

The Relevance of Criteria of Poverty with Household Poverty in South Sumatra



Relevansi Kriteria Fakir Miskin dengan Kemiskinan Rumah Tangga di Sumatera Selatan

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

<p>Keywords <i>Poverty Criteria; Multivariate Analysis; Policy Evaluation;</i></p>	<p>ABSTRACT <i>The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia issued Ministerial Decree No. 262/Huk/2022, outlining the criteria for identifying poverty. This study aims to analyze the relevance of these indigent criteria in the Ministerial Decree to the poverty conditions of households in South Sumatra Province. Poverty status determined by the March 2023 poverty line, as reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS). Using data from the March 2023 National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas), a sample of 11,070 households was analyzed through univariate, bivariate, and multivariate approaches. The results indicate that seven out of the eight tested poverty criteria—food insecurity experience, proportion of food expenditure, clothing expenditure, type of flooring, type of walls, ownership of a latrine, and source of lighting—significantly influence household poverty status. These factors serve as relevant indicators for assessing household poverty in South Sumatra. However, the employment status of the household head did not significantly impact poverty status, suggesting a need for a reevaluation of this criterion. This study provides critical insights for refining poverty measurement criteria and informing poverty alleviation policies.</i></p>
<p>Kata Kunci <i>Kriteria Fakir Miskin; Analisis Multivariat; Evaluasi Kebijakan;</i></p>	<p>ABSTRAK Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia telah mengeluarkan Keputusan Menteri Sosial (Kepmensos) No 262/Huk/2022 tentang kriteria fakir miskin yang digunakan sebagai dasar identifikasi awal kemiskinan untuk penerima bantuan sosial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis relevansi kriteria fakir miskin pada Kepmensos tersebut terhadap kondisi rumah tangga miskin di Sumatera Selatan. Status kemiskinan rumah tangga ditentukan berdasarkan garis kemiskinan pada Maret tahun 2023 yang dirilis Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS). Penelitian ini menggunakan data mikro Survei Sosial Ekonomi Nasional (Susenas) Maret 2023, dengan jumlah sampel sebanyak 11.070 rumah tangga yang dianalisis menggunakan analisis univariat, bivariat, dan multivariat. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa tujuh dari delapan kriteria fakir miskin memiliki pengaruh signifikan terhadap status kemiskinan rumah tangga di Sumatera Selatan, yaitu <i>food insecurity experience</i>, proporsi pengeluaran kebutuhan makan, pengeluaran untuk pakaian, jenis lantai dan dinding, kepemilikan jamban, dan sumber penerangan. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa kriteria-kriteria tersebut relevan sebagai indikator status kemiskinan rumah tangga di Provinsi Sumatera Selatan. Sedangkan variabel status bekerja kepala rumah tangga tidak berpengaruh signifikan terhadap status kemiskinan rumah tangga, sehingga diperlukan perbaikan terhadap kriteria tersebut.</p>
<p>Article History Send 11th October 2024 Review 16th Nopember 2024 Accepted 10th December 2024</p>	<p>Copyright ©2025 Jurnal Aristo (Social, Politic, Humaniora) This is an open access article under the CC-BY-NC-SA license. Akses artikel terbuka dengan model CC-BY-NC-SA sebagai lisensinya.</p>



Introduction

Poverty is a global issue that poses significant challenges for public administration in delivering equitable and inclusive services to all citizens. Government intervention through policy measures is essential in addressing poverty (Hermawati et al., 2015). As part of the global effort to combat poverty, the United Nations (UN) has established "No Poverty" as the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In alignment with this, the Indonesian government has also prioritized poverty alleviation in its national development agenda, targeting a poverty rate of 6–7% by 2024 (Bappenas, 2020). However, as of March 2023, the percentage of Indonesia's population living in poverty remains far from this target, standing at 9.36% (Statistics Indonesia, 2023).

The Indonesian government has undertaken various measures to address poverty. Following the Asian financial crisis, its approach shifted from relying primarily on economic growth to implementing targeted poverty alleviation programs directed specifically at impoverished groups (Widianto, 2012). This shift aligns with the World Bank's (2012) recommendation that social assistance provides optimal benefits when directed at households genuinely in need. Poverty targeting has thus become crucial in ensuring that social assistance is effectively allocated to groups below the national poverty line (Weiss, 2005). Effective targeting can significantly reduce poverty (Muller, 2017; Yu et al., 2023) while ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively (Zhao et al., 2022).

