Implementation of Educative Boardgame to Improve Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Complementary Feeding in Stunting Locus at Central Lombok

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Abstract: Complementary feeding practice (CFP) contributes to high incidence of stunting in West Nusa Tenggara especially in Central Lombok. The complementary feeding program for infants and children was launched by government as a strategy to combat stunting in order to realize the Generasi Emas NTB 2025. For this reason, the provision of complementary feeding has been introduced into maternal and child health book (MCH), but has not met all WHO recommendations. This interventional, quasi experimental, pre-post test design study, aimed to develop board game as an educational media about stunting and CFP and to assess its effectiveness to increase parents' knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding CFP in Central Lombok as stunting locus. This study located at Sukadana village that was selected randomly. Subjects were parents of children aged 6-12 months old whom met inclusion and exclusion criteria. KAP assessment was conducted by using validated questionnaire, which was carried out before and after GiMPASI intervention, educational game. From 42 subjects involved in this study we found significant differences both in knowledge scores about complementary food (CF) feeding pre and post intervention (3.43±1.70 vs 4.83±1.64; p=0.001) and in attitude scores (10.55±2.77 vs. 12.33±2.67; p=0.002). Likewise, there was an increase in CFP score between pretest (25.90±4.75) and post test (26.12±4.74), but didn't different significantly in paired t-test analysis (p=0.79). GiMPASI can be used as an effective educational media to increase parents' knowledge and attitude regarding stunting and CFP. GiMPASI can be developed as part of infant and child complementary feeding against stunting.

Keywords: Stunting, Complementary Feeding, Food, Board Game, Educational Media

1. Introduction

In early childhood, linear growth has been considered as marker of healthy growth because of its association with development of cognitive, language, sensory and motor capacity [1, 2]. Stunting reflects chronic malnutrition problem that has occurred since antenatal, intrauterine and postnatal period and is considered as the best indicator that reflects the well-being and social condition of a child [3, 6, 7, 11].

Malnutrition in children, includes stunting, is a series effects of various factors from multi-sectoral response [15]. Factors that contribute to stunting including family and household factors (maternal and home environment factors), inadequate complementary feeding (CF), breast milk (BM) and infection. Maternal factors affect child both in period of pregnancy and the period before pregnancy, this can affect the growth and development of intergeneration [12]. Stunting women are prone to experience intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) [8]. Sasak, a native tribe in West Nusa Tenggara, has several eating habits, including preference of spicy food rather than animal protein, rarely consume
vegetables, inappropriate complementary food, taboo eating habits for pregnant women of certain foods such as squid and fish, permissive parenting style and patrilineal system thus allowed children to eat their favourite food which are not nutritious [8].

WHO has released a conceptual framework of stunting in childhood as follows:

Figure 1. WHO conceptual framework Childhood Stunting: Context, Causes, and Consequences, with an emphasis on complementary feeding.”

The provincial government of NTB has initiated the Generasi Emas NTB (GEN) program which aimed to produce superior generation by 2025. The GEN Program is an integrated program in various sectors with focus on growth and development in children. The program includes monitoring of pregnant women by GEN and village facilitators as well as providing child health services including neonatal, infant, toddler and child health services. Growth monitoring has been implemented in child health services program with 84.57% toddler under five years old in 2015. The Health department also collaborated with NTB Health Institute to carry out the Action of Care in the form of A Thousand Day Action (Aksi Seribu Hari/ASHAR) [5].

The term play can be interpreted as activity that purely seeks pleasure without lose. While the second understanding, playing (games) is an activity carried out in order to seek pleasure and satisfaction but is characterized by win-lose. Game play roles in the development of children’s cognitive, social and emotional function.

Board game is a game that uses board which can be placed by several of pawns on it, with certain rules that limit the position and movement of the pawn based on the appearance of the dice as a reference. This game ends at certain point where movement can no longer be done. Movement or placement of a pawn affects the situation of the board and other pawns.

