

Analysis of the Influence of Population, Education Level and Unemployment on Poverty Levels in West Nusa Tenggara Province 2017 – 2023

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Poverty,
Population, Education,
Unemployment

Received : 15, March

Revised : 29, March

Accepted: 22, April

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to analyze the influence of population, education level, and unemployment rate partially and simultaneously on poverty levels in all districts and cities in West Nusa Tenggara Province. The West Nusa Tenggara Central Statistics Agency provided the secondary data used in this investigation. The data analyzed is in the form of panel data, covering the period 2017 to 2023 according to Regency/City in West Nusa Tenggara Province. To analyze the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables, this study uses the panel data regression method. The study's findings indicate that population and education levels have a strong detrimental impact on poverty. This means that an increase in population and higher education levels tend to reduce poverty levels. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate also has a negative effect on poverty, but the effect is not significant, which means that the increase in unemployment does not directly have a major impact on poverty levels in the areas studied.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a global problem that has a negative impact on people's welfare and economic growth, including in Indonesia (Jundi, 2014). According to Central Statistics Agency (BPS) figures, the number of impoverished people in Indonesia will reach 25.9 million in 2023, out of a total population of 278.69 million. West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Province is one of the regions with the highest poverty rate in Indonesia, reaching 13.85% in 2023, far above the national average of 9.03% (BPS, 2023).

Table 1 Percentage of Poor Population in West Nusa Tenggara Province
2017 – 2023

Regency/City	Percentage of Poor Population by Regency/City (%)						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
West Lombok	16.46	15.2	15.17	14.28	14.47	13.39	13.67
Central Lombok	15.31	13.87	13.63	13.44	13.44	12.89	12.93
East Lombok	18.28	16.55	16.15	15.24	15.38	15.14	15.63
Sumbawa	15.31	14.08	13.9	13.65	13.91	13.5	13.91
Dompu	13.43	12.4	12.25	12.16	12.6	12.4	12.62
Bima	15.1	14.84	14.76	14.49	14.88	14.5	14.39
West Sumbawa	15.96	14.17	13.85	13.34	13.54	13.02	12.95
North Lombok	32.06	28.83	29.03	26.99	27.04	25.93	25.8
Mataram	9.55	8.96	8.92	8.47	8.65	8.63	8.62
Bima	9.27	8.79	8.6	8.35	8.88	8.8	8.67
West Nusa Tenggara	16.07	14.75	14.56	13.97	14.14	13.68	13.85

Source: BPS of West Nusa Tenggara Province

North Lombok Regency recorded the highest poverty rate in NTB, which was 25.8% in 2023, although it has been trending downward since 2017. Meanwhile, Mataram City has the lowest poverty rate, which is 8.62%. In general, the poverty rate in NTB tends to fluctuate, with a downward trend from 16.07% in 2017 to 13.68% in 2022, before increasing again in 2023.

One of the main factors affecting the poverty rate in NTB is population growth. The population of NTB continues to increase from 4,955,578 people in 2017 to 5,560,287 people in 2023. If the increase in population is not balanced by economic growth and employment, then this can cause an increase in the number of poor people (Sari et al., 2023). In addition, the imbalance in population distribution also exacerbates social and economic disparities, which further exacerbates the problem of poverty (Todaro & Smith, 2020).

Another factor that contributes to the high poverty rate is the low level of education. The lower the level of education, the lower the quality of human resources produced, thus increasing unemployment and poverty rates (Annisa & Anwar, 2021). Data shows that the average length of schooling (RLS) in NTB in 2023 is only 7.74 years, which is still far from the national standard. Inequality in access to education, especially in rural areas, is worsening the condition (Jannah & Sari, 2023). Based on the Human Capital theory, improving the quality

of human resources through education can increase workforce productivity, which will ultimately reduce poverty levels (Kurniati et al., 2021).

In addition to population and education level, unemployment rate is also a factor that can influence poverty in NTB. BPS data (2023) shows that the open unemployment rate (TPT) in NTB reached 3.45% in 2023. According to classical economics, high unemployment contributes to low purchasing power and increasing poverty rates. Low workforce skills and minimal job opportunities in the formal sector are the main challenges in reducing unemployment rates in NTB (Nizar & Arif, 2023). Therefore, solutions that focus on increasing access to education, creating jobs, reducing unemployment rates, and equitable economic development are needed to reduce poverty rates in NTB sustainably.

