

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY IN REGENCIES/CITIES OF BALI PROVINCE

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Abstract: Poverty remains a serious issue in Indonesia and poses a significant burden, particularly due to the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Based on data from the Bali Provincial Statistics Agency (BPS), Karangasem Regency recorded the highest poverty rate in 2023. The poverty rate affects regional economic performance, highlighting the urgent need to address poverty alleviation efforts in Bali Province. This study aims to: (1) analyze the effects of education level, regional original income (PAD), employment, and investment on economic growth in regencies/cities of Bali Province; (2) analyze the effects of education level, PAD, employment, investment, and economic growth on poverty levels in regencies/cities of Bali Province; and (3) analyze the indirect effects of education level, PAD, employment, and investment on poverty through economic growth. The data used are panel data spanning eleven years, from 2013 to 2023, with a total of 90 observations. The analytical method employed is path analysis with the assistance of SPSS software. The results indicate that education level, PAD, and employment have a positive and significant effect on economic growth. However, investment has a negative and significant effect on economic growth. Furthermore, economic growth, education level, PAD, and investment have a negative and significant effect on poverty levels, while employment does not have a significant negative effect. In addition, education level, local original income (PAD), working population, and investment have an indirect effect on poverty through economic growth. These findings suggest that improving these factors can stimulate economic growth while simultaneously reducing poverty in Bali Province.

Keywords: Education Level, Locally Generated Revenue, Employed Population, Investment, Economic Growth, Poverty

INTRODUCTION

Economic development can be defined as a series of efforts within an economy to enhance its economic activities, resulting in increased availability of infrastructure, a growing and expanding number of enterprises, improved levels of education, and significant technological advancement. One of the key indicators used to measure the success of economic development is economic growth, which reflects the tangible impact of the implemented development policies (Pratiwi & Dewi, 2021). An important indicator for assessing the success of a region is the equitable increase in economic growth that reaches all levels of society (Susilo & Alfiyana, 2023). Each region inherently experiences different levels of economic growth compared to others; therefore, the government continually establishes growth rate targets within its development plans and objectives.

In general, it is well understood that economic growth is one of the primary benchmarks in determining the success of economic development. The most crucial objective of development is poverty reduction, which can be achieved through economic growth. Economic growth fosters development, as it signifies the equitable distribution of socio-economic welfare among the population. Higher regional economic growth achievements indicate successful regional development, characterized by the fulfillment of public needs for goods and services, the availability of public facilities such as educational institutions, community health centers or hospitals, employment opportunities, and community participation in self-development through public infrastructure (Wistantri & Bintariningtyas, 2023). Economic growth serves as a key driver for both the reduction and increase of poverty (Fajri & Indriani, 2022), as it reflects the real effects of implemented development policies. Economic growth is closely related to the process of increasing the production of goods and services within the community's economic activities.

Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) is one of the most important indicators and is commonly used to assess the economic condition of a region within a specific period, whether based on current prices or constant prices (Bank Indonesia, 2017). By understanding a region's GRDP, it becomes possible to reflect the existing economic growth in that region.

The quality of economic growth is measured by the general welfare level of the population, not only referring to economic well-being and the achievement of maximum individual satisfaction, but also encompassing all aspects of life or social environment. Broadly speaking, economic growth can be measured using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the national level and Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at the regional level (Suartha & Yasa, 2017). GRDP represents the total final goods and services produced by an economy within one year and is expressed in market prices. Both GDP and GRDP are global indicators and are not precise instruments for measuring economic growth, as they do not accurately reflect the true welfare of the population. In fact, welfare should be experienced by all residents within a country or region. In relation to this issue, a more appropriate measure to describe the population's welfare is GDP or GRDP per capita, or per capita income.

Besides economic growth as a primary indicator of development success, the ultimate goal of development is to reduce poverty levels. Poverty is a complex issue—it does not arise suddenly, but rather stems from a long and complicated background that makes it difficult to identify its root causes. Poverty is multidimensional, meaning it must be viewed through the lens of various human needs. It includes primary aspects, such as the lack of assets, political and social organization, knowledge, and skills, as well as secondary aspects, such as the lack of social networks, financial resources, and access to information (Billady & Marhaeni, 2019). Poverty is often perceived as a state of lacking sufficient money and goods to sustain life. The Province of Bali, despite being one of the provinces experiencing rapid economic development—particularly through the tourism sector—still faces a significant number of poor residents. This is evidenced by the continued difficulty many people face in fulfilling basic needs and the persistent lack of food security. Such conditions demonstrate that poverty in Bali requires serious attention from the government (Muliadinata & Purbadharmaja, 2021). According to the World Bank (2004), one of the main causes of poverty is the lack of income and assets to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, adequate healthcare, and education. Furthermore,

poverty alleviation cannot be separated from issues related to education, investment, and other closely connected factors such as the impacts of economic and population growth.

