



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Poverty and Its Mitigation Efforts in Aceh Province during the 2020–2024 Period

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Funding information

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Abstract

This study aims to present detailed statistics on Aceh Province's poor population and investigate the influence of poverty alleviation programs run by the Aceh government, if any, on reducing poverty rates there. In terms of research method, this paper used a descriptive qualitative approach. The data was compiled from observation of those officially authorised websites of administration and Aceh Provincial Statistical Bureau on amounts people living beneath minimal standard (poor person) as well government poverty alleviation programs. During the period of observation, it was discovered that the number of poor people increased dramatically from 2020 to 2021. 19330 individuals added to the burden is equal on balance with around 834240 of poor people in 2021, 15.33% off all weal county residents. However, a marked decrease occurred from 2021 to 2022, and this dropped by 27420 people whose poverty had finally found reprieve in 2022: 806820 for individual homes. It implies that the poverty alleviation programs have had some effect; from the central government and regional government. The reduction in poverty, however, slowed enormously from 2022 to 2023: merely 70 individuals fell into this bottom category. It means less success in fighting poverty than 2021. There were 806750 poor people in 2023. Moreover, from 2023 to 2024 poverty decreased a further 2220 folk, totalling those living with little or no income at 804530 people. From this it can be summarized that in the year 2021, poverty alleviation programs in Aceh Province were relatively successful. From 2022-2023, they met with some failure; although the picture improved again from 2023 to 2024. After all, however, the rate of poverty has not in any way diminished, indeed it is still round 14.23% for 2024—a figure that should be below 8%. The stakeholders in Aceh Province should therefore work harder and more efficiently to see change. It's crucial to design well-thought-out, efficient poverty alleviation programs in order to bring about an ideal rate of less than or equal 8% poverty for the total population.

Keywords

Poverty Distribution; Poverty Alleviation; Poverty Increase; Poverty Reduction.

1 | INTRODUCTION

The last few years have seen Aceh suffering from poverty, and as of the recent articles in 2024, it is Bengal's most destitute province according to (infoaceh.net). And according to (infoaceh.net), Aceh is still the poorest province in Sumatra. Therefore, it can be concluded that a large majority of the people in Aceh Province still does not have enough income to meet their daily needs. As explained by (www.bps.go.id, 2024), poverty you cannot meet basic food and non-food expenditures. Based on monthly per capita income such as for January-March 2024, with NT\$1,498 at 1986 prices the poor population is 18.1%, or 1 055 000 of 5.83 million people in Ace. Thus they rank below 45 other counts and cities on this criterion and are poorer than any of their sister entities in Middle- and East Indonesia. Therefore, February 27 2006 (04:29 GMT+8) sees Aceh as still the poorest province in Sumatra, in terms of poor population numbers. This could be a result both of its poverty rate and whether simple arithmetic so shows.

By reading the map above, it can be seen that the poverty rate in Aceh Province is still relatively high, at 14.23% of total population. 785,496 of the population of Aceh Province as of March 2024, which was 5,520,000 people are poor. This number is distributed throughout all the regencies and cities (kabupaten/kota) in Aceh Province. Therefore, in Aceh, where the proportion of people living in poverty is high, it is especially important to map out the distribution of poor people among its many districts and cities. This needs to be done in order to identify areas or pockets where large numbers of poor people can be found. This information will serve as important input for our poverty alleviation work. Once the locations of the poor populations are known, this will naturally help policymakers and stakeholders to formulate policies and strategies aimed at raising them out of poverty and improving their quality of life. Moreover, it is urgent to carry out research which nails down the exact locations of poor population in each kabupaten/kota of Aceh. The results of such research should provide important input for decision makers in their attempts to reduce poverty in Aceh, the aim ultimately being no longer being Sumatra's poorest province. On the basis of the problem background mentioned above, our research question can be formulated as: How extensive is, and what have been the impacts of efforts to alleviate poverty in Aceh Province.