To address poverty, Indonesia enacted Law No. 13 of 2011 concerning the handling of the poor. This law grants the Ministry of Social Affairs the authority to establish poverty criteria, which serve as the basis for identifying impoverished populations and prioritizing them in social assistance programs such as the BPJS Contribution Assistance Recipients (PBI), the Family Hope Program (PKH), the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP), and the Rice for the Poor Program/Non-Cash Food Assistance (Rastra). Consequently, in 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs issued Regulation No. 146/HUK/2013 on the Determination of Criteria and Data Collection for the Poor and Disadvantaged, updated in 2022 through Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022. These criteria serve as an initial framework for identifying impoverished conditions and proposing social assistance recipients (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2022). Validation and verification processes are subsequently conducted to ensure that individuals or families meet the poverty criteria and qualify for assistance. Final eligibility decisions are made by local governments, particularly at the district or municipal level (Republic of Indonesia, 2011). Local governments are expected to have a thorough understanding of the characteristics of impoverished households within their respective jurisdictions.

According to the Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022, dictum three states that "an individual who does not have a place of shelter or daily residence is categorized as poor and destitute" (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2022). Furthermore, dictum four elaborates on the criteria for poverty as follows:

"An individual who has a place of shelter or daily residence is subject to further assessment based on the following eight criteria: the household head or caretaker of the household head is unemployed; has experienced anxiety about not having food or has gone without food in the past year; spends more than half of their total expenditure on food; has had no expenditure on clothing in the past year; resides in a dwelling predominantly with dirt or plaster flooring; resides in a dwelling with walls made of bamboo, wire, wooden boards, tarpaulin, cardboard, unplastered brick, thatch, or zinc sheets; does not have a private toilet or uses a communal toilet; and uses a source of electricity with a capacity of 450 volt-amperes or non-electrical lighting" (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2022).

The National Development Planning Agency or Bappenas (2022) highlights that poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia face persistent challenges in accurately targeting poverty reduction programs. South Sumatra Province, with a poverty rate of 11.78% as of March 2023—above the national poverty rate—faces similar difficulties (BPS-Statistics Indonesia for South Sumatra, 2023). Data from the March 2023 National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) (Figure 1) reveal that households with higher levels of welfare in South Sumatra still receive social assistance programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH), the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP), and Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT). These programs are specifically designed to improve the welfare of impoverished communities.

The PKH aims to enhance the welfare of poor families by improving access to education and healthcare, the PIP facilitates educational access for underprivileged children, and the BPNT ensures food security for impoverished households. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of social assistance recipients based on expenditure quintiles, dividing households into five groups based on per capita monthly expenditure as a measure of welfare. Quintile 1 represents households with the lowest welfare levels, while Quintile 5 represents the highest welfare group. The majority of PKH, BPNT, and PIP recipients belong to Quintile 1, at 33,24%, 31,03%, and 27,58%, respectively. However, there remain recipients from higher welfare groups (Quintiles 4 and 5). This indicates that the distribution of assistance is not yet entirely accurate or well-targeted.

