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Human Development Index and Sustainable Development Goals in Banten Province

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ABSTRACT

Human development is a key indicator for evaluating the success of sustainable development efforts. This research aims to examine the relationship between the Human Development Index (HDI) and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Banten Province, specifically focusing on efforts to reduce poverty and address regional inequality. Utilizing a library research approach, the study draws primarily from official publications issued by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Banten Province and supporting documents and reports relevant to the SDGs. The findings indicate that rising HDI levels in the province generally align with progress in several SDG objectives. Specifically, progress is most evident in SDG 1, which focuses on poverty eradication, and SDG 10, which addresses reducing social and economic disparities. Substantial variations in HDI among districts and cities persist, highlighting regional disparities that challenge the equitable realization of SDG outcomes. The study concludes that HDI can be utilized as a strategic tool for identifying development priorities and assessing the impact of SDG-related programs. This research contributes to the field of development policy by advocating for the integration of HDI indicators with SDG objectives to promote more equitable and inclusive welfare outcomes at both local and global scales.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

Development is an ongoing process focused on building Indonesia's fair, competitive, progressive, and prosperous society. Global development encounters complex and interrelated challenges like poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental damage. Among the key challenges confronting many developing nations, including Indonesia, is poverty, referring to the population living beneath the poverty threshold. As previous research has shown, poverty is a central problem that still plagues many developing countries and acts as both a cause and a consequence of underdevelopment. It narrows education, health, and infrastructure access, reinforcing economic stagnation cycles. Conversely, poverty is also shaped by structural issues like uneven resource distribution and restricted access to economic opportunities. Consequently, low-income nations face significant challenges in attaining sustainable development, particularly when striving to meet SDG's in areas such as South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (Todaro & Smith, 2020; Sumner, 2016; Ravallion, 2016).

This situation calls for a development strategy that addresses economic factors and emphasizes social and environmental sustainability. In response to these challenges, In 2015, the United Nations formally established SDG, which consists of 17 interconnected and complementary global objectives. The SDGs aim to eliminate poverty, protect the environment, and enhance the well-being of all people, guided by the commitment to "leave no one behind" by the year 2030 (United Nations, 2015). Addressing poverty is a shared responsibility of All countries. The global community has committed

to prioritizing poverty eradication within the SDG framework. This enables widespread and simultaneous poverty alleviation programs worldwide. From 1990 to 2019, the world significantly reduced extreme poverty from around 38% to 8.5% (World Bank, 2023).

Despite this significant progress, poverty remains a serious challenge, especially in developing countries like Indonesia. As described by the Keynesian paradox of poverty amid prosperity, Indonesia has yet to fully overcome poverty despite its abundant natural resources (Safitri et al., 2022). The urgency of achieving the SDGs has increased in the face of rising social inequality, climate crisis, and environmental degradation. Sachs et al. (2019) stated, "Achieving the SDGs requires deep, structural transformations across six major areas: education, health, energy, urban development, sustainable land use, and digital technologies." This means that the success of the SDGs cannot be achieved through a fragmented sectoral approach but through systemic and cross-sectoral transformation.

Conversely, the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) highlights that the core obstacle in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not the absence of policies but rather the insufficient integration across sectors, lack of institutional coordination, and limited stakeholder participation. Messerli et al. (2019) noted, "Policy coherence and stakeholder engagement remain critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda." This suggests that while there is a global consensus on the SDGs, their execution continues to be hindered by structural complexities at both international and national levels. The SDGs offer a vital framework for guiding sustainable national development. In the face of persistent challenges such as poverty, regional inequality, environmental degradation, and inadequate access to essential services, the SDGs provide a strategic roadmap to ensure that development efforts promote economic progress, social equity, and environmental sustainability for future generations.

Banten Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia with significant economic potential. However, despite experiencing notable economic growth, the province still faces challenges in poverty eradication. Since its establishment in 2000, following its separation from West Java Province, Banten has been striving to address various socio-economic issues, including poverty, which remains a central concern in regional development. According to data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), poverty in Banten remains an urgent issue. In 2023, Banten ranked fourth among provinces with the most poor residents on Java Island, with 826.13 thousand people living in poverty. Banten's economic growth was recorded at 4.81%, slower than the previous year's 5.03%. Banten had the slowest economic growth compared to other provinces on Java Island (Statistics Indonesia, 2023). Therefore, as Banten Province marks its 24th year since its establishment, addressing poverty has become increasingly urgent, particularly in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations.

