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The Influence of Diet and Intake of Macro and Micro Zinc Nutrients on the Incident of Stunting in Toddlers Ages 12-36 Months in Usitasae Village

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ABSTRACT: Short Toddlers (Stunting) is a nutritional status based on the Body Length according to Age (PB/U) index or Body Height according to Age (TB/U) where in the anthropometric standard for assessing children's nutritional status, the results of these measurements are at the threshold (Z- Score) -3 SD to <-2 SD (short /stunted) and <-3 SD (very short/ severely stunted). The formulation of the problem is how *Stunting* occurs in toddlers aged 12-36 months and whether there is an influence of the type of food, amount of food, food schedule, carbohydrates, protein, fat, and zinc on the incidence of *stunting* in toddlers aged 12-36 months. This research aims to analyze the influence of diet and intake of macro and micronutrient zinc on the incidence of *stunting* in toddlers aged 12-36 months. This type of observational research uses a *cross-sectional* design. This research was carried out in Usitasae Village. The sample in this study consisted of 54 toddlers using *cluster random sampling* techniques with bivariate analysis using the *chi-square* test and multivariate analysis using the multinominal logistic regression test. The results of data analysis on the prevalence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months were 64.8%. The relationship between nutritional intake and the incidence of schedule (P value = $0.022 \le \alpha = 0.05$), carbohydrates (P value = $0.010 \le \alpha = 0.05$), protein (P value = $0.000 \le \alpha = 0.05$), fat (P value = $0.008 \le \alpha = 0.05$), zinc (P value = $0.006 \le \alpha = 0.05$). There is a relationship between the type of food, amount of food, food schedule, carbohydrates, protein, fat, and zinc on the incidence aged 12-36 months. There is a need for further study regarding the intake of macro and micronutrients zinc in toddlers aged 12-36 months.

KEYWORDS: Stunting incidence, diet, nutrients, macro and micro zinc.

INTRODUCTION

Stunting or chronic malnutrition problems are caused by insufficient nutritional intake for a long time due to food not meeting nutritional needs. Stunting can occur when the fetus is still in the womb and only appears when the child is two years old (Rahmadhita, 2020). Stunting (short) measures chronic body length or height malnutrition according to age (PB/U or TB/U). Stunting in the first 1000 days of life (HPK) is irreversible and closely related to functional failure, which has an impact on high morbidity and mortality rates in children (Wanimbo et al., 2020).

The results of World Health Organization (WHO) data for 2020 stated that globally, 22% or 149.2 million children under 5 years old experienced Stunting (UNICEF / WHO / World Bank Group, 2021). The 2019 UNICEF report states that the prevalence of children aged 0-59 months experiencing undernutrition or malnutrition in South Asia is 52%, Central Asia 5%, and Asia Pacific/East Asia 15% (UNICEF, 2019). A study on the prevalence of undernutrition in Southeast Asia found that in Cambodia it was 3.27%, Laos 2.22%, Myanmar 1.56%, Thailand 1.10%, Timor-Leste 5.30% and Vietnam 1.05%. % (Mutunga et al., 2020).

Failure to thrive in toddlers is at risk of causing children to experience difficulties in achieving optimal physical and cognitive development (Wulandari & Muniroh, 2020). Stunting impacts life, including increasing the risk of morbidity and mortality caused by infection (Rahmandiani et al., 2019). Low height during childhood is a long-term indicator of malnutrition in children due to insufficient quality and quantity of food, which is accompanied by infectious diseases experienced by children (Wulandari & Muniroh, 2020). Nutrient intake is one of the direct causes that can influence the nutritional status of toddlers. Nutrient intake can also be obtained from several nutrients, including macronutrients such as carbohydrate energy, protein, and fat. Macronutrients are nutrients needed in large quantities by the body and play a major role in providing energy. Macronutrient intake can influence the nutritional status of toddlers (Diniyyah et al., 2017).

