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Poverty in Eastern Indonesia

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A R T I C L E I N F O

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to analyze the impact of economic growth and the Human Development Index (HDI) on poverty in Eastern Indonesia. This study uses a quantitative approach with multiple linear regression methods. The data used are secondary data from the Central Statistics Agency covering 13 provinces, namely Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Gorontalo, West Sulawesi, Maluku, North Maluku, West Papua, and Papua during the period 2015–2024. The number of observations in this study is 130 data points. The research results show that economic growth has a negative coefficient of -0.010 with a significance value of 0.882, indicating that it does not have a significant impact on poverty. Meanwhile, the HDI has a negative coefficient of -0.130 with a significance value of 0.001, indicating a negative and significant impact on poverty. The F-test results show that economic growth and HDI simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty with a significance value of 0.003. The R Square value of 0.087 indicates that these two variables can explain 8.7% of the variation in poverty, while the remaining portion is explained by other variables outside the model. These findings indicate that improving the quality of human development is more relevant in reducing poverty in Eastern Indonesia compared to economic growth alone

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INTRODUCTION

Background Poverty is a development issue that is not only related to low income but also to limited access to basic needs, education, health, employment, and a decent standard of living (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025; Alkire & Santos, 2014). In Indonesia, poverty is measured using the poverty line, which is the minimum expenditure threshold to meet food and non-food needs, including a food requirement equivalent to 2,100 kilocalories per capita per day and basic needs such as housing, education, health, clothing, and transportation (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025; Foster et al., 1984; Foster, 2010).

Poverty needs to be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon because poor households often experience deprivation simultaneously in aspects of income, education, health, consumption, housing, and access to basic services (Alkire & Santos, 2014; Morse, 2023). Therefore, poverty analysis should not only emphasize economic growth but also consider the quality of human development, the equitable distribution of development outcomes, and regional conditions (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011; Hill et al., 2008).

Eastern Indonesia has relatively different development characteristics due to geographical conditions, infrastructure limitations, disparities in access to basic services, and uneven quality of human resources (Hill et al., 2008; Huda et al., 2023). In this study, Eastern Indonesia is operationally defined to include 13 provinces, namely Bali, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Gorontalo, West Sulawesi, Maluku, North Maluku, West Papua, and Papua, with an observation period from 2015 to 2024.

Economic growth is theoretically expected to reduce poverty thru job creation, income improvement, and the expansion of community economic activities (Kraay, 2006; Loayza & Raddatz, 2010). However, economic growth does not always automatically reduce poverty if its benefits are not evenly distributed, are only concentrated in certain sectors, or do not absorb a significant amount of poor labor (Fosu, 2017; Suryahadi et al., 2009; Yusuf & Sumner, 2015).

In addition to economic growth, the Human Development Index (HDI) is an important indicator because it reflects the quality of human development thru aspects of health, education, and a decent standard of living (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024; Deb, 2015). Improving the HDI can help reduce poverty because education enhances skills and job opportunities, health increases productivity, and a decent standard of living strengthens people's purchasing power (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011; Mutmainah et al., 2024; Pardita et al., 2024).

Studies on Eastern Indonesia show that poverty in this region is related to human development, food security, inequality, poverty intensity, and spatial factors (Huda et al., 2023; Priambodo, 2025; Sayyidina et al., 2023). Based on the regression results in this study, Growth does not have a significant impact on poverty, whereas HDI has a negative and significant impact according to the SPSS output processed by the author. Thus, the reduction of poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the 2015–2024 period is more strongly explained by the quality of human development rather than economic growth alone.

Problem Formulation Based on the background, the research problem formulation is as follows:

1. Does economic growth affect poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024?
2. Does the Human Development Index (HDI) affect poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024?
3. Do economic growth and HDI simultaneously affect poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024?
4. How significant is the ability of economic growth and HDI to explain the variation in poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024?

Research Objectives This research aims to:

1. Analyze the impact of economic growth on poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024.
2. Analyze the impact of the Human Development Index (HDI) on poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024.
3. Analyze the simultaneous impact of economic growth and HDI on poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024.
4. Determine the extent to which economic growth and HDI explain the variation in poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024.

Research Benefits Theoretically

This research contributes to the study of development economics, particularly regarding the relationship between economic growth, human development, and poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon (Alkire & Santos, 2014; Morse, 2023). Practically, this research can serve as a consideration for the government in formulating poverty reduction policies that are not only oriented toward economic growth but also toward improving the quality of education, health, purchasing power, and equitable access to basic services (Sayyidina et al., 2023; Huda et al., 2023). Practically, this research can serve as a consideration for the government in formulating poverty reduction policies that are not only oriented toward economic growth but also toward improving the quality of education, health, purchasing power, and equitable access to basic services (Sayyidina et al., 2023; Huda et al., 2023).

