more serious health problems. Efforts to overcome health problems in villages need to be adjusted to the causal factors. Therefore, a more integrated approach such as ongoing health campaigns and outreach and other health education is very important to improve community health in villages.

Efforts to prevent health problems in villages must involve many people in synergy and cooperation from the health service, community, government, and health instructors. Several efforts that can be taken to improve health in villages include planning health programs, ongoing health outreach and education, and building and maintaining health facilities. Integrated health program planning between the government, non-profit organizations, and the community can help overcome various health problems in Jembatan Merah Village. These programs must pay attention to social and environmental conditions in the village, such as accessibility of health facilities, community education level, and healthy living habits. Continuous health outreach and education can help increase public knowledge and awareness about health. Health outreach and education activities can be carried out through village meetings, seminars, and local mass media. The last one is the construction and maintenance of health facilities. The construction of health facilities such as community health centers, posyandu, and clinics can help village communities access health services more easily. Apart from that, maintenance of existing health facilities also needs to be carried out so that the facilities remain suitable and can function well.

2. Methods

This research is descriptive qualitative research with a case study approach. Case studies are included in descriptive analysis research, namely, research conducted focused on a particular case to be observed and analyzed carefully until completion. The qualitative research method is also a research method that places more emphasis on the aspect of understanding in depth a problem rather than looking at the problem for generalization research [12]. Qualitative research methods are the process of searching for data to understand social problems that are based on comprehensive or holistic research formed through words and obtained from scientific situations [13]. so it is hoped that we can obtain data and a more complete picture regarding the optimization of village fund policies for community health development in Tomilito District, North Gorontalo Regency. This research will be carried out in Jembatan Merah Village, Tomilito District, North Gorontalo Regency. This research will be carried out from August to November 2023. Types and sources of data in qualitative research according to theory, for research to be of high quality, the data collected must be complete, namely in the form of primary and secondary data. Primary data is data in verbal form or words spoken orally, movements or behavior carried out by a trustworthy subject, in this case, the research subject (Information) relating to the variables studied. Meanwhile, secondary data is data obtained from graphic documents (tables, notes, meeting minutes, etc.), photographs, films, video recordings, objects, etc. that can enrich primary data. Primary data collection was carried out by in-depth interviews (in-depth interviews) with informants assisted by an interview guide which was used as a benchmark in the plot and recorded using a tape recorder. In this case, the informants I will interview are starting from policymakers, namely the Village Head and head of BPD, as well as Village Assistants and Village Treasurers as parties who will help with considerations in terms of village fund allocation. This was done by collecting village fund budget data for health from the Tomilito sub-district and North Gorontalo Regency.

Data collection techniques are the most strategic step in research because the main aim of research is to obtain data. Without knowing data collection techniques, researchers will not get data that meets the established standards. The data collection techniques include interviews, observation, and documentation. Interviews are one technique that can be used to collect research data. In simple terms, it can be interpreted that an interview is an event

or process of interaction between the interviewer and the source of information or the person being interviewed (interviewee) through direct communication. It can also be said that an interview is a face-to-face conversation between the interviewer and the source of information, where the interviewer asks directly about an object being researched and has been previously designed. Data collection carried out in this research used primary data obtained from observations based on their observations and interviews with health workers and health cadres who acted as informants. Observation is a data collection technique that is largely determined by one's observations, because the observer sees, hears, smells, or hears an object of research and draws conclusions. Documentation is a very useful source of information in research. This document can be in the form of written text, artifacts, images, or photos. Data collection techniques in the research that will be carried out use observation techniques and in-depth interviews with several parties related to the Village Fund budget, such as the Tomilito sub-district, and North Gorontalo Regency. This technique was chosen by researchers for its effectiveness in terms of time, location, and cost.