The prevalence of stunting in Timor-Leste is 47.1% Ministerio da Saude (MDS) 2021, which is far above the "very high" threshold according to WHO, namely \geq 30%. Therefore, Stunting continues to be a major problem in this country. Stunting is higher among boys (52.0%) than girls (46.6%) and much higher in rural areas (52.5%) than in urban areas (39.8%).

Stunting in children in Timor-Leste is largely related to maternal and child sociodemographic factors as well as the quality and

availability of health services. There are gaps in values, wealth, and region in Timor-Leste, showing that certain groups are at high risk of experiencing Stunting. Therefore, it is critical to identify the quality of services provided by health facilities, the involvement of health workers and volunteers in improving maternal and child health outcomes, and mothers' intentions to use health services in Timor-Leste. Promoting maternal behaviors such as breastfeeding practices in PNC may be particularly effective in addressing child stunting in Timor-Leste. In addition, ensuring nutritious food intake and increasing accessibility to pregnant women is urgently needed in Timor-Leste. With the existing data, the author is interested in researching "The Influence of Diet and Intake of Macro Nutrients and Zinc on the Incident of Stunting in Toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village".

METHODS

Location this research was conducted in Usitasae Village, *Sub-Região Oe-silo*, *Região Administrativa Especial Oe-curse*, *Ambeno* (RAEOA) in 2024. This research will be conducted for three months according to the research schedule. The type of research used is quantitative research with a cross-sectional approach, namely research where the independent variable and dependent variable are taken simultaneously. The population in this study was the total number of stunted and non-stunted toddlers in Usitasae village, totaling 68 toddlers aged 12-36 months. From the results of the sampling formula using the *Cluster Random Sampling* technique, the sample used in this research was 54 Stunted toddlers. The data collected in this research consists of primary data and secondary data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Multivariate Analysis

1. Description of Gonorrhea Sexually Transmitted Infection

Multivariate analysis aims to determine the influence between many independent variables and a dependent variable. The multivariate analysis used in this research is multinominal logistic regression analysis; this means there are more than 2 categories in the variables studied. Variables included in the multinomial logistic regression analysis have a significant value ($p \le 0.05$) in the previous bivariate analysis. According to the results of the bivariate analysis, it is known that the variables carried out in the multivariate analysis are the adequacy level of types of food, the adequacy level of the amount of food, the adequacy level of the food schedule, the adequacy level of carbohydrates, the adequacy level of protein, the adequacy level of fat, the adequacy level of zinc.

Stunting events		В	Sig.	Exp(B)
Stunting	Type of Food	,070	. 005*	,779
	Amount of Food	,053	.018*	,739
	Meal Schedule	,035	.022*	,523
	Carbohydrate	,130	.010*	2,189
	Proteins	,826	,000*	11,526
	Fat	,072	.008*	1,055
	Zinc	053	.006*	514

 Table 1. Multivariate Analysis, Intake of Types of Food, Amount of Food, Food Schedule, Carbohydrates, Protein, Fat, Zinc with the Incident of *Stunting* in Toddlers aged 12-36 months

Source: Primary data 2024

a. Category reference: Not Stunting

b. Numbers marked with an asterisk (*) have a Significant value

The results of the multivariate analysis table in Table 1. show that the next variable that has the most influence on the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months with the stunting category has a very significant value (p-value = $0.005 \le \alpha = 0.05$), which can be interpreted as a type of intake. Food has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting; from the food intake coefficient value of 0.070, which is positive, this value can be interpreted as meaning that the more stunted toddlers with less food intake, the greater the probability that toddlers will experience stunting, from the results of the Goods Ratio or Exp value. (B) The variable intake of types of food in the less category has a value of 0.779, which indicates that the intake of food in the less category is estimated to have a 0.779 times higher chance of experiencing stunting than toddlers who are not stunted.

