



RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Socio-Economic Factors That Influence Poverty Levels In Medan City, North Sumatra Province

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## Abstract

Poverty be one of size most important For know level welfare something House stairs. As something size aggregate, level poverty in a region is common used For measure level welfare in the region. With thus, poverty be one of matter main development economy. The size amount resident the potential create problem complex social, such as decline quality source Power humans, increasing level poverty, the emergence of inequality and jealousy social, disruption stability social politics, increasing number crime and its impacts others. If the condition the ongoing Keep going continuously, then in turn can hinder development the economy of Medan City so that make things difficult the realization of a dignified, prosperous and just Medan City. Variables in study This in the form of index development, growth economy, level wages, level unemployment become factor affecting level poverty. Processed data with Then use multiple linear regression. The data obtained processed from BPS with using SPSS software Version 23. Multiple linear regression results can seen that adjusted R Square figure of 0.612 which can called coefficient deep determination matter This meaning 61.2% of poverty in Medan City, can be obtained and explained by the HDI, GDP, wages and unemployment, while the remaining 38.8% is explained by other factors or variables outside the model that is not researched.

Keywords : Economic Growth, Wage Level, Unemployment Rate, Poverty

## Introduction

Poverty is a crucial indicator of the level of community welfare in a region. As an aggregate measure, the poverty rate reflects the success or failure of economic development (Suryahadi and Sumarto, 2001). In developing countries like Indonesia, economic development focuses not only on growth but also on improving the quality of life, social security, and sustainable management of human resources and the environment (Law No. 25 of 2000 concerning the National Development Planning Agency). This demonstrates that development must be multidimensional, encompassing structural changes across various sectors, including social, economic, and environmental (Lanjouw et al., 2013).

In Medan City, despite the implementation of numerous poverty alleviation programs, the challenge of reducing poverty remains significant. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that the poverty rate in Medan City has not shown a significant decline, despite the government's implementation of various policies and programs (BPS Medan City, 2023). This situation reflects more fundamental issues that contribute to poverty, such as income inequality, unemployment, low quality human resources, and limited access to public services (BPS Kota Medan, 2023).

Economic growth and the quality of human resources in Medan are also significant factors influencing the poverty rate. Data shows that although Medan's Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) continues to increase annually, this increase has not significantly reduced the poverty rate (BPS Kota Medan,

2023). One cause is economic growth that is not accompanied by adequate job creation, which contributes to high unemployment in the city (BPS Kota Medan, 2023). Furthermore, the quality of human resources, as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI), is also a key factor. Although Medan's HDI has increased, many residents are still unable to contribute optimally to the development process due to limited education, skills, and health (BPS Kota Medan, 2023).

Another problem contributing to poverty in Medan is rapid population growth. With a growing population, the need for jobs, housing, education, and healthcare also increases, while available resources are limited (BPS Kota Medan, 2023). Consequently, pressure on public facilities and the economy increases, potentially increasing poverty rates (Lanjouw et al., 2013).

Unemployment is also a significant factor influencing the poverty rate in Medan. Although the city's minimum wage continues to increase, this is not enough to improve overall community welfare (BPS Kota Medan, 2023). Many residents work in the informal sector with low incomes, while the cost of living and prices of basic necessities continue to rise (BPS Kota Medan, 2023).

Based on these various factors, it can be concluded that poverty in Medan is a complex and multidimensional problem. To effectively address poverty, policies are needed that focus not only on economic growth but also on improving the quality of human resources, creating jobs, reducing income inequality, and increasing access to education and healthcare (Suryahadi and Sumarto, 2001). Through an integrated and synergistic approach, it is hoped that the reduction in poverty levels in Medan City can be more optimal and sustainable (BPS Medan City, 2023).

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## Literature Review Poverty

Poverty, in general, is a condition in which an individual or group lacks sufficient resources to meet basic life needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care. Poverty encompasses the inability to achieve a decent standard of living, both materially and non-materially, including limited access to economic opportunities, decent work, healthcare, education, and other social rights.