In this study, the author wants to examine how population, education level and unemployment affect the poverty rate in West Nusa Tenggara Province in the period 2017 - 2023. This study took several variables from the variables that affect the poverty rate.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty

Poverty is a multifaceted issue that arises from the inability of individuals or groups to fulfill their basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. BPS defines poverty based on the basic needs approach, where the poor are those with expenditure below the poverty line. According to Annisa & Anwar (2021), poverty is a major issue in developing countries because it impacts social inequality.

The main causes of poverty according to Sharp encompass disparities in resource ownership, inadequate human resource quality, and restricted access to capital (Kuncoro, 2002). Other factors such as high population growth, inflation, disparities in development between regions, the dominance of investment in capital-intensive projects, and low social mobility also contribute to worsening poverty conditions (Adelman & Morris in Arsyad, 2016).

Total Population

BPS defines population as individuals who live in a certain area within a certain period of time. Population can be a determining factor in economic development, both as productive human capital and as a factor that increases pressure on resources. (Saputro, 2015). If population growth is not balanced by job creation, it can lead to increased poverty.

According to Maier, high population growth can hinder development because it reduces savings rates and worsens environmental conditions. Todaro (2000) emphasized that population size is positively correlated with poverty. However, Agustina et al. (2018) argues that if population growth is accompanied by job creation, it can encourage economic development.

Education

Education is a structured effort aimed at guiding individuals, groups, or communities to align with the expectations of the educational provider (Bolon, 2021). Education plays an important role in building a person's character and

identity, as well as increasing the chances of getting a decent job and adequate income (Annisa & Anwar, 2021). According to (Siswanto, 2003), education aims to shape personality and improve the quality and skills of humans physically and mentally, both through formal and non-formal education. The Republic of Indonesia Law No. 20 of 2003 highlights that education is a deliberate and systematic effort to establish a learning environment that fosters the growth of students' potential in different aspects of life.

Education indicators include school enrollment rates, highest level of education completed, literacy rates, and average years of schooling (Rafil, 2019). Higher levels of education can increase employment opportunities and community welfare. However, low access to quality education is a major obstacle to poverty alleviation efforts. Therefore, investment in the education sector is essential to improving the quality of life and reducing poverty levels in a region.

Unemployment

The Central Bureau of Statistics describes unemployment as individuals who are not employed but are actively seeking work or have stopped searching due to a perceived lack of job opportunities. (Sukirno, 2006) refers to unemployment as the part of the active workforce that has not yet found work, while Suparmoko (2000) emphasizes that unemployment occurs when the workforce cannot find work that suits their needs or desires. High unemployment rates result in low community incomes, which results in the inability to meet basic needs (Octaviani, 2001). According to Keynes, unemployment occurs when aggregate demand in the economy is insufficient to absorb the available labor.

The relationship between unemployment and poverty can be positive or negative. High unemployment tends to increase poverty rates due to reduced household income (Jundi, 2014). However, under certain conditions, rising unemployment can encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, which can ultimately reduce poverty.

METHODOLOGY

Types, Data Sources, and Data Analysis Methods

This study focuses on cases in regencies/cities in West Nusa Tenggara Province. The data used is secondary data, namely data that has been previously available. This study's data is panel data, which combines cross-sectional and time series data. Cross-sectional data includes 10 regencies/cities in West Nusa Tenggara Province, whilst time series data covers the period 2017-2023. Data collection was carried out through literature studies, with the main source coming from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). The data analyzed in this study include Poverty Level, Population, Education Level, and Unemployment Rate. The data is collected in panel format, which reflects information from various regions (regencies/cities) in the period 2017-2023.

The analysis method used is panel data regression with the help of EViews10 software. Statistical testing includes t-test, F-test, and coefficient of determination (R^2). In this analysis, no classical assumption test is required. There are three main approaches in panel data analysis, namely the Common Effect

Model, Fixed Effect Model, and Random Effect Model. As previously explained, the independent variables in this study include Population, Education Level, and Unemployment Rate. The analysis was carried out with a 95% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.05$).

The model in this study can be formulated in the following equation:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{1it} + \beta_2 X_{2it} + \beta_3 X_{3it} + e_{it}$$

Information :

- Y : Poverty Level
- α : Constant
- β : Regression coefficient of independent variables
- it : individual variable i and period i
- X1 : Total population
- X2 : Level of education
- X3 : Unemployment Rate
- e :Error term

Goodness Of Fit Test

To identify the most suitable model in panel data regression analysis, the Goodness of Fit test is used, which includes the Chow test, the Hausman test, and the Lagrange Multiplier test.

