

# Analysis of Economic Growth on the Use of Special Autonomy Funds on Papua Poverty

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## ABSTRACT

The goal of Special Autonomy for Papua is to bridge the gap between Papua Province and other provinces, enhance living standards, and provide opportunities for indigenous Papuans. However, its implementation has fallen short of expectations due to a lack of understanding of the Special Autonomy Law by both Central and Regional Governments. This research is crucial for examining how effectively special autonomy funds contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction in Papua, particularly in Warmon Village. It aims to assess the impact of these funds on poverty levels and explore the link between economic growth and poverty. Utilizing mixed methods, the study combines quantitative analysis using SPSS with a sample of 79 people and qualitative data collection through narratives, observations, and document analysis. The findings reveal that while special autonomy funds in Warmon sub-district have had a positive impact, their effectiveness is limited because the funds are mainly used for infrastructure development. The research suggests that increased economic growth could help reduce poverty in Papua. Recommendations include ensuring transparency through regular audits and financial report publications, and implementing robust monitoring systems to prevent corruption and misuse of funds.

## ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari Otonomi Khusus untuk Papua adalah untuk mengurangi kesenjangan antara Provinsi Papua dan provinsi lain, meningkatkan standar hidup masyarakat Papua, serta memberikan peluang bagi masyarakat adat Papua. Namun, pelaksanaannya belum memenuhi harapan masyarakat Papua, sebagian besar disebabkan oleh kurangnya pemahaman Pemerintah Pusat dan Daerah terhadap Undang-Undang Otonomi Khusus. Penelitian ini penting untuk menganalisis sejauh mana dana otonomi khusus mempengaruhi pertumbuhan ekonomi dan pengurangan kemiskinan di Papua, terutama di Desa Warmon. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan dampak dana otonomi khusus terhadap tingkat kemiskinan serta hubungan antara pertumbuhan ekonomi dan kemiskinan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode campuran, yaitu kombinasi pendekatan kuantitatif dengan aplikasi SPSS dari sampel 79 orang dan pendekatan kualitatif melalui pengumpulan data berupa narasi, deskripsi, observasi, serta analisis dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dana otonomi khusus di sub-distrik Warmon memberikan dampak positif, namun belum optimal karena sebagian besar dana dialokasikan untuk pembangunan infrastruktur. Rekomendasi penelitian ini adalah agar pemerintah memastikan transparansi penggunaan dana otonomi khusus melalui audit rutin dan publikasi laporan keuangan, serta menerapkan sistem pemantauan yang efektif untuk mencegah korupsi dan penyalahgunaan dana.



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## INTRODUCTION

Papua is one of the provinces in Indonesia with various challenges in economic growth and poverty alleviation. Even though it is rich in natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, Papua still has a high level of poverty (Juhandi & Enre, 2020). According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, the poverty rate in Papua is significantly higher than the national average: Central Statistics Agency data shows that the poverty rate in Papua was around 27.9% in 2018, while the national poverty rate was around 9.6% (Agatz et al., 2018). Apart from that, the special autonomy fund given to Papua Province is also an important component in efforts to overcome poverty. This fund aims to overcome the problem, by granting special autonomy status to the Papua Province to have greater authority in overcoming poverty and improving the welfare of the Papuan people (Rumalutur et al., 2022). However, further evaluation needs to be carried out on how these funds are used and what impact they have on poverty alleviation in Papua. (Indrawati et al., 2020)

