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Determinants of Income Inequality Post Covid-19 in Southeast Sulawesi Province

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic that struck the world caused a multisectoral crisis, weakened economic growth, and limited people's ability to carry out daily activities. Weakening growth led to a decline in per capita income, which in turn exacerbated income inequality. Income inequality is reflected by the Gini ratio index. In Southeast Sulawesi, the Gini ratio index increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and was consistently higher than the Gini ratio indices for Sulawesi Island and the national average. Therefore, this study aims to examine how economic growth, poverty, unemployment, the Human Development Index (HDI), and infrastructure impact income inequality in post-COVID-19 Southeast Sulawesi. This study employs a quantitative method, using secondary data from 2023 for each district/city in Southeast Sulawesi, obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS). The analysis was conducted using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method with Eviews 12 software. The results of the study indicate that, partially, the variable of economic growth has a negative and significant effect on income inequality in post-COVID-19 Southeast Sulawesi. The poverty variable has a negative but insignificant effect on income inequality. The unemployment variable has a positive but insignificant effect on income inequality. Meanwhile, the variables of the Human Development Index and infrastructure have positive and significant effects on income inequality. Simultaneously, economic growth, poverty, unemployment, the Human Development Index, and infrastructure collectively influence income inequality in post-COVID-19 Southeast Sulawesi.

Keywords: Income Inequality; Gini Coefficient; Post Covid-19.

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the coronavirus, a newly identified type of virus. COVID-19 has led to a massive outbreak, commonly referred to as a pandemic, which has spread globally and affected many countries (World Health Organization, 2024). The coronavirus has now become the cause of the most severe global recession in decades (Sayed & Peng, 2021). The worldwide pandemic has triggered a process of deglobalization, compelling countries to limit the movement of goods, capital, and people across borders. Another significant consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic is the emergence of a multisectoral crisis, which has become a test of resilience for nations (Deviana & Putro, 2023). Furthermore, the pandemic has instigated an economic crisis and negatively impacted financial performance and global business competitiveness (Mrini & Tzavara, 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic is also expected to reduce economic activity in the production sector, decrease labor demand, and lower wages, particularly in industries directly affected by the pandemic, such as construction, education, hospitality, and restaurants (Zhang et al., 2022).

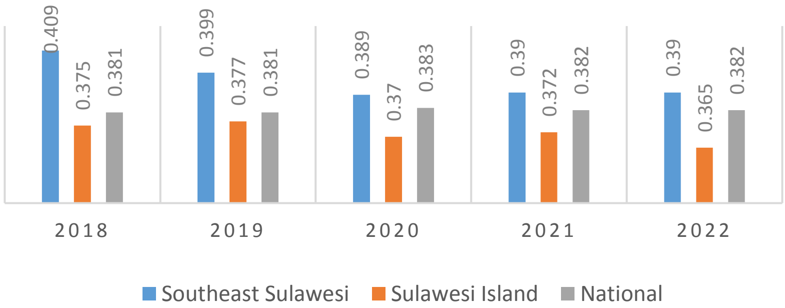
The Indonesian government is taking serious action in handling the pandemic by stipulating Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions in the *Context* of Accelerating the Handling of *Corona Virus Disease* 2019 (COVID-19). However, the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) certainly results in a decrease in economic growth due to the limited community in carrying out economic activities. In fact, the government is trying to improve people's welfare through economic growth. Economic growth describes the process of community progress in carrying out economic activities in a region. Positive growth will increase the amount of production, which in turn will increase output. The increase in output will increase people's income and increase per capita income and then income inequality between regions will be smaller (Lala et al., 2023).