1. Chow Test

This test is used to decide whether it is more appropriate to use the common effect or fixed effect model in panel data analysis. If the test results show a chi-square probability greater than 0.05, then the chosen model is the common effect model. Conversely, if the chi-square probability is less than 0.05, the fixed effect model is deemed more suitable. The proposed hypothesis is as follows:

H0: Common Effect Model (CEM)

H1: Fixed Effect Model (FEM)

If the chow test results indicate that the fixed effect model is appropriate, the next step is to evaluate the random effect model and proceed with the Hausman test.

2. Hausman test

This test is conducted to determine whether the fixed effect model (FEM) or the random effect model (REM) is more suitable. If the probability of the random cross-section is less than 0.05, the fixed effect model is selected. Conversely, if the probability exceeds 0.05, the random effect model is preferred. The hypothesis for this test is:

H0: Random Effect Model (REM)

H1: Fixed Effect Model (FEM)

If the Hausman test indicates that the fixed effect model is appropriate, a classical assumption test must be conducted. However, if the random effect model is chosen, the Lagrange Multiplier test should be performed.

3. Lagrange Multiplier (LM) Test

This test is conducted to assess whether the random effect model is the most suitable choice. It follows the chi-square distribution with degrees of freedom corresponding to the number of independent variables. If the LM value exceeds the chi-square value, the null hypothesis is accepted, indicating that the common effect model is more appropriate than the random effect model. The hypothesis states that:

H0: Common Effect Model (OLS)

H1: Random Effect Model (REM)

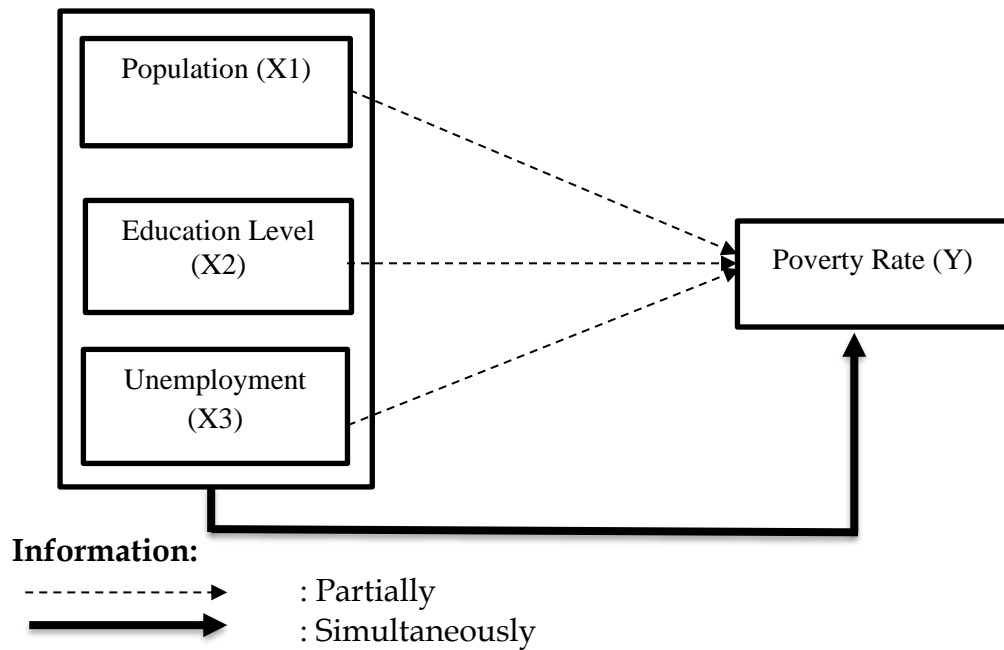
Operational Definition of Variables

The operational definition of variables and measurement scales in this study are:

- a) Poverty Rate (Y), is the percentage of the population living below the poverty line in the Regency/City of West Nusa Tenggara Province in 2017 – 2023. Unit: percent (%).
- b) Population (X1), is defined as the total population in the Regency/City of West Nusa Tenggara Province during the research period. Unit: million people.
- c) Education Level (X2), education is measured as the average length of schooling (RLS) of the population aged 15 years and over in formal education in the Regency/City of West Nusa Tenggara Province in 2017 – 2023. Unit: years.
- d) Unemployment (X3), seen based on open unemployment data in Districts/Cities in West Nusa Tenggara Province 2017 - 2023. Unit: percent (%).