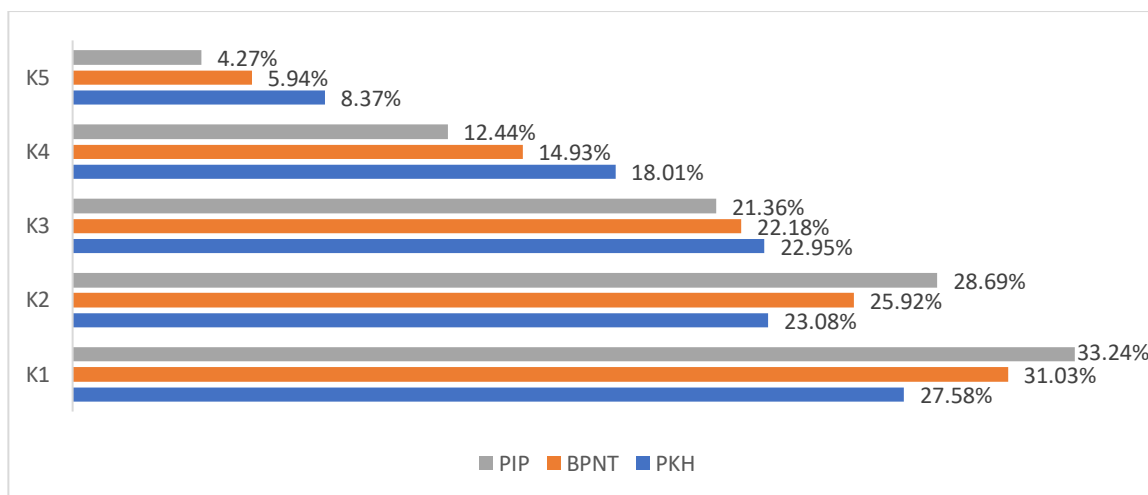


Figure 1. Percentage of Households Receiving PKH, PIP, and BPNT by Per Capita Monthly Expenditure Quintile in South Sumatra, 2023

Source: Processed from the March 2023 National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas)

To ensure that social assistance is more accurately targeted, a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of impoverished households is essential (Jolliffe & Baah, 2024). An evaluation of the alignment between the criteria for the poor and destitute outlined in Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022 and the actual conditions of impoverished households is necessary to ensure that social assistance programs effectively reach their intended beneficiaries. Previous studies in Indonesia have identified several critical factors in determining household poverty status, including household size (Haryanto et al, 2020; Kharisma dan Santoso, 2021), ability to purchase clothing pakaian (Rasyid et al., 2020), the primary occupation of the household head (Hidayat & Amar, 2020), access to clean water (Azali dan Harsanti, 2022), and sources of lighting (Risnawati et al, 2023). While these studies provide valuable insights into the characteristics of impoverished households, none have specifically analyzed these characteristics in relation to the poverty criteria outlined in Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022. This study aims to address this gap.

Moreover, the issue of inaccuracies in the distribution of social assistance in South Sumatra has not yet been examined through the lens of the poverty criteria specified in Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022. Sitepu (2012) emphasizes that field realities often align the conditions of the poor and destitute with absolute poverty as defined by Statistics Indonesia. Thus, this research seeks not only to examine the characteristics of impoverished households but also to assess whether the poverty criteria in this policy align with the actual conditions in South Sumatra.

According to Dunn (2003), policy analysis is a systematic process that involves the creation, evaluation, and communication of knowledge relevant to public policy. A data-driven

approach in policy analysis aims to provide solutions or recommendations that enhance policy quality. In this context, evaluating the poverty criteria used in poverty alleviation policies is crucial to ensure that the policies are accurately targeted and effective in addressing poverty.

Based on the outlined background, this study will analyze the characteristics of impoverished households in South Sumatra Province using the poverty criteria specified in dictum four of Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022. It will also examine which criteria significantly influence household poverty status. The results of this analysis will help determine the extent to which the criteria stipulated in the policy are relevant to the actual conditions of impoverished households in South Sumatra. Consequently, this study is expected to improve the targeting accuracy of social assistance programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH), the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP), and Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT). Additionally, the analysis of the criteria's suitability may yield concrete recommendations for improving the distribution of social assistance, making it more accurate and effective in South Sumatra Province.

Method

This study employed a descriptive-quantitative method, with data sourced from the March 2023 National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) conducted by Statistics Indonesia (BPS). The unit of analysis was households, with a total sample size of 11,070 households distributed across seventeen regencies/municipalities in South Sumatra. Data processing was conducted using the statistical software Stata 17.

The study used household poverty status as the dependent variable. The concept of poverty applied was absolute poverty, referring to the poverty line established by BPS. A household was categorized as poor if its expenditure fell below the provincial poverty line for South Sumatra as of March 2023, which was IDR 556,102 for urban areas and IDR 500,688 for rural areas (BPS South Sumatra, 2023).

The primary independent variables in this study were the eight poverty criteria outlined in dictum four of Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022. The study was grounded in the framework proposed by Haughton & Khandker (2009), which stated that poverty is influenced by economic, social, household demographic, and community aspects. However, the poverty criteria specified in Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022 primarily addressed economic and social aspects. To enhance the analysis, the study incorporated control variables, including household size as a representation of demographic factors and the classification of residence (urban/rural) as a representation of community factors.

