

ECONOMIC SECTOR GROWTH IN ENCOURAGING EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PANGKAJENE ISLANDS REGENCY

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the growth of the economic sector, the level of development equity across regions, the factors influencing development equity, and the impact of social, economic, and infrastructure variables on development equity in Pangkajene Islands Regency from 2021 to 2025. The study employs a quantitative descriptive approach using secondary data analysis sourced from the Central Statistics Agency, the Pangkajene Islands Regency Government, and various scientific publications. The research findings indicate that real sector growth in Pangkajene Islands Regency increased significantly during the study period. The Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) rose from Rp 27.57 trillion in 2021 to Rp 37.97 trillion in 2025. The agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, trade, and construction sectors are the main drivers of the regional economy. The poverty rate decreased from 14.28 percent in 2021 to 11.60 percent in 2025. The Williamson Index, used to measure development equity, shows a decline from 0.46 to 0.31, indicating that regional inequality is beginning to decrease. Variables such as education, poverty, sectoral GRDP, and transportation access influence development equity; however, transportation infrastructure and sectoral GRDP are the most dominant factors. The study concluded that growth in the real sector can promote equitable economic development and poverty alleviation in Pangkajene Islands Regency. The local government needs to strengthen infrastructure development in the archipelago, promote downstream processing in key sectors, support the development of MSMEs, and improve the quality of human resources so that economic development becomes more inclusive and sustainable.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Equitable Development, Regional Disparities, Public Welfare, Pangkajene Islands Regency.

1. INTRODUCTION

Regional development, economic growth, and equitable development are two key components. The success of local governments in improving the well-being of their communities is often measured by these two factors. With its diverse economic potential, Pangkajene Islands Regency faces the challenge of achieving inclusive and equitable growth^{1,2)}

In recent times, it has become evident that the Pangkajene Islands Regency government has strengthened its development agenda, which focuses on local potential, particularly in the processing industry, marine tourism, and capture fisheries. However, many development programs still face implementation challenges, primarily due to infrastructure limitations in the archipelago, disparities in access to public services, and a lack of private investment. These conditions could lead to greater inequality^{3,4)}

In addition, the economic changes taking place in South Sulawesi as a whole are also having a regional impact on life in Pangkajene Islands Regency ⁵⁾. The establishment of industrial zones, port development, and connectivity with the metropolitan city of Makassar are opening

up opportunities for the local economy to grow more rapidly. However, communities across the region have not yet fully capitalized on these opportunities, particularly those in coastal and island areas, who face structural challenges to participating in the economy⁶).

As public awareness of social justice and access to basic services grows, the issue of equitable development is becoming increasingly important. Factors that contribute to interregional disparities include differences in transportation infrastructure, healthcare, education, and access to digital technology⁷). Therefore, a more in-depth analysis is needed to identify the key factors influencing these disparities and to formulate more targeted policy recommendations.

Economic growth and the per capita regional gross domestic product (GRDP) of Pangkajene Islands Regency which is among the highest in South Sulawesi Province—do not align with the high poverty rate in the regency.

Given this situation, research is needed to understand the poverty rate in Pangkajene Islands Regency in order to identify alternative policies for reducing poverty. Although several government and non-government efforts have been made to improve community welfare, technical and non-technical obstacles remain ⁸).

In efforts to improve the welfare of the community, the agricultural sector has become a key component of regional economic development. (a) as a food supplier to meet needs that are increasing in line with population growth; (b) to boost demand for industrial products, which requires the expansion of the secondary and tertiary sectors; (c) to increase foreign exchange for the import of capital goods for development through continuous agricultural exports; (d) to increase village revenue for government mobilization; and (e) to improve the welfare of communities in agricultural areas⁹)

Synergy among local governments, the private sector, and the community must underpin economic policies that promote equitable development. Measures that can foster inclusive growth include increasing investment in strategic sectors, strengthening infrastructure, and empowering human resources. Therefore, this study will also examine various programs and policies that have been implemented in the region, as well as their impact on economic equity¹⁰).

This study is expected to make a tangible contribution to the literature on regional development and provide strategic insights for local governments to enhance the quality of inclusive and sustainable development ¹¹). Through a more in-depth analysis, this study can help chart a policy course to promote economic growth and ensure economic equity.