Income distribution inequality is a situation when there is a difference or inequality in income between groups of people with high economies and people with low economies (Salsabila & Pramukty, 2023). Income inequality is no longer a new issue in developing countries. As a country with many islands, with diverse natural resources, potential, and regional characteristics, Indonesia cannot escape this problem. The non-uniformity between regions in Indonesia will certainly affect the ability to grow, which triggers some regions to grow quickly, and others will grow slowly (Hadju et al., 2021). In addition, the infrastructure factor as a means is clearly decisive in stimulating economic activity. The availability of roads can save capital, increase efficiency in the distribution and production process (Rahmadani, 2018).

Southeast Sulawesi is one of the provinces in Indonesia that is also not spared from the problem of income inequality. The Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Government noted several sectors that are superior potential and are the main sources of investment in Southeast Sulawesi, including agriculture, plantations, forestry, mining, marine, fisheries, and tourism (Budiono, 2022). Mining itself is the most striking production in Southeast Sulawesi Province. No wonder the number of mining companies is very large in Southeast Sulawesi, which is around 221 units (Irwandi et al., 2023). Each regency and city in Southeast Sulawesi Province has its own regional advantages, with different backgrounds and supported by different characteristics and potentials (Yunus, 2021). With these differences, regencies/cities will have different economic development and income between regions.

Based on gini ratio data in 2022, referring to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), Southeast Sulawesi was found to be Indonesia's sixth-highest gini ratio index province. And became the second highest in Sulawesi Island, after Gorontalo Province.

Figure 1.
Gini Ratio of Southeast Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, and National Year 2018-2022



Source: BPS, data processed

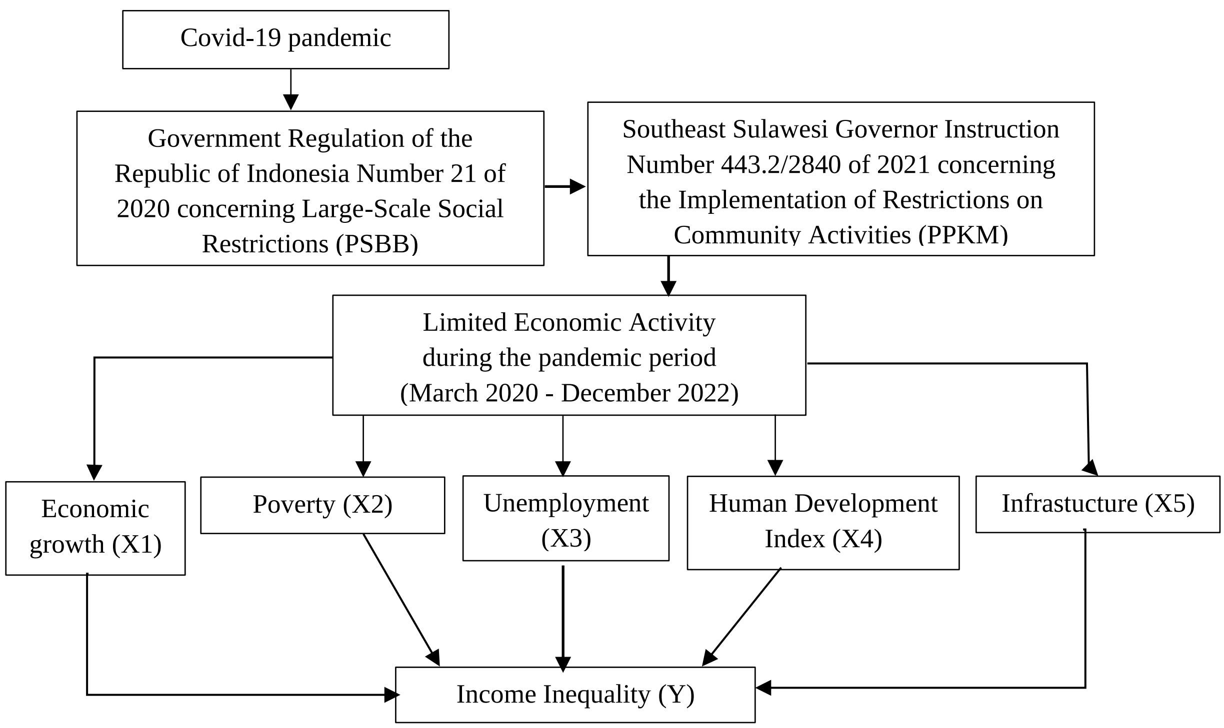
Figure 1. shows that the gini ratio of Southeast Sulawesi Province is higher than the gini ratio of Sulawesi Island and the National. In 2020 the gini index ranged from 0.389 and increased in 2021 with a value of 0.39. In the following year, 2022, the gini index of Southeast Sulawesi Province was still at the same value of 0.39, and did not experience a significant decrease or increase from the previous year.