With a descriptive direction, this research took up the task of discovering answers to the formation questions suggested earlier. vialist (ed and served as reference), Library research is a more literal translation This method includes certain other main undertakings as well as posing questions and procedures: getting particular information from the participants Then, using inductive analysis to study the data collected; subsequently deducing its implications and rationale in order to answer questions of research (Kusumastuti & Kohiron, 2019). Secondly, in a descriptive way inside of qualitative investigation as a whole. The sources of data are relevant books and journals. The techniques for collecting data involve documentation studies, and after that the data got are processed and summarized (Safarudin *et al.*, 2023).

The review of state of the art in this research comes from previous studies. The objective is to find differences in the construction of the analysis model and the research object than those in this work, in order that we will be able to have more attention shown on them during discussion. For instance, (Fadhil & Nazila, 2023) conducted a study under the title The Impact of BPNT and PKH Social Assistance on the Effectiveness of Poverty Alleviation, and this research was done in Jombang, East Java. It was a quantitative analysis of BPNT social assistance and poverty, concluding that the former has a -0.440* significant negative effect while for latter PKH helps to fight positively. Another study by (Restuhadi & Rosalinda, 2021) entitled Analysis of Poverty Distribution Patterns in Regencies and Cities Across Indonesia. The study uses a clustering analysis model. The results of this study showed an interesting three cluster divide based on similar patterns: 1) Cluster I, which consists of 11 regencies with a correlation of 75.7%; 2) Cluster II, which consists of 57 regencies and has a correlation that rises to 75.5%; and 3) Cluster III, which comprises 55 urban area whose correlation is 65.4%. Conclusion of study it indicates that local governments should take into account the poverty characteristics of each region when drafting policies to ensure these policies satisfy requirements already laid on areas. Further, a research by (Purwono, *et al.*, 2021) under the title Poverty Dynamics in Indonesia: Empirical Evidence from Three Main Approaches recommended that using the poverty gap approach (EDE) explain Indonesia's poverty mostly is chronic. Such chronic poverty components account for as much as 92% of total poverty, and the high figure of chronic poverty can be attributed to great in equality costs. In addition, (Jahuruddin, 2022) conducted a study named Analysis of Poverty Alleviation in Cilegon City: A Perspective from the As-Syatibi and Ibn Khaldun Development Models. The study confirmed that human resources development can have an impact of reducing poverty rates.

2 | BACKGROUND THEORY

Poverty

In context of the inability to access to economic, political and resources and participation in society, poverty is a multi-dimensional problem (Zainuddin *et al.*, 2021). From an economic perspective poverty is defined as the inability to meet basic needs for food and non- food, measured in terms of expenditure (www.bps.go.id, 2024). Namely, poverty may be divided into two categories: absolute poverty and relative poverty (Zainuddin, T. / Makmur, Najmi and Rini, 2018; Sugiharti, 2016; Airlangga Fadilah and Basuki, 2020). Absolute poverty refers to a group who are unable to access enough resources in order their basic needs can be met, relative poverty people who have enough resources for maintaining survival (food, clothing, shelter), But they still lag behind or are down and out compared with others. Poverty or the poor population is defined as that with average monthly expenditure per capita below the poverty line. The poverty line is calculated by the following equation: $GK = GKM + GKNM$, where GK is the poverty line, GKM the food poverty line and GKNM non-food poverty two lines (www.bps.go.id, 2024). Furthermore, relative poverty lies in the eyes of different local populations, while absolute poverty is determined by whether basic needs (both food and non-food) are being met. For example, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in order not to be poor a family with two children must from their income have at least \$22,162 per year (Maulana, 2020).

Causes of Poverty

There are various factors contributing to the emergence of poverty: limited saving capability, which generates very little real consumption; rapid population growth; terrible employment situations; poor education and abilities of most workers. Natural disasters cause further difficulties in this position (Wulandari *et al.*, 2022). Low real income reflects that the general productivity of the society is low. If this goes on, it will be a vicious cycle of lowering capital (Ragnar Nurske, 1953 in Hamdani *et al.*, 2024). Besides these, the causes of poverty include but are not limited to: limited access to education; economic inequality and economic instability (Nurrahmah, *et al.*, 2004); Sugiharto *et al.*, 2004). Economic growth, debt, inflation, investment and corruption as well as the quality of education; life expectancy; unemployment rate (Ogebe *et al.* 2020). Also, mismanagement of natural resources, as well as human resources related to the quality and quantity of labor in a region is an important factor behind poverty. Human resources poorly developed without access to education, training and skills will make for poverty in an area (Achmad *et al.* 2023).

