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The Effect Of Population Size, Unemployment, And Zakat, Infaq, And Sadaqah (ZIS) Distribution On Poverty In Jambi Province, 2020-2024

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Abstract

Poverty remains a persistent development problem in Jambi Province, with marked disparities across regencies and cities. This study examines the partial and simultaneous effects of population size, unemployment, and the distribution of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah (ZIS) funds on poverty in Jambi Province during 2020–2024. Using a quantitative descriptive–verificative design, the study analyzes secondary balanced panel data from 11 regencies and cities over five years (55 observations), obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Jambi Province and reports of zakat management institutions. The data were analyzed using panel data regression in EViews 14, and the Chow, Hausman, and Lagrange Multiplier tests identified the random effect model as the most appropriate specification. The results show that population size (p = 0.1750) and unemployment (p = 0.1223) have no significant partial effect on poverty, whereas ZIS distribution has a negative and significant effect (coefficient = −0.000495; p = 0.0001). Simultaneously, the three variables significantly affect poverty (F-test p = 0.000109). The adjusted R^2 of 0.2947 indicates that they explain 29.47% of the variation in poverty, while the remaining 70.53% is attributable to factors outside the model. ZIS distribution is therefore the only significant partial determinant among the variables examined. The government is advised to improve human resource quality and expand employment opportunities, while zakat management institutions should optimize ZIS distribution through productive and well-targeted economic empowerment programs.

Keywords: Population Size, Unemployment, Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah (ZIS), Poverty, Jambi Province

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INTRODUCTION

Economic development is understood as a continuous process of change that expands employment, narrows development gaps, and ultimately improves people's welfare. As cited in Purnama dkk., (2025), describes development as a comprehensive process involving fundamental changes in structures, behavior, and social institutions, accompanied by accelerated growth, reduced inequality, and the eradication of poverty. In practice, however, development has not always been able to curb poverty, particularly in regions where poverty rates have tended to rise over time. Poverty itself is defined as the inability of individuals or groups to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, and health (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023). It is a multidimensional and complex problem shaped by economic, social, and demographic factors, so identifying its determinants is essential for designing effective poverty-reduction policies.

Jambi Province illustrates this challenge. Its poverty rate fluctuated between 2020 and 2024: it rose from 7.58% in 2020 to 8.09% in 2021, a change likely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which weakened economic activity and purchasing power and raised open unemployment, before declining to 7.62% in 2022, 7.58% in 2023, and 7.10% in 2024 (BPS, 2023). The provincial average, moreover, masks wide disparities among regencies and cities. In 2024, the poverty rate ranged from 2.92% in Sungai Penuh City to 10.14% in Tanjung Jabung Timur Regency (BPS, 2023), indicating that the drivers of poverty are unevenly distributed across space and warrant analysis at the regency/city level.

Population size is among the most frequently examined determinants of poverty. Jambi's population grew from 3,548.2 thousand in 2020 to 3,724.3 thousand in 2024, an increase of about 5.0%, with growth recorded in all 11 regencies and cities (BPS Provinsi Jambi, 2025). Malthusian theory holds that uncontrolled population growth strains available resources and thereby raises poverty (Cahyani & Muljaningsih, 2022). When the population grows faster than employment opportunities, surplus labor is pushed into the informal sector, which is typically characterized by low productivity, unstable income, and limited access to capital and social protection (Sembiring dkk., 2023). Nevertheless, a larger working-age population does not automatically translate into higher welfare unless it is accompanied by quality and inclusive economic growth (Rahayu & Hadi, 2026). The effect of population on poverty therefore depends on a region's capacity to absorb and develop its human resources.

Unemployment is a second channel through which regional labor markets shape poverty. Open unemployment rates in Jambi differ markedly across regions; in 2024 they ranged from 2.06% in Tanjung Jabung Timur to 7.38% in Jambi City (BPS Provinsi Jambi, 2025). Notably, low unemployment does not necessarily coincide with low poverty: Tanjung Jabung Timur recorded the lowest open unemployment rate in 2024 yet also the

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highest poverty rate, which suggests that a low rate may reflect employment concentrated in low-income informal or primary-sector work rather than decent job quality. This is consistent with (Cahyani & Muljaningsih, 2022), who explain that the unemployed are not necessarily poor because they may be supported by other income earners. At the same time, structural unemployment in Indonesian cities often arises because education and training systems are not aligned with changing labor market needs (Choirur dkk., 2021). The relationship between unemployment and poverty is thus far from straightforward.

