



Analysis of Leading Sektore and Determinants Regional Development Inequality: A Combine Location Quotient, Shift Share and Panel Data Approach in Southern West Java

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to identify leading sectors that drive regional economic development and to examine the determinants of regional inequality in Southern West Java. Despite substantial development progress in West Java Province, regional disparities remain relatively high, particularly in the southern region, as reflected by the Williamson Index in recent years. This study employs secondary data obtained from official statistical publications and relevant government institutions. The analysis applies Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift-Share methods to identify leading sectors, followed by panel data regression to examine the determinants of regional inequality. The novelty of this research lies in the integration of sectoral analysis and inequality determinants within a unified empirical framework to support regional development policy. The results show that the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector constitute the primary base sector in Southern West Java. Furthermore, road infrastructure and the Human Development Index are found to have a positive effect on regional inequality. In contrast, economic growth and population size have a negative effect, highlighting the importance of inclusive growth and equitable infrastructure development.

INTRODUCTION

Development is a planned transformation process aimed at improving public welfare and quality of life, which is not only measured by economic growth but also by the equitable distribution of development outcomes (Fauzi, 2019; Rahmawati et al., 2024). It is stated that development must be equitable because the development process does not begin simultaneously in all sectors of the economy. Development is a complex phenomenon, and in some cases social and demographic progress can precede economic growth, as noted by Arthur Lewis (Premdas & St. Cyr, 1976). Optimal economic growth requires strong infrastructure support, because infrastructure can increase productivity, encourage investment, and stimulate regional economic activities (Winey, 2019). Infrastructure disparities are one of the main sources of development inequality, whereas the availability of adequate and evenly distributed infrastructure can increase production, create employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and improve overall community welfare (Sistara, 2021).

The availability of adequate infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges are essential for facilitating the mobility of goods and services, improving transportation efficiency, strengthening interregional connectivity, and creating economic opportunities such as increased production, job creation, and poverty reduction (Sistara, 2021; Rudolf, 2024). In addition, population size and the Human Development Index (HDI) also influence development disparities, as regions with larger populations or higher the Human Development Index levels tend to experience faster growth. In contrast, areas with smaller populations or lower human capital quality often lag. Population growth generates

positive impacts only when accompanied by improvements in human capital through education, health, and overall well being. Otherwise, disparities between regions may widen even further (Harahap, 2022).

HDI is a crucial factor in economic growth, as it influences population productivity and income regions with low the Human Development Index tend to be less productive and lag in development (Harahap, 2023). Inequalities in the Human Development Index and infrastructure further widen interregional disparities in income, resource access, and overall well-being. In West Java, despite its status as a significant development center, regional disparities remain evident, particularly between more advanced areas and the underdeveloped southern region. Although several policies have been implemented to accelerate development in Southern West Java, challenges in achieving equitable regional development persist (Nurahmani, 2022; Undang, 2022).

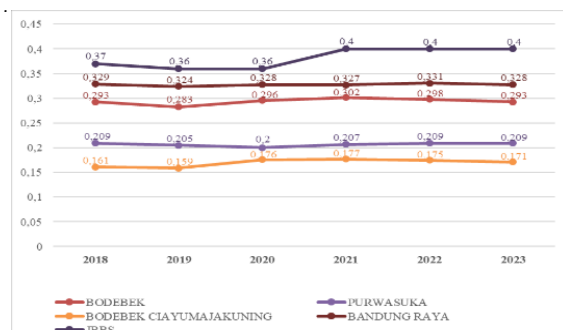
Development inequality refers to disparities in the level of development progress across regions, encompassing economic, social, and infrastructural aspects. According to Sjafrizal, inequality at the early stages of development is relatively natural because development activities tend to be concentrated in certain regions. However, in the long term, such disparities are expected to decline as the benefits of development spread more evenly across regions (Sjafrizal, 2008). In contrast, Jhingan argues that, in practice, development often widens disparities, as capital and labor are increasingly concentrated in more developed areas, while peripheral regions remain left behind (Jhingan, 2010). This condition, commonly referred to as the backwash effect, results

in limited investment access and inadequate public facilities in rural areas surrounding growth centers.

Public policy refers to a series of actions chosen by the government that have a significant influence or impact on society in fulfilling public needs (Handoko, 2012). In the context of integrated management of the Southern West Java region, while considering environmental carrying capacity and sustainability, the West Java Provincial Government enacted Regional Regulation Number 28 of 2010 concerning the Development of Southern West Java for the period 2010–2029. This regulation was established as a policy framework to support regional development in Southern West Java in a more integrated and sustainable manner.

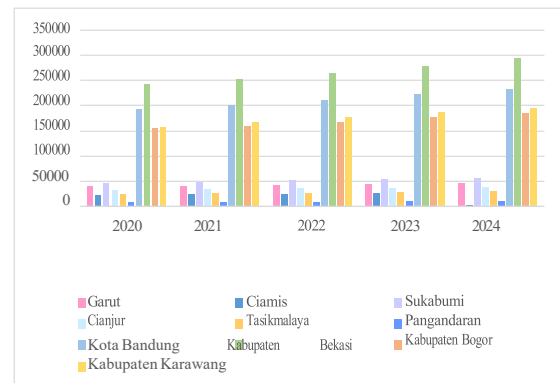
Regional Regulation (Perda) No. 28 of 2010 represents a strategic initiative of the West Java Provincial Government to accelerate development in the southern region through the strengthening of infrastructure and leading sectors based on local potential. However, its implementation has not yet been fully optimised, and development disparities between the northern and southern regions of West Java remain a major challenge. This condition is reflected in the inequality level in West Java Province, which reached 0.403 in 2020, exceeding the national average of 0.381. Such disparities are influenced by the diverse geographical characteristics across the western, eastern, northern, and southern parts of West Java (Government Regulation No. 87 of 2021). Furthermore, the West Java Provincial Spatial Plan (RTRW) 2009–2029 designates six development areas, namely Bodebek Puncur, Purwasuka, Ciayumajakuning, Priangan Timur, Sukabumi, and the Bandung Basin, each characterised by distinct development dynamics that collectively contribute to regional disparities.