In September 2015, world leaders together with the United Nations established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda, with one of the primary goals being to eradicate all forms of poverty everywhere. The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, build upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to move forward in ending all forms of poverty. The SDG agenda is not only intended to eliminate poverty, but also to create inclusive economic growth and reduce inequality. Comprising 17 goals and 163 targets, the SDGs serve as a global framework that provides direction for collective efforts in addressing complex problems and improving life today and in the future (Bappenas, 2023).

Bali Province, despite being one of the regions with rapid economic development, continues to experience a relatively high poverty rate. This condition is marked by a significant portion of the population struggling to meet their basic needs, demonstrating that poverty in the districts and cities of Bali Province requires serious government attention. In today's context, poverty is not merely viewed as a reflection of low economic quality; rather, it is seen from multiple perspectives, and definitions of poverty have evolved accordingly.

Bali is widely known for its growing tourism sector. The regional government heavily relies on tourism as one of the key drivers of economic activity, making Bali a popular destination for both domestic and international tourists (Suarjana et al., 2019). As the number of tourists continues to increase, the Bali Provincial Government must pursue equitable development of infrastructure and public facilities, which will empower the community to participate more actively in driving economic growth and expanding employment opportunities in Bali's districts and cities. Infrastructure, investment, and quality education are critical areas that require attention; if addressed properly, these can help reduce regional disparities and sectoral imbalances, while simultaneously enhancing productivity and promoting growth (Boediono, 2017).

Education is a fundamental goal of development and a key instrument for achieving a fulfilling and meaningful life. It represents an essential human capital investment for improving quality of life. Better education leads to higher productivity, which makes it easier to achieve increased income (Dita & Mahaendra, 2020). Education plays a crucial role in supporting economic activities and processes in order to realize sustainable economic development. It serves as a medium for achieving greater objectives, as education enables individuals to engage in development activities that improve future quality of life. As the population ages, the role of education in modern society becomes increasingly vital. Human resources are the most critical factor in shaping equality in economic and social standards (Cahyani & Marhaeni, 2022). Education is widely acknowledged as a key factor that can stimulate economic growth while reducing poverty levels. Poverty in households is often caused by low educational attainment, and education significantly influences poverty levels. The link between education and poverty is crucial, as education serves as a primary mechanism for enhancing economic growth and alleviating poverty (Zulyanto, 2022).

Education not only enhances knowledge but also improves work-related skills, thereby boosting labor productivity. Through adequate education, impoverished individuals are more likely to obtain better opportunities to escape poverty in the future (Kurniawan,

2018). This aligns with the view of Mankiw and Weil (1992), who argue that equitable educational investment, including for low-income communities, can help reduce poverty. Higher education levels are associated with lower poverty rates. Empirical studies by Parwa and Yasa (2019), Yanthi and Wenagama (2022), Azizah et al. (2018), Nata & Suyana (2020), and Wisnawa and Widanta (2019) have shown that education levels have a negative impact on poverty levels. However, studies by Ariyanti (2019) and Sari & Murjana (2022) suggest the opposite, indicating that education levels may also have a positive impact on poverty levels.

An increase in Regional Original Revenue (Pendapatan Asli Daerah / PAD) can stimulate regional economic growth. A rise in PAD is capable of driving regional economic growth beyond previous levels. Regions with positive economic growth are likely to experience increases in PAD (Rori et al., 2016). Rising PAD can optimize and enhance activities in sectors related to economic growth, such as industry, trade, services, and others. Fluctuations in PAD, whether increases or decreases, have a direct impact on regional economic growth. PAD also affects regional poverty reduction. The better a region manages its local potential, the higher the revenue it can generate, which in turn improves the welfare of its people and reduces poverty. This supports findings from Manek & Badrudin (2017), Rori et al. (2016), Gunawan & Suebah (2022), Damanik (2022), Ananda & Mahaendra (2024), and Manduapessy (2020), which all concluded that PAD has a significant positive effect on economic growth. However, this contrasts with findings from Mamuka et al. (2019), Sugiarto et al. (2023), and Agatha & Uliansyah (2021), who reported that PAD has no significant effect on economic growth.

In addition to PAD, the employed population is another factor influencing both economic growth and poverty levels. According to the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik), employment refers to any economic activity conducted by an individual with the intention of earning income or profits, for a minimum of one uninterrupted hour per week. From an economic perspective, employed individuals earn income that can be used to purchase goods and services to meet daily needs. Therefore, the working population positively contributes to economic growth and can help reduce poverty in a region. Employment remains a key issue in Indonesia, especially in Bali, where the labor market is expected to become increasingly integrated in the future. Research by Prasetyawan & Yulianti (2017) indicates that the employed population has a direct and positive effect on economic growth, suggesting that higher employment rates correspond to higher economic growth levels.

