



Human Capital Optimization: The Key to Improving Welfare in Rural Communities

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Abstract:

The focus of this study is to explore the impact of access to information and communication, health facilities, and village fund allocation on the education level of the community in Banyuwangi Regency using a panel data regression approach. The research method used was regression panel data with three different approaches, namely Fixed Effect Model (FEM), Random Effect Model (REM), and Common Effect Model (CEM), using data from 25 sub-districts in Banyuwangi Regency during the 2016-2020 time frame. The results showed that the variables X1 (Access to Information and Communication) and X2 (Health Facilities) had a significant influence on the dependent variable at a significance level of 0.05, while the variable X3 (Village Fund) was not significant. The Fixed Effect Model (FEM) method produces different coefficients and probabilities than the Common Effect Model (CEM) and Random Effect Model (REM) methods, with the FEM model showing a significant influence of the variables X1 and X2, while the CEM and REM models showing similar results for variables X1 and X2. The implications of this study emphasize the importance of policies that support access to information and health facilities to improve the welfare of the community in Banyuwangi Regency.

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INTRODUCTION

In realizing the goal of economic growth, capital is a key factor, including the improvement of quality human resources and adequate infrastructure (Saleh et al., 2020; Hernita et al., 2021). Human capital has a greater accumulative and long-term impact than physical capital, and human capital accumulation is expected to be one of the main drivers in sustainable development (Prasetyo & Kistanti, 2020). Therefore, the role of the government in regulating policies to encourage national economic growth is very important (Mousavi & Clark, 2021; Ding et al, 2021; Diana, 2023). The role of human capital in boosting economic growth has been emphasized by economists (Gruzina & Strielkowski, 2021). The concept of human capital as an additional factor of production, as well as its relation to endogenous economic growth, has become a major focus in economic theory. The quality of human resources, which includes education and health, is considered the key to increasing the productivity of individuals and groups, which in turn impacts the well-being of society (Rusdi et al., 2022).

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The concept of sustainable development, which includes equity, efficiency, and sustainability, is the foundation for regional development (Ruggerio, 2021; Meadows, 2021; Xu et al., 2020). Differences in characteristics between regions, both rural and urban, demand different policies to ensure optimal utilization of local potential (Arifin et al., 2020; Kinnunen et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; Purwanto et al., 2023). The increase in regional economic growth cannot be separated from the role of village areas, which significantly contribute to the economic income of local governments (Merino & Prats, 2020; Li & Qin, 2022; Maulidia 2023). In an effort to balance the growth of development and the welfare of rural communities, Banyuwangi Regency has implemented various development strategies. Infrastructure development and community empowerment through Village Funds are the main focus, with the aim of improving the quality of life and economic standards of rural communities.

Human Capital theory, first put forward, emphasizes the importance of investing in skills and knowledge as human capital (Wright, 2021; Gerhart & Feng, 2021; Deming, 2022). Education and health are considered as the main approaches in improving the quality of human resources (Ngoc & Tien, 2023; Suryaningsih, 2021; Mulang, 2021; Faiz et al., 2023). Investment in human capital, through improving education and health facilities and infrastructure, is expected to increase productivity and community welfare (Shafuda & De, 2020; Indrawati & Kuncoro, 2021; Grigorescu et al., 2021).

In the context of technological development, the development of information and communication technology has a major impact on people's behavior and economy. Although technology brings easy access to information and communication, its impact can vary depending on its proper use. Village development is also influenced by technology, both positively and negatively, and requires appropriate strategies in its utilization (Rijswijk et al., 2021; Zaini 2023; Ridlo & Yanti, 2023). Health and education are considered as the foundations of sustainable development, with education as the initial capital to improve the quality of human resources and health as the core of well-being (Jourdan et al., 2021). Village development, as an effort to reduce development inequality, requires attention to village information systems and the use of Village Funds for infrastructure development and community empowerment.

Banyuwangi Regency is one of the regions in Indonesia that stands out in an effort to improve the welfare of its people. Located on the eastern tip of Java Island, Banyuwangi has a number of advantages that provide a strong foundation for sustainable economic development. Both in urban and rural areas, Banyuwangi's economic potential has been well optimized by the locals. The agricultural and plantation sectors, which are the backbone of the economy in many rural areas, have an important role in driving the economy of Banyuwangi Regency. Production of tropical crops such as coffee, cocoa, and rubber is the main source of income for many farmers in this area. In addition, the tourism sector is also growing rapidly in Banyuwangi, with its stunning natural beauty such as Mount Ijen, Baluran National Park, and exotic beaches.