Alongside government policy, Islamic economics offers *zakat* as an instrument of income redistribution that serves both social and economic functions. By channeling funds to the eight eligible groups (*asnaf*), especially the poor and the needy, zakat, *infaq*, and *sadaqah* (ZIS) can meet basic needs and, when delivered through productive empowerment programs such as business capital assistance, raise the income and economic independence of beneficiaries (*mustahik*), provided that funds are managed transparently by zakat institutions. ZIS distribution in Jambi Province expanded steadily over the study period: the combined amount distributed across the 11 regencies and cities rose from Rp23.1 billion in 2020 to Rp39.3 billion in 2024, with Jambi City alone increasing from Rp5.8 billion to Rp9.6 billion (authors' calculation based on BAZNAS Provinsi Jambi, 2024). Whether this growth has translated into lower poverty remains an empirical question.

Empirical evidence on these determinants is inconsistent. (Kumayas dkk., 2024) found that population size had a positive and significant effect on poverty in Minahasa Regency, while unemployment had a negative but insignificant effect. By contrast, Sembiring dkk., (2023) reported a negative and significant effect of population and a positive and significant effect of unemployment in the cities of West Java. Cahyani & Muljaningsih, (2022) found that population and education jointly reduced poverty in Gresik Regency, whereas unemployment had a negative but insignificant effect, and Ristika dkk., (2021) found that population significantly affected poverty in East Java while open unemployment did not. Studies on zakat in Jambi are likewise divided: Martaliah dkk., (2023) found that zakat distribution had no significant partial effect on poverty in Jambi Province during 2010-2021, whereas (Putra dkk., 2023) found that zakat receipts significantly reduced poverty in Jambi City over the same period.

These inconsistencies indicate that the effects of population, unemployment, and zakat on poverty are context-dependent and vary with regional socioeconomic characteristics. Moreover, existing studies in Jambi have examined zakat together with the Human Development Index or unemployment, or have focused on education and unemployment (Choirur dkk., 2021); the zakat studies stop at 2021 and therefore do not capture the post-pandemic recovery. To the best of our knowledge, no study has jointly

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assessed population size, unemployment, and ZIS distribution as determinants of poverty across Jambi's regencies and cities using panel data for 2020-2024.

Accordingly, this study analyzes the partial and simultaneous effects of population size, unemployment, and ZIS distribution on poverty in the 11 regencies and cities of Jambi Province during 2020–2024, using panel data regression on 55 observations. The study contributes (i) sub-provincial empirical evidence that integrates demographic, labor-market, and Islamic social finance determinants of poverty, and (ii) policy input for local governments and zakat management institutions in strengthening employment strategies and targeting productive ZIS programs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Population, Labor Market Conditions, and Poverty

Two competing channels organize the demographic argument. A larger population can place pressure on employment opportunities and household resources. Alternatively, it can expand markets and productive labor supply when employment and productivity keep pace. These channels concern the conditions accompanying population, not a deterministic relationship between population totals and deprivation. The level of population must also be distinguished from its growth rate, density, age composition, and dependency burden; the present specification measures only its level.

Recent Indonesian evidence reflects this ambiguity. (Noverina & Drs. Ec. Marseto, 2024) analyze Malang Regency over 2004-2023 using multiple regression and include economic growth, population, labor-force participation, and open unemployment. Their negative population finding contrasts with the positive relationship reported by (Putri dkk., 2025) for South Sulawesi (Ristika dkk., 2021) also examine population, open unemployment, and human development in East Java. Read together, these studies locate population within broader regional development conditions rather than justify a single sign restriction for all Indonesian districts.

Unemployment can reduce earned income, but its relationship with a regional poverty rate depends on the unit of analysis. The open unemployment rate uses the labor force as its denominator, whereas the poverty headcount ratio uses the population. Household members can pool income, and employed people may still have insufficient resources. Consequently, the association between these aggregate rates need not reproduce the income consequences of job loss for a particular person. This distinction helps interpret the insignificant unemployment estimate in (Putri dkk., 2025) without assuming that unemployment is socially harmless.