Conceptual Framework

From the explanation of the variables above, the researcher designed a scheme or concept of the relationship between the Poverty Level and the variables that influence it, namely Population, Education Level and Unemployment Level on the Poverty Level in West Nusa Tenggara Province. Here is the conceptual framework:



The hypothesis used in this study is:

1. H_0 : The population does not significantly affect the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
 H_1 : The population significantly influences the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
2. H_0 : The level of education does not significantly affect the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
 H_1 : The level of education significantly influences the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
3. H_0 : The unemployment rate does not significantly affect the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
 H_1 : The unemployment rate significantly influences the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
4. H_0 : Population, education level, and unemployment rate do not significantly affect on the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.
 H_1 : Population, education level, and unemployment rate have a significant influence on the poverty rate in NTB Province in 2017 – 2023.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regression Model Selection

Chow Test

The Chow test is used to choose between the Common Effect model or the Fixed Effect model.

Table 2 Chow Test Results

Redundant Fixed Effects Tests
Equation: Untitled
Cross-section fixed effects test

Effects Test	Statistics	df	Prob.
Cross-section F	71.126662	(9.57)	0.0000
Cross-section Chi-square	175.275444	9	0.0000

Source: EViews 10

Based on the chow test results using the Redundant Test, the obtained chi-square probability value is 0.0000. Since the chi-square probability value in each test model is less than the 0.05 significance level, the Fixed Effect Model is determined to be the most appropriate.

Based on the test results, the next step is to assess whether the Fixed Effect Model should be compared with the Random Effect Model. This comparison is conducted using the Hausman test to identify the most suitable model for use.

Hausman test

The Hausman test is conducted to determine the most appropriate model between the Fixed Effect Model and the Random Effect Model.

Table 3 Hausman Test Results

Correlated Random Effects - Hausman Test

Equation: Untitled

Cross-section random effects test

Test Summary	Chi-Sq.		
	Statistic	Chi-Sq. df	Prob.
Random cross-section	5.044666	3	0.1686

Source: EViews 10

Based on the table above, it is known that the probability value is 0.1686, which is greater than alpha 0.05 ($0.1686 > 0.05$). Therefore, the appropriate model to use is the Random Effect Model. Thus, based on the results of the Hausman test, the next step is to determine whether the Random Effect model will be compared with the Common Effect model. This comparison is carried out using the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test to determine the most appropriate model to use.

Lagrange Multiplier (LM) Test

The Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test is used to determine the most suitable model between the Random Effect Model and the Common Effect Model.

Table 4 LM Test Results
Lagrange multiplier (LM) test for panel data
Date: 02/06/25 Time: 13:02
Sample: 2017 2023
Total panel observations: 70
Probability in ()

Null (no rand. effect) Alternative	Cross section One sided	Period One sided	Both
Breusch Pagan	148.5755 (0.0000)	2.039558 (0.1533)	150.6151 (0.0000)
Honda	12.18916 (0.0000)	-1.428131 (0.9234)	7.609194 (0.0000)
King Wu	12.18916 (0.0000)	-1.428131 (0.9234)	6.602874 (0.0000)
GHM	-- --	-- --	148.5755 (0.0000)

Source: EViews 10

Referring to the test table above, the Breusch-Pagan probability value is 0.0000, which is less than the significance level of 0.05 ($0.0000 < 0.05$). Therefore, the most suitable model to use is the Random Effect Model. Thus, based on the results of the LM test, the poverty rate in West Nusa Tenggara Province is better analyzed using the Random Effect Model rather than the Common Effect Model.

Hypothesis Testing

Based on the conducted model evaluation and the comparison of optimal values, the chosen regression approach for this research is the Random Effect Model. This model is used because it is able to capture differences in characteristics between regencies/cities randomly in panel data analysis. The following is a table showing the results of data estimation with a total of observations from ten (10) regencies/cities in West Nusa Tenggara Province during the 2017-2023 period.

