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Do Minimum Wages Reduce Poverty? A Case Study of Palangkaraya City

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Abstract. This study examines the impact of the regional minimum wage on poverty levels in Palangkaraya City from 2010 to 2024. The goal is to determine whether an increase in the minimum wage reduces poverty in the region. A simple linear regression model was used to analyze the effect of the regional minimum wage (independent variable) on poverty (dependent variable). Secondary data on the regional minimum wage and poverty rates were sourced from the Palangkaraya City Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Classical assumption tests, including normality, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity tests, were conducted to validate the regression model. The regression analysis found a significant negative relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty in Palangkaraya City (coefficient = -6.080E-7, t = -5.561, $p < 0.05$). The normality and multicollinearity tests met the required assumptions, while heteroscedasticity was detected in the model. The study confirms that an increase in the regional minimum wage can significantly reduce poverty in Palangkaraya City. However, the presence of heteroscedasticity suggests that further model refinement is needed. Future research should focus on improving model accuracy and expanding the scope to include other factors influencing poverty.

Keywords: Regional minimum wage, poverty, simple linear regression, Palangkaraya City, classical assumption tests.

1. Introduction

The Regional Minimum Wage (UMR) is a government policy designed to protect workers by ensuring they receive a fair wage (Bonin et al., 2020; Caliendo & Wittbrodt, 2022; Malau et al., 2022; R. T. Siregar et al., 2020). In Indonesia, the UMR is set annually based on various factors, including inflation and economic growth. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that workers earn enough to meet the minimum living standards (Febriandika et al., 2022; Malau et al., 2022; Mustika et al., 2019; Rahmawati et al., 2022). However, despite its objectives, the impact of the UMR on poverty in cities such as Palangkaraya remains a debated issue.

Poverty is a prevalent issue in many developing countries, including Indonesia. Several factors contribute to poverty, including education, healthcare, and, notably, wages. Low wages can exacerbate economic hardship, while an increase in the UMR is expected

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to improve workers' purchasing power, thereby reducing poverty. Consequently, the UMR is often viewed as one of the tools to alleviate poverty, particularly among low-wage workers (Feriyanto et al., 2020; Ni & Kurita, 2020; T. H. Siregar, 2020; Sitompul & Simangunsong, 2019).

In Palangkaraya, like in many other Indonesian cities, poverty is influenced by numerous factors, one of which is the level of wages. Based on existing data, it is evident that while the UMR in Palangkaraya has been steadily increasing over the years, poverty has not decreased significantly. This suggests that, despite rising wages, other factors such as the cost of living and income inequality may be contributing to the persistence of poverty.

One reason why an increase in the UMR may not always effectively reduce poverty is the varying cost of living across different regions. Although the UMR in Palangkaraya has increased, the basic needs that must be met by individuals and families remain high (Dopin et al., 2024; Harati, 2023; Novia Fransiska & Alexandra Hukom, 2023). In other words, while the minimum wage may have risen, it may not be enough to cover all of the essential needs, especially if the cost of living in the region is higher than the wage.

According to available data (Muhammad Idris, 2025), the UMR in Palangkaraya has risen from Rp 986,590 in 2010 to Rp 3,310,004 in 2024. However, despite this significant increase, poverty levels in the city have not shown a corresponding decrease. This suggests that there are other factors at play that influence poverty, such as access to education, healthcare, and limited job opportunities.

Moreover, UMR policies also have an impact on employment rates in Palangkaraya. An increase in the minimum wage may discourage some businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, from hiring workers due to higher operational costs. This could lead to a reduction in employment opportunities, which, in turn, may worsen poverty in the city. If fewer jobs are available, individuals may be forced to seek employment in the informal sector, which often lacks social protection and job security (Febriandika et al., 2022; Hasanah et al., 2024; Malau et al., 2022).

Conversely, if the minimum wage is set too low, workers may not be able to meet their basic needs, increasing the poverty rate, especially among those who rely on their wages for daily survival. Therefore, it is important for the government to ensure that the UMR is set at a level that is appropriate for the actual living costs in the region (Hohberg & Lay, 2015; T. H. Siregar, 2020).