Poverty is often associated with a lack of sufficient income to meet daily needs, but also encompasses various other aspects such as vulnerability to economic crises, limited access to natural resources, and social marginalization. Poverty can be absolute, when an individual lacks access to even the minimum basic needs, or relative, when an individual's standard of living is significantly lower than that of the surrounding community. Factors contributing to poverty include unequal distribution of wealth, limited access to education and skills training, limited infrastructure, social conflict, and economic policies that do not favor marginalized groups.

According to Suharto, there are two paradigms or grand theories in understanding poverty: the neoliberal and social democratic paradigms. Neo-Liberal Paradigm Theory: Poverty is an individual problem, not a group problem, caused by the weaknesses or lifestyle choices of individuals. Poverty will be eliminated if market forces are maximized and economic growth is maximized. Poverty alleviation must not be temporary and must not involve only families, self-help groups, or religious institutions.

Social-Democratic Paradigm Theory: Social Democratic theory posits that poverty is not an individual problem, but a structural one. Poverty is caused by injustice and income inequality in society, resulting from limited access by certain groups to various social resources. Social Democratic advocates argue that equality is an essential prerequisite for achieving independence and freedom.

### Human Development Index (HDI)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator used to measure the quality of life and well-being of a society based on three main dimensions: health, education, and a decent standard of living. The HDI was developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a tool to assess the success of human development in a region or country. In the health dimension, the HDI is measured through life expectancy at birth, reflecting the quality of health services and the level of well-being in terms of longevity and health. In the education dimension, the HDI measures the average years of schooling and expected years of schooling to assess the access and quality of education received by a community. Meanwhile, a decent standard of living is measured through Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, which reflects a community's economic ability to meet basic needs. A high HDI indicates a better quality of life and reflects the success of development across various sectors. Therefore, the HDI is not only used as a measure of development but also as a basis for formulating fair, inclusive, and sustainable policies to improve community welfare.

The Human Development Index (HDI) can be explained through the grand theory of human development, which emphasizes that individual well-being is determined not only by economic aspects but also by overall quality of life, encompassing health, education, and economic capacity. The grand theory underlying the HDI concept is the Human Development Theory proposed by Amartya Sen. This theory emphasizes that development should be seen as a process of expanding individuals' freedom to choose a life they value.

According to Sen, human development focuses not only on economic growth but also on creating opportunities and capabilities that enable individuals to live a decent standard of living. The three main dimensions measured by the HDI health, education, and a decent standard of living are essential elements in supporting human freedom and capabilities. In this theory, improvements in these indicators indicate that people have more opportunities to reach their full potential.

### Economic Growth

Economic growth is a "process," not a snapshot of the economy at a specific point in time. Here, we observe the dynamic aspects of an economy developing or changing over time. The emphasis is on the change or development itself. Economic growth is also related to increases in "per capita output." In this sense, the theory must encompass both GDP growth and population growth. Only by explaining these two aspects can the development of per capita output be explained. The third aspect of economic growth is long-term economic growth, defined as the period when per capita output shows an increasing trend over a sufficiently long period (Boediono, 2012).

Rostow stated that economic development, everywhere, is a linear process, moving from an underdeveloped society to a developed one. This model explains the development process as consisting of five stages: traditional society, preconditions for takeoff, takeoff, transition to maturity, and the era of high mass consumption. The criteria that distinguish one stage from another are changes that occur in the economic, social, political, and cultural conditions within an economy (2008:24).

According to Rostow, economic growth or changes in societal stages will contribute to increased economic growth and welfare. Long-term economic development with growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP) or national income will bring about fundamental changes in the economic structure, from a traditional economy with agriculture as the primary sector to a modern economy dominated by non-primary sectors, particularly the manufacturing industry as the primary driver of economic growth (Weiss, 1988).