Table 5 Random Effect Model Regression Results

Dependent Variable: Y

Method: Panel EGLS (Cross-section random effects)

Date: 02/06/25 Time: 13:26

Sample: 2017 2023

Periods included: 7

Cross-sections included: 10

Total panel (balanced) observations: 70

Swamy and Arora estimator of component variances

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	35.83538	2.713524	13.20621	0.0000
X1	-4.68E-06	1.74E-06	-2.694194	0.0089
X2	-2.317184	0.307205	-7.542806	0.0000
X3	-0.213308	0.126692	-1.683676	0.0970

Source: EViews 10

From the regression table of the Random Effect Model above, it is observed that the poverty level is 35.83538 percent assuming that other independent variables (population, education level, and unemployment rate) do not exist.

- If the population increases by 1 percent, the poverty rate will decrease by 4.68E-06 souls.
- If the education level increases by 1 percent, the poverty rate will decrease by 2.317184 years.
- If the unemployment rate rises by 1 percent, the poverty rate will decrease by 0.213308 percent.

T-Test (Partial)

- **Population Number Against Poverty Level**
The X1 variable (population) has a regression coefficient of -4.68E-06 with a probability value of 0.0089, which is less than the significance level of 0.05. This indicates that the population variable (X1) has a significant negative impact on the poverty level variable (Y).
- **Education Level Against Poverty Level**
Variable X2 (level of education) has a regression coefficient of -2.317184 with a probability value of 0.0000, which is less than 0.05. This indicates that the education level variable (X2) has a significant negative impact on the poverty level variable (Y).
- **Unemployment Rate Against Poverty Rate**
Variable X3 (unemployment rate) has a statistical value of -0.213308 with a probability value of 0.0970, which is greater than 0.05, the Unemployment Rate variable (X3) has a negative but insignificant effect or its effect is weak on the Poverty Rate variable (Y).

F Test (Simultaneous)

Table 6 F Test Results

F-statistic	22.98413	Durbin-Watson stat	1.045166
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Source: EViews 10

The F-statistical test is conducted to determine whether the independent variables collectively have a significant impact on the dependent variable in the regression model. Based on the test results in table above, the F-statistic value is 22.98413, with a probability value (F-statistic) of 0.000000, which is less than 0.05. This indicates that the population variable (X1), education level (X2), and unemployment rate (X3) collectively have a significant influence on the poverty rate variable (Y).

Coefficient of Determination(R²)

Table 7 Determination Coefficient Results

R-squared	0.510939	Mean dependent var	1.461336
Adjusted R-squared	0.488709	SD dependent var	1.052693

Source: EViews 10

The coefficient of determination test (R²) is used to measure the proportion of the independent variables (X) that can collectively explain the dependent variable (Y). Based on Table 1, the Adjusted R-Square value is 0.488709 or 48.8%. This indicates that the population (X1), education level (X2), and unemployment rate (X3) variables collectively explain 48.8% of the variation in poverty (Y), while the remaining 51.2% is influenced by other factors outside the model.

DISCUSSION

The Influence of Population on Poverty

According to the theory of population economics, population growth can reduce or increase poverty depending on access and management of resources. If managed well, increasing population can support the economy, but if not, it can increase social burdens. The regression results show a coefficient of -4.68E-06 with a probability of 0.0089, which means that population has a significant negative effect on poverty in NTB. This result is in line with Afina (2020)but different from Lendetariang et al. (2019), who found that population growth increases poverty in urban areas.

The Influence of Education Level on Poverty

According to the Human Capital theory, higher education increases skills and income, thus reducing poverty. The regression results show a coefficient of -2.317184 with a probability of 0.0000, which means that education has a significant negative effect on poverty in NTB. This result is consistent with Sembiring et al. (2023)but different from Rahmawati (2017), which states that

education is not significant in reducing poverty in areas with limited employment opportunities.

The Impact of Unemployment Rate on Poverty

According to Keynesian theory, unemployment is positively related to poverty, but in NTB, the impact is negative and insignificant (coefficient - 0.213308, probability 0.0970). This is thought to be due to the strong informal sector, such as agriculture and small trade, which absorb labor. This result is different from Sari (2021), who found that unemployment increases poverty in urban areas, but is in line with Risfi (2022), which shows the role of the informal sector in reducing the impact of unemployment.