Board games has been known for a long time for cognitive purposes in various fields such as socio-culture, archeology, mathematics, philosophy, health and recently developed interdisciplinary. There are many types of board games in cognitive research, including war games, characterized by destroying opponents (eg. chess); race games, characterized by the target that must be achieved to defeat opponent (eg. backgammon); and alignment games, that emphasize strategies for winning games (eg. tic-tac-toe).
pictures of snakes and stairs connecting the boxes. This type of game is the most developed because of its simplicity and well known. The gameplay is clear and certain material or content can be included easily in the snakes and ladders game so as to be able to provide greater benefits than just for fun purposes.

At present, the shape and appearance of snakes and ladders game varies greatly from the small size of carriable board to the size of a room so that it can be played in large groups combined with physical activity and also as computer game which can be played individually.

This research is part of the umbrella research of stunting in Central Lombok stunting locus, supervised by Maternal and Child Health research group. This study focus on the effectiveness of educational board games to increase knowledge, attitudes and practices of giving complementary food to stunting children and their parents.

2. Materials and Method

This was an interventional, quasi experimental, pre-post test design study, which applied educational game interventions to increase knowledge, attitude and practice of complementary food and stunting before and after educative game intervention was carried out. This research was conducted at the stunting locus in Central Lombok Regency, NTB from June 2019.

The study population consisted of parents with stunting children in Central Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara and conducted in a village, chose randomly from 10 stunting village locus.

Subjects were chose randomly and agreed to participate by signing informed consent.

2.1. Variabel Definition

Stunting: nutritional status based on a comparison between length or height according to toddler age against the standard of WHO-MGRS (Multicentre Growth Reference Study) 2005 which z-score below -2SD (short/stunted) or z-score that is below -3SD (very short/severely stunted).

Knowledge: collection of facts, information and ideas possessed by someone, in this study refers to parents’ understanding of stunting.

Attitude: way of thinking or feeling about someone or something and cannot always be observed directly.

Behavior: attitude or habit that can be observed, usually done without conscious decisions and in response to something that happens in the environment.

Gender: categorized into male and female.

Age: calculated from the difference between date of birth and date of sampling. Subsequently categorized into young adults (19-45 years old), adults (46-64 years old), and advanced adults (≥65 years old).

Education: duration of formal education that subject posses, divided into three categories: low (below 9 years eg. elementary, junior high school), moderate (senior high school), high (eg. university degree).

Socio-economy status: based on the family income divided into 3 categories based on local minimum wage, which are low-middle class (less than Rp. 1,850,000), middle class (Rp. 1,850,000.-3,700,000), middle-high class (more than Rp. 3,700,000).

Educational game: a playing tool that has educational value, in the form of board game that contains information about complementary food and stunting.

Knowledge about complementary feeding and stunting: things parents need to know about definition, causes, symptoms and ways to prevent stunting. Knowledge level is expressed as good and bad based on the proportion of correct answers in the questionnaire. Knowledge is stated as good if it is above the average proportion of correct answers from all research subjects, while bad if it is below the average proportion of correct answers from all research subjects.

Inclusion criteria were:

1. Parents live and registered in stunting village, Central Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara whom can be represented by mother or guardian of stunting children.
2. Parents of stunting children aged 6-12 months old.
3. Parents who agree to participate by signing an informed consent

Exclusion criteria were: parents of uncooperative children, parents who didn’t complete questionnaire.

The sample size calculation is based on formula for numerical comparative analysis of multiple pairs twice measurements with minimum sample size 38 subjects.

2.2. Game Method

The educational game GiMPASI is a playing tool in the form of cards (card games) in groups, contain educational value about stunting and practice of complementary feeding, to improve players' knowledge, attitudes and behavior regarding stunting and practice of giving complementary feeding. This game is played by 3-6 players which can be aimed to parents, posyandu facilitators and health workers.

This game must be accompanied by facilitator with duration of > 30 minutes. The components of GiMPASI, including:

1) 50 material cards

On the material card there are questions with right / wrong answers about stunting (10 questions) and complementary feeding (40 questions) that must be answered by player.

