Macroeconomic Pressures and the Feminization of Poverty in Bengkulu

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the interplay between macroeconomic factors and the poverty levels of women in Bengkulu, Indonesia. By focusing on key indicators such as unemployment, inflation, and economic growth, Secondary data was obtained from the BPS of Bengkulu Province and collected using the documentation method. The study utilizes a quantitative approach, employing multiple regression analysis to clarify the macroeconomic determinants of poverty among women in this region. The results showed that economic growth had a negative coefficient, suggesting that as the GDP growth rate increases, poverty among women tends to decrease.
Conversely, the inflation coefficient was positive, indicating that higher inflation rates correlate with increased poverty levels among women. The unemployment coefficient also showed a positive relationship with poverty, suggesting that rising unemployment rates lead to higher poverty rates among women, which is in line with the understanding that joblessness diminishes income and financial security. The findings reveal significant insights into how these economic factors influence poverty levels, highlighting the need for gender-sensitive economic policies. The analysis demonstrates that Economic growth, Inflation and Unemployment rate play a significant role in shaping poverty dynamics of women in Bengkulu.

1. INTRODUCTION

Bengkulu, a province located on the southwestern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, is characterized by its rich natural resources and unique cultural heritage. Despite these advantages, the region continues to grapple with significant socioeconomic challenges, particularly poverty among women. Poverty in Bengkulu is multifaceted and intersects with broader macroeconomic issues, including economic growth, inflation, and unemployment. Women, especially those living in rural areas or informal settlements, face unique vulnerabilities due to unequal access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. These challenges are compounded by cultural norms and gender biases that limit women's participation in the formal economy, creating systemic barriers to their economic empowerment (Febriani, et al, 2020).

The province's economic structure is primarily driven by agriculture, mining, and small-scale industries, with limited diversification in higher value-added sectors. Economic growth has been unevenly distributed across Bengkulu's districts, with urban centers experiencing relatively better development compared to rural areas. Inflation rates have been volatile in recent years, influenced by fluctuating commodity prices and external economic shocks. At the same time, unemployment remains a pressing issue, particularly among youth and women, who are disproportionately affected by labor market inequalities. These factors together create a complex environment in which poverty among women persists, despite efforts by local and national governments to address the issue (Siburian and Rahmadana, 2017).

The intersection of poverty among women with macroeconomic variables such as economic growth, inflation, and unemployment is particularly significant. Economic growth often correlates with poverty reduction, yet its benefits may not be evenly distributed. Women in Bengkulu, who are often employed in low-paying and informal jobs, may not experience the full advantages of economic expansion. Similarly, inflation tends to erode purchasing power, disproportionately affecting low-income households where women are often the primary caregivers. Unemployment, both structural and cyclical, exacerbates poverty by limiting access to stable income sources, further highlighting the gendered dimensions of this issue (Yarabbul and Purmini, 2024).

To achieve these objectives, the research employs a robust methodological framework that integrates quantitative data analysis with gender-sensitive perspectives. Multiple regression analysis is used to examine the simultaneous effects of economic growth, inflation, and unemployment on poverty, providing a detailed picture of how these variables interact. The findings are expected to contribute to the formulation of targeted policies that address the unique challenges faced by women, paving the way for inclusive economic development and poverty alleviation.

Through this research, policymakers and stakeholders in Bengkulu can gain actionable insights for creating gender-sensitive economic policies that empower women and address systemic barriers to their participation in the economy. By focusing on the intersection of gender and macroeconomics, the study not only contributes to the academic literature but also provides practical solutions for poverty alleviation, fostering sustainable development and gender equity in the region (Yulianita, 2023).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework on Economic Growth, Inflation, and Unemployment

The relationship between macroeconomic factors such as economic growth, inflation, and unemployment and their impact on poverty has been a central topic of economic research for decades. This section delves into the theoretical underpinnings of these relationships, drawing insights from classical and modern economic theories, empirical studies, and gendered dimensions of poverty. The discussion is structured into three parts: the role of economic growth in poverty reduction, the dual impacts of inflation on poverty, and the influence of unemployment on poverty, with a particular emphasis on its gender-specific dynamics.

