

## The Role of the Village Head as Sustainable Development Goals Implementation

By

Josephina Katarina Sogen

Josephina Katarina Sogen, S.Sn. MSn, University of Nusa Cendana Indonesia

Corresponding Author: [inkatharina78@gmail.com](mailto:inkatharina78@gmail.com)

---

### Abstract

PungMurung village and Tenawahang are two villages that are the objects of research on stunting cases on Flores Island. Tenawahang Village decreases the stunting percentage through the GerobakCinta and Gempur Stunting programs. The PungMurung Village Head processes lower the stunting percentage by implementing activities to distribute the government's aid and assistance in the form of nutritious food, eggs, milk, and vegetable seeds. The Tenawahang Village Head has succeeded in diminishing stunting rates by providing sorghum. This research aims to review the role of village heads in handling stunting in several areas in Flores and to inform researchers and the Regional Government to evaluate stunting issues. This research uses the Focus Group Discussion method by interviewing informants. Data comes from dialogue that occurs between informants and researchers. The data is in the form of dialogue or conversation in the form of recorded stories on electronic devices and the results of observations of the words and actions of the research targets. The data obtained is in the form of meaning analyzed in various understandings or categorizations. Informants came from village women, PungMurung and Tenawahang, midwives, and Posyandu cadres. The extent of the village head's role in activities to overcome stunting. The village head distributed a package of eggs and 5 five packages of milk to mothers whose children were affected by cases of stunting. Food consumed by stunted children and their mothers at the home of Posyandu cadres. The village provides milk and eggs in a package. Assistance was provided to people whose children were stunted and the community was quite happy to receive this assistance. The village head together with the officials distributed 1 package of eggs and 5 packages of milk to mothers whose children were affected by cases of stunting. The food consumed by stunted children and their mothers is cooked at the home of Posyandu cadres. The village provides milk and eggs in a package. Assistance was provided to people whose children were stunted and the community was quite happy to receive this assistance.

**Keywords:** stunting, village, sorghum, milk, role, head, community.

## INTRODUCTION

Tenawahang Village located in East Flores Regency is a fairly adequate village because it has experienced progress in development. Tenawahang Village is an independent and advanced village because it produces food products. Tenawahang Village is growing as a good one because the head of the village helps the community in agriculture and raises the dignity of the village through young people who work and earn income as farmers. Tenawahang Village still needs a lot of improvements and it will become an SDG village. It must strive to fulfill the requirements as a village towards a healthy and prosperous village, a poverty-free village, a village worthy of clean water, and sustainable village. The village provides access to education for children who can study at kindergarten and students can participate in the learning process healthily and happily.

Access to facilities and infrastructure is good, for example, the availability of village midwives, community health centers, and other medical personnel is good. The health part is indicated by the work of Posyandu cadres, and village officials work together to struggle realities of stunting. The stunting in Tenawahang Village is based on the results of previous research that stunting cases decreased by 12% in August 2023. The reduction in stunting realities was caused by food-consuming sorghum as additional food for children. The agriculture part is a good field that produces products such as rice, corn, sorghum, chocolate/cocoa, and candlenuts.

However, PungMurung Village in Central Manggarai where the residents grow vegetables in their yards. The housewives are young and active in the village. Most people living in PungMurung village are young families and most of their husbands live and work far away. Housewives are farmers who plant rice in the fields and live off their husband's income. The husband backs home on weekends and comes home several times a month. This situation is not good for the child's health because they are only cared for by their mother.

This research aims to review the role of village heads in handling stunting in several areas in Flores and to inform other researchers and the Regional Government to evaluate villages handling stunting. It has to be seriously solved by all village officials and stakeholders. The handling of stunting in the two areas is still quite different because it seems that working slowly and it depends on the role of the village leader. Other villages on Java are very progressive with various programs carried out by each village so that the number of stunting cases is decreasing. The village head and residents work hard, help each other, and manage the village funds. Therefore, this stunting problem must be handled by Government properly and seriously. The commitment of the Village Heads is very important in providing education, farmers and health workers together to handle stunting gravely. Villages on the island of Java, for example in East Java Province, have become one of the villages leading to Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs villages.