The amount of food intake with the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category has a significant value (P value = $0.018 \le \alpha = 0.05$); it can be interpreted that the intake of the amount of food has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting, from the coefficient value of the adequacy level The amount of food, namely 0.053, has a positive value, so this value can be interpreted as meaning that the more stunted toddlers with less food intake, the higher the probability of toddlers experiencing Stunting from the results of the Goods Ratio or Exp(B) variable, the intake of food in the less category has a value of

0.739. This indicates that food intake in the low category is estimated to have a 0.739 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

Carbohydrate intake and the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category have a significant value (P value = $0.010 \le \alpha = 0.05$); it can be interpreted that carbohydrate intake has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting, from the coefficient value of carbohydrate intake, namely 0.130 has a positive value, then this value can be interpreted as meaning that the more stunted toddlers with less carbohydrate intake, the higher the probability of toddlers experiencing Stunting from the results of the good ratio or Exp(B) variable for the low carbohydrate intake category which has a value of 2,189, this indicates that carbohydrate intake Those in the underweight category are estimated to have a 2,189 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

Protein intake and the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category have a significant value (P value = $0.000 \le \alpha = 0.05$); it can be interpreted that protein intake has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting, from the protein intake coefficient value of 0.826 has a positive value, then this value can be interpreted as meaning that the more stunted toddlers with less protein intake, the higher the probability of toddlers experiencing Stunting from the results of the good ratio or Exp(B) protein intake variable in the deficient category has a value of 11,526, this indicates that protein intake Those in the underweight category are estimated to have a 11,526 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

Fat intake and the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category have a significant value (P value = $0.008 \le \alpha = 0.05$); it can be interpreted that fat intake has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting, from the coefficient value of fat intake, namely 0.072 has a positive value. This value can be interpreted that the more stunted toddlers with less fat intake, the higher the probability of toddlers experiencing Stunting from the results of the good ratio or Exp(B) fat intake variable in the low category has a value of 1.055; this indicates that fat intake Those in the underweight category are estimated to have a 1,055 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

Zinc intake and the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category have a significant value (P value = $0.006 \le \alpha = 0.05$); it can be interpreted that zinc intake has a significant influence on the incidence of Stunting, from the coefficient value of food intake, namely -0.053 has a positive value, so this value can be interpreted as meaning that the more stunted toddlers with less zinc intake, the higher the probability of toddlers experiencing Stunting from the results of the Goods Ratio or Exp(B) variable, the zinc intake variable in the deficient category has a value of -0.514, this indicates that zinc intake in the deficient category is estimated to have a -0.514 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

B. Discussion of Research Results

1. Stunting Incidence Rate in Toddlers Aged 12-36 in Usitasae Village

In Table 4.1, the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months is 35 (64.8%) in the stunted toddler category and 19 (35.2%) in the non-stunted toddler category. In this study, the average height and weight per age of toddlers was found to be a very short z-score < -3 SD, compared to toddlers who were not stunted, according to the 2005 WHO standards. Research that has been carried out shows that the majority of toddlers experience stunting; this can be influenced by insufficient food availability and mothers' knowledge about food processing along with insufficient family income, from the results of interviews conducted with local officials, health workers, and civilians at the research location.

2. The Influence of Types of Food Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months.

Che square analysis shows that food intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers, which has a significant value (P value = $0.005 \le \alpha = 0.05$). It can be concluded that food intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. These contain nutrients that are beneficial for the body, namely carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals (Oetoro 2012). Carbohydrates, fats, and proteins are macronutrients as energy sources, while vitamins and minerals are micronutrients that regulate the body's smooth metabolism (Suhardjo & Kusharto 2010).

3. The Influence of Amount of Food Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months.

Chi-square analysis showed an influence of food intake on the incidence of Stunting, which obtained a significant value (P value = $0.018 \le \alpha = 0.05$). It can be concluded that food intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. Insufficient food intake causes the body's calorie needs and adequacy not to be met. This results in a lack of energy and other nutritional elements the body needs. A diet that is not good in quantity, type, and function over a long period causes the body's need for nutritional elements (including carbohydrates, protein, and fat) to be unfulfilled.

