DOI: 10.30994/sjik.v10i1.594

ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online)

Vol.10 No.1 May 2021 Page. 94-103

# The Effect of Nutrition Education Intervention Towards Nutritional Behavior of Mother In Stunting Children: A Systematic Review

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### **ABSTRACT**

Stunting has become a global concern in the last decades, several studies have shown that one of the main causes of stunting is based on the knowledge of the mother. The aim of this study is the effect of nutrition education interventions on maternal nutritional behavior in stunted children. This method of compiling a systematic review is based on literature studies from various electronic databases, including Scopus, ProQuest, Science Direct, EBSCO, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar by conducting a review using the latest PRISMA. The keywords in this systematic study were unbeatable with the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) consisting of (Maternal behavior OR maternal behavior AND nutrition education AND Growth Disorders OR stunting). 10 articles fit the inclusion criteria, the main results of the articles discuss maternal nutritional behavior. Appropriate nutrition education interventions are effective to prevent and improve the status of stunting children.

Keywords: Maternal Behavior, Nutrition Education, Stunting

Received December 12, 2020; Revised December 22, 2020; Accepted January 31, 2021



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DOI: 10.30994/sjik.v10i1.594

ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online) Vol.10 No.1 May 2021 Page. 94-103

### **BACKGROUND**

Stunting is chronic malnutrition due to insufficient nutritional intake for a long time, malnutrition in early childhood causes children to get sick easily, has not optimal posture as adults, reduced cognitive abilities in sufferers and malnutrition also increase the mortality rate in infants and children (MCA Indonesia, 2013). A lot of research involves the incidence of stunting related to mother and child behavior, especially on maternal habits and characteristics (Aubel, 2012). The main causes of stunting are mostly influenced by factors from the mother such as education, irregular monitoring of child growth, and incomplete immunization, as well as the lack of food diversity to meet the nutritional needs of children (Kim et al., 2017). Until now, there has been no summary of research on nutrition education in the prevention and management of stunting in children involving the mother's behavior. Based on World Health Organization data, there are 162 million children under five who are stunted worldwide and it is one of the biggest problems that inhibit individual growth, 3 out of 4 stunted children in the world are in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. It is projected that in 2025 the stunting rate will reach 127 million if the problem is not immediately addressed (WHO, 2014). The high prevalence of stunting in the world causes stunting, underpinning mortality in children globally around 14-17% (Prendergast et al., 2014).

The WHO framework provides an overview of the causes of stunting and classifies them into four main proximal factors, two of which are the mother's lack of knowledge on the practice of breastfeeding and complementary feeding (Stewart et al., 2013). Lack of knowledge and awareness in mothers is a challenge to modify the behavior associated with stunting (Hall et al., 2018). Declaration at the beginning of the 21st century carried out by the United Nations is known as the Millennium Declaration in 2015 to eradicate poverty in the world. 189 countries were participating in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one of the parameters related to reducing the incidence of stunting (IDAI, 2015).

Increasing individual knowledge in health education can be provided with nutrition education. Nutrition education for mothers with malnourished children is an effective and inexpensive strategy in fighting malnutrition in children (Awuuh et al., 2019). Nutrition education is a nutrition education practice to improve individual health to achieve behavior change.

This systematic review has the potential to play a role in improving the behavior of nutritional mothers of mothers who have stunted children. This systematic review aims to systematically review current evidence on the effect of nutrition education interventions on improving the nutritional behavior of mothers with stunted children. Based on the above description, it is necessary to have a summary of the effect of nutrition education interventions that have been implemented in increasing the influence of maternal nutritional behavior on stunted children, so that these interventions can be applied in improving the nutritional status of children.