Through Law Number 2 of 2021 concerning special autonomy for Aceh and Papua, which in this regulation is given special authority to regulate its own region. It is hoped that this special autonomy will be the best solution to elevate the status and lives of the Papuan people towards a better life. The approval of the Papua Special Autonomy Law is significant progress. (Rumere & Suruan, 2023) The only problem is, the implementation is not in accordance with what the Papuan people expect. The reason is that the Central Government and Regional Governments do not properly understand the laws and regulations, or the special autonomy regulations themselves. As a result, implementation did not meet the expectations of the Papuan people. However, Papua's special autonomy opens up space to improve welfare, justice, peace, equal rights, and develop the identity, self-esteem and honor and dignity of the Papuan people. (Misbahuddin et al., 2023). Of the 38 provinces in Indonesia, Papua is the region with the highest poverty depth index level, then West Papua is in second place with a poverty depth index level of 5.25. So it can be said that the special autonomy in Papua has not succeeded or failed in handling the economy of the Papuan people. (Sejahteraan et al., 2024) Based on the research and concepts above, the urgency in this research is very important to ensure economic growth and the success of special autonomy funds in overcoming increasing poverty, this is because there are still many groups of people who are considered economically deficient. and does not get the government's attention to human growth and development in it. According to (Raafi'i et al., 2018). the new autonomy status is one of the problems due to the region's inability to encourage growth with limited resources, apart from human resources with skills which makes the Papua region with a low level of productivity (Kulla et al., 2018). the government does not design development by providing sufficient space for the community to be involved in planning, this is based on a minimal level of understanding. Apart from that, in the view that autonomy policy is not a solution to existing problems in Papua, in the view of (Latupeirissa et al., 2021). the government needs to design a new approach to special autonomy. Another problem is the use of autonomy funds which are considered not to have answered the needs of the community and resolved problems. According to (Pambudi et al., 2022). apart from the problems above, Papua is also faced with the problem of development that is not yet optimal. Therefore, even though it is given special rights to

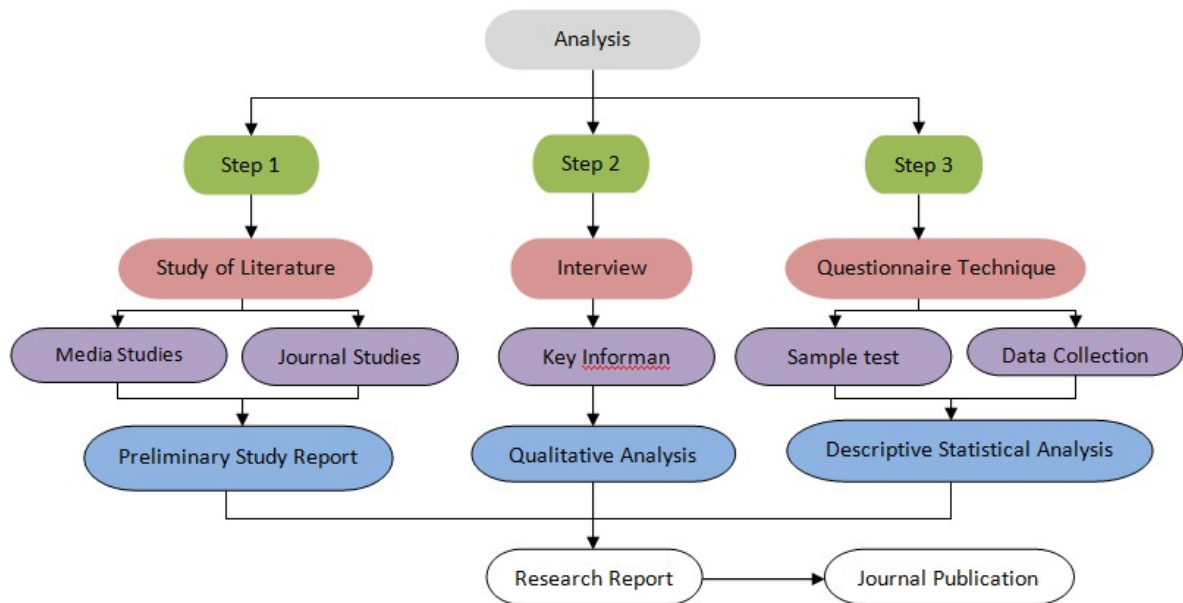
run the government, Papua is not yet able to become a region with the same level of development as other provinces in Indonesia.

