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Analysis of the Effect of Unemployment and Household Consumption on Poverty Through Economic Growth as an Intervening Variable

Wulan Dwi Lusiarani [1] , Muhammad Firmansyah [2] , Stanislaw Flejterski [3]

Abstract :

Poverty is the main problem faced by almost all countes in the world, including Indonesia. Poverty can be overcome by continuing to boost the economic growth rate because economic growth is a projection or reflection of the welfare and prosperity of the people in a country. By writing this article, the author aims to determine how the unemployment rate and household consumption variables influence poverty in Indonesia through economic growth as an intervening variable. The data used in writing this article is secondary data obtained from the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency. The analysis technique used is path analysis. The software used in this research is SPSS. The research results show that the Unemployment Rate (X1) and Household Consumption (X2) directly have a significant effect on Poverty (Y2). In addition, the Unemployment Rate and Household Consumption significantly affect Poverty through Economic Growth (Y1) as intervening variables. Economic growth is an intervening variable that has a crucial role in reducing poverty. It is hoped that the government will be able to maintain people's purchasing power and create labour-intensive jobs. The government must control economic growth to create an economic stimulus that can reduce poverty, according to the results of this research.

Keywords: *economic growth, poverty, unemployment rate and household consumption.*

1. Introduction

Global poverty has emerged as a significant economic challenge in recent decades, affecting countries like Indonesia. The issue of poverty is intricate and encompasses various dimensions, including social, economic, cultural, and structural aspects. It plays a vital role in the economy, influencing the ability of individuals to meet their basic needs for a proper, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle. Recognizing the factors contributing to poverty and understanding its repercussions is a crucial first step in efforts aimed at poverty alleviation. Unemployment surges due to poverty, leading to a detrimental impact on economic growth (Nansadiqa et al., 2019). Poverty remains a persistent social issue in different regions of Indonesia, consistently drawing the interest of diverse stakeholders, including academics and practitioners. Continuous efforts are underway to develop various theories, concepts, and approaches to unravel the complexities of poverty. In Indonesia, the problem of poverty is still a social problem that is always relevant and requires ongoing study. Instead of decreasing, poverty's prevalence has increased (Irawan, 2022).

[1] *Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia. wulandwils08@gmail.com*
[2] *Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia. firmansyah92@umm.ac.id*
[3] *WSB University Poznan, Polandia, stanislaw.flejterski@szczecin.merito.pl*

A decrease in the unemployment rate is anticipated to lead to reduced poverty. Unemployment can directly influence poverty by impacting individual income levels. When individuals have limited job opportunities, resulting in low income, they are inevitably caught in the poverty trap. Hence, it is crucial to comprehend the relationship between the unemployment rate and poverty (Badu et al., 2020). This indicator is still an interesting problem to study because it is one of the indicators that impacts the socio-economic conditions of society. Unemployment has an adverse impact, specifically a decline in an individual's prosperity resulting from diminished income. The diminishing well-being of the community, brought about by the lack of income, creates a vulnerability to an increase in poverty. The incidence of poverty is closely linked to the quantity of unemployed individuals. Generating employment opportunities and integrating the workforce, especially among a considerably young working-age population, contributes to the escalation of unemployment (Mardiyana & Ani, 2019).

As a country that is included in the category of developing countries in the world, poverty is also a crucial problem for Indonesia. This very critical problem should be a priority for the government because it has a negative impact from a broader perspective. One of the main focuses of the Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is eradicating extreme poverty, which is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Poverty is mainly seen as a complex problem because it is always related to many social issues like welfare, unemployment, education, and health problems. However, governments worldwide use poverty as a prime benchmark for development success, including in Indonesia. Since March 2018, Indonesia has reached a new milestone in poverty alleviation. Based on the data from Statistics Indonesia, the poverty rate in Indonesia has decreased to 9,82 percent. This record means the number of poor people recorded at 25,95 million. It is the lowest recorded level (Wibowo & Ridha, 2021).