Table 1. Operational Definitions of Research Variables

Research Variables	Operational Definitions
Y: Poverty Status	Household poverty status (1 = poor, 0 = not poor).
X ₁ : Employment Status of Household Head	Employment status of the household head (0 = employed, 1 = unemployed).
X ₂ : Food Insecurity Experience	Household food insecurity in accessing sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, reflected by experiences of challenges or concerns related to meeting food needs in the past year, based on the Food Insecurity concept by FAO (0 = never, 1 = ever).
X ₃ : Proportion of Food Expenditure	Proportion of food expenditure compared to non-food expenditure (0 = equal to or less than non-food expenditure, 1 = greater than non-food expenditure).
X ₄ : Clothing Expenditure	Household expenditure on clothing in the past year (0 = clothing expenditure exists, 1 = no clothing expenditure).
X ₅ : Type of Flooring	Type of household flooring (0 = other than dirt and plaster, 1 = dirt or plaster flooring).
X ₆ : Type of Walls	Type of household walls (0 = brick walls, 1 = walls made of materials other than brick, thatch, or zinc).
X ₇ : Ownership of a Toilet	Availability of toilet facilities in the household (0 = owns a private toilet, 1 = does not own a private toilet or uses a communal toilet).
X ₈ : Source of Lighting	Main source of lighting used by the household (0 = electricity with capacity greater than 450 volt-amperes, 1 = non-electricity or electricity with a capacity of 450 volt-amperes).
X ₉ : Household Size	Number of household members (0 = 1–4 people, 1 = 5 or more people).
X ₁₀ : Classification of Residential Area	Classification of Household Residential Areas (1 = urban, 2 = rural).

Source: Processed by the author

In this study, adjustments were made to the variable representing the type of household walls (X₆) due to limitations in the Susenas data, which does not distinguish between plastered and unplastered brick walls. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022 differentiates these two conditions as one of the criteria for determining poverty status. Therefore, this study combined both categories of brick walls into a single category (coded as 0).

Haughton dan Khandker (2009) recommend the use of logistic regression to analyze factors influencing poverty, particularly in explaining the probability of a household falling below the poverty line (with a binary variable: poor or not poor). Based on this recommendation, the analytical techniques employed in this study include descriptive analysis to identify the characteristics of impoverished households, Chi-Square analysis to examine the association between household poverty status and each independent variable, and binomial

logistic regression analysis to measure the simultaneous effects of the independent variables on household poverty status. The goodness-of-fit of the logistic regression model was assessed using the Hosmer-Lemeshow test. Conclusions regarding the significance of the variables were drawn based on the Likelihood Ratio test for simultaneous effects and the Wald test for the individual effects of each variable variabel (Hosmer, 2013). Additionally, an odds ratio analysis was conducted to determine the extent to which each independent variable influences the likelihood of a household being categorized as poor.

Result and Discussion

Descriptive and Bivariate Analysis

Out of the 11,070 household samples in South Sumatra, 9.32% were categorized as poor households. Table 2 compares the characteristics of households based on their poverty status in South Sumatra Province. These household characteristics were analyzed based on variables related to poverty criteria (X_1 – X_8) and control variables (X_9 – X_{10}).

Table 2. Household Characteristics by Household Poverty Status

Variable	%	Poverty Status		<i>p-value</i>
		Not Poor	Poor	
Household Head Employment Status (X_1)				
Working	91,82	90,71	9,29	0,665
Not Working	8,18	90,28	9,72	
<i>Food Insecurity Experience</i> (X_2)				
Not experienced	80,18	93,04	6,96	0,000*
Experienced	19,82	82,83	19,26	
Food Expenditure Proportion (X_3)				
=< non-food	23,02	97,72	2,28	0,000*
> non-food	76,98	88,57	11,43	
Clothing expenditure (X_4)				
Yes	98,97	93,87	9,53	0,000*
No	1,03	80,70	19,30	
Types of flooring (X_5)				
Other than dirt and plaster	61,92	92,41	7,59	0,000*
Dirt and/or plaster	38,08	87,86	12,14	
Types of wall (X_6)				
Brick walls	67,64	92,25	7,75	0,000*
Non-brick walls	32,36	87,38	12,62	
Closet/Toilet (X_7)				
Available	89,85	91,84	8,16	0,000*
Not available	10,15	80,43	19,57	
Lighting sources (X_8)				
Electricity with power > 450 volts	62,53	92,70	7,30	0,000*