Poverty Alleviation

We do not currently have a clear idea exactly what we are to do about poverty to make an impact. Ergo how to reduce poverty Programs containing guidelines that take account of the factors that contribute to poverty in a region, or country, will be able come up with effective solutions. In order to be effective it also needs to conform firstly to the following conditions: 1) is specific, the program cannot be generalized and must conform to local institutions 2) is germane to the problem 3) regards poverty as a situation with causes and consequences, not an isolated issue 4) can assess what unintended consequences there might be 5) is based on local resources directly (Dasgupta, 2003, in Wulandari *et al.*, 2022). Ultimately, there are two kinds of policy for poverty reduction: 1) The first type is indirect policy, which aims to create a set of conditions that promote the continuation of poverty alleviation and 2) Direct policy-which seeks to increase the resilience and productivity of human resources. Direct policies include such things as cash transfers, food security assistance, the Family Hope Program (PKH) and aid from all levels of government. Indirect policies include infrastructure development (including environmental goods), entrepreneurship, tourism, skills training and so on (see Telaumbanua & Ndraha, 2023; Wulandari *et al.*, 2022). At the stage of execution, many hindrances and constraints remain, for example, a distribution bias that has not yet been fully rectified with social assistance. One of the key problems in this area is the fact that a program administers on the ground elsewhere discretion (street-level bureaucracy) and despite the May to so effect poverty reduction targets have not been fully realized (Rakhmat & Fakhri, 2019).

3 | METHOD

This research took place in Aceh Province, and all the second-level administrative bodies in the Province were included. Instructors in this study are mainly focused on poor people and poor-states where there is much to say about poverty alleviation programs of both Aceh's provincial government and those at the lower levels within the province (second -level local). The data used in this study comes from two sources: secondary data at official website of government agencies (www.bps.go.id) for Aceh Province and secondary-level local governments through their own official websites for regencies and municipalities set up by them within Izabella Dale mess spelled name on its context as yet Data collection involved a process of observation and documentation. Over the past five years, the writer paid close attention to poor people on yearly basis and recorded different poverty alleviation programs being run by the government--both at provincial and regency levels. This method helped track trends and assess these programmes for their long-term effectiveness. Once the data were collected, analysis was performed through a descriptive qualitative approach. Data analysis for analysis process had several steps: First, data collection was carried out by means of direct observation and documentation on the spot according to the three questions posed

above including what can be seen in nature, like birds in a tree or fish swimming upstream. Second, there was data reduction to filter out sift and simplify information from locally available sources into various simple forms: statistics found in each district and town on the number of poor people; poverty-alleviation programs Second, Third, and fourth. Presentation of data was the last step in processing information before an official report would follow; graphs or tables with a descriptive summary that captures results in as easy form as possible for readers to understand--and helps give someone interested a guidepost toward judging performance. Finally, conclusions were drawn from data analysis and discussion. In this way, the research questions were addressed: how far do we currently have poverty alleviation programs.

4 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results

The data for the observation period shows the number of poor people in Aceh Province as percentages: Total numbers of individuals in thousands Turning to the chart, we can the the varying poverty rate during this period. It serves as an important picture of poverty in Aceh and facilitates evaluation of poverty reduction programs implemented by local governments. In order to see whether this work has been fruitful, and how long it will take for the poor to remove themselves from lists of individuals with negative ramifications on an entire area's reputation, these results are worth analysis.