Material cards consist of beans and processed, meat and eggs, vegetables, rice and tubers. Each material is symbolized by picture on front page of the card

2) 19 menu cards

On the menu card there is a menu title that must be cooked by player with the instructions of material card symbol and tool symbol at the top of the menu card. List of 19 GiMPASI menus including: boiled fish filter, spinach rice porridge, potato spinach porridge, tuna soybean porridge, red rice tempeh porridge, soybean chicken porridge, baby bean potato porridge, tempeh rice filter team, red bean chicken liver team, green bean team rice, spinach tofu rice team, sweet potato chicken liver team, chopped chicken cauliflower team,
chicken claw soup, vegetable tofu chicken, tofu stir-fried rice, rice balls, yellow tempeh, tofu stir-fried meat (3) 30 tool cards

Contain cooking utensils such as knife, pan and filter. The knife functions when processing chopped food for children aged 9-12 months. Frying pan is a cooking tool to process family food for children> 1 year old. The filter tool for children aged 6 months (fine filter) and ages 8-9 months (coarse strain).

(4) 25 opportunity cards

Contains instructions and clues that can be used immediately after taking the opportunity card on the deck and / or can be used to substitute for material cards and tool cards.

2.3. Game Preparation

1) Shuffle all menu cards, then draw cards according to the number of players to get the menu deck: 3 players=12 cards, 4 players=16 cards, 5-6 players=19 cards.
2) Shuffle the chance card, then cover it in playing area.
3) Shuffle the ingredients cards, then arrange 25 cards of materials randomly to form a 5×5 square card, with the side of the card that has a picture of the food material facing up.
4) The remaining material cards are stored on the material card decks.
5) Hand out each player 3 menu cards.
6) Pay attention to the menu card. On some menu cards there are free ingredients that can be directly taken free of charge at the beginning of the game.
7) Each player chooses one player's pawn, then places a pawn in the middle of a deck of material cards.
8) Each character gets a tool card bonus eg:

| Character | Tool Card Bonus |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Mr Joko   | Bonus filter    |
| Mr Beni   | Bonus filter    |
| Mrs Ani   | Bonus frying pan|
| Mrs Made  | Bonus frying pan|
2.4. Game Plot

1) First player is determined randomly, then take turns randomly.
2) In each turn, player can maximally moves two card slots (may be 1 or 2 plots) up / down / left / right / diagonal.
3) Take the last card the player holds.
4) Answer questions behind those card. If the answer is correct, then the player can save thus answered material card. If wrong, return the material card goes to the lowest material card deck
5) On some material cards, there is a bonus. Bonus can only be earned if the player answers correctly.
6) Action on the opportunity card, bonus card can only be done during the player’s turn.

2.5. End of Game

The game ends if all menu cards have been cooked (claimed by the player). Points calculation for each player based on following conditions:
1. Each menu card is worthed as the stated points on the card.
2. Each unused material card is valued 5 points.
3. Each symptom card will deduct 5 points.
Player who gets the highest points wins. If it is a draw, then the player who cooks most menu wins the game.
Quantitative data obtained from measurements are processed and displayed descriptively in graphs and tables, then statistically analyzed to compare the average score of knowledge and perception before and after intervention by using paired t-test if the data is normally distributed or Wilcoxon test as an alternative. The results of the data analysis were strengthened qualitatively.

3. Results

Total 42 subjects from Sukadana village, Central Lombok participated in this study. Most of them were 17-25 years old, 41%, with an average age of 27.86 years old. More than 60% of the subjects are categorized as low level of education, which is under 9 years.
More than two-thirds of participants (78.0%) had income below the local minimum wage, which was less than Rp. 1,850,000.

Table 1. Respondents knowledge of complementary feeding.

| Knowledge Aspects (Correct answer)                                      | Pre Test n (%) | Post Test n (%) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Age of introduction CF                                                 | 22 (32.8)      | 25 (37.3)       |
| The adequacy of macronutrients                                         | 15 (22.4)      | 16 (23.9)       |
| Choices of CF                                                          | 1 (1.5)        | 7 (10.4)        |
| Food safety                                                            | 37 (55.2)      | 40 (59.7)       |
| Introduction of additional components in CF                            | 22 (32.8)      | 37 (55.2)       |
| Duration of feeding                                                    | 21 (31.3)      | 39 (58.2)       |
| Administration of Milk formula                                         | 19 (28.4)      | 39 (58.2)       |
| Sources of protein CF                                                  | 12 (17.9)      | 36 (53.7)       |
| The amount of vegetables in CF component                               | 18 (26.9)      | 38 (56.7)       |

Aspects that had higher score before the intervention were food safety and age of introduction of complementary feeding, while knowledge aspects regarding the selection of complementary food as well as protein sources in complementary feeding were lower (Table 1).

