

ZAKAT INDEX, I-HDI, AND UNEMPLOYMENT: EFFECTS ON POVERTY IN SOUTHERN SUMATRA

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the effect of the Zakat Index, Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI), and Unemployment Rate on Poverty in the Southern Sumatra region during the period 2019-2023. The method used is quantitative with a panel data approach that includes cross-sectional data from five provinces and a five-year time series. The analysis was carried out using the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) regression model through Eviews 12 software. The most appropriate estimation method used in this study is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), which was selected based on the results of Chow and Hausman tests. The results of the study indicate that: (1) The Zakat Index partially has a significant positive effect on Poverty; (2) IHDI and Unemployment Rate partially do not have a significant effect on Poverty; (3) Simultaneously, these three variables affect Poverty. This finding emphasizes the importance of the Zakat program towards economic empowerment. Productive zakat programs, such as business capital assistance and job training, need to be prioritized over consumptive assistance. In addition, optimization of the potential of professional zakat and agricultural zakat also needs to be strengthened through ongoing socialization and literacy, so that zakat can play a more effective role in poverty alleviation in a sustainable manner.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains a challenge for national development, especially in developing countries like Indonesia (Nabila et al., 2023). As part of a comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy, accurate measurement of poverty indicators is essential for designing more effective and targeted policies (Amalia, 2020). Southern Sumatra Island, which consists of five provinces, namely Jambi, South Sumatra, Bengkulu, Lampung, and the Bangka Belitung Islands, faces inequality in welfare influenced by differences in resource potential and geographical conditions (Mardhian et al., 2023).

Table 1 Poverty Rate (P0) in the Southern Sumatra Region, 2019-2023 (%)

Year	Jambi	South Sumatra	Bengkulu	Lampung	Bangka Belitung Islands
2019	7.60	12.71	15.23	12.62	4.62
2020	7.58	12.66	15.03	12.34	4.53
2021	8.09	12.84	15.22	12.62	4.90
2022	7.62	11.90	14.62	11.57	4.45
2023	7.58	11.78	14.04	11.11	4.52

Source: Central Statistics Agency

In general, the average poverty rate in most provinces has decreased over the past five years. The lowest poverty rate over the past five years has generally occurred in the Bangka Belitung Islands, ranging from 4.45% to 4.90%, indicating a relatively more stable and prosperous economy compared to other provinces in the region.

Zakat is an Islamic economic instrument that functions to distribute wealth and alleviate poverty. Theoretically, well-managed zakat can improve the welfare of those who mustahik (receive wealth) and reduce social inequality (Nurhakim & Budimansyah, 2024). The National Zakat Index (IZN), developed by BAZNAS, is a measuring tool for the effectiveness of zakat collection and utilization at the provincial level (Lili et al., 2023). Besides zakat, the Human Development Index (HDI) is an important indicator in measuring the welfare of the population, calculated based on three main dimensions: longevity, education level, and a decent standard of living (Rahim et al., 2021). Although IPM has been widely used, according to Hakim et al. (2020), this indicator is considered limited because it only reflects the material aspects of well-being and does not consider the spiritual dimension. As a solution, the Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI) was developed. This concept offers an alternative approach that measures human well-being comprehensively, including aspects of this world and the afterlife (Yumashev et al., 2020). Furthermore, another factor that is an indicator influencing poverty is unemployment. The phenomenon of unemployment can arise as a result of an increase in the workforce that is not matched by the availability of adequate employment opportunities, as well as a low rate of labor absorption. This situation occurs due to the slow rate of creation of new job opportunities that can accommodate job seekers who are ready to enter the workforce (Imanto et al., 2020).