Poverty remains one of the most pressing challenges in developing countries, including Indonesia. Despite various efforts to alleviate poverty, including economic reforms and social programs, poverty levels remain high, particularly in urban areas like Palangkaraya City. One policy often considered to combat poverty is the regional minimum wage (UMR), which is intended to guarantee a basic standard of living for workers. However, the effectiveness of this policy in reducing poverty has been a subject of debate, as previous studies have yielded mixed results. While some research suggests that increasing the minimum wage can improve the standard of living and reduce poverty (Kaufman, 2010), other studies indicate that higher wages may lead to job losses or increased unemployment, especially in smaller businesses (Chava et al., 2023; Prasetiyo & Hoesin, 2022). Thus, there is a gap in the literature regarding the specific impact of the regional minimum wage on poverty reduction in cities like Palangkaraya, where the relationship between wage policies and poverty remains under-explored.

This research aims to fill this gap by examining the effect of the regional minimum wage on poverty levels in Palangkaraya City from 2010 to 2024. The significance of this

study lies in its potential to inform local policymakers about the real effects of minimum wage policies on poverty alleviation. By understanding this relationship, policymakers can make more informed decisions about adjusting the minimum wage to address poverty effectively. The objective of this research is to provide empirical evidence on how changes in the regional minimum wage influence poverty levels in Palangkaraya, using statistical models to analyze historical data. By focusing on Palangkaraya, this study will contribute to the broader understanding of how wage policies can be used to combat poverty in Indonesian cities with similar economic contexts.

Table 1 The relationship between the UMR and poverty levels in Palangkaraya from 2010 to 2024:

Year	Regional Minimum Wage (Rupiah)	Poverty Rate (%)
2010	986,590	5.31
2011	1,154,310	4.69
2012	1,396,715	4.24
2013	1,676,058	3.94
2014	1,843,664	3.81
2015	2,028,030	3.91
2016	2,129,431	3.75
2017	2,300,000	3.62
2018	2,481,000	3.47
2019	2,592,000	3.35
2020	2,745,000	3.44
2021	2,931,674	3.75
2022	2,972,542	3.61
2023	3,226,753	3.44
2024	3,310,004	3.52

Source: BPS Palangkaraya, 2024

As seen in the table 1, the regional minimum wage in Palangkaraya has steadily increased over the years, while the poverty rate has fluctuated without a significant downward trend. This indicates that other factors, in addition to the UMR, play a significant role in determining poverty levels in the region. Further research is needed to examine these other contributing factors and develop more comprehensive strategies to address poverty in Palangkaraya.

2. Methods

This study was conducted in Palangkaraya City, Central Kalimantan, between 2010 and 2024, based on the availability of reliable data regarding regional minimum wages and poverty rates during this period. The research employs a quantitative approach, utilizing secondary data obtained from the Palangkaraya City Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Secondary data is particularly valuable in this context as it provides historical insights that allow for the analysis of trends over time, particularly when direct data collection is not feasible. The secondary data in this study include information on the regional minimum wage and the poverty rate in Palangkaraya City (Creswell, 2003; Mulisa, 2022; Pillai-Kastoori et al., 2020).

The analysis in this study is primarily conducted using simple linear regression, a method that assesses the strength and direction of the relationship between two variables: the regional minimum wage (independent variable) and the poverty rate (dependent variable). The regression model used is Y=a+bXY = a + bXY=a+bX, where YYY represents poverty, aaa is the constant, bbb is the regression coefficient, and XXX is the regional minimum wage. Decision-making in this regression analysis is based on significance values from the coefficients table, with a 95% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.05$). Hypothesis testing is carried out using the t-test, where a significance value greater than 0.05 indicates that there is no significant effect between the variables, and a value less than 0.05 suggests a significant effect (Alabi et al., 2022; Rousseeuw, 1984; Zou et al., 2003).

In addition to the regression analysis, several classical assumption tests were performed to ensure the validity of the regression model. First, a normality test was conducted by examining the distribution of the residuals through a normal P-P plot. If the points on the plot align closely with the diagonal, the residuals are considered normally distributed, which is a necessary assumption for the validity of regression results. Next, a multicollinearity test was done by examining the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and tolerance values. If the VIF is below 10 and the tolerance is above 0.1, multicollinearity is not present, indicating that the variables are not highly correlated. Finally, the heteroscedasticity test was carried out using the Glejser test, which regresses the independent variable against the absolute residuals. If the significance value is greater than 0.05, it suggests that heteroscedasticity is not present, confirming that the regression model is homoscedastic and reliable for analysis.