Indeks Wiliamson Provinsi Jawa Barat



The Williamson Index over the past six years indicates that inter-district disparities in West Java are highest in the southern region of the province (Fatimah, 2020), which remains relatively underdeveloped compared with the northern areas. Although Southern West Java possesses substantial economic potential in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries with significant contributions from Garut, Cianjur, Pangandaran, and Sukabumi (BPS West Java Province 2023) these advantages have not been fully optimised due to inadequate infrastructure and production facilities (Suherman & Sugandi, 2021; Rizal & Nuruhwati, 2019). Economic growth, as reflected in increases in Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) (Sianturi, 2022), also does not necessarily translate into equitable development; in 2023, GRDP was heavily concentrated in only a few regions such as Bandung City, Bekasi Regency, and Bogor Regency, while other areas generated far less, resulting in persistent inequality (Nurahmani, 2022).

GRDP Chart of Southern West Java and Other Regions in West Java



Source :BPS West Java Province, 2025

The data in the figure indicate that the six districts within in the Southern Region of West Java continue to exhibit a substantial GRDP gap compared to other regions in West Java, influenced by variations in geographical characteristics, socio- cultural conditions, and natural resource availability. the Southern Region of West Java region is categorised as relatively underdeveloped due to morphological constraints, high disaster vulnerability, differences in natural resource potential, suboptimal infrastructure provision, and insufficient development budget allocation (Nurahmani., 2022). These disparities contribute to lower the Human Development Index outcomes, which indicate the population's educational attainment, health status, and purchasing capacity (Aini, 2016), as presented in the table

Human Development Indeks

Regency	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sukabumi Regency	66,88	67,07	68,87	67,71	70,18
Ciamis Regency	70,49	70,93	72,52	73,12	73,64
Pangandaran Regency	68,06	68,28	70,21	70,57	71,03
Garut Regency	66,12	66,12	67,41	69,22	69,91
Tasikmalaya Regency	65,67	65,90	68,45	69,38	69,98
Cianjur Regency	65,36	65,56	67,55	68,18	68,89

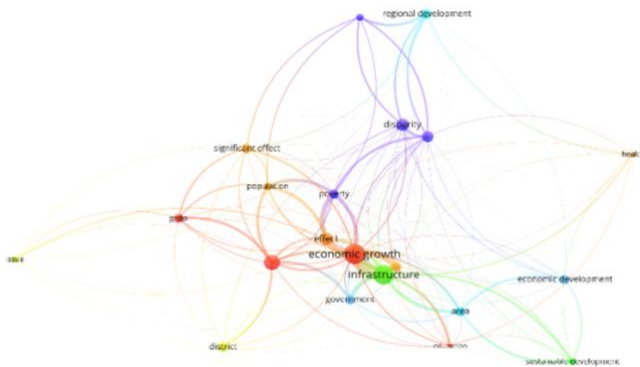
Over the past five years, the Human Development Index in the Southern Region of West Java region has increased but not significantly, and it remains within the "medium" category according to UNDP standards, placing it behind most districts and cities in West Java. In The Sourthen West Java consistently dominates the lowest HDI rankings in the province, with Cianjur, Tasikmalaya, Garut, and Sukabumi identified as the four districts with the lowest the Human Development Index scores. Before 2021, districts within in the Sourthen West Java had also consistently occupied the lowest HDI positions, reflecting the region's ongoing lag in human development (Nurahmani, 2022).

This study aims to analyze the leading sectors that can drive regional economic development and to examine the determinants of regional development inequality in Southern West Java. Although West Java Province has shown significant development progress, regional disparities remain relatively high, particularly in Southern West Java.

This study also provides quantitative analysis that produces evidence that can be extended and complements previous

research conducted in developed and developing countries, such as the United Kingdom, China, and India (McCann, 2020; Sehgal, V., 2024; Xiaosu Ye, 2017). Thus, this study expands the empirical basis for understanding development inequality and the factors that influence it in both developed and developing countries.

Figure 1 illustrates a bibliometric map generated from the literature on inequality, its determining factors and leading sectors, highlight that the primary focus of the studies is on development inequality.



The issue of development inequality is multidimensional, as it involves economic, social, spatial, institutional, and environmental aspects. Therefore, inequality cannot be understood or addressed through a single approach alone. Consequently, addressing this issue requires comprehensive, integrated policies, such as developing leading sectors to strengthen the economy, equitable infrastructure development, and improving the quality of human resources. This issue is not only present in Indonesia but also occurs in other countries. A study from Serbia (Grbic, 2026) emphasizes that reducing inequality requires an integrated approach based on regional potential to promote sustainable growth. Southern West Java offers an interesting case study because it has unique regional characteristics compared to the northern region, particularly in terms of natural resource potential, economic structure, and geographical conditions. However, the economic structure of Southern West Java remains dominated by the primary sector, with relatively low added value, resulting in slower economic growth than in the northern region of West Java, which has developed through industrialization. In addition, the largely mountainous topography, along with limited transportation infrastructure, means that interregional connectivity remains suboptimal. These conditions make Southern West Java a region with significant economic potential but still facing challenges in achieving equitable development and reducing regional disparities.