Poverty in Banten Province should be evaluated through a comprehensive lens that goes beyond income levels by incorporating the Human Development Index (HDI), which covers three fundamental dimensions: health (life expectancy and well-being), education (knowledge acquisition), and standard of living (adequate living conditions). These dimensions are integral to setting development priorities and formulating poverty reduction strategies. Elevated poverty rates are often linked to poor educational quality and restricted access to essential healthcare services. In this regard, the HDI is a crucial indicator for measuring the success of various poverty alleviation policies and programs. A low HDI suggests that despite economic advancements, a significant portion of the population has yet to benefit equitably. Improving the HDI is essential for advancing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly as Banten continues to face challenges related to education, health, and economic inequality. Growth in the HDI reflects positive changes in key life aspects that directly contribute to the SDGs, demonstrating that SDG implementation has a meaningful

impact on the well-being of Banten's residents. As highlighted in earlier research, "HDI can enhance labor productivity, which subsequently increases income levels to fulfill decent living standards, thereby reducing poverty" (Alvia et al., 2024).

By focusing on the SDGs - especially those focusing on the elimination of poverty (SDG 1), The improvement of educational quality (SDG 4), and the advancement of health and well-being (SDG 3) - Banten has an opportunity to develop more effective strategies for poverty reduction. The SDGs offer a comprehensive framework to assess the success of development programs that emphasize economic growth and prioritize people's well-being. The implementation of SDGs is expected to facilitate the development of inclusive and sustainable policies, considering the diverse socio-economic conditions across Banten Province. Although challenges remain in reducing poverty, there are also opportunities that the provincial government and other stakeholders can harness. Improving the quality of education and health services, developing infrastructure, and creating decent job opportunities are key steps that must be taken. By utilizing data and analysis from the HDI, Banten Province can formulate more targeted policies to achieve sustainable development goals.

Previous studies have revealed various factors that influence poverty levels in different regions. Dwiazhari (2023) identified that the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and health-related variables significantly affect poverty rates in East Java Province. Likewise, Ristika et al. (2021) in the same area found that factors such as population size, visible unemployment, and HDI collectively significantly impact the extent of poverty. Meanwhile, Anggoro (2024) added that government expenditure, HDI, economic growth, and GRDP significantly affected poverty levels in Java Island from 2012–2022. From these studies, several factors consistently influence poverty levels across various regions in Indonesia, including Per capita income or GRDP typically has an inverse relationship with poverty, meaning that an increase in per capita income usually leads to a decrease in poverty levels; Unemployment, with many studies showing that increased unemployment contributes to higher poverty rates; Education and human resources, which negatively affect poverty, suggesting that better education can help reduce poverty; Public spending/government investment, which generally harms poverty, showing that increased public spending can help lessen poverty; HDI in the context of social welfare, where higher HDI values correlate with higher levels of societal well-being, and vice versa.

This research aims to thoroughly investigate one of the key factors affecting poverty levels, the Human Development Index (HDI), focusing on Banten Province. Banten is notable among Indonesia's 38 provinces for its pronounced economic disparities between its regencies and cities. This makes the study particularly important as it offers a deeper understanding of HDI's role in influencing regional poverty. Furthermore, this research confirms previous studies exploring various poverty determinants in different areas. Therefore, it is hoped that the results will contribute to the development and progress of Banten at both regency and city levels while supporting the government's efforts to tackle poverty. This study serves as a crucial step toward better comprehending how to achieve sustainable development goals. The research aims to analyze and assess the Human Development Index in Banten Province about development priorities focused on poverty eradication as the province enters its 24th year. The results aim to guide the regional government in developing human development policies that support the progression of sustainable development efforts within the province.

METHOD

This research is a library study or library research. The library study method is a research approach that involves gathering, reviewing, and analyzing data or information from various written materials. This encompasses books, peer-reviewed journals, research studies, and official publications pertinent to the research subject or problem under investigation. The study uses this method to

compare existing theories with those found in previous research literature. According to Nazir (2011), a literature study is a data collection technique that reviews relevant literature to obtain a theoretical basis and framework. This method is widely used in social research, humanities, philosophy, and the initial stage of empirical research.