Research on the influence of unemployment and zakat on poverty shows mixed results, and Hafiz & Kurniadi (2024) found that the unemployment rate had a negative but insignificant effect on poverty. In contrast, research conducted by Chrisnatallya et al. (2023) concluded that there was a positive and significant influence. Meanwhile, Darma et al. (2024) stated that zakat plays a significant role in reducing poverty, but this finding contradicts Rahman et al. (2024), which states that zakat does not affect reducing poverty. These differences in results indicate inconsistencies in the literature, which may be due to regional characteristics, institutional effectiveness, and differing management approaches. However, most of these studies focus on the national level or provinces within Java. To date, very few studies have examined the relationship between the Zakat Index, the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI), and unemployment on poverty in Southern Sumatra. Despite its rich natural resources, this region still faces significant social and economic inequality. Furthermore, structurally, Southern Sumatra mirrors many regions outside Java, which experience development gaps and limited access to basic services. Therefore, a regional focus on this region not only fills a gap in the literature but is also strategic for capturing inequality dynamics that may represent national trends beyond the centers of economic growth. Therefore, this study was conducted to empirically evaluate the influence of the Zakat

Index, the IHDI, and the unemployment rate on poverty in five provinces in Southern Sumatra during the 2019-2023 period.

Based on the background of the problem above, the author raised the topic in this study with the title "The Influence of the Zakat Index, Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI), and Unemployment Rate on Poverty in Southern Sumatra Island" to analyze the extent to which these variables influence the poverty rate in the Southern Sumatra Island region for the period 2019-2023.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Zakat

Zakat is a crucial pillar of Islam. Etymologically, zakat means to grow (*an-namaa*), to purify (*at-thaharatul*), and to bless (*albarakatu*). Terminologically, zakat refers to the expenditure of a portion of one's wealth, subject to certain conditions, to be distributed to certain groups (*mustahik*) who meet predetermined requirements (Dyah et al., 2022). The National Zakat Index (IZN) is an indicator developed by BAZNAS to measure the performance of zakat management at the national and provincial levels, as well as to assess its contribution to the welfare of mustahik and institutional development (Lili et al., 2023).

Effective distribution of zakat has been proven to play a significant role in reducing poverty levels and supporting sustainable social and economic development (Mulyadi, 2022). This finding aligns with (Nurhalim et al., 2022), who emphasize that well-targeted zakat allocation plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty and promoting inclusive development. However, Zulkifli (2022) found that in several regions, zakat management still faces various structural and operational challenges, such as the low professionalism of zakat institutions. As a result, the potential of zakat to empower the mustahik and reduce social inequality has not been fully realized in those areas. These contrasting findings suggest that the effectiveness of zakat distribution is highly influenced by institutional quality, geographic context, and community participation. Furthermore, most previous studies have focused on Java, thus failing to adequately represent the dynamics of non-Java regions. Southern Sumatra possesses significant zakat potential but faces distinct challenges in distribution and empowerment. Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by analyzing the effect of the Zakat Index on poverty across five provinces in Southern Sumatra during the 2019-2023 period.

H1: There is a partial influence of the Zakat Index on Poverty.

This hypothesis is grounded in the Islamic economic theory of distribution, which positions zakat as a fundamental instrument. The principle of zakat distribution through the eight eligible recipient groups (*ashnaf*) aims to promote social justice and reduce economic inequality. The National Zakat Index, as a measure of zakat management effectiveness, is believed to contribute to poverty reduction (Sholikin, 2022)

Definition of Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI)

The Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI) is a measurement tool rooted in Islamic principles to assess human well-being in fulfilling both worldly and spiritual needs. It is constructed based on indicators reflecting the five dimensions of Maqashid syariah as articulated by Imam Asy-Syatib: preservation of religion (*hifdzu ad-dien*), life (*hifdzu an-nafs*), intellect (*hifdzu al-aql*), progeny (*hifdzu an-nasl*), and wealth (*hifdzu al-mal*). These essential human needs must be holistically fulfilled to achieve comprehensive human development, which in Islamic economics is referred to as *falah* (Imsar et al., 2023).

Several studies suggest that an increase in the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) contributes to poverty reduction in a given region. Improvements in IHDI not only help individuals escape poverty but also support broader economic growth (Reza et al., 2020). However, these findings are not entirely consistent. Dalimunthe & Imsar (2023) revealed that poverty has a negative impact on the increase in the IHDI. This means that although the IHDI aims to measure human well-being based on Islamic

values, its impact on poverty reduction is still indirect. This contradiction indicates a research gap in understanding the causal relationship between the IHDI and poverty. Most studies also focus on the national level and have not deeply examined the dynamics of this relationship in regions such as Southern Sumatra. This region faces unique structural challenges in education, health, and economic inequality. Therefore, this research is crucial in filling this gap through a contextual, empirical approach.