Southern West Java has diverse geographical conditions, socio-cultural characteristics, and natural resource availability. This study aims to analyse the leading sectors that can promote regional economic development and to examine the determinants of regional development inequality in Southern West Java. Although West Java Province has demonstrated significant development progress, regional disparities remain relatively high, particularly in the Southern West Java region. This study seeks to address the following research questions:

1. Which leading sectors are feasible to be developed in order to improve the economic conditions of communities in each region of Southern West Java?

2. How do economic growth, road infrastructure conditions, population growth, and the Human Development Index (HDI) influence regional development inequality in Southern West Java?

The significance of this study is both academic and practical. Academically, this research contributes to the literature on regional inequality through an integrative approach that combines the analysis of leading sectors and the determinants of inequality using the Location Quotient (LQ), Shift-Share, and panel data regression methods. Practically, the findings of this study are expected to provide recommendations and policy considerations for the government in formulating more inclusive development policies, particularly through the development of leading sectors, equitable infrastructure development, improvement of human resource quality, and strengthening regional connectivity in Southern West Java. The integrative approach in this study combines leading sector analysis and the determinants of regional inequality within a unified analytical framework. Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift-Share analyses are employed to identify leading sectors with comparative advantages and regional competitiveness. At the same time, panel data regression is used to examine the effects of factors such as economic growth, infrastructure, population, and the Human Development Index (HDI) on regional inequality. Meanwhile, the spatial approach emphasises that regional characteristics, including geographical conditions, interregional connectivity, and regional economic structures, influence development. In the context of Southern West Java, this approach is particularly important because the region is characterised by mountainous topography, limited infrastructure, and a dominant primary sector, which contribute to development disparities compared to the more industrialised northern region of West Java. Therefore, this study provides a more comprehensive and contextual analysis to support more inclusive and equitable regional development policies.

METHOD

Southern West Java was selected as the research location due to its high dependence on natural resources and its persistent regional disparities. Despite its economic potential, particularly in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors, development in the region remains constrained by limited infrastructure, uneven development distribution, and geographical challenges. Therefore, this study aims to identify leading sectors that can support regional economic growth and to analyze the determinants of regional inequality in Southern West Java.

This study primarily employs secondary quantitative data obtained from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), and other related institutions. The panel dataset covers six regencies in Southern West Java during the period 2020–2024, resulting in 30 observations. Regional inequality, measured using the Williamson Index, serves as the dependent variable, while economic growth, road infrastructure, population, and the Human Development Index (HDI) are used as independent variables.

This study applies Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift-Share analyses to identify leading sectors and evaluate sectoral competitiveness, followed by panel data regression to examine the determinants of regional inequality. The Fixed Effect Model (FEM) was selected because each regency possesses distinct characteristics that may influence regional disparities. The model

selection was further supported by the results of the Chow test and Hausman test, which indicate that FEM is the most appropriate model for this study. The detailed relationship between the research objectives, the data types used, the analytical techniques applied, and the study's outputs is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Matrix of the Relationship between Research Objectives, Data Types and Sources, and Analysis Methods

Objectives	Data Type	Data Sources	Analysis Method
1. To analyze the leading sectors that are feasible to be developed in each region in Southern West Java (JBBS)	Secondary data	Statistics Indonesia (BPS)	Location Quotient (LQ) Analysis and Shift Share (SS) Analysis
2. To identify the determinants of inequality, including the effects of economic growth, population, road condition, and Human Development Index (HDI) on development inequality	Secondary data	Statistics Indonesia (BPS)	Panel Data Regression Analysis with Fixed Effect Model

Location Quotient (LQ)

Location Quotient (LQ) analysis constitutes a comparative analytical approach designed to evaluate the relative significance of a particular sector or industry within a given region by benchmarking its contribution against the corresponding contribution at the national scale. This analysis can also be applied to identify leading agricultural commodities by utilising agricultural production data (Faqih, 2021). At its core this technique offers a relative assessment by contrasting the performance of a specific sector within the study region with that of the same industry in a wider reference area. Consequently, LQ analysis enables the identification of distinctive regional characteristics. Accordingly, this method allows for the

identification of the specific characteristics and comparative advantages of each area. The formula is as follows:

$$LQ = \frac{vi/vt}{Vi/Vt}$$

Note

vi : the GRDP value of district i

vt : the total GRDP value of all sectors in district i

Vi : the total GRDP of district i within West Java Province

Vt : the total agricultural commodity value in West Java Province

A leading commodity is defined as a commodity with an LQ value greater than 1, indicating that it is a base (specialized) commodity with strong potential for development. Such commodities are considered highly prospective to be expanded as industrial raw materials, contributing to regional economic growth

Shift share

Shift-share analysis is a quantitative analytical method widely applied to investigate changes in a region's economic structure in relation to the economic structure of a higher level

administrative area serving as a benchmark. As formulated by Soepomo (1993), cited in Faqih (2021), the general shift-share equation and its constituent components are presented as follows.

$$Dij = Nij + Mij + Cij$$

$$Nij = Pij \cdot Rn$$

$$Mij = Pij (Rin - Rn)$$

$$Cij = Pij (Rij - Rn)$$

Where Rij, Rij, and Rin represent the growth rate of the Southern West Java region and the growth rate of West Java Province, each of which is defined as follows:

$$Rij = (P^*ij - Pij)/Pij$$

$$Rin = (P^*in - Pin)/Pin$$

$$Rn = (P^*n - Pn)/Pn$$

Note:

i : The sector being studied

j : The regional variable being analyzed (Regencies in Southern West Java)

Dij : the net change recorded for sector i across the Regencies of Southern West Java.

Nij : the growth of sector i observed in the Regencies of Southern West Java.

Mij : the industry mix (structural composition) effect for sector i in the Regencies of Southern West Java.

Cij : the competitive (comparative advantage) effect of sector i in the Regencies of Southern West Java.