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ZIS Distribution and the Institutional Conditions of Poverty Reduction

Zakat is an obligatory transfer within Islamic practice, while infaq and sadaqah encompass voluntary giving. Their aggregation as ZIS is useful for representing recorded social-finance disbursements, but it combines instruments with potentially different restrictions, beneficiaries, and uses. A total ZIS variable should therefore not be interpreted as a measure of productive zakat alone. Nor does a disbursement total identify whether resources finance immediate consumption, education, health, or enterprise development (B & Khatimah, 2021).

Beik & Arsyianti, (2016) study 221 beneficiary households in Jakarta and Bogor using the CIBEST framework, which distinguishes material and spiritual dimensions of poverty and welfare. Their findings illustrate that assessment can extend beyond a monetary poverty headcount. The implication for the present analysis is a measurement boundary: a district poverty percentage captures neither spiritual welfare nor the full range of beneficiary outcomes. Household program assessments and aggregate regional regressions therefore provide complementary, not interchangeable, evidence.

Institutional implementation provides another boundary. Fathoni & Amelila, (2025) describe productive zakat management in OKU District and identify weaknesses in beneficiary data, transparency, distribution effectiveness, and technology use. Their evidence suggests why equal nominal disbursements may not represent equal program quality. It does not supply an estimated poverty-reduction coefficient for Jambi. Rather, it supports treating targeting, mentoring, and monitoring as plausible mechanisms requiring separate measurement.

The most directly relevant local comparison is Martaliah dkk., (2023). Their Jambi study reports that zakat distribution is not individually significant, although zakat distribution and human development are jointly significant. This result leaves open whether a more spatially disaggregated specification, a different period, or the inclusion of demographic and unemployment variables would yield a different association. Any difference from that study must nevertheless be interpreted cautiously because the present ZIS variable includes more than zakat and the two designs do not estimate identical quantities.

Research position and hypotheses

The conceptual framework links demographic scale, labor market conditions, and redistribution to district poverty. Population and unemployment represent structural correlates, while ZIS represents a redistributive correlate. The model tests their conditional relationships rather than measuring the intervening household mechanisms. The hypotheses are non directional for individual coefficients; the expected poverty-alleviation role of ZIS is considered in interpreting its estimated sign.

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H1: Population size is significantly associated with the poverty rate.
H2: Open unemployment is significantly associated with the poverty rate.
H3: ZIS distribution is significantly associated with the poverty rate.
H4: Population size, unemployment, and ZIS distribution are jointly associated with the poverty rate, meaning that at least one slope coefficient differs from zero.

Approach, Data, and Geographical Coverage

This study uses a quantitative observational approach combining descriptive analysis with hypothesis testing. The data are annual secondary panel observations for all eleven regencies and cities in Jambi Province from 2020 to 2024. Coverage comprises Kerinci, Merangin, Sarolangun, Batang Hari, Muaro Jambi, Tanjung Jabung Timur, Tanjung Jabung Barat, Tebo, Bungo, Jambi City, and Sungai Penuh City. Including every district yields a census of the defined geographical population, with 11 cross-sections multiplied by five years, or 55 balanced observations. There are no sampled interview respondents or informants.

The research documentation identifies BPS Provinsi Jambi as the source of population, unemployment, and poverty statistics, and zakat management institutional reports as the source of ZIS distribution. It also identifies Provinsi Jambi dalam angka 2025 as a supporting statistical publication (BPS Provinsi Jambi, 2025). The numerical dataset and estimation results presented here follow the supporting data appendix and reported EViews output. The underlying administrative series have not been independently authenticated against every original publication. This provenance distinction is relevant to reproducibility.

Operationalization and Documentary Collection

The data collection technique is documentation rather than survey administration. The operative data structure records a district identifier, year, population, unemployment rate, ZIS distribution, and poverty percentage. No questionnaire, interview protocol, or psychometric instrument is reported for these secondary observations. Table 1 specifies the variables in the units actually represented by the appendix and descriptive output, clarifying the measurement scales of population and ZIS distribution.