## THE CONDITION OF THE COMMUNITY IN VILLAGES

Mothers are generally quite familiar with the term stunting, i.e. poor nutrition, malnutrition, and the condition of children who are not tall enough and do not match the child's age. Children are given only simple food by their parents due to limited family finances. This has a weak impact on the child's growth. The young married woman is one of the factors in the stunting problem in PungMurung village. Factor in the way of thinking of young mothers have children due to their inability to continue to higher education. Factors of unpreparedness and a very young mindset with a very minimal daily environment can trigger stunting cases. The poverty factor can certainly make people only expect social assistance from the government and other agents. The WahanaVisi Indonesia helps women by distributing planting seeds, planting peanuts, and consuming quality food.

Villages are obliged to support themselves by exploiting their local potential. Utilizing local potential, for example, local sorghum food as an additional food for children. The village maximizes the food ingredients that are planted and then consumed by the community together to fulfill a balanced diet

(Fitri, Indriyani&Hidayat, 2023: 3). For example, the program implemented by Tenawahang Village through local food for the health sector and the agricultural region. The village head with the community implements the programs to empower the community in overcoming health and agriculture. The goals of the SDGs when linked to these programs and activities have not been achieved similarly to the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs goal consists of 17 things including No Hunger, No Poverty, Gender Equality, Healthy and Prosperous Life, Quality Education, and others. The SDGs goals can be achieved by village heads who can be achieved by working together. Additional food in the form of rice with side dishes with a balanced nutritional level is consumed by stunted children. After three months, housewives are required to cook their food according to nutritious food for the children. However, in practice, food is cooked and consumed by children under 5 years old. The food is made according to the financial conditions of each family. The food that is shared consists of rice, meat, and vegetables according to the food content of a balanced nutritional intake.

Based on the informants, some families only hoped for social assistance from the government so they seemed lazy in earning money or income so they could not be independent. While at the Posyandu or Pustu, the cadres advise consuming fiber foods during pregnancy and breastfeeding. The vegetable seeds provided by WVI in 2022 were managed and planted and then given compost fertilizer made by themselves in Pong Murung Village.

Stunting treatment is carried out by medical staff and village officials in PungMurung and CompangDalo Villages. According to Randong Learning Centre, East Manggarai data shows the villages have the most case in stunting at East Manggarai Regency. The housewives who live in PungMurung depend on their husbands. The women are jobless but work in the field by growing vegetables, cultivating crops, and farming. Their daily life depends on government aid, the Program of Family Hope(PKH), and other social assistance.

In comparison, in Tenawahang Village, the Village Head carries out community empowerment activities in dealing with stunting. The village head has programs that support reducing stunting rates. GerobakCinta program for handling stunting as well as food security with sorghum. The program is an activity that provides healthy food for children who are stunted. The food provided is processed food from sorghum in the form of sorghum porridge and other local foods. This program is where the Tenawahang Village community jointly manages corn agricultural products. Gempur stunting is the program that provides additional food cooked together at the Posyandu

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **STUNTING TREATMENT**

The results obtained were that children in PungMurung village who were stunted, after measuring their weight and height, it turned out that there were children who were overweight and some who had increased height. A family consists of 2 stunting children; there is only one child who is helped by the village. Each of them experiences different changes according to the nutritional intake and parenting patterns of each child. For breastfeeding mothers, the quality of breast milk produced is quite good during the breastfeeding period. Pregnant women have been introduced to stunting and it is advised to prevent the collaboration between non-governmental organizations and the village. The term stunting is known to mothers during pregnancy and they have been given an understanding of stunting.

The village head together with the officials distributed a package of eggs and 5 packages of milk to the children. The food is cooked and consumed by children together with the mothers. The community was quite happy to receive the package. Housewives feel that they also receive the vegetables' seeds from WahanaVisi Indonesia (WVI) a non-governmental organization that helps the community in Manggarai. Providing food in the form of additional food to stunted children in the form of complete meals cooked collectively by housewives and posyandu cadres for 21 days

## **THEORY OF ROLE**

According to Rivai (2003:148), role can be interpreted as regulated behavior and is expected of someone in a certain position. Leader in an organization has a role, every job brings hope to where it is assumed the role of behavior. The fact that the organization identifies the job what must be done and the desired role behavior that go hand in hand. The job also contains expectations regarding an important role in managing the behavior of subordinates. Gunawan (2003:369) said that the role is something that is part of the one who holds the leader first the occurrence of things or events. According to Gibson and Ivancevich and Donnelly (2001:479), a role is someone who must relate to two systems different elements, usually the organization and some part of the environment. It can be concluded that roles are the behavior expected from someone in order to influence a certain situation based on status and function that he has and a person is said to be carrying out a role if he has carry out rights and obligations which are an inseparable part of the status he holds.