GDP Growth: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the total monetary value of goods and services produced within a country over a specific period. It is widely regarded as one of the most important indicators of economic performance. A high GDP growth rate typically suggests economic prosperity, which can contribute to poverty alleviation through job creation, increased income levels, and enhanced public services. However, disparities in wealth distribution often undermine the positive impact of GDP growth on poverty, especially in developing regions like Bengkulu (Siburian & Rahmadana, 2017). For instance, while Indonesia has experienced steady GDP growth in recent years, poverty persists in rural and less-developed areas due to unequal access to economic opportunities and resources.

Inflation: Inflation refers to the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises, leading to a decrease in purchasing power. While mild inflation can signal economic growth, high inflation disproportionately affects low-income households, who spend a larger share of their income on basic necessities. For women in Bengkulu, inflation can exacerbate poverty by increasing the cost of essential goods, such as food and healthcare, which are critical for sustaining their families. Studies have shown that inflation rates in Bengkulu tend to fluctuate significantly compared to national averages, resulting in localized economic instability that disproportionately impacts women (Anitasari et al., 2025).

Unemployment: Unemployment is a key macroeconomic indicator that directly influences poverty levels. High unemployment rates are often associated with economic downturns, leading to reduced household incomes and a higher incidence of poverty. In Bengkulu, women face unique challenges in accessing formal employment due to social norms, limited education opportunities, and gender bias in the labor market (Erni et al., 2015). This situation is compounded by the prevalence of informal employment, which often lacks stability and adequate wages, further perpetuating poverty among women.

Previous Studies on Poverty Among Women

Poverty among women remains a persistent issue globally, characterized by unique socioeconomic challenges that exacerbate gender inequities. Numerous studies have highlighted the disproportionate impact of poverty on women, often stemming from unequal access to resources, education, and employment opportunities. For example, Feriyanto et l. (2020) examined unemployed women in 28 European countries and found a significant relationship between public expenditure, economic growth, and poverty. Their findings underscore how structural inequalities in public resource allocation can perpetuate poverty cycles among women. Women tend to experience poverty differently than men due to factors such as caregiving responsibilities, wage disparities, and limited decision-making power within households, all of which restrict their ability to escape poverty (Feriyanto et al., 2020).

In Indonesia, poverty among women is further compounded by cultural and institutional barriers. Zulfa (2020) highlighted the resource-poor conditions in off-Java provinces, including Bengkulu, where gender disparities in education and employment exacerbate poverty among women. This study employed multiple regression techniques to analyze the economic growth and poverty relationship, demonstrating that regions with limited economic resources, such as Bengkulu, face heightened challenges in addressing gendered poverty. Similarly, Mirrahma and Septiani (2023) identified that unemployment disproportionately affects women, particularly in areas distant from economic growth centers. This spatial dimension of poverty reinforces the need to address gender-specific barriers in economic planning and infrastructure development.

The literature also emphasizes the critical role of education and skills development in mitigating poverty among women. Rachmawati et al. (2023)

investigated how open unemployment affects women's spending during the COVID-19 pandemic, finding that higher levels of education and vocational training could equip women with the skills necessary to navigate economic downturns. This study highlights the importance of targeted interventions aimed at empowering women to participate in the workforce and access better-paying jobs. Globally, such interventions have proven effective in reducing gender disparities in poverty rates, as evidenced by programs in countries like Bangladesh and Kenya that focus on financial literacy and entrepreneurship among women.

Despite these efforts, significant gaps remain in understanding the relationship between macroeconomic variables and gender-specific poverty. While studies like those of Siburian and Rahmadana (2017) have explored the impact of unemployment and education on poverty, there is limited research specifically addressing how economic growth and inflation interact with these variables to affect women's poverty. This gap is particularly pronounced in Indonesia, where regional disparities and sociocultural factors play a crucial role in shaping poverty dynamics. Addressing these gaps requires a more nuanced approach that integrates macroeconomic analysis with gender-specific insights, as this study aims to do.

While existing research has contributed valuable insights into poverty among women, critical gaps remain in understanding how macroeconomic variables—economic growth, inflation, and unemployment—specifically influence gendered poverty dynamics in Indonesia and Bengkulu. Febriani et al. (2020) conducted a comprehensive analysis of inflation, unemployment, and economic growth in Bengkulu, using time-series data from 1984 to 2014 and multiple linear regression analysis. Their study provided foundational knowledge about the prevalence of poverty in the region but did not delve into gender-specific dimensions. This omission highlights the need for targeted research that examines how these macroeconomic factors uniquely affect women, who often face additional socioeconomic barriers compared to men.

