

**ANALYSIS OF THE INEQUALITY OF GROSS REGIONAL DOMESTIC  
PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN CITY DISTRICTS WITH THE  
WILLIAMSON INDEX IN WEST JAVA PROVINCE IN 2017-2023**

**THESIS**



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BUSINESS SUNAN KALIJAGA STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
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BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SHARIA ECONOMICS**

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**MOTTO**

**“This Moment Will Just Be Another Story Someday”**

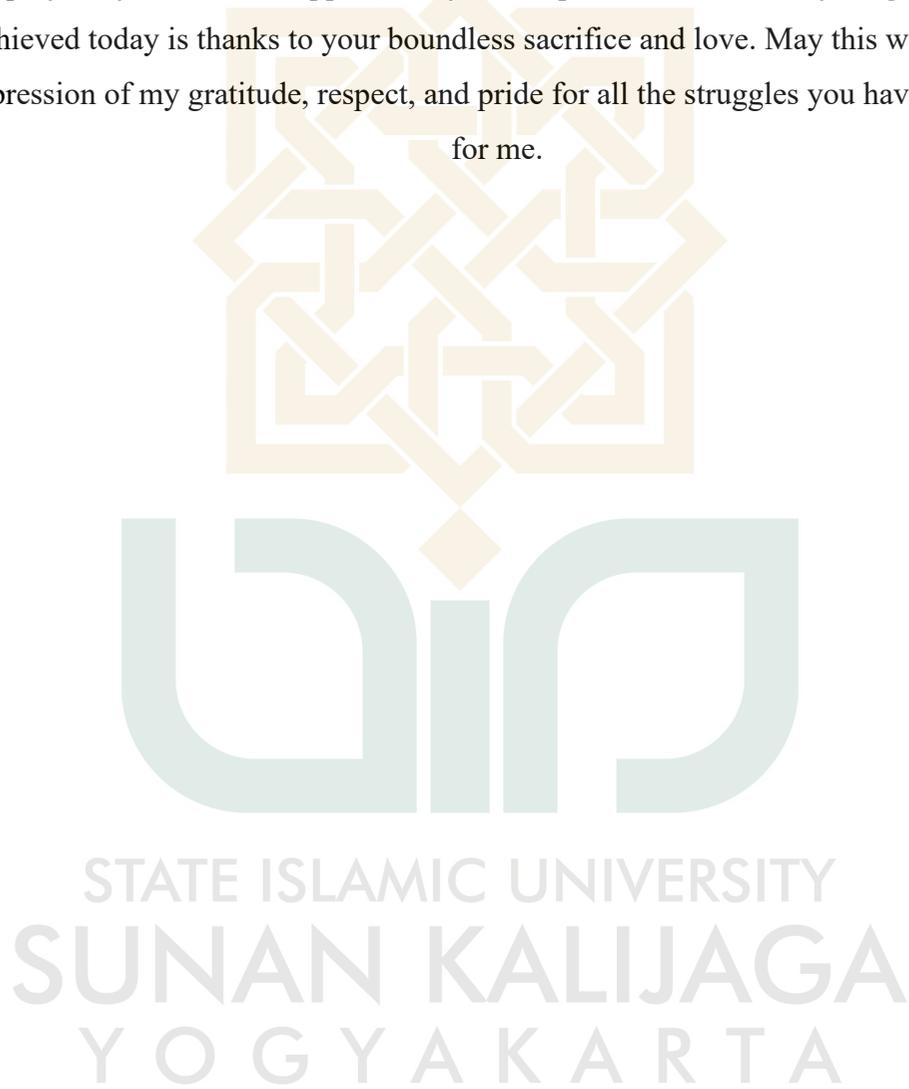


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The people who have always illuminated the path I walk. Thank you for your tireless prayers, your sincere support, and your irreplaceable love. Everything I have achieved today is thanks to your boundless sacrifice and love. May this work be an expression of my gratitude, respect, and pride for all the struggles you have endured for me.