The data collection process for this study was conducted through an extensive literature review, focusing on both valid and relevant scholarly sources to the core research topics: HDI, SDGs, and poverty levels in Banten Province. The researcher began by identifying, compiling, and integrating pertinent data from various academic publications, which were subsequently analyzed and synthesized to form the basis of the discussion. Following the framework proposed by Sugiyono (2018), the literature review was conducted through the following systematic steps: 1) Defining the research topic and problem focus; 2) Identifying relevant keywords for literature search; 3) Accessing and retrieving sources such as books, journals, conference proceedings, and official government documents; 4) Selecting credible and relevant literature; 5) Taking structured notes, summaries, or direct quotations from selected materials; 6) Analyzing and synthesizing the information to support the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study.

This approach guaranteed a thorough grasp of the current knowledge base and established a strong basis for further analysis. The primary data utilized in this study were Sourced from formal reports released by BPS of Banten Province, supplemented by various documents and reports concerning SDG. The dataset included essential metrics, notably the HDI, poverty levels, and sustainability measures across all regencies and cities within Banten Province. Further literature was drawn from reputable academic journals published within the last ten years (2013–2023), ensuring the relevance and credibility of sources. These include national and international peer-reviewed journals discussing interlinkages between human development, poverty reduction, and sustainability frameworks. According to BPS (2023), the Human Development Index is calculated based on three fundamental dimensions.

Table 1. HDI Grouping Criteria

HDI Criteria	Score
Very high	IPM≥80
High	70≤IPM< 80
Medium	60 ≤IPM<70
Low	IPM < 60

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Poverty is the inability to meet the basic minimum requirements of food and non-food items (BPS, 2023). It is a complex and multidimensional issue that has long been challenging for Indonesia. Several factors contribute to poverty, one main being the high population. A large population can place increased pressure on natural resources and job markets, ultimately leading to higher unemployment rates. Unemployment is one of the most significant factors influencing poverty. In addition to population size and unemployment, other factors such as education, health, and infrastructure also impact poverty levels (Putrizain et al., 2022).

Poverty remains a major challenge in Indonesia. According to data from BPS (2023), the national poverty rate is around 9.57%, although it has decreased in recent decades. SDG No Poverty aims to eradicate all types of poverty worldwide. Poverty literacy encompasses more than just low income; it also involves restricted access to essential services like healthcare, education, and social security. In Indonesia, particularly in Banten Province, poverty is often linked to high unemployment rates and low productivity among the working-age population. Banten Province is among the provinces in Java that have a relatively higher poverty rate than others. Households are considered

poor when their mean monthly spending per person falls below the defined Poverty Threshold. The Food Poverty Line (GKM) defines the minimum spending necessary to fulfill a daily nutritional requirement of 2,100 kilocalories per individual. Meanwhile, the poverty threshold for non-food necessities (GKNM) encompasses essential expenditures for housing, clothing, education, healthcare, and other fundamental needs (Susanti & Syakhiral, 2024; Susongko et al., 2024).

Statistics Indonesia (BPS) employs the Basic Needs Approach to measure poverty, which defines poverty as the failure to fulfill basic requirements for food and non-food items based on expenditure levels. This method employs the Headcount Index to determine the proportion of individuals whose income falls beneath the poverty threshold. The Poverty Line (PL) consists of two components: the Food Poverty Line (FPL) and the Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL), with separate calculations conducted for metropolitan and countryside regions. Since 2003, BPS has consistently published annual data on the number and proportion of impoverished individuals. Starting in 2015, the National Socio-economic Survey (Susenas) has been conducted biannually, in March and September. In 2023, the poverty rate in Banten Province stood at 6.17%, which is comparable to the previous year's figure of 6.16%. Pandeglang Regency reported the highest poverty rate within the province at 9.27%, while South Tangerang City recorded the lowest at 2.57%. The following presents the poverty rate data for Banten Province in 2023.