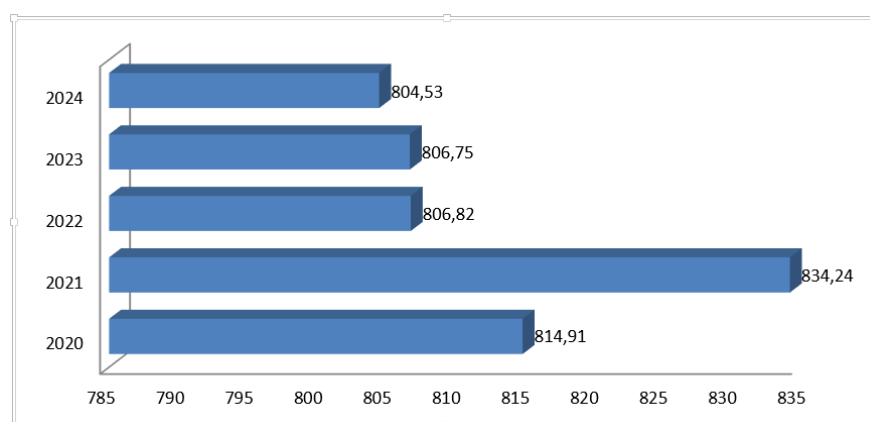


Figure 1. Data on the Number of Poor People

According to the graph, the number of poor people in 2020 was 814,910 or 14.99% of the total population. This means that in 2021 there were 834,240 individuals living in poverty, representing 15.33%. It was 19,330 people more unfortunate to be a human on earth in 2021 than it was one year before. The number of poor people in 2022 will fall, and 27,420 individuals will be lifted out of this lifestyle to become middle class citizens. In 2023, poverty drops once more to 806,750. A mere 70 people were out of that group who escaped their fate... only to find themselves caught back inside it all over again-to become one moaner worse than they had started! Next year, 804,530 individuals must suffer poverty. When connected with central and Aceh government poverty alleviation programs running alongside each other, the trends are headquarters in the following graphics.

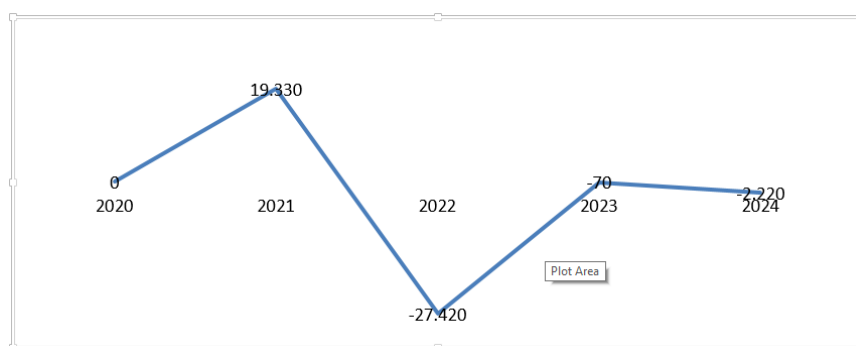


Figure 2. The Fluctuations in Poverty Rates

As the figure shows, this can tell us that we have the ability to observe changes in poverty rates in Aceh Province. But in the six or seven years from 2019 to 2022, the poverty rate increased by 332,000 individuals -- with many factors involved. Globalization and the COVID-19 pandemic are likely reasons for such a sharp rise in poverty. We have numbers to throw at this claim. Then from 2021 to 2022, the fight against poverty bore fruit, as the poverty rate dropped by 274,200 individuals. This is a success of both the local as well as the central government in poverty alleviation. But in 2023, the reduction of poverty was much smaller than before--only 70 individuals fewer lived without enough to eat and wear. This could be seen as a failure of the poverty alleviation program in Aceh. Finally, from 2023 to 2024, the number of people in poverty decreased by 22,200, which indicates that the Aceh poverty alleviation program is once again underway. And if we look at the top ten regions in Aceh Province with the highest poverty rates across districts and municipalities, the following chart will show them.