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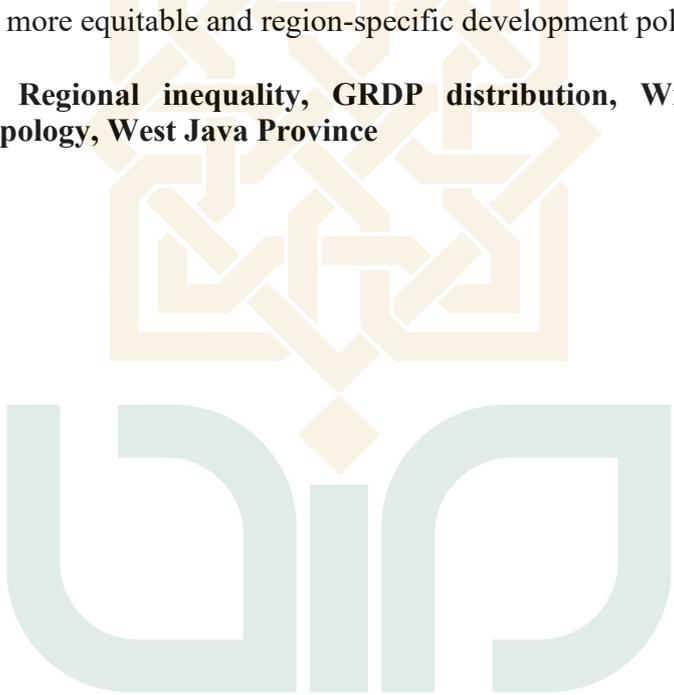
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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the inequality of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) distribution among regencies and cities in West Java Province during 2017–2023 using a quantitative descriptive approach with secondary data from BPS. The Williamson Index and Klassen Typology are employed to measure inequality and classify regional economic growth. The results show that GRDP distribution inequality in West Java remains relatively high and fluctuating, increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic and declining only slightly in the post-pandemic period. Northern regions with industrial and service-based economies consistently outperform southern regions that rely on agriculture. The study concludes that regional inequality is structurally driven by differences in economic structure, infrastructure, and the concentration of economic activities, indicating the need for more equitable and region-specific development policies.

**Keywords: Regional inequality, GRDP distribution, Williamson Index, Klassen Typology, West Java Province**



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## **CHAPTER I**

### **Introduction**

#### **A. Background**

Economic development inequality is a fundamental problem faced by many developing countries, including Indonesia. Although in the last two decades the national economic growth rate has been quite high, with GRDP growth reaching around 5% per year according to BPS data, the reality is that not all regions have benefited from development evenly Raharti et al., (2021). Some areas, especially remote and underdeveloped, still have difficulty accessing resources and economic opportunities. This inequality between regions not only has an impact on economic aspects, but also has a significant impact on social, political, and geographical aspects (Zasriati, 2022).

Public dissatisfaction with such inequality can lead to social tensions and conflicts, which in turn hinder broader development efforts. Research by Azim et al., (2022) shows that despite Indonesia's rapid economic growth, the uneven distribution of development results is still a major challenge. (Tayeb & Anwar, 2022) emphasizing that economic inequality is not only a statistical problem, but also a major obstacle to sustainable development. Addressing these issues is critical to ensuring the well-being of society as a whole and driving inclusive growth in the future.

Indonesia, as a vast archipelagic country with very diverse geographical and socioeconomic characteristics, faces its own challenges in distributing development evenly. Wahidin et al., (2022) It found that regional inequalities

are often caused by differences in access to infrastructure and investment between regions.

This creates a widening gap, where some regions receive more attention and resources, while others are neglected. (Sukardin, 2018) It also explains that uneven geographical conditions worsen access to basic public services, such as education and health. As a result, social and economic inequalities are increasingly stark, with people in remote areas often having difficulty meeting their living needs. In the context of regional development, the application of the principle of spatial equity is very important to ensure that no region is systematically left behind. This principle encourages more inclusive policy planning and implementation, so that all regions can benefit from development fairly and equitably.

West Java Province as one of the provinces that makes a significant contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product (GRDP), clearly reflects this inequality. (Aprianoor & Muktiali, 2015) stated that there is a striking gap between the rapidly developing northern region and the still underdeveloped south. This difference is not only seen from the economic aspect, but also from the opportunities available to the community in each region. A study conducted by Syaifudin et al., (2022) suggests that this difference is strongly related to the concentration of economic activity and the availability of adequate infrastructure.