According to (Muhtarulloh, 2021) Shows that the allocation of special autonomy funds for education and health did not have a significant effect on increasing Papua's HDI in the 2014-2017 period. (Fahrudin et al., 2022) Indicates that special autonomy funds do not have a significant effect on HDI growth in Aceh Province, (Vidrizza & Talmera, 2022)"Determinants of the Human Development Index in the Eastern Indonesia Region (Case study of the Regency/City Government of Papua Province in 2013-2016). This research provides context about the factors that influence the Human Development Index (HDI) in Papua, which is one of the main focuses In this research, other relevant literature may also include previous studies on the influence of special autonomy funds and regional financial management on community welfare. Meanwhile, according to (Vitara Agatha & Uliansyah, 2021)who conducted descriptive qualitative research and found that special autonomy funds can overcome the problem of disintegration, even though it has not been able to substantially address poverty. This research provides a theoretical and empirical basis for the analysis carried out in the research, as well as helping to formulate hypotheses regarding the impact of special autonomy funds on the amount of poverty in Papua (Salmawati, Arie P, 2023) Therefore, the novelty of this research really needs analysis deeper into economic growth, and the level of success of the special autonomy fund against poverty in Papua, specifically in Warimo village, so that the central and regional governments can provide strategies or solutions in handling community welfare in Papua.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher identifies the relevance of this study in that the existence of special autonomy in Papua to promote prosperity aligns well with the themes of reducing poverty and fostering development. Therefore, the special autonomy funds provided by the Indonesian government to Papua since 2001 represent one of the efforts to boost development in the province. These funds are allocated to enhance investment in strategic sectors such as infrastructure, education, and health. However, the effectiveness of these special autonomy funds still requires further analysis to understand how Papua can improve the quality of life for its people. This perspective aligns with Sri Hartati (2022), who assesses that community economic growth is still relatively low compared to other cities. Consequently, the research problem addressed in this study is: (1) To what extent do special autonomy funds affect poverty levels in Papua? (2) What is the relationship between the level of economic growth and poverty levels in Papua?

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses statistical analysis according to (Martias, 2021) the statistical analysis function is to present data through in-depth analysis. This function is called by (Andjarwati et al., 2021) as descriptive statistical analysis. For this reason, this research uses statistical analysis to examine economic growth in Papua against poverty. We understand that the statistical analysis function helps to identify potential that can be seen more clearly from development. In another view, (Ferezagia, 2018) assesses the function of statistical analysis to categorize growth in regions, whether they are poor or developing areas. Or in the view of Indrasetyaningih & Wasik (2020) to understand the variables that indicate growth and poverty levels.



**Figure 1** *Research Design*

This research was carried out in Warmon Village, Aimas District, Sorong Regency, Southwest Papua Province. This research uses mixed research methods, namely research based on a combination of positivism and post-positivism. Combination Research is a research method that combines quantitative and qualitative forms. In this research, researchers used data collection techniques, namely distributing questionnaires to collect data from the community in Warmon Village. The target population was the entire community in the sub-district, totaling 150 people. Because collecting data from an entire population can take a lot of time and resources, researchers use the Slovin method to determine the optimal sample size. With a certain degree of error, it is calculated that 79 representative samples are needed to describe the entire population. These samples were then distributed to all residents in Warmon village. Meanwhile, the qualitative approach is collecting data in the form of narratives, descriptions, through observation and document analysis. With this approach, researchers hope to obtain valid and reliable data for further analysis, which can then be used to draw appropriate conclusions about the characteristics and opinions of the people in Warmon Village.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Researchers analyzed economic growth in the use of special autonomy funds against poverty in Papua, especially in Warmon village, Aimas sub-district, Sorong Regency, Southwest Papua Province.