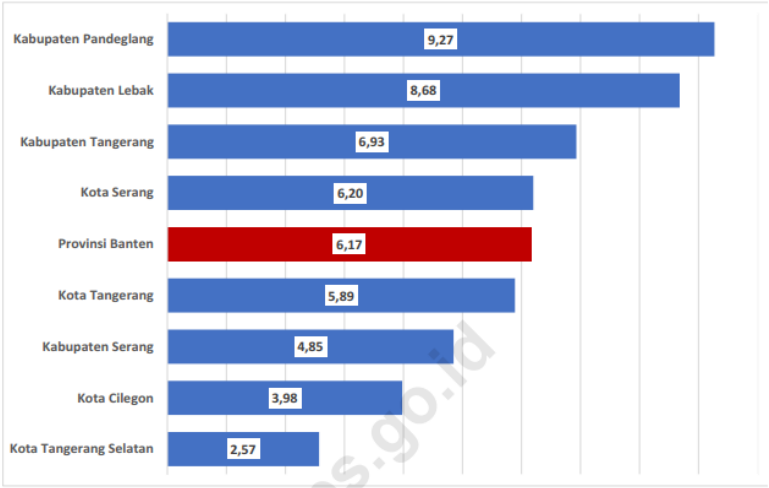


Figure 1. Poverty Rate in Banten Province in 2023

The poverty line and the number and proportion of poor individuals in Banten Province are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. Composition of the Poverty Line (GK), March 2023 – March 2024

Year	Poverty Line per Capita (Rp/capita/month)	Average Number of Poor Household Members	Poverty Line per Poor Household (Rp/household/month)
March 2023	618,721	4.92	3,044,107
March 2024	654,213	5.09	3,329,944
Change (%)	5.74	3.46	9.39

Between March 2023 and March 2024, the poverty line rose by 5.74 percent, increasing from 619 thousand rupiah per capita to 654 thousand rupiah per month. Food commodities continued to

dominate the composition of the poverty line, contributing significantly more than non-food items. As of March 2024, food commodities accounted for 72.46 percent of the poverty line.

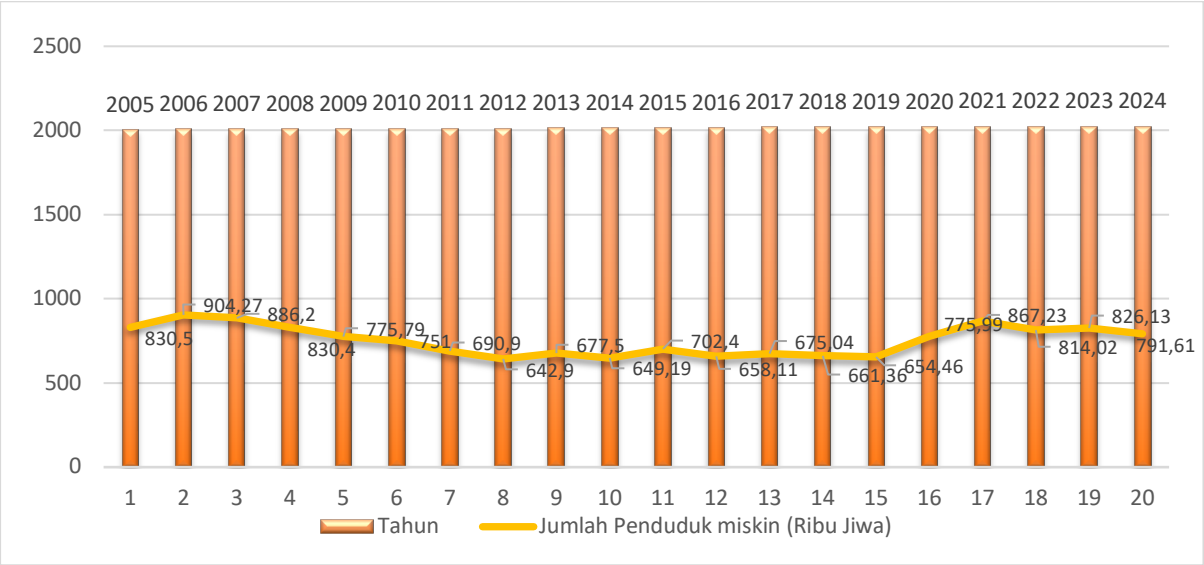


Figure 2. Development of the Number of Poor People in Banten Province (thousand people), March 2005 – March 2024