Investment plays a crucial role in the economy of a region or a country, as it serves as a key driver of economic growth. Capital investment activities generate investment that continuously increases the capital stock. The increase in capital stock subsequently enhances productivity, as well as the capacity and quality of production, which in turn leads to greater employment absorption and promotes economic growth (Octavianingrum, 2015). According to Danawati et al. (2016), the success of development in a region is not only determined by the amount of government expenditure but also significantly influenced by the amount of investment occurring in that region. Ideally, every development process—including at the regional level—should be based on self-reliant development, optimizing all available resource potentials.

The government recognizes the need to adopt policies that provide broader opportunities for private sector participation, both domestic and foreign, in national

development. One form of such participation is through capital investment. Investment is defined as the purchase of goods that will be used in the future to produce more goods and services. The amount of labor involved in production activities is influenced by increased investment within an industry, particularly as a response to rising demand (Taufik et al., 2014). Employment absorption as a result of investment growth will stimulate economic development in a region. However, if expenditure distribution is not conducted equitably, disparities between districts or cities may persist, resulting in lower-income populations having limited opportunities to participate in the development process.

Investment is also critical as it helps restore Indonesia's integration with the global economy. Moreover, investment increases economic output and can serve as an input source. New investments lead to the creation of new capital goods, which in turn absorb new production factors, particularly through the creation of new job opportunities. These opportunities can absorb a competent and qualified workforce (Irma et al., 2015). Several factors that influence investor interest in investing in a particular region include attractive natural resource potential, surrounding environmental conditions such as infrastructure, education, and the level of corruption in that area (Lindblad, 2015). Theoretically, the rate of economic growth is positively correlated with investment, as noted by Keynes (in Jhingan, 2003:133–134), Mankiw (2006:93), Harrod-Domar (in Arsyad, 2010:82–86), Solow-Swan (in Arsyad, 2010:88–89), Kuznets (in Arsyad, 2010:277), Todaro (2000:136), and Schumpeter (in Sukirno, 2008:122).

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that numerous factors influence economic growth and poverty, both of which remain central concerns for the national and local governments. Education level, Regional Original Revenue (PAD), employment, and investment are all interrelated factors that have a close association with economic growth and poverty rates. Furthermore, these factors are interdependent and should not be viewed in isolation.

METHOD

This study employs a quantitative approach with an associative explanatory design to analyze the influence of education level, Regional Original Revenue (PAD), employed population, and investment on poverty levels in Bali Province, with economic growth serving as an intervening variable. All regencies/municipalities in Bali are included as research locations due to the significant disparities observed between regions. The study covers data from nine regencies/cities over a period of ten years (2013–2023), resulting in a total of 90 observations that comprehensively represent the socio-economic dynamics of the region (Sugiyono, 2022).

The variables analyzed include exogenous variables (education level, PAD, employment, investment), an intervening variable (economic growth), and an endogenous variable (poverty level). Data were collected through observation of secondary data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) and in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders. All variables were operationally defined, such as economic growth expressed in percentages, poverty levels as the percentage of poor population, and investment measured in million Rupiah. Quantitative data such as average years of schooling and employed population were expressed in numerical values, while qualitative data were derived from literature and supporting documents (Sugiyono, 2022; Suyana Utama, 2016).

The analytical techniques used include descriptive analysis to present the data in the form of charts and basic statistics, as well as path analysis to test causal relationships among variables. The Sobel test was employed to assess the strength of indirect effects from exogenous variables on poverty through economic growth as a mediating variable. Hypothesis testing was conducted using p-values with a 5% level of significance, and the results determined whether the effects were direct, indirect, or insignificant (Suyana Utama, 2016; Sugiyono, 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data Analysis Results

This study aims to analyze the direct and indirect effects of Education Level, Regional Original Revenue (PAD), Employed Population, and Investment on Economic Growth and Poverty in the Regencies/Cities of Bali Province.

The Effect of Education Level, PAD, Employed Population, and Investment on Economic Growth in the Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

The calculation of path analysis coefficients in Regression Equation I was conducted using multiple linear regression analysis with the help of SPSS Statistics 26 software. To determine the effect of Education Level, PAD, Employed Population, and Investment on Economic Growth and Poverty in the Regencies/Cities of Bali Province, the results of Regression Equation I are presented as follows.

