



## **ANALYSIS OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS IN SOUTHEAST SULAWESI PROVINCE**

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### Abstract

*This research aims to analyze the level of regional disparity in socio-economic aspects in Southeast Sulawesi Province. Regional disparity is a condition of unevenness in economic development that affects the welfare of the community. The method used is quantitative analysis with secondary data from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Indonesia, including Gross Domestic Product Per Capita and other socio-economic indicators. The measurement results of the Williamson Index in the Southeast Sulawesi Province initially had a disparity level close to perfect (0.77) in 2012 and experienced a decline over the ten-year period to a moderate disparity level (0.48) in 2023. The Gini Index also indicates the presence of inequality but has decreased over the past 12 years, with a higher level of inequality in urban areas compared to rural areas. In addition, there are striking differences in per capita GRDP between districts, with Kendari City having the highest per capita GRDP. Regional disparities in Southeast Sulawesi Province occur due to the inability of the region to pursue development acceleration. This research also indicates the need for more inclusive policies to reduce disparities and improve the quality of life for communities in underdeveloped areas.*

**Keywords:** Regional disparity, Gini Index, Williamson Index, Klassen Typology

### A. Introduction

Economic development is generally defined as a process that leads to an increase in per capita income of a society's population in the long term. (Sadono, 1985). As the pace of development accelerates, new challenges emerge in developing regions in the form of regional disparities. Regional disparity is a condition of unevenness in economic development. This is evident with the presence of developed regions and underdeveloped regions (Muta'ali, L., 2015). This has an impact on welfare, in line with Arsyad's (1977) opinion that differences in the level of economic development between regions cause differences in the level of people's welfare.

The negative impact of disparity according to Todaro and Smith (2004) includes economic inefficiency, weakening social stability and solidarity, and is generally perceived as unjust. One of the main visions of regional planning is the realization of spatial justice, which is reflected in government regulations such as Law No. 26 of 2007, Minister of ATR/BPN Regulation No. 16 of 2021, and No. 1 of 2022, which regulate spatial planning and regional development fairly. Basically, Southeast Sulawesi has abundant natural resources and strong potential to enhance development in its region. However, empirically, this potential has not been felt evenly, and development is still concentrated in certain areas. This can be observed in the differences in per capita income of each district (BPS Provinsi Sulawesi Tenggara, 2024), as well as the high poverty rate (13.7%) and open unemployment rate (3.6%).

The objectives of this research are 1) to analyze the level of regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province; 2) to analyze the socio-economic aspects that experience disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province.

### B. Methodology

The method used to analyze regional disparities in socio-economic aspects employs quantitative analysis techniques using secondary data obtained through documentation from the Central Statistics Agency of Indonesia in the Southeast Sulawesi region. The data includes GDP, population, as well as literacy rates, education index, life expectancy index, and decent living index. Several steps in analyzing the research formulation are:

- 1) Analysis techniques to measure regional disparity using the Williamson Index and Gini Index equations;

$$I_w = \frac{\sqrt{\sum (Y_i - Y)^2 \frac{f_i}{n}}}{Y}$$

Where:

$I_w$  = Williamson Index

$Y_i$  = GDP per capita of region  $i$

$Y$  = Average per capita GDP of all regions

$F_i$  = The population in area  $i$

$n$  = Total population across all regions

Disparity Value Categories are as follows: perfect equality category (value 0.00), very low disparity category (ranging from 0.10 to 0.19), low disparity category (ranging from 0.20 to 0.35), moderate disparity category (ranging from 0.36 to 0.49), highly unequal category (ranging from 0.50 to 0.70), near-perfect disparity category (ranging from 0.71 to 0.99), and perfect inequality category. (value 1,00)

$$RG = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^k f_i(Y_i^* - Y_{i-1}^*)$$