Variable	%	Poverty Status		<i>p-value</i>
		Not Poor	Poor	
Non-electricity or electricity with 450 volt-amperes	37,47	87,30	12,70	
Number of Household Members (X9)				
1–4 people	76,46	94,25	5,75	0,000*
≥5 people	23,54	79,09	20,91	
Classification of Residential Area (X10)				
Urban	31,19	89,60	10,40	0,009*
Rural	68,81	91,16	8,84	
Total	100,00	90,68	9,32	

Source: Processed from March 2023 Susenas, unweighted

Note: n=11,070, *significant at the 5% level

Based on Table 2, the majority of household heads in the sample were employed, accounting for 91.82% of households. This indicates a high level of labor force participation within the sample. However, the food insecurity experience faced by 19.82% of households suggests that having a job does not always guarantee food security. In terms of the proportion of food expenditure, the majority of households (76.98%) allocated a larger share of their expenses to food needs. Despite this, most households (98.97%) reported having clothing expenditures in the past year, indicating that basic needs such as clothing are a priority for nearly all households.

From a housing perspective, most sampled households had relatively good housing conditions: 61.92% had flooring made of materials other than dirt and plaster, 67.64% had brick walls, 89.85% had access to a toilet, and 72.44% used electricity with a capacity of more than 450 VA. Regarding household size, the majority (76.46%) consisted of one to four members. In terms of residential area characteristics, most households (68.81%) were located in rural areas.

Bivariate analysis results showed that seven out of eight poverty criteria had a strong relationship with household poverty status ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). These criteria include food insecurity, the proportion of food expenditure, clothing expenditure, type of flooring and walls, toilet ownership, and source of lighting. Conversely, the employment status of the household head was not significantly associated with poverty status ($p\text{-value} = 0.665$). Table 2 indicates that households with higher poverty rates, based on the independent variables, exhibited the following characteristics: experiencing food insecurity, allocating a higher proportion of expenditure to food than non-food, having no clothing expenditure in the past year, having dirt or plaster flooring, having walls made of materials other than brick, using communal toilets or lacking toilets, and relying on 450 VA electricity or non-electric sources of lighting.

Multivariate Analysis

The logistic regression model in this study was evaluated using the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness-of-fit test. The test results showed a chi-squared value of 10.20 with a p-value of 0.2514. Since the p-value exceeds 0.05, the model demonstrates a good fit with the observed data. Therefore, there is insufficient statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis, which states that the model is well-fitted, indicating no significant difference between the observed outcomes and the model's predictions. The results of the logistic regression analysis align with the findings of the bivariate analysis. At a 5% significance level, seven variables corresponding to poverty criteria were found to have a significant effect on household poverty status in South Sumatra: food insecurity experience (X_2), proportion of food expenditure (X_3), clothing expenditure (X_4), type of flooring (X_5), type of walls (X_6), toilet ownership (X_7), and source of lighting (X_8). Each of these variables had a p-value of 0.000, indicating very strong statistical significance. Additionally, the variables for household size (X_9) and residential area classification (X_{10}) also exhibited significant effects, suggesting that both household size and the classification of residential area (urban or rural) strongly influence household poverty status.

Table 3. Logistic Regression Results

Variabel	β	Standard Error	Odds Ratio
Household Head Employment Status X_1			
Not working	0.110	0.129	1.12
Food insecurity experience X_2			
Experienced	0.923***	0.075	2,52
Food Expenditure X_3			
>Non food	1.394***	0.143	4.03
Clothing Expenditure X_4			
None	0.766***	0.261	2.15
Types of flooring X_5			
Dirt and/or plaster	0.523***	0.073	1.69
Types of wall X_6			
Non-brick walls	0.338***	0.078	1.40
Availability of toilet X_7			
none	0.795***	0.096	2.21
Lighting Source X_8			
Non-electricity or electricity with 450 volt-amperes	0.464***	0.072	1.59
Numbers of household members X_9			
≥ 5 people	1.577***	0.072	4.84
Classification of village/city X_{10}			
Village	-0.582***	0.079	0.56
Constant	-4.030***	0.183	0.18

Source: Processed from March 2023 Susenas, unweighted

Note: n=11,070, *** significant at the 0.1% level, ** significant at the 5% level, * significant at the 1% level

Based on the results of the logistic regression analysis, the employment status of the household head (X_1) was the only variable that did not have a statistically significant effect on household poverty, with a p-value of 0.392. According to the March 2023 Susenas data, 91.82% of poor household heads were employed, indicating that employment alone does not guarantee households are free from poverty. The concept of "working poor," where individuals remain impoverished despite being employed due to unstable and low-income jobs, is particularly relevant in this context.