## **LEADER**

According to Hartoyo's opinion in Patton (2004) states that function Leadership is the same as management functions in general, namely POAC (Planning, Organizing, Actuating, Controlling). According to Kartono (in Pasalong, 2007) stated that leadership is the ability to provide a constructive influence on others to do something cooperative efforts to achieve planned goals. Meanwhile Boone and Kurtz (in Pasalong, 2007) stated that leadership is the act of motivating others or causing them to perform a specific task with the aim of achieving specific goals. Meanwhile, Yulk (2001:8), says leadership is the process of influencing others to understand and agree with what needs to be done effectively and the process to facilitate collective individual efforts to achieve common goals. So it can be said that leaders in carrying out their duties must can find out the situation and conditions that exist in a particular organization, within This is a social organization as a foundation to stand on take appropriate action for the progress of the organization he leads.

## **VILLAGE HEAD**

Village Government is the administration of government affairs and the interests of local communities in the government system of the Republic of Indonesia. Furthermore, in article 1(3), the Village Government is the Village Head or what is called by another name, assisted by Village officials as an element of Village Government administration. Furthermore, in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2007 concerning Guidelines for Organizational Structure and Work Procedures of Village Government, article 5 paragraph 3 states, In carrying out the duties and authority as referred to in article 5 the village head has the obligation to: 1. Uphold and practice Pancasila, implement the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and defend and maintain the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia; 2. Improving community welfare; 3. Maintain public peace and order; 4. Carrying out democratic life; 5. Implementing the principles of village governance that is clean and free from collusion, corruption and nepotism; 6. Establish working relationships with all village government partners; 7. Waiting for and enforcing all laws and regulations; 8. Carrying out good village government administration; 9. Implement and be accountable for village financial management; 10. Carry out affairs that fall under the authority of DEA; 11. Reconcile community disputes in the village; 12. Developing community and village income; 13. Fostering, protecting and preserving socio-cultural values and customs; 14. Empowering communities and institutions in villages; and 15. Developing natural resource potential and preserving the environment

## **STUNTING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

One of the SDGs programs in Indonesia is in the health sector to deal with stunting. The SDGs concept can be interpreted as a foundation for overcoming the issue of human development from the time children are in the womb and until under 5 years old. One of the SDGs programs for Indonesian children focuses on malnutrition and of course the issue of stunting for Indonesian children. 37% of

Indonesian children experience stunting in Indonesia and 12% experience wasting. The SDGs program is a movement that helps developing countries like Indonesia to reduce stunting rates and aims to ensure that there are no malnourished children. The SDGs agenda in 2030 concentrates on the most vulnerable children in Indonesia (UNICEF, 2016). Children's health in Indonesia is an important part of Indonesia's human development in the future. Children are the nation's assets in the future to achieve a developed and healthy Indonesia because human development also starts with children.

Providing nutritious and appropriate food in terms of quality and quantity for children aged 8 to 24 months as a way to ensure optimal growth and development. Nutritious food for children is very important for children who are stunted because currently there is malnutrition in children. Malnutrition occurs due to insufficient food consumption that contains carbohydrates, minerals, protein and vitamins for the body. Providing additional food is carried out by Posyandu Cadres in Tenawahang village through the Supplemental Feeding program by the Village Head using local food. This is one way to overcome the problem of stunting children in Tenawahang Village.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to help developing countries and poor countries to overcome the problem of stunting prevalence in one country (Hadjarati, Kadir& Bait, 2022: 4). The stunting problem occurs in Tenawahang Village because the community does not know about the certain agricultural products can also overcome the difficulties of reducing stunting rates in certain villages. Sorghum agricultural products that can help children and their families not experience stunting are recommended in village community empowerment activities with all village residents. Sorghum as a product for food security for the Tenawahang village community is consumed by residents in need so that it can overcome the problem of children's height growth in the village. The Tenawahang village head really understands food security and superior crop farming patterns which are able to help and provide solutions to the stunting problem in the area.