3. Results

Optimizing village fund policies through health programs in Jembatan Merah Village Tomilito District North Gorontalo Regency

Optimizing village fund policies through health programs is an effort to manage the use of village funds in health programs efficiently and effectively. Health programs are one of the priorities in public health management because they have the potential to reduce unhealthy and very high medical costs. Optimizing village fund policies through health programs is very important because it has a broad positive impact on society at the village level. Health programs funded through village funds can provide village communities with better access to basic health services such as health checks, immunizations, and prenatal care. Disease prevention and health promotion measures can be enhanced through this program, increasing the well-being and life expectancy of rural communities. With optimal funding, village health programs can focus on preventing disease and increasing access to necessary medical care. This can reduce death rates and disease levels in rural communities. Health programs funded through village funds can help in actively involving the community in planning, implementing, and monitoring health programs. Community empowerment can increase their participation and responsibility for personal and community health. Good health is a key factor in improving the quality of life. Through health programs, village funds can be directed to improving health infrastructure, providing medicines, and increasing access to clean water and sanitation. Health programs funded through village funds can help meet people's basic needs, such as food, clean water, and sanitation, all of which contribute to overall community health. Optimized village funds for health programs can help build and strengthen local health systems. This includes training health workers, improving health facilities, and providing medical equipment. By implementing optimal village fund policies through health programs, the government can create a long-term positive impact on the health and welfare of village communities, as well as support the achievement of various sustainable development targets, including health targets. Research findings on the planning aspect, namely planning in the health sector, have been carried out by the Jembatan Merah village government, Tomilito District. This can be proven by the availability of a budget that has been allocated at 14% or Rp. 96,489,120 of the total Village Fund Allocation. However, the budget amount is still not sufficient to support health programs, this is due to the high number of health problems in Jembatan Merah Village, such as the need for latrines, stunting, and other health programs. To increase the effectiveness of health programs, the government must increase the budget. This is in line with the results of research conducted by [14], increasing the amount of the budget as part of the government's efforts to increase sanitation improvements and the provision of clean water so that the prevalence of under-five deaths due to diarrhea decreases. The availability of a budget for implementing health programs has a very important role in improving public health and achieving sustainable development goals in the health sector. An adequate budget enables the provision of adequate and affordable health facilities, increasing people's access to health services. This includes the construction of health centers, clinics, and hospitals, as well as increasing the capacity and availability of health workers. Health programs require financial resources for disease prevention activities, immunization campaigns, infectious disease monitoring, and epidemic control.

Budgets are needed to organize public health education programs to increase public understanding of good health practices, disease prevention, and healthy lifestyles. The budget can be used for the training and development of health workers, improving their qualifications and capacity to provide quality health services. To ensure the effectiveness of health programs, resources are needed for regular monitoring, evaluation, and program adjustments. Budgets can be used to assess program impact and make necessary improvements. An adequate budget allows for a rapid and effective response to health crises, such as disease outbreaks or natural disasters. This includes funding for evacuation, emergency medical care, and recovery. By improving public health, health budgets can help communities become more productive and economically independent. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: The budget for health programs contributes to the achievement of various health-related sustainable development targets, such as reducing child mortality, controlling infectious diseases, and promoting mental health. By ensuring the availability of an adequate budget, the government can create a solid foundation for improving public health and advancing sustainable health development. The next finding regarding the socialization aspect is that socialization has been carried out by the village government through the village head, village officials, and health cadres. Socialization is carried out when the village government holds meetings with the community and also through existing health cadres. Apart from that, information is conveyed directly to the public via door-to-door to people's homes by urging them to always keep the environment clean and also informing them about the government's agenda to build latrines for local communities. Socialization has an important role in optimizing village fund policies through health programs. Socialization can increase community understanding regarding village funding policies for health programs. The information conveyed during socialization can explain the objectives, benefits, and implementation of the health program. Through outreach, the community can be invited to actively participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring health programs. This participation can ensure that the policies taken reflect the real needs and aspirations of local communities. Socialization can help create community acceptance and support for village funding policies for health programs. Communities who understand the benefits of the program tend to be more supportive and involved in its implementation. Socialization can create transparency in the use of village funds for health programs. When the community clearly understands how funds are used, this can increase the level of

accountability of the village government and related institutions. Socialization not only discusses policy aspects but can also function as a platform for health education. The public can be provided with information about good health practices, disease prevention, and the importance of access to health services. Socialization creates a two-way communication channel between the government and society. Feedback obtained during outreach can help the government understand community needs and problems related to health programs. In other words, socialization is an important tool for building community understanding, support, and participation, all of which contribute to optimizing village funding policies for health programs. By engaging communities effectively, policies can be better suited to local needs and context, improve program implementation, and achieve more sustainable outcomes.