There were 6 questions regarding aspects of attitude that were asked to the subjects (Table 2). The aspects that get high score include the age of introduction of complementary feeding at 6 months and continuing breastfeeding (BF) until the child is 2 years old, while the low score aspect is regarding nutritional content and food diversity.

Table 2. Attitudes of respondents complementary feeding.

| Attitude Aspects (Correct answer)                                      | Pre Test n (%) | Post Test n (%) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Age of introduction of BF                                              | 43 (64.2)      | 54 (80.6)       |
| Continue BF up to 2 years old                                         | 30 (44.8)      | 39 (58.2)       |
| Responsive feeding                                                     | 17 (25.4)      | 22 (32.8)       |
| Feeding duration                                                       | 20 (29.9)      | 20 (29.9)       |
| Nutrient content                                                       | 5 (7.5)        | 17 (25.4)       |
| Food diversity                                                         | 14 (20.9)      | 20 (29.9)       |

There were 76 questions regarding behavioral aspects that
were asked to subjects (Table 3). Aspect that got high score were the behavior of continuing breastfeeding until the child is 2 years old and feeding behavior according to the correct frequency, while the lowest behavioral aspect concerns the duration of feeding and the adequacy of macronutrients in complementary food.

| Behavioral Aspects (Correct answer) | Pre Test n (%) | Post Test n (%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Frequency of feeding                | 37 (55.2)     | 23 (34.3)      |
| Continue breastfeeding              | 53 (79.1)     | 43 (64.2)      |
| Responsive feeding practice         | 20 (29.9)     | 25 (37.3)      |
| Hygienic behavior                  | 34 (50.7)     | 35 (52.2)      |
| Food safety behavior               | 34 (50.7)     | 39 (58.2)      |
| Duration of feeding                | 7 (10.4)      | 11 (16.4)      |
| The adequacy of macronutrients     | 8 (11.9)      | 4 (6)          |

T-paired analysis showed that there were significant differences in knowledge scores regarding stunting and CF administration before and after the intervention (3.43±1.70 vs 4.83±1.64; p=0.001) and attitude scores (10.55±2.77 vs 12.33±2.67; p=0.002). Likewise, there was an increase in the mean behavior score regarding stunting and CF administration before (25.90±4.75) and after intervention (26.12±4.74), but there was no significant differences in the paired t-test analysis (p=0.79).

4. Discussion

Complementary feeding (CF) is applied when breastmilk alone is not enough to fullfill the nutritional needs of children, so other food is needed in line with breastfeeding [13]. Knowledge, attitudes and behavior of parents towards CF are important in the success of CF practice. WHO recommended the introduction of CF at 6 months old. Parents' knowledge of CF introduction varied from various studies. In this study, parental knowledge of the introduction of suitable CF was 32.8%. This was lower compared to several studies, such as Pakistan (54%), Karachi (57.2%) and Ghana (60%) [14]. Other studies in Southern Ethiopia, 72.5% mothers with children aged 6-23 months old knew the right time to introduce CF, but lower than the results of other study in South India in 2017 (48.6%) and Pakistan (62%) [16-18].

In addition to the minimal frequency of CF, the adequacy of the macronutrients and micronutrients is also crucial. CF must vary with sufficient macronutrients and micronutrients. The need for micronutrients in the first 2 years of life is associated with the speed of growth and development of children. After the intervention, the parents' attitude toward the adequacy of macronutrients increased to 25.4%. Another study in 2018 showed that 27.3% of mothers aware that adding oil into porridge could increase the nutritional content of the porridge and 31.8% mothers knew that CF had to be balanced [20]. Other studies in Sri Lanka showed that oil was introduced to 84.9% children at 12 months of age [21]. In our study, only 34.3% parents knew the fat component in CF before the intervention. Knowledge of the fat component of CF increased after the intervention into 55.2%.

