



Analysis of Factors Affecting Poverty in Maluku Province 2011-2022

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ABSTRACT

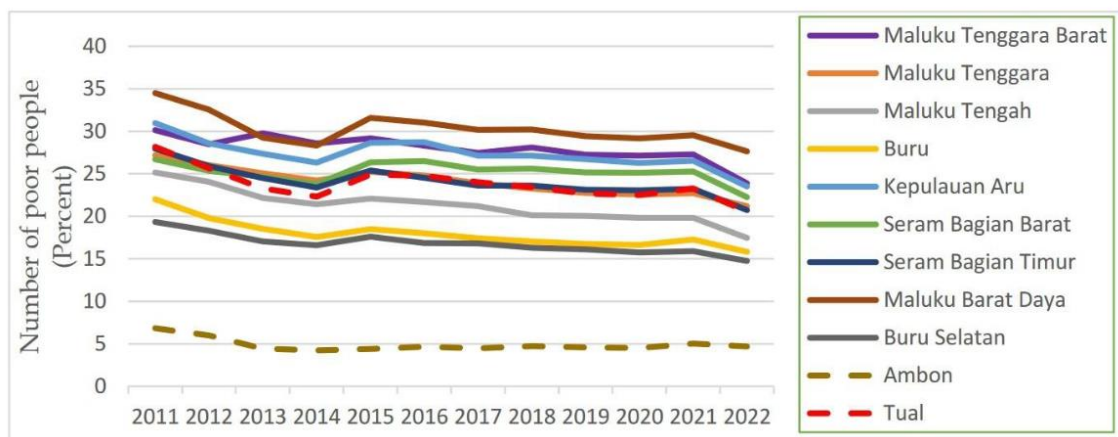
This study aims to examine the effect of Capital Expenditure, Regional Original Revenue (PAD), Population, and Products Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) to poverty rates in regions and cities in Maluku Province during 2011-2022. This research utilizes secondary data sourced from the Directorate General of Fiscal Balance Finance of the Republic of Indonesia and the Central Bureau of Statistics. The analysis method applied in this research is panel data regression analysis. The results of this study indicate that PAD, population, and GRDP have a significantly negative effect on poverty. On the other hand, capital expenditure has a positive effect on poverty, but it is not statistically significant.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a challenge faced by governments in various countries around the world. Even in developed countries, efforts to overcome this problem are often not easy. This is also true for the Indonesian government, which still grapples with challenges in reducing the poverty rate. The standard of living for the majority of the population in Indonesia tends to be lower than that in developed countries.

In March 2021, Maluku Province ranked 4th on the list of the poorest provinces in Indonesia, with the number of poor people reaching 321.81 thousand individuals (17.87%), according to the data recorded at that time. This figure had diminished by approximately 0.6 thousand people when compared to data from September 2020. Likewise, the March 2021 poverty rate diminished by 0.12%. Despite these signs of improvement, inequality remains a persistent problem for the people of Maluku.

Figure 1. Number of Poor People in Regency/City in Maluku (2011-2022)