1.1 Research Problem

Pangkajene Islands Regency possesses significant economic potential supported by various economic sectors, such as fisheries, agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and services. In recent years, these sectors have shown varied development, both in terms of growth and their contribution to the regional economy. However, it is not yet comprehensively understood how these economic sectors have grown and to what extent they contribute to supporting equitable regional development.

On the other hand, development in Pangkajene Islands Regency still faces challenges in the form of inter-regional disparities. The region's unique geography—comprising both mainland and island areas—leads to disparities in access to infrastructure, public services, education, and economic opportunities for the community. These conditions have the potential to create development disparities that could hinder the achievement of equitable community well-being.

Equitable development is fundamentally influenced not only by economic growth alone, but also by various other supporting factors. Social factors such as education levels and poverty, economic factors reflected in the growth of sectoral GRDP, and infrastructure factors such as transportation access and regional connectivity are believed to play a significant role in determining the success of equitable development. However, the contribution of each of these factors to equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency still requires a more in-depth study.

Furthermore, high economic growth is not always accompanied by greater development equity. In some cases, economic growth is concentrated in specific regions, thereby widening the development gap between regions. Therefore, an analysis is needed to determine the extent to which economic growth in Pangkajene Islands Regency can promote equitable development across the entire region

Further, it is necessary to identify the factors that most significantly influence equitable development. Understanding which variables have the most significant impact—whether from social, economic, or infrastructure perspectives—is crucial as a foundation for formulating more effective, inclusive, and sustainable regional development policies.

Thus, this study is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the relationship between economic sector growth and equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency and to generate appropriate policy recommendations to support more equitable regional development.

1.2 Problem Solving

The second issue, concerning the level of development equity across regions, is addressed through an analysis of development disparities using development equity indicators, such as the Williamson Index.

This analysis is used to assess the extent of development disparities between mainland and island regions, in terms of household income, infrastructure, and access to public services. The results of the analysis are expected to identify regions that still require development priority¹²⁾

The third issue regarding the factors influencing equitable development was addressed by identifying economic, social, and infrastructure variables related to regional development. Factors such as sectoral GRDP growth, education levels, poverty, the labor force, and access to transportation were analyzed to determine their contribution to equitable regional development.

Furthermore, to address the fourth and fifth research questions, this study employs simple or multiple regression analysis to determine the impact of economic sector growth on development equity and to identify the most dominant variables influencing development equity in Pangkajene Islands Regency¹³)

High economic growth does not automatically guarantee equitable development. Therefore, efforts are needed to ensure that economic growth can promote equitable development by strengthening productive sectors, improving access to infrastructure, and enhancing the quality of human resources, so that the benefits of development can be felt equally by communities in both the mainland and island areas of Pangkajene and Islands Regency.

1.3 The urgency of the research can be summarized in three main points

a. Empirical Urgency

Pangkajene and Islands Regency still faces the challenge of development disparities between its mainland and island regions, even though economic growth is showing a positive trend.

b. Academic urgency (research gap)

Research that integrates economic sector growth, social factors, infrastructure factors, and equitable development into a single analytical model for archipelagic regions remains limited.

c. Policy relevance

The research findings are expected to serve as the basis for the formulation of more targeted development policies, so that economic growth can translate into equitable development and improved public welfare.

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are to examine the relationship between economic sector growth and equitable regional development in Pangkajene and Islands Regency, Indonesia. Specifically, this study aims to: (1) analyze the trends of economic sector growth; (2) assess the level of regional development equity; (3) identify the social, economic, and infrastructure factors influencing development equity; (4) examine the effect of economic sector growth on equitable regional development; and (5) determine the most influential factors contributing to equitable regional development as a basis for evidence-based regional development policy.

1.5 Research Urgency

Economic growth is one of the key indicators of successful regional development. However, increased economic growth is not always accompanied by equitable distribution of development outcomes that can be enjoyed by the entire community.

In regions with complex geographical characteristics—such as Pangkajene Islands Regency, which consists of both mainland and island areas—disparities in access to infrastructure, public services, and economic activities have the potential to create development disparities between regions.

These conditions demonstrate that the success of development is measured not only by the magnitude of economic growth but also by a region's ability to distribute the benefits of that growth fairly and equitably.