These methods, including regression analysis and classical assumption tests, were crucial in ensuring that the model accurately reflects the relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty rates in Palangkaraya City.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Normality Test

The primary objective of this study is to examine the impact of the regional minimum wage on poverty levels in Palangkaraya City from 2010 to 2024. To analyze this relationship, a simple linear regression model was employed. This method was chosen to determine the strength and direction of the relationship between the regional minimum wage (as the independent variable) and poverty (as the dependent variable). The results of this regression analysis are provided in Table 2, which offers insight into the statistical significance of the regional minimum wage on poverty reduction. The results of a simple linear regression analyzing the effect of the regional minimum wage on poverty in Palangkaraya City from 2010 to 2024 can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Simple Linear Regression

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	5.226	0.258		20.246	0.000
X (Regional Minimum Wage)	-6.080E-7	0.000	-0.839	-5.561	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Y

Source: Processed data, 2025

Table 2 presents the results of the simple linear regression analysis. The constant term is 5.226, indicating the baseline level of poverty when the regional minimum wage is zero. The coefficient for the regional minimum wage (X) is -6.080E-7, with a t-statistic of -5.561 and a significance value of 0.000, which is below the 0.05 threshold. This signifies that the regional minimum wage has a significant negative effect on poverty, suggesting that as the regional minimum wage increases, the poverty level in Palangkaraya decreases. The standardized coefficient (Beta) of -0.839 indicates a strong negative relationship between the two variables. Additionally, the VIF (Variance Inflation Factor) value of 1.000 confirms that there is no multicollinearity between the independent and dependent variables.

The analysis reveals the relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty, with a particular focus on the significance level and the regression coefficients. This step is crucial to determine whether the regional minimum wage has a statistically significant impact on poverty levels in Palangkaraya. The t-test and corresponding significance values serve as the basis for confirming whether the hypothesis about the effect of the regional minimum wage on poverty holds true.

In regression analysis, it is essential to verify whether the data meets certain assumptions to ensure the reliability of the results. One of these assumptions is normality, which implies that the residuals (the differences between the observed and predicted values) should follow a normal distribution. A normal distribution is crucial because it justifies the use of parametric tests, such as the t-test, to make valid inferences about the relationship between the variables. For this study, the normality of the residuals was tested using the P-P plot method, which visually assesses whether the data points are distributed in a way that aligns with a normal distribution.

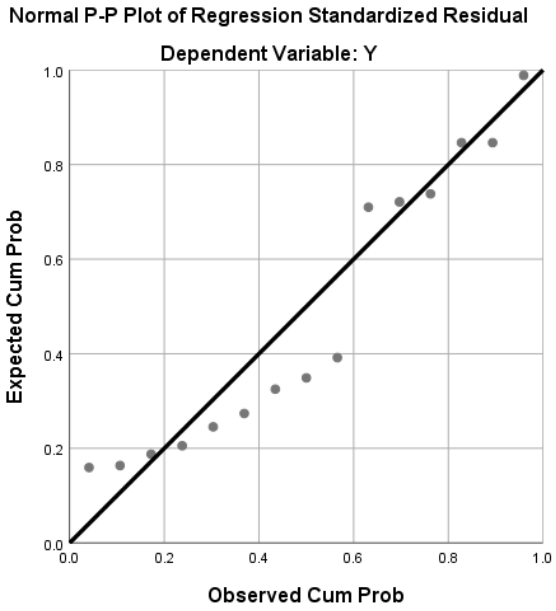


Figure 1 Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual

Figure 1 illustrates the normal probability distribution of the regression standardized residuals for the dependent variable Y. The points in the plot closely follow the diagonal line, indicating that the residuals are approximately normally distributed. This alignment

suggests that the assumption of normality in the regression model is satisfied, meaning that the model's residuals do not deviate significantly from the expected normal distribution. Consequently, the regression model used in this study can be considered reliable in terms of its normality assumption.