The problem of income inequality in Southeast Sulawesi increased during the covid-19 pandemic, and the value was always higher than the regional and national gini index values. Growth that must be rebuilt after falling is one of the big challenges for the government and society. To prove how each variable affects income inequality, the author is interested in raising this research.

Conceptual Framework

The covid-19 pandemic has shaken the economy. The government imposes PSBB which aims to prevent the spread of the covid-19 disease, but on the other hand, this restriction results in people being limited in carrying out economic activities.

Figure 2
Conceptual Framework



Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that economic growth, poverty, unemployment, HDI, and infrastructure collectively have a significant effect on income inequality in the post-COVID-19 period in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province.

METHOD

This research uses quantitative methods.

Sample

The research data source is secondary data by utilizing data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) publication. The population used is all data from Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), Number of Poor People, Open Unemployment Rate, Human Development Index (HDI), and Gini Ratio Index in 17 Regency / City of Southeast Sulawesi Province Post Covid-19. The sample is data from Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), Number of Poor People, Open Unemployment Rate, Human Development Index (HDI), Infrastructure, and Gini Ratio Index in the Regency / City of Southeast Sulawesi Province in 2023.

Data Collection

Data collection techniques are techniques or methods used in collecting data (Priadana & Sunarsi, 2021). Data collection is an important stage in research because the data collected will be used to test hypotheses or solve problems (Siregar, 2013). In this research, the data taken is classified into secondary data. Data on independent and dependent variables were obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of Southeast Sulawesi Province in the form of ADHK GRDP data, percentage of poor people, open unemployment rate, human development index, road length infrastructure, and gini ratio index in 17 districts / cities during 2023.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis techniques are important to obtain results that are in accordance with the research objectives. Kasmir (2022) states that tools for processing research data can be selected according to the characteristics of the data and what is to be tested. The analysis techniques used in this study are multiple linear regression, classical assumption tests, and hypothesis testing with statistical tools as data processing, namely Eviews 12 *(Econometrics Views).*

1. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

   The use of multiple linear regression aims to determine how the influence or relationship between two or more independent variables on one dependent variable. The functional form:

   $$\boldsymbol{Y = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5)}$$

   Then the formula is transformed into an equation for multiple linear regression techniques as follows: $\boldsymbol{KP_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lnPE_i + \beta_2 lnK_i + \beta_3 TPT_i + \beta_4 IPM_i + \beta_5 lnI_i + e_i}$

   Description:

KP	=	Income Inequality
PE	=	Economic Growth
K	=	Poverty
TPT	=	Unemployment
IPM	=	Human Development Index
I	=	Infrastructure
β0	=	Coefficient of Intercept
β1, β2, β3, β4	=	Independent Variable Coefficient
i	=	Cross Section (Regency/City in Southeast Sulawesi Province)
e	=	Confounding Variable

2. Classical Assumption Test

   The use of the classical assumption test aims to determine how the research variables relate to each other in the regression model. The purpose of this test is to test the feasibility of the regression model used and ensure that the resulting data is normally distributed and there is no multicollinearity or heteroscedasticity.

3. Hypothesis Test
   The hypothesis tests used include the coefficient of determination test (R^2 Test), the simultaneous significance test (F-Test), and the individual parameter significance test (t-Test).