Pij : regional gross value of sector i in the Regencies of Southern West Java during the base period.

P*ij : regional gross sector value of sector i in the Regencies of Southern West Java at the end of the study period.

Pin : baseline production value for sector i at the West Java provincial level (base year).

P*in : end period production value for sector i at the West Java provincial level (final year).

Pn : baseline aggregate production value for West Java (all Each growth rate can be defined as follows:

Rn : Total growth rate of sector i in West Java in the base year

Rin : Total growth rate of sector i in West Java in the base year

Rij : Total growth rate of sector i in the Regencies of Southern West Java in the base year

Net shift results from the aggregation of the proportional growth effect and the regional share effect, resulting in a net shift value that can be used to identify the growth of agricultural sector commodities. If the net shift (PBij) > 0, then the growth of commodity i in Southern West Java falls into the advanced or progressive category (positive value), which can be formulated as follows:

$$PBij = Mij + Cij$$

Note :

PBij : Net shift of sector i in the regencies of Southern West Java

Mij : Industrial mix component of sector i in the regencies of Southern West Java

Cij : Competitive advantage component of sector i in the regencies of Southern West Java

Table Criteria for Determining Leading Sectors as Basic Sectors in Southern West Java

Agricultural Commodities	Analysis Method	Criteria for Leading Commodities
Business field sectors (2010 series, 17 business sectors)	Location Quotient (LQ)	LQ > 1 (Basic Commodity)
Shift Share Analysis (SSA)	Net Shift (PBij) > 0 with a positive criterion (+)	

Panel data regression is an analytical approach that employs time series observations of the same unit across multiple time (all sectors combined, final year)

periods to capture both temporal dynamics and cross sectional characteristics. Cross sectional data, on the other hand, consist of several or many objects observed at a single point in time. Panel data refer to a dataset formed through the integration of time series and cross sectional information. In essence, such data are derived from cross sectional units that are observed repeatedly across multiple time periods for the same entities (Gujarati, 2003). This forms the basis of the panel data regression model.

$$KP_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PE_{it} + \beta_2 JLN_{it} + \beta_3 JP_{it} + \beta_4 IPM_{it} + e_{it}$$

KP = Development inequality

PE = Economic development based on GRDP data for region i in year t

JLN = Road quality (road stability score for region i in year t)

JP = Population (population size of region i in year t)

IPM = Human Development Index for region i in year t

β_0 = Intercept

β_1 to β_3 = Coefficients e = error term

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identifying Leading Sectors in Southern West Java

This study examines leading sectors using the Location Quotient (LQ) analysis. A base sector is an economic sector capable of exporting its output to other regions. These export activities bring income flows from outside the region into the local area, thereby becoming a key driver of regional economic growth. This aligns with the view that local economic development contributes to community welfare by improving regional economic performance (Grbic, 2026). In the Southern West Java region, there are 17 base sectors, which include agriculture; extractive industries (mining and quarrying); manufacturing; utilities (electricity and gas); water supply and sanitation services (including waste management); construction; trade (wholesale and retail); transportation and warehousing; accommodation and food service activities; information and communication; financial services; real estate; business services; public administration; education; health services; and various other service activities.

Meanwhile, leading sectors in Southern West Java possess comparative and competitive advantages, enabling them to drive regional economic growth and development. In Southern West Java, several sectors such as agriculture, plantations, capture fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, and mineral mining play major

roles in regional development (Novianty, 2020). Therefore, identifying leading sectors is important to support policy formulation and the optimal utilization of regional resources. The results of the calculation of leading sectors in the Southern West Java region are presented in the following table.

No		location quotient (LQ) dan shift share analysis (SSA)													
		Garut		Ciamis		Sukabumi		Cianjur		Tasikmalaya		Pangandaran			
		LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA	LQ	SSA
1	A.	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif
2	B.	Basic	Negatif	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Negatif	Non Basic	Negatif	Non Basic	Negatif
3	C.	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
4	D.	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
5	E.	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
6	F.	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif
7	G.	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif
8	H.	Non Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif
9	I.	Basic	Positif	Basic	Negatif	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif
10	J.	Non Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
11	K.	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
12	L.	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif
13	M,N.	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif
14	O.	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif	Basic	Negatif
15	P.	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif
16	Q.	Non Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif
17	R,S,T,U.	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Negatif	Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif	Non Basic	Positif

The Location Quotient (LQ) analysis shows with an LQ value greater than 1 ($LQ > 1$) are considered base (leading) sectors in Southern West Java. These sectors are dominated by agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; transportation and beverage services; real estate and property activities; education services; and health and social services. Significant contributions from Garut Regency, Tasikmalaya City, Ciamis Regency, Tasikmalaya Regency, and Pangandaran Regency further strengthen these sectors. In relation to this, within the Southern West Java region particularly Garut Regency there is considerable economic potential, especially in the agricultural and agroindustry sectors. The agricultural sector has played an important role in regional economic development. The contribution of this sector to local government revenue has consistently been the highest compared to other sectors. Key agricultural potentials include rice, corn, vegetables, and plantation products such as rubber and others (Pradana et al., 2020).

Furthermore, **Cianjur Regency**, one of the regions in West Java Province, has a comparative advantage in the agricultural sector, so its economic growth largely depends on agriculture. The agricultural sector has become the base sector that meets domestic needs and can also supply other regions during the period from 2016 to 2020. Meanwhile, non-agricultural sectors such as manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, accommodation services, and real estate are also considered leading products in Cianjur Regency, as indicated by LQ values greater than 1. These sectors are base sectors that strengthen the regional economy of Cianjur Regency in meeting local needs and exporting to other regions (Wibisonya, 2021).