The northern region, which consists of cities such as Bandung, and, has an advantage in terms of accessibility and a strong industrial base. On the

other hand, areas such as Ciamis or Pangandaran face major challenges in develop its economic potential. (Silviana & Tallo, 2020) He added that this inequality is also triggered by an imbalance in the allocation of development resources between regions. This creates a vicious cycle where already developed areas continue to get more investment and attention, while less developed areas are left behind. To address this problem, a more inclusive and equitable development strategy is needed to ensure that all regions in West Java can benefit equally from economic growth.

In addition, the economic structure in West Java is also not homogeneous. Based on research conducted by Perdana Perdana Mahadi et al., (2022), it seems that the northern region tends to rely on the manufacturing and services sectors, which support faster and more sustainable economic growth. These sectors, which are often driven by investment and innovation, provide more employment opportunities and increase people's incomes.

Meanwhile, the southern region is still heavily dependent on agriculture and natural resources. This dependence on the primary sector makes the region more vulnerable to economic fluctuations, such as changes in commodity prices and climate change that can disrupt agricultural yields. As a result, this less developed region has difficulty catching up with development, because its economic growth is slower and less stable than the northern region.

Inequality in this economic structure not only affects people's welfare,

but also poses great challenges to the planning and implementation of development policies. To create balance and foster inclusive growth, efforts are needed to diversify the economies of the southern region, so that they can develop new sectors that are more resilient to shocks and increase their capacity to participate in a more inclusive economy wide.

The inequality in the distribution of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) between districts/cities in West Java further clarifies the existence of a fairly deep structural inequality. (Muktiali, 2015) and Perdana Mahadi et al., (2022) noted that big cities such as Bandung, Bandung, and Depok have a much higher GRDP value than other districts. Pandemic COVID-19 has worsened the situation, as noted by (Development et al., 2023), which states that regions with high dependence on the informal sector are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Karlina, Taena La, (2023) It also emphasized that areas with weak economies have difficulty recovering after the pandemic. Therefore, there is an urgency to review the dynamics of inequality in this era of economic disruption.

This prolonged inequality can lead to social consequences such as over-urbanization, increased unemployment in underdeveloped areas, mass migration to developed areas, and social tensions due to glaring disparities. (Saputra, 2004) In his research, it was stated that inequality between regions can hinder the equitable distribution of welfare if it is not immediately overcome with policies based on equity. Fiscal policies and infrastructure development that are responsive to interregional inequality are key to the

national development agenda.

In analyzing inequality between regions, the Williamson Index is used as a descriptive indicator to illustrate patterns and levels of disparity in economic distribution across regions. This index compares the distribution of income to the amount of population, so that Capable show Level Inequality The occurs. Annajwa et al., (2017) uses the Williamson Index to test the distribution of income between districts in Yogyakarta, while (Abdiriyanto & Cita, 2022) apply it in the NTB region. Kedungsepur et al., (2020) also found that the index was effective in highlighting gaps between regions statistically.

However, most previous studies have not specifically examined the temporal trend of Williamson Index values during the pandemic and post-pandemic period. Wahidin et al., (2022) stated that longitudinal studies are still very limited, especially for the West Java region. In addition, there have not been many studies that evaluate the effectiveness of regional development policies on inter-regional inequality in depth. (Wangsaatmaja, 2023) highlighting the importance of integrating annual data to respond to post-COVID-19 development dynamics.

The period from 2017 to 2024 is a crucial period in the context of regional development. A study from (Saputra, 2004) shows that various economic recovery policies have not been optimal in reducing inequality between regions, especially in West Java. Several policies such as the allocation of Village Funds, the development of new industrial estates, and the development of digital infrastructure have been rolled out, but their

effectiveness in reducing inequality has not been systematically studied. In addition, post-pandemic economic dynamics have also given rise to new patterns of inequality that need to be mapped more deeply.

This research is present to answer the gap in previous studies by offering a novelty in the form of an analysis of GRDP inequality between districts/cities in West Java Province which is specifically focused on 2017-2023, which represents the post-pandemic economic recovery period and the implementation of strategic development policies. Using the Williamson Index, this study presents a factual portrait of the distribution of the regional economy and evaluates the relationship between inequality and the effectiveness of development policies as well as structural factors such as regional leading sectors, investment realization, and fiscal policy direction.

The results of this research are expected to make a scientific contribution to the regional economic literature and become a practical reference for the formulation of development policies that are contextual, evidence-based, and oriented towards equity and sustainability. This approach allows for more transparent, accountable, and responsive decision-making to the unique potentials and challenges of each region, in order to support inclusive and equitable development in accordance with the direction of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN).