The P-P (Probability-Probability) plot is a graphical tool that compares the cumulative probability of the observed data against the cumulative probability of a normal distribution. If the points on the plot lie close to the diagonal line, it indicates that the data approximates a normal distribution. In contrast, if the points deviate significantly from the diagonal, this suggests that the residuals are not normally distributed, violating one of the key assumptions for regression analysis. Therefore, this test is important for confirming the validity of the regression results and ensuring the robustness of the conclusions drawn from the analysis.

3.2. Multicollinearity Test

To ensure the validity of the regression model, it is crucial to check for multicollinearity, which occurs when two or more independent variables are highly correlated with each other. Multicollinearity can distort the results of the regression analysis by inflating the standard errors, making it difficult to determine the individual effect of each independent variable on the dependent variable. In this study, the multicollinearity test was conducted to examine whether the regional minimum wage (X) and poverty (Y) are significantly correlated with any other independent variables, potentially affecting the reliability of the results.

The multicollinearity test was performed by analyzing the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and the tolerance values for each variable in the regression model. VIF is used to quantify how much the variance of a regression coefficient is inflated due to collinearity with other independent variables. A VIF value greater than 10 typically indicates a multicollinearity problem. The tolerance value, which is the reciprocal of the VIF, should be greater than 0.1 for each variable to ensure no multicollinearity. In this analysis, the regional minimum wage (X) showed a VIF of 1.000, and a tolerance value of 1.000, both of which are well within the acceptable limits.

Table 3 Multicollinearity Test

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics
	B	Std. Error	Beta		Tolerance
1 (Constant)	5.226	0.258		20.246	0.000
X (Regional Minimum Wage)	-6.080E-7	0.000	-0.839	-5.561	0.000

Dependent Variable: Y (Poverty)
Source: Processed data, 2025

Based on the results presented in Table 3, the VIF for the regional minimum wage (X) is 1.000, which is much lower than the threshold of 10, and the tolerance value is also 1.000, which is greater than the minimum required value of 0.1. These findings indicate that there is no significant multicollinearity between the independent and dependent variables in the regression model. This confirms that the model is free from multicollinearity issues, and the relationship between the regional minimum wage and

poverty in Palangkaraya City can be accurately assessed without interference from other correlated variables.

3.3. Heteroscedasticity Test

To ensure the validity of the regression model, one critical assumption that must be tested is heteroscedasticity, which occurs when the variance of the residuals (errors) is not constant across all levels of the independent variable(s). If heteroscedasticity is present, it can lead to inefficient estimates, resulting in unreliable statistical tests and misleading conclusions. In this study, the heteroscedasticity of the regression model was tested using the Glejser test. This test regresses the absolute value of the residuals against the independent variable to detect whether the variance of the residuals changes at different levels of the independent variable.

The Glejser test is particularly useful for detecting heteroscedasticity in a regression model by analyzing the significance of the relationship between the absolute residuals and the independent variable. In this case, the regional minimum wage (X) was regressed against the absolute residuals. According to the decision rule of the Glejser test, if the significance value (Sig.) of the independent variable is greater than 0.05, heteroscedasticity is not present. However, if the significance value is less than 0.05, it indicates that heteroscedasticity is present in the model.

The results of the heteroscedasticity test, as shown in Table 4, indicate that the significance value for the regional minimum wage (X) is 0.000, which is less than the threshold of 0.05. Based on this result, it can be concluded that heteroscedasticity exists in the regression model. This means that the variance of the residuals is not constant, which could affect the reliability of the regression estimates and the conclusions drawn from the model.

Despite the presence of heteroscedasticity, it is important to note that further steps can be taken to address this issue, such as using robust standard errors or transforming the data. These adjustments help mitigate the impact of heteroscedasticity and allow for more accurate inferences. The following table presents the results of the heteroscedasticity test:

Table 4 Heteroscedasticity Test

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics
	B	Std. Error	Beta		Tolerance
1 (Constant)	5.226	0.258		20.246	0.000
X (Regional Minimum Wage)	-6.080E-7	0.000	-0.839	-5.561	0.000