Research conducted in Uganda reported that majority of children were given cereal in the last 24 hours and only 0.5% mothers gave meat and milk-derived products. Cereal-based foods alone are not sufficient to meet nutritional adequacy [22]. WHO recommended that mothers feed their child with local food that contain calories, protein, minerals and vitamins. Our research showed low level of parental knowledge about protein sources before the intervention, but then increases after the intervention.

Fortified CF can meet nutritional intake needs [13] Hasnain et al reported that 82% of their study subjects knew that home made CF was good, but only 42% gave home made CF to their children [18]. Our research showed only 10.4% respondents know that fortified foods can be used as CF.

Food diversity is known to be the key to good food quality. WHO guidelines recommended that children should eat meat, fish or eggs as often as possible. Vegetables and fruits that are rich in vitamin A also need to be consumed every day. In our study, parental attitudes toward CF diversity was still low (20.9%) before the intervention. This percentage increased after the intervention but still at low level (29.9%). Other research showed majority of children consumed wheat, tubers, rice, bread and cassava. Consumption of foods rich in iron was relatively low, because animal protein is not affordable due to financial problems. Based on research in Sri Lanka, animal protein intake was very low, fish and eggs were only consumed by 25% and 18% children. However, another study in Galle Sri Lanka, showed the introduction of fish and eggs to children was high, which amounted to 75% of fish consumption and 63% of egg consumption. Consumption of foods rich in vitamin A such as pumpkin and carrots was also high (97% and 90%) [21]. Senarath et al in his study found that eating variations in children increased knew the correct frequency of CF, but other studies in Ghana showed almost all respondents knew the recommended CF frequency. Another similar study in Allahabad showed only 38.7% children received appropriate CF [15]. This study found that 55.2% parents gave CF with the right frequency. This finding is similar to previous studies in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (47%), India (48.6%) and Pakistan (62%) [16-18].
with age (40.1% in children aged 6-8 months old and 82.5% in children aged 18-23 months old) [23].

The preparation of making and storing complementary food also play important role in the practice of CF. Parents and children are recommended to wash their hands before eating. In our study, the behavior of parents washing hands with soap and water was moderate before the intervention (50.7%). Hand washing practice was found increase after the intervention. Mihrete also found similar results, the majority of mothers in the study had high knowledge of the practice of hand washing [24]. Such knowledge includes: washing hands before preparing CF (44.5%) and using treated water (46.4%). Madhu et al reported 200 participants in their study, 96% cleaned their hands and cooking utensils before giving food, 60% washed children's hands before eating and 61% boiled water to drink [22].

Complementary food needs to be given responsively (responsive feeding) as recommended by WHO. Responsive feeding includes being sensitive to signs of hunger and satiety of children, feeding slowly and patiently, combining the texture and taste of various foods, minimizing distractions during meal times and inviting children to communicate during meals. Inappropriate eating behavior plays role in the occurrence of stunting. Parents are still not awar the importance of responsive feeding [25]. Only 45.5% mothers reported the importance of responsive feeding to ensure optimal intake of children [20]. In this study, parents' knowledge of the recommended duration of eating is low. This finding was followed by low rate of responsive feeding behavior (29.2%) before the intervention.

Continuing breastfeeding until the age of 2 years old or more contributes to maximizing children's growth, due to the content of essential fatty acids and energy in BM. BM also has important micronutrient content [25]. In this study, the attitude of parents to continue breastfeeding before the intervention was 44.8%. The attitude of parents towards breastfeeding increased after the intervention to 58.2%. This finding is lower compared to other studies in Ethiopia, about 92% and 94% of mothers continued breastfeeding their children until the age of 1 year old and 2 years old [16]. The majority of mothers who participated in the study were housewives thereby increasing the chances of staying giving BM to children [15]. Meanwhile, our study showed 79.1% of mothers continued breastfeeding.