Table 1. Structural Path Analysis 1

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	21,810	5,240		1,119	0.006
Education Level	0.754	0.258	0.241	1,390	0,000
PAD	0.479	0.162	0.160	0.890	0,000
Employed Population	0.363	0.087	0.053	0.340	0.001
Investment	-0.661	0.210	-0.079	-0.600	0,000
R2 : 0.526					

Source: Processed data from the author's thesis

Based on the results of the sub-structural path analysis 1 as presented in Table 1, the following structural equation can be formulated:

$$Y_1 = 0.241 X_1 + 0.160 X_2 + 0.053 X_3 - 0.079 X_4$$

The regression coefficient values for the variables Education Level, Regional Original Revenue (PAD), and Employed Population are positive, while the Investment variable has a negative value. This indicates that the first three independent variables have a positive effect on the dependent variable Economic Growth (Y_1), whereas the Investment variable (X_4) has a negative effect on Economic Growth (Y_1).

The Influence of Education Level, Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD), Employed Population, Investment, and Economic Growth on Poverty in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

The coefficient calculation for the second path analysis equation (Equation II) was conducted using regression analysis with SPSS Statistics 26 software. This analysis aims to examine the influence of Education Level, Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD), Employed Population, and Investment on Economic Growth and Poverty in the regencies/cities of Bali Province. The following are the results of the path analysis for the second regression equation

Table 2. Structural Path Analysis 2

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-8,239	2,081		8,766	0.357
Education Level	-0.709	0.061	-0.755	-11,712	0,000
PAD	-0.405	0.107	-0.282	-3,772	0,000
Employed Population	0.118	0.207	0.037	0.568	0.522
Investment	-0.140	0.054	-0.156	-2,596	0.011
Economic growth	-0.564	0.115	-0.512	-3,270	0.008
R² : 0.835					

Source: Processed data from the author's thesis

Based on the results of the path analysis for substructure 2 as presented in Table 2, the following structural equation can be formulated:

$$Y_2 = -0.755 X_1 - 0.282 X_2 + 0.037 X_3 - 0.157 X_4 - 0.512 Y_1$$

The regression coefficient values for the independent variables education level (X_1), locally-generated revenue/PAD (X_2), investment (X_4), and economic growth (Y_1)—are negative, with t-test significance values less than 0.05. This indicates that these variables have a significant negative influence on the poverty level (Y_2). However, the variable employed population (X_3) shows a positive coefficient with a t-test significance value greater than 0.05, indicating that employed population (X_3) has a positive but not statistically significant effect on the poverty level (Y_2).

Based on the results of path analysis 1 and 2, as listed in Appendix 3 and summarized in Tables 2 and 3, the path coefficient results of this research hypothesis can be illustrated as follows:

Results of the Coefficient of Determination Test

The results of the coefficient of determination test in this study can be seen in the following table.

Figure 1. Path Diagram Model

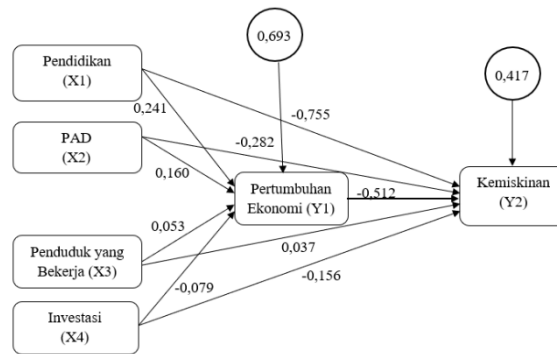


Table 3. Results of the Determination Coefficient

Structure	Equality	R-square	Adjusted R-square
1	$Y1 = 0.241 X1 + 0.160 X2 + 0.053 X3 - 0.079 X4$	0.526	0.520
2	$Y2 = -0.755 X1 - 0.282 X2 + 0.037 X3 - 0.157 X4 - 0.512 Y1$	0.835	0.826

Source: Processed data from the author's thesis

Based on Table 3, in structural equation 1 (path analysis 1), the magnitude of the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable is indicated by the value of the coefficient of determination (Adjusted R-square) of 0.526, which means that 52.6% of the variation in economic growth in the regencies/cities of Bali Province is influenced by variations in education level (X1), locally-generated revenue (X2), employed population (X3), and investment (X4). Meanwhile, the remaining 47.4% is explained by other factors not included in the model. Furthermore, in structural equation 2 (path analysis 2), the magnitude of the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable is indicated by the value of the coefficient of determination (Adjusted R-square) of 0.835, which means that 83.5% of the variation in the poverty level in the regencies/cities of Bali Province is influenced by variations in education level (X1), locally-generated revenue (X2), employed population (X3), investment (X4), and economic growth (Y1). The remaining 16.5% is explained by other factors not included in the model.