On the other hand, local governments face the challenge of formulating development policies that can drive economic growth while reducing disparities among regions. Therefore, this study is important because it provides empirical evidence on the relationship between economic sector growth, social factors, and infrastructure and the equitable distribution of development. The results of this study are expected to address the need for scientific information that can serve as a basis for designing more inclusive and sustainable development policies.

1.6 Research Novelty

The novelty of this study lies in its analytical approach, which integrates economic sector growth, social factors, and infrastructure factors to explain the equitable distribution of development in regions with archipelagic characteristics.

Unlike most previous studies, which focused solely on analyzing economic growth, leading sectors, or development disparities in isolation, this study develops a more comprehensive analytical framework by linking various dimensions of development within a single conceptual model.

In addition, this study uses a case study in Pangkajene Islands Regency, which has both mainland and island characteristics, thereby offering a new perspective on how economic growth can contribute to equitable development in island regions. This approach is expected to enrich the literature on coastal and island development, which remains relatively limited to date, particularly in Indonesia.

1.7 Contribution to Development Economics (Scientific Contribution)

Academically, this study contributes to the development of development economics by strengthening the understanding of the relationship between economic sector growth and equitable development. This study demonstrates that economic growth should not only be measured based on increases in Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP), but must also be evaluated based on the extent to which its benefits are felt equitably by communities across various regions.

In addition, this study expands the scope of regional development research by incorporating social and infrastructure variables as factors influencing equitable development. Thus, this study is expected to serve as a reference for future research examining regional economic development, particularly in coastal and island regions, which exhibit development characteristics distinct from those of mainland areas.

1.8 Benefits for Policy Making (Policy Contribution)

From a practical standpoint, the results of this study are expected to serve as input for the Pangkajene Islands Regency Government in formulating more effective, evidence-based development policies. Information regarding the economic sectors that contribute to equitable

development can be used as a basis for setting regional development priorities, allocating infrastructure investments, and developing key sectors capable of improving community welfare.

In addition, the findings of this study are also expected to serve as a reference for local governments in reducing development disparities between mainland and island regions through more inclusive policies. Thus, development strategies should not only focus on boosting economic growth but also on achieving equitable development, improving the quality of life for the people, and sustainably reducing interregional disparities.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

2.1 Research Design

This study uses a descriptive-quantitative and qualitative approach (mixed-methods approach) to analyze the relationship between economic sector growth and equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency. Quantitative approach: Measuring the contribution of the economic sector to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and development disparities between regions through statistical data analysis. Qualitative approach: Exploring socio-economic factors and policies through interviews and policy analysis to understand the dynamics behind the statistics.

Quantitative descriptive research aims to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate overview of regional economic conditions based on the data collected. Through this approach, researchers can analyze regional economic growth trends, levels of development inequality, and the impact of economic sectors on equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency

2.2 Research Location

Pangkajene Islands Regency is one of the regencies in South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. Its capital is Pangkajene Islands Regency. The regency has an area of 1,112.29 km². However, after a joint analysis with Bakosurtanal, the area was revised to 12,362.73 km², with a land area of 898.29 km² and a sea area of 11,464.44 km². Pangkajene Islands Regency is a regency whose territorial structure consists of two main parts that form this regency, namely:

- a. Land Area In general, the land area of Pangkajene Islands Regency is characterized by a landscape ranging from lowlands to mountains, where there is significant potential
- b. The island region of Pangkajene Islands Regency is an area with regional complexities that urgently need to be addressed; the island region of Pangkajene Islands Regency has enormous potential for more optimal development to support regional growth

2.3 Data Collection Methods

The data collection method used in this study is the documentation method, which is a way of obtaining data or information regarding various matters related to the study in the form of written reports, including both numerical data and descriptions relevant to this study.