Table 1. Operational definitions and measurement units

Variable	Symbol	Operational Definition	Unit
Poverty	POV	Poverty is a condition in which a society is unable to meet its basic living needs, as measured against a poverty standard.	Percentage of the poor population (%)

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Population size	POP	Population refers to the total number of individuals residing in a given area during a specific period.	Population (number of people)
Unemployment	UNEMP	The unemployment rate describes the state of the labor force that has not yet secured employment.	Open Unemployment Rate (%)
ZIS distribution	ZIS	The distribution of ZIS funds is the process of allocating zakat, infaq, and sadaqah funds to those entitled to receive them, with the aim of improving their well-being.	Total amount of ZIS funds distributed (IDR)

Framework, Specification, And Estimation

The analytical framework combines the resource-and-employment channels of population with income exclusion and Islamic redistribution. Poverty is specified as a function of population size, open unemployment, and ZIS distribution. For district i and year t, the random-intercept specification is:

$$POV_it = \beta_0 + \beta_1 POP_it + \beta_2 UNEMP_it + \beta_3 ZIS_it + u_i + \varepsilon_it. \quad (1)$$

Here u_i represents a persistent unobserved district component and ε_it is the idiosyncratic disturbance. Random-effects interpretation requires the district component to be uncorrelated with the included regressors. The model was estimated in EViews 14 using panel estimated generalized least squares and the Swamy Arora estimator of variance components. No district-specific causal treatment, instrumental variable, lag structure, or year fixed effects are reported. Consequently, the coefficients describe conditional associations under the stated specification, not identified causal effects (Wooldridge, 2020).

The model selection sequence compares pooled and fixed-effects specifications through the reported cross-section F test, compares fixed and random effects through the Hausman test, and compares pooled and random effects through the Breusch Pagan Lagrange multiplier test. Individual coefficients are evaluated with two-sided t tests at the 5% level. The joint null is $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$. Model fit is reported using the weighted R-squared and adjusted R-squared shown in the reported estimation output; these statistics are not interpreted as causal shares of poverty determination.

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RESULT

Descriptive Statistics

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for the balanced district panel

Variable	Mean	Std. deviation	Minimum	Maximum
POP	330.3145	123.3970	96.6000	635.1000
UNEMP	4.266364	2.116268	1.320000	10.66000
ZIS	2,781.818	1,715.193	1,000.000	9,600.000
POV	7.507818	2.397291	2.920000	11.39000

N = 55

The sample mean poverty rate is 7.507818%, with a standard deviation of 2.397291 percentage points. This is the unweighted average across district-year observations, not the provincial poverty rate. Mean unemployment is 4.266364%, ranging from 1.32% to 10.66%. The population and ZIS ranges indicate substantial differences in district scale and recorded disbursement. In particular, the largest ZIS value is several times the minimum, but these totals do not reveal distribution per beneficiary or per poor resident.

Panel Model Selection

1. **Chow Test**

Redundant Fixed Effects Tests
Equation: Untitled
Test cross-section fixed effects

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	259.853503	(10,41)	0.0000
Cross-section Chi-square	229.063229	10	0.0000

The test results show a Cross-section F probability value of 0.0000, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, based on the Chow test, the more appropriate model is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM).

2. **Hausman Test**

Correlated Random Effects - Hausman Test
Equation: Untitled
Test cross-section random effects

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	2.293939	3	0.5137

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The cross-section random probability value is 0.5137, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, based on the Hausman test, the more appropriate model is the Random Effect Model (REM).

3. Lagrange Multiplier Test

	Test Hypothesis		
	Cross-section	Time	Both
Breusch-Pagan	90.88614 (0.0000)	0.871253 (0.3506)	91.75740 (0.0000)

The Breusch-Pagan probability value for the "Both" section is 0.0000, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, based on the LM test, the more appropriate model is the Random Effect Model (REM).

Regression Coefficients and Hypothesis Tests

Table 3. Cross section random effects regression estimates

Variable	Coefficient	Std. error	t statistic	P
Constant	6.379213	2.103801	3.032232	0.0038
POP	0.009251	0.006726	1.375475	0.1750
UNEMP	−0.128917	0.082044	−1.571309	0.1223
ZIS	−0.000495	0.000117	−4.217598	0.0001

The estimated systematic component of the equation is:

$$\widehat{POV}_{it} = 6.379213 + 0.009251POP_{it} - 0.128917UNEMP_{it} - 0.000495ZIS_{it}. \quad (2)$$

Population has a positive coefficient, but p = .1750 exceeds .05. H1 is therefore not supported at the specified threshold. Given the thousand-person unit, the point estimate corresponds to 0.009251 percentage points of poverty per additional thousand residents, conditional on the other included variables. Its statistical uncertainty precludes treating that magnitude as an established relationship.