### Wage Level

Wages are payments received as compensation from an employer to an employee for work or services performed, expressed or valued in monetary terms, determined by an agreement or statutory regulations, and paid based on an employment agreement between the employer and employee, including benefits for both the employee and their family. Therefore, wages serve as a reward for the work an individual provides to the employer. Wages are paid by employers in accordance with or equal to the work effort (productivity) provided to the employer (Sumarsono, 2003).

Muhammad Sharif Chaudhry states that the term wage can be used in both a narrow and a broad sense. In a broad sense, the term means payment given in return for labor services. Chaudhry further explains that in a narrow sense, wages are defined as the amount of money paid by an employer to his employee for the services he provides. Chaudhry does not differentiate between wages and salaries or other compensation terms received by employees, according to him all the compensation received by employees is the same. Thus, wages can be concluded as compensation paid based on work days, work hours, or the number of product units produced by employees.

## Unemployment

An unemployed person is someone who is classified as part of the labor force and is actively seeking work at a certain wage level but is unable to find the desired job. Unemployment is usually divided into three types based on the circumstances that cause it: frictional, structural, and conjunctural unemployment (Sadono Sukirno 2011).

According to Sukirno (1994), unemployment is a situation where someone in the labor force wants to find work but cannot find it. The main factor causing unemployment is a lack of aggregate spending.

According to classical unemployment theory, unemployment occurs due to an imbalance between labor supply and demand in the market. In this view, excessively high wages can cause companies to reduce the number of workers they need, thus creating unemployment. Therefore, unemployment can be addressed through wage adjustments and improvements in the labor market. According to classical unemployment, if the market is allowed to function properly without government intervention, equilibrium will be achieved, and unemployment will decrease along with price adjustments.

According to Keynesian unemployment theory, which differs from the classical view, this theory emphasizes the role of aggregate demand in determining the unemployment rate. John Maynard Keynes argued that unemployment can occur even when the labor market is functioning well, particularly during a recession when demand for goods and services declines. According to this theory, if aggregate demand is insufficient to absorb all available labor, unemployment will arise. Therefore, to address unemployment, government intervention in the form of fiscal stimulus, such as government spending, is needed to increase aggregate demand and create jobs.

## Method

This research uses a quantitative approach that emphasizes the measurement and analysis of numerical data to identify relationships between variables objectively and retestably. Quantitative approaches are widely used in socio-economic analysis because they produce measurable and generalizable results (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The research location is Medan City, North Sumatra Province, and will run from March to July 2023, encompassing the stages of title submission, proposal development and seminar, proposal approval, data processing, thesis writing, mentoring, and the final exam.

The variables used include the Human Development Index (HDI) as X1, Economic Growth (GRDP) as X2, Wage Level as X3, Open Unemployment Rate (TPT) as X4, and Poverty Level as the dependent variable (Y). All data is sourced from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) through its official website [www.bps.go.id](http://www.bps.go.id) for the period 2013–2022. The HDI, GRDP, wage level, and TPT were selected because these indicators have been empirically proven to influence poverty in various regions (Todaro & Smith, 2020).

Data analysis was conducted using multiple linear regression to determine the effect of the HDI, GRDP, wage level, and TPT on poverty levels. Prior to analysis, classical assumption tests were conducted, consisting of a normality test using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov method, a multicollinearity test using tolerance values and the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF), and a heteroscedasticity test using a scatterplot, as recommended by Ghozali (2018). Hypothesis testing was conducted partially

using the t-test and simultaneously using the F-test to examine the effect of all independent variables together. Furthermore, the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) was used to measure the model's ability to explain variations in poverty levels. An  $R^2$  value close to 1 indicates a model with high predictive ability (Gujarati & Porter, 2009).