The next finding in the implementation aspect of village funding policies through health programs is that the implementation of the health program village funding policies in Jembatan Merah Village, Tomilito District is less than optimal. This is influenced by delays in budget disbursement in regional finance. Several programs that were not implemented based on the village government's initial plans were the supplementary food program. This is thought to be the trigger or cause of health programs through posyandu also experiencing impacts such as a decrease in the number of community participation in coming to posyandu. Effective implementation is the main key to optimizing village fund policies through health programs. Good implementation ensures that the objectives of the village funding policy for health programs can be achieved. Concrete and efficient steps are needed so that the program can have a positive impact as planned. With maximum implementation, village funds can be used efficiently and on target. This includes allocating funds to activities that are most critical and provide the best results for improving public health. Optimal implementation helps increase public access to health services and improve the quality of services provided. Good health facilities, trained human resources, and procurement of adequate medical equipment can be obtained through effective implementation. Implementing policies that actively involve the community can increase their participation and support for health programs. Communities who feel involved tend to be more supportive and maintain the sustainability of the program. Implementation of village funding policies can make a significant contribution to strengthening local health systems. This involves improving health facilities, training health workers, and developing health infrastructure. By focusing on effective implementation, village funding policies for health programs can achieve the desired results and provide real benefits for communities at the village level

Factors Inhibiting Village Fund Policy Optimization through the Health Program in Jembatan Merah Village

Obstacles to optimizing village fund policies through health programs can come from various factors. Several inhibiting factors, including the availability and quality of human resources in the health sector, can also be an obstacle. If there is a shortage of trained medical personnel, implementing health programs can be difficult. Findings from the human resources aspect (officials/community) show that the human resources owned by the village government can support the implementation of planned health programs. The existing human resources work professionally and are trained. So that they can carry out the tasks that have been mandated. However, community participation in maintaining a healthy and clean environment is still very lacking. Even though latrines have been provided by the village government, there are still people who defecate carelessly. In maintaining health facilities such as clean latrines, public awareness is also very minimal. On the side, On the other hand, people also complain about difficulties in getting doctor's services. This is due to the lack of a doctor in the Jembatan Merah village and also the difficulty in obtaining a clinic.

Human resources, both implementing officials and community participation, play a key role in optimizing village fund policies through health programs. Implementing officials, including health and administrative officers, must have adequate expertise and skills in planning, implementing, and monitoring health programs. Training and development programs need to be implemented periodically to ensure that implementing personnel have the latest understanding of best health practices, government policies, and health technologies. The number and distribution of health workers need to be adequate to meet the needs of village communities. Personnel shortages can hamper the capacity to provide adequate health services. Good cooperation and coordination between implementing officials from various sectors (health, finance, government) is very important to avoid obstacles and increase implementation efficiency. Implementing officials need to have a high commitment to community service. High enthusiasm and dedication will encourage the implementation of health programs more effectively. Public awareness about the importance of health and health programs in villages needs to be increased through effective education and outreach campaigns.

The community needs to be involved in the health program planning process. A participatory approach enables a better understanding of local needs and community preferences. The community can be involved in implementing health programs, either as volunteers, or work partners, or through participation in health-related activities such as counseling and prevention activities. Community empowerment, including increasing community capacity and skills in managing their health, can increase active participation in health programs. The community can be involved in monitoring and evaluating health programs. This can create a direct feedback mechanism from the community, allowing for better program adjustments. Communities can play an important role in promoting positive health behavior among their members. Empowering communities to implement preventive health practices can improve health outcomes. Involving communities and ensuring adequate expertise and skills of implementing officials is key to ensuring successful and sustainable health programs at the village level. The synergy between good human resources from these two groups can increase the effectiveness and positive impact of village funding policies for health programs.

Next, the findings on the aspect of regional/village conditions show that geographical conditions are an inhibiting factor in optimizing village funding policies through health programs. Jembatan Merah village itself has 4 hamlets, two of which are in the lowlands, one hamlet is located in the mountains and another hamlet is on the coast. For hamlets located in the mountains and on the coast, health facilities have been provided, but they are not well maintained, due to the lack of clean water. Apart from that, public awareness is also very low in maintaining the cleanliness of health facilities such as latrines. Regional or village conditions have a very important role in optimizing village funding policies through health programs. Various environmental, geographic, and social factors can influence the implementation and effectiveness of health programs at the village level. Villages that are remote or