Based on the substructure model 1 and substructure model 2, the final path diagram model can be constructed. Prior to constructing the final path diagram model, the standard error values must first be calculated as follows:

$$Pe1 = 0.693 \sqrt{1 - R_1^2} \sqrt{1 - 0.520}$$

$$Pe2 = 0.417 \sqrt{1 - R_2^2} \sqrt{1 - 0.826}$$

Based on the calculation of the error influence (Pei), the result shows that the error influence (Pe1) is 0.693, and the error influence (Pe2) is 0.417. The total coefficient of determination is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} R^2_m &= 1 - (Pe_1)^2 - (Pe_2)^2 \\ &= 1 - (0.693)^2 - (0.417)^2 \\ &= 1 - (0.480) - (0.174) \\ &= 1 - 0.654 = 0.346 \end{aligned}$$

The total coefficient of determination of 0.346 indicates that 34.6% of the variation in poverty levels is influenced by variations in education level, locally-generated revenue (PAD), employed population, investment, and economic growth. The remaining 65.4% is explained by other factors not included in the model.

The Influence of Education Level, Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD), Employed Population, and Investment on Poverty through Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

The indirect effect testing was carried out using the Sobel test to examine the strength of the indirect influence of independent variables on the dependent variable through the mediating variable. This test aims to determine whether the mediating variable significantly mediates the relationship. If the calculated Z-value is greater than 1.96 (at a 95% confidence level), the mediating variable is considered to significantly mediate the relationship between the independent and dependent variables, which indicates that H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted.

$$Z = \frac{a \cdot b}{\sqrt{b^2 \cdot Sa^2 + a^2 \cdot Sb^2 + Sa^2 \cdot Sb^2}}$$

Note :

- a : Regression coefficient of the independent variable on the mediating variable
- b : Regression coefficient of the mediating variable on the dependent variable
- Sa : Standard error of coefficient a
- Sb : Standard error of coefficient b

Testing the Indirect Effect of the Education Level Variable (X_1) on the Poverty Level Variable (Y_2) through the Economic Growth Variable (Y_1):

1) Hypothesis Formulation

H_0 : Economic Growth does not mediate the effect of Education Level on Poverty

H_1 : Economic Growth Mediates the Effect of Education Level on Poverty

2) Testing Criteria

The testing criteria used are as follows:

If $Z \leq 1.96$ at a significance level of 5%, it means economic growth does not mediate the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

If $Z > 1.96$ at a significance level of 5%, it means economic growth mediates the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

3) Test Statistics Calculation

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the value of Z for the coefficient ab is calculated using the following formula:

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{a^2 S_b^2 + b^2 S_a^2 + S_a^2 S_b^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{(0,754)^2(0,115)^2 + (0,564)^2(0,258)^2 + (0,258)^2(0,115)^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = 0.171967$$

Where :

a : Regression coefficient of the independent variable on the mediating variable

b : Regression coefficient of the mediating variable on the dependent variable

Sa : Standard error of coefficient a

Sb : Standard error of coefficient b

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the formula:

$$Z = \frac{ab}{S_{ab}}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,754)(0,564)}{0,171967}$$

$$Z = 2.1449$$

4) Conclusion

Because the calculated Z is 2.1449 > 1.96. This means that economic growth (Y1) is a variable that is able to mediate the relationship between education level (X1) and poverty level (Y2) in the districts/cities of Bali Province or in other words, education level has an indirect effect on poverty level in the districts/cities of Bali Province through Economic Growth.

Testing the indirect influence of the Regional Original Income variable (X2) on the Poverty variable (Y2) through the Economic Growth variable (Y1) is carried out using the following steps:

1) Hypothesis Formulation

Ho: Economic Growth does not mediate the effect of Regional Original Income on Poverty

H1: Economic Growth mediates the effect of Regional Original Income on Poverty

2) Testing Criteria

The testing criteria used are as follows:

If Z count ≤ 1.96 then H1 is rejected and Ho is accepted, meaning economic growth is not a mediating variable.

If Z count > 1.96 then Ho is rejected and H1 is accepted, meaning that economic growth is a mediating variable.

3) Calculating Test Statistics

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{a^2 S_b^2 + b^2 S_a^2 + S_a^2 S_b^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{(0,479)^2(0,115)^2 + (0,564)^2(0,162)^2 + (0,162)^2(0,115)^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = 0.108303$$

where :

- a : Regression coefficient of the independent variable on the mediating variable
- b : Regression coefficient of the mediating variable on the dependent variable
- Sa : Standard error of coefficient a
- Sb : Standard error of coefficient b

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$Z = \frac{ab}{S_{ab}}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,479)(0,564)}{0,108303}$$

$$Z = 2.4944$$

4) Conclusion

Since the calculated Z-value is $2.1449 > 1.96$, it indicates that economic growth (Y1) is a mediating variable that significantly mediates the relationship between education level (X1) and poverty level (Y2) in the regencies/cities of Bali Province. In other words, education level indirectly influences poverty through economic growth in these areas.