Education is an important determinant of children's growth and development. There is a relationship between the level of parental education with the practice of proper feeding. Maternal education was found has significant role in child feeding in studies in five countries in Asia [23]. However, Seram et al reported no significant relationship between parental education and parental knowledge about CF [26]. These results was similar to other studies in rural areas in Bangladesh. The study found that maternal education was not related to the time of introduction of CF. Maternal knowledge or education may not be the main determinant of CF behavior [20]. Seranath et al in his study showed linear correlation between feeding frequency and maternal education, but no association was found with other CF indicators such as the time of CF introduction, food diversity and minimum food intake recommended. Compared to mothers with higher level of education, those who do not go to school or only graduate from secondary school were risky of having low diversity of eating (OR 1.97 and1.48) [23]. The results of this study was in line with studies in Kenya which found mother's level of education and knowledge were positively correlated with prohibited food [27].

Economic status plays role in meeting household needs including CF. Poverty is one of the behavioral factors in giving inappropriate complementary food. The study at Wollow found that households with higher incomes had better CF behavior related to its diversity [28]. Several other studies also showed that low income was a major factor inhibiting the provision of CF. Low income contributes to the inability to reach minimum food frequencies and food diversity [28, 29].

The study showed that diets in infants and children in countries with low incomes had iron, zinc, and vitamin B6 deficiency [25]. These findings were confirmed by other studies in Sri Lanka, which showed that the diversity of food gradually decreased with lower income [23].

Research in Wanogo, Southern Ethiopia in 2017 showed that culture plays major role in children's eating behavior. The eating habit in community was not in accordance with the guidelines for child feeding that has been recommended and responsible for increasing CF deviant behavior by 2.4%. Most subjects stated that parents, especially husbands, were prioritize while the remaining would be given to children [28]. Other studies in China found that mothers introduce CF to children before 6 months, most often at 3 months old. They believe that introducing traditional Chinese CF earlier can be beneficial for children, such as strengthening bone growth, making children full longer, chew learning for children, accelerating growth and improve the digestive system [27]. Similar to the study in Lubao, Kenya reported that most parents gave their children porridge at 1 month old because porridge could make their child strong. The results of this study indicated that culture was the reason 54% parents forbid children from eating some food. Restrictions on certain foods and taboos affect children's eating patterns. The most common taboo in that area is not giving egg to children because egg was believed to cause speech delay. Some parts of the meat also shouldn’t be eaten by child or mother because it was served for father and some local residents believe that grilled fish with little ash could induce snoring in children who consumed it.

Although it has the same general objectives as other studies, this study aimed to show different parameters on the effectiveness of educational interventions in the GiMPASI game by measuring changes in parents' knowledge, attitudes and behavior at interval of four weeks. It can be observed that the educational game GiMPASI had positive impact on parents' knowledge and attitudes. Research by Shi et al in China which collected second data at 6-month intervals successfully showed that the intervention group had better
CF behavior. However, in this study the intervention was slightly different from ours which home visits were carried out as an additional approach combined with group training and the distribution of manuals.

The participation of local health workers with health and regional facilitators are important to ensure the success of this intervention in community. This research collaborates with health workers in the village. However, several things need to be improved such as the provision of interpersonal sessions with research subjects in the form of individual counseling and home visits. This method was implemented by Hotz and Gibson in 2005 in Malawi which resulted to an increase in parental knowledge and habits regarding food preparation. Another study by Shi et al in 2009 also showed that the involvement of family members, especially husband and mother-in-law is also important to create a supportive environment for increasing parents in CF.

This research is vulnerable to selection bias conducted by the research team because it did not do blinding. We try to minimize bias by training all research teams prior to the intervention to provide similar and standardized interventions in both intervention groups. We also cannot conduct individual consultations and home visits, which play role in consolidating the knowledge of research subjects on the new information provided. In addition, we only included one parent for each child so that other family members who might have an influence on parents such as husband and mother-in-law were not included in the subject of research and intervention. We also note that follow-up at longer intervals such as three and six months should be included in the research design to find out longer changes in the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of older people towards CF.

5. Conclusion

The educational game GiMPASI can be used as an effective educational media to increase the knowledge and attitudes of parents regarding the stunting and practice of CF. GiMPASI can be developed as part of infant and child supplement feeding training in the context of stunting prevention and treatment. Improving parents' knowledge, attitudes and behavior towards CF requires sectoral approaches. Further research is needed to see the long-term effectiveness of the intervention.

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