According to data on poverty figures in Banten Province from 2005 to 2024, the number of impoverished individuals experienced variations throughout this timeframe. Between 2005 and 2010, the population living below the poverty line in Banten Province showed a downward trend from 830.5 thousand in 2005 to 775.7 thousand in 2009, reflecting significant improvements in welfare during the initial five-year period. This decline continued between 2011 and 2015, reaching its lowest point in 2014 at 649.19 thousand, indicating the sustained effectiveness of poverty reduction initiatives throughout the mid-decade. However, between 2016 and 2019, the number of poor people experienced slight increases and fluctuations, rising to 675.04 thousand in 2019, possibly due to various economic or social challenges hindering further poverty alleviation. From 2020 to 2024, there was a marked increase in poverty, reaching 775.99 thousand individuals, attributable primarily to the financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the number decreased slightly after 2020, it remained relatively high at 791.61 thousand in 2024, not yet returning to previous lows. In summary, despite continuous efforts to reduce poverty in Banten, economic growth and development obstacles significantly affect poverty levels.

For the past 24 years, poverty in Banten Province reflects significant inequality between city and district areas. The main factors that cause this inequality are the difference in access to infrastructure, economic opportunities, and more limited education and health services in rural areas compared to urban areas. Some major cities in Banten Province, such as Tangerang City and Cilegon City, have better economic access, supported by proximity to Jakarta and large industries. This creates many formal job opportunities with higher incomes. In contrast, rural districts such as Lebak Regency and Pandeglang Regency are dominated by low-income agriculture and informal employment sectors, making their residents more vulnerable to poverty.

In terms of infrastructure development, the infrastructure in the big cities of Banten Province, including transportation, electricity, and internet networks, can be more developed than in the district area. This infrastructure facilitates business and trade growth and opens wider access to various services. On the other hand, infrastructure development is relatively slow in several districts of Banten

Province. This can be seen from limited road access, lack of internet services, and lack of public facilities, which slow economic development and make it more difficult for people to escape poverty. Likewise, concerning the availability of education and healthcare services, several major cities in Banten Province have adequate education and health facilities. This circumstance offers an opportunity to enhance the region's human capital quality.

Nevertheless, educational and healthcare infrastructures in rural districts are still insufficiently developed, which substantially contributes to the persistence of poverty. The findings of this study indicate that the HDI substantially reduces the incidence of poverty in Banten Province. Districts or cities with higher HDI scores generally experience lower poverty rates. This relationship can be logically explained as follows: 1) Regions with high HDI, such as South Tangerang and Tangerang City, tend to have better educational facilities, healthcare services, and higher household incomes; 2) In contrast, areas with low Human Development Index (HDI) values, including Pandeglang and Lebak, face restricted access to essential services and have a higher percentage of their population working in the informal sector. These factors collectively contribute to elevated poverty levels.

These results corroborate earlier research findings. Dewi (2023) identified that between 2011 and 2019, poverty rates in Banten Province were significantly affected by the combined factors of Demographic expansion, visible unemployment rates, gender ratio, HDI, and Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). Likewise, Wijaksana (2022) found that the HDI had a significant impact on poverty levels in Banten Province during the period from 2016 to 2021. In addition, Rakhmawati (2022) demonstrated that the HDI variable had a substantial adverse impact on poverty in Banten Province, meaning that any increase in HDI leads to a reduction in poverty levels. This is because the HDI reflects the general well-being and development of the population in a region. Therefore, poverty alleviation efforts should be concentrated on improving HDI, particularly in underdeveloped districts. Key strategies include promoting equitable access to education and healthcare infrastructure, enhancing the quality of basic services in rural areas, and fostering regionally balanced, inclusive economic development.

Various poverty alleviation programs from the government are more accessible and effective in urban areas with adequate infrastructure. Geographical conditions, such as lack of information and limited access to transportation in the Banten Province district area, often hamper the effectiveness of this program. This makes it difficult for remote areas such as the southern region of Lebak, Baduy Dalam, small islands in the Ujung Kulon Islands, and others to access aid so that the poverty gap continues. Geographical conditions that are difficult to access in these remote areas result in unequal access to basic services. Several areas in Banten Province still need more attention in terms of infrastructure development to improve connectivity and quality of life for residents in remote areas.

Based on the analysis above, the researcher proposes several policy recommendations: 1) Local authorities must dedicate a greater share of the regional budget to initiatives to enhance education and healthcare, especially in less developed districts like Lebak and Pandeglang Regencies; 2) There is a need to expand vocational training programs targeting the productive-age population in disadvantaged regions to enhance employability and economic inclusion; 3) Regular monitoring and evaluation of Human Development Index (HDI) achievements should be conducted to facilitate more targeted and effective poverty reduction interventions;. These recommendations support evidence-based policymaking and promote more equitable human development across Banten Province.