H2: There is a partial influence of the *Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI)* on Poverty

This theory is based on the theory of human development based on Maqashid Syariah, which emphasizes the importance of five basic dimensions (religion, soul, mind, descendants, and property) as indicators of the welfare of the Muslim community (Haidar & Rachmad, 2025).

Definition of Unemployment

Unemployment is a condition in which individuals in the labor force desire to work but have not yet been able to find one. Individuals who are unemployed but not actively seeking work are not categorized as unemployed. This situation indicates that the supply of labor exceeds the demand for labor (Shafira et al., 2020). The unemployment rate has a positive effect on poverty because the more individuals who are unemployed, the greater the potential for an increase in the number of poor people (Purnomo et al., 2023). The findings of this study are different from the results of the study (Puteri et al., 2024), which found that unemployment did not have a significant and negative effect on poverty levels in Indonesia, indicating that changes in unemployment rates do not directly affect poverty. This situation is likely due to the strong role of the informal sector and the existence of alternative income sources that allow individuals to continue meeting basic needs even without working in the formal sector. These differences in findings indicate that the effect of unemployment on poverty is contextual. Therefore, this study is important to re-examine the relevance and strength of the relationship between unemployment and poverty, particularly in the Southern Sumatra region, which has diverse economic characteristics.

H3: There is a partial influence of the unemployment rate on poverty.

This hypothesis draws on macroeconomic theory, which explains that unemployment leads to a decline in individual income, weakening purchasing power, and increasing economic vulnerability. Furthermore, unemployment has a systemic impact on the economy because it exacerbates wealth inequality (Ogujiuba & Cornelissen, 2020).

Definition of Poverty

Poverty is a situation where an individual or family faces economic hardship that prevents them from achieving the material standard of living prevalent in a given geographic area. This situation of inability is characterized by limited ability to earn sufficient income to meet basic daily needs, including food, shelter, and clothing. This limited ability to generate low income often results in a decreased ability to meet existing social standards, such as educational attainment and health standards in the community (Permana & Pasaribu, 2023). In an Islamic perspective, poverty is seen as a threat to the welfare and faith of the people and therefore requires serious attention (Azra et al., 2023). Zakat index, I-HDI, and unemployment rate have a significant influence on the poverty rate (Amri et al., 2023).

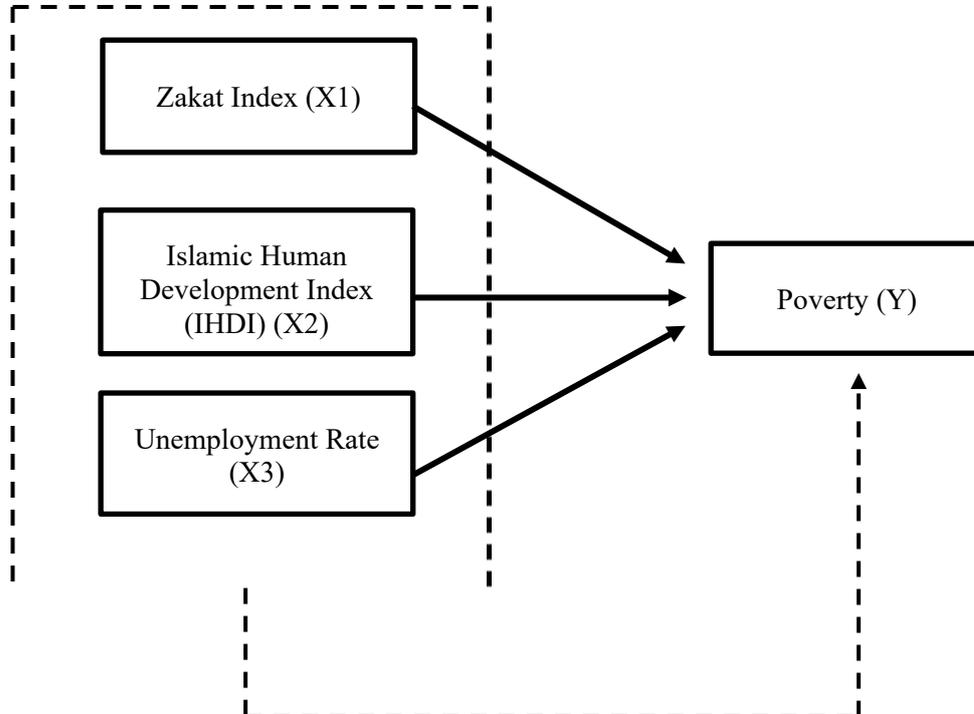
Although numerous studies have addressed poverty from various perspectives, studies integrating an Islamic approach through Zakat and the Indonesian Human Development Index (I-HDI) with other indicators such as unemployment in a specific regional context like Southern Sumatra are still very limited. The disparity in development quality between provinces, limited economic access, and differences in institutional capacity for zakat management make this region a relevant case study for evaluating the effectiveness of a multidimensional approach to poverty alleviation. Therefore, this research is expected to fill the gap in the literature and provide an empirical contribution to the development of a poverty alleviation model based on Islamic values.