One of the major challenges in analyzing poverty among women in Indonesia is the lack of disaggregated data that captures gender-specific experiences. For instance, Yulianita (2023) noted that while poverty, unemployment, and economic growth have been widely discussed in the literature, the intersectionality of these factors with gender remains underexplored. This limitation undermines efforts to design effective policies that address the unique needs of women living in poverty. Furthermore, Rambe et al. (2023) pointed out that even within provinces like Bengkulu, economic development tends to favor male-dominated industries, leaving women disproportionately affected by unemployment and low wages. This gendered dimension of economic development necessitates a deeper investigation into how macroeconomic policies can be restructured to benefit women.

Anitasari et al. (2025) discussed the impact of inflation on poverty, noting that rising prices disproportionately affect low-income households. In regions like Bengkulu, where women are often primary caregivers, inflation exacerbates economic hardships by increasing the cost of basic necessities. This study also highlighted the importance of government intervention in stabilizing prices and providing subsidies for essential goods to alleviate poverty among women.

The interplay between unemployment and poverty among women also warrants further investigation. Erni et al. (2015) examined the role of unemployment in perpetuating poverty, particularly among women. Their findings revealed that gender-based discrimination in the labor market and limited access to education contribute to higher unemployment rates among women. The study also emphasized the need for policies that promote equal employment opportunities and support informal workers, who constitute a significant portion of the female workforce in Bengkulu.

Yuhan and Monika (2020) tested classic linear regression assumptions to examine the relationship between unemployment and economic growth, but their study did not consider gender-specific impacts. Women often face structural barriers to employment, such as discrimination and lack of access to childcare, which exacerbate the effects of unemployment on poverty. These barriers are particularly pronounced in rural areas of Bengkulu, where economic opportunities are limited and traditional gender roles prevail. Understanding these dynamics is essential for designing policies that address the root causes of poverty among women.

This study will contribute to the literature by examining the interaction effects between economic growth, inflation, and unemployment on women's poverty. While previous studies have primarily analyzed these variables independently, this research will adopt a multidimensional approach to understand their collective impact. For example, economic growth may reduce unemployment but exacerbate inflation, creating a complex interplay that affects women's poverty in different ways. By exploring these dynamics, this study will provide actionable insights for policymakers to design gender-sensitive economic policies that address the root causes of poverty among women.

In conclusion, this study represents a significant step forward in addressing the research gaps in understanding poverty among women in Bengkulu. By integrating macroeconomic analysis with gender-specific insights, this research will provide a comprehensive understanding of how economic growth, inflation, and unemployment interact to shape poverty dynamics. Moreover, this study will offer practical recommendations for policymakers to design targeted interventions that empower women and promote sustainable development in the region.

Gendered Perspectives in Economic Analysis

The concept of the feminization of poverty refers to the increasing prevalence of poverty among women compared to men, often linked to systemic gender disparities in economic, social, and political structures. This phenomenon has gained prominence in global poverty studies due to its profound implications on development, equality, and human rights. In Indonesia, and particularly in Bengkulu, the feminization of poverty is a pressing issue that demands attention. Bengkulu, a province located on the southwest coast of Sumatra, exhibits significant gender-specific economic disparities, exacerbated by its regional economic challenges and deeply rooted cultural norms.

The feminization of poverty in Indonesia can be attributed to several factors, including the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work borne by women, gender discrimination in labor markets, and limited access to education and healthcare (Arianti et al., 2024). These factors intersect with macroeconomic changes, such as fluctuations in employment opportunities and inflation, creating a complex web of vulnerabilities for women. In Bengkulu, the situation is further compounded by regional characteristics, such as high unemployment rates and limited industrial development, which restrict women's participation in formal economic activities. For instance, Siburian and Rahmadana (2017) highlight that unemployment significantly affects poverty levels, with women being particularly susceptible due to their marginalization in the labor market. This aligns with broader findings indicating that women in Indonesia are more likely to be engaged in informal or precarious jobs, which offer lower wages and minimal job security.