HDI is a composite metric for measuring human development, incorporating fundamental dimensions such as health, life expectancy, education (including literacy rates and average schooling years), and living standards (represented by per capita income). The HDI is instrumental in examining and tackling poverty, serving as a fundamental tool for developing policies aimed at fulfilling the SDGs, especially SDG 1, to eradicate poverty in all its manifestations worldwide. The SDGs, formulated by

the United Nations, provide a global framework to address development challenges through 2030. The relationship between HDI and the SDGs is significant since progress in the Human Development Index (HDI) signifies enhancements in multiple Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) objectives, including healthcare improvements (SDG 3), educational advancement (SDG 4), and poverty reduction initiatives (SDG 1). In this context, enhancing human capabilities is essential for successfully implementing sustainable development.

Several studies have highlighted a strong correlation between HDI scores and SDG performance. Countries with higher HDI scores tend to have lower poverty rates. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2020), countries that rank highly on the Human Development Index (HDI), including Norway and Ireland, have fewer than 2% of their populations living below the extreme poverty line. This stands in stark contrast to countries with low HDI scores, like Niger, where more than 40% of the population lives in poverty. HDI also measures health through life expectancy, aligning with SDG 3, which promotes well-being and healthy lives. A study by Alkire et al. (2020) found that improved access to primary healthcare services significantly contributes to increased HDI scores and accelerates the achievement of SDG 3.

Regarding education, HDI reflects both expected and mean years of schooling, directly aligning with SDG 4. Barro and Lee (2015) emphasize that enhancing the quality of primary and secondary education accelerates SDG 4 achievement and boosts HDI in developing countries. The Human Development Index (HDI) also incorporates Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, which is a critical factor related to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The UNDP (2019) stresses that sustainable income growth is a prerequisite for achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, inequality can reduce HDI if not balanced by equitable access. SDG 10 targets the reduction of inequality. Ravallion (2018) observes that countries with more equitable development distribution tend to perform better on SDG indicators. Empirical evidence from Costanza et al. (2016) also suggests a positive correlation between HDI and the SDG Progress Index across countries, indicating that nations with higher HDI tend to implement SDG agendas more effectively.

Numerous studies have shown that programs that enhance HDI directly reduce poverty. Azzahra et al. (2024) in Indonesia demonstrated that investment in education and healthcare—key HDI components—significantly reduced poverty levels. A study by Suryahadi et al. (2019) found that enhanced the availability of educational opportunities and fundamental healthcare services through the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) increased HDI and reduced household poverty levels. In a cross-country analysis of developing nations, Ferreira et al. (2013) identified the advancement of human capital facilitated by improved access to education and healthcare services as a primary factor in reducing extreme poverty. Additionally, Hanushek and Woessmann (2015) linked education quality to long-term economic growth and social mobility, asserting that educational improvement, as captured by HDI, helps break the cycle of poverty.

According to statistics released by Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), 2010 to 2020 demonstrate a trend: HDI improvement in Indonesia was accompanied by a decline in poverty, from 13.33% in 2011 to 9.78% in 2020. The UNDP (2020) ranked Indonesia 107th out of 189 countries in the HDI index. Despite an increase from 0.593 in 2010 to 0.718 in 2020, challenges persist, particularly in remote regions. Provinces with lower HDI, such as Papua, exhibit higher poverty rates than others. Public policies implemented in Indonesia targeting the sectors of education, healthcare, and economic development have significantly contributed to improving the Human Development Index (HDI) and reducing poverty levels. National initiatives such as the National Health Coverage Scheme (JKN) and the Family Welfare Program (PKH), micro-enterprise support programs, and aid for vulnerable groups have substantial potential to enhance HDI and reduce poverty. Coordinated implementation of these programs creates a more enabling environment for human development and supports the

long-term goals of sustainable development. Nevertheless, disparities between urban and rural areas continue to pose significant challenges for poverty reduction efforts. HDI is considered adequate in capturing human development achievements as a measurement tool. In Banten Province, HDI has become a primary benchmark for evaluating improving living standards over time. The HDI trend in Banten Province from 2002 to 2024 is illustrated in Figure 4.