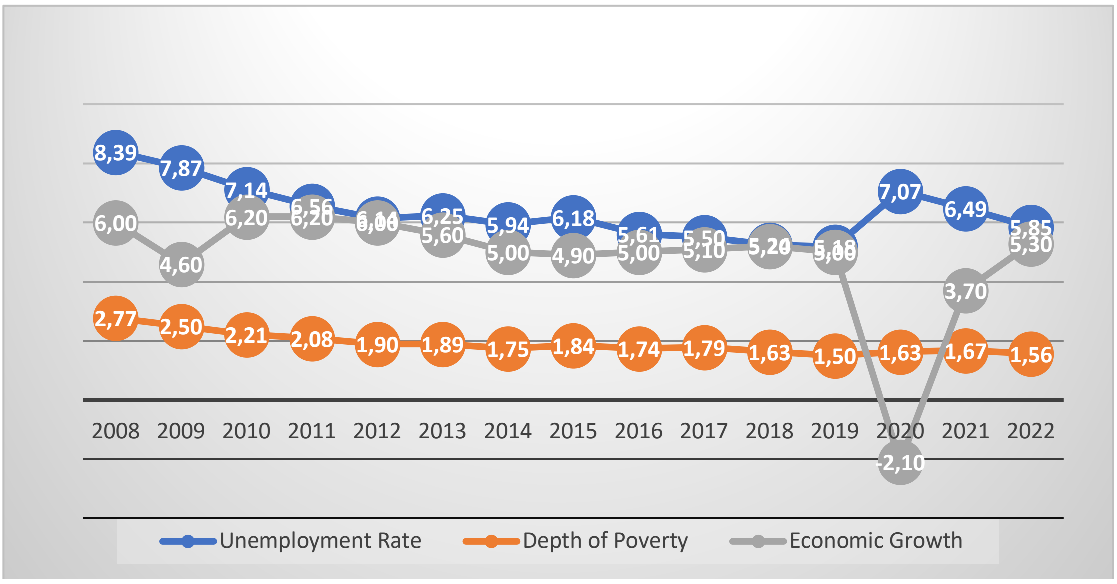

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate, Depth of Poverty and Economic Growth in Indonesia 2008-2022 (%)

Based on the graph above, it can be seen that the highest unemployment rate occurred in 2020, namely with a value of 7.07%. Compared with the previous year, namely 2019, the value increased by 1.84% towards its peak. Based on the graph, it can also be seen that the unemployment rate in Indonesia fluctuated from 2011 to 2015. Meanwhile, from 2015 to 2019, it declined before finally increasing again in 2020 and 2021. Therefore, in the current conditions, minimising the unemployment rate is very important (Shi & Wang, 2022). By minimising the unemployment rate, indirectly, people have jobs and income to meet their needs so that prosperity can be felt.

Data from the Central Statistics Agency for 2011-2022 above shows that in 2011, the percentage of poor people in Indonesia was 12.49%, and in 2022, the rate of poor people decreased by 2.92% to 9.57%. Even though the value of the poverty percentage in Indonesia tends to experience a decreasing trend from year to year, if it is linked to the 2020 to 2024 Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) target, the value is still not close to the target set where the government is targeting a poverty percentage of 6.0 - 7.0%.

The unemployment rate in this research is closely related to economic growth and poverty. Unemployment is one of the causes of poverty, and vice versa. Poverty can worsen the problem of unemployment. Unemployment contributes to poverty, and addressing poverty requires economic growth that generates employment opportunities. Empirical evidence indicates that economic growth is frequently propelled by capital-intensive sectors that fail to create jobs for the community, resulting in a lack of impact on poverty alleviation (Purnomo & Istiqomah, 2019). Generally, those in the poor category do not have work (unemployment) and need an adequate education and health. The unemployment rate can increase in value due to the increase in the number of new workers yearly, while the number of workers absorbed by the labour market does not increase. This translates into the idea that the effectiveness of poverty reduction relies heavily on the formulation and implementation of social and economic policies supporting the impoverished. These policies are crucial in determining short-term outcomes and ensuring long-term sustainability. Ultimately, the substantial success in reducing poverty hinges on the efforts of the impoverished population, driven by the awareness and intellectual capacity within a country. A heightened awareness of the importance of poverty reduction motivates the poor to actively strive towards escaping poverty (Pham & Riedel, 2019).