Source: Processed by the author based on BPS data

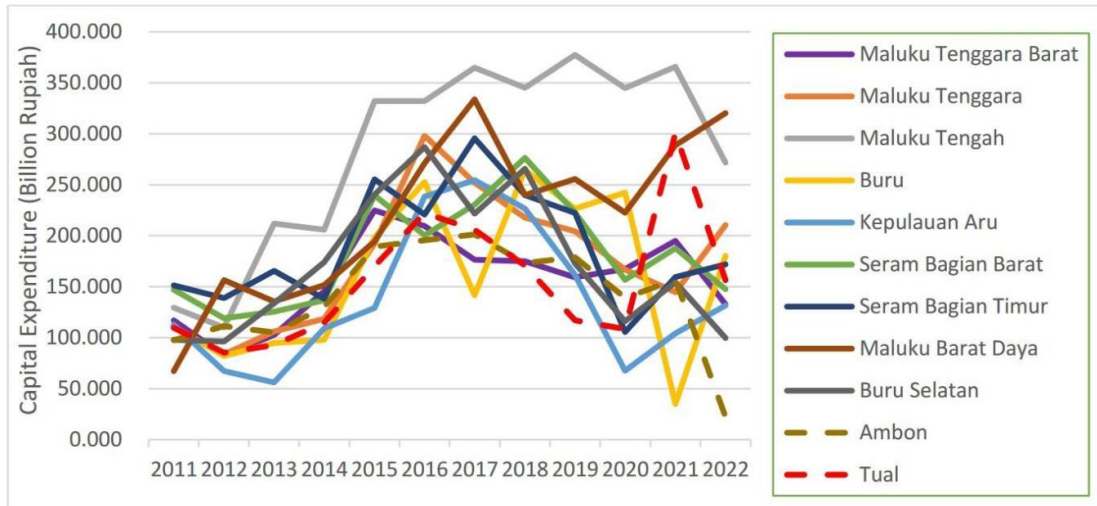
In Figure 1, among the eleven regions and cities in Maluku (2011-2022), the highest percentage of the poorest population in Maluku is found in the Maluku Barat Daya region, where the percentage of impoverished individuals reached 27.54% in 2022. Southwest Maluku Regency has this distinction due to limitations in natural resources, agriculture, and human resources, which constrain economic growth and community welfare.

Conversely, the lowest percentage of impoverished individuals is in Ambon City, where the poverty rate stands at 4.68%. This is attributed to the presence of more advanced facilities and infrastructure, as well as easier access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and employment. Enhanced infrastructure and improved access can contribute to an enhanced quality of life for the population and a reduction in the poverty rate.

One of the factors that can trigger a reduction in the poverty rate is investment in capital expenditure. Capital expenditure is a key component of local government spending that plays a crucial role in supporting the execution of various government activities, including central and local governments' responsibilities in providing essential services to enhance the standard of living

for citizens. Augmented allocation of funds in capital expenditure has the potential to enhance the availability of basic infrastructure and facilities that bolster community productivity. Furthermore, the allocation of capital expenditure in regions and municipalities in Maluku will be explained below:

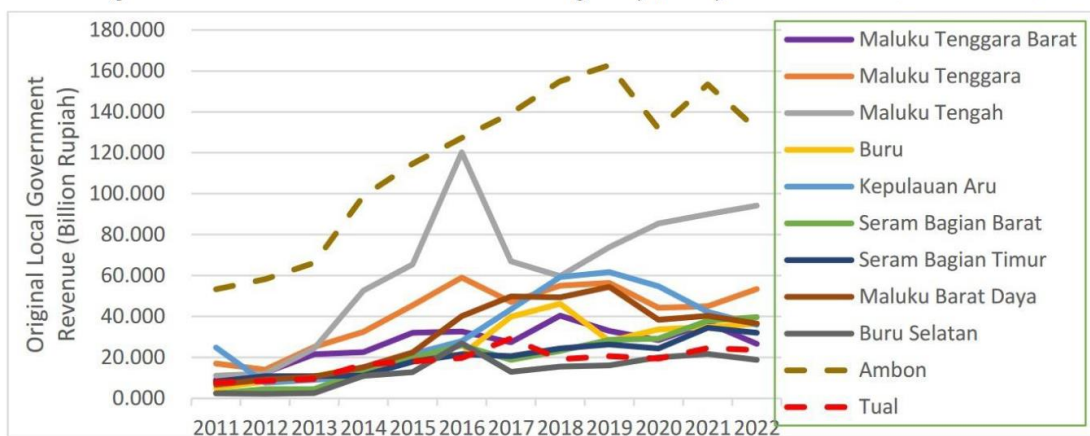
Figure 2. Capital Expenditure of Regency/City in Maluku (2011-2022)



Source: Processed by the author based on BPS data

In Figure 2, Central Maluku Regency, among the eleven regencies and cities in Maluku (2011-2022), exhibited fluctuating capital expenditure realization from 2011 to 2020; however, in 2022, it diminished to 271 billion. The highest capital expenditure realization in 2022 was recorded in Southwest Maluku Regency at 320 billion. Interestingly, this does not align with the fact that Maluku Barat Daya region had the highest percentage of destitute population in Maluku for 2022. This disparity may be attributed to inefficient or misdirected fund utilization, as resources might be allocated to projects that do not directly benefit the impoverished population of Maluku Barat Daya region.