## Research result

### Multiple linear regression

Analysis results Multiple linear regression is a measuring tool used to measure whether or not there is a correlation between several variables between the dependent variable and the independent variable (Rusiadi, 2015), which can be seen in the following table:

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	338,092	97,880		17,454	.008
HDI	.023	.015	.062	2,489	.000
GDP	.086	.019	.577	1,952	.002
Wages	.075	.013	.314	1,399	.000
TPT	.018	.034	.156	5,541	.001

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty

Source: Results of SPSS Processing Version 23.0

Based on table on the obtained multiple linear regression as following  
 $Y = 338.092 + 0.023 X_1 + 0.086 X_2 + 0.075 X_3 + 0.018 X_4 + \epsilon$ .  
 Interpretation from equality multiple linear regression is:

- 1) If everything something on the variables free considered still so poverty is as big as 338,092.
- 2) If the HDI increases, then poverty will decrease as big as 0.023 One unit mark.
- 3) If GDP occurs increases, then poverty will decrease as big as 0.086 one unit mark.
- 4) If wages happen increase, then poverty will decrease as big as 0.075 one unit mark.
- 5) If TPT occurs decline, then poverty will decrease as big as 0.018 one unit mark.

### The t-test (Hypothesis Testing Partial)

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	338,092	97,880		17,454	.008
HDI	.023	.015	.062	2,489	.000
GDP	.086	.019	.577	1,952	.002
Wages	.075	.013	.314	1,399	.000
TPT	.018	.034	.156	5,541	.001

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty

Source: Results of SPSS Processing Version 23.0

Based on table on can seen that:

- a) Influence Human Development Index to poverty,  $T_{count} 2.489 > t_{table} 1.661$  and significant  $0.000 < 0.05$ , then  $H_a$  is accepted, which states that the HDI influential significant to poverty.
- b) Influence GDP against poverty,  $T_{count} 1.952 > t_{table} 1.661$  and significant  $0.002 < 0.05$ , then  $H_a$  accepted, which states GDP has an impact significant to poverty.
- c) Influence wages to poverty,  $T_{count} 1.399 > t_{table} 1.661$  and significant  $0.000 < 0.05$ , then  $H_a$  is accepted, which states wages influential significant to poverty.
- d) Influence level unemployment to poverty,  $T_{count} 5.541 > t_{table} 1.661$  and significant  $0.001 < 0.05$ , then  $H_a$  is

accepted, which states level unemployment influential significant to poverty.

### The F-test (simultaneous test)

is conducted to simultaneously examine the effect of independent variables on their dependent variables. The method used is to determine the significance level ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). If the significance value is less than 0.05,  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted.

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	729,075	4	182,269	4,546	.001 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	200,478	5	40,096		
Total	929,553	9			
a. Dependent Variable: Poverty					
b. Predictors: (Constant), TPT, GDP, HDI, Wages					

Source: Results of SPSS Processing Version 23.0

Based on the table above, it can be seen that F count is 4.546 > F table is 2.31 and is significantly less than 0.05, namely 0.001 < 0.05, so  $H_a$  is accepted, so HDI, GDP, Wages and TPT simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty in Medan City.

### Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ )

This coefficient of determination analysis is used to determine the percentage of variation in the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Standard Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.886 <sup>a</sup>	.784	.612	6.33211	1.989
a. Predictors: (Constant), TPT, GDP, HDI, Wages					
b. Dependent Variable: Poverty					

Source: Results of SPSS Processing Version 23.0

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the adjusted R Square figure is 0.612, which can be called the coefficient of determination, which in this case means that 61.2% of poverty in Medan City can be obtained and explained by the HDI, GDP, Wages and TPT, while the remaining 38.8% is explained by other factors or variables outside the model that are not studied.

## Discussion

### The Effect of the Human Development Index on Poverty

Based on the analysis of the partial test, the calculated t value was 2.489 > t table 1.661 and a significance level of 0.000 < 0.05. Therefore,  $H_a$  was accepted, indicating that the human development index has a significant effect on poverty.