H4: There is a simultaneous influence between the Zakat Index, *Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI)*, and Unemployment Rate on Poverty.

This hypothesis is based on a multidimensional poverty approach and human development based on Maqashid al-Shariah, which emphasizes the need for a combination of poverty alleviation through zakat (I-HDI) and the provision of employment to reduce poverty comprehensively (Ali & Nasution, 2024).

METHODOLOGY

This study uses quantitative research. Quantitative research focuses on the analysis of numerical data, which is then processed using statistical methods to interpret the results. This type of research is explanatory research to analyze the influence of the Zakat Index, the Islamic Human Development Index, and the Unemployment Rate on poverty in five provinces in Southern Sumatra: Jambi, South Sumatra, Bengkulu, Lampung, and Bangka Belitung. The data used in this study is secondary data, which is research data obtained indirectly through pre-existing sources. For example, books, scientific journals, articles, financial reports, and census data collected by the government. (Sumadi, 2005; Undari et al., 2024). The data used in this study are Zakat Index data obtained from the National Zakat Agency (BAZNAS), Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI), Unemployment Rate, and Poverty data obtained from the Central Statistics Agency, and other official sources within 5 years (2019-2023). This study uses a panel data regression analysis method using Eviews 12 software that combines cross-section and time series data. Three regression estimation models tested include the Common Effect Model (CEM), Fixed Effect Model (FEM), and Random Effect Model (REM), with the selection of the best model being carried out through the Chow test, Hausman test, and Lagrange Multiplier test. Classical assumption testing is carried out to detect multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity to ensure model validity. The multiple linear regression model used aims to measure the influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable, with hypothesis testing carried out through the t-test (partial) and F-test (simultaneous). In addition, the coefficient of determination (Adjusted R²) is used to measure how much variation in changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables in the model.



Picture 1. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework in this study is depicted in Figure 1. This model shows the relationship between the Zakat Index (X1), the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) (X2), and the Unemployment Rate (X3) as independent variables on the Poverty Rate (Y) as the dependent variable. These three variables are assumed to have an influence both partially and simultaneously.

RESULTS

Table 2. Chow Test

Effect Test	statistics	df	Prob
Cross-section F	120.176884	(4.17)	0.0000
Cross-section Chi-square	84.419982	4	0.0000

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The cross-section probability value is $0.0000 < 0.05$. It can be concluded that the appropriate model used for the results of the Chow test is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM).

Table 3. Hausman test

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. df	Prob
Random cross-section	480.227386	3	0.0000

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The probability value is $0.0000 < 0.05$. It can be concluded that the appropriate model to use for the Hausman test results is the Fixed Effect Model (FEM). Therefore, the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) is the best model to be used in this study.

Table 4. Multicollinearity Test

	X1	X2	X3
X1 (Zakat Index)	1,000,000	0.059146	0.209734
X2 (I-HDI)	0.059146	1,000,000	0.124291
X3 (Unemployment Rate)	0.209734	0.124291	1,000,000

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The results of the multicollinearity test indicate that the independent variables in this study passed the multicollinearity test. This is because the correlation value of each independent variable is < 0.85 .