Dependent Variable: Y (Poverty)
Source: Processed data, 2025

Table 4 presents the results of the heteroscedasticity test conducted using the Glejser method. The table shows the regression coefficients for the constant and the regional minimum wage (X). The constant term (5.226) has a significant t-value of 20.246 with a significance level of 0.000, indicating that the baseline poverty level is statistically significant. For the regional minimum wage (X), the coefficient is -6.080E-7, with a t-value of -5.561 and a significance level of 0.000, which is less than the threshold of 0.05. This

result suggests a significant relationship between the regional minimum wage and the absolute residuals, indicating that heteroscedasticity is present in the regression model. The VIF and tolerance values, both being 1.000, show that there is no multicollinearity issue in the model, but the presence of heteroscedasticity may affect the reliability of the regression results.

3.4. The Impact of Regional Minimum Wage on Poverty in Palangkaraya City

The findings from this study reveal that the regional minimum wage in Palangkaraya City has a significant negative effect on poverty levels, indicating that an increase in the minimum wage can reduce poverty. This result aligns with economic theory suggesting that higher wages improve workers' living standards by increasing their purchasing power, which in turn can lift them out of poverty (Kaufman, 2010). As workers earn more, they are able to purchase essential goods and services, such as food, clothing, and housing, which are critical for escaping poverty. This effect is particularly relevant in Palangkaraya, where economic growth and access to basic needs are closely tied to wage levels.

The concept of purchasing power is a key factor in this relationship. According to Keynesian economics, when people have higher incomes, they tend to spend more on goods and services, stimulating demand and supporting economic growth (Kahn, 2022; Keynes, 2018). As the regional minimum wage increases, workers in Palangkaraya City experience an improvement in their standard of living, which ultimately contributes to a reduction in poverty. This phenomenon supports the argument that wage policies, such as the regional minimum wage, can be effective tools for poverty alleviation, particularly in urban areas with high living costs.

However, the findings also highlight the challenges posed by low minimum wages. When the regional minimum wage is insufficient, workers may struggle to meet their basic needs, leading to persistent poverty. This aligns with the theory of relative poverty, which emphasizes that poverty is not only a matter of absolute income but also of social inequality (Burns & Runciman, 1966). If wages are too low to cover the cost of living, individuals and families are unable to access the resources they need to achieve a minimum standard of living, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

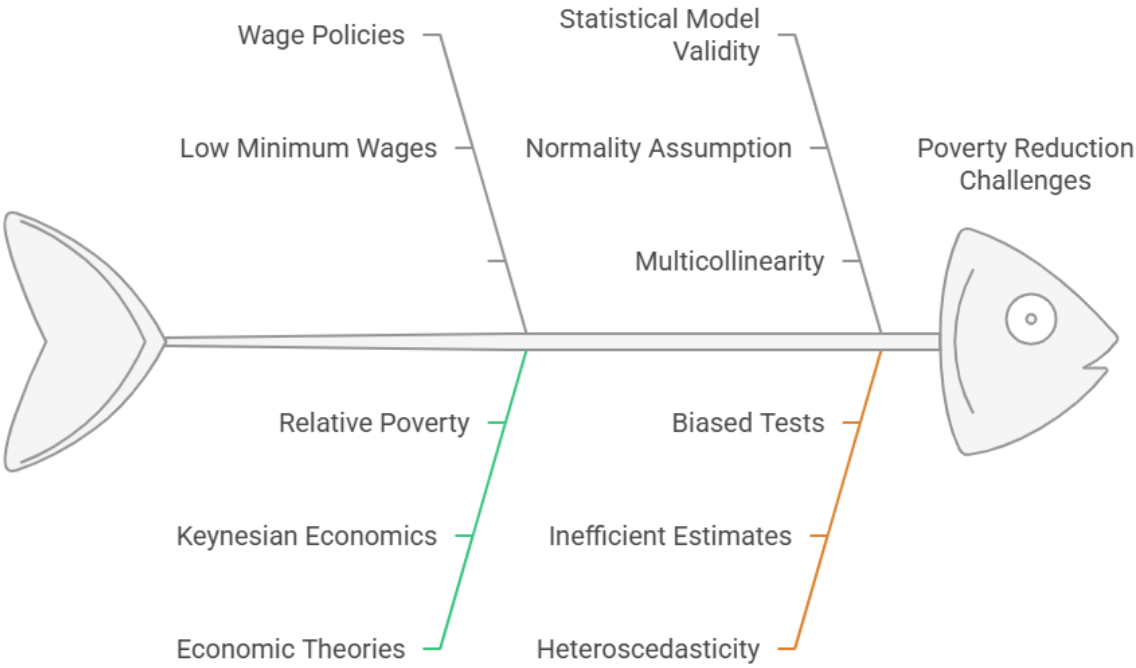
In addition to the impact on poverty, the classical assumption tests provide further insights into the validity of the regression model. The results show that the model meets the assumption of normality, confirming that the residuals follow a normal distribution. This is important because it ensures that the regression results are reliable and that the hypothesis about the relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty is supported by the data. The normality assumption is fundamental for the validity of statistical inference in regression analysis, as it allows for accurate prediction and generalization.