### Validation Test

**Table 1** *Questionnaire Validation Test*

No. Items	X1		No. Items	X2		No. Items	Y	
	R Table	R Count		R Table	R Count		R Table	R Count
X1	0.220	0.423	X1	0.220	0.423	Y1	0.220	0.282
X2	0.220	0.629	X2	0.220	0.291	Y2	0.220	0.410
X3	0.220	0.436	X3	0.220	0.315	Y3	0.220	0.341
X4	0.220	0.369	X4	0.220	0.503	Y4	0.220	0.634
X5	0.220	0.548	X5	0.220	0.485	Y5	0.220	0.401
X6	0.220	0.380	X6	0.220	0.447	Y6	0.220	0.337
X7	0.220	0.439	X7	0.220	0.453	Y7	0.220	0.544
X8	0.220	0.440	X8	0.220	0.336	Y8	0.220	0.303
			X9	0.220	0.567	Y9	0.220	0.723
			X10	0.220	0.511	Y10	0.220	0.320
						Y11	0.220	0.406

Source: SPSS 2024

The results of the validity test above show that the variables economic growth (X1), Special Autonomy Fund (X2) and poverty level (Y), namely R calculated  $>$  R table, therefore the above variables are declared valid, therefore the instrument used to measure the three variables above has good validity, so it can be relied on for further research. Researchers can proceed to the data analysis stage with the confidence that the instruments used are valid and the results obtained will reflect the true situation of the population studied.

### Reliability Test

Reliability testing of the measurement results of items in the questionnaire is carried out if the items selected through the item analysis process (Validation Test) have been compiled into one.

**Table 2** *Reability Test*

Case Processing Summary		N	%
Case	Valid	79	100
	Excluded	0	0
	Total	79	100
	Male	44	
	Female	35	100

Source: SPSS 2024

In the Case Processing Summary table, it can be seen that the Valid Cases row shows the number of respondents is 79 people and the percentage shows 100%, which shows that all 79 respondents are valid and no respondents are in the Excluded category.

### Research Instrument Reliability Test

**Table 3** *Instrument Reliability Test Result*

Items	X1	X2	Y
Cronbach's Alpha	.835	.780	.895
Number of Items	10	8	11

Source: SPSS 2024

The results of the reliability test of the instrument above are a questionnaire that is considered reliable if the Cronbach Alpha value is  $> 0.6$ , then according to the results of the reliability test of the variables economic growth (X1), special autonomy funds (X2) and poverty level (Y) above it can be concluded that it is reliable or consistent for used in this research because the Cronbach's Alpha value of variable X1 is 0.835 with 10 questionnaire questions, the value of variable.

### The influence of the Special Autonomy Fund on poverty in Papua, especially in Warmon Village, Aimas District

**Output Section (Model Summary):** The table below shows the magnitude of the correlation/relationship value (R), which is 0.563. From this output, a coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.212 is obtained. This means that the independent variable (special autonomy funds) accounts for 21.2% of the variance in the dependent variable (poverty level).

**Table 4** *Model Summary*

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.563	.212	.178	34.199

**Predictors: (Constant), special autonomy funds**

If the correlation value (R) is 0.563, it indicates a moderate positive relationship between the independent variable (special autonomy funds) and the dependent variable (poverty level). This correlation suggests that as special autonomy funds increase, poverty levels tend to decrease. With a coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.212, it means that 21.2% of the variation in poverty levels can be explained by variations in special autonomy funds. An  $R^2$  of 0.212 indicates that special autonomy funds account for only 21.2% of the variation in poverty levels.

**Table 5** ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	151.231	1	174.354	14.135	.000b
	Residual	513.318	77	14.065		

Total	513.468	78
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a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Level

b. Predictors: Constant, Special Autonomy Fund

**Part Output (ANOVA):** The output shows that the calculated F value is 14.135, with a significance level of 0.000, which is less than 0.05. This indicates that the regression model is statistically significant and can be used to predict the poverty level. In other words, there is an influence of the special autonomy fund variable (X2) on the poverty level variable (Y). The F value of 14.135 with a significance level of 0.000 (which is smaller than 0.05) suggests that the regression model used is statistically significant. This means the model is effective in explaining the relationship between the independent variable (special autonomy funds) and the dependent variable (poverty level). A significance level (p-value) of less than 0.05 provides strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis, which posits no relationship between special autonomy funds and poverty levels. Consequently, special autonomy funds have a statistically significant effect on poverty levels. The F value of 14.135 indicates that the independent variable (special autonomy funds) is overall significant in explaining variations in the dependent variable (poverty level). A high F value signifies that the regression model is a good fit for the data. Since the model is significant, it can be used to predict poverty levels based on the amount of special autonomy funds provided. However, this prediction should be interpreted with the coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) of 21.2%, which indicates that the model explains only a small portion of the variation in poverty levels.