Table 5. Heteroscedasticity Test

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
C	0.599106	1.292454	0.463541	0.6489
X1	-0.160179	0.385110	-0.415930	0.6827

X2	0.002507	0.021452	0.116869	0.9083
X3	-0.082237	0.079926	-1.028910	0.3179

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The results of the heteroscedasticity test indicate that the independent variables in this study passed the heteroscedasticity test. This is because the Prob. The value of each independent variable (free variable) is > 0.85.

$$Y = 7.12771941055 + 2.35401905563 * X1 + 0.00469922560298 * X2 + 0.373301221356 * X3$$

The results of multiple linear regression of panel data show a constant value of 7.127, meaning that without the influence of independent variables, the poverty rate is estimated at 7.12. The coefficient of the Zakat Index (X1) is 2.35, the IHDI (X2) is 0.0047, and the Unemployment Rate (X3) is 0.37, each indicating that an increase in these variables tends to be followed by an increase in poverty, assuming other variables are constant.

Table 6. Hypothesis Testing

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob
C	7.127719	3.411923	2.089062	0.0520
X1	2.354019	1.016643	2.315482	0.0333
X2	0.004699	0.056630	0.0082981	0.9348
X3	0.373301	0.210996	1.769235	0.0948

Effects Specification

Cross-section fixed (dummy variables)

R-squared	0.991450	Mean dependent var	10.31120
Adjusted R-Squared	0.987930	SD dependent var	3.762787
SE of regression	0.413400	Akaike info criterion	1.325535
Sum squared residual	2.905291	Schwarz criterion	1.715575
Log likelihood	- 8.569184	Hannan-Quinn criterion	1.433715
F-Statistic	281.6195	Durbim-Watson Stat	1.340617
Prob (F-Statistic)	0.000000		

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The results of the t-test on the zakat index variable (X1) obtained a calculated t value of 2.315482 > t table, namely 2.068658, and a sig. Value of 0.0333 < 0.05, meaning that the zakat index variable has a significant positive effect on poverty in Southern Sumatra.

The results of the t-test on the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) variable (X2) obtained a calculated t value of $0.082981 < t$ table, namely 2.068658, and a sig. Value of $0.9348 > 0.05$, meaning that the IHDI variable does not have a significant effect on poverty in Southern Sumatra.

The results of the t-test on the unemployment rate variable (X3) obtained a calculated t value of 1.769235 $< t$ table, namely 2.068658, and a sig. Value of $0.0948 > 0.05$, meaning that the unemployment rate variable does not have a significant effect on poverty in Southern Sumatra.

The results of the F test from the calculated F value of 281.6195 $> F$ table, namely 3.072467 and a significance value of $0.000000 < 0.05$, meaning that the independent variables, namely the Zakat Index (X1), Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) (X2), and Unemployment Rate (X3) have a simultaneous effect on the dependent variable, namely Poverty (Y).

The adjusted R-square value of 98.79% shows that the Zakat Index, IHDI, and Unemployment Rate variables are able to explain variations in poverty in Southern Sumatra dominantly, while the remaining 1.21% is influenced by other factors outside the model.

The Influence of the Zakat Index on Poverty in Southern Sumatra for the 2019-2023 Period

The results obtained from this study 5 showed that the Zakat Index variable affects poverty in Southern Sumatra. This is evidenced by a significant value smaller than 0.05 or ($0.0333 < 0.05$) with a calculated t value of $2.315482 > t$ table of 2.068658, so it can be concluded that the first hypothesis (H1), which states that the Zakat Index affects poverty, is accepted. The positive direction of the influence indicates that the increase in the zakat index is not directly proportional to the decrease in poverty. This reflects the less-than-optimal role of zakat as an instrument for poverty alleviation caused by weak governance, low literacy, and community participation (Syamsuri et al., 2022). Furthermore, the lack of public trust in zakat management institutions is due to a lack of transparency, accountability, and professionalism in fund management. Many zakat institutions have not been able to demonstrate optimal performance due to limited human resources, both in terms of management, digitalization, and the ability to design targeted economic programs (Maulana et al., 2023).