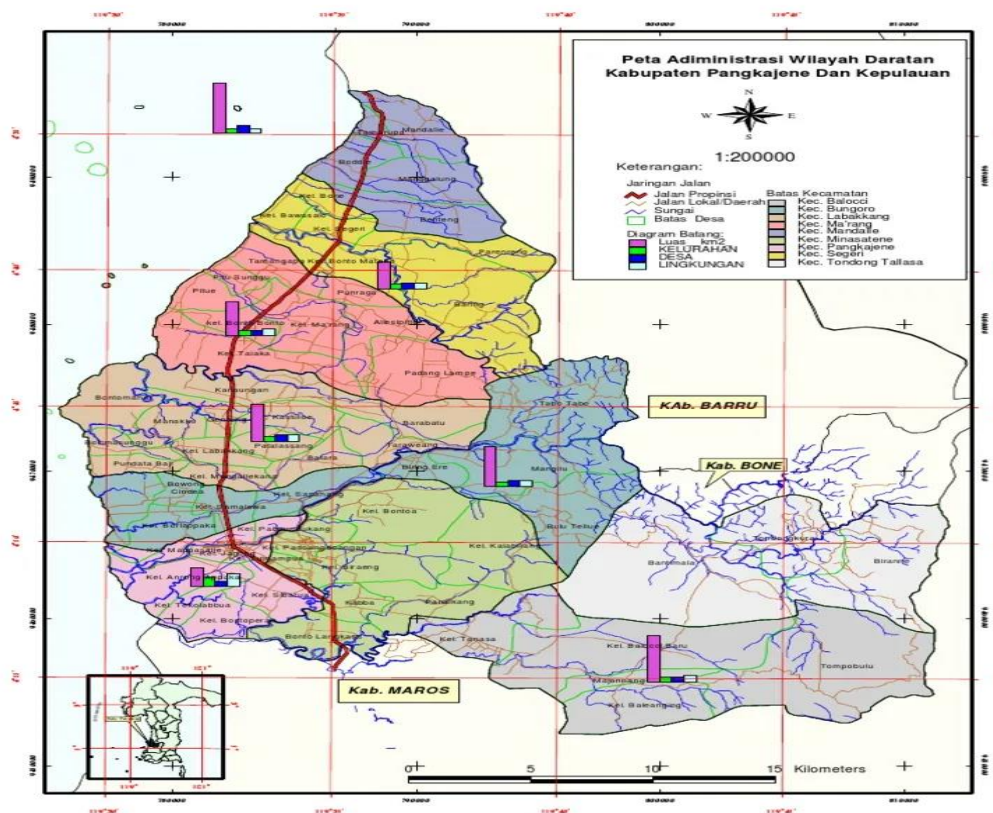


Figure 1: Map of Pangkajene Islands Regency, South Sulawesi

2.4 Research Design

This study employs a quantitative descriptive approach. The descriptive approach is used to describe the state of economic growth, the development of the real sector, the equity of development, and poverty levels in Pangkajene Islands Regency. Meanwhile, the quantitative approach is used because this study utilizes statistical data, which is analyzed to identify relationships among the research variables.

Quantitative descriptive research aims to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate overview of regional economic conditions based on the data collected. Through this approach, researchers can analyze regional economic growth trends, levels of development inequality, and the impact of economic sectors on equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency

2.5 Types and Sources of Data

The data used in this study is secondary data. Secondary data is data obtained indirectly through documents, reports, publications, and official archives related to the research subject. The data used includes Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) data for Pangkajene Islands Regency, poverty rates, the Human Development Index (HDI), education data, infrastructure data, and data on the development of regional economic sectors.¹⁴⁾

The data sources for this study were obtained from the Central Statistics Agency of Pangkajene Islands Regency, reports from relevant agencies, and various scientific journals and previous studies relevant to the research topic. The data used consists of time-series data from the past several years, enabling a depiction of the development of economic conditions and the equitable distribution of regional development over time.

2.6 Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis techniques used in this study include descriptive analysis, economic growth analysis, development equity analysis, and analysis of the relationship between economic sectors and development equity. Descriptive analysis was used to describe the general economic conditions of Pangkajene Islands Regency based on the statistical data obtained¹⁵⁾

An analysis of economic growth trends was conducted to determine the year-over-year development of regional economic growth based on GRDP data. This analysis was used to determine whether the regional economy experienced growth or decline during the study period. Furthermore, an analysis of development equity is used to determine the level of development inequality between regions in Pangkajene Islands Regency, particularly between mainland and island areas. In this study, the level of development equity is analyzed using the Williamson Index to measure the level of regional economic development ^{16,17)}

In addition, this study also examines the relationship between economic sectors and equitable development. This analysis was conducted to assess the contribution of economic sectors—particularly the real sector, such as agriculture, fisheries, trade, and manufacturing—to equitable development and improved community welfare in Pangkajene Islands Regency.