The Simultaneous Effect of Population, Education, and Unemployment on Poverty

Simultaneously, the theory of economic development states that structural factors such as population, education level, and unemployment rate interact to influence poverty. The combination of these three variables creates socio-economic conditions that determine the welfare of society. In this study, The three variables simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty in NTB (F-statistic 22.98413, probability 0.0000). These results support the research Setiawan (2018), but different from (Nabibah & Hanifa, 2022), who found no significant simultaneous effects in areas with high social inequality.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

Through panel data regression analysis using the Random Effect Model (REM) approach, this study discovered that:

1. Partially
 - a. Population has a negative and significant influence on the poverty rate in West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB) in the period 2017 - 2023. This shows that well-managed population growth can support a decrease in the poverty rate.
 - b. Education level shows a significant negative effect on poverty level. Higher education allows access to better jobs and higher incomes, thus lowering poverty level.
 - c. Unemployment rate does not have a significant effect on poverty rate. This indicates that the increase in unemployment does not directly have a major impact on poverty rate in the studied area and the impact of unemployment on poverty in NTB can be minimized through the role of informal sector and supporting government programs.
2. Simultaneously
Simultaneously, population, education level, and unemployment rate have a significant influence on poverty level. This shows that these three variables together make a major contribution in determining the level of community welfare.

Recommendation

1. For the Government

Suggestions for the government in efforts to overcome poverty problems in West Nusa Tenggara Province are to develop policies based on accurate data and analysis. This policy should be focused on improving access and quality of education, so that it can create more competent and competitive human resources. In addition, population management also needs to be considered through family planning programs and equitable development so that there is no population density in certain areas which can have an impact on increasing unemployment and poverty rates.

Furthermore, the government should also reinforce community empowerment programs, especially for those working in the informal sector. This program can be in the form of skills training, access to capital, and business assistance for economically disadvantaged groups, so that they can be more independent in developing businesses and improving economic welfare. With a targeted and data-based strategy, it is hoped that the poverty rate can be reduced and the welfare of the people in West Nusa Tenggara Province can be increased sustainably.

2. For the Community

Advice for the community is to enhance awareness of the significance of education as one of the main factors in poverty alleviation efforts. Good education can open up more job opportunities, improve individual skills, and improve living standards in the long term. Therefore, the community is expected to be more active in encouraging their children to pursue higher levels of education and continue to develop knowledge and skills which align with the demands of the labor market.

In addition, the community is also encouraged to take advantage of various training and empowerment programs provided by the government and other institutions. These programs aim to improve the skills and capacity of the community, especially in productive sectors such as entrepreneurship, creative industries, and technology. By participating in training and taking advantage of existing opportunities, the community can be more economically independent, reduce dependence on social assistance, and create new jobs for themselves and their surroundings. Awareness and active participation of the community in these programs are expected to help reduce poverty rates and improve welfare in a sustainable manner.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Future research is recommended to broaden the range of analyzed variables so that the research results are more comprehensive and accurate. In addition to the variables of population, education level, and unemployment rate, it is recommended to add other variables such as infrastructure, health, and investment. Adequate infrastructure can increase people's access to education and economic opportunities, while health factors greatly influence labor productivity. In addition, investment, both from the public and private sectors, can be an important factor in driving economic growth and reducing poverty in an area.

In addition, the analysis method used in further research can also be developed with a more complex approach, such as the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). This method allows for a more robust analysis of potential bias in regression estimation and can test the consistency of research results. By using more sophisticated methods and broader variables, future research is expected to provide a more accurate picture of the factors that influence poverty levels, as well as provide more effective policy recommendations for the government and other stakeholders.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Alhamdulillah, all praise be to Allah SWT for all His grace and blessings, so that this article can be completed well. In the process of compiling it, I received so many prayers, support, and guidance from various parties. Therefore, with full gratitude and respect, I would like to express my deepest gratitude. My sincere gratitude goes to the supervisor who with patience and sincerity has provided direction, input, and very valuable knowledge in the process of compiling this article. Without his guidance and encouragement, of course this article would not have been compiled as it should. To my beloved parents, who always provide love, prayers, and endless support, I am very grateful for their presence and sacrifice. Hopefully all these efforts and struggles can be a source of pride for Mother and Father, and repay a little of all the love and sacrifice that has been given so far. Not to forget, thank you to my friends and loved ones who always provide encouragement, accompany me in every process, and become an extraordinary source of motivation. Your presence is a very meaningful gift on this journey. Finally, I hope this article can provide benefits and be a reference material for further research. I realize that there are still many shortcomings in this article, therefore, I really hope for constructive criticism and suggestions for future improvements.

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