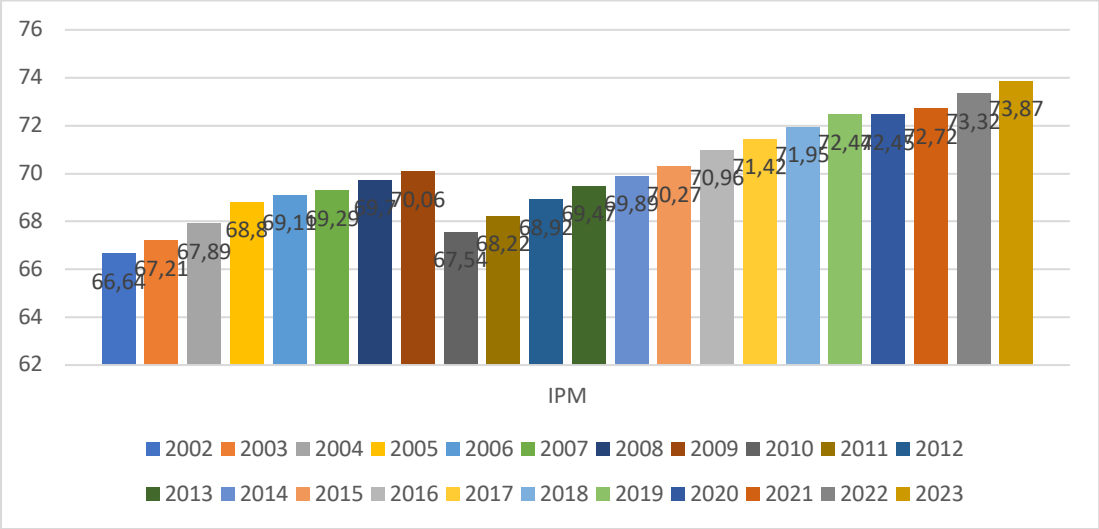


Figure 3. Human Development Index (HDI) of Banten Province 2002-2024

The outcomes of the Human Development Index evaluation reflect that the state of human progress in Banten Province from 2002-2024 is in the medium and high categories. The achievement of HDI in Banten province continues to increase, but the speed of human development is included in the slow category. This can be seen from the average growth of Banten's HDI yearly. In 2005, the HDI of Banten Province was 68.8 and was ranked 20th out of 34 provinces. Comparing HDI between provinces from 2002-2004 shows that Banten is lagging in its human resource development. This condition is evident in that in 2002, Banten's position was ranked 11th, but three years later, in 2005, it declined to 20th place. This means other provinces previously in lower positions have shown seriousness in building their human resources.

The status of human development in 2008 for the district/city level in Banten Province was all in the middle category. Judging from each component, there is still a gap between the district and the city. This gap is due to the gap in the education component and the gap in people's living standards. The gap between existing regions is not only caused by natural conditions but also due to the impact of industrialization, which increases the gap between industrial areas in North Banten and other areas in South Banten. The growth rate of Banten's HDI during the 2010-2015 period continued to decline. Therefore, even though the overall quality of human development continues to advance, progress has been decelerating. This deceleration will likely prolong the time required to attain the optimal Human Development Index (HDI) level.