According to BPS (2023), the majority of the poor population in South Sumatra work in the informal sector (38.44%) and the agricultural sector (31.65%). Previous studies, including Mehrotra (2009), Gomes et al. (2020), and Parlak dan AK (2022), reveal that individuals working in the informal sector are more likely to be poor compared to those in the formal sector due to lower and more unstable incomes. Similarly, Nosier (2022) and Faharuddin & Endrawati (2022) found that employment in the agricultural sector is more likely to lead to poverty than employment in non-agricultural sectors. This can be attributed to limited access to productive assets such as land and tools, which affects income levels (Ogwumike dan Akinnibosun, 2013). Faharuddin & Endrawati (2022) also noted that agricultural workers in Indonesia have the highest rate of working poverty compared to other sectors. Therefore, although access to employment is relatively high, without improvements in job quality and income stability—particularly in the informal and agricultural sectors—households in South Sumatra remain vulnerable to poverty.

The study also found that households experiencing food insecurity were 2.52 times more likely to be categorized as poor compared to those that did not experience it. This finding aligns with Maslow's hierarchy of needs (2009), which posits that physiological needs, such as food, form the foundation of well-being, and the inability to meet these needs increases the risk of poverty. Supporting this, studies by Bastiana (2019) and Edem and Ogaboh Agba (2020) indicate that poor households often cannot provide more than two meals a day, reflecting their inability to meet basic needs like food. Similarly, Rasyid et al., (2020) found that the ability to meet food needs significantly influences household poverty status. These findings underscore that access to food is a critical indicator of household poverty conditions.

The variable representing the proportion of food expenditure showed the highest odds ratio among the poverty criteria variables, at 4.03. This indicates that households with higher food expenditures are 4.03 times more likely to fall into the poverty category compared to those with higher non-food expenditures. This finding aligns with studies by Muller (2017), Hasibuan Safina and Lestari (2018), as well as Abdillah et al (2019), which found that the

majority of poor households' income is allocated to food needs. This is attributed to the tendency of low-income groups to prioritize meeting food needs when income is limited (Permatasari & Yuliana, 2021). A shift in household expenditure patterns from food to non-food needs may signify improved household welfare (Suwarta, 2023), based on the assumption that any remaining income is allocated to non-food expenditures after basic food needs are fulfilled (Pratama, 2021).

Clothing expenditure was also found to have a significant effect on household poverty status, with an odds ratio of 2.15. This means that households with no clothing expenditure in the past year were 2.15 times more likely to fall into the poverty category compared to households with clothing expenditures during the same period. This finding is supported by research by Yunchao et al. (2020) in Malaysia, which revealed that poor households tend to reduce clothing expenditures as an adjustment to economic constraints.

From the housing aspect, households with dirt or plaster flooring were 1.69 times more likely to be categorized as poor compared to households with flooring made of other materials. This finding is consistent with studies by Harahap (2017) and Bastiana et al. (2019), which also emphasized that flooring type is a key indicator distinguishing poor households from non-poor ones. Furthermore, households residing in buildings with non-brick walls had a 1.40 times greater likelihood of being in the poverty category. This finding is supported by previous research (Bastiana et al., 2019; Rahmatullah et al., 2022), which indicated that households living in buildings with non-brick walls have a higher likelihood of being poor. These results reinforce the notion that poorer housing conditions increase the likelihood of a household being categorized as poor (Wijayanto & Tri, 2021).