Household consumption, of course, is also related to other variables in this research. Household consumption can contribute to national income and has the potential to influence the stability of economic activities. Both in the form of food and non-food, household consumption impacts economic growth as inventions, which, of course, will influence poverty as the dependent variable.

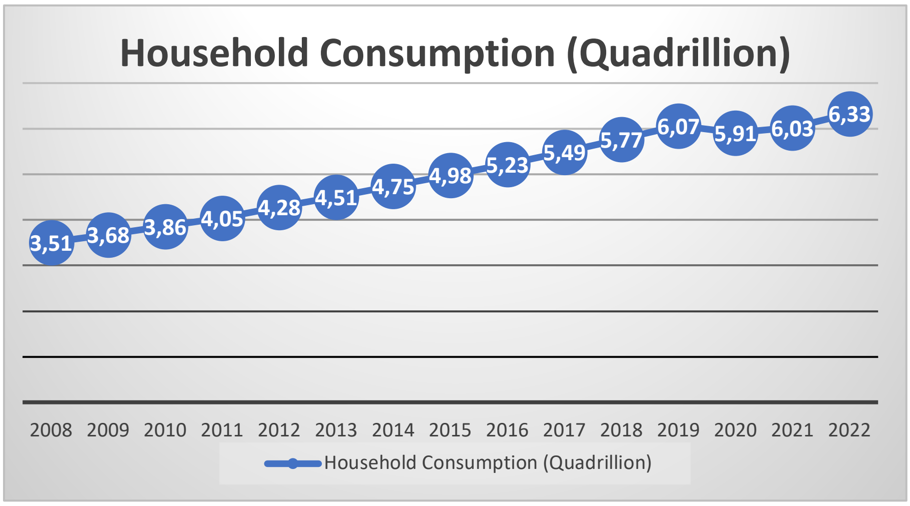

Figure 2. Household Consumption in Indonesia 2008-2022 (Quadraliun)

In the graph above, household consumption in Indonesia from 2008 to 2022 tends to increase. The value grew from 2008 to 2019 and only decreased in 2020. However, this decrease in weight did not last long; in the following year, household consumption increased again until 2022, when the deal was 6.33 quadrillion.

Research on the influence of unemployment rates and household consumption on poverty has been carried out previously, and test results were obtained from each previous study. Previous research conducted by Handriyani et al. (2018) shows that household consumption significantly affects economic growth. The second research is from Apau et al. (2019), which shows that economic growth has a negative short-run and a long-run relationship. Further investigation by Anderu (2021) shows that unemployment and poverty significantly impact economic growth in the short and long run. However, those studies had different results from those conducted by Bala et al (2020), which show that unemployment and poverty negatively impact GDP in Nigeria.

Based on the background described, this research uses the dependent variable in the form of poverty and the independent variables in the form of the unemployment rate and household consumption. This research was conducted to determine how the unemployment rate and household consumption variables influence poverty in Indonesia through intervening economic growth. This research uses a different analytical method from previous research: path analysis with economic growth as an intervening variable. This aims to determine the direct and indirect relationship between household consumption variables and the unemployment rate and poverty through economic growth in Indonesia.