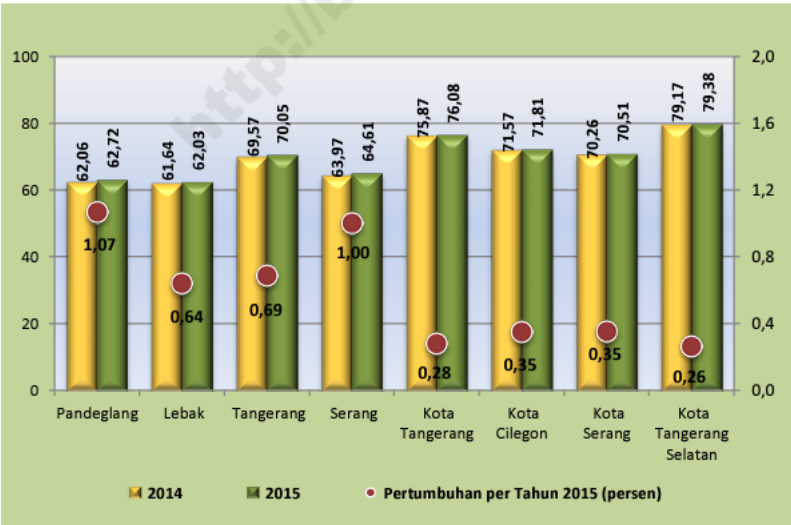


Figure 4. Value and Growth of HDI in Regencies/Cities 2010-2015

Based on Figure 4, it can be seen that all districts have higher HDI growth than urban areas. This condition is very favorable because HDI inequality in Banten decreased in 2015. Following the upward trends in various human development indicators in 2020, Banten Province has continued to progress in its achievements. This progress is reflected in the rise of the Human Development Index (HDI) by 4.91 points over 2010–2020, representing an average annual increase of 0.49 points. Unfortunately, Banten's HDI growth 2020 declined again due to the impact of Covid-19. In the 2023 period, Banten's HDI will reach 75.77. The growth of Banten's HDI in 2023 has increased. In addition to improving the quality of human development, its growth has also accelerated. This increase was driven by acceleration in most districts/cities.

A review of HDI trends in Banten Province over the years indicates a steady increase. This upward trajectory underscores the regional government's commitment to promoting the SDGs, especially regarding reducing poverty and enhancing its residents' overall quality of life. Strategic policies in education, healthcare, and the economy (emphasizing equitable access and improved living conditions) drive this positive development. These measures indirectly support SDG 1, namely the elimination of poverty, by ensuring that the people of Banten have proper access to health services, quality education, and economic opportunities. Through programs such as improving access to basic health in remote areas and providing scholarships and skills training for local workers, the Banten government seeks to empower the community to have better opportunities to improve their standard of living.

This study makes several significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge. First, it reinforces the theoretical framework linking human development and poverty. The analysis confirms that the core dimensions of the Human Development Index (HDI)—namely education, health, and a decent standard of living—significantly impact poverty levels. This finding emphasizes that human development should be viewed as an indicator of development success and a strategic determinant in the sustainable reduction of poverty. Secondly, this research offers localized empirical insights that are instrumental in shaping data-informed development strategies at the provincial scale. It addresses a significant deficiency within the existing scholarly literature by exploring how the SDGs are implemented at the sub-national level, particularly in Banten Province. The study underscores explicitly advancements in Goal 1 (Eradication of Poverty), Goal 3 (Guaranteeing Health and Enhancing Well-being), Goal 4 (Ensuring Accessible and High-Quality Education), and Goal 10 (Mitigation of Inequality). Third, the findings have practical implications that can serve as a reference

for regional policymaking. Local governments may design more targeted interventions to enhance HDI as a long-term strategy for poverty alleviation, in alignment with the principles of integration and inclusiveness embedded in the SDGs framework. Academically, this study opens new avenues for further research using quantitative and qualitative approaches to explore causal relationships between socio-economic indicators and sustainable development objectives. Thus, the research contributes to theoretical understanding and the reinforcement of evidence-based policy in regional development.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights that poverty levels in Banten Province have fluctuated over the past 24 years, shaped by a range of structural and geographic factors. While there has been a general long-term decline in poverty rates, significant regional inequalities persist, especially between urban and rural areas. Cities typically enjoy better infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic resources, whereas rural and remote regions like Pandeglang and Lebak still struggle with limited access to essential services. Data show that the poverty line and the number of people living in poverty rose during the COVID-19 pandemic, though conditions have gradually improved in the following years. The poverty line is mainly influenced by food-related needs, highlighting the critical role of food stability in poverty alleviation initiatives. Banten's Human Development Index (HDI) has steadily increased, though progress has been relatively modest. This growth is primarily attributed to learning, healthcare, and economic development improvements. However, disparities in HDI between regions remain, indicating unequal access to vital services and infrastructure. This study underscores the strong correlation between enhancements in the HDI and the mitigation of poverty, aligning closely with the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda—particularly Goal 1 (Eradication of Poverty), Goal 3 (Guaranteeing Health and Enhancing Well-being), and Goal 4 (Ensuring Accessible and High-Quality Education), and Goal 10 (Mitigation of Inequality). Fostering inclusive and equitable human development is identified as a fundamental strategy for achieving sustainable poverty eradication. From a practical standpoint, the findings provide critical insights for local governments in designing evidence-based policies to improve HDI, with a particular emphasis on underserved and marginalized areas.

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