The results of this study are in line with the findings of Maghfirah (2021), which states that although zakat statistically has an impact on poverty reduction, its effectiveness is still hampered by weak governance and low professionalism in zakat management at the regional level. The results of this study are also supported by findings conducted by Ashurov et al. (2021), which emphasize that the success of zakat in reducing poverty is highly dependent on the professionalism and effectiveness of its distribution program. Furthermore, research conducted by Anggyana et al. (2021) shows that zakat has a significant contribution to poverty alleviation in Indonesia if managed in a focused and targeted manner. They emphasize that zakat distributed through targeted distribution to clearly defined mustahik groups, especially in the form of productive zakat, can increase economic independence and reduce dependency. This strengthens the findings of this study, which show that the increase in the Zakat Index has not fully reflected direct poverty reduction due to issues of transparency, participation, and the suboptimal quality of zakat distribution in Southern Sumatra.

The findings of this study indicate that although the Zakat Index statistically influences poverty, the positive direction of the effect indicates that an increase in the index has not effectively reduced poverty levels in Southern Sumatra. This finding contrasts with research conducted by Hamran & Sudirman (2024) and research by Jacob et al. (2024), which states that zakat can significantly reduce poverty through wealth redistribution, increased purchasing power, and economic empowerment of those entitled to receive zakat. This discrepancy indicates a gap between the ideal potential of zakat and its implementation in the field, which can be caused by weak governance and low literacy, and community participation in zakat institutions. Therefore, professional, transparent zakat management based on productive empowerment is crucial to optimize zakat's role in sustainably reducing poverty.

The Influence of the Islamic Human Development Index on Poverty in Southern Sumatra for the 2019-2023 Period

The results obtained from this study showed that the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) variable did not have a significant effect on poverty in Southern Sumatra. This is evidenced by a significant value greater than 0.05 or ($0.9348 > 0.05$) with a calculated t value of $0.082981 < t$ table of 2.068658, so that it can be concluded that the second hypothesis (H2), which states that the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) affects poverty, is rejected. This finding is in line with Nurlayli & Jumarni (2022), which concluded that the IHDI had no significant effect on poverty due to low educational participation and limited access to basic services. Low educational participation and limited access, particularly in areas with a low Islamic human development index, are the main factors weakening the IHDI's impact on poverty reduction. Furthermore, if poverty alleviation strategies focus solely on improving IHDI scores without incorporating other structural interventions such as zakat distribution and job creation, then this approach is considered ineffective in comprehensively addressing poverty issues. Furthermore, the results of this study are also reinforced by the findings of Nurhalim et al. (2022), which found that improving human development indicators based on maqashid does not necessarily have a direct impact on poverty reduction, especially if it is not accompanied by institutional strengthening and equitable distribution of resources. Other research conducted by Viollani et al. (2022) states that an increase in the IHDI does not automatically contribute to poverty reduction, especially if it is not accompanied by equitable access to development and strengthened institutional governance. This indicates that a human development approach based on the principles of Sharia requires strong systemic and structural support to significantly impact poverty reduction, particularly in areas with high social and economic inequality.

The Impact of Unemployment Rate on Poverty in Southern Sumatra for the Period 2019-2023

The results obtained from this study showed that the unemployment rate variable did not have a significant effect on poverty in Southern Sumatra. This is evidenced by a significant value greater than 0.05 or ($0.0948 > 0.05$) with a calculated t value of $1.769235 < t$ table of 2.068658. Therefore, it can be concluded that the third hypothesis (H3), which states that the Unemployment Rate affects Poverty, is rejected. Research conducted by Junaedi & Muljaningsih (2022) states that the unemployment variable does not affect poverty. This can happen because unemployment does not mean being unable to meet the needs of life. Some individuals do not have jobs, but they have additional income to meet their daily needs. In addition, unemployment status also includes those who are looking for work, preparing a business, or experiencing limited access to work, such as people with disabilities (Amanatillah & Mukhlis, 2022).

The findings of this study are strengthened by a study conducted by Prasetya & Sumanto (2022), which states that the unemployment rate does not always have a significant impact on poverty, especially in areas dominated by the informal sector. In this context, unemployment status does not fully reflect an individual's inability to meet basic needs, as most people still earn income through non-formal economic activities not recorded in formal employment statistics. Furthermore, research conducted by Alfikri et al. (2025) shows that household economic activities, micro-enterprises, and social networks within the family play a role in supporting the economic conditions of individuals who are administratively categorized as unemployed. The findings in this study, which show that the unemployment rate has no significant effect on poverty, are in contrast to the results of a study conducted by Simanungkalit, (2023), which states that unemployment has a positive and significant impact on poverty in Indonesia. This difference in results is likely due to variations in the regions and socioeconomic contexts studied. This study focused on Southern Sumatra, which has a strong informal economy, enabling individuals without formal employment to survive through micro-enterprises or family support.