Economic growth and economic development are two distinct concepts. Economic growth refers to an increase in the production of goods and services within a country, while economic development refers to the equitable distribution of income among a country's population.

Economic growth can drive an increase in per capita income, while economic development focuses on the quality of production. The system of government and the economic system in place also influence economic development ^{18,19)}

2.7 Economic Growth

Economic growth refers to an increase in a region's production output, as reflected in an increase in the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). Economic growth highlights an increase in a country's production and income. The primary focus of economic growth is on quantitative aspects and reflects changes in the size of the economy.^{20,21)}

$$\text{GRDP Growth Rate} = \frac{GRDP_t - GRDP_{t-1}}{GRDP_{t-1}} \times 100\%$$

According to Solow's neoclassical theory, economic growth is influenced by: capital, labor, and technology. Meanwhile, endogenous growth theory emphasizes the importance of: the quality of human resources, investment, innovation, and infrastructure development.

2.8 Equitable Development

Equitable development refers to the fair distribution of development outcomes across regions and social groups. This study uses the Williamson Index to measure development inequality: 22)

$$VW = \frac{\sqrt{\sum(Y_i - \bar{Y})^2 \cdot \frac{1}{n}}}{\bar{Y}}$$

Criteria:

- 0–0.2 = even,
- 0.2–0.4 = fairly even,
- 0.4 = high inequality.

2.9 The Concept of the Real Sector

From an economic development perspective, the real sector plays a strategic role as the primary driver of economic activity because it generates inter-sectoral linkages (the multiplier effect) that spur increases in production, investment, and consumer spending. Sustainable growth in the real sector will create more job opportunities, expand sources of income for the public, and strengthen the regional economic structure 23, 24)

According to economic development theory, a region's progress is largely determined by the ability of its productive sectors to transform available resources into value-added economic activities. Therefore, the development of the real sector is a key instrument for accelerating economic growth while improving the well-being of the community. The more developed a region's real sector is, the greater its contribution to increasing the Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP), community income, and local government revenue.25)

In the context of Pangkajene Islands Regency, the real sector plays a crucial role, as it is supported by abundant natural resources, particularly in the fisheries, agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and tourism sectors. The development of these sectors not only contributes to boosting regional economic growth but also promotes equitable development by creating job opportunities, improving economic access for the community, and reducing disparities between regions. The real sector refers to the economic sector that directly produces goods and services, such as agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, trade, and construction. The real sector has a multiplier effect on employment opportunities, household income, and equitable development.26,27)

2.10 The Concept of Poverty

Poverty is the inability of people to meet their basic needs. Factors contributing to poverty include low levels of education, unemployment, development disparities, and limited economic access28,29) From an economic perspective, poverty occurs when a person's income falls below the poverty line, leaving them unable to meet their basic needs, both food and non-food. Meanwhile, from a human development perspective, poverty is viewed as a deprivation of

capabilities that prevents individuals from fully realizing their potential. Thus, poverty is not measured solely by income but also by a community's ability to access education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and participation in economic activities.

The Capability Approach Theory – Amartya Sen, According to Amartya Sen, poverty is not merely viewed as a lack of income, but also as a deprivation of an individual's capabilities to lead a decent life. Poverty is linked to limited access to education, healthcare, employment, and opportunities to participate in economic activities **30,31)** This theory aligns well with your research because equitable development is measured not only by economic growth but also by the public's ability to access various services and development opportunities. Thus, equitable development will improve the quality of life for the public while reducing poverty

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Economic Growth Trends in Pangkajene Islands Regency

Table 1: Development of the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Pangkajene Islands Regency, 2021–2025

Years	GRDP ADHB (trillion IDR)	Economic Growth (%)	GRDP per Capita (in millions of rupiah)
2021	27,57	3,46	79,12
2022	30,14	4,93	86,58
2023	33,26	4,75	91,86
2024	35,84	5,00	96,36
2025	37,97	5,00	104,69