2. Theoretical Background

Poverty

Poverty is a condition of deficiency in efforts to fulfil basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, drinking water, and other general things closely related to the quality of life. The definition above is in line with the meaning of poverty according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, which defines poverty as a lack of food, clothing, shelter and things closely related to the quality of life. Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, poverty is a situation where a person cannot use all possible options and opportunities to fulfil their basic needs, such as health needs, adequate quality of life, self-esteem and respect from others, and freedom. Poverty is a complex issue intertwined with various facets of human existence and sustenance, encompassing economic, political, socio-cultural, psychological, technological, and interconnected elements (Olilingo & Putra, 2020). Another opinion is presented more briefly and clearly by Yolanda (2017): poverty is a state of society's inability to fulfil basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health.

BPS measures poverty levels in Indonesia using poverty indicators to determine the ability of households or individuals to fulfil basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, health and education. This poverty indicator is created by taking various considerations, including per-capita expenditure and access to essential services, including clean water, good sanitation, education, and health services.

There are three main ways to measure poverty. The first is the Poor Population Index (P0), which shows the percentage of people who are poor and below the poverty line in a particular region or country. The second is the Poverty Gap Index (P1), which measures the average gap in expenditure of poor people towards the poverty line. This index also shows how much increase in average income is needed to escape poverty. The third is the Poverty Severity Index (P2), which describes how expenditure is distributed among people experiencing poverty. The higher the index value, the greater the expenditure inequality among the poor.

H1: Poverty is influenced by unemployment rate and household consumption through economic growth

Economic Growth

In this research, the indicator used to see economic growth is GDP. Typically, conventional measures of economic growth involve the computation of the percentage increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP quantifies the overall financial spending on goods and services produced within a specified timeframe, often a year. It encompasses the total revenue generated from producing goods and services, reflecting a nation's overall production (Priambodo, 2021). Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from one year to the next recalls economic growth in a country. This is a real sign of development progress, which includes the results of successful policy implementation, both directly and indirectly (M et al., 2015).

H2: Economic growth is influenced by the level of unemployment rate and household consumption

Unemployment Rate

In principle, when a community is free from unemployment, it implies that individuals have jobs and income, and this income is expected to suffice for life's necessities. If basic needs are adequately met, poverty should be eliminated. Labour plays a crucial role as a critical contributor to development. Employment issues are inherent and closely connected to the environment, and they can give rise to new challenges in both economic and non-economic domains. Elevated unemployment rates diminish incomes and poverty (Dahliah & Nirwana Nur, 2021). The unemployment rate is caused by limited job opportunities disproportionate to the number of job seekers, low per capita income, and the impact of current information and communication technology (Shabbir et al., 2020). Unemployment is often a problem in the economy because, with unemployment, people's productivity and income will decrease, leading to poverty and other social issues. Unemployment also can decrease purchasing power and productivity limitations and have significant repercussions on the poverty rate. Unemployment contributes to a decrease in overall purchasing power within the economy. When a significant portion of the population is unemployed, there is a decline in consumer spending. This, in turn, affects businesses and can lead to a broader economic downturn. As businesses experience reduced demand for goods and services, they may cut back on production and employment, creating a cycle that further perpetuates unemployment and poverty. Unemployment also represents a loss of human capital and productivity for the economy. When skilled and capable workers are unemployed, their potential contributions to economic output are wasted. This loss of productivity hampers overall economic growth, making it more challenging for the economy to generate the resources needed to lift people out of poverty. Not only will social problems arise, but unemployment rates that are too high will also cause political, security and economic chaos, which will disrupt economic growth. The long-term consequence is a GDP decrease and a country's per capita income. This is in line with the opinion that indirectly states that the unemployment rate is a macroeconomic problem that dramatically affects all aspects of social welfare (Hasan et al., 2020)