Unemployment has a negative coefficient of −0.128917 with p = .1223. H2 is likewise not supported. The estimate is not evidence that unemployment alleviates poverty: the data do not reject a zero coefficient at 5%, and the aggregate specification does not identify individual income effects.

ZIS distribution has a negative coefficient of −0.000495 and a reported p-value of .0001, supporting H3 in the estimated model. On the recorded scale, an additional IDR 1 million of annual distribution is associated with 0.000495 percentage points lower poverty, holding the included variables constant. Equivalently, IDR 1 billion corresponds to a fitted

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association of −0.495 percentage points. This rescaling is not an elasticity, a relative percentage reduction, a causal forecast, or a policy cost-effectiveness estimate.

F-Test And Coefficient Determination

Weighted Statistics			
R-squared	0.333926	Mean dependent var	0.418410
Adjusted R-squared	0.294745	S.D. dependent var	0.366892
S.E. of regression	0.308114	Sum squared resid	4.841645
F-statistic	8.522697	Durbin-Watson stat	1.935568
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000109		

The test results show an F-statistic value of 8.522697, with a probability value of 0.000109. Since the probability value is less than 0.05, H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted. Consequently, the variables of population size, unemployment, and the distribution of ZIS (Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah) funds have a significant simultaneous effect on poverty in Jambi Province during the 2020–2024 period. Meanwhile, the adjusted R-squared value is 0.294745. This indicates that population size, unemployment, and the distribution of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah funds explain 29.47 percent of the variation in poverty levels in Jambi Province.

DISCUSSION

The Effect of Population Size on Poverty in Jambi Province

The partial significance test (t-test) results indicate that the population variable has a p-value of 0.1750, which exceeds the 5 percent significance level (0.05). Accordingly, H0 is accepted and H1 is rejected, indicating that population size had no statistically significant effect on the poverty rate in Jambi Province during the 2020 2024 period, despite its positive coefficient of 0.009251.

This finding is consistent with Ibn Khaldun's view within the Islamic economic perspective, which regards people not merely as a burden on development but as assets and key participants in economic activity. Population growth places pressure on welfare when it is not accompanied by adequate resource management and job creation, as also emphasized by Malthus. Conversely, working-age individuals who can participate in economic activities can serve as an asset for development. The distribution of Jambi Province's population across regencies and cities with differing economic characteristics may help explain why the effect of population size on poverty was not statistically significant.

However, the absence of a statistically significant effect may also be explained by the limited absorption of the working-age population into productive sectors in some

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areas. This situation may be attributable to the predominance of informal employment, disparities in development across regions, and differences in human resource quality, which mean that population growth does not necessarily have a significant effect on poverty in the short term.

This finding is supported by the study conducted by Salwa Syuja Putrizain et al., which found that population size had no statistically significant effect on the poverty rate in Banten Province (Putrizain dkk., 2023). It is also consistent with some of the findings of Cahyani and Muljaningsih in Gresik Regency, which indicate that the effect of demographic variables on poverty depends largely on their interaction with other variables, such as educational attainment (Cahyani & Muljaningsih, 2022).

The Effect of Unemployment on Poverty in Jambi Province

The t-test results indicate that the unemployment variable has a p-value of 0.1223, which is greater than 0.05. Accordingly, H0 is accepted and H2 is rejected. This indicates that the unemployment rate had no statistically significant effect on poverty in Jambi Province during the 2020–2024 period, although its coefficient was negative at −0.128917, a direction described as consistent with theory.

In theory, unemployment should be closely associated with poverty because employment is the primary source of household income. As explained by Sukirno, unemployment adversely affects the economy through income losses and declining welfare. However, the findings of this study indicate that this relationship was not statistically significant in Jambi Province.

The absence of a statistically significant effect may be related to the characteristics of the labor market, which remains dominated by the informal sector. Some individuals who are not statistically classified as openly unemployed nevertheless work in jobs characterized by low productivity and low income. Another possible explanation is that unemployed individuals do not necessarily belong to low-income households and may receive financial support from family members with adequate incomes. Consequently, unemployment does not always translate directly into poverty.