Furthermore, the absence of multicollinearity between the independent and dependent variables is another positive result. Multicollinearity, which occurs when independent variables are highly correlated with each other, can lead to unreliable estimates and hinder the interpretation of regression coefficients (Field, 2013). The fact that no multicollinearity was detected ensures that the relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty is not confounded by other factors, making the results more robust and interpretable.

However, the presence of heteroscedasticity in the regression model indicates that the variance of the residuals is not constant across observations. Heteroscedasticity can lead to inefficient estimates and biased statistical tests, which may affect the reliability of

the regression results (White, 1980). While heteroscedasticity does not invalidate the regression model, it suggests the need for further adjustments, such as using robust standard errors, to ensure more accurate estimates. Addressing this issue is crucial for improving the precision of the analysis and making more reliable policy recommendations.

The findings of this study provide strong evidence that the regional minimum wage has a significant impact on poverty in Palangkaraya City. The positive relationship between higher wages and reduced poverty supports the theory that increasing workers' income can improve their living standards and contribute to economic growth. However, the challenges posed by heteroscedasticity highlight the importance of addressing potential issues in regression models to ensure the accuracy of the findings. Policymakers should consider these results when designing wage policies to reduce poverty and promote economic development in the region.



The figure 2 illustrates a fishbone (Ishikawa) diagram analyzing the impact of minimum wage on poverty. It identifies several interrelated factors influencing this relationship, including wage policies, low minimum wages, and economic theories such as Keynesian economics and relative poverty. On the methodological side, it highlights statistical issues such as the validity of the model, normality assumption, multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, and biased tests, which can affect the accuracy and reliability of findings. At the outcome level, it points to poverty reduction challenges as the central problem being analyzed. Overall, the figure provides a structured visualization of the economic and statistical dimensions underlying the study of minimum wage effects on poverty.

4. Conclusions

This study aimed to analyze the impact of the regional minimum wage on poverty levels in Palangkaraya City from 2010 to 2024. The results from the simple linear regression analysis revealed a significant negative relationship between the regional minimum wage and poverty, with a regression coefficient of -6.080E-7 (t = -5.561, p <

0.05). This indicates that an increase in the regional minimum wage can significantly reduce poverty in Palangkaraya. Additionally, the classical assumption tests showed that the regression model met the assumptions of normality and had no significant multicollinearity. However, heteroscedasticity was detected, suggesting that the variance of residuals was not constant across observations.

The findings support the theory that increasing the minimum wage can improve workers' purchasing power, which helps alleviate poverty by allowing workers to meet their basic needs. Higher wages lead to increased demand for goods and services, fostering economic growth, and reducing inequality. Despite the positive effect of a higher regional minimum wage on poverty reduction, the presence of heteroscedasticity indicates that the variance in the regression model was not consistent, which could impact the reliability of the results. This suggests that further steps, such as using robust standard errors, are necessary to refine the model.

The limitations of this study include the presence of heteroscedasticity, which could affect the precision of the regression estimates, and the reliance on secondary data, which may have inherent biases. Future research should focus on addressing heteroscedasticity by applying advanced regression techniques, such as generalized least squares (GLS) or robust standard errors, to improve the accuracy of the findings. Additionally, expanding the scope of the study to include other regions and factors influencing poverty could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between the minimum wage and poverty.

Declaration of conflicting interests

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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