Similarly, Sukabumi Regency shows a comparable pattern in the agricultural sector. Sukabumi Regency is one of the regencies in West Java Province with an area of 4,146 km². The agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector is among the most promising in the region. In 2021, the harvested area of wetland rice fields in Sukabumi Regency reached 135,331 hectares with a total production of 758,114 tons. Leading commodities in Sukabumi Regency include Chinese cabbage (petsai), bananas, ginger, and gladiolus flowers for horticulture; rice for food crops; and rubber and coconut for plantation crops (BPS, 2022).

The agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector is also a significant contributor to Sukabumi Regency's economy during the 2017–2021 period. The contribution of this sector in 2017–2021 was 19.26%, 18.94%, 18.67%, 19.8%, and 18.88%, respectively. These percentages made the sector the second-largest contributor to the regional economy of Sukabumi Regency in 2017–2019 and the largest contributor in 2020 and 2021 (Amanina, 2024).

Furthermore, Tasikmalaya Regency has promising economic potential. This can be seen from the growth of several economic sectors that show significant changes in Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) growth, considering the capability of economic sectors that serve as references for economic implementation within the community. The leading sectors with significant growth are agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, as well as wholesale and retail trade, including motor vehicle and motorcycle repair. In particular, the economic structure of Tasikmalaya Regency is oriented toward agriculture, which accounts for an average of 36.07% of the regional economy. Favorable natural resources and environmental conditions influence this high contribution in Tasikmalaya Regency (Prasetyo, 2022).

Another leading sector with significant growth in Tasikmalaya Regency is wholesale and retail trade, including car and motorcycle repair. This sector contributed approximately IDR 3.1 trillion and increased to IDR 4.6 trillion by 2021. This indicates that the sector is one of the largest contributors to the regional GRDP. In West Java Province, the wholesale and retail trade sector, including car and motorcycle repair, increased from IDR 139 trillion in 2010 to IDR 221 trillion in 2021, based on accumulated GRDP at constant prices (BPS, 2021).

Meanwhile, Pangandaran Regency is one of the maritime regions located in West Java. Initially, Pangandaran was a district within Ciamis Regency before being expanded and officially established as a new autonomous region on October 25, 2012. As a regency, Pangandaran has significant potential, particularly in fisheries and marine tourism. The fisheries sector includes aquaculture, capture fisheries, and fish processing industries. Meanwhile, Pangandaran's marine tourism sector features several tourist destinations that have become major vacation spots for people in West Java (Setianingsih, 2020).

In contrast to several other regions in Southern West Java, Ciamis Regency has a different leading base sector, namely real estate. This category includes rental activities, agencies, or intermediaries in the sale or purchase of real estate, as well as other real estate services conducted either on one's own behalf or on behalf of others under contractual agreements. Housing development in Ciamis has received full support from the local government through the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Service Office (DPMPTSP). This indicates that property investment in Ciamis is considered attractive and profitable for investors. The second-highest base sector is agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. The presence of this sector is considered highly strategic because Ciamis Regency still has an agrarian-based regional management system. The third leading sector is transportation and warehousing (BPS, 2022).

The leading sectors in Southern West Java include several priority sectors, namely agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; transportation and warehousing; accommodation and food services; real estate; education services; and health and social services. These sectors are strengthened by regions such as Garut, Tasikmalaya Regency, Ciamis Regency, Tasikmalaya City, Banjar

City, and Pangandaran Regency. In addition, agriculture, plantations, capture fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, and mineral mining are considered key sectors for development (Undang, 2022).

These findings are consistent with field research results obtained from the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) of Garut and Tasikmalaya Regencies, which emphasize that these sectors serve as the main pillars of the local economy. In most areas of Southern West Java, agriculture and fisheries remain the primary sources of livelihood for the community. This condition also aligns with the development policy direction for Southern West Java, as stipulated in West Java Provincial Regulation Number 28 of 2010 concerning the Development of the Southern West Java Region for the period 2010–2029. In this regard, the potential leading commodities in Southern West Java are presented in the following table.

Table 9. Leading Commodities in Southern West Java

No	Location	Potential Leading Commodities
1	Pangandaran	Coconut, cattle, sheep, capture fisheries and marine resources, leading coastal tourism attractions
2	Banjarsari	Production forests and community forests (teak, mahogany, sengon wood), coconut, coffee, cocoa, horticulture
3	Cikalong	Livestock (beef cattle), community forests (timber products), capture fisheries and marine resources
4	Karangnunggal	Forestry (mahogany and sengon wood), local fruits (mangosteen, tomatoes, bananas), capture fisheries and marine resources
5	Songhilir	Forestry (timber, mahogany, sengon), dryland agriculture (coffee, mangosteen)
6	Cikajang	Plantations (tea, coconut), secondary crops and vegetables, forests (timber)
7	Pamengpeuk	African wood, sengon, coconut, bananas, capture fisheries, livestock, coastal tourism attractions
8	Cisewu	Plantations (coconut), secondary crops (corn)
9	Sindangbarang	Sheep, cattle, coconut, capture fisheries and marine resources, black sand mining, coastal tourism
10	Sukanegara	Forestry (timber, mahogany, sengon), tea plantations, livestock (cattle, sheep)
11	Sagaranten	Cattle, sheep, secondary crops (peanuts), plantations (rubber, salak), forestry (sengon wood)
12	Jampang Kulon	Peanuts, soybeans, cattle, sheep, capture fisheries and marine resources, Ujunggenteng coastal tourism
13	Jampang Tengah	Sheep, peanuts, rubber and tea plantations, leading tea plantation tourism attractions
14	Palabuhanratu	Rubber, coconut, sheep, capture fisheries and marine resources, leading coastal tourism attractions

Sumber: Kementerian PPN/Bappenas 2024

Leading commodities in Southern West Java are dominated by the agricultural sector in a broad sense, including plantations, fisheries, livestock, food crops, horticulture, and community forestry. The advantages of these commodities vary across regions according to their geographical characteristics. Coastal areas tend to excel in fisheries and coconut production, highland areas

in tea, coffee, and rubber plantations, while dryland areas are more suited for secondary crops and livestock. Although these commodities have significant potential, their development has not yet been fully optimized as a driver of local regional economic growth.