Research Limitations This research is limited to the influence of economic growth and HDI on poverty in 13 provinces in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024. Variable limitations are necessary to make the research more focused, although poverty can also be influenced by other factors such as unemployment, income inequality, infrastructure, investment, government spending, food security, and geographical conditions (Dartanto & Nurkholis, 2013; Priambodo, 2025).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty Poverty is a condition when individuals or households are unable to meet the minimum basic needs for a decent living. In the expenditure approach, residents are categorized as poor if their expenditures fall below the poverty line (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025). Quantitative measurement of poverty is important because it helps identify the number and characteristics of the poor population, including thru the Foster-Greer-Thorbecke approach, which measures the incidence, depth, and severity of poverty (Foster et al., 1984; Foster, 2010).

Poverty is also understood as multidimensional deprivation because income limitations are often related to low access to education, health, housing, employment, and basic services (Alkire & Santos, 2014; Morse, 2023). In the context of Indonesia, poverty has different characteristics across regions due to the influence of economic structure, infrastructure, quality of human resources, geographical conditions, and regional institutional capacity (Hill et al., 2008; Dartanto & Nurkholis, 2013; Marcella & Susilowati, 2024).

Economic Growth Economic growth indicates an increase in economic activity in a region over a certain period and is generally measured by the growth rate of the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at constant prices (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2026). The constant price GRDP is used to measure real economic growth because it is not affected by price changes, thus the Growth variable in this study represents changes in regional economic activity over time (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2026).

Theoretically, economic growth can reduce poverty if the increase in economic output creates jobs and raises the income of the poor (Kraay, 2006). However, the effectiveness of growth in reducing poverty highly depends on the composition of the economic sectors, the intensity of labor absorption, and the distribution of development benefits (Loayza & Raddatz, 2010; Datt & Ravallion, 1992; Fosu, 2017).

In the context of Indonesia, the impact of economic growth on poverty varies according to location, sector, and regional economic structure (Suryahadi et al., 2009; Suryahadi et al., 2012). Therefore, the impact of growth on poverty in Eastern Indonesia needs to be empirically tested because the economic characteristics of the eastern region differ from those of other regions in Indonesia (Hill et al., 2008; Marcella & Susilowati, 2024).

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator that measures human development achievements in terms of health, education, and standard of living (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024). The health dimension is represented by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension by expected years of schooling and mean years of schooling, while the standard of living

dimension is represented by adjusted per capita expenditure (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024).

The Human Development Index (HDI) is relevant in poverty studies because the quality of human development affects the capacity of society to enhance productivity, income, and welfare (Deb, 2015; Ranis et al., 2000). Human development and economic growth also have a reciprocal relationship because economic growth can increase the capacity to finance education and health, while human development can strengthen productivity and the sustainability of economic growth (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011).

The Relationship Between Economic Growth and Poverty Economic growth can reduce poverty when output increases expand job opportunities, raise household incomes, and reach poor groups (Kraay, 2006; Datt & Ravallion, 1992). However, economic growth may not necessarily be effective in reducing poverty if the growing sectors are capital-intensive, do not absorb poor labor, or if the benefits of growth are concentrated in certain groups (Loayza & Raddatz, 2010; Fosu, 2017).

In the context of Indonesia, the sectoral composition and location of growth determine the effectiveness of economic growth in reducing poverty (Suryahadi et al., 2009). Thus, Growth in this study is suspected to have a negative impact on poverty, but its significance needs to be tested because the impact of economic growth is not always homogeneous across regions (Suryahadi et al., 2012; Hill et al., 2008).

The Relationship Between HDI and Poverty HDI has a negative relationship with poverty because improvements in the quality of education, health, and living standards can enhance people's ability to access jobs, improve productivity, and increase household welfare (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011; Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024). Improved education increases the chances of obtaining better jobs, improved health enhances labor productivity, and improved living standards strengthen people's purchasing power (Yasir et al., 2024; Morse, 2023; Mutmainah et al., 2024).

Empirical studies in Indonesia show that HDI is often related to poverty and inequality, although its impact can vary by region because the increase in HDI is not always evenly enjoyed by all segments of society (Fitriady et al., 2022; Wulandari et al., 2026; Khotimah et al., 2026). In this study, the HDI is suspected to have a negative impact on poverty in Eastern Indonesia.