geographically difficult to access may face greater challenges in providing adequate health services. Transportation and accessibility can be limiting factors. The state of environmental sanitation and cleanliness influences disease levels and public health. Health programs need to pay attention to sanitation issues and the provision of clean water in villages. Local climate and environmental conditions can influence the prevalence of certain diseases. For example, areas with a high risk of certain infectious diseases require different prevention approaches. The level of poverty, education, and employment in a village can affect people's health. Health programs need to consider these social and economic factors in planning and implementation. The demographic structure of a village, such as population, age, and gender, can influence the need for health services. Villages with large populations or a majority of children require a different approach. Regional conditions also include community behavior regarding health. Lifestyle, eating habits, and traditional health practices can influence the success of a health program. Areas that are vulnerable to health threats or crises, such as disease outbreaks or natural disasters, require special attention in planning and implementing health programs. A deep understanding of the conditions of the region or village is needed so that village funding policies can be designed and implemented effectively. An integrated, community-based, and sensitive approach to local context can increase the chances of successful optimization of village funding policies for health programs.

Research findings on aspects of government support as an inhibiting factor in optimizing village funding policies through health programs show that aspects of government support for health programs have been running well. The support provided by the regional government, in this case, the regional government of North Gorontalo Regency, for public health programs is expressed in the form of regulations. One of them is Regent Regulation Number 15 of 2019 concerning the Community-Based Total Sanitation Implementation Movement. In articles 15 and 16 there are responsibilities and roles of village governments in supporting health programs. Village governments are pressured to provide facilities and infrastructure in the form of toilets. Apart from that, the village government plays a role in maintaining and maintaining the facilities that have been provided. In this regulation, there are also instructions on the form or type of toilet that can be provided by the village government so that people stop defecating in the open which can pollute the environment and disrupt environmental cleanliness. Regional governments also provide support in the form of budget allocations that can be spent to support health programs. Government support is urgently needed in optimizing village funding policies through health programs. The government needs to determine adequate budget allocations for health programs in villages. Sufficient funding can ensure the implementation of comprehensive and quality health programs. The government can provide clear instructions and guidelines regarding the implementation of health programs at the village level. This includes administrative guidelines, health practice guidelines, and related regulations. Training related to health policy, management, and techniques can help increase the capacity of village government officials and health workers. This can include training for budget management, program monitoring, and evaluation, as well as technical health skills. The government can invest to strengthen health infrastructure in villages, including building, maintaining, and expanding health facilities as well as increasing the capacity of health workers. The government can organize outreach and education campaigns to increase public awareness about health programs and the importance of their participation. These campaigns may include understanding the benefits of vaccination, preventative health practices, and other health promotion efforts. The government needs to involve a strong monitoring and evaluation system for health programs at the village level. This helps identify successes, assess obstacles, and ensure continuous improvement. The government can issue policies that support community empowerment at the village level. This includes policies that support active community participation in decision-making and implementation of health programs. The government needs to respond quickly to environmental changes and emergency conditions that can affect health programs in villages. This includes emergency response efforts and risk mitigation plans. By providing solid support, the government can play a key role in helping villages achieve optimization of village funding policies through health programs, ensuring better health services, and improving community welfare.

4. Conclusion

The optimization of village fund policies through the health program in Jembatan Merah Village is not running effectively and efficiently (optimally). Although the planning and socialization aspects have been carried out by the village government. However, the process of implementing village fund policies through health programs experienced problems because the allocated budget experienced delays in the disbursement process so several planned programs could not be implemented. Apart from that, the budget allocated for health programs is still considered inadequate to finance priority programs to improve health services in Jembatan Merah Village. The inhibiting factor in optimizing village fund policies through health programs is seen from the aspect of human resources that implementing officials are sufficiently trained, but community participation is still very low. There are still people who practice open defecation and public awareness of maintaining health support facilities such as latrines is still very minimal. The aspect of regional/village conditions is also an inhibiting factor in optimizing village fund policies. The geographical conditions of mountains and coastal areas are experiencing a clean water crisis. Then the aspect of government support is appropriate. The government supports health programs through regulations and budget allocations. In this study, researchers only used three indicators to see the optimization of village funding policies in supporting health programs. To be able to explain the inhibiting factors in policy implementation, it can also be looked at by Van Meter and Van Horn, as well as Edward III.

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