

**ABSTRACT****ANALYSIS OF STUNTING CASES IN SASAKNESE INFANTS DERIVED FROM SOSIO-ECONOMICS, CARE TAKING, DIETARY BEHAVIOUR AND DIETARY DIVERSITY FACTORS**

Prevalence of infant stunting is associated with long term exposure to poor economic, care-taking, food and dietary conditions. It was revealed that the prevalence of stunting and severe stunting infant growth in Primary Health Care Sengkol, District of Pujut were 31.7% and 53.1%, respectively, which are far exceeding the average in Central Lombok or West Nusa Tenggara Province reported by Basic Health Research in 2007 (Nurbaiti and Irawati, 2011). The objective of this research was to reveal the correlation of socio-economic, care-taking, dietary behavior and dietary diversity factors to the prevalence of stunting. Combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Data were collected from questionnaire, observation, indepth interview and FGD. Study was undertaken in four villages in Sengkol region with total sample of 126 infants, consisting of 63 infant with stunting and 63 infant as control group. Qualitative assessment was obtained from 4 key informants and 3 FGD groups which were distributed in 5 observation sites. The research results showed factors that significantly lead to stunting cases are: socio-economic (father education), care-taking, dietary behavior ('betengari' and eating frequency) and dietary diversity for pregnant and sucking mothers, where multivariate analysis shows that incomplete 'betengari' behavior (OR 2.77), lower father education (OR 0.34) and eating less than three times a day (OR 0.18) are among risk factors of infant stunting. Misunderstanding in breast milk and breast milk complement, low education level of fathers (just elementary school), and patrilineal system as well as permissive care-taking behavior among Sasaknese collectively influence 'betengari' eating behavior and eating frequency which in turn results in infants stunting. Conclusion :There is a significant correlation between socio-economic (father education) and dietary behavior to the prevalence of stunting.

**Key words :** Care-taking, dietary behavior, Sasaknese, stunting