Previous Research Suryahadi et al. (2009) showed that the impact of economic growth on poverty in Indonesia varies by sector and location, while Suryahadi et al. (2012) emphasized that changes in economic structure and crisis context can affect the effectiveness of growth in reducing poverty. Dartanto and Nurkholis (2013) found that education, assets, employment status, access to

electricity, and household shocks are important factors in the dynamics of poverty in Indonesia.

Hill et al. (2008) show that the dynamics of regional development in Indonesia are influenced by differences in economic structure, location, and regional capacity, so poverty in Eastern Indonesia needs to be studied specifically. Sayyidina et al. (2023) examined the influence of education expenditure, HDI, and economic growth on poverty in Eastern Indonesia, while Huda et al. (2023) showed that poverty in Eastern Indonesia has spatial characteristics and is related to food security and regional welfare indicators.

Priambodo (2025) emphasizes that poverty in Eastern Indonesia is influenced by inequality and the intensity of poverty, while Khotimah et al. (2026) show that increases in HDI, economic growth, and inflation do not necessarily reduce poverty if the benefits of development are not evenly distributed. Thus, previous research reinforces the urgency of testing Growth and HDI against poverty in the Eastern Indonesia region for the period 2015–2024.

Framework of Thot The framework of thot in this research explains that economic growth and HDI are suspected to affect poverty in Eastern Indonesia. Economic growth is believed to reduce poverty thru increased economic activity, job opportunities, and community income, while the Human Development Index (HDI) is thot to reduce poverty thru improvements in the quality of education, health, and living standards (Kraay, 2006; Loayza & Raddatz, 2010; Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011).

RESEARCH METHOD

Type of Research This research uses a quantitative approach because it aims to analyze the influence of independent variables on the dependent variable thru numerical data and statistical testing. The method used is multiple linear regression because this research has one dependent variable, namely poverty, and two independent variables, namely economic growth and HDI. The research data is in the form of a combination of regions and time, specifically 13 provinces in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024. Thus, the number of observations in this study is 130 observations.

Research Object and Location The object of this research is poverty in Eastern Indonesia. The Eastern Indonesia region in this study is operationally defined to include 13 provinces as presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3. Province of the Research Objek

1	Bali	3,8
2	Nusa Tenggara Barat	11,91
3	Nusa Tenggara Timur	19,02
4	Sulawesi Utara	6,7
5	Sulawesi Tengah	11,4
6	Sulawesi Selatan	7,77
7	Sulawesi Tenggara	10,63
8	Gorontalo	13,87
9	Sulawesi Barat	10,71
10	Maluku	15,78
11	Maluku Utara	6,03
12	Papua Barat	21,09
13	Papua	18,09

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics 2025

Research Period

The research period is 10 years, from 2015 to 2024. With 13 provinces and a 10-year observation period, the number of research observations is: [13= 130] The number of observations corresponds to the regression output, which shows a total of 129 degrees of freedom, as the total degrees of freedom in regression are calculated from the number of observations minus one.

Types and Sources of Data

The type of data used is secondary data sourced from the Central Bureau of Statistics. The data used includes poverty data, regional economic growth, GRDP, and HDI in 13 provinces of Eastern Indonesia for the period 2015–2024 (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024; Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025; Central Bureau of Statistics, 2026). Poverty data is used to describe the condition of the poor population, economic growth data is used to describe changes in regional economic activity, and HDI data is used to describe the quality of human development in terms of health, education, and standard of living (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024).

Population and Sample

The population of this study consists of provinces included in the scope of Eastern Indonesia based on the operational definition of the research. The sample of the study consists of 13 provinces observed during the period 2015–2024. The research sample consists of 13 provinces observed during the period 2015–2024. The sampling technique used is a saturated sample because all provinces defined within the scope of the research are included as samples. The combination of 13 provinces and 10 years results in 130 observations.