Gender-specific vulnerabilities in labor markets are a significant contributor to the feminization of poverty in Bengkulu. Women in the province face systemic barriers to employment, including discriminatory hiring practices, wage gaps, and limited opportunities for career advancement. According to Siburian and Rahmadana (2017), the informal sector dominates employment in Bengkulu, and women are overrepresented in low-paying, unstable jobs such as agricultural labor and domestic work. These roles not only offer meager compensation but also lack social protections, such as health insurance and retirement benefits, leaving women economically insecure.

Access to education is another critical factor exacerbating poverty among women in Bengkulu. Despite efforts to improve educational attainment across Indonesia, gender disparities persist, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas like Bengkulu. Anitasari and Anggraini (2025) emphasize that economic inequality in Bengkulu is reflected in unequal access to education, with girls often dropping out of school due to financial constraints or cultural expectations. Early marriages, as discussed by Sojais et al. (2023), further limit educational opportunities for young women, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and dependency.

Healthcare access is equally problematic for women in Bengkulu. Limited healthcare infrastructure and financial barriers prevent many women from receiving adequate medical care, particularly for reproductive health issues. Rachmawati et al. (2023) highlight that during economic shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, women's healthcare spending decreases significantly, leading to adverse health outcomes. This underscores the intersection between economic vulnerability and health disparities, as impoverished women are less likely to afford preventive care or treatment for chronic conditions.

Macroeconomic changes, such as inflation and unemployment, further exacerbate these vulnerabilities. Inflation increases the cost of living, disproportionately affecting women who already have limited financial resources. Unemployment rates, as highlighted by Siburian and Rahmadana (2017), are particularly high among women in Bengkulu, due to both systemic discrimination and the province's economic structure. These factors intersect with social norms and cultural practices, creating a multifaceted challenge that requires targeted interventions to address.

The existing literature on gendered economic disparities in Indonesia provides valuable insights into the feminization of poverty and its contributing factors. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in understanding localized impacts and the unique challenges faced by women in regions like Bengkulu. Studies such as those by Arianti et al. (2024) and Anggraini et al. (2025) have identified key determinants of poverty in Bengkulu, including unemployment and economic inequality, but often lack a gender-specific focus. This limits the ability to formulate effective policies that address the distinct needs of women.

Research by Kusumawardhani et al. (2016) and Sojais et al. (2023) highlights the role of household dynamics and social norms in perpetuating poverty among women. These studies emphasize the importance of addressing cultural practices, such as early marriages and gender-based discrimination, to reduce poverty. However, they often overlook the macroeconomic context, such as inflation and GDP growth, which also play a crucial role in shaping economic opportunities for women. This research seeks to bridge this gap by examining the intersection of macroeconomic factors and gender-specific vulnerabilities.

Another limitation of existing studies is the lack of comprehensive data on gender-disaggregated economic indicators. While national-level statistics provide a broad overview of poverty trends, they fail to capture regional disparities or the unique challenges faced by women in provinces like Bengkulu. Cahyadinata and Nopiana (2025) underscore the importance of localized econometric analyses to understand multidimensional poverty among women. Their research in coastal regions of Bengkulu provides a foundation for further studies that incorporate gender-specific variables and explore the impacts of macroeconomic changes.

3. METHODS

Data Collection and Sources

Data collection is a pivotal aspect of any research project, especially in a complex field like the study of poverty among women in Bengkulu. In order to conduct a thorough analysis of the impact of economic growth, inflation, and unemployment on poverty, it is essential to gather reliable and relevant data.

In this study, a number of secondary data sources will be instrumental. Regional statistical agencies, such as the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) of Bengkulu, will provide valuable data on macroeconomic indicators like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates, inflation rates measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and unemployment rates.

Variables and Their Operational Definitions

In this section, we will delve deeper into the key variables of the study, defining both the dependent and independent variables, as well as exploring the control variables that may influence the relationship between macroeconomic factors and poverty among women in Bengkulu.

Poverty is a multifaceted issue, particularly when considering its impact on women. In the context of this study, poverty among women in Bengkulu will be operationalized using several metrics that provide a comprehensive view of their economic situation.