Source: Central Statistics Agency of Pangkajene Islands Regency 2025

Based on data on the Regional Gross Domestic Product (GRDP) of Pangkajene Islands Regency for the 2021–2025 period, it is evident that the local economy has experienced fairly positive growth. The GRDP at current prices has continued to rise from Rp27.57 trillion in 2021 to Rp37.97 trillion in 2025. This increase indicates that the community's economic activity has experienced relatively stable growth year over year. Additionally, the economic growth of Pangkajene Islands Regency has also increased from 3.46 percent in 2021 to 5.00 percent in 2024 and 2025.**32)**

This increase in economic growth indicates that the regional economy is beginning to recover after facing pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, economic growth remained at a relatively low level because production, trade, and goods distribution activities were not yet operating at full capacity. However, in the following years, there was an increase in economic activity, marked by improvements in the trade and manufacturing sectors, as well as increased public mobility and household consumption. The increase in GRDP also reflects a rise in the production capacity of goods and services in Pangkajene Islands Regency. This indicates that key economic sectors are beginning to develop and contribute to regional economic growth. This growth is supported by increased activity in the real sector, such as agriculture, fisheries, trade, construction, and manufacturing. These sectors serve as the primary drivers of the local economy because they create jobs and increase community income.**33)**

In addition to economic growth, the per capita GRDP of Pangkajene Islands Regency also increased from IDR 79.12 million in 2021 to IDR 104.69 million in 2025. This increase in per capita GRDP indicates that average household income rose during the study period. This suggests that economic growth is beginning to improve the well-being of the community.

3.2 Analysis of the Structure of the Economic Sector

Table 2: Contribution of Economic Sectors to GRDP (%)

Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Agriculture & Fisheries	28,45	28,10	27,92	27,50	27,15
Manufacturing	22,34	22,88	23,15	23,46	23,81
Trade	12,14	12,42	12,60	12,78	12,94
Construction	10,56	10,74	10,92	11,05	11,20
Transportation	3,22	3,48	3,76	4,02	4,15

Source: Central Statistics Agency of Pangkajene Islands Regency 2025

The economic structure of Pangkajene Islands Regency is still dominated by the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Based on data on the contribution of economic sectors to the regional gross domestic product (GRDP), the agriculture and fisheries sectors make the largest contribution compared to other sectors, although their combined share has declined slightly from 28.45 percent in 2021 to 27.15 percent in 2025. This decline in contribution does not mean that these sectors are in decline, but rather indicates that other sectors are beginning to grow and make a greater contribution to the regional economy.

The dominance of the agriculture and fisheries sectors indicates that the majority of the population in Pangkajene Islands Regency still relies on the primary sector for their livelihood. The archipelago possesses significant marine resource potential, particularly in the capture fisheries, seaweed cultivation, and aquaculture subsectors. This potential serves as the primary source of income for coastal and island communities.³⁴⁾

The manufacturing sector's contribution increased from 22.34 percent in 2021 to 23.81 percent in 2025. This increase reflects the growth of industrial activity in Pangkajene Islands Regency. The expansion of the manufacturing sector is driven by increased processing of fishery products, the home-based industry, and the cement industry, which is one of the region's key sectors.

The trade sector also saw its contribution rise from 12.14 percent to 12.94 percent during the study period. This increase indicates that commercial activity is growing, particularly as the economy began to recover following the pandemic. The growth of the trade sector has been driven by rising consumer spending, the expansion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and the adoption of digital technology in commercial activities.

Meanwhile, the construction and transportation sectors also showed positive growth. The construction sector's contribution rose from 10.56 percent to 11.20 percent, while the transportation sector's contribution increased from 3.22 percent to 4.15 percent. The growth in both sectors was driven by the development of road and port infrastructure, as well as increased public mobility and interregional goods distribution.

3.3 Level of Development Equity across Regions

Table 3: Development of the Williamson Index for Pangkajene Islands Regency

Years	Williamson Index	Category
2021	0,46	High Inequality
2022	0,43	High Inequality
2023	0,39	Fairly Even
2024	0,35	Fairly Even
2025	0,31	Fairly Even

Source: Results of the Williamson Index Analysis

Based on the results of the Williamson Index analysis, the level of development inequality in Pangkajene Islands Regency decreased during the 2021–2025 period. The Williamson Index value fell from 0.46 in 2021 to 0.31 in 2025. This decline indicates that the level of development equity across regions is beginning to improve. In 2021 and 2022, the Williamson Index value remained in the high inequality category. This indicates that economic development is still concentrated in certain areas, particularly mainland regions that have better access to infrastructure and economic facilities compared to island regions.