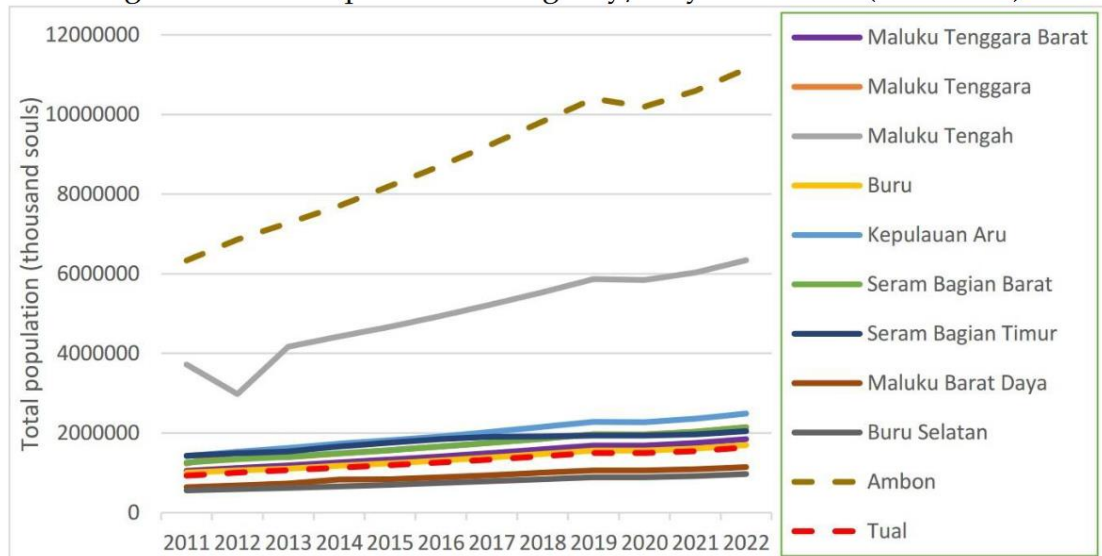
Figure 3. Local Own Revenue of Regency/City in Maluku (2011-2022)



Source: Processed by the author based on BPS data

Other factors that contribute to the success of regional development can be measured by economic growth, as depicted by the GRDP. A high GRDP signifies greater income potential for the region, which, in turn, is expected to lead to a reduction in poverty within the region.

Figure 4. Total Population of Regency/City in Maluku (2011-2022)

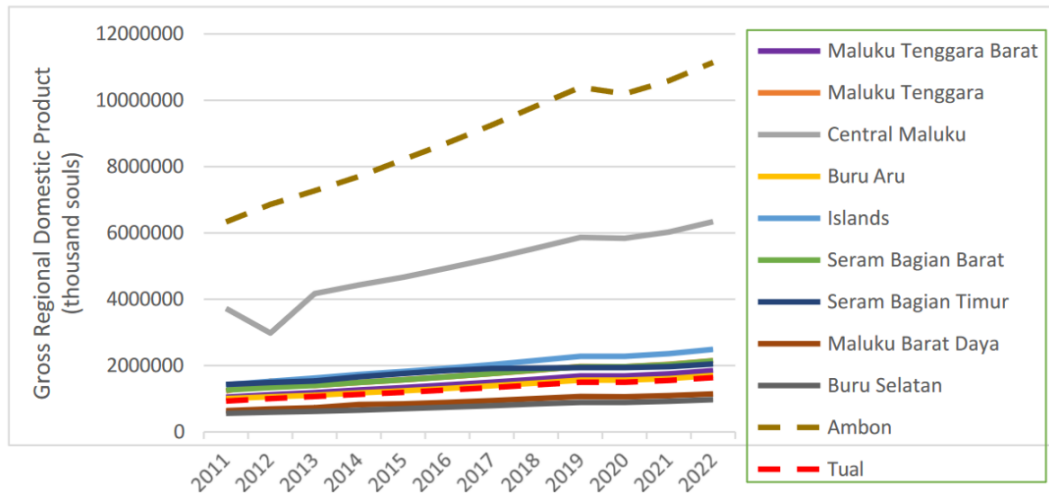


Source: Processed by the author based on BPS data

An important factor that also has an impact on poverty rates is population size. Malthus' theory implies that continued population growth is necessary to meet additional demand. However, the flip side suggests that too rapid an augment in population can have a negative effect on poverty issues. Rapid population growth can lead to delayed development and constrain development opportunities.