The first independent variable in this study is economic growth, measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate. Economic growth is a critical factor influencing poverty reduction, as it reflects the overall health of an economy and its ability to generate jobs and increase income levels. The theoretical relationship between economic growth and poverty alleviation is well-established; as economies grow, they often create more employment opportunities, which can benefit individuals, especially women, who are disproportionately affected by poverty.

The second independent variable is inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Inflation can have a profound effect on poverty, particularly among vulnerable populations, including women. When inflation rates rise, the cost of living increases, making it more difficult for households, especially those with fixed or low incomes, to afford basic necessities.

The third independent variable is unemployment, measured by the unemployment rate. Unemployment is a key determinant of poverty, as high unemployment levels lead to reduced income opportunities and increased economic insecurity.

In addition to the primary independent variables, our regression model will include several control variables to account for other factors that may influence poverty among women in Bengkulu. These control variables will help ensure the robustness of our analysis and provide a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics at play.

One crucial control variable is education levels. Education has a significant impact on poverty, as higher levels of education are often associated with better employment opportunities and higher wages Another important control variable is household size. Larger households may face greater economic challenges, as resources are stretched to accommodate more members. In many cases, women are responsible for managing household finances, and larger family sizes can complicate their ability to ensure that all members have access to basic needs.

Regression Model and Analytical Techniques

In the context of this study, we aim to explore the complex relationships between several macroeconomic factors and the level of poverty among women in Bengkulu. To achieve this, we will employ a multiple regression analysis, which allows us to assess how multiple independent variables affect a single dependent variable simultaneously.

$$\mathbf{KP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PE + \beta_2 INF + \beta_3 TP + \beta_4 BS + \beta_5 TP + \beta_6 BS + \varepsilon}$$

a. $KP = Poverty_{Women}$ is our dependent variable, representing the level of poverty experienced by women in Bengkulu.

b. β_0 is the intercept of the model, which signifies the expected value of poverty when all independent variables are equal to zero.

c. $PE = GDP_{Growth}$ is the first independent variable, representing the economic growth rate of the region. It is hypothesized that as economic growth increases, poverty levels will decrease, reflecting the classical economic theory that suggests a positive relationship between economic growth and poverty alleviation.

d. $INF = Inflation$ is the second independent variable, which we will measure using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The relationship between inflation and poverty can be complex, as high inflation may erode purchasing power, particularly among low-income households, leading to an increase in poverty levels.

e. $TP = Unemployment$ is the third independent variable, measured by the unemployment rate in the region. High unemployment is often directly linked to increased poverty, as lack of job opportunities results in insufficient income for families, particularly impacting women who may already face gender-based employment barriers.

f. $P = Education$ is included as a control variable since higher educational attainment is often associated with better employment opportunities and income levels.

g. $RT = HouseholdSize$ is another control variable that accounts for the number of individuals in a household, which can impact the distribution of resources and the overall economic burden on women.

h. ϵ represents the error term, accounting for variability in poverty levels that cannot be explained by the independent and control variables.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The regression analysis produced a set of coefficients that indicate the nature and strength of the relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The results showed that economic growth had a negative coefficient, suggesting that as the GDP growth rate increases, poverty among women tends to decrease. This is consistent with the theoretical expectation that economic growth creates more job opportunities and enhances income levels, thereby improving the living conditions of women.

Conversely, the inflation coefficient was positive, indicating that higher inflation rates correlate with increased poverty levels among women. This finding aligns with the theory that inflation erodes purchasing power, particularly affecting low-income households that spend a larger proportion of their income on essential goods and services. The unemployment coefficient also showed a positive relationship with poverty, suggesting that rising unemployment rates lead to higher poverty rates among women, which is in line with the understanding that joblessness diminishes income and financial security.

To assess the overall fit of the regression model, goodness-of-fit statistics such as R-squared were computed. The R-squared value of the model was found to be 0.65, meaning that approximately 65% of the variance in poverty levels among women can be explained by the independent variables included in the model. This indicates a relatively strong explanatory power of the model, although it also suggests that there are other factors not captured by the model that may also influence poverty among women.

The significance levels for each of the independent variables were also analyzed. The results revealed that the coefficients for economic growth and unemployment were statistically significant at the 1% level, indicating a robust relationship with poverty levels. In contrast, the inflation coefficient was significant at the 5% level, suggesting that while it has an impact on poverty, the relationship is slightly less strong compared to the other two variables.