**Table 6** *Coefficients a*

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Constant	9.228	4.461		2.469	.024
special autonomy fund	.424	.112	.532	3.352	.000

Section Output (Coefficients): It is known that the Constant value (a) is 9.228, while the special autonomy fund value (b/regression coefficient) is 0.424, so the regression equation can be written:

$$Y = a + bX \quad Y = 9.228 + 0.424X$$

The constant is 9.228, indicating the baseline value of the poverty level variable. The regression coefficient is positive, suggesting that the influence of variable X2 on Y is positive.

According to the significance value from the Coefficients table, a significance value of 0.000 (which is less than 0.005) indicates that the special autonomy fund variable (X2) has an effect on the poverty level variable (Y). The calculated t value is 3.352, which is greater than the critical value of 1.994, confirming that the special autonomy fund variable (X2) significantly affects the poverty level variable (Y). The reliability coefficient for variable X2 is 0.780, and for variable Y, it is 0.895, with 11 questionnaire items scoring above 0.6.

A significance value of 0.000, which is less than 0.005, indicates very strong statistical significance. With a p-value < 0.005, we can reject the null hypothesis that special autonomy funds have no effect on poverty levels. Therefore, it can be concluded that special autonomy

funds (X2) have a significant impact on the poverty level (Y). The calculated t value of 3.352 exceeds the critical t value of 1.994, meaning the regression coefficient for the special autonomy fund variable (X2) is significantly different from zero. The t value greater than the critical value indicates a significant influence of X2 on Y.

The reliability coefficients of 0.780 for X2 and 0.895 for Y, with 11 items exceeding 0.6, suggest that the measurement instrument has good internal consistency. Reliability values above 0.6 are generally considered adequate for social research, indicating that the questionnaire reliably measures the variables in question. These results demonstrate that special autonomy funds play an important role in reducing poverty levels. Policies allocating these funds should be continued and their effectiveness enhanced. The government may consider expanding the special autonomy fund program and ensuring that the funds are used efficiently and effectively.

### **The relationship between the level of economic growth and the level of poverty in Papua, especially in Warmon Village, Aimas District**

To gain an understanding of the relationship between the level of economic growth and the poverty level in Warmon Village, Aimas District, Sorong Regency, the Spearman Rank statistical test was used. We know that N or the amount of data sought is 79. Then the sig (2-tailed) value is 0.000, because this is the basic consideration mentioned above, it can be concluded that the level of economic growth and the level of poverty in Papua are very related. The significance value (2-tailed) of 0.000 which is smaller than 0.05 indicates that the relationship between the level of economic growth and the level of poverty is statistically significant. With a p-value < 0.05, we can reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no relationship between the two variables. This means that there is strong evidence that there is a relationship between economic growth and poverty levels in the area. Although the specific correlation value ( $\rho$ ) is not stated, the very high significance (p-value = 0.000) indicates that this relationship is not only significant but also possibly strong. For further interpretation, the Spearman correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) value is needed to determine whether the relationship is positive or negative. For example, a positive  $\rho$  value indicates that as the level of economic growth increases, the level of poverty decreases or vice versa. This significant relationship shows that economic policies that are effective in encouraging economic growth can have a positive impact on reducing poverty levels.