Testing the Indirect Effect of the Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD) Variable (X2) on the Poverty Variable (Y2) through the Economic Growth Variable (Y1):

1) Hypothesis Formulation

H0: Economic growth does not mediate the effect of Locally-Generated Revenue on poverty.

H1: Economic growth mediates the effect of Locally-Generated Revenue on poverty.

2) Testing Criteria

The testing criteria used are as follows:

If $Z \leq 1.96$, H1 is rejected and H0 is accepted, meaning economic growth is not a mediating variable.

If $Z > 1.96$, H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted, meaning economic growth is a mediating variable.

3) Calculating Test Statistics

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the Z-value for the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{a^2 S_b^2 + b^2 S_a^2 + S_a^2 S_b^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{(0,363)^2 (0,115)^2 + (0,564)^2 (0,087)^2 + (0,087)^2 (0,115)^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = 0.065195$$

Where :

- a : Regression coefficient of the independent variable on the mediating variable
- b : Regression coefficient of the mediating variable on the dependent variable
- Sa : Standard error of coefficient a
- Sb : Standard error of coefficient b

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$Z = \frac{ab}{S_{ab}}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,363)(0,564)}{0,065195}$$

$$Z = 3.1403$$

4) Conclusion

Since the calculated Z value is $3.1403 > 1.96$, it indicates that economic growth (Y1) serves as a mediating variable in the relationship between employment (X3) and poverty (Y2) in regencies/municipalities in Bali Province. In other words, employment has an indirect effect on poverty in regencies/municipalities in Bali Province through economic growth..

Testing the Indirect Effect of the Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD) Variable (X2) on the Poverty Variable (Y2) through the Economic Growth Variable (Y1:

1) Hypothesis Formulation

H₀: Economic Growth does not mediate the effect of Investment on Poverty

H₁: Economic Growth mediates the effect of Investment on Poverty

2) Testing Criteria

The testing criteria are as follows:

If the calculated Z value ≤ 1.96 , H₁ is rejected and H₀ is accepted, indicating that economic growth is not a mediating variable.

If the calculated Z value > 1.96 , H₀ is rejected and H₁ is accepted, indicating that economic growth is a mediating variable.

3) Calculating Test Statistics

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{a^2 S_b^2 + b^2 S_a^2 + S_a^2 S_b^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = \sqrt{(0,661)^2(0,115)^2 + (0,564)^2(0,210)^2 + (0,210)^2(0,115)^2}$$

$$S_{ab} = 0.142791$$

Where :

a : Regression coefficient of the independent variable on the mediating variable

b : Regression coefficient of the mediating variable on the dependent variable

S_a : Standard error of coefficient a

S_b : Standard error of coefficient b

To test the significance of the indirect effect, the z value of the ab coefficient is calculated using the following formula:

$$Z = \frac{ab}{S_{ab}}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,661)(0,564)}{0,142791}$$

$$Z = 2.6108$$

4) Conclusion

Since the calculated Z value of $2.6108 > 1.96$, it indicates that economic growth (Y1) serves as a mediating variable in the relationship between investment (X4) and poverty (Y2) in the regencies/cities of Bali Province. In other words, investment indirectly influences poverty in the regencies/cities of Bali Province through economic growth.

Discussion of Research Finding

The Influence of Education Level, Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD), Employed Population, and Investment on Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

1) The Influence of Education Level on Poverty in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

This study shows that education has a positive and significant influence on economic growth. This means that an increase in a person's level of education tends to promote higher economic growth. The analysis results show that the beta coefficient for the education variable on economic growth is 0.754, meaning that each additional year of schooling can increase economic growth by 75.4 percent. These findings support the hypothesis that education contributes positively to economic growth in the regencies and cities of Bali Province.

The significance of these findings can be explained by the increase in individual productivity as a result of higher educational attainment. The higher the level of education, the better an individual's capabilities in the workforce, which in turn drives increased production. This rise in production volume will have a direct impact on regional economic growth. Conversely, low levels of education will negatively affect both the quality and quantity of production and lead to low labor absorption (Buchari, 2016).

According to the Human Capital Theory, a country with limited natural resources still has the opportunity to grow if it possesses excellent and skilled human resources. Countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore serve as examples of how high-quality human capital can optimize the efficient use of limited resources. Therefore, improving the quality of human resources becomes essential in the development process.