Statistical data shows a significant increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Banyuwangi Regency from 2016 to 2020 (Bastomi & Wijaya, 2023). This increase reflects the positive contribution of major economic sectors, which contribute to the overall economic growth of the region. Local initiatives to optimize economic potential and increase community income have yielded encouraging results for Banyuwangi Regency. With strong economic potential and stable growth, Banyuwangi offers attractive opportunities for sustainable development. The active involvement of

communities in managing and optimizing local resources, supported by inclusive government policies, is key to successful development in the region. Integration between economic sectors and community empowerment is an effective strategy to improve overall welfare in Banyuwangi Regency.

Although there have been a number of studies discussing welfare and economic growth in Banyuwangi Regency, there are still some gaps in the literature that can be the basis for further research. Previous research studies on welfare and economic growth in the Banyuwangi Regency area have become a major focus for academics and researchers. A number of scientific articles and journals have revealed various related aspects, ranging from factors affecting people's welfare to effective development strategies. One of the relevant studies is conducted by Sunarti, et al. (2020) where, this study investigates the impact of infrastructure development on the welfare of rural communities in Banyuwangi. The results of the study show that infrastructure development such as roads, clean water, and electricity has a significant positive contribution to improving the welfare of rural communities. Another relevant article is research by Santoso, et al. (2020), This study aims to analyze what factors affect economic growth in Banyuwangi Regency. Through a regression analysis approach, the study found that investment in education and health as well as infrastructure development are significant factors in supporting regional economic growth. In addition, research by Indriyani, et al. (2020) explains that the proper and effective use of Village Funds can contribute significantly to improving the welfare of rural communities, especially through infrastructure development and local economic empowerment.

The novelty in this study lies in an interdisciplinary approach that integrates the concept of human capital with spatial analysis and the use of information and communication technology to understand the dynamics of welfare of rural communities in Banyuwangi Regency. This research not only covers economic and social aspects, but also pays attention to environmental and sustainability factors, thus providing a more holistic understanding of the relationship between people, the environment, and the welfare of rural communities. By utilizing technology for real-time data collection, this research also makes a new contribution in the development of a more adaptive and responsive monitoring and evaluation system for the welfare of rural communities. It is hoped that this research will provide a stronger foundation for sustainable development in the region and guide more effective policy making in supporting the welfare of rural communities in Banyuwangi Regency. In this context, this study aims to analyze the influence of Human Capital on Village Welfare in Banyuwangi Regency, by considering variables such as education, health facilities, and Village Funds. By understanding the relationship between Human Capital and village welfare, it is hoped that this research can contribute to efforts to improve regional development, especially at the village level.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a type of explanatory research that explores the dynamics of the welfare of rural communities in Banyuwangi Regency (Krichene & Baklouti, 2021). This research approach integrates the concept of human capital with spatial analysis, with data sources coming from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Population Census, websites, and other supporting sources. Data was collected from 25 sub-districts in Banyuwangi Regency during the 2016-2020 time frame. The analysis model uses regression panel data to identify the effect of certain variables, such as Access to

Information and Communication, Health Facilities, and Village Funds, on village welfare levels.

The data collection technique used in this study was a regression analysis of panel data involving 25 sub-districts in Banyuwangi Regency during the 2016-2020 time period. Data is obtained from official sources such as the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Population Census (Allin, 2021). The analysis model uses a panel data regression approach with dependent variables in the form of Education and independent variables including Access to Information and Communication, Health Facilities, and Village Funds. To choose the best model, a Chow-test and a Hausman test are performed to determine whether a fixed effect or random effect model is more suitable.

The data analysis technique used involves the Chow-test and the Hausman test to select the best model between fixed effect or random effect (Ramdan et al., 2020). In addition, a classical assumption test is also performed to ensure that the selected model meets the BLUE assumption. Classical assumption tests include multicollinearity tests and heteroscedasticity tests to evaluate the consistency and validity of the regression model used. With this approach, it is hoped that this research can provide a deeper understanding of the factors that affect the welfare of rural communities in Banyuwangi Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A general explanation of the research object discusses the variables used in the study. Furthermore, the estimation results will be seen in the results of systematic tests, namely FEM, CEM and REM tests as well as Chow tests, Hausman tests and Classical Assumption Tests using the PLS method.

Analysis of Research Data Results

The results of the study used panel data regression using the fixed effect method, Random Effect method, Common effect method.