Where:  
 GR = Gini Ratio  
 k = number of income classes  
 f<sub>i</sub> = percentage of the total population of all districts in class i  
 Y\* = cumulative percentage of total income of the community in all districts up to class i

Disparity Value Categories are as follows: perfect equality category (value 0.00), very low disparity category (ranging from 0.10 to 0.19), low disparity category (ranging from 0.20 to 0.35), moderate disparity category (ranging from 0.36 to 0.49), highly unequal category (ranging from 0.50 to 0.70), near-perfect disparity category (ranging from 0.71 to 0.99), and perfect inequality category. (value 1,00)

Source: Rustiadi, et al., (2011)

- 2) Analyzing the socio-economic aspects that experience disparity is done by;  
 a) measuring the level of economic development by calculating the per capita GDP of each region and comparing it with the average per capita GDP of all regions. The equation is written as follows:

$$GDP = C + G + I + (X - M)$$

$$GDP \text{ per capita of region} = \frac{GDP \text{ of Region}}{Population}$$

Where C, C, I, X, and M are consumption, government spending, investment spending, exports, and imports, respectively. Source: Statistics Indonesia (bps.go.id)

- b) measuring the level of human quality of life development with the Human Development Index (HDI) equation (Muta'ali, L.,2015);

$$IPM = \frac{1}{3} (Index X1 + Index X2 + Index X3)$$

Where X1, X2, and X3 are respectively the lifespan, education level, and standard of living.

The category of the Human Development Index (HD) is  
 Low: HDI < 60  
 Medium: 60 ≤ HDI < 70  
 High: 70 ≤ HDI < 80  
 Very High: HDI ≥ 80

- c) Mapping the development of each district area using the Klassen Typology analysis. In the Klassen Typology analysis, socio-economic elements are included, namely the HDI and per capita GDP variables in each area.

**Tabel 1.** Classification of regions according to Klassen Typology (Muta'ali, 2015)

Quadrant I Advanced Region (g <sub>i</sub> > g, g <sub>ki</sub> > g <sub>k</sub> )	Quadrant II Potential Region (g <sub>i</sub> < g, g <sub>ki</sub> > g <sub>k</sub> )
Quadrant III Developing Region (g <sub>i</sub> > g, g <sub>ki</sub> < g <sub>k</sub> )	Quadrant IV Underdeveloped Region (g <sub>i</sub> < g, g <sub>ki</sub> < g <sub>k</sub> )

Description :

g<sub>i</sub> = HDI Value of region i  
 g = Reference HDI Value  
 g<sub>ki</sub> = the percapita GDP value of region i  
 g<sub>k</sub> = reference per capita GDP value

## C. Findings and Discussion

### 1. Findings

#### 1.1) Analysis of the Williamson Index and the Gini Index

The Williamson Index for measuring disparity based on per capita GDP of each region shows that regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province generally shows a downward trend from 0.77 (near-perfect disparity) in 2012 to 0.48 (moderate disparity) in 2023, with an average of 0.53 during that period, still categorized as high disparity.

**Table 1.1a.** *The level of regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province*

Year	Williamson Index	Category
2012	0,77	disparity approaching perfection
2013	0,63	very high disparity
2014	0,59	very high disparity
2015	0,58	very high disparity
2016	0,49	moderate disparity
2017	0,66	very high disparity
2018	0,61	very high disparity
2019	0,44	moderate disparity
2020	0,49	moderate disparity
2021	0,48	moderate disparity
2022	0,47	moderate disparity
2023	0,48	moderate disparity
<b>Average</b>	<b>0,53</b>	<b>Disparity high</b>

Source: Analysis Results, 2024

The Gini Index in table 1.1b illustrates the inequality in income distribution among the population. The average Gini Index in Southeast Sulawesi Province for the urban and rural combined is 0.40, which falls into the moderate disparity category. However, there is a significant difference between urban and rural areas, where the urban average is 0.41 (high category) and the rural average is 0.36 (low to moderate category).