Research Variables

The dependent variable in this study is poverty or Poor. The first independent variable is Growth or economic growth, which describes changes in regional economic activity thru the growth rate of GDP at constant prices (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2026). The second independent variable is HDI, which describes the achievements of human development in terms of health, education, and decent living standards (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024). 3.7 Operational Definitions of Variables

Table 3. Operational Definition of Variables

Poverty	Y/Poor	The condition of the population living below the poverty line	The number or rate of poor residents	BPS
Economic Growth	X1/Growth	Changes in regional economic activities over time	The number or rate of poor residents	BPS
Human Development Index	X2/IPM	Composite human development indicator	Health, education, and a decent standard of living	BPS

Analysis Model

The analysis model used is multiple linear regression to determine the impact of Growth and HDI on poverty in Eastern Indonesia for the period 2015–2024. The research regression model is:

Poor = + 1 Growth + 2 IPM + e

Explanation: Poor = poverty, α = constant, β1 = Growth coefficient, β2 = HDI coefficient, and e = error term. Based on the SPSS output, the obtained regression equation is:

Poor = 1634,914 - 0,010 Growth - 0,130 IPM + e

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis techniques are carried out thru data collection, data organization based on provinces and years, and then data processing using statistical software. The analyzes used include the t-test, F-test, and coefficient of determination. The t-test is used to examine the partial effect of each independent variable on poverty. The F-test is used to examine the simultaneous effect of Growth and HDI on poverty. The coefficient of determination or R Square is used to determine the ability of Growth and HDI to explain the variation in poverty.

Hypothesis Testing Criteria

The hypothesis testing criteria use a significance level of 5% or 0.05. If the significance value < 0.05, then the independent variable is stated to have a significant effect on the dependent variable. If the significance value > 0.05, then the independent variable is stated to have no significant effect on the dependent variable.

The first hypothesis is accepted if Growth has a significance value < 0.05 and the direction of the coefficient is as expected. The second hypothesis is accepted if HDI has a significance value < 0.05 and the direction of the coefficient is as expected. The third hypothesis is accepted if the F-test results show a significance value < 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Results This study analyzes the impact of Growth and HDI on poverty in Eastern Indonesia for the period 2015–2024 using multiple linear regression. The number of observations is 130 data points from 13 provinces over a 10-year observation period.
The dependent variable in this study is poverty or Poor, while the independent variables are Growth and HDI. The regression results show that Growth has a negative but insignificant relationship with poverty, while HDI has a negative and significant relationship with poverty.

Results of the t-test or Partial Test The t-test is used to determine the partial effect of Growth and HDI on poverty. The results of the t-test are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of t-Test on the Influence of Growth and HDI on Poverty

Constant	1634,914	6,345	0,000	0,05	Signifikan	The model constant is significant.
Growth	-0,010	-0,149	0,882	0,05	Tidak signifikan	H1 Rejected
IPM	-0,130	-3,472	0,001	0,05	Signifikan	H2 Accepted

Source: SPSS Output, Processed

Based on Table 4, Growth has a coefficient of -0.010 with a significance value of 0.882. Since the significance value is greater than 0.05, Growth does not have a significant impact on poverty in the Eastern Indonesia region for the period 2015–2024. Although the direction of the coefficient is negative, the impact of Growth is not statistically strong enough to explain the reduction in poverty.

These findings can be explained thru the theory that the impact of economic growth on poverty depends on the composition of the growing sectors, the distribution of growth benefits, and the ability of growth to absorb poor labor (Loayza & Raddatz, 2010; Fosu, 2017). In the context of Indonesia, the impact of economic growth on poverty is also influenced by the location and economic sectors that are the sources of growth (Suryahadi et al., 2009; Suryahadi et al., 2012).

HDI has a coefficient of -0.130 with a significance value of 0.001. Since the significance value is less than 0.05, HDI has a negative and significant impact on poverty in the Eastern Indonesia region for the period 2015–2024. This means that an increase in the HDI tends to reduce poverty.
The results are consistent with the view that human development strengthens the capacity of society thru education, health, and decent living standards (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011). These findings are also in line with empirical studies that show that improvements in HDI and the quality of human development can contribute to poverty reduction in Indonesia (Mutmainah et al., 2024; Pardita et al., 2024).

F-Test or Simultaneous Test Results

The F-Test is used to determine whether Growth and HDI together have an impact on poverty. The F-Test results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. F-Test Results on the Influence of Growth and HDI on Poverty

Regression	1.755.668,701	2	877.834,350	6,034	0,003	0,05	Signifikan
Residual	18.475.504,068	127	145.476,410	-	-	-	-
Total	20.231.172,769	129	-	-	-	-	-

Source: SPSS Output, Processed by the Author

Based on Table 4.2, the calculated F-value is 6.034 with a significance of 0.003. Because the significance value is less than 0.05, Growth and HDI simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty in the Eastern Indonesia region for the period 2015–2024.

These results indicate that the regression model is statistically valid, although only the HDI is significant in a partial analysis. Theoretically, simultaneous significance can occur because economic growth and human development are interconnected in regional development (Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011).