Literature in the field of development economics also emphasizes that human capital is a key component in supporting economic growth (Ogundari & Awokuse, 2018). This can be achieved through capital accumulation, foreign exchange utilization, the adoption of foreign technology, and overall improvements in productivity, as well as human capital development through education, vocational training, work experience, health, and labor mobility (Schultz, 1961; Becker, 1993). This is further supported by the findings of this study, which are consistent with the research conducted by Jana and Yasa (2019), stating that the level of education is closely related to economic growth—an increase in educational attainment tends to be followed by a rise in economic growth. Education is considered a key element in driving economic growth as it enhances individual skills and knowledge, which ultimately boosts productivity and workforce competitiveness.

This study is also supported by the testimony of Dr. I Nyoman Sumerta Miwada, S.Pt., M.P., Vice Dean for Student Affairs and Information at the Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Udayana University, during an interview on Monday, June 16, 2025. He stated that education has a very significant impact. In the context of economic growth, education plays an important role in improving the quality of future generations, enhancing family economies, and stimulating the economic development of a region or country.

Therefore, education is indeed essential. The government also continues to encourage the public—from children to adults—to pursue education and improve its quality, as education serves as a key factor in promoting economic growth/increase.

2) The Influence of Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD) on Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

This study indicates that Locally-Generated Revenue (PAD) has a positive and significant effect on economic growth in the regencies and cities of Bali Province during the 2014–2023 period. This means that an increase in PAD directly stimulates economic growth in the region. The regression analysis results show that any increase in PAD is followed by a rise in economic growth, emphasizing the important role of regional income sources as one of the key drivers of local economic development.

The significance of PAD's influence on economic growth can be explained by its function as the primary source of funding for local governments in financing various development programs and public services. As PAD increases, regency/city governments gain greater capacity to improve infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other supporting facilities that contribute to increased public productivity and a more attractive investment climate. Improvements in public service quality and infrastructure ultimately create a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth.

Furthermore, PAD derived from local taxes, retributions, and the management of regional assets reflects fiscal independence, allowing local governments to be more responsive in managing local economic potential. Hence, the increase in PAD not only strengthens fiscal capacity but also enhances regional competitiveness, enabling more optimal and equitable economic growth across all regencies and cities in Bali Province.

These findings are consistent with development economics theory, which highlights the importance of local revenue sources in supporting economic expansion. They also align with previous research, such as that by Dewi and Suputra (2017), which confirmed that the increase in PAD contributes positively to regional development. Therefore, strategies to enhance PAD must continue to be encouraged to ensure that economic growth in Bali Province remains sustainable and inclusive.

This study is supported by the response of I Nyoman Arnawa, S.E., who serves as the Head of Lalanglinggah Village, during an interview on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at the Lalanglinggah Village Office. He believes that PAD plays a strategic role in driving economic growth at the village level. With proper management, PAD can become a primary funding source for various development programs that directly address community needs, such as infrastructure, local economic empowerment, and improvements in public services, all of which will accelerate economic circulation in the village.

3) The Influence of the Employed Population on Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

This study demonstrates that the number of employed individuals has a positive and significant effect on economic growth. This means that when the number of workers increases, the regional economic growth also experiences an upward trend.

The significance of this regression result can be explained by the crucial role of the labor force in driving productivity and economic activity. The greater the number of

people employed, the higher the level of goods and services production in a given area, which ultimately boosts overall economic growth.

This finding is in line with the theory of economic growth proposed by Adam Smith and is further supported by the study of Musfiar (2012), which explains that an increase in the labor force has a positive relationship with economic growth. The economic development of a region is greatly influenced by its population conditions, particularly those who are directly involved in economic activities. Moreover, this result is reinforced by research conducted by Yuni and Sudibia (2015), who found that a region's economic growth is closely linked to the number of employed individuals. The presence of a productive workforce supports the growth of economic sectors through enhanced production and consumption capacity, which in turn drives sustained economic activity.

This research is also supported by the response of apt. Gusti Ayu Putu Prima Purnamasari, S.Farm., a pharmacist at Murni Teguh Hospital, during an interview on Monday, June 16, 2025, at the pharmacy of Murni Teguh Hospital. She stated that the role of workers in promoting economic growth is highly significant. As a key player in the economic process—whether in the industrial, agricultural, service, or trade sectors—worker productivity is a critical factor in the success of businesses and contributes to the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). When our skills and productivity increase through training, work motivation, and supportive environments, economic output also improves. Therefore, investing in the capacity building of workers is also an investment in national economic growth.

4) The Influence of Investment on Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province

This study indicates that investment has a negative and significant effect on economic growth. In other words, an increase in investment is followed by a decline in the rate of economic growth.

According to Solow's theory of economic growth, capital accumulation aimed at providing or improving the quality of production factors should be able to drive economic growth. In this context, investment as a form of capital accumulation is expected to contribute to expanding employment opportunities and increasing national income, which in turn stimulates economic growth. Wiagustini et al. (2017) explain that capital is an essential component of the economic development process, where the pace of capital accumulation determines the speed of economic growth in a region.