The highest population, which has continued to augment from 2011 to 2022, is in Ambon City, with a population of 348,225 in 2022. This aligns with the low percentage of poverty in Ambon City. In contrast, the lowest population is in Southwest Maluku Regency, with approximately 82,560 people in 2022. This is due to Southwest Maluku Regency's status as an archipelago with several scattered islands. The remoteness and challenging access to these areas can hinder population growth. Limited access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, may prompt some families to relocate to more accessible areas.

Figure 5. Regency / City Gross Regional Domestic Product of Maluku Province
2011-2022



Source: Processed by the author based on BPS data

Figure 5 illustrates that Ambon City and Central Maluku Regency have the largest GRDP, which has continued to augment from 2011 to 2022 compared to the other nine regions/cities in Maluku. Maluku boasts rich human resource potential, including agricultural, fisheries, and mining products. These two regions also possess considerable natural resource potential, which significantly contributes to their GRDP.

Meanwhile, the lowest GRDP is in the Southwest Maluku region, with a GRDP of 1,146,408 million rupiah. The second lowest GRDP is in the South Buru region, with a 2022 GRDP amounting to 974,297 rupiah. The utilization of GRDP in constant prices aims to accurately depict the level of economic growth.

Based on the statistical data described, the goal of this study is to examine the influence of capital expenditure, PAD, population, and GRDP on the poverty rate in the regions and cities of Maluku Province.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Poverty

Poverty is a condition in which individuals lack access to choices and opportunities to fulfill their basic needs, including health, a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, and respect. Poverty can also refer to a bleak condition that can impact the future of nations and countries. According to Mudradjat Kucoro, one of the causes of poverty stems from the Vicious Circle of Poverty Theory described by Nurkse. This theory identifies three main causes, namely:

1. Human Resources are too backward and left behind.
2. Market imperfections.
3. Lack of capital leads to low productivity.

In the explanation of Nurkse (1953) and Kuncoro (1997), poverty measures can be grouped into three categories, namely:

1. Absolute Poverty

Todaro and Smith explain that poverty in absolute terms refers to the concept used to establish the baseline income level required to meet basic fundamental needs, such as nourishment, attire, and shelter, with the aim of ensuring individual survival.

2. Relative Poverty

Lincoln Arsyad describes relative poverty as a form of poverty that is more influenced by environmental factors and the social conditions of the individuals concerned.

3. Cultural Poverty.

Cultural poverty is a form of poverty that covers the cultural aspects, values, and identity of a particular group or community.

Government Capital Expenditure

Government capital expenditure encompasses the financial resources earmarked by local authorities to ensure the successful execution of government tasks that are the responsibility of both the central and local governments. It encompasses various activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the people and reducing poverty levels in the area.

Capital expenditure is specifically allocated for the development of amenities and infrastructure. As a result, economic activity can intensify, which has the potential to stimulate economic growth and, in turn, reduce poverty levels.

Previous research (Putri et al., 2021) shows that regional expenditure has a positive but insignificant effect on the poverty rate. Other research demonstrates that capital expenditure has a favorable positive impact on reducing poverty levels in Kuantan Singingi Regency (Asnita et al., 2022). In contrast, another study indicates that capital expenditure has a significant negative effect on the poverty rate in the Province of Yogyakarta (Wigati & Haribowo, 2021). Thus, the hypotheses proposed in this study are:

H1: Capital expenditure has a negative and significant effect on poverty

Local Revenue

Referring to information from the Ministry of Finance, Regional Original Revenue (PAD) in accordance with Law No. 33 of 2004 is revenue obtained by the region and collected in accordance with local regulations and applicable laws. PAD plays an essential role as an indicator to measure the extent of the region's independence in financial and revenue affairs.