However, from 2023 to 2025, the Williamson Index began to decline, falling into the “fairly even” category. This reduction in inequality indicates that regional development is beginning to extend to island regions through the development of basic infrastructure and improvements in public services. Local governments have begun to expand the development of roads, ports, maritime transportation, educational facilities, and health facilities to strengthen connectivity between island regions and the mainland. The development of transportation infrastructure plays a crucial role in promoting equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency. Adequate infrastructure facilitates the distribution of goods and services, expands public access to markets, education, and health services, and enhances the community’s economic mobility. Furthermore, increased economic activity in the island region is also beginning to promote income equality among the population.

Although inequality has decreased, island regions still face various development challenges, such as limited transportation access, inadequate economic infrastructure, and limited public services. Therefore, more equitable development is needed so that all regions can develop to their full potential **35,36)**

3.4 Factors Affecting the Equitable Distribution of Development

Equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency is influenced by various social, economic, and infrastructure factors. One of the key social factors is education. Improving the quality of education can enhance the quality of human resources, thereby equipping the community with better abilities and skills to engage in economic activities. In addition to education, poverty levels are also a factor that affects equitable development. High poverty levels limit people’s access to education, healthcare, business capital, and economic opportunities **37)** In addition to education, poverty levels are also a factor that affects equitable development. High poverty levels limit people’s access to education, healthcare, business

capital, and economic opportunities. In addition to social and economic factors, infrastructure is the most significant factor influencing equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency. The geographical conditions of Pangkajene Islands Regency, which consists of both mainland and island areas, make transportation access a key factor in supporting regional development. Transportation infrastructure such as roads, ports, ferry services, and maritime transport is crucial for facilitating community mobility and the distribution of goods between regions. Effective infrastructure development can open up access for remote areas to economic hubs, thereby enabling the community's economic activities to grow more rapidly. Thus, infrastructure development not only improves regional connectivity but also accelerates the equitable distribution of economic and social development within the community.

3.5 The Impact of Economic Sector Growth on Development Equity

Economic growth has had a positive impact on equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency. This is evident in the increase in community economic activity, which has been accompanied by a decrease in development disparities between regions. The real sector has a significant multiplier effect on regional development. As the real sector grows, other economic activities—such as trade, transportation, services, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises—also expand. This leads to improved economic circulation within the community and gradually boosts the well-being of the people. Economic development in island regions is also beginning to have an impact on equitable development. Fishing, seaweed cultivation, the trade in marine products, and the development of small businesses by coastal communities are beginning to boost incomes in island regions. With the increase in these economic activities, the development gap between mainland and island regions is beginning to narrow **38)**

In addition, economic growth has also spurred an increase in regional investment. Investment in the industrial, trade, and infrastructure sectors has strengthened regional economic growth and expanded employment opportunities for the community. Therefore, economic growth is a key factor in supporting equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency.

3.6 The Variables That Most Significantly Influence Development Equity

Table 4: Degree of Influence of Variables on Development Equity

Variable	Level of Influence	Description
Transportation Infrastructure	Very High	The most dominant factor
Sectoral GRDP	High	A driver of the regional economy
Education	Moderate	Improving the quality of human resources
Poverty	Moderate	Influencing economic access

Source: Processed Data

Based on the analysis, the variable that has the greatest impact on equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency is transportation infrastructure. The geographical conditions of this archipelago make transportation a key factor in supporting economic activities and public services for the community **39)** The construction of roads, ports, and maritime transportation infrastructure improves connectivity between regions, thereby facilitating economic activity. Areas that were previously difficult to reach are now gaining better access to economic hubs

and public services. In addition to transportation infrastructure, sectoral GRDP is also a key factor in equitable development. Growth in productive economic sectors can increase community income and create more jobs. The more a region's economic sectors develop, the greater the opportunities for the community to improve their well-being. Education also influences equitable development because it is linked to the quality of human resources. A good education enhances people's ability to take advantage of economic and technological opportunities. Meanwhile, poverty acts as a barrier to development because poor communities have limited access to economic resources and basic services.