H3: The unemployment rate influences poverty through economic growth

Household Consumption

Household consumption can determine changes in a country's economic activities, and in Indonesia, its contribution to national income reaches more than 50%. Household consumption is considered when assessing economic growth because household consumption significantly

contributes to a country's income, and expenditure on consumption tends to align with the income earned. In other words, the higher the payment, the greater the household consumption expenditure.
Household consumption is often used as an indicator of poverty because it reflects the level of well-being and economic stability within a household. Household consumption can be relatable to poverty through several indications. Excessive household consumption can cause poverty, often associated with an inability to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare. A household experiencing poverty may have limited resources for these essential items, leading to lower consumption levels. Poverty can hinder access to education and healthcare, which are crucial components of a higher standard of living. A household in poverty may restrict spending on education and healthcare, impacting the overall well-being of its members. The type and condition of housing can indicate a household's economic status. Those in poverty may live in inadequate or substandard housing due to financial constraints, resulting in a lower level of consumption on housing-related expenditures. Insufficient resources may lead to poor nutrition, as impoverished households struggle to afford a balanced and nutritious diet. Monitoring household consumption patterns can reveal information about the quality and quantity of food available to its members. Poverty often restricts access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, and energy. A household experiencing poverty may limit its consumption of these services due to financial constraints. Poor households may borrow to meet their immediate needs, leading to increased debt levels. Monitoring household consumption can provide insights into the financial strain experienced by families and their ability to meet ongoing expenses. High levels of poverty may result in limited economic opportunities for household members. Monitoring consumption patterns can reveal whether individuals actively participate in the economy and earn an income.

H4: Household consumption influences poverty through economic growth

3. Methodology

The research in question is categorised as quantitative research, whereby the researchers gather numerical data and subsequently analyse and process it. The data used in this research is secondary data spanning 2008-2022. This secondary data is vital as the primary data is selected based on specific standards for each variable to establish the relationship between variables. The data variables were obtained from two reputable sources: the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency and World Bank Open Data. The path analysis method was employed in this research. Path analysis is an analytical tool that tests hypotheses regarding causality by utilising correlation concepts or calculations.

The diagram below illustrates the various issues present in this research project:

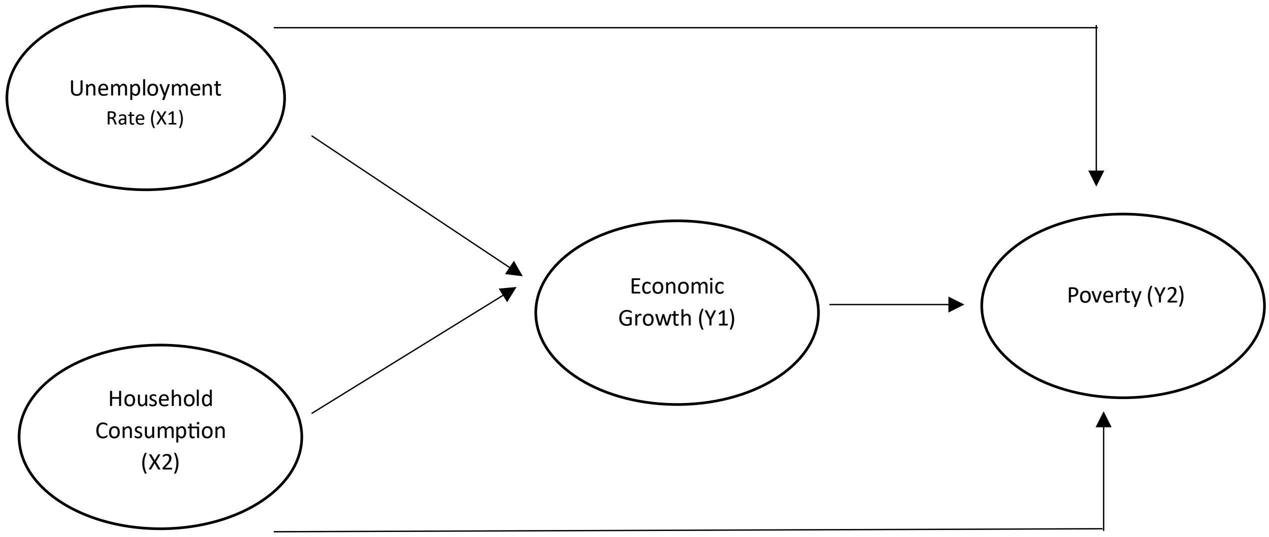

Figure 3. Path Analysis Model

Here is a table that shows the operational definitions of research variables:

Table 1. Operational Definition of Variables

Variable	Variable Definition	Ratio
Unemployment Rate (X1)	The proportion of the Indonesian population who do not have a job and are looking for work, those who do not have a job and are in the process of setting up a business, and those who do not have a job and are not looking for work because it is not possible to get a job, those who already have a job but have not yet started working.	Percent (%)
Household Consumption (X2)	Consumption expenditure or goods made by households.	Percent (%)
Economic Growth (Y1)	An increase in the production capacity of an economy is realised in the form of an increase in national income.	Percent (%)
Poverty(Y2)	The average expenditure gap between each poor person and the poverty line.	Percent (%)

4. Empirical Findings/Result

The results of data processing using SPSS show that economic growth (Y1) is an intervening variable, measured by the unemployment rate (x1) and household consumption (X2).

Table 2. Coefficients

Variable	Beta	t	Probability (Sig.)	Note
Unemployment Rate (X1)	-0,792	2,940	0,012	Significant
Household Consumption (X2)	0,978	3,630	0,003	Significant
Dependent Variable: Economic Growth				

It is known that the significance value of the two variables, namely TPT (X1) = 0.012 and household consumption (X2) = 0.003, is smaller than 0.05. These results conclude that the level of unemployment and household consumption have a significant effect on economic growth.

Table 3. Model Summary

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
0,729	0,531	0,453	1,49143
a. Predictors : (Constant), Household Consumption, TPT			

The R square value is 0.531. This indicates that 53.1% of the influence on Y1 comes from X1 and X2, while the remaining 46.9% is attributable to other variables not used in this study.

Meanwhile, the value of e1 can be found using the formula e1 = √ (1 – 0,531) = 0.6848

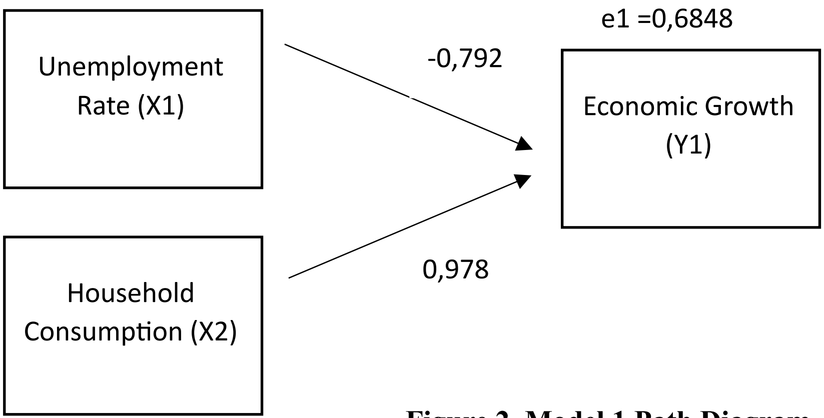

Figure 2. Model 1 Path Diagram

Table 4. Coefficients

Variable	Beta	t	Probability (Sig.)	Note
Unemployment Rate (X1)	-1,047	6,9868	0,000	Significant
Household Consumption (X2)	-0,963	-5,948	0,000	Significant
Economic Growth (Y1)	-0,149	2,642	0,023	Significant
Dependent Variable: Poverty				

Based on the regression output of model II in the Coefficients table section, it is known that the significance value of the three variables, namely TPT (X1) = 0.000 household consumption (X2) = 0.000 and economic growth (Y1) = 0.023 is smaller than 0.05. This implies that the level of unemployment, household consumption, and economic growth have a significant impact on poverty.

Table 5. Model Summary

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
0,990	0,980	0,974	0,29178
Predictors: (Constant), Economic Growth, TPT, Household Consumption			

The value of R square is 0.980; this shows that the contribution of X1, X2, and Y1 to Y2 is 98%, while the remaining 2% is the contribution of other variables not used in this research.