The findings indicate that poverty reduction policies in Eastern Indonesia are not sufficient if they are solely oriented toward economic growth. Policies also need to pay attention to the equitable distribution of development results, the quality of education, healthcare services, job access, and the living standards of the community (Huda et al., 2023; Priambodo, 2025).

Results of the Coefficient of Determination or R Square The coefficient of determination is used to determine the ability of Growth and HDI to explain variations in poverty. The R Square results are presented in Table.

Table 5. Coefficient of Determination

0,295	0,087	0,072	381,41370	6,034	0,003	0,951

Source: SPSS Output, Processed by the Author

Regression Equation

Based on the SPSS data processing results, the obtained regression equation is: [Poor = 1634.914 - 0.010Growth - 0.130HDI + e] The equation shows that Growth and HDI have a negative relationship with poverty. The Growth coefficient of -0.010 indicates that an increase in Growth tends to reduce poverty by 0.010 units, but its effect is not significant because the significance value is 0.882. The HDI coefficient of -0.130 indicates that an increase in HDI tends to reduce poverty by 0.130 units and its effect is significant because the significance value is 0.001.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research results indicate that Growth does not have a significant impact on poverty in the Eastern Indonesia region during the period 2015–2024. These findings indicate that economic growth does not necessarily lead to a reduction in poverty if the benefits of growth are not evenly distributed among the poor segments of society.

Theoretically, economic growth can reduce poverty if the increase in economic activity creates jobs and raises the income of the poor (Kraay, 2006; Loayza & Raddatz, 2010). However, the results of this study indicate that Growth is not yet statistically strong enough to explain the reduction of poverty in Eastern Indonesia.

This condition may occur because economic growth is not yet inclusive, the growing sectors have not absorbed the poor labor force, or the economic benefits have not reached the low-income groups (Fosu, 2017; Yusuf & Sumner, 2015). Studies in Indonesia also show that the sectoral composition and location of growth determine the effectiveness of economic growth in reducing poverty (Suryahadi et al., 2009; Suryahadi et al., 2012).

On the contrary, the HDI has a negative and significant impact on poverty. These results indicate that the improvement of human quality is more relevant in reducing poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the period 2015–2024, because the HDI reflects the quality of health, education, and the decent living standards of the community (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024; Ranis et al., 2000; Suri et al., 2011).

These findings are in line with several empirical studies that highlight the importance of human development in poverty analysis (Mutmainah et al., 2024; Pardita et al., 2024; Wulandari et al., 2026). However, the relationship between HDI and poverty still needs to be interpreted contextually because the increase in HDI has not always been uniform or has not fully transformed the economic opportunities of local communities (Gai et al., 2025; Khotimah et al., 2026).

The R Square value of 8.7% indicates that this research model has a low explanatory power. This means that Growth and HDI are not the only factors determining poverty in Eastern Indonesia, so future research needs to add other variables or use panel data regression to better align with the structure of regional and temporal data.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion Based on the research results regarding the influence of Growth and HDI on poverty in Eastern Indonesia from 2015 to 2024, it can be concluded that Growth has a negative coefficient of -0.010 with a significance value of 0.882. Since this significance value is greater than 0.05, Growth does not

have a significant effect on poverty. HDI has a negative coefficient of -0.130 with a significance value of 0.001. Since this significance value is less than 0.05, HDI has a negative and significant effect on poverty. Thus, the increase in HDI tends to reduce poverty in Eastern Indonesia.

The F-test results show a calculated F value of 6.034 with a significance of 0.003. Since the significance value is less than 0.05, Growth and HDI simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty. However, partially, the significant influence mainly comes from the HDI. The R Square value of 0.087 indicates that Growth and HDI can explain 8.7% of the variation in poverty, while the remaining 91.3% is explained by other variables outside the model. Overall, the research results indicate that poverty in Eastern Indonesia during the 2015–2024 period is more strongly explained by the quality of human development compared to economic growth alone (Mutmainah et al., 2024; Pardita et al., 2024).

Recommendations

Local governments in Eastern Indonesia need to prioritize the improvement of the Human Development Index (HDI) as a strategy for poverty alleviation thru better access to education, enhanced healthcare services, and the strengthening of community living standards. Economic growth also needs to be directed to be more inclusive and have a direct impact on the poor, not just concentrated in certain sectors.

Subsequent research is advised to include additional variables such as unemployment, income inequality, infrastructure, investment, government spending, access to basic services, food security, and geographical conditions. In addition, since the research data consists of 13 provinces over 10 years, further research should use a panel data regression approach to capture variations between regions and over time.

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