4. The Effect of Eating Schedule Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months.

Chi square analysis shows an influence of meal schedule intake on the incidence of stunting in toddlers. The value obtained is significant (P value = $0.022 \le \alpha = 0.05$), and it can be concluded that meal schedule intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village. Generally, the eating schedule for toddlers aged 12-36 months is like that of adults, requiring three healthy and nutritious main meals daily, plus two to three snacks. However, this is not a standard benchmark and

can be adjusted to suit certain conditions. A meal schedule can determine the frequency of meals in a day with an optimal eating routine, namely 3 main meals spaced 3 hours apart. This schedule can be modified according to needs as long as it stays within 3 hours (Tjokoprawiro, 2003).

5. The Effect of Carbohydrate Intake on the Incident of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months.

Chi square analysis is known. Carbohydrate intake influences stunting in toddlers. A significant value was obtained (P value = $0.010 \le \alpha = 0.05$), so it can be concluded that carbohydrate intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. This research aligns with Iranian research (2018), which shows a relationship between carbohydrate intake and growth index. This research shows that tall children have fewer problems with low carbohydrate intake. The level of adequate carbohydrates does not affect overall energy intake because it is based on the recommendation that 60% of energy needs come from carbohydrate sources.

6. The Effect of Protein Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months in Usitasae Village.

Che square analysis is known. Protein intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers. A significant value was obtained (P value = $0.000 \le \alpha = 0.05$), and it can be concluded that protein intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. This research is in line with research by Nur (2020), that there is a significant relationship between protein nutrients and the nutritional status of children with a ratio of 50% of the nutritional status of children with problems, proving that there is a significant relationship between protein intake and the nutritional status of toddlers. Protein is a nutrient often related to the growth of children under five, where a lack of protein intake in children under five tends to experience slower growth compared to children with sufficient protein intake.

7. The Influence of Fat Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months in Usitasae Village.

Che square analysis is known. Fat intake influences stunting in toddlers. A significant value was obtained (P value = $0.008 \le \alpha = 0.05$), and it can be concluded that fat intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. Research This is in line with research by Nur (2020) that shows that there is a significant relationship between fat intake and children's nutritional status based on the TB/U index and the nutritional status of children under five years old in the district. Cendana, Enrekang District.

8. The Effect of Zinc Intake on the Incidence of Stunting in Toddlers Aged 12-36 Months in Usitasae Village.

Che square analysis is known. Zinc intake influences the incidence of stunting in toddlers. A significant value was obtained (P value = $0.006 \le \alpha = 0.05$), so it can be concluded that there is an influence of zinc intake on the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae village in 2024. Research This is in line with research by Anggun (2019), which found that the zinc intake of children under five was deficient, namely 47.4% of the total number of children under five. There is a significant relationship between zinc intake and the incidence of malnutrition in children aged 6-24 months in Leyangan village, Semarang district.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village from 54 respondents under toddlers aged 12-36 months in the stunting category was 35 with a percentage of (64.8%), the non-stunted category was 19 with a percentage of (35.2%).
- 2. The pattern of providing types of food has a significant effect (*P value* = $0.005 \le \alpha = 0.05$) on the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 3. The pattern of providing the amount of food significantly affects (*P value* = $0.018 \le \alpha = 0.05$) the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 4. The pattern of feeding schedules has a significant effect (*P value* = $0.022 \le \alpha = 0.05$) on the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 5. Carbohydrate nutritional intake significantly affects (*P value* = $0.010 \le \alpha = 0.05$) the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 6. Protein nutritional intake significantly affects (*P value* = $0.000 \le \alpha = 0.05$) the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 7. Fat nutritional intake significantly affects (*P value* = $0.008 \le \alpha = 0.05$) the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 8. Zinc nutritional intake significantly affects (*P value* = $0.006 \le \alpha = 0.05$) the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Usitasae Village.
- 9. There is a variable that has the most influence on the incidence of stunting in toddlers aged 12-36 months in Dessa Usitasae, namely protein intake in the low category, which is estimated to have an 11.526 times higher chance of experiencing Stunting

compared to toddlers who are not stunted.

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