**Table 7** Spearman's sho

		Growth economy	Poverty level
Spearman's sho	Growth economy	Pearson Correlation	1
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
		N	79
	Poverty level	Pearson Correlation	0.432
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
		N	79

Source SPSS 2024



## DISCUSSION

Economic growth in West Papua Province has experienced several changes and dynamics over the past few years. According to recent data, economic growth in West Papua Province has increased, but it still faces several challenges and limitations. In 2023, West Papua recorded an economic growth rate of 5.95% based on Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at Current Prices (ADHB), as published by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) (Hasibuan, 2021). This growth places Central Papua as a New Autonomous Region (DOB) with the highest economic growth in the Papua region. However, economic growth in West Papua still has several limitations, including high poverty rates. BPS data shows that West Papua has a relatively high level of poverty, with around 90% of the poor population concentrated in rural areas (Habel Frasawi et al., 2021).

Both regional and central governments have attempted to boost economic growth in West Papua through various programs and strategies, such as increasing investment in the agricultural, plantation, and service sectors. Additionally, efforts have been made to improve access to infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to enhance the regional economy (Mustikawati & Maulana, 2020). Despite these efforts, economic growth in West Papua still faces limitations. To achieve more stable and sustainable growth, both regional and central governments need to continue increasing investment, improving infrastructure, and enhancing community participation in the economic process (Agatz et al., 2018).

Papua has significant potential for economic development, particularly in agriculture, plantations, and mining. However, underdeveloped infrastructure and insufficient investment have left Papua among the poorest regions in Indonesia. According to BPS data, Papua had a poverty rate of 34.4% in 2020, significantly higher than the national average of 9.4%. The special autonomy funds provided by the Indonesian government to Papua since 2001 aim to boost development in the province (Uamang et al., 2018). These funds are intended for investment in strategic sectors such as infrastructure, education, and health. Nevertheless, further analysis is needed to determine how Papua can improve the quality of life for its people (Zain et al., 2023).

The management of Special Autonomy Funds has been problematic, with issues such as delays in submitting reports by regional governments (Kulla et al., 2018; Prabowo et al., 2022). For example, West Papua Province has faced delays in reporting, which has increased the need for better coordination between central and local governments. Additionally, corruption issues have raised concerns about the management of Special Autonomy Funds (Burdam & Laka, 2022; Latupeirissa et al., 2021). Despite the large amounts of Special Autonomy Funds, the regional government has not maximized their use, and the central government has not provided effective oversight. There is also inadequate monitoring and evaluation of financial management decisions (Banga & Roragabar, 2022). Recent studies have focused on improving the management of Special Autonomy Funds, examining mechanisms, obstacles, and efforts to overcome these challenges, and assessing the effectiveness of fund implementation.

Research findings indicate that Special Autonomy Funds have been distributed to each district since 2019, with a two-year hiatus and renewed activity in 2022. The funds

disbursed in 2022 were used to collect community data (Zain et al., 2023). However, in 2023, these funds are no longer earmarked for economic growth in Warmon sub-district but are instead allocated for infrastructure development. This shift may result in continued low effectiveness in achieving economic growth and welfare assistance in the economic sector, although there has been some support in education from regional governments. Therefore, the central and regional governments need to pay more attention to economic growth among lower-income groups to ensure that the Papuan people, particularly those in Warmon Village, receive their due benefits. Policymakers should use this information to design economic programs that not only focus on increasing GDP but also ensure that the benefits of economic growth are widely shared. In Warmon Village, Aimas District, Sorong Regency, inclusive and sustainable economic development is crucial. Programs such as local economic empowerment, developing MSMEs, and improving access to education and health can help increase economic growth while reducing poverty.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, special autonomy funds have a positive impact on poverty levels. The research indicates that while these funds have a beneficial effect in Papua, particularly in Warmon Village, their impact is not yet optimal due to their primary allocation toward infrastructure development. The relationship between economic growth and poverty levels shows that increased economic growth can reduce poverty in Papua, especially in Warmon Village. However, economic growth remains very low, and the management of special autonomy funds has not been fully effective.

To enhance economic growth and the management of special autonomy funds in Papua, local governments should focus on several areas: developing natural resources, ensuring efficient management of the funds, improving the quality of public services, advancing infrastructure, enhancing community skills, and implementing integrative programs that address both economic and social issues. A more in-depth evaluation of how special autonomy funds are allocated and utilized, as well as their impact on society, is essential for reducing poverty more effectively.

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