Meanwhile for value e2 = $\sqrt{(1- 0.980)} = 0.1414$

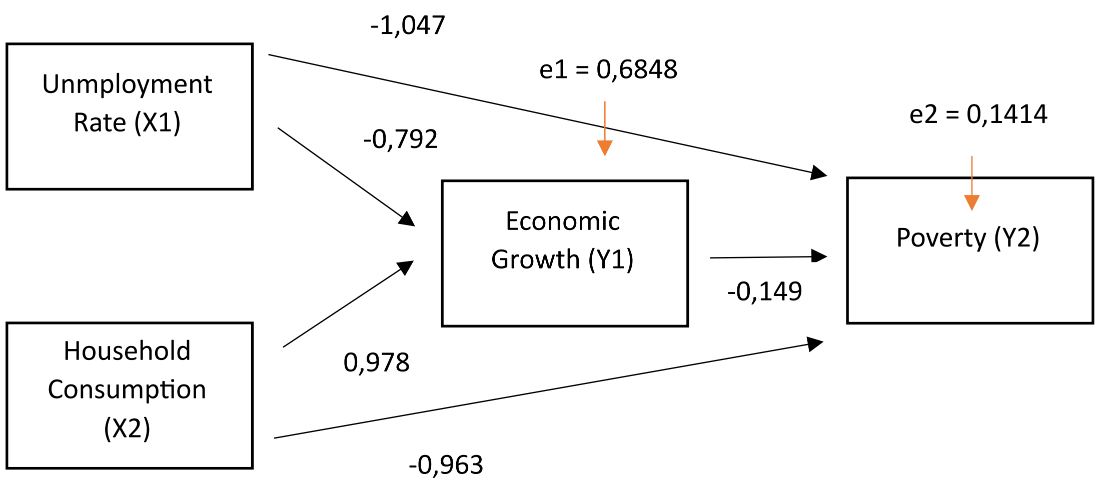

Figure 3. Model 2 Path Diagram

The analysis aims to determine the impact of the unemployment rate (X1) on Poverty (Y2) through economic growth (Y1). The study revealed that X1 has a direct effect of -1.047 on Y2. Meanwhile, the indirect impact of X1 on Y2 through Y1 is calculated by multiplying the Beta value of Y1. Therefore, the total influence of X1 on Y2 is the sum of direct and indirect effects, which is -1.165 (-1.047 + -0.118). Based on these calculations, it is evident that the direct influence of X1 on Y2 is greater than the indirect influence, indicating that the unemployment rate (X1) significantly directly affects poverty (Y2).

An analysis was conducted to determine the impact of household consumption (X2) through economic growth (Y1) on poverty (Y2). The results show that the direct influence of X2 on Y2 is 0.963. Additionally, the indirect effect of X2 on Y2 through Y1 is calculated by multiplying the beta value of Y1. The total influence of X2 on Y2 is equal to the sum of the direct and indirect effects, which is -0.818 (-0.963 + 0.145). The analysis also reveals that the direct influence of X2 on Y2 is stronger than the indirect influence (-0.963 < 0.145), indicating that household consumption (X2) has a significant impact on poverty (Y2) directly.