The obstacle in one village and another in relation to the causes of stunting are quite different because each village has different problems so that the handling by the village head through village programs is also different. The problem of stunting in Tenawahang is caused by a lack of nutritional food intake for underprivileged people. The well-to-do community in Tenawahang Village is able to provide sufficient nutritious food for their children. Stunting in Tenawahang village is dominated by children whose parents are jobless and who experience poor parenting patterns. An economically capable society can provide a balanced parenting style that influences children's height and children's nutritional balance. Children do not experience stunting and grow well. On the other hand, people who are less well off and experience unbalanced parenting styles can trigger stunting. Independent villages can certainly overcome the problem of stunting with programs and activities to provide solutions to problems that exist in their own area. The community in PungMurung village, Central Manggarai also experiences cases of stunting, namely children under 5 years of age. The problem of stunting in PungMurung Village is prevented by distributing SGM eggs and milk to stunted children. The activities carried out in the village by the Village Head together with the community were through community empowerment activities by empowering posyandu cadres and housewives in CompangDalo Village. This activity lasted for 3 months and then the posyandu of course took height measurements.

According to them, the natural potential that can be achieved is by planting peanuts and then making them into quality food products that can be consumed by families and neighboring. Villages are obliged to support themselves by exploiting their local potential. Utilizing local potential, for example local sorghum food as additional food for children who are stunted. The village maximizes the food ingredients that are planted and then consumed by the community together to fulfill a balanced diet (Fitri, Indriyani&Hidayat, 2023: 3). For example, the program carried out by Tenawahang Village uses local food for two programs are the health sector and the agricultural sector, together with the community so that they can plan programs to empower the community in overcoming health and



agricultural problems. The goals of the SDGs when linked to these programs and activities have not been achieved in accordance with the SGSds village goals. The SDGs goal consists of 17 things including No Hunger, No Poverty, Gender Equality, Healthy and Prosperous Life, Quality Education and others. The SDGs goals can be achieved by villages together with village heads, which can be achieved by working together.

The village head needs to be supported by the local East Nusa Tenggara regional government because the head of village gives the impression that the village runs on its own and is resourceful without guidance and without assistance from the government. Existing community institutions still seem to be neglecting and not providing meaningful support for village communities and village government. Local government is an institution that has a big role in providing various skills needed by the community according to its needs, so this is important in relation to improving the lives of village communities. The problem of stunting is a very urgent problem that needs help to strengthen the social economy of regional communities. The village head in Tenawahang Village is very independent in accelerating the reduction of stunting rates through village programs. The community also helps together to deal with stunting, but it is still seen that the village head has not been fully supported by farmers in the food security program. The program to plant sorghum to help farmers still gives the impression that farmers are impatient with the process so it is still not optimal. Farmers are still very dependent on the village head and mass selling activities still seem difficult because they are still hampered by the mindset of farmers who are satisfied with selling in small quantities. Agricultural equipment or supporting facilities in the form of sorghum processing machines in villages are also obstacles in realizing SDGs villages or villages free of stunting. The mindset and work ethic of regional farmers in NTT still needs to be improved so that they can create a prosperous society.

Village independency is the most important thing in the development of Village SDGs in accordance with Government regulations through Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. The law regulates that Village SDGs have targets that can be implemented for a village. These targets include (1) Recognition and respect for village diversity; (2) clarification of the status and legal certainty of villages within the single state of the Republic of Indonesia in relations to achieve justice for all Indonesians; (3) maintain and promote the customs, traditions and culture of the village community; (4) Promote village community initiatives, movements and participation to develop the village's potential and assets for mutual prosperity; (5) Build professional, efficient, effective, open and accountable village government; (6) improve public services to villagers in order to accelerate the realization of communal welfare; (7) enhance the socio-cultural resilience of rural communities and create rural communities that can maintain social cohesion as part of national resilience; (8) Boost the economy of rural communities and fill gaps in national development; (9) empowerment of rural communities as objects of development; (Khoiriah&Perbawati, 2023:1003).