PAD serves as a source of local government revenue used to support the allocation of financing in the context of implementing Regional Expenditures. This Regional Expenditure primarily focuses on public infrastructure development programs, public facilities, infrastructure, and investments. These developments and investments have a direct impact on community productivity, ultimately contributing to economic growth and reducing the poverty level within the community.

Previous research shows that PAD has a significant negative effect on region/city poverty in Java (Iskandar & Bawono, 2023). This finding aligns with a study conducted in Yogyakarta (Riskha & Haribowo, 2021), which also

identifies a negative relationship between PAD and the poverty rate. However, it contrasts with the study by Putro et al. (2022), which found that PAD had a significant positive effect on poverty in Tulungagung Regency. From this explanation, this study proposes the following hypothesis:

H2: Local revenue has a negative and significant effect on poverty

Total Population

Population plays a pivotal role in a country's economic development process, as it has consistently been intertwined with the country's economic advancement. (Pujoalwanto, 2014).

Excessive population growth is believed to lead to resource depletion, insufficient savings, environmental degradation, and ecological destruction, which in turn results in social problems such as high poverty levels, underdevelopment, and hunger within society.

Previous the study conducted by Dinata et al. (2021) illustrates that the poverty rate in Riau Province is significantly negatively affected by the population. This finding is supported by Ristika et al. (2021), who, in their study, described the negative and significant effect of population on the poverty rate in East Java. In contrast, Surti et al. (2023) found a significant positive effect of population on poverty in South Kalimantan. For this reason, the hypothesis of this study is:

H3: Population has a negative and significant effect on poverty

Gross Regional Domestic Product

The augment in Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) serves as a significant benchmark for evaluating the economic development achievements of a region from an economic perspective (Elviera & Irawan, 2020). Previous research has found that GRDP has a significant negative impact on poverty in Java and Sumatra Provinces (Rambe, 2022). This finding aligns with the study conducted by Damanik & Sidauruk (2020), which revealed a significantly negative effect of GRDP on the poverty in North Sumatra. However, it differs from the findings of a study carried out by Bawow et al. (2022), which demonstrated a significant positive effect of GRDP on poverty in North Sulawesi. Consequently, the following research hypothesis is proposed:

H4: Gross domestic product has a negative and significant impact on poverty

The conceptual framework of this research is depicted in Figure 6.

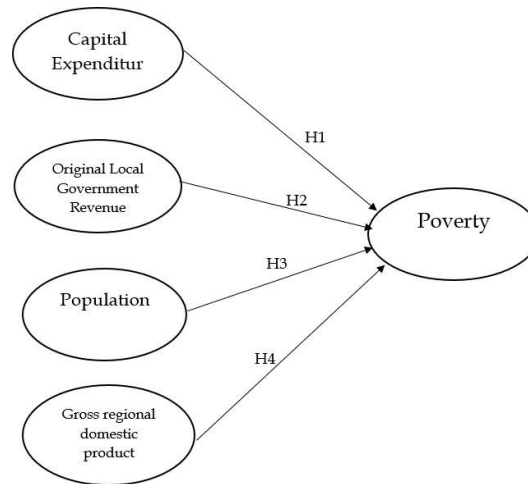


Figure 6. Conceptual Framework

METHODOLOGY

The approach used in this research is an explanatory study. In this study, secondary data is utilized, consisting of panel data, which combines time series spanning 11 years from 2011 to 2022, and cross-sectional data representing 11 regions/cities in Maluku. The data sources include DJPK of the Indonesian Ministry of Finance and BPS Maluku. Panel data regression analysis was employed to address the research objectives. The analytical framework employed in this study is outlined as follows:

$$K_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 BM_{it} + \beta_2 PAD_{it} + \beta_3 JP_{it} + \beta_4 PDRB_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

The variable explanations in the model are as follows: K signifies the quantity of impoverished peoples (in thousands), BM is an abbreviation for capital expenditure (in billion rupiah), PAD is an indicator for regional self-generated revenue (in billion rupiah), JP stands for the overall population (in thousands), and GRDP denotes the gross regional domestic product (in billion rupiah).