Therefore, the development of leading commodities needs to consider human capital, which plays an important role in increasing innovation, productivity, and competitiveness through education and health. In addition, downstream development and strengthening the value chain of leading sectors, as well as improving infrastructure connectivity to increase accessibility between regions for the mobility of goods, are important strategies to improve community welfare, create employment opportunities, strengthen regional competitiveness, and support equitable and sustainable development.

The literature indicates that local economic development is influenced by various interrelated factors, such as demographics, local economic conditions, the business environment, infrastructure, and regional and national policies (Swinburn et al., 2006). Furthermore, Wong (2002) categorizes the factors of local economic development into traditional factors and intangible factors, which include aspects such as location, infrastructure, human capital, finance, knowledge, quality of life, and institutional capacity. Empirical studies also show that the main determinants of local economic development include human capital, financial capital, infrastructure capital, social capital, management capital, environmental capital, and cultural capital, all of which play roles in enhancing innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity, social cooperation, and the utilization of local resources (Vorodam et al., 2023). Overall, local economic development requires a holistic and integrated approach that considers regional potential and characteristics in order to promote sustainable growth and reduce regional inequality.

Although regional development policies have placed considerable emphasis on strengthening leading sectors in Southern West Java, their implementation still requires further refinement to ensure that the benefits of development are distributed more evenly across regions. West Java Provincial Regulation Number 28 of 2010 has normatively positioned the development of leading sectors and infrastructure improvement as key regional priorities; however, the growth of potential sectors tends to be more optimal in areas that already have better infrastructure, connectivity, and economic activity. Meanwhile, several regions with substantial resource potential continue to face limitations in developing their local economic capacity. A relatively similar condition can also be observed in the implementation of Government Regulation Number 87 of 2021, which focuses on strengthening strategic areas and economic growth centres. While this approach has been effective in promoting regional competitiveness and attracting investment, it still requires a more balanced emphasis on local economic development, particularly in regions with relatively limited accessibility and infrastructure. As a result, several potential sectors in Southern West Java, such as agriculture, fisheries, agroindustry, and tourism, continue to encounter challenges related to industrial downstream development, distribution connectivity, and broader access to markets and investment. Therefore, the development of leading sectors should be accompanied by a more inclusive development approach through equitable infrastructure distribution, strengthened regional connectivity, and increased local economic value-added in order

to promote more sustainable and balanced regional economic growth

Analyzing the Influence of Economic Growth, Road Stability, Population Size, and the Human Development Index on Inequality in Southern West Java

Panel data regression constitutes the central analytical method employed in this study. In panel data analysis, it is essential to determine the appropriate estimation model beforehand to obtain the most suitable model for econometric analysis. The estimation model testing is conducted using two methods, namely the Chow test and the Hausman test.

Chow Test Result

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	5.066156	(5,14)	0.0074
Cross-section Chi-square	24.790802	5	0.0002

With a Cross-Section F p-value of 0.0074, the Chow test indicates significance at the 5% level because the value is below

0.05. This suggests that unit-specific unobserved heterogeneity is statistically relevant, thereby favoring the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) rather than the pooled (Common Effect) specification. Overall, this outcome aligns with the view that regional inequality patterns may serve as an indicator of development dynamics and progress (Robertus, 2023)

Hausman Test Result

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	25.299594	4	0.0000

With a cross section random effects p-value of 0.0000, the Hausman test shows significance well under the 0.05 threshold. This result strongly rejects the random-effects specification and, accordingly, supports the Fixed Effect Model as the more appropriate approach for the present analysis. Across Southern West Java, this study explores the extent to which development disparities are influenced by economic growth, road infrastructure stability, population size, and the Human Development Index. The analysis employs predetermined statistical data and utilises regression analysis to determine the extent to which these variables affect regional development disparities, as presented in the following section.

Panel Data Regression Results.

	Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
X1	Economic growth	-4.54E-05	1.35E-05	-3.359071	0.0047
X2	Population Size	-0.000802	0.000198	-4.055621	0.0012
X3	Road quality	6.73E-05	1.74E-05	3.865622	0.0017
X4	Human development index	0.039154	0.014245	2.748668	0.0157

below 0.005, indicating that each variable significantly affects regional development inequality in the Southern Region of West Java. The first influential variable is road stability, which shows a positive coefficient. This finding is noteworthy, as improvements in road quality are associated with increased regional inequality. This occurs because road quality improvements are concentrated

mainly on provincial and national roads in certain areas, while inter district connecting roads in the Sourthen West Java remain in poor condition. Consequently, infrastructure development is unevenly distributed, thereby exacerbating regional disparities.

The second influential variable is economic growth, which has a negative coefficient. This indicates that higher per capita Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) is associated with lower levels of regional inequality, suggesting that stronger economic growth tends to promote a more equitable distribution of development. The third variable, the Human Development Index, exhibits a positive coefficient. Although this result appears contradictory, it implies that improvements in the Human Development Index occur more rapidly in already developed

regions with better access to education and healthcare facilities, which are predominantly urban.