An independent village is a village that has its own products and can provide good services to the village. According to the SDGs version, Mandiri Village is a village that has the best quality sorghum flour, sorghum cereal, sorghum rice, and corn rice and corn products. The human resources owned by the village, especially the main driver of the community, namely the Village Head, who really understands the needs and difficulties of the community and the agricultural products that can be relied on. Village heads who are able to make various breakthroughs and can change the planting behavior of farmers, for example from candlenut farmers, can then become sorghum farmers and manage sorghum so that it produces results. The village head also has quality leadership, namely being able to encourage all the community to work hard and also has an entrepreneurial spirit which is important for village residents to follow. To realize a village that meets the SDGs, leaders are needed who can provide positive change and lead to prosperity and welfare of the community in 2030.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative research conducted through Focus Group Discussion activities. Focus Group Discussions were carried out because the research subjects consisted of a group of people in PungMurung and CompangDalo Villages. This data collection method can provide sufficient information for researchers. The Focus Group Discussion technique is part of qualitative research because it produces qualitative data (Moeliono, Jakarta: 7). Data comes from dialogue that occurs between informants and researchers. The data is in the form of dialogue or conversation results in the form of recorded stories as recorded on electronic devices and the results of observations of the words and actions of the research targets. The data obtained is in the form of meaning which is analyzed in various understandings and groupings or categorizations in the data. Excavating data from dialogue with informants, namely housewives whose children are affected by stunting problems. The informants felt comfortable telling about various activities in the village with the posyandu cadres and village officials. In discussing, asking and answering, the informants did not feel pressured or intimidated in expressing their opinions. The informants were given the opportunity to tell the truth about their children's lives in providing attention to their children who were stunted (Baral, et al, 2016:2).

Participants were asked to convey their views on stunting and the role of village heads in dealing with this problem. The view of the people in PungMurung Village regarding stunting is that the problem is less worrying to them because some people think that this problem gives them some kind of advantage in getting social assistance. For the community in Tenawahang village, the problem of stunting is an important problem to overcome because it has an adverse impact in the future. Each village has a different view regarding the use of village funds by the Village Heads. The village head has a very big role in handling stunting so that the village head can do everything to provide the aid to the community. The village head in PungMurung village helps the community by providing food and milk to children who are stunted. Cooking activities with cadre mothers and parents of stunted children is an example of posyandu activities as an institution in the village that can help villages to deal with stunting.

## CONCLUSION

The Village Head is an agent of change for Tenawahang and PurungMurung villages because he is a leader who brings enlightenment to the village residents. The role of the Village Head as a decision maker in helping the community, as a pioneer for communities in difficulty, as a forum for community aspirations, as a motivator, facilitator and mobilizer in moving the community forward. The mindset of a village head really determines the direction of the village's progress and the success of the village. The village head is able to be creative in developing existing programs in the village so that he is able to free the village community from the difficulties of life and the difficulty of having a job.

## REFERENCES

- Baral, Susil et al. 2016. Focus Group Discussion. Nepal: AHEARD PUBLICATION.
- Dulkiah, Moh. 2023. Community Participation Forms in Indonesian Villages to Support Community Development Goals Program. *Journal of Sustainable Development*.
- Khoiriah, Siti. 2022. Role of The Village Towards Sustainable Development Goals, Faculty of Law, Lampung University, Bandar Lampung, Lampung Indonesia.
- Moeliono, Laurike. 2012. Focus Group Discussion. Jakarta: Penerbit Universitas Atma Jaya-Indonesia.
- Pasalong Harbani, 2007. *Kepemimpinan Birokrasi (Bureaucratic leadership)*. Alfabeta CV; Bandung.
- Patton, A. 2005. *Disertasi Universitas Brawijaya Malang (Dissertation of Brawijaya University): Pemimpin Informal Budaya Local dan Pembangunan Daerah (Informal Leader of Local Culture and Regional Development)*.
- Permatasari, Paulina et al. 2021. The Village Fund Program in Indonesia: Measuring the Effectiveness and Alignment to Sustainable Development Goals. *Australia: Journal of Sustainability*, 2021.
- Rahmaddani, Tiara Widji et al, 2023. Achieving Developing Village based on The Village Sustainable Development Goals in Tirtonirmolo Village, Bantul Regency, *Jurnal Penegakan Hukum dan Keadilan*, and Postgraduate Building Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta.
- Rivai, Veitzhal. (2003). *Kepemimpinan dan Perilaku Organisasi (Leadership and Organizational Behavior)*, Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada.
- UNICEF Indonesia, 2016. *Sebuah Gambaran: SDG dan Anak-anak Indonesia*.
- Wahyudi, Putra et al, (2019). Peran kepala Desa dalam Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Di Desa Mukti Jaya Kecamatan Rantau Pulung Kabupaten Kutai Timur (Role of Village Head in Community Empowerment at Mukti Jaya Village, Rantau Subdistrict, East Kutai Region). *Ejournal Ilmu Pemerintahan*-ipfisip.unmul.ac.id