Using the panel data regression method, this study will determine the best model through the Chow test and Hausman test (Baltagi, 2005). Subsequently, based on the best model, hypothesis testing is carried out, including the F-test and t-test, with a significance level of $\alpha = 5\%$.

RESULTS

Based on the concern statement and hypothesis, this study seeks to investigate the impact of capital expenditure, regional revenue, population, and GRDP on the poverty rate in Maluku Province. The initial step taken to meet the research objectives involved choosing the optimal model.

Test Chow Test

The Chow test is employed to ascertain the preferable model choice between the Common Effect Model and the Fixed Effect Model. This analysis is conducted with the premise that if the p-value falls below 0.05, the more suitable research model is the Fixed Effect Model. In contrast, if the p-value surpasses 0.05, the preferred model is the Common Effect Model.

Table 1. Chow Test Results

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	498.053438	-10,117	0.0000
Cross-section Chi-square	498.212657	10	0.0000

Source: Data analysis using Eviews 10

After conducting the Chow Test, it was determined that the cross-section probability was 0.0000. Given that the probability of 0.0000 is smaller than 0.05, this indicates that the Fixed Effect Model is the most appropriate model to employ.

Hausman Test

The Hausman test is employed to compare and determine the most appropriate model for this study, specifically between the Fixed Effect Model and the Random Effect Model. The evaluation is conducted under the assumption that if the test results yield a probability lower than 0.05, then the Fixed Effect Model is the most appropriate. Conversely, if the probability exceeds 0.05, the Random Effect Model is the more fitting choice.

Table 2. Hausman Test Results

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	12.528907	4	0.0138

Source: Data analysis using Eviews 10

The results of the Hausman Test show that the probability for the cross-section random effect is 0.01380. Therefore, with a probability of 0.01380, which is less than 0.05 according to the previous assumption, it can be inferred that the most suitable model is the Fixed Effect Model

Panel Regression Test

The Panel Regression Test is utilized to evaluate how independent variables affect the dependent variable by amalgamating data from different time periods and geographic areas. The results of this study enable us to determine the extent of the influence of Capital Expenditure, Population, and GRDP on the number of poor people in Maluku. Based on the panel regression estimation results using the Fixed Effect model, the subsequent findings were derived:

Table 3. FEM Estimation Results

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	33.13539	0.982500	33.72557	0.0000
BM_MIL	0.000367	0.001257	0.292082	0.7707
PAD_MIL	-0.004146	0.002064	-2.008908	0.0468
PENDUDUK_RIBU	-0.008297	0.003443	-2.410264	0.0175
PDRB_MIL	-0.001023	0.000382	-2.678698	0.0085
Weighted Statistics				
R-squared	0.989026	Mean dependent var	43.19087	
Adjusted R-squared	0.987713	S.D. dependent var	12.60020	
S.E. of regression	2.225324	Sum squared resid	579.3916	
F-statistic	753.2115	Durbin-Watson stat	1.045909	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Source: Data analysis using Eviews 10

Coefficient of Determination

From Table 3, it is evident that the test results conducted have produced an R-Squared value of 0.989026 or 98%. This signifies that each independent variable can impact the dependent variable by 98%. The remaining 2% may be attributed to other factors not considered in this study.

Hypothesis Testing

F-Statistic Test

From Table 3, it is evident that the probability value is 0.000000. With a probability of 0.000000, which is less than $\alpha = 5\%$, H_0 is rejected. This implies that capital expenditure, PAD, population, and GRDP collectively influence the impoverished population in regions and cities in Maluku.

T-Statistic Test

The first independent variable, capital expenditure, has a positive but insignificant effect on the impoverished population. Conversely, the independent variable PAD has a significant negative effect on the impoverished population in regions and cities in Maluku, with a regression coefficient of approximately -0.004146. This implies that for every 1 IDR billion augment in PAD, there is a reduction in the impoverished population by around 0.004 thousand people or 4 people. Conversely, if PAD diminished by 1 IDR billion, the impoverished population augmented by approximately 4 people.