5. Discussion

The influence of the unemployment rate on economic growth has previously been explained in research (Priambodo, 2021), namely that TPT affects economic growth in the Purbalingga District. It can affect various factors contributing to economic growth, such as reducing purchasing power, limiting productivity, increasing social and financial burdens, and creating social inequality. Therefore, it is crucial to overcome the issue of unemployment rate to establish a favourable economic environment for sustainable growth. Policies that support job creation provide skills training, and encourage investment can help combat the negative impact of unemployment rates on economic growth. It can be like that by fostering a skilled workforce, supporting businesses, and creating an environment conducive to investment, policymakers can mitigate the negative impact of unemployment on economic growth and promote long-term prosperity. Implementing vocational training programs equips individuals with practical skills because education is a critical factor influencing poverty, catalysing a nation's development. The cornerstone of progress is quality education, unlocking job opportunities, bringing purpose to one's life and positively impacting others. Through education, social and economic disparities diminish as it acts as a bridge to employment. Consequently, education forms a fundamental pillar of societal development, enabling individuals to cultivate and express their potential, attain goals, and lead a productive life. The substantial contribution of education not only fosters personal excellence but also paves the path for economic growth and the advancement of the entire nation (Rohmah, 2021). It is aligned with market demands. This can enhance employability and match job seekers with available opportunities.

The influence of TPT on poverty is directly in line with research conducted by (Mardiyana & Ani, 2019), which shows a significant correlation between unemployment rate and poverty. This means that the level of poverty can be affected by unemployment rate. When the unemployment rate increases, the poverty rate also tends to increase. Conversely, when the unemployment rate decreases, the poverty rate also usually decreases. The results of this research are also supported by research from (Rohmah, 2021) that unemployment simultaneously affects poverty in Jambi Province. This phenomenon highlights the strong connection between poverty and unemployment. If left unaddressed, unemployment can have a detrimental impact on the welfare of both countries and regions. Another research (Pertiwi & Purnomo, 2022) shows that unemployment rate significantly influences poverty. Therefore, policies that target the reduction of unemployment rates can contribute positively to poverty alleviation. Creating job opportunities, providing skills training, and supporting high-potential economic sectors are effective measures to reduce reliance on social assistance and improve the overall financial well-being of society.

The research results related to household consumption's influence on poverty are supported by research (Sari 2016), which shows a positive correlation between consumption and poverty levels. In other words, when consumption levels rise, poverty levels tend to increase, whereas poverty levels are likely to decrease if consumption decreases. Further research by (Ngurah Gede Agung Indra Darmawan, 2020) that the variable of household consumption has a direct and significant impact on poverty in Indonesia (Y). This implies that any increase in household consumption by one thousand rupiah will lead to higher poverty rates in Indonesia. Therefore, promoting healthy and sustainable household consumption practices is crucial to drive economic growth. Policies promoting financial stability, societal well-being, and improved employment opportunities can positively impact household consumption and economic growth.

6. Conclusion

The variable known as the Unemployment rate plays a significant role in economic growth and directly impacts poverty. This is mainly due to the lack of income resulting from joblessness. When individuals or families cannot maintain a stable income, meeting their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and education, becomes challenging. This can lead to conditions of poverty. Unemployment can also cause financial instability, making it difficult for people to manage their monthly bills, pay rent, or meet their daily expenses. Having a regular income is crucial to avoid financial insecurity.

Household consumption plays a significant role in Indonesia's economic growth. It directly affects poverty as well. Household consumption contributes more than 50% to economic growth and is one of the most significant contributors to the national income. Due to its considerable size, consumption can lead to fluctuations in the country's economic activity. This aligns with Keynes's consumption theory, which states that expenditure impacts national income. These findings support this theory: high levels of unemployment and a decrease in consumption align with Keynesian economic principles. Keynes argued that during economic downturns, such as a recession, inadequate aggregate demand, including reduced consumer spending, can lead to unemployment. As we know, Indonesia's current poverty rate is notably elevated, necessitating substantive intervention from the government for its reduction (Akhmad et al., 2022). Government initiatives to alleviate poverty are evident in the policy that must be made. The government could use this finding as policymakers to implement fiscal policies such as increased public spending, tax cuts, or social welfare programs to stimulate demand, encourage consumer spending, and alleviate poverty. It is hoped that further research can explain several indicators of household consumption, such as primary, secondary, and tertiary consumption, and determine which variables significantly influence economic growth and poverty. In addition, the dimensions of poverty variables can be expanded and developed by adding dimensional variables such as crime rates and quality of life.

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