## **B. Problem Formulation**

1. What is the classification of regional economic growth and economic structure between districts/cities in West Java Province during the 2017–2023 period based on the Klassen Typology?
2. How is the trend and level of inequality in the distribution of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) between districts/cities in West Java in the 2017–2023 period, measured using the Williamson Index?
3. What is the relationship between the results of the grouping of the Klassen Typology and the level of economic inequality shown by the Williamson Index?

## **C. Research Objectives**

The purpose of this study is to analyze the level of inequality in the distribution of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) between districts/cities in West Java Province for the 2017-2023 period. In addition, this study also aims to identify trends and patterns of inequality that occurred during the period 2017-2023, as well as to see how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the dynamics of economic distribution between regions. With the results of this analysis, it is hoped that this research can contribute to the formulation of more equitable and equitable economic development policies at the regional level.

## **D. Benefits of Research**

### 1. Theoretical benefits

This research is expected to contribute to the development of regional economic studies, especially those related to the analysis of development inequality between regions. Using the Williamson Index approach, this study adds academic insight in terms of measuring economic inequality based on GRDP information, while enriching the literature in the context of the West Java Province region. The findings in this study can also serve as the basis for the development of inequality analysis models in other regions, as well as expand understanding of the influence of infrastructure factors and leading sectors on regional growth.

### 2. Practical Benefits

#### a. For Local Governments

This research can be used as a consideration in formulating regional development policies that are more equitable and sustainable. Information on the level of inequality between districts/cities, as well as the sectors that play a dominant role in economic growth in developed and disadvantaged regions, is expected to help the government in formulating more targeted intervention strategies. By understanding which areas are left behind and what factors drive progress in other areas, development policies can be directed in a more structured and measurable manner,

especially in the equitable distribution of infrastructure and the distribution of development budgets.

b. For Related Agencies

Agencies such as Bappeda, Bapenda, and the Department of Industry and Trade can use the results of this study as a basis for evaluating and planning regional economic development. Findings regarding the contribution of leading economic sectors can be used as a reference in determining superior sectors that are suitable for development, both in areas with adequate infrastructure and those that are still lagging behind. In addition, this inequality analysis can also help agencies optimize regional potentials that have not been optimally utilized.

c. For Researchers

This research is expected to be a reference for other researchers interested in the issue of regional inequality, economic development, and measuring regional growth based on GRDP. With the coverage of the region and period 2017-2023, as well as a structured quantitative approach, the results of this research can be one of the sources of information and methodological inspiration for future research that raises similar themes in other regions or in different policy contexts. The purpose of this study is to analyze the level of inequality in the distribution of Gross Regional Domestic

Product (GRDP) between districts/cities in West Java Province for the 2017-2023 period.

In addition, this study also aims to identify trends and patterns of inequality that occurred during this period, as well as to see how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the dynamics of economic distribution between regions. With the results of this analysis, it is hoped that this research can contribute to the formulation of more equitable and equitable economic development policies at the regional level.

#### **E. Research Systematics**

The systematics of writing this thesis is compiled to make it easier for readers to understand the flow of thought, theoretical framework, and the results of the analysis of the problem being researched. The writing is divided into five main chapters that are interrelated with each other.

**Chapter I INTRODUCTION**, explains in sequence the reasons why this topic was raised. This section describes the background of the emergence of the problem of development inequality in West Java, followed by the formulation of the problem that is the focus of the research. It also describes the goals to be achieved and the expected benefits of this research, both in the context of scientific development and practical contributions to development policies. The conclusion of this chapter contains a brief explanation of the structure of each chapter's content.

**Chapter II, a Literature Review**, contains the theories underlying the research, such as the concept of regional inequality, economic development approaches, and methods of measuring inequality with the Williamson Index. This section also summarizes some of the previous research that is relevant as comparative material. At the end of the chapter, a framework is prepared that describes how theory and facts are interrelated in this study.

**Chapter III, Research Methodology**, presents an explanation of the research approach, the types and sources of data, as well as the techniques of data collection and analysis. This study utilizes **annual secondary numerical data** as **descriptive material** to examine and interpret patterns of regional inequality among districts and cities in West Java. The **Williamson Index** and **Klassen Typology** are employed as **analytical and descriptive tools** to support the interpretation of inequality patterns and regional contributions, rather than for inferential statistical testing. The descriptions in this chapter are systematically organized to ensure that the analytical process and the rationale for method selection can be logically and clearly understood.