### **METHODS**

### Search Strategy

The protocol used in this study used The Center for Review and Dissemination and the Joanna Briggs Institute Guideline as a guide in selecting and determining the quality of the summarized studies. This systematic review is evaluated with the "Preferences Reporting Item for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" (PRISMA) to select studies that are in line with the research objectives. The articles used are articles published in English from 2015 to 2020. The databases used to search for articles include Scopus, ProQuest, Science Direct, EBSCO, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar. The literature search starts on July 30 2020

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ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online)

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until January 14, 2021. Literature searches are those published from 2015 to 2020. Keywords in this systematic review are adjusted to Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) consisting of (Maternal behavior OR maternal behaviors AND nutrition education AND Growth Disorders OR stunting).

# **Study Criteria**

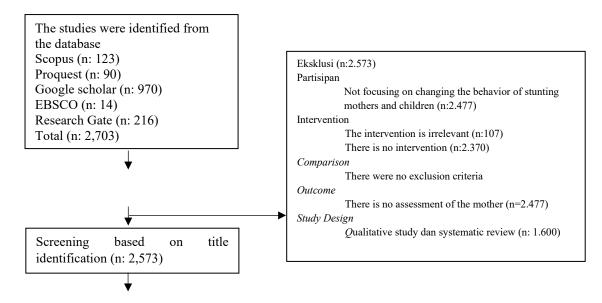
All articles found in the database are stored in Mendeley and duplicate articles have been removed. The study selection process consists of 4 phases: 1) reviewing all studies from the database based on title and abstract, 2) reviewing studies based on full text, 3) reviewing the reference list selected from phase 2, 4) the study is included if, type of publication: in a peer-reviewed journal, limited in English, type of study: consists of all experimental studies including RCTs and non-randomized experimental trials (eg quasi-experimental). Population: consisting of mothers who have stunted children, exposure: nutrition education intervention in mothers, outcome: study is included if one of the main outcomes is related to maternal nutritional behavior.

#### **Data Extraction**

Studies that meet the inclusion criteria are used to extract data into the data collection form. Follower extracted data: (1) study (year, country, design, quality); (2) population (sample, participant characteristics: mean age and condition of the child); (3) exposure (nutrition education intervention); and (4) assessment and results.

### **RESULTS**

The search results used a predefined keyword chain resulting in 2,703 publications. In the first screening, the publication was excluded after reading the title based on inclusion/exclusion criteria. In total, 96 publications included the second screening. Of the 96 articles, 71 publications were excluded after reading the full text. The reasons for the exclusion are: (1) not focusing on changes in maternal behavior (2) irrelevant or no intervention (3) not by the expected research design, namely RCT and non-RCT (4) the main result does not include any nutritional behavior mother.



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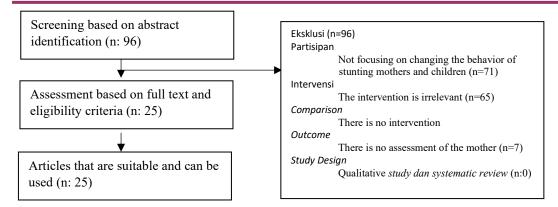


Figure 1. Flow diagram of Study Search and Selection Results

The research articles are limited from 2015 to 2020. 2 articles were published in 2016, 2 articles were published in 2017, 3 articles were published in 2018, 2 articles were published in 2019 and 1 article was published in 2020. The research design used was an article using the RCT design and non RCT (ex. Quasy experimental). The population in this study was 12-4436 respondents. The locations in this research are various countries, namely Indonesia, Iran, Ghana, and Bangladesh. The results of the review show that the entire article shows a significant effect on the effect of nutrition education interventions on improving maternal nutritional behavior in stunted children. Respondents in this study were mothers who had stunted children.

The study explains the effect of nutrition education interventions on improving maternal nutritional behavior in stunted children. The 10 articles selected for full-text review and review, are listed in table 1.

Table 1. Summary and research outcomes on the effect of nutrition education interventions on improving maternal nutritional behavior in stunted children.