The Influence of the Zakat Index, Islamic Human Development Index, and Unemployment Rate on Poverty in Southern Sumatra for the 2019-2023 Period

The results of this study indicate that the Zakat Index, Islamic Human Development Index, and Unemployment Rate variables simultaneously influence poverty. This is evidenced by a significance value of 0.000000, which is smaller than 0.05 ($0.000000 < 0.05$) and the calculated F value of 281.6195

> F table of 3.072467. Therefore, it can be concluded that the fourth hypothesis (H4), which states that independent variables jointly influence poverty, can be accepted. Although not all variables have a significant effect, simultaneous analysis shows that the three variables together make a strong contribution to poverty. All three represent the pillars of economic empowerment of the people. Distribution of wealth through zakat, increasing human capacity through IHDI, and access to employment through reducing unemployment.

This finding is consistent with the research results of Rohmah & Prakoso (2022), which shows that the combination of Islamic economic instruments and human development indicators has a significant impact on reducing poverty. This research emphasizes that an integrative and multidimensional approach is more effective in responding to poverty problems that cannot be solved by a single variable. Furthermore, research conducted by Adrian & Lutfi (2023) This study demonstrates that the synergy between optimizing zakat, strengthening human resources, and creating jobs is a strategy for sustainably reducing poverty in Indonesia. This approach is considered more adaptive in addressing structural poverty, which cannot be resolved through a single variable. Therefore, effective poverty alleviation also requires an integrated approach that combines the values of distributive justice, human resource empowerment, and creating economic access. This aligns with the principles of maqashid sharia, which encourage the development of inclusive policies based on spiritual and social values to build sustainable community independence.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the dynamics of the Zakat Index, the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI), and the Open Unemployment Rate are closely related to poverty levels in Southern Sumatra during the 2019-2023 period. The decline in the zakat index in most provinces reflects the suboptimal management and distribution of zakat as an Islamic social financial instrument, thus suboptimally contributing to poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, the fluctuating IHDI indicates that human development based on Islamic values has not been stable. Furthermore, the unemployment rate spiked due to the pandemic in 2020-2021, but has begun to decline in recent years, indicating an economic recovery that needs to be maintained for its sustainability. Overall, the poverty rate in this region shows a downward trend, but it is not evenly distributed and is still influenced by disparities in the quality of development between regions. This finding confirms that poverty alleviation efforts cannot be separated from optimizing zakat management, strengthening Islamic-based human development, and creating inclusive employment opportunities, so that an integrated, contextual policy approach is needed, based on the principles of maqashid sharia.

The results of the study indicate that, partially, only the Zakat Index has a significant effect on the poverty rate in the Southern Sumatra region during the 2019-2023 period, while the Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI) and the Open Unemployment Rate do not show a statistically significant effect on poverty. Furthermore, the results of the study simultaneously show that the variables of the Zakat Index, Islamic Human Development Index (IHDI), and the Open Unemployment Rate have an effect on poverty in the Southern Sumatra region during the 2019-2023 period. These findings indicate that poverty alleviation requires an integrated approach that considers the interaction of various factors, such as social, economic, and spiritual factors, as a whole.

As a policy implication, this study recommends strengthening productive zakat programs, particularly targeting micro-enterprises and potential beneficiaries, to sustainably increase economic power. Furthermore, campaigns for zakat literacy and Islamic-based human development need to be expanded to ensure the public understands not only the importance of zakat as a religious obligation but also as an instrument of economic empowerment. Local governments are also encouraged to collaborate with the National Zakat Agency (BAZNAS) and educational institutions to develop applicable and contextual socio-economic literacy curricula.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors affirm that there is no conflict of interest in this article.

CO-AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Author 1 was primarily responsible for compiling the literature review, collecting and processing secondary data, analyzing the data, and drafting the article. Author 2 supervised the research process, provided critical supervision, provided conceptual and methodological direction, and ensured the manuscript adhered to academic rigor and substantive clarity. Author 3 co-supervised the research process, provided input on the results, and assisted in finalizing the article for publication.

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