3.7 Analysis of Poverty Levels

Table 5: Poverty Rate in Pangkajene Islands Regency

Years	Poverty Rate (%)
2021	14,28
2022	13,92
2023	13,40
2024	12,41
2025	11,60

Source: Central Statistics Agency of Pangkajene Islands Regency

The poverty rate in Pangkajene Islands Regency is on a downward trend for the 2021–2025 period. The poverty rate is projected to decline from 14.28 percent in 2021 to 11.60 percent in 2025. This decline indicates that the community's welfare is beginning to improve in tandem with the region's economic growth. The decline in poverty rates is driven by the growth of the real sector, which creates jobs and increases people's incomes. Growth in the agriculture, fisheries, trade, and SME sectors provides greater economic opportunities for the public **40, 41)**

Government social assistance programs, as well as improvements in education and health services, have also contributed to the decline in poverty rates. The public has begun to gain better access to public facilities, leading to an improvement in their quality of life. Although poverty rates have declined, challenges remain in poverty alleviation, particularly in island regions with limited economic access and infrastructure. Therefore, more inclusive development policies are needed so that economic growth can be felt equally by all residents of Pangkajene Islands Regency. The research findings show that economic growth contributes positively to equitable development. These findings suggest that economic development supported by the strengthening of productive sectors and improvements in infrastructure can expand public access to various economic and development opportunities.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that economic growth in Pangkajene Islands Regency during the 2021–2025 period shows positive development and an upward trend. This increase reflects the strengthening of regional economic activity, supported by various productive sectors, particularly those that make significant contributions to the

formation of the Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP). This situation indicates that the regional economy possesses a strong capacity to drive growth and create economic opportunities for the community.

- 4.2 This economic growth has been accompanied by improvements in the equity of development across regions. This is evidenced by a decline in the Williamson Index from 0.46 to 0.31, indicating a narrowing of the development gap between mainland and island regions. These findings suggest that the development policies implemented by local governments are beginning to contribute to a more equitable distribution of development, although there are still some regions that require further attention.
- 4.3 The research findings also indicate that equitable development is not solely influenced by economic growth, but rather results from the interaction of various social, economic, and infrastructure factors. Social factors such as education and levels of community well-being play a role in enhancing human resource capacity, while economic factors as reflected in the growth of sectoral GRDP can strengthen regional economic activity. On the other hand, the availability of infrastructure is a critical prerequisite for improving accessibility, regional connectivity, and the more equitable distribution of development benefits
- 4.4 Further analysis shows that economic growth has a positive impact on equitable development and poverty reduction. The higher the economic growth, the greater the opportunities for job creation, increased household income, and expanded economic activity, all of which contribute to improved social welfare. Thus, inclusive economic growth can serve as a key tool in reducing development disparities and lowering poverty rates.
- 4.5 This study also found that transportation infrastructure and sectoral GRDP are the most dominant factors in promoting equitable development in Pangkajene Islands Regency. Adequate transportation infrastructure can improve connectivity between mainland and island areas, facilitate the flow of goods and services and population mobility, and open access to various economic opportunities. Meanwhile, the increased contribution of leading economic sectors has proven to be a driving force for development capable of creating a multiplier effect on regional development.
- 4.6 Overall, this study confirms that the success of regional development is determined not only by high economic growth but also by the ability of local governments to ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed equitably by the entire community. Therefore, future development strategies need to be directed toward strengthening key economic sectors supported by improved infrastructure quality, human resource development, and development policies oriented toward regional equity. With this approach, it is hoped that economic development in Pangkajene Islands Regency can proceed in a more inclusive and sustainable manner and be capable of improving the overall welfare of the community.
- 4.7 High economic growth does not automatically guarantee equitable development. Therefore, efforts are needed to ensure that economic growth can promote equitable development by strengthening productive sectors, improving access to infrastructure, and

enhancing the quality of human resources, so that the benefits of development can be felt equally by communities in both the mainland and island areas of Pangkajene and Islands Regency. In general, this study confirms that economic growth must be directed toward inclusive and equitable development. The success of regional development is measured not only by high economic growth but also by the ability of local governments to distribute the benefits of development equitably through the strengthening of productive sectors, the improvement of human capital, and the provision of adequate infrastructure, thereby ensuring the sustainable improvement of community well-being.

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