Title and Author	Method	Results
The Effectiveness of	Design: RCT	66 mothers received nutrition
Nutrition Education for	Sample: 66	education interventions
Overweight/Obese	Teknik sampling: randomly	resulting in a strong increase
Mother with Stunted	assigned	in maternal independence to
Children (NEO-MOM)	Variable:	engage in physical activity,
in Reducing the Double	Independent Variable:	eat fruits and vegetables, and
Burden of Malnutrition	Nutrition Education	to provide animal protein to
	Dependent Variable:	their children to promote
(Mahmudiono et al.,	Overweight/obese mothers	growth, but did not
2018)	with stunted children	significantly affect children's
	Intervention:	height gain.
	Nutrition Education	
	Analysis:	
	a mixed factorial ANOVA	
	IBM SPSS Statistics 22	
Impact of a nutrition	Design: Pre-post intervention	This is a pre-post
education intervention on	study	intervention study in children
nutritional status of	Sample: 153	with undernourished status
undernourished children		(underweight, stunting, and

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Title and Author	Method	Results
(6-24 months) in East Mamprusidistrict of Ghana (Awuuh et al., 2019)	Tehnik Sampling: simple random sampling Variable: Independent Variable: Nutrition education intervention on nutritional status Dependent Variable: Undernourished children and mothers Intervention: Nutrition Education Analysis: Paired samples t-test Chi-square analysis	wasting) and their mothers aged 6-24 months. The results showed that there was a significant increase after being given nutrition education intervention in the nutritional status of malnourished children.
The Effect Of Booklet Education About Children Nutrition Needs Toward Knowledge Of Mother With Stunting Children  (Suryati and Supriadi, 2017)	Design: Quasi-experimental with a non-equivalent control group with pretest and posttest Sample: 90 Tehnik Sampling: simple random sampling Variable: Independent Variable: Booklet Education About Children Nutrition Dependent Variable: Knowledge Of Mother With Stunting Children Intervention: Analysis: Wilcoxon and Mann Whitney	Based on the Wilcoxon test, it was found that maternal knowledge significantly increased (p <0.05) after the intervention, from 29 (64%) categorized as moderate knowledge, increased to 34 (75.6%) categorized as good knowledge after the intervention. The results of the Mann Whitney test showed that the increase in maternal knowledge on the intervention and control groups was significantly different (p <0.05).
Effect Of Nutrition Education Toward Stimulation Practices Of Stunting In Children Aged 12-24 Months (Helmizari et al., 2019)	Design: a quasi-experimental with non-randomized one group pretest postest Sample: 48 Tehnik Sampling: simple random sampling Variable: Independent variable: MP-ASI education in stunting mothers. Dependent variable: Maternal knowledge and attitudes, diet and energy and protein consumption levels of stunting baduta	The intervention group was given nutrition education intervention for one month which was provided in two sessions. For the first session, education will be given about complementary feeding and the second session about stimulation. The results showed that before the intervention, there was no significant difference in the two groups, the intervention group (p = 0.078) and the control group (p = 0.575),