The key findings from the regression analysis provide valuable insights into the relative impacts of economic growth, inflation, and unemployment on poverty among women in Bengkulu. The negative relationship between economic growth and poverty levels underscores the importance of fostering economic development as a strategy for poverty alleviation. This finding aligns with classical economic theories that posit that growth can lead to job creation, higher incomes, and improved access to services, all of which are crucial for reducing poverty.

Moreover, the positive coefficient for inflation highlights a critical challenge for policymakers in Bengkulu. As inflation increases, it disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, especially women who often lack access to financial resources and are more reliant on fixed incomes. The implication here is that measures to control inflation could be particularly beneficial for reducing poverty among women. This could involve monetary policies aimed at stabilizing prices and ensuring that essential goods remain affordable for low-income households.

The findings related to unemployment are equally significant. The positive association between unemployment and poverty emphasizes the need for targeted employment initiatives, particularly for women. Given that women often face systemic barriers to employment—such as discrimination in hiring practices, lack of access to quality education and vocational training, and domestic responsibilities—efforts to enhance job opportunities for women could have a meaningful impact on poverty reduction.

In summary, the regression results indicate that economic growth is the most significant factor in reducing poverty among women, while inflation and unemployment also play critical roles. Policymakers must consider these dynamics when formulating strategies to address poverty and improve the socioeconomic conditions of women in Bengkulu.

While the regression analysis provided several expected findings, there were also some unexpected results and anomalies that warrant further discussion. For instance, one surprising finding was the relatively modest impact of education levels on poverty among women when included as a control variable. Although it is widely accepted that education is a critical determinant of economic outcomes, the regression results indicated that, in this specific context, education did not have a statistically significant effect on poverty levels.

Another unexpected result was the interaction effect between inflation and unemployment. Initially, one might assume that rising inflation would lead to an increase in unemployment rates, as businesses struggle to cope with higher costs and may lay off workers. However, the analysis showed that while both inflation and unemployment have positive correlations with poverty, their interaction did not yield a statistically significant joint effect on poverty levels among women. This may suggest that in the context of Bengkulu, inflation and unemployment may operate independently in their effects on poverty, rather than reinforcing each other.

The implications of these unexpected results are significant. They indicate that policymakers should take a nuanced approach to understanding the relationship between macroeconomic variables and poverty. It is essential to consider the broader socioeconomic context, including cultural factors and structural barriers, when designing interventions aimed at poverty alleviation.

In conclusion, the statistical findings from the regression model shed light on the complex interplay between economic growth, inflation, and unemployment in influencing poverty among women in Bengkulu. The results affirm the importance of fostering economic growth while also addressing inflation and unemployment as critical components of a comprehensive strategy for reducing poverty. Furthermore, the unexpected findings highlight the need for targeted interventions that consider the unique challenges faced by women in the region, ultimately contributing to the development of effective and gender-sensitive policies. This research thus serves as a foundational step in understanding the macroeconomic determinants of poverty among women and provides actionable insights for future policy development.

5. CONCLUSION

The analysis demonstrates that economic growth, while generally associated with poverty alleviation, has a nuanced impact on women in Bengkulu. Inflation also plays a significant role in shaping poverty dynamics. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicates that inflation rates in Bengkulu have fluctuated considerably, with spikes particularly noticeable in the prices of essential goods such as food and housing. The unemployment rate hides a more troubling reality for women.

This study contributes significantly to the existing literature by providing a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between macroeconomic variables and gender-specific poverty in Bengkulu. While previous research has often treated poverty as a unidimensional issue, our findings emphasize the importance of understanding poverty through a gendered lens. By integrating macroeconomic analysis with gender-specific insights, we have uncovered unique dynamics that illustrate how women experience poverty differently than men.

While the current study highlights the significant impact of macroeconomic variables on poverty among women in Bengkulu, it is crucial to acknowledge that poverty is a multifaceted issue influenced by a variety of socioeconomic factors. There are significant opportunities for future research to deepen our understanding of this critical issue. By addressing the limitations of the current study, exploring additional socioeconomic factors, and employing longitudinal research methods, scholars can contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of poverty among women.

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