Variable Operations

The operational definition of variables is the description of variables in operational form which is stated practically and concretely in the context of the research object being studied.

a. Independent Variables
   (1) Economic Growth refers to the process of changes in the economic conditions that occurred in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023. The economic growth variable used in this study is based on the GRDP at constant prices (ADHK), expressed in thousands of rupiah.
   (2) Poverty refers to a group of people who are unable to meet their basic needs in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023. The poverty data used is the number of poor people, expressed in thousands of individuals.
   (3) Unemployment refers to people who are not working and are actively seeking work in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023. The unemployment variable is represented by the open unemployment rate, expressed as a percentage (%).
   (4) Human Development Index (HDI) consists of three components: health, education, and economy. HDI is an indicator used to assess economic development, measuring the quality of life in both physical and non-physical aspects, human capital, or the well-being of the population in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023.
   (5) Infrastructure is one of the indicators supporting growth and development. Infrastructure refers to the total length of roads in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023. The infrastructure variable is expressed in kilometers.

b. Dependent Variable
   (1) Income Inequality refers to a situation where there is a disparity or uneven distribution of income between low and high-income groups. The level of income inequality is measured using the Gini ratio index in the 17 districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province during 2023.

RESULT

Table 1
Estimation Results

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.077049	0.165281	0.466173	0.6502
Economic Growth (X1)	-0.052724	0.022885	-2.303927	0.0417
Poverty (X2)	-0.038221	0.018814	-2.031502	0.0671
Unemployment (X3)	0.005456	0.010135	0.538285	0.6011
Human Development Index (X4)	0.007219	0.002502	2.885021	0.0148
Infrastructure (X5)	0.059142	0.024211	2.442768	0.0327
R-squared	0.691734			
F-statistic	4.936705			
Prob(F-statistic)	0.012950			

Sumber: Secondary data (2024)

The following regression equation is obtained according to the estimation results in table 1:

$$KP_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PE_i + \beta_2 K_i + \beta_3 TPT_i + \beta_4 IPM_i + \beta_5 I_i + e_i$$

$$KP_i = 0{,}077 - 0{,}052 PE_i - 0{,}038 K_i + 0{,}005 TPT_i + 0{,}007 IPM_i + 0{,}059 I_i + e_i$$

The regression equation can be explained:

1. The constant value obtained is 0.077049, indicating that if the independent variable is zero or considered constant, then income inequality will have a value of 0.077049.
2. The regression coefficient of the economic growth variable is -0.052724 with a negative coefficient direction. So it can be stated that every 1% increase in economic growth, income inequality will decrease by 0.052724.
3. The regression coefficient of the poverty variable is -0.038221 with a negative coefficient direction. It can be stated that for every 1% increase in poverty, income inequality will decrease by 0.038221.
4. The regression coefficient of the unemployment variable is 0.005456 with a positive coefficient direction. So it can be stated that every 1% increase in unemployment, income inequality will increase by 0.005456.
5. The regression coefficient of the human development index variable is 0.007219 with a positive coefficient direction. So it can be stated that every 1% increase in the human development index, income inequality will increase by 0.007219.
6. The regression coefficient of the infrastructure variable is 0.059142 with a positive coefficient direction. So it can be stated that every 1% increase in infrastructure, income inequality increases by 0.059142.

Classical Assumption Test

Table 2
Classical Assumption Test

Variable	Centered VIF
PDRB (X1)	2.550163
Kemiskinan (X2)	3.199120
Pengangguran (X3)	3.438225
Indeks Pembangunan Manusia (X4)	4.470792
Infrastruktur (X5)	3.480718
Jarque-Bera	1.465141
Prob. Chi-Square(5)	0.1718

Sumber: Data sekunder (2024)

a. Normality Test
Based on table 2, the test results show that the significant value is 1.465141> 0.05 or the data is normally distributed.

b. Multicollinearity Test
According to table 2, it can be concluded that the VIF value <10, meaning that there is no multicollinearity or no correlation between the independent variables.

c. Heteroscedasticity Test
Referring to the results of the heteroscedasticity test with the Glejser method in table 2 the Prob value. Chi-Square value of 0.1718> 0.05, meaning that there is no heteroscedasticity problem in this study.