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Title and Author	Method	Results
Title and Author		
	Instrumen/Intervensi: Nutrition education	after the intervention, the practice of maternal
		1
	Analysis:	stimulation was significantly
	paired sample t-test	different, respectively p-
	Wilcoxon Sign Rank test	value = $0.001$ and P = $0.018$ .
The Effect Of Nutritional	Design: Quasi Experiment by	There is an effect of
Counseling Using	design pretest-posttest Control	nutritional counseling using
Booklet Media On	Group Design	booklet media on increasing
Improvement Of	Sample: 42	knowledge of
Complementary Food	Tehnik Sampling: purposive	complementary foods in
For Breast Milk	sampling	stunting mothers of infants
Knowledge In The	Variable:	aged 6-24 months with a P-
Mother Of Toddler	Independent variable:	value of 0.000. There is a
Stunting Age 6-24	Nutritional Counseling Using	significant mean difference
Months	Booklet Media	in the knowledge scores
0.5.1: . 1 . 1 . 2010)	Dependent variable: The	before and after the
(Muhimatul et al., 2019)	Mother Of Toddler Stunting	intervention in the two
	Age 6-24 Months Of	groups of Mean 8.81; 1.76 (p
	Complimentary Food For	= 0.000; p = 0.001).
	Breast Milk Knowledge	
	Intervention:	
	Nutritional counseling	
	(Nutrition Education)	
	Analysis:	
	Paired sample t-test and	
Consultation December	independent sample t-test.	Smartinhara hasad matamal
Smartphone-Based	Design: RCT	Smartphone-based maternal nutrition education in
Maternal Education for	1	
the Complementary	Tehnik Sampling: simple	providing complementary
Feeding of		foods is more effective in
Undernourished	Variable:	reducing malnutrition among
Children Under 3 Years	Independent variable:	children under 3 years in
of Age in Food-Secure	Smartphone-Based Maternal	food-safe communities.
Communities:	Education	
Randomised Controlled	Dependent variable:	
Trial in Urmia, Iran	the Complementary Feeding	
(Sarryadi et al. 2020)	of Undernourished Children Under 3 Years	
(Sayyedi et al, 2020)		
	Intervention Smartphone Paged Maternal	
	Smartphone-Based Maternal Education	
	Analysis:	
	Chi-Square Tests And An Independent T-Test	
	An independent 1-1est	

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Title and Author	Method	Results
Nutrition Education for	<b>Design:</b> Randomized	This study provides nutrition
Overweight/Obese	Controlled Trial	education interventions to
Mother with Stunted	<b>.</b>	mothers. The result of this
Children (NEO-MOM)	Variables:	study is that nutrition
	Independent variable:	education given to mothers
(Mahmudiono et al.,	Nutrition Education f	significantly influences the
2016)	Dependent variable:	mother's behavior to be better
	Overweight/Obese Mother	at feeding stunted children.
	with Stunted Children (NEO-	
	MOM)	
	Intervention:	
	Nutrition Education	
The Effect of Nutritional	Design: quasi-experiment with	There was a significant
Knowledge on Feeding	pre-post test two group design	difference in the mean score
Practice of Mothers	Sample: 40	of knowledge before and
Having Stunting Toddler	Sampling technique:	after intervention in the two
Aged 6-24 Months	purposive sampling	groups (p = $0.006$ ; p =
	Variable:	0.003), there was a
(Dewi, Maryati; Aminah,	Independen variable:	significant difference in the
2016)	Nutritional Knowledge on	mean score of feeding
	Feeding Practice	practice before and after the
	Dependen variable:	intervention in the two
	Mothers Having Stunting	groups ( $p = 0.002$ ; $p = 0.05$ ).
	Toddler Aged 6-24 Months	)
	Intervention:	
	Nutrition education	
	Analysis:	
	Wilcoxon test and Mann	
	Whitney Test	
	D :	MDACI 1 '
	Design: pre-experimental	
Education, Attitude of		interventions have an effect
Mother, and Energy- Protein Intake of		on increasing maternal knowledge and attitudes,
	Sample: 12	۶
Children Aged 7 to 24	Sampling technique: saturated	diet, and consumption levels
Months Suffering from	sampling Variable:	of stunting baduta protein
Stunting		and energy. Education provides an increase in
(Ilmanisak et al., 2017)	Independen variable: Complementary Food	provides an increase in maternal knowledge by
(IIIIaiiisak et al., 2017)	Education, Attitude of Mother,	11.7%.
	and Energy-Protein Intake	11.//0.
	Dependen variable:	
	Children Aged 7 to 24 Months	
	Suffering from Stunting	
	Intervention:	
	Edukasi MPASI	
	Analysis:	
	Anarysis.	