Furthermore, the total population has a significant negative effect on the impoverished population in regions and cities in Maluku, with a regression coefficient of -0.008297. In other words when the population augments by 1000 people, the impoverished population will diminish by approximately 8 people. Conversely, when the population diminishes by 1000 people, the impoverished population will augment by about 8 people.

Meanwhile, GRDP has a negative influence on the impoverished population in regions and cities in Maluku, with a regression coefficient of -0.001023. This indicates that an augment in GRDP by 1 IDR billion results in a

diminish in the impoverished population by around 0.001 thousand people (equivalent to 1 person). Conversely, if GRDP diminishes by 1 IDR billion, the impoverished population augments by about 1 person.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that capital expenditure has a positive but insignificant impact on poverty in regions and cities in Maluku. The findings of This study contradict the hypothesis that capital expenditure should have a negative impact on poverty. This is because, if capital expenditure funds are allocated without proper planning or are used for projects that do not provide direct benefits to the poor, the funds may be wasted. In such a situation, funds that should be utilized to alleviate poverty may be squandered or misused. This study aligns with the results of a study conducted by Asnita et al. (2022), which demonstrated that in Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, a significant portion of the allocated assets were used for constructing buildings and roads. However, many development projects were delayed even though funds had already been earmarked for these activities.

Other results demonstrate that locally generated income has a significant negative effect. This study aligns with the theory that indicates regional own-source revenue is utilized for financing allocation through regional expenditure, focusing on the development of public infrastructure, public facilities, infrastructure, and investment. As various developments and investments impact community productivity, there is an associated augment in economic growth, ultimately leading to a diminish in the poverty rate within the community. These findings support the research conducted by Iskandar & Bawono (2023), which shows that PAD has a substantial adverse impact on region/city poverty in Java Island. The results of this study also corroborate the research carried out by Riskha & Haribowo (2021), which revealed that PAD has a negative relationship with poverty in Yogyakarta.

Another result indicates that an augments in population significantly has a negative impact on poverty in Maluku. This implies that as the population augments, the poverty level in the province will diminish. This occurs because as the population of regions/cities in Maluku grows, the labor market expands, creating more job opportunities for residents in Maluku. With more people finding employment, the unemployment rate diminishes, and more income becomes available to the community. This study aligns with the findings of research by Dinata et al. (2021), which illustrates that the population has a significant negative effect on poverty in Riau Province. Ristika et al. (2021) also demonstrated that the population has a significant negative effect on the poverty in East Java.

Similarly, GRDP has a significant negative effect on poverty. The findings of this study align with existing theory, which suggests that economic growth contributes a rise in people's earnings and, in turn, reduces the poverty rate. Economic growth also implies a natural transfer of wealth from wealthier to less affluent populations. In a growing economy, the expansion of goods and services results in firms requiring more workers. Augmented labor absorption can reduce

the unemployment rate, enhance productivity, and boost the income received by the community. If this trend continues, it will contribute to a reduction in the poverty rate. These findings align with previous research (Rambe, 2022), which indicates that GRDP has a significant negative impact on poverty reduction in Java and Sumatra Provinces.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings from the analysis revealed and research conducted display that PAD, population, and GRDP have a significant negative effect on poverty in regions and cities in Maluku Province during the period 2011-2022. Meanwhile, capital expenditure had a positive but insignificant effect on the poverty rate in Maluku during the same period.

In light of the findings from this research, recommendations are addressed to local governments to foster a conducive business climate, thus enabling economic development. With economic progress, leading to augmented GRDP, the poverty rate can also be reduced.

Recommendations have also been extended to region and municipal governments in Maluku Province, urging them to maintain stringent oversight, transparency, and accountability in the allocation of local government expenditure. Participatory planning processes and community involvement in monitoring capital expenditure projects can further ensure that funds are utilized to enhance the overall well-being of the community.

FURTHER STUDY

In this study, population has a negative effect on poverty. Nonetheless, this study doesn't delve into the specific type of labor that contributes to poverty reduction. Therefore, it is essential to conduct research on labor productivity, which can subsequently address poverty alleviation as a follow-up study.

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