Hypothesis Test

a. Coefficient of Determination
Defined as the ability of the model to interpret variations in independent variables. Referring to table 1, the R-squared value is 0.691734. So it can be concluded that the percentage of influence given by the independent variables, namely economic growth, poverty,

unemployment, human development index, and infrastructure to the dependent variable, namely income inequality, is 69.17% and the remaining 30.83% is another variable that is not included in the model.

b. The t-test

The partial effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable is as follows:

1. The t-value for the economic growth variable (X1) is -2.303927, which is less than the t-table value of 1.792, and the Prob. value is 0.0417, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, meaning the economic growth variable has a negative and significant effect on income inequality.
2. The t-value for the poverty variable (X2) is -2.031502, which is less than the t-table value of 1.792, and the Prob. value is 0.0671, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected, meaning the poverty variable has a negative but insignificant effect on income inequality.
3. The t-value for the unemployment variable (X3) is 0.538285, which is less than the t-table value of 1.792, and the Prob. value is 0.6011, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected, meaning the unemployment variable has a positive but insignificant effect on income inequality.
4. The t-value for the Human Development Index (HDI) variable (X4) is 2.885021, which is greater than the t-table value of 1.792, and the Prob. value is 0.0148, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, meaning the HDI variable has a positive and significant effect on income inequality.
5. The t-value for the infrastructure variable (X5) is 2.442768, which is greater than the t-table value of 1.792, and the Prob. value is 0.0327, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, meaning the infrastructure variable has a positive and significant effect on income inequality.

c. F-test

Based on table 1, it can be seen that the F value of 4.936705 > the F table value of 3.20 and the Prob. value of 0.012950 <0.05, then Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected. So it can be concluded that there is an influence of the independent variables, namely economic growth, poverty, unemployment, human development index, and infrastructure together on the dependent variable, namely income inequality.

Discussion

1. The Effect of Economic Growth on Income Inequality

Based on table 1, the t-value of the economic growth variable (X1) is -2.303927 < t table value of 1.792 and the Prob. value is 0.0417 < 0.05, then Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, which means that the economic growth variable has a negative and significant effect on income inequality. In accordance with the Kuznets hypothesis known as the “inverted U” hypothesis, where this theory explains that at the beginning of the growth stage, income distribution tends to worsen but at a later stage income distribution will improve. Economic growth will increase the amount of production so that it will be followed by an increase in output. Increased output will also increase people's income and increase per capita income. This means that the increase in economic growth will have an effect on the distribution of population income which will be more evenly distributed.

Based on BPS publications, economic growth in 2023 slowed down by 0.18% when compared to economic growth in 2022 which amounted to 5.53%. This slowdown was caused by slowing growth in the production side of the Manufacturing Industry sector, even though this sector is the sector that contributes most dominantly to growth in Southeast Sulawesi. There are two factors that can cause this condition, namely the volatility of nickel prices at the world level and reduced demand, as well as companies that do not boost their production for certain reasons (Yunus, 2023).

(Bucevska, 2019) in his research found similar results, where the results showed that economic growth has a significant effect on income inequality. In addition, there are also several other studies that also support these findings, such as (Masfila, 2021) and (Kunenengan et al., 2023), where their results show that economic growth has a negative and significant effect on income inequality.

2. The Effect of Poverty on Income Inequality

The t value of the poverty variable (X2) of -2.031502 < the t table value of 1.792 and the Prob. value of 0.0671 > 0.05, then H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected, meaning that the poverty variable has a negative and insignificant effect on income inequality. The insignificant effect of poverty level shows that high poverty does not affect income inequality. Poverty is part of inequality itself. Poverty occurs because minimum needs are not met. When poverty is reduced, it means that people are able to fulfill their minimum needs. Minimum needs that are met are caused by increasing income. The increase in income that occurs in society will minimize income differences, which in turn makes income inequality decrease.