In line with this, Jhingan (2004:229), within the framework of the Harrod-Domar model, states that investment plays a strategic role in generating income and expanding a country's production capacity through capital enhancement. Meanwhile, Bhinadi (2003) argues that economic growth is influenced by the availability of capital goods, labor, and changes in the productivity of production factors. Theoretically, an increase in investment should foster economic growth, and conversely, a decrease in investment should hinder it.

The results of this study are consistent with research conducted by Kurniawan (2022), which points out that investment growth does not always contribute positively to regional economic growth. This may be due to inefficient investment allocation or inadequate infrastructure support. The inability to optimize the use of investments due to an inefficient market structure leads to ineffective resource allocation, ultimately hampering economic growth. These findings emphasize that the impact of investment

is highly dependent on the readiness of a country's economic structure and financial system.

This research is supported by the response of I Ketut Turyantana, Head of the BNI Sub-Branch at Udayana University Bukit Jimbaran Campus, during an interview on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the BNI Office. He stated that banks such as BNI, as one of the nation's key assets, have contributed positively to managing public investment funds through products such as savings, deposits, and loans like People's Business Credit (KUR). However, the impact of investment on economic growth is not always positive, as investment may, in fact, exert a negative influence. This indicates that even though funds circulate from the public and return to the public, their effectiveness depends heavily on accurate targeting and equitable access. Therefore, according to him, a comprehensive evaluation of investment distribution mechanisms is necessary to promote inclusive economic growth.

5) The Influence of Economic Growth on Poverty in Regencies/Cities in Bali Province

The results of this study indicate that the economic growth variable has a negative and significant relationship with the poverty rate. In other words, when the rate of economic growth increases, the poverty rate tends to decline. This suggests that increased economic output in a region, if managed equitably and inclusively, can have a positive impact in reducing the number of people living in poverty.

Sustainable economic growth is generally accompanied by the expansion of business sectors and the creation of broader employment opportunities. In this context, the availability of jobs allows people to earn decent and stable incomes. As income increases, individuals are better able to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing, healthcare, and education. The ability to fulfill these needs plays a crucial role in accelerating the process of escaping poverty.

Moreover, healthy economic growth also leads to increased capacity of local governments to provide public services. When the gross regional domestic product (GRDP) rises, local government revenue also tends to increase, enabling greater resources for improving infrastructure and access to education and healthcare services. Improved access to these two sectors is one of the key factors in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

This finding is consistent with the research conducted by Lestari et al. (2021), which states that economic growth has a significant negative effect on poverty, meaning that economic growth has reached all groups of poor communities and is thus effective in reducing poverty levels.

Furthermore, this study supports the findings of Jana and Yasa (2019), who found that economic growth plays a role as a partial mediating variable in the relationship between education and investment and poverty levels in regencies/municipalities in Bali Province. This means that the higher the economic growth of a region, the greater the potential for education and investment to contribute to poverty reduction.

In conclusion, economic growth is one of the crucial components in poverty alleviation strategies. However, to achieve optimal impact, such growth must be complemented by effective social policies and equitable development across regions.

The Indirect Influence of Education Level, Local Revenue (PAD), Employment, and Investment on Poverty through Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities of Bali Province (2014–2023)

The analysis results indicate that economic growth serves as a mediating variable linking the influence of education level, local revenue (PAD), employment, and investment on poverty in the regencies/cities of Bali Province. In other words, these variables—education level, local revenue, employment, and investment—have an indirect effect on poverty reduction through the mechanism of economic growth. These findings are in line with the study by Jana and Yasa (2019), which states that economic growth partially mediates the relationship between education and investment and poverty levels in the region.

Economic growth contributes to poverty reduction provided that the growth is inclusive and evenly distributed across all segments of society. If economic gains are concentrated only among specific groups, they are unlikely to have a meaningful impact on poverty alleviation. On the contrary, inequality in the distribution of growth benefits may worsen poverty conditions, as the poor do not gain access to the advantages brought by increased economic output. Therefore, equitable distribution within the process of economic growth becomes a crucial factor in achieving effective poverty eradication.

CONCLUSION

ased on the results of the research conducted, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) Education level, local revenue (PAD), and the working population have a positive and significant effect on economic growth in the regencies/cities of Bali Province. However, investment shows a negative and significant relationship with economic growth in the regencies/cities of the province.
- 2) Education level, local revenue (PAD), investment, and economic growth have a negative and significant effect on poverty levels. This indicates that increases in these factors can help reduce poverty. However, the working population does not have a negative effect on poverty in the regencies/cities of the province
- 3) Education level, local revenue (PAD), working population, and investment have an indirect influence on poverty through economic growth in the regencies/cities of Bali Province.

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