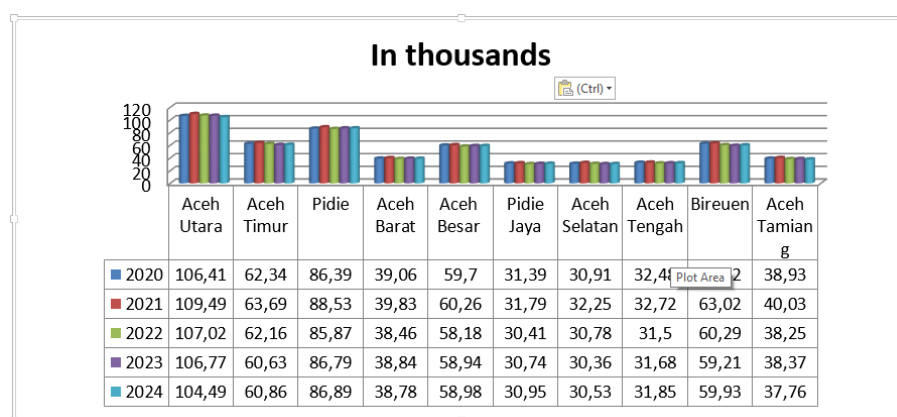


Figure 3. The Ten Districts and Cities

You can see from the image, there are the ten districts and cities with the highest rates of poverty in Aceh Province ranked one by one regardless if it's bigger or smaller. In the last phase of 2024, districts with the most extreme poverty are: first is North Aceh Regency having 104,490 poor people; second is Pidie Regency with 86,890 poor people; third place goes to East Aceh Regency where the metro area hosts 60,860 poor taxpayers; Bireuen Regency had 59,930 poor people and came in fourth position; The fifth position goes to Greater Aceh Regency which was home to 58,980 impoverished residents; Next on our list, in sixth place we have West Aceh Regency where mainly what is now the Kluet Basin came under under this district's farmland development ctrlrchive program (1978); Funnily enough even though there isn't any city called "KLUET", For example, Pidie Jaya Regency has a population of 30,950 poor people and ranks ninth on the list; South Aceh, ninth on our list of 10 with 30,530 people living in extreme indiscreet povertymendous povertyally in Aceh provibce is context:amous for tropical forest, wildlife and rare plants but deep-seated poverty and magnificent scenery make it on the extreme edge of living conditionsby comparison with otherwise relatively similar places in that part of the world. It is clear, therefore, from the above findings that the concentration of poor populations has been localized in these ten districts and cities.

4.2 Discussion

In Aceh, poverty levels vary with seasons, showing that a complex system of factors such as socio-economics and governments is at play. Even external elements can affect poverty counts. Like the global COVID-19 pandemic which left many jobless and in knock-on effects more into trouble. After the global outbreak, the poverty rate in Aceh stood at 14.99% in 2020 with 814986 people under it. This rose by 19,330 to 15.33% for just one year. However, what is important to keep in mind about these people is that the global pandemic played a significant role. Economic activities collapsed and not only livelihoods, but whole businesses were destroyed. Consequently, many people in Aceh, especially those from the countryside or working in informal sectors, found their incomes reduced. Now the number of people living in poverty fell by 27,420 in 2022. The implemented success of various poverty reduction programs is reflected in This reduction. It also mirrors the 2019 findings that the poverty rate among local people dropped sharply to less than 3%. At the same time that the pandemic's more acute stages were ebbing, targeted social assistance measures, provision of employment opportunities and economic recovery packages quite likely dragged some people in the province above the poverty line in this province. These results are consistent with other recent studies such as which emphasize the important role of government intervention in reducing hardships of crises on poverty families. (Achmad, Sidiq & Prawira, 2023; Fadilah & Basuki, 2020)

It shows that poverty has fluctuated in Aceh over the years, reflecting the complex interplay of a variety of factors

government programs and external influences. For example, the global COVID-19 pandemic. It's worth noting that poverty levels varied dramatically within different areas of Aceh during 2020. The proportion of people living in poverty nationally was 15.33%, which meant that 1 million 814 zeng people all together belonged to this group! While in erat province itself, 36%, or 32.81%, of rural inhabitants still lived below the line at that time, among them X percent located entirely across mountain ranges to agricultural areas on he Zeng the bank minority and small-scale farmers river delta eke out peacetime. This sudden increase may be directly attributed to the global pandemic. At the same time as it has disrupted economies, destroyed livelihoods and local enterprise, people have found themselves in a worse position than before--and relative status is deteriorating. During this period, many individuals in Aceh, especially those from rural backgrounds or working informally, saw their incomes drop and they fell deeper into poverty.