In accordance with Nurkse's (1953) Vicious Circle of Poverty theory, the existence of underdevelopment or lack of capital leads to low productivity. Low productivity will result in low income that a person receives. This will lead to low savings, which in turn will lead to underdevelopment and backwardness again. The Southeast Sulawesi government has allocated around Rp1.5 trillion in funds in the form of work programs related to poverty programs. However, the government also said that “in this program, not all activities and sub-activities contribute directly to poverty alleviation efforts. But this is a form of government attention to the poor” (Andika, 2023).

In contrast to the results of previous studies conducted by (Karimi et al., 2023) and (Al Aqilah et al., 2024), which found that poverty has a positive and significant effect on income inequality. On the other hand, there is also a study in line with this finding, namely (Farhan & Sugianto, 2022) with the result that the poverty variable has a negative sign on income inequality.

3. The Effect of Unemployment on Income Inequality

The t value of the unemployment variable (X3) is 0.538285 < the t table value of 1.792 and the Prob. value is 0.6011 > 0.05, then H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected, meaning that the unemployment variable has a positive and insignificant effect on income inequality. A decrease in the unemployment rate will be followed by a decrease in income inequality, in other words, the distribution of income is more equal and vice versa. If unemployment increases, it means that the population that does not earn income also increases, which will potentially reduce GRDP per capita. To equalize income in a country, there must be extensive job creation, and this must be encouraged and facilitated by the government so that it can run optimally and will have an effect on increasing economic growth.

Based on BPS publications, Southeast Sulawesi's open unemployment rate in 2023 was 3.15%, down 0.21% from 2022. From August 2022 there was an increase of 15.72 thousand, with a total working population of 1,351.64 thousand people. In 2023, the Kendari Vocational and Productivity Training Center (BPVP) organized 10 training programs aimed at increasing community competitiveness, with this high competitiveness will be directly proportional to the high productivity and economic improvement and reduced unemployment in Southeast Sulawesi (Krismawan, 2023).

This finding is different from previous studies conducted by (Bucevska, 2019) and (Kim & Ha, 2022),, which found that the unemployment rate has a significant effect on income inequality in the short and long term. In contrast, there are also some other researchers who agree with this study, namely (Dias & Indrawati, 2021) and (Noorachmadan & Suliadi, 2024), who found that the unemployment rate does not have a significant effect on income inequality.

4. The Effect of Human Development Index on Income Inequality

The t value of the human development index variable (X4) is 2.885021 > the t table value of 1.792 and the Prob. value is 0.0148 <0.05, then Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, meaning that the human development index variable has a positive and significant effect on income inequality. The positive relationship between the two means that an increase in the human development index will have an effect on increasing income inequality. This happens because the human development index has 3 indicators, which in its implementation is still not evenly distributed and maximally affects all levels of society. One of the components in the human development index, namely education, was discussed by Becker in his book entitled “Human Capital: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis”. Becker explains in his book about human capital where the level of labor productivity is positively correlated with the level of formal education. A good education will have the opportunity to get a better job with higher wages. The level of income inequality will decrease as the income received increases.

Although the Human Development Index in Southeast Sulawesi has increased every year, there is a high gap between districts/cities with the highest HDI and districts/cities with the lowest HDI. The central government has allocated a budget of around IDR1.68 trillion to improve Southeast Sulawesi's HDI through financing education and health functions. Unfortunately, this program has only been planned in a few schools in Kendari City, so it has not been evenly distributed and touched other areas.

This finding is different from the research conducted by (Lala et al., 2023) and (Maorencia & Marwan, 2023), where the results found that the human development index variable has a negative relationship with income inequality. In addition, there are also studies that support this finding, namely (Dias & Indrawati, 2021) and (Noorachmadan & Suliadi, 2024), with the result that the human development index variable has a positive and significant effect on income inequality.