**Chapter IV Results and Discussion**, presents the results of the data analysis collected. The following shows the calculation of the Williamson Index over the past six years and how the results reflect the inequality between the regions studied. The discussion was carried out by relating the findings to the theory and context of regional development policies that had been described earlier.

**Chapter V, Conclusion**, contains the main conclusions of the research

and some suggestions addressed to relevant parties, both policymakers and subsequent researchers. The conclusions are formulated based on field findings and discussions in the previous chapter, while the suggestions are focused on efforts to reduce inequality and more equitable regional development planning.



## **CHAPTER V**

### **Conclusions and Suggestions**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of the inequality of the distribution of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) between districts and cities in West Java Province for the 2017–2023 period using the Williamson Index and the Klassen Typology, several main conclusions can be drawn as follows.

The Klassen typology analysis provides a clearer picture of this imbalance by grouping regencies and cities into four distinct quadrants. The findings indicate that regions classified in Quadrant I dominate economic activity, supported by both relatively high growth rates and strong economic capacity, which enables them to function as regional growth centers. Conversely, a considerable number of regions are positioned in Quadrant IV, reflecting areas that face structural limitations and weaker economic foundations. Regions in Quadrant II and Quadrant III lie between these two extremes, representing areas with either strong economic bases but declining growth, or emerging growth that has not yet been matched by sufficient economic capacity.

The Williamson Index analysis confirms that regional economic inequality among regencies and cities in West Java Province during the period 2017–2023 remains a persistent issue. Economic activities and growth are not evenly

shared across regions, as development tends to be concentrated in a limited number of areas, while many other regions continue to grow at a slower pace.

Taken together, the results of the Williamson Index and Klassen typology analyses suggest that regional economic inequality in West Java is driven not only by differences in growth rates, but more fundamentally by structural disparities among regions. The dominance of high-performing regions in Quadrant I, alongside the continued presence of many regions in Quadrant IV, highlights a pattern of spatial economic polarization in which the benefits of development remain concentrated in specific areas over time.

## **B. Suggestions**

Based on the findings and conclusions of the research, the author provides some suggestions as follows:

### **1. Strengthening Potential Sectors in Developing Regions**

Districts/cities with the dominance of the Quadrant III (potential) sector need to be given greater support in order to transform into a leading sector. Local governments can strive for such as investment incentives for the creativity and tourism-based service sector, training and improvement of the quality of the workforce, provision of supporting infrastructure such as MSME centers and logistics facilities, optimization of these potential sectors not only increases regional GRDP but also reduces inequality between regions.

## 2. Revitalization of Pressured Large Sectors

In some regions, the dominant sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, or the processing industry are in Quadrant II (developed but depressed). Therefore, for this sector, modernization is needed through mechanization and environmentally friendly technology, increasing the value chain through product downstreaming. Greater access to financing for farmers, MSMEs, and small industry players, this revitalization policy will strengthen the competitiveness of large sectors so that it can support equitable economic growth.

## 3. Equitable Distribution of Infrastructure Between Regions

The regional inequality seen from the Williamson Index cannot be overcome without the equitable distribution of basic infrastructure such as roads and transportation connecting between regions, digital infrastructure (fast internet) especially for disadvantaged areas, education and health facilities. Areas with high inequality indexes need priority infrastructure development so that economic activities can develop faster.

## 4. Encouraging Regional-Based Investment

The West Java Provincial Government needs to implement an investment strategy based on regional excellence, such as industrial and technology investment in metropolitan areas, tourism and creative economy investment in mountainous areas, and modern agricultural sector investment in agricultural areas. This regional-based approach

will create new economic growth centers so that inequality can be reduced gradually.

#### 5. Strengthening the Fiscal Capacity of Disadvantaged Regions

Areas with low PAD tend to have difficulty catching up. Therefore, financial transfers from the center/province need to consider regional disparities, assistance in optimizing regional taxes and levies for disadvantaged districts/cities, and developing potential sector BUMD as a new source of income. With strong fiscal capacity, underdeveloped regions can improve the quality of public services and economic development.

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