Finally, the fourth influential variable, population size, has a negative coefficient. This suggests that more densely populated regions experience a more even distribution of development. This condition may be attributed to more evenly distributed infrastructure and the necessity for public services to reach broader segments of the population, accompanied by increased employment opportunities

The Influence of Economic Growth on Development Inequality in the Southern Regional of West Java

The analysis indicates that economic growth has a negative effect on development inequality in the Sourthen West Java region. This means that higher levels of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) are associated with lower levels of development disparity. In other words, increasing economic activity tends to promote a more even distribution of development across regions. These findings are consistent with the study of (Zusanti., 2020), which found that economic growth contributes to reducing regional inequality in Java. Theoretically, the relationship between economic growth and inequality is closely related to the dynamics of regional development. (Simionescu et al., 2020) argue that interregional disparities such as inequalities in human resources, structural imbalances in the economy, and other negative trends can slow down economic growth. Therefore, when economic growth is accompanied by more balanced economic activities across regions, regional development disparities can be reduced.

Furthermore, (Lübker.,2007) demonstrates that high levels of inequality are often associated with lower economic growth. This occurs because significant inequality tends to increase demands for income redistribution and higher taxation, which may ultimately discourage investment and hinder economic activity. Consequently, reducing inequality becomes an important factor in fostering sustainable economic growth. In addition, (Sermagambet et al., 2022) emphasize that interregional socio-economic inequality can hinder the effectiveness of regional development if it is not accompanied by inclusive development policies. Therefore, economic growth should be supported by policies that expand access to economic resources, infrastructure, and employment opportunities across regions. In this way, economic growth not only increases regional output but also contributes to reducing development disparities and promoting more equitable welfare distribution among regions.

The Influence of Population Size on Development Inequality in the Sourthern Regional of West Java

The analysis demonstrates that population size has a negative impact on development inequality in the Sourthen West Java region, indicating that a growing population can reduce inequality when accompanied by improvements in human capital quality. This aligns with Harahap (2022), who notes that population growth supports economic development only when followed by better human resources, while unaccompanied growth risks widening income gaps. Similarly, Arif and Wicaksani (2017) emphasize that an increasing population without corresponding human capital development heightens job competition, increases unemployment, and ultimately exacerbates regional inequality.

The Effect of Road Quality on Development Inequality in the Southern Regional of West Java

Various factors, such as infrastructure and accessibility, influence differences in regional development. In the Indonesian context, regional inequality remains a significant issue, as reflected in the dominance of economic activities on Java Island, which contributes the largest share to the national economy (Suparman & Muzakir., 2023).

In line with this, the findings of this study indicate that improvements in road quality have a positive effect on development inequality in the Sourthen West Java region. This condition represents an anomaly, as improved road conditions are theoretically expected to reduce inequality; however, the opposite occurs. This situation arises because infrastructure development has not been evenly distributed, with most road improvements concentrated in relatively more developed areas, while lagging regions continue to face limited accessibility. Such disparities in infrastructure access lead to an uneven distribution of development and ultimately reinforce interregional inequality, as also noted by (Ashar.,2023). This finding is consistent with Rahmadhani's (2018) study, which argues that government-led road development has not been implemented optimally, as infrastructure expansion has yet to reach remote and rural areas. Road development has primarily been concentrated in urban centres and sub-district capitals, while isolated villages and hamlets remain inadequately connected.

In theory, however, well developed road infrastructure has significant potential to reduce transportation costs, improve interregional connectivity, expand access to public services, and stimulate growth in key economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and investment (Bappeda Jabar., 2020; BPS., 2021; Simorangkir., 2022). Increased regional connectivity enables more efficient mobility of goods, services, and labor, which, in turn, can stimulate economic activity in previously less developed areas.

These conditions indicate that regional development policies still need further strengthening to achieve more equitable development outcomes. West Java Provincial Regulation Number 28 of 2010 has provided a strategic framework for the development of the Southern West Java region; however, in practice, infrastructure development and investment have tended to progress more rapidly in areas with relatively better accessibility and economic activity.

A similar pattern can also be observed in the implementation of Government Regulation Number 87 of 2021, which focuses on strengthening strategic areas and economic growth centres. While this approach is effective in promoting regional economic growth, it also requires greater attention toward underdeveloped regions to ensure that the benefits of development are distributed more evenly. Consequently, several peripheral areas continue to experience limitations in connectivity and access to public services compared to more developed regions.

Theoretically, road infrastructure development plays an important role in improving interregional connectivity, reducing transportation costs, and stimulating the growth of productive sectors (Bappeda Jabar, 2020; BPS, 2021; Simorangkir, 2022). Therefore, a more balanced distribution of infrastructure development is essential to support inclusive and sustainable regional development.

The Influence of the Human Development Index on Development Inequality in the Southern Regional of West Java

Human capital plays a crucial role in determining income distribution and economic growth, although in many studies it is often proxied by educational indicators due to the difficulty of measuring it directly (Galor, 2005; 2012). In line with this, regional inequality is also influenced by the quality of human resources, as well as differences in location, demographics, and cultural factors (Rusnak et al., 2023).

In this context, the findings of this study indicate that the Human Development Index (HDI) has a positive effect on development inequality in the southern region of west java. This occurs because improvements in human capital remain concentrated in more advanced regions such as Greater Bandung, Bogor, Depok, and Bekasi, while the Sourthen West Java region continues to lag behind in access to education, healthcare, and overall welfare. These disparities in human resource quality provide high HDI regions with advantages in attracting investment, enhancing productivity, and generating greater employment opportunities, thereby widening interregional disparities.

These findings are consistent with Ashar (2023), who demonstrates that the concentration of HDI in specific regions tends to exacerbate regional inequality. Furthermore, Awaludin (2021) emphasizes that development cannot progress optimally without strengthening human capital as its fundamental foundation. Therefore, although the HDI in the Sourthen West Java has shown an upward trend in recent years, its level remains below the national average, indicating the need for more inclusive and equitable human development policies. Such efforts should include improving access to education, expanding healthcare services, and strengthening human resource capacity comprehensively, thereby promoting more balanced regional development and sustainably reducing interregional disparities.