Based on toilet ownership, households using communal toilets or lacking private toilet facilities were 2.21 times more likely to be categorized as poor compared to those with private toilets. Similarly, households relying on electricity with 450 VA capacity or without electricity had a 1.59 times higher likelihood of being categorized as poor compared to those using electricity with more than 450 VA capacity. These findings align with previous studies, which demonstrated that poor households are more likely to live in areas with inadequate sanitation and limited electricity access compared to non-poor households (Rozanti, 2021; Quispe-Mamani et al., 2022; Jula & Beriso, 2023; Faujan dan Agustina, 2023; Geda, 2023; Aguilar-pinto et al., 2023; Tripena et al., 2023). Toilet ownership is closely linked to poverty alleviation, as inadequate sanitation facilities contribute to health problems, exacerbating economic difficulties (Ajemu et al., 2020). Access to proper sanitation supports better health outcomes, reducing the risk of illness (Ajemu et al., 2020; Nicoletti et al., 2022; Hoo et al., 2022). This,

in turn, allows household members to be more productive, enabling better economic opportunities as they are less hindered by health issues (Nicoletti et al., 2022).

The results of the multivariate analysis also revealed that household size had an odds ratio of 4.817, indicating that households with more than four members were 4.84 times more likely to be categorized as poor compared to those with one to four members. This finding is consistent with previous studies, which reported that household size significantly influences poverty status (Hidayat & Amar, 2020; Hutahaeen & Sitorus, 2021; Hussain et al., 2023 ; Larbi Cherif et al, 2024; Khan et al., 2024 ; Putri & Astuti, 2024). Larger household sizes increase the economic burden, as the available income must be distributed among more individuals to meet their needs (Haughton & Khandker, 2009).

Furthermore, the classification of residential area (urban vs. rural) also influenced household poverty status. An odds ratio of 0.516 for residential area classification indicates that households in rural areas were less likely to be categorized as poor compared to those in urban areas. This finding contrasts with studies by Mulusew (2023) and Neway & Massresha (2022), which suggested that rural households are more likely to experience poverty than their urban counterparts. However, the results of this study are supported by Waldfogel (2017), who argued that rural poverty tends to be lower than urban poverty. Research by Damba et al. (2019) in Ghana highlighted that urban residents face higher living costs and lower average incomes compared to rural areas. This disparity can result in urban poverty thresholds being higher than rural ones. A similar situation exists in South Sumatra, where the urban poverty line (IDR 556,102) is higher than the rural poverty line (IDR 500,688). Therefore, although urban households may have higher incomes, higher living costs can reduce their purchasing power and increase the risk of poverty.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, seven out of eight poverty criteria outlined in Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022 were found to have a significant impact on household poverty status in South Sumatra Province. The criteria, ranked by the strength of their influence, are: the proportion of food expenditure, food insecurity, toilet ownership, clothing expenditure, type of flooring, source of lighting, and type of walls. These findings affirm that these criteria are relevant to the characteristics of impoverished households in South Sumatra and can be used as indicators of household poverty.

The study concludes that the characteristics of impoverished households in South Sumatra are as follows: having experienced food insecurity, allocating a larger proportion of

expenditure to food than to non-food items, having no clothing expenditure in the past year, living in a house with dirt or plaster flooring, living in a house with non-brick walls, using communal toilets or lacking toilet facilities, and relying on electricity with 450 VA capacity or non-electric sources for lighting. The finding that employment status is not statistically significant indicates that this criterion may require adjustment or the inclusion of additional factors, such as the type of employment or job stability, to more accurately capture the relationship between employment and poverty.

Based on these findings, several recommendations are proposed to improve the effectiveness of the poverty criteria in Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022 for selecting social assistance recipients in South Sumatra. First, the employment status criterion for household heads should be refined by considering the type of employment, job stability, and income level. This would help identify households in need of assistance despite having an employed household head, especially those working in the informal sector with irregular incomes. Second, a minimum threshold for the number of poverty criteria that households must meet to qualify for assistance should be established. This approach would provide a clearer and more measurable framework for the selection process. Third, periodic evaluations and revisions of the poverty criteria should be conducted using the latest socio-economic data. Such revisions should consider the impact of previously provided assistance and feedback from stakeholders to ensure the criteria remain relevant and effective.

This study has certain limitations, particularly related to the data used. One variable, the type of household walls, could not be analyzed according to the criteria outlined in Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 262/HUK/2022, as the Susenas data does not distinguish between plastered and unplastered brick walls. However, the regulation includes unplastered brick walls as one of the poverty criteria. Future research is encouraged to use more detailed data that separates plastered and unplastered walls in line with the criteria specified in the regulation. Qualitative approaches, such as in-depth interviews or focus group discussions (FGDs), are also recommended to deepen the analysis and identify additional factors influencing household poverty.

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