This finding is consistent with the study conducted by (Cahyani & Muljaningsih, 2022) in Gresik Regency, which found that the unemployment rate had a negative but statistically insignificant effect on poverty. It also aligns with the research conducted by Salwa Syuja Putrizain et al. in Banten Province, which found that unemployment had no statistically significant effect on poverty. Furthermore, the study conducted by (Choirur dkk., 2021), in Jambi Province found that unemployment had a positive and statistically significant effect on poverty reduction, indicating a relationship that differs from conventional theoretical expectations.

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The Effect of the Distribution of Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah Funds on Poverty in Jambi Province

The t-test results indicate that the distribution of Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah (ZIS) funds has a p-value of 0.0001, which is below the 5 percent significance level (0.05). Accordingly, H0 is rejected and H3 is accepted, indicating that the distribution of ZIS funds had a negative and statistically significant effect on the poverty rate in Jambi Province during the 2020–2024 period, with a coefficient of −0.000495.

This finding is consistent with the concept of distribution in Islamic economics proposed by Chapra, in which zakat serves as an instrument for redistributing wealth from muzakki (zakat payers) to mustahik (eligible recipients) to reduce economic inequality. The more effectively ZIS funds are distributed, the greater the opportunities to improve the welfare of the poor through the fulfillment of basic needs and productive economic empowerment programs.

Although the observed effect was statistically significant, the magnitude of the effect of ZIS fund distribution on poverty reduction was relatively small, as indicated by the coefficient. This may be attributable to the amount of ZIS funds distributed being insufficient relative to the scale of poverty in a given region. Furthermore, zakat distribution may still be predominantly directed toward meeting immediate consumption needs rather than supporting productive activities, thereby limiting its impact on poverty alleviation.

This finding is supported by the study conducted by Putra dkk., (2023), which found that zakat receipts had a negative and statistically significant effect on poverty in Jambi City, indicating that increased zakat receipts contributed to a reduction in the poverty rate. This result also complements the findings of Martaliah dkk., (2023), who found that the distribution of zakat funds had no statistically significant effect on poverty in Jambi Province during an earlier period (2010–2021). The difference in these findings suggests that the effectiveness of ZIS in reducing poverty may change over time alongside improvements in governance and the scale of ZIS fund distribution.

The Effects of Population Size, Unemployment, and ZIS Fund Distribution on Poverty in Jambi Province

The F-test results indicate an F-statistic of 8.522697 with a p-value of 0.000109, which is below the 5 percent significance level (0.05). Accordingly, H0 is rejected and H4 is accepted, indicating that population size, the unemployment rate, and the distribution of Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah (ZIS) funds jointly had a statistically significant effect on the poverty rate in Jambi Province during the 2020–2024 period.

These findings indicate that poverty is a phenomenon that cannot be explained by a single factor alone, but rather by the combined interaction of demographic factors, labor

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market conditions, and instruments of economic distribution. Consistent with Todaro's theory of economic development, poverty alleviation requires comprehensive changes across various structural dimensions. It is therefore understandable that these three variables demonstrate a significant effect when tested jointly, even though their individual effects are not all statistically significant.

However, the adjusted coefficient of determination (adjusted R-squared) of 0.294745 indicates that the three independent variables explain approximately 29.47 percent of the variation in the poverty rate in Jambi Province, while the remaining 70.53 percent is attributable to factors outside the research model. This may reflect the presence of numerous other structural and regional determinants of poverty, such as educational attainment, health, infrastructure, and regional fiscal policies, which are not fully captured by population size, unemployment, and ZIS fund distribution alone.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, population size and the unemployment rate individually had no statistically significant effects on poverty in Jambi Province during the 2020-2024 period. Population size had a positive coefficient, whereas unemployment had a negative coefficient; however, neither relationship was statistically significant at the 5 percent level. In contrast, the distribution of Zakat, Infaq, and Sadaqah (ZIS) funds had a negative and statistically significant effect on poverty, indicating that greater ZIS fund distribution was associated with a lower poverty rate.

The F-test results showed that population size, unemployment, and ZIS fund distribution were jointly significant in explaining poverty. The model had an adjusted R-squared of 0.294745, indicating that it accounted for approximately 29.47 percent of the variation in poverty after adjustment for the number of predictors. Thus, a substantial proportion of the variation remained unexplained by the model.

Overall, these findings highlight the importance of ZIS fund distribution in supporting poverty alleviation in Jambi Province. They also suggest that poverty reduction efforts should not rely solely on demographic and employment-related factors, but should incorporate effective ZIS management within a broader development strategy.

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