Research by Ravallion (2016) showed a strong relationship between the HDI and poverty levels in developed countries. In general, countries with a higher HDI tend to have lower poverty rates. This occurs because factors such as better education, access to healthcare, and better economic opportunities, which are associated with increased HDI, can help reduce poverty.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is an indicator for measuring a country's development and well-being through three main components: life expectancy, education, and a decent standard of living. Improving access to and quality of education helps individuals obtain better jobs, increase income, and avoid poverty. Longer life expectancy demonstrates the

importance of access to quality healthcare, which can prevent poverty due to medical costs. Standard of living includes per capita income and access to basic facilities. Increasing the HDI also focuses on equal access to education, health, and living standards, thereby reducing disparities and the risk of poverty.

### The Effect of GDP on Poverty

Based on the partial hypothesis test, the calculated t-value was 1.952 > t-table 1.652 and the significance level was 0.002 < 0.05. Therefore, the  $H_1$  was accepted, indicating that GDP significantly influences poverty.

Research by Suryahadi (2018) shows that rapid economic growth and increasing GDP per capita contribute significantly to poverty reduction in Indonesia. This study emphasizes the importance of sustainable economic growth in poverty reduction.

GDP (gross domestic product) measures the total value of goods and services produced by a country and is often used to assess economic growth. Increasing GDP creates more job opportunities, increases income, and helps reduce poverty. Countries with high GDP have more resources to invest in education, health, infrastructure, and social protection. GDP growth also empowers governments to implement poverty alleviation policies, such as social assistance and job training, which improve public welfare.

### The Effect of Wages on Poverty

Based on the results of the partial test analysis, the calculated t-value was 1.399 > t-table 1.661 and the significance level was 0.000 < 0.05. Therefore, the hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) is accepted, indicating that wages have a significant effect on poverty.

Research by Machin-Manning (2019) shows that a higher minimum wage can help reduce poverty among low-income workers and narrow income inequality.

Adequate and fair wages are crucial for reducing poverty and improving social welfare. Adequate wages enable individuals and families to meet basic needs, such as food and housing, and improve their standard of living. Furthermore, fair wages help reduce income inequality, encourage social mobility, and provide opportunities for individuals to improve their skills and education. High wages also have a positive impact on the economy, increasing purchasing power and creating additional jobs, which overall reduces poverty.

### The Effect of Unemployment on Poverty

Based on the analysis of the partial test, the calculated t value was 5.541 > t table 1.661 and the significance level was 0.001 < 0.05. Therefore,  $H_a$  was accepted, indicating that the unemployment rate had a significant effect on poverty.

Research by Gregg Wadsworth (2015) showed that high unemployment rates significantly increased poverty rates among individuals and households. They also found that the impact of unemployment on poverty was greater for vulnerable groups such as young workers and single-family families.

High unemployment rates can reduce individuals' income and well-being, making them vulnerable to falling into poverty. Long-term unemployment also negatively impacts physical and mental health, increasing stress and health problems. Furthermore, high unemployment can impact young people, hindering their access to decent work, risking poverty and disrupting their educational and career prospects.

## Conclusions And Suggestions

From the results of the study on the determinants of poverty levels in Medan City, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) The results show that if the human development index increases, poverty will decrease.
- 2) The results show that if GDP increases, poverty will decrease.
- 3) The results show that if wages increase, poverty will decrease.
- 4) The results show that if the unemployment rate decreases, poverty will decrease.
- 5) The results of the simultaneous test show that the Human Development Index (HDI), GDP, wages, and the unemployment rate simultaneously have a significant effect on poverty in Medan City.

The author adds suggestions that can be used to develop and analyze this study for readers.

- 1) The Medan City Government is expected to raise awareness of the importance of education, especially for poor families. Programs such as scholarships, skills training, and better access to higher education can help reduce the educational gap and lift poor families out of poverty.
- 2) The Medan City Government is expected to play an active role in poverty eradication through economic empowerment programs, such as skills training, business capital assistance, and the development of high-potential business sectors.
- 3) Improved access to and quality of healthcare services is expected, including improved facilities, public health programs, and free basic services for the poor.
- 4) The government is expected to improve basic infrastructure and ensure equitable access for all residents.
- 5) Strengthening social policies and improving the quality and coverage of social services to support public welfare is expected.

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