

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the pattern of regional inequality and the effects of economic growth, number of public health centers, mean years of schooling, population density, industrial agglomeration, government expenditure, and the existence of mining activities on regional inequality across regencies and cities in Papua Province during 2015–2022.

This study uses panel data from 29 regencies and cities in Papua Province for the period 2015–2022, obtained from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) and Minerba One Map Indonesia (MOMI) of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM). Regional inequality is measured using the Williamson Index. The analysis employs panel data regression using the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), selected based on the Chow and Hausman tests, combined with Robust Clustered Standard Error to address heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation detected in the model.

The results show that regional inequality in Papua Province fluctuated between 2015 and 2022, with Mimika Regency consistently recording the highest level of inequality. Economic growth and industrial agglomeration have a positive and significant effect on regional inequality, while government expenditure has a negative and significant effect. The number of public health centers, mean years of schooling, population density, and the existence of mining activities have no significant effect on regional inequality. The number of public health centers, mean years of schooling, and the existence of mining activities have a negative relationship with regional inequality, while population density has a positive relationship. The seven independent variables simultaneously have a significant effect on regional inequality with a contribution of 22,64 percent. This study recommends strengthening the distribution of economic development, health facilities, education, and the utilization of mining activities to reduce regional inequality across Papua Province.

Keywords: *Regional inequality, Williamson Index, economic growth, number of public health centers, mean years of schooling, mining activities, Papua*