These findings indicate that improvements in the Human Development Index (HDI) do not fully reflect an equitable distribution of development quality across regions. In implementing West Java Provincial Regulation Number 28 of 2010, efforts to enhance human resource quality have formally become part of the regional development agenda. However, HDI progress is more rapid in areas that already have relatively better educational, healthcare, and economic infrastructure. As a result, the Southern West Java region continues to face challenges in

achieving a more balanced improvement in human development quality.

A similar pattern can also be observed in the implementation of Government Regulation Number 87 of 2021, which emphasises the strengthening of strategic areas and economic growth centres. While this approach is effective in enhancing regional competitiveness, it may also contribute to disparities in human development capacity across regions if not accompanied by more affirmative interventions for areas with relatively lower HDI levels. Regions with stronger human resource quality tend to be better positioned to attract investment, increase productivity, and capitalise on economic opportunities compared to regions that still experience limited access to education and healthcare services.

Therefore, improvements in HDI should not only be viewed as an indicator of successful human development but should also be accompanied by more equitable access to and quality of basic public services to ensure that the benefits of development are distributed more inclusively across regions.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that Kutai Kartanegara Regency possesses significant tourism potential through its rich natural attractions, culture, and local historical heritage, which can serve as the region's destination identity. However, the development of tourism marketing still faces various challenges, particularly limitations in digital infrastructure, low human resource capacity, and the suboptimal integration of promotion based on local cultural values. On the other hand, the advancement of digital technology, the growing trend of experience-based tourism, and the region's proximity to the Nusantara Capital City provide strategic opportunities for regional tourism development. Therefore, the integration of digital technology and local wisdom has become the primary strategy for enhancing competitiveness, strengthening destination branding, and supporting sustainable tourism development in Kutai Kartanegara Regency.

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of leading sector identification and the determinants of development inequality in the Southern West Java region. The empirical findings indicate that the economic structure of Southern West Java remains predominantly dominated by primary sectors, particularly agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. This condition suggests that the development of leading sectors based on local potential requires greater attention in order to optimize their role in driving regional economic growth. Therefore, development strategies should be directed toward agricultural downstreaming, strengthening agro-based industrialization, and enhancing integrated regional connectivity to accelerate structural transformation and reduce development disparities.

Furthermore, the results reveal that all examined variables, namely road condition, economic growth, Human Development Index (HDI), and population, have significant effects on development inequality in Southern West Java. Road condition has a positive effect on inequality, indicating that road infrastructure development remains uneven and tends to be concentrated in particular regions. In contrast, economic growth has a negative effect, implying that increases in regional GDP per capita contribute to reducing development inequality. Meanwhile, HDI has a positive effect, suggesting that improvements in human capital tend to occur more rapidly in already developed regions. Population also has a negative effect,

indicating that areas with higher population density tend to experience a more equitable distribution of development, supported by better infrastructure and broader access to public services.

The findings of this study provide several important implications for regional development policy formulation. First, the government needs to promote more equitable infrastructure development, particularly interregional connecting roads, rather than focusing predominantly on national and provincial roads. Second, the development of leading sectors should be directed toward strengthening value chains through downstream processing and resource-based industrialization in order to generate higher economic value-added. Third, improving the quality of human capital should be implemented more evenly through expanding access to education and healthcare services, particularly in less developed regions. Fourth, development planning should consider population distribution by ensuring equitable provision of infrastructure, public services, and employment opportunities. Therefore, development policies in Southern West Java should adopt an integrated place-based development approach oriented toward reducing regional disparities.

In the context of regional policy, the findings also indicate the need to strengthen the implementation of West Java Provincial Regulation Number 28 of 2010 so that the development of Southern West Java is not solely concentrated on economic growth centres, but is also capable of expanding development equity to peripheral regions. In addition, the implementation of Government Regulation Number 87 of 2021, which emphasizes the strengthening of strategic areas and investment, should be balanced with a more inclusive development approach, particularly through equitable regional connectivity, strengthening local economic capacity, and improving human resource quality. Thus, these policies should not only function as instruments for promoting regional economic growth, but also as mechanisms for reducing interregional disparities and supporting more sustainable and inclusive regional development.

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CRedit authorship contribution statement

Ayu Hartanti contributed to the conceptualization of the study, methodology development, investigation, data analysis, and preparation of the original manuscript draft. Tanti Novianti dan Dedi Budiman Hakim was responsible for formal analysis, supervision, validation of the research findings, and manuscript review and editing..

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest, whether financial, personal, professional, or institutional, that

could have influenced the conduct of this research, the analysis of the data, the interpretation of the findings, or the preparation of this manuscript.

Ethical Statement

This study was conducted in accordance with established ethical principles for research involving human participants. All participants were provided with a comprehensive explanation of the study's objectives, procedures, potential benefits, and data confidentiality before voluntarily providing informed consent. Participants' identities and personal information were kept strictly confidential and were used solely for academic and research purposes.

Data Availability

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Access to the data will be granted in accordance with applicable research ethics requirements while ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of the research participants.

Declaration of Generative AI Use

During the preparation of this manuscript, the authors used Grammarly, and QuillBot to assist with language editing, as well as to improve the clarity and readability of the manuscript. All content generated or suggested by these tools was carefully reviewed, verified, and revised by the authors. All intellectual contributions, including the conceptualization of the study, methodology, data analysis, interpretation of the findings, and preparation of the conclusions, were undertaken entirely by the authors. The authors assume full responsibility for the originality, integrity, and academic quality of this article.

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