Table 1. Common Effect Method

Variable	Coefficient	Std.error	Probabilitas
C	-1399.688	1705.878	0.4135
X1	253.9159	127.8661	0.0493
X2	18.26505	3.899206	0.0000
X3	38.52626	77.43834	0.6197

Table 1 displays the results of the Common Effect method in panel data regression analysis. Variable C shows a coefficient value of -1399.688 with a standard error of 1705.878 and a probability of 0.4135. The variable X1 has a coefficient of 253.9159 with a standard error of 127.8661 and a probability of 0.0493, indicating that the variable X1 has a significant influence on the dependent variable at a significance level of 0.05. The variable X2 has a coefficient of 18.26505 with a standard error of 3.899206 and a probability of 0.0000, indicating that the variable X2 has a very significant influence on the dependent variable. However, variable X3 has a coefficient of 38.52626 with a standard error of 77.43834 and a probability of 0.6197, indicating that variable X3 has no significant effect on the dependent variable at a significance level of 0.05.

Table 2. Fix Effect Model

Variable	Coefficient	Std.error	T-statistics	Probabilitas
C	-331.0794	2167.387	-0.152755	0.8789
X1	255.7460	133.7172	1.912589	0.0288
X2	8.419598	9.688128	0.869063	0.0370
X3	34.97307	90.30201	0.387290	0.6994

Table 2 shows the results of Fixed Effect models in panel data regression analysis. The variable C has a coefficient of -331.0794 with a probability of 0.8789, indicating no significant effect. The variable X1 has a coefficient of 255.7460 with a probability of 0.0288, indicating a significant influence. The variable X2 is also significant with a coefficient of 8.419598 and a probability of 0.0370. However, the variable X3 is insignificant with a coefficient of 34.97307 and a probability of 0.6994.

Table 3. Rndom Effect Model

Variable	Coefficient	Std.error	T-statistics	Probabilitas
C	-1399.688	1782.084	-0.785422	0.4337
X1	253.9159	133.5782	1.900878	0.0497
X2	18.26505	4.073394	4.483987	0.0216
X3	38.52626	80.89772	0.476234	0.6348

Table 3 displays the results of the Random Effect model in the regression analysis of panel data. The variable C has a coefficient of -1399.688 with a probability of 0.4337, indicating no significant effect. The variable X1 has a coefficient of 253.9159 with a probability of 0.0497, indicating a significant influence. The variable X2 is also significant with a coefficient of 18.26505 and a probability of 0.0216. However, the variable X3 is insignificant with a coefficient of 38.52626 and a probability of 0.6348.

Table 4. Uji Hausmment

Test Summary	Cho-sq statistic	Chi-sq d.f	Privilege
Cross section random	1.468498	3	0.1480

Table 4 shows the results of the Hausman test. The Chi-squared statistic for the Cross Section Random model is 1.468498 with 3 degrees of freedom, and the probability is 0.1480. These results show that there is no significant relationship between the variables and the Cross Section Random model in the Hausman test.

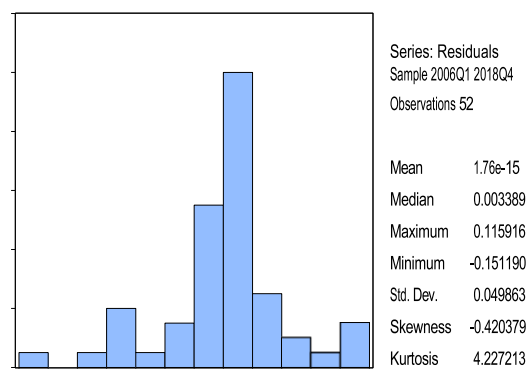


Figure 1. Normality Test Results

Based on figure 1, it is known that the probability value of 0.049863 is greater

than the alpha value determined by 5% or (0.05), so it can be said that the data used in this study has been normally distributed.

Table 5. The Automobile

F-statistics	0.047029	Prob.F (2,27)	0.9541
ObsR Square	0.108640	Prob Chi-square	0.9471

Based on the figure above from the estimation results of the autocorrelation test which shows that the value of Prob.Chi-Square of 0.9471 is greater than the alpha value of 5% of the results, it can be said that the regression model does not occur auto correlation.

Table 6. Multicollinearity Test

Variable	And	X1	X2	X3
And	1.000000	0.078116	-0.813358	-0.819230
X1	0.078116	1.000000	-0.042058	-0.046284
X2	-0.813358	-0.042084	1.000000	0.996118
X3	-0.819238	-0.046284	0.996118	1.000000

Based on the table above, the results of the multicollinearity test estimate show the correlation coefficient between each independent variable because each variancel is free, this is because the value is more than 0.8, so multicollinearity occurs. however, this indicates that the submission results still produce BLUE estimates so that they can be said to be estimates without making improvements to the regression model.

