

Journal Name:	South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics
Manuscript Number:	Ms_SAJ SSE_128622
Title of the Manuscript:	The Role of Human Development Index (HDI) in Moderating the Relationship Between Economic Growth, Poverty, and Unemployment on Income Inequality in North Sumatra
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/h feedback here)
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	The manuscript titled <i>The Role of Human Development Index (HDI) in Moderating the Relationship Between Economic Growth, Poverty, and Unemployment on Income Inequality in North Sumatra</i> represents a valuable contribution to the field for several reasons. First, it addresses the critical issue of income inequality, offering important insights into its determinants within the specific context of North Sumatra, Indonesia - an area characterized by significant disparities. The inclusion of HDI as a moderating variable introduces a novel perspective, demonstrating how human capital development can potentially reduce income inequality, thereby filling a gap in existing research. Furthermore, the study provides practical implications for policymakers, offering guidance for the design of more inclusive economic and social policies. Finally, the application of advanced econometric techniques, including panel data analysis, ensures methodological rigor and strengthens the manuscript's contribution to the ongoing discourse on economic inequality and development.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The title <i>The Role of Human Development Index (HDI) in Moderating the Relationship Between Economic Growth, Poverty, and Unemployment on Income Inequality in North Sumatra</i> is clear and descriptive, effectively conveying the study's focus. However, it is somewhat lengthy and could be streamlined for better readability. Suggested Alternative Titles: " Human Development Index as a Moderator in Addressing Income Inequality in North Sumatra" " The Impact of HDI, Economic Growth, Poverty, and Unemployment on Income Inequality in North Sumatra"	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	The abstract of the article is comprehensive, providing a clear overview of the study's objectives, methods, key findings, and recommendations. However, it can be slightly improved for conciseness and clarity by addressing the following points: Areas of Improvement in the Abstract: The abstract does not explain why the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) was selected. A brief mention of how FEM helps control for unobserved variables that vary across districts but remain constant over time would improve understanding of its importance. The abstract mentions that economic growth does not significantly affect income inequality but does not emphasize why this is important. The significance of this finding lies in challenging the common assumption that economic growth always leads to reduced inequality, which could be highlighted more clearly. The policy recommendations could be made more concise. Currently, the recommendations include details about improving HDI through education, health, and social welfare, but they could be summarized more clearly to focus on the study's key contributions, making it easier for the reader to grasp the core message.	

Review Form 3

	The abstract repeats the details about the dependent (income inequality) and independent variables (economic growth, poverty rate, unemployment rate, and HDI), which are already implied by the study's focus. This repetition could be eliminated to make the abstract more concise.	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	The manuscript appears to be scientifically accurate and methodologically sound based on its structure, use of data, and analysis techniques.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	<p>The references in the manuscript are largely sufficient and relevant, drawing on foundational theories (e.g. , Kuznets, Becker) and recent studies to support the research.</p> <p>However, there are areas where the inclusion of more recent or region-specific references could strengthen the manuscript. Suggestions for Improving References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recency of References: Adding more recent studies (post-2018) on HDI and income inequality would make the paper more relevant to current trends. <p>Suggested References: UNDP Human Development Reports (recent years) for updated discussions on HDI and income inequality. Recent studies in World Development Journal of Economic Inequality, or Southeast Asian Studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Regional Context: To strengthen the regional focus, include studies on income inequality, economic growth, and HDI in Southeast Asia, especially relevant to North Sumatra. <p>Suggested References: Journal articles from World Development Journal of Economic Inequality, or Southeast Asian Studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Moderation Analysis: Include studies specifically addressing moderation analysis in socio-economic research to support your methodology. <p>Suggested References: Studies on moderation analysis in socio-economic research from journals like Journal of Economic Inequality or Economics and Sociology</p>	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	<p>Overall, the manuscript's language quality is sufficient for scholarly communication, but minor revisions for grammar, conciseness, and flow would further refine its presentation.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conciseness: Some sentences, especially in the abstract and discussion, are overly detailed or repetitive. Streamlining these would improve readability without losing meaning. 2. Grammar and Syntax: Phrases like "HDI quality" could be rephrased to "the quality of HDI components" for greater clarity. 	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Transitional Phrases: Adding transitional phrases or connectors (e.g., <i>however, therefore</i>) in some sections, particularly the results and discussion, would improve the flow of ideas. 	

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)	

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