5. The Effect of Infrastructure on Income Inequality

The t-value for the infrastructure variable (X5) is 2.442768 and the Prob. value (0.0327 < 0.05). Therefore, Ha is accepted and H0 is rejected, meaning the infrastructure variable has a positive and significant effect on income inequality. Theoretically, improvements in the quality and quantity of road infrastructure will stimulate economic activity, particularly in the transportation of goods and services. Increased economic activity will serve as a gateway to raising public income. As income increases, the distribution of income among the population will become more equitable, thus reducing income inequality (Rahmadani, 2018).

The central government is making efforts to improve the quality of infrastructure with the aim of accelerating the mobility of people and logistics, as well as improving the quality of life for the people of Southeast Sulawesi Province through the implementation of the Presidential Instruction (Inpres) for Regional Roads in Southeast Sulawesi for the 2023 fiscal year. The President mentioned that "the government, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, has constructed and repaired 22 road sections in Southeast Sulawesi with a total budget of Rp631 billion" (Gayati, 2024). However, according to data from the Water Resources (SDA) and Public Works (Bina Marga) Office of Southeast Sulawesi Province, there are still 260 kilometers of severely damaged roads. These damaged roads are spread across almost all districts/cities. Pahri Yamsul, the Head of the Water Resources (SDA) and Public Works (Bina Marga) Office of Southeast Sulawesi Province, stated that approximately Rp1.2 trillion is needed to repair the damaged roads. Meanwhile, the available budget for repairing damaged roads across the entire region of Southeast Sulawesi is only Rp 27 billion.

Therefore, a matrix and mapping of which areas should be prioritized for repair first are being developed (Andika, 2024).

The previous research conducted by Sigiro (2024) and Ferdian & Sari (2024) found a negative relationship between infrastructure and income inequality. However, there is also research aligned with this study, such as Taryn L et al., (2024), which found that infrastructure has a significant effect on income inequality.

6. The Effect of Economic Growth, Poverty, Unemployment, Human Development Index, and Infrastucture on Income Inequality

Referring to Table 1, the calculated F-value is 4.936705, which is greater than the table F-value of 3.20, and the Prob. value is 0.012950, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, HaH_aHa is accepted and H0H_0H0 is rejected. This means that there is an effect of the independent variables—economic growth, poverty, unemployment, human development index, and infrastructure as control variables—on the dependent variable, which is income inequality. It can be concluded that the variables of economic growth, poverty rate, unemployment rate, and human development index have a significant effect on income inequality. Income inequality occurs when the distribution of income among the population is uneven. High income inequality indicates that the welfare of the population is still low. To improve the welfare of the population, it must start with boosting economic growth followed by more equitable income distribution (Zahrotussolichah, 2023).

The results of this study are consistent with the research conducted by (Farhan & Sugianto, 2022), which found that the variables of unemployment rate, poverty rate, and human development index together significantly affect the dependent variable, income inequality, in Java Island. Additionally, another study by (Kunenengan et al., 2023) also found that, together, the variables of economic growth and poverty significantly affect income inequality in 5 districts/cities in Bolaang Mongondow Raya.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the testing and discussion that have been conducted, it can be concluded that GRDP (X1) has a negative and significant relationship with income inequality (Y) post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province; Poverty (X2) has a negative and insignificant relationship with income inequality (Y) post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province; The open unemployment rate (X3) has a positive and insignificant relationship with income inequality (Y) post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province; The Human Development Index (HDI) (X4) has a positive and significant relationship with income inequality (Y) post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province; Infrastructure (X5) has a positive and significant relationship with income inequality (Y) post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province; and GRDP, poverty, open unemployment rate, HDI, and infrastructure, together, significantly affect income inequality post-COVID-19 in the districts/cities of Southeast Sulawesi Province.

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