But in the following year, 2023, progress slowed down markedly. The number of poverty druids in Aceh falling by just 70 suggests that work still has to be done on prevention. As Rakhmat and Fakhri (2019) noted, poverty alleviation programs may decline in effectiveness when economic conditions change. In Aceh, where poverty has been persistent and intractable issues have existed, such stagnation could suggest the need for a more targeted approach specifically aimed at different regions holdrich is linked to local socioeconomic factors and look global knowledge cooperatives. Research that follows single businesses ranging in scale from small to large may prove the most promising way forward in this fight against poverty for many areas of Ace

Happily, 2024 saw a better trend, with the number of people living in poverty cut by 2,220. This suggests that poverty alleviation is picking up speed again. As poverty reduction programs continue to be improved they seem to produce results, although these are slow in coming. Sugiharto *et al.* (2024) emphasize the need for ongoing assessment and adjustment of poverty alleviation strategies in light of how they meet the needs of vulnerable groups. In Aceh, therefore, it would be good to see how these programs are conducted and how we can find new ways of extending their reach and impact.

Looking at the distribution of poverty across Aceh's districts, we see that certain areas, such as North Aceh, Pidie, and East Aceh, bear the greatest burdens. These areas are home to the highest numbers of poor individuals, with North Aceh leading with over 104,000 people living in poverty. This regional concentration highlights the need for a targeted approach to address poverty in specific areas where it is most pervasive. As suggested by Telaumbanua and Ndraha (2023), localized interventions are critical to combat poverty effectively. Focused efforts in these districts, along with greater investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, could make a significant difference in improving living standards for the poorest communities.

The findings also support the notion that poverty alleviation efforts must take into account regional differences in Aceh. As noted by Zainuddin *et al.* (2021), decentralization has allowed local governments to have more control over resource allocation, which can be beneficial when tackling poverty at the district or city level. However, for these efforts to be successful, local governments must ensure that resources are allocated to areas where they can have the most impact, targeting the regions with the highest poverty rates.

Poverty in Aceh is not just a result of economic underdevelopment but also of factors like limited access to quality education and healthcare. Improving education and healthcare services in poverty-stricken areas is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty. As Rini, Sugiharti, and Universitas Airlangga (2016) explain, providing better access to education can create opportunities for upward mobility, reducing long-term poverty. Likewise, better healthcare can improve life expectancy and quality of life, reducing the economic burden on families in poverty.

Efforts to address poverty in Aceh should also focus on strengthening social safety nets and promoting economic inclusion. Initiatives aimed at increasing access to microfinance, supporting small businesses, and creating job opportunities for marginalized communities are essential. In this regard, programs like those launched in other regions of Indonesia where economic inclusion is prioritized have shown promising results. Maulana *et al.* (2020) argue that such programs, when combined with financial literacy and entrepreneurship support, can provide individuals with the tools they need to escape poverty and contribute to economic growth.

Moreover, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still lingers in many parts of Aceh, making the challenge of poverty alleviation even more difficult. As Telaumbanua and Ndraha (2023) point out, the pandemic's effects have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable populations, especially in rural and remote areas. The recovery from such shocks takes time, and while poverty reduction efforts in Aceh are yielding positive results, they need to be sustained and adapted to the evolving needs of the population.

5 | CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Given Aceh Province's high poverty rate, the question to resolve now is how to implement a comprehensive poverty reduction program covering all districts and cities. Poverty is widely spread throughout districts and towns, which implies that most ordinary people are living in poverty. So, these people need to be helped by stakeholders in Aceh and their pleas seen as something quite exceptional. This movement must have immediate objectives: to

reduce poverty in the ten districts with the highest rates of poverty and in the ten cities in Aceh with the most low-income people. If the number of poor in these ten districts and ten cities is significantly reduced, then it is very probable that Aceh as a whole will move out of Sumatra's province list with highest poverty rates. It's now up to the stakeholders and public leaders in Aceh Province to move quickly to reduce the poverty rate to around this level of a total population. In this connection, it is equally important for them as Aceh government both at provincial level and in the districts to formulate policies or apply economic incentives that will help stimulate the local economy- which at the same time is reasonable policy for any crude place if all residents are engaged in income earning activities. In this way they can make as fast as possible the transition from being poor people to ones who are at least fairly well off.

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How to cite this article: Zainuddin, Z., & T. Makmur. (2025). Poverty and Its Mitigation Efforts in Aceh Province during the 2020–2024 Period. *Indonesian Journal Economic Review (IJER)*, 5(2), 258-265. <https://doi.org/10.59431/ijer.v5i2.603>