

Why did we choose this title?

The title "Diving into the Gap" was chosen to align with the theme of SDG 10, which focuses on reducing inequalities. Here, we are specifically focusing on reducing economic disparities, which is why we chose this title.

Do you know?

In Indonesia, significant economic inequality still exists between cities in suburban areas and big cities. Although Indonesia is a developing country, there are still many underdeveloped regions. This can be seen from the higher percentage of poor people in suburban areas compared to big cities.

Gini ratio in Indonesia

Next, we can see here the Gini Ratio in Indonesia:

0.384% in 2018

0.38% in 2019

0.385% in 2020

0.381% in 2021

Over the last four years, there has been no significant change in the Gini Ratio in Indonesia.

Poverty levels

This is also reflected in the poverty levels shown in the pie chart. Starting from the lowest, Kalimantan is at 6.298%, followed by Java at 10.337%, Sumatra at 10.940%, Sulawesi at 11.990%, Nusa Tenggara at 16.231%, and the highest is Papua at 27.435%. This clearly shows the economic disparity in Indonesia. As I mentioned earlier, significant economic inequality still occurs between cities in the outskirts and major cities.

Why Does it Happen?

Economic inequality in Indonesia is influenced by several factors:

1. Cost Expenditure Variations:

Each region has different levels of expenditure compared to its income, thereby exacerbating economic inequality. For example:

Sumatra: 10,576.22

Java: 11.749.45

Nusa Tenggara: 9,546.41

Kalimantan: 10,751.43

Sulawesi: 9,682.54

Papua: 7.117.05

packed circle chart

Regions such as Java and Sumatra have higher spending, which indicates a higher cost of living. In contrast, Papua has lower expenditure but still experiences difficulties due to low income levels. This imbalance can cause financial pressure, especially in areas where income is not commensurate with expenditure, thereby exacerbating economic inequality.

2. Education:

Access to education is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. Many children, especially in rural areas, do not receive adequate education. The average length of schooling is:

Sumatra: 8.87 years
Java: 8.44 years
Nusa Tenggara: 7.92 years
Kalimantan: 8.41 years
Sulawesi: 8.72 years
Papua: 6.70 years

The data shows a graph that is not much different, but it can be seen that Papua has the lowest average number of years of schooling, which shows that there are quite big educational challenges. This is worrying because without a proper education, children in this region have fewer opportunities to improve their socio-economic status, thereby perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

3. Health Care and Life Expectancy:

Limited access to health services affects overall well-being and life expectancy.

Sumatra: 69.14 years
Java: 72.79 years
Nusa Tenggara: 68.04 years
Kalimantan: 70.71 years
Sulawesi: 68.44 years
Papua: 65.32 years

row chart

Rural and underserved areas, such as Papua, lag behind in terms of health service access and outcomes as seen in the graph. Poor infrastructure and health services in these areas cause low life expectancy and increased vulnerability to disease, thus widening inequality gaps.

Solutions

To address economic inequality, Indonesia can focus on several key areas:

Social Protection Programs:

Enhance and expand social safety nets to support vulnerable populations. This includes providing financial assistance, food aid, and other support to those in need to reduce immediate economic pressures.

Education and Training:

Invest in education and vocational training to improve skills and employability. By enhancing educational facilities and providing better training programs, especially in rural areas, we can equip the population with skills necessary for better job opportunities.

Healthcare Access:

Increase investment in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Improving healthcare services will not only increase life expectancy but also reduce the economic burden of health-related issues on poor families.

Economic Diversification:

Promote economic activities in less developed regions to create jobs and reduce regional disparities. Encouraging investment in diverse industries can help stimulate economic growth in underdeveloped areas, providing more job opportunities and reducing poverty.

Conclusion

Economic inequality in Indonesia is driven by significant disparities in income, education, and healthcare access. Urban areas tend to fare better than rural regions, and certain provinces face more severe challenges than others. By implementing targeted solutions, Indonesia can work towards reducing these inequalities and fostering a more equitable society. It is crucial for the government, private sector, and community organizations to work together to create lasting change. Let's strive for an Indonesia where everyone, regardless of their region, has equal opportunities to thrive.

,