**Table 1.1b.** *The level of regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province*

Year	Gini Ratio in Southeast Sulawesi Province					
	Urban	Category	Rural	Category	Rural and Urban	Category
2012	0,42	moderate disparity	0,36	low disparity	0,40	moderate disparity
2013	0,46	moderate disparity	0,37	low disparity	0,43	moderate disparity
2014	0,45	high disparity	0,34	low disparity	0,41	moderate disparity
2015	0,41	high disparity	0,37	low disparity	0,34	moderate disparity
2016	0,41	high disparity	0,37	low disparity	0,40	moderate disparity
2017	0,40	high disparity	0,36	low disparity	0,39	high disparity
2018	0,42	high disparity	0,37	low disparity	0,41	high disparity
2019	0,41	high disparity	0,36	low disparity	0,40	moderate disparity
2020	0,40	high disparity	0,35	low disparity	0,38	high disparity
2021	0,41	high disparity	0,35	low disparity	0,39	disparitas moderat
2022	0,40	high disparity	0,35	low disparity	0,39	high disparity
2023	0,39	high disparity	0,34	low disparity	0,37	high disparity
2024	0,39	high disparity	0,33	low disparity	0,37	high disparity
<b>Average</b>	<b>0,41</b>	<b>high disparity</b>	<b>0,36</b>	<b>low disparity</b>	<b>0,40</b>	<b>moderat disparity</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data and Analysis Results, 2024

#### 1.2) The Level of Human Resource Development in each district

In tables 1.2a and 1.2b, it is shown that Kendari City has the highest HDI in Southeast Sulawesi Province (85.51) in 2023, categorized as very high. Other areas such as Kolaka Regency and Konawe Regency fall into the high category. Most areas are in the medium category with an average HDI of 68.07

**Table 1.2a** The level of human resource development across regions in Southeast Sulawesi Province

Year	Human Development Index							
	Buton	Muna	Konawe	Kolaka	Konawe Selatan	Bombana	Wakatobi	Kolaka Utara
2012	61,38	63,76	67,51	68,86	64,05	61,82	65,24	64,49
2013	61,83	64,67	68,23	69,55	65,02	62,82	66,50	65,35
2014	62,31	65,09	68,68	70,20	65,60	63,38	66,95	65,76
2015	62,78	65,99	69,56	70,47	66,32	63,65	67,22	66,90
2016	63,69	66,96	69,84	71,12	66,97	64,02	67,50	67,60
2017	64,47	67,61	70,24	71,46	67,23	64,49	67,99	67,77
2018	65,08	68,47	70,72	72,07	67,51	65,04	68,52	68,44
2019	65,67	68,97	71,29	73,01	67,88	65,65	68,99	69,91
2020	66,78	69,49	72,44	74,45	68,50	66,73	69,51	69,40
2021	67,12	69,64	72,58	74,56	68,88	66,93	69,90	69,60
2022	68,05	70,09	73,14	74,98	69,67	67,49	70,88	70,47
2023	68,96	70,62	73,88	75,73	70,64	68,02	71,45	71,11
<b>Average</b>	<b>64,84</b>	<b>67,61</b>	<b>70,68</b>	<b>72,21</b>	<b>67,36</b>	<b>65,00</b>	<b>68,39</b>	<b>68,07</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data, 2024

**Table 1.2b.** The level of human resource development across regions in Southeast Sulawesi Province

Year	Human Development Index								
	Butur	Konawe Utara	Kolaka Timur	Konawe Kepulauan	Muna Barat	Buton Tengah	Buton Selatan	Kendari	Baubau
2012	62,69	64,87	60,57	59,84	62,00	62,00	59,98	79,97	71,65
2013	64,20	65,54	61,78	61,15	62,49	62,29	60,64	80,91	72,55
2014	64,65	66,03	62,13	61,31	61,92	61,69	61,51	81,30	73,13
2015	65,23	66,44	62,74	61,72	62,29	62,13	62,00	81,43	73,59
2016	65,95	67,20	63,60	62,56	65,57	62,56	62,55	81,66	73,99
2017	66,40	67,71	64,55	63,44	63,43	62,82	63,20	81,83	74,14
2018	67,13	68,50	65,53	64,36	64,11	63,46	63,47	82,22	74,67
2019	67,68	69,22	66,49	65,05	64,45	64,06	64,37	82,86	75,21
2020	68,04	70,28	67,06	66,20	65,41	65,49	65,97	84,21	77,40
2021	68,25	70,66	67,79	66,52	65,81	65,67	66,02	84,83	77,75
2022	69,17	71,52	68,77	67,49	66,53	66,41	66,47	85,19	78,15
2023	69,85	72,11	69,61	68,11	67,44	66,94	67,19	85,51	79,00
<b>Average</b>	<b>66,60</b>	<b>68,34</b>	<b>65,05</b>	<b>63,98</b>	<b>64,29</b>	<b>63,79</b>	<b>63,61</b>	<b>82,66</b>	<b>75,10</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>High</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data, 2024

## 1.3) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita of each district region

The data in tables 1.3a to 1.3d show that there are significant differences in per capita GDP among districts. For example, in 2023, Kolaka District had the highest per capita GDP at Rp 83,025,780.00, while Central Buton District had only Rp 15,841,470.00.

**Table 1.3a.** GDP Percapita of each region

Tahun	Buton	Muna	Konawe	Kolaka	Konsel	Southeast Sulawesi
2012	17.429.617,58	15.907.311,27	21.431.042,56	85.684.404,12	15.500.000,00	23.359.719,41
2013	18.768.043,14	16.732.098,17	19.406.803,67	76.568.438,70	16.000.000,00	24.925.774,27
2014	22.862.040,28	18.331.721,84	20.597.647,53	74.605.344,80	16.500.000,00	27.116.171,21
2015	23.563.665,61	19.392.029,18	21.500.577,89	77.570.889,68	17.000.000,00	28.356.653,44
2016	24.262.144,50	20.206.505,70	22.265.034,63	61.637.426,19	17.500.000,00	28.685.791,04
2017	25.325.000,00	20.908.000,00	22.826.000,00	86.473.000,00	20.322.000,00	29.951.294,12
2018	26.154.000,00	21.723.000,00	24.794.000,00	89.403.000,00	21.407.000,00	32.127.176,47
2019	27.384.460,00	22.815.940,00	28.220.000,00	72.556.000,00	22.634.710,00	33.194.038,82
2020	24.178.670,00	21.610.970,00	28.832.120,00	77.046.000,00	21.867.460,00	33.040.798,24
2021	24.416.750,00	23.987.030,00	39.559.670,00	78.985.240,00	22.398.120,00	34.548.470,00
2022	25.423.650,00	25.012.710,00	34.643.140,00	79.884.270,00	22.862.240,00	5.064.250,00
2023	25.802.420,00	25.149.960,00	41.720.890,00	83.025.780,00	23.654.340,00	36.192.460,59
<b>Average</b>	<b>23.797.538,43</b>	<b>20.981.439,68</b>	<b>27.149.743,86</b>	<b>78.619.982,79</b>	<b>19.803.822,50</b>	<b>30.546.883,13</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data and Analysis Results, 2024

**Table 1.3b. GDP Percapita of each region**

Year	Bombana	Wakatobi	Kolut	Buton Utara	Konut	Southeast Sulawesi
2012	19.820.196,50	20.086.310,44	30.066.011,70	24.970.186,95	15.079.428,72	23.359.719,41
2013	20.785.820,96	21.555.797,74	31.766.027,30	26.752.011,33	36.558.990,96	24.925.774,27
2014	21.609.774,73	23.183.808,25	33.469.313,21	28.821.921,99	36.387.677,96	27.116.171,21
2015	22.553.501,33	24.913.617,94	34.854.448,28	29.579.618,26	36.480.636,60	28.356.653,44
2016	23.045.465,24	26.835.278,18	37.026.449,02	30.677.475,30	39.783.631,96	28.685.791,04
2017	23.786.000,00	28.383.000,00	38.697.000,00	32.085.000,00	41.334.000,00	29.951.294,12
2018	24.539.000,00	30.115.000,00	40.358.000,00	33.433.000,00	42.899.000,00	32.127.176,47
2019	26.499.820,00	30.204.680,00	42.215.970,00	35.699.650,00	45.344.980,00	33.194.038,82
2020	31.286.240,00	27.903.150,00	46.318.100,00	33.903.430,00	41.834.830,00	33.040.798,24
2021	31.880.470,00	28.563.750,00	46.674.460,00	34.857.970,00	43.806.970,00	34.548.470,00
2022	32.938.530,00	29.438.600,00	47.423.370,00	36.128.200,00	43.968.850,00	35.064.250,00
2023	33.778.120,00	30.262.710,00	48.342.830,00	36.552.830,00	45.174.780,00	36.192.460,59
<b>Average</b>	<b>26.043.578,23</b>	<b>26.787.141,88</b>	<b>39.767.664,96</b>	<b>31.955.107,82</b>	<b>39.054.481,35</b>	<b>30.546.883,13</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data and Analysis Results, 2024

**Table 1.3c. GDP Percapita of each region**

Year	Koltim	Konkep	Muna Barat	Buteng	Busel	Southeast Sulawesi
2012	10.500.000,00	8.530.000,00	15.500.000,00	1.401.000,00	33.840.000,00	23.359.719,41
2013	11.200.000,00	9.120.000,00	16.000.000,00	1.450.000,00	36.080.000,00	24.925.774,27
2014	12.000.000,00	27.330.000,00	16.500.000,00	1.483.000,00	38.500.000,00	27.116.171,21
2015	12.800.000,00	29.750.000,00	17.000.000,00	1.520.000,00	40.750.000,00	28.356.653,44
2016	13.500.000,00	32.260.000,00	17.500.000,00	1.483.000,00	42.900.000,00	28.685.791,04
2017	15.879.000,00	27.507.000,00	20.322.000,00	1.520.000,00	23.498.000,00	29.951.294,12
2018	16.337.000,00	29.138.000,00	21.407.000,00	17.128.000,00	24.587.000,00	32.127.176,47
2019	24.273.830,00	31.917.940,00	22.634.710,00	17.873.480,00	25.842.350,00	33.194.038,82
2020	26.964.660,00	28.372.060,00	21.867.460,00	14.930.020,00	21.334.840,00	33.040.798,24
2021	27.945.460,00	28.479.390,00	22.398.120,00	15.197.540,00	21.596.950,00	34.548.470,00
2022	28.765.440,00	28.862.370,00	22.862.240,00	15.539.390,00	22.067.220,00	35.064.250,00
2023	28.931.880,00	29.146.850,00	23.654.340,00	15.841.470,00	22.228.650,00	36.192.460,59
<b>Average</b>	<b>19.091.439,17</b>	<b>25.867.800,83</b>	<b>19.803.822,50</b>	<b>8.780.575,00</b>	<b>29.435.417,50</b>	<b>30.546.883,13</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data and Analysis Results, 2024

**Table 1.3d. GDP Percapita of each region**

Year	Kendari City	Baubau City	Southeast Sulawesi
2012	34.250.000,00	23.450.000,00	23.359.719,41
2013	36.150.000,00	24.800.000,00	24.925.774,27
2014	38.050.000,00	26.100.000,00	27.116.171,21
2015	39.900.000,00	27.500.000,00	28.356.653,44
2016	41.750.000,00	28.900.000,00	28.685.791,04
2017	39.990.000,00	35.787.000,00	29.951.294,12
2018	41.210.000,00	37.108.000,00	32.127.176,47
2019	43.844.850,00	39.881.270,00	33.194.038,82
2020	48.066.610,00	41.398.710,00	33.040.798,24
2021	48.894.750,00	42.439.000,00	34.548.470,00
2022	50.364.780,00	44.012.820,00	35.064.250,00
2023	51.081.420,00	44.835.310,00	36.192.460,59
<b>Average</b>	<b>42.796.034,17</b>	<b>34.684.342,50</b>	<b>30.546.883,13</b>

Source: BPS of Southeast Sulawesi Data and Analysis Results, 2024

#### 1.4) Typology Analysis of Klassen

The Klassen Typology Analysis includes the Human Development Index and per capita GDP indicators for each district to map the development of each district/city in terms of its socio-economic aspects. From the analysis results (tables 1.4a and 1.4b), changes in categories for several regencies/cities are observed during the 2012-2023 period. Regions such as Kolaka, Kendari, and Baubau have consistently fallen into the Advanced Region category (Quadrant I) since the beginning of the analysis period.

**Table 1.4a.** *The level of development of regencies/cities in Southeast Sulawesi Province*

Kabupaten	In 2012		In 2015		In 2018	
	Typology Analysis of Klassen		Typology Analysis of Klassen		Typology Analysis of Klassen	
	Quadrant	Description	Quadrant	Description	Quadrant	Description
Buton	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region
Muna	IV	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Konawe	II	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Kolaka	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Konsel	IV	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Bombana	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region
Wakatobi	IV	Potential Region	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Kolut	III	Developing Region	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Butur	III	Developing Region	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Konut	II	Underdeveloped Region	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Koltim	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region	II	Potential Region
Konkep	IV	Underdeveloped Region	III	Developing Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region
Mubar	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region
Buteng	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region
Buton Selatan	III	Developing Region	III	Developing Region	IV	Underdeveloped Region
Kendari	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Baubau	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region	I	Developed Region

Source: Analysis Results, 2024

**Table 1.4b.** *The level of development of regencies/cities in Southeast Sulawesi Province*

Kabupaten	In 2020		In 2023	
	Analisis Tipology Klassen		Analisis Tipology Klassen	
	Quadrant	Description	Quadrant	Description
Buton	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Muna	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Konawe	II	Potential Region	I	Developed Region
Kolaka	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Konsel	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Bombana	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Wakatobi	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Kolut	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Butur	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Konut	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Koltim	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Konkep	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Mubar	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Buteng	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Buton Selatan	II	Potential Region	II	Potential Region
Kendari	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region
Baubau	I	Developed Region	I	Developed Region

Source: Analysis Results, 2024

## 2. Discussion

### 2.1) Regional Disparities in Southeast Sulawesi Province

The results of the Williamson Index analysis in Table 1.1 reflect that although there has been a decrease in the level of disparity, significant differences still occur, which is in line with Kuznets, S (1955) statement that inequality tends to increase before eventually decreasing at higher levels

of development, but does not completely disappear. Districts with high per capita GDP such as Kolaka Regency and Kendari City tend to dominate, while South Buton, Central Buton, and West Muna lag far behind. The factors causing disparities in this region include; 1) the concentration of socio-economic activities in certain districts/cities such as Kolaka and Kendari, which have a more advanced industrial base and resources; 2) the limited infrastructure and economic access in underdeveloped areas, which aligns with the opinion of Rustiadi, et al.(2011). The decline in the Williamson Index may be related to efforts in infrastructure development and more equitable distribution of economic resources in recent years, although it is not yet optimal. Similarly, the analysis of the Gini Index in table 1.2 shows that the higher income disparity in urban areas reflects the concentration of income among a small group of society, especially in economic centers such as Kendari City and Baubau City. On the other hand, disparities in rural areas tend to be lower because income in these areas is more homogeneous. Friedmann, J (1966) explains that the disparity between the center and the periphery is part of the development process where the central region has advantages that are not easily matched by the periphery. Therefore, policies such as improving access to education, healthcare services, and job opportunities in rural areas are key to reducing disparities.

### *2.2) Development of Human Resource Development Level*

The development of human resource development levels also colors regional disparities in Southeast Sulawesi as shown in tables 1.2a to 1.2b. Differences in the Development Index are influenced by factors such as education, health, economic development, social empowerment, infrastructure, poverty reduction, and inequality (Bappenas, 2020). The Human Development Index (HDI) reflects the quality of human resources in a region. Sach, J.D (2005) emphasizes that per capita income is one of the main indicators in determining a country's welfare, which in turn affects the improvement of its citizens' quality of life. Higher income is often associated with the ability to finance healthcare, education, and infrastructure that supports community welfare. The Human Development Index in tables 1.2a, 1.2b, 1.3a to 1.3b shows a positive relationship between per capita GDP and the Human Development Index (HDI), indicating that regions with high GDP, such as Kendari City (in 2023), are associated with a very high HDI (85.5), while regions with low per capita GDP tend to have a low HDI as well. Thus, Kendari City, Kolaka Regency, and Konawe Regency demonstrate the highest level of success in developing educational, health, and economic infrastructure compared to other regions. On the other hand, districts such as South Buton, West Muna, and Central Buton require more intensive interventions to improve the quality of their human resources, not only prioritizing the economic sector but also sectors such as education and health. Human Development Report (2020) emphasizes the importance of not only prioritizing income but also expanding access to healthcare services, education, and economic opportunities. The concept of development focuses on sustainable and inclusive development, which not only prioritizes economic growth or income but also the development of human capacity to live healthy and productive lives. A similar point is also outlined by Stiglitz, J.E. (2002) that the factors influencing the HDI are not only related to per capita income but also encompass economic policies and globalization, income distribution, education and health, as well as social and economic empowerment.

The Human Development Index (HDI) can also positively influence per capita income, where regions with a higher HDI tend to have higher per capita income as well. This is in line with Barro's (2001) statement that improvements in HDI, particularly through advancements in the education and health sectors, will lead to higher labor productivity. This, in turn, will drive faster economic growth and increase per capita income.

### *2.3) Differences in Regional Economic Development Levels*

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita is one of the important indicators for measuring the economic welfare level of a region. The analysis of Per Capita Gross Regional Domestic Product (PDRB) in Southeast Sulawesi Province can provide a clear picture of income disparities between districts as well as the existing regional economic development. The differences in economic development of a region measured by Per Capita PDRB have a significant impact on regional disparities. (Williamson, J.G.,1965). Differences in regional per capita income conditions, as shown in tables 1.3a and 1.3d, create a clear disparity in income and access to economic resources across various regions. Kendari City, as the provincial capital, has a higher per capita GDP compared to other regencies. This is due to the concentration of more advanced economic sectors in the city, such as trade, industry, and services. Meanwhile, more remote districts or those with an economy predominantly based on agriculture or fisheries, such as Muna Barat, Buton Selatan, Muna, and

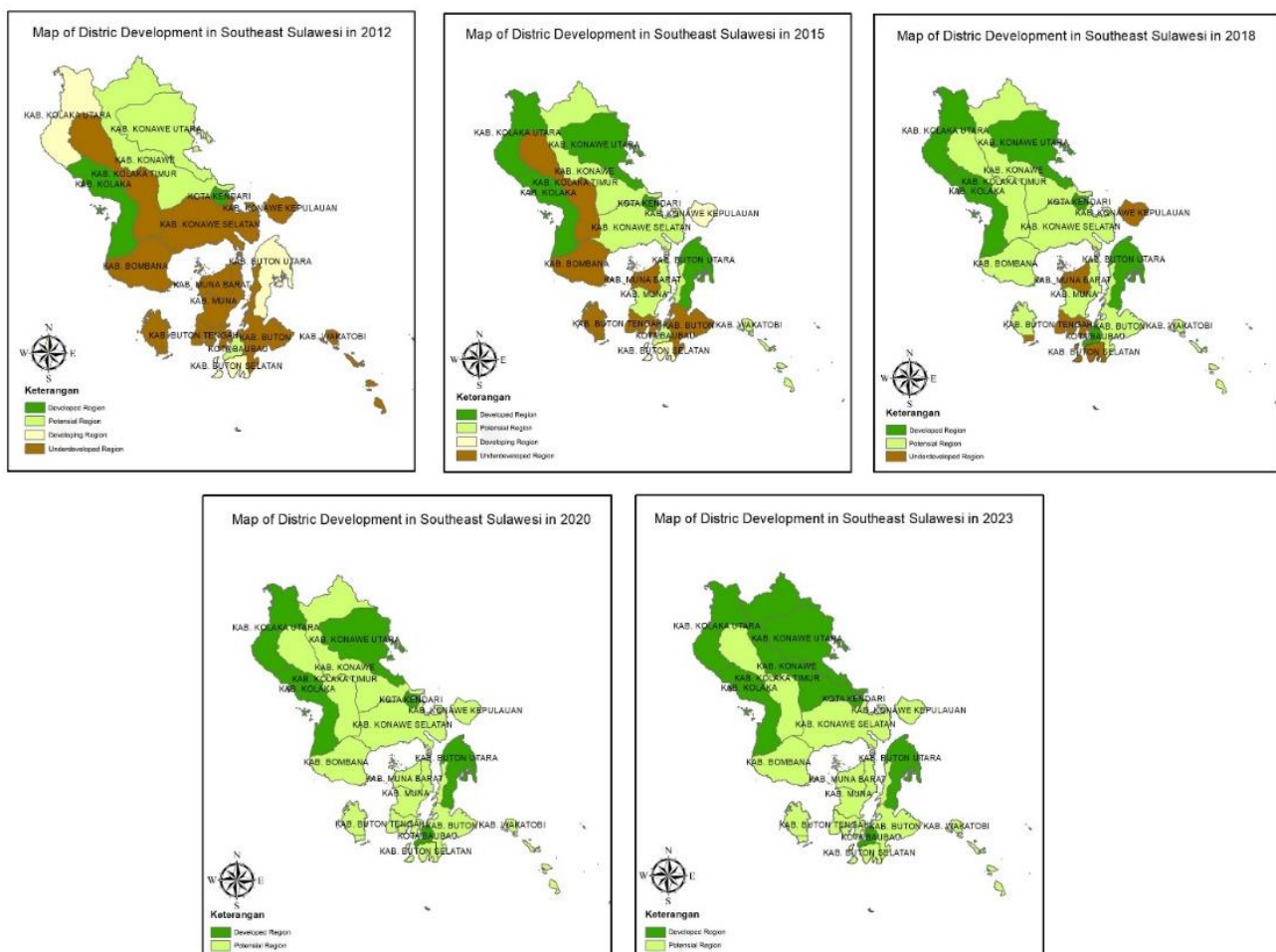
Buton, show lower per capita GDP figures. This is in line with Williamson's (1965) opinion that in the early stages of development, the concentration of economic activity in certain areas such as the capital or industrial centers significantly contributes to the National GDP, but this can widen the gap with other regions that do not directly benefit from development. This difference indicates the uneven development between districts. Regions with a high concentration of economic activities such as Kendari, Bau-bau, and Kolaka have better access to infrastructure, technology, and global markets, which tends to result in higher per capita GDP figures. It is advisable that relatively underdeveloped areas that rely on the primary sector such as agriculture or fisheries still face significant challenges