Tabel 7. Heteroscedasticity Test

F-statistic	0.534933	Prob.F(9,29)	0.5969
ObsR- squared	2.000038	Prob.Chi Square(9)	0.5724
Scaled explained	6.412401	Prob.Chi- Square(9)	0.0932

Based on the table above heteroscedasticity test, it can be seen that the Chi-Square prob value is 0.5724 or it can be notarized that the Chi-square Prob value is greater than the specified alpha value, which is 5% or 0.05, then the estimated results reflect no symptoms of heteroscedasticity.

Analysis of the results of the study using panel data regression with Fixed Effect, Random Effect, and Common Effect methods was carried out to identify the influence of independent variables on dependent variables in Banyuwangi Regency. In the Common Effect (CEM) method, the results showed that the variables X1 (Access to Information and Communication) and X2 (Health Facilities) had a significant influence on the dependent variable at a significance level of 0.05, while the variable X3 (Village Fund) was not significant. The results of the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) model show that the variables X1 and X2 are significant, while X3 is not. While in the Random Effect Model (REM) model, the variables X1 and X2 are also significant, but X3 is not significant.

The Hausman test is performed to select the most suitable model between Fixed Effect and Random Effect. The results showed that there was no significant relationship between the variables and the Cross Section Random model in the Hausman test, so the Fixed Effect Model was chosen as the more suitable model. The Classical Assumption Test shows that panel regression models do not suffer from problems of multicollinearity, autocorrelation, or heteroscedasticity, so estimates can be considered valid. Although

there is a high correlation between several independent variables in the multicollinearity test, the BLUE estimate is still achieved, so no further improvement in the regression model is needed. Autocorrelation tests also show that there is no autocorrelation in regression models. Overall, the results of the analysis showed that the variables X1 (Access to Information and Communication) and X2 (Health Facilities) had a significant influence on the dependent variable, while X3 (Village Fund) did not have a significant influence. This shows the importance of these factors in improving the welfare of the people in Banyuwangi Regency (Indriyani et al., 2020).

This study complements findings from an earlier study conducted by Sunarti et al. (2020), which also investigated factors affecting people's well-being in urban areas. Their research highlights the important role of access to information and health facilities in improving the quality of life of the population. Their results are in line with our findings, which show that the variables X1 (Access to Information and Communication) and X2 (Health Facilities) have a significant influence on people's well-being. In addition, previous research by Santoso et al. (2020), also highlighted the importance of village fund management in supporting local economic development. Although our results suggest that the variable X3 (Village Fund) is not significant in our regression model, this study provides additional insight into the complexity of the factors involved in improving the well-being of communities in rural areas.

The contribution of this research is to provide a deeper understanding of the factors that affect the welfare of the community in Banyuwangi Regency. By analyzing panel data from 2016 to 2020, the study identified that access to information and communication (X1) and health facilities (X2) had a significant influence on the well-being of people in the region. These findings provide valuable insights for local policymakers and stakeholders in directing development efforts to improve the quality of life of residents. In addition, although village funds (X3) did not prove significant in regression models, this study underscores the importance of effective village fund management in supporting economic growth and welfare of rural communities. Thus, the contribution of this research is to provide a holistic view of the economic and social dynamics in Banyuwangi Regency, which can be the basis for more effective and sustainable policy development.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study shows that factors such as access to information and communication as well as health facilities have a significant influence on the welfare of the people in Banyuwangi Regency. These findings provide a deeper understanding of the economic and social dynamics in the region. Although village funds have not proven significant in regression models, effective village fund management is still necessary to support economic growth and welfare of rural communities. This research makes an important contribution in the development of more sustainable and effective policies to improve the quality of life of the residents of Banyuwangi Regency. Thus, this study not only provides new insights into the factors affecting people's well-being at the local level, but also provides a foundation for better decision-making in regional development.

For future research, it is recommended to expand the variables studied and involve a more in-depth analysis of the use of village funds. A combined qualitative and quantitative approach and the involvement of relevant parties such as local governments and local communities can increase the relevance and acceptance of research results. In

addition, exploration of the potential of other economic sectors such as sustainable tourism or agricultural innovation can support inclusive and sustainable development in Banyuwangi Regency.

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