DOI: 10.30994/sjik.v10i1.594

ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online) Vol.10 No.1 May 2021 Page. 94-103

Title and Author	Method	Results
	Paired T-Test	
Cost-effectiveness of	Design: RCT	The provision of essential or
prenatal food and	Sample: 4436	nutritional interventions for
Micronutrient	Sampling Technique: Total	mothers and babies in Matlab
interventions on under-	Quota Sampling	shows a significant effect on
five mortality and	Variable:	prenatal food and
stunting: Analysis of data	Independen variable:	micronutrients in children
from the MINIMat	prenatal food and	under 5 years and stunted
randomized trial,	Micronutrient interventions	children.
Bangladesh	Dependen variable:	
	under-five mortality and	
(Svefors et al., 2018)	stunting	
	intervention:	
	Maternal and Infant Nutrition	
	intervention	
	Analysis:	
	Incremental cost-effectiveness	
	ratios (ICERs) for DALYs	
	averted	

Some data states that further research is needed by taking into account confounding factors. The risk of bias in this study is low because the assessment studies of bias in the study show that the results of the articles specified in the systematic review are considered low risk of selection. After all, most of the determinants of the sample is a random selection.

#### DISCUSSION

This systematic review discusses the relationship between nutrition education interventions on the nutritional behavior of mothers who have stunted children. 10 articles were reviewed, the limitation of this study is that most of the studies did not mention the age of the mother and child. Based on the results of the analysis of the articles obtained, nutrition education interventions have a significant impact on improving maternal nutritional behavior. Nutritional education interventions can increase the independence of mothers to be involved in providing food for children, such as involvement in physical activity in eating fruits and vegetables, giving animal protein to increase their growth, although nutrition education interventions do not significantly affect children's weight gain (Mahmudiono et al., 2018). Research on 66 mothers who had stunted children in Indonesia showed significant results for changing maternal behavior for the better (Mahmudiono et al., 2018). Nutrition education is an inexpensive and effective strategy to help increase maternal knowledge in health education and prevent malnutrition in children (Awuuh et al., 2019).

Research conducted in Indonesia also with nutrition education interventions through booklet media and health promotion on the nutritional needs of children under five, which can reduce the number of children with stunted growth (Suryati and Supriadi, 2017). Nutrition education using smartphones to mothers who have stunted children is carried out in Iran, this education helps in increasing knowledge on complementary feeding in children and the results are shown to be more effective in reducing malnutrition among children under 3 years (Sayyedi et al., 2020).

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DOI: 10.30994/sjik.v10i1.594

ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online) Vol.10 No.1 May 2021 Page. 94-103

Nutrition education for good mothers that focuses on increasing knowledge of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding increases children's height and prevents children from gaining weight that is not optimal (Leroy et al., 2018). Involving mothers in the practice of complementary feeding to children greatly affects the reduction of the incidence of stunting (Kang et al., 2017).

One of the objectives of nutrition education to overcome malnutrition is the introduction of safe and sufficiently nutritious foods according to the principles in accordance by the guidelines recommended by WHO that nutrition for children with complementary feeding must be (1) on time, meaning that all babies must start receiving other foods besides breast milk from 6 months onwards; (2) adequate, in the sense that the nutritional value of complementary foods combined with breast milk must meet the needs of people who are rapidly developing children, and (3) appropriate, meaning that food must be diverse, safe, according to textured and quite abundant (Osendarp & Roche, 2016).

### **CONCLUSION**

The systematic review was carried out by researchers examining 10 articles selected based on the inclusion criteria in this study. The findings show that the effect of nutrition education interventions can improve maternal nutritional behavior in stunted children. Further studies need to be conducted regarding this research.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Thanks to all those who helped in the process of making this manuscript

# **CONFLICTING OF INTEREST**

This systematic review is written independently so that there is no conflict of interest in writing.

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ISSN: 2252-3847 (print); 2614-350X (online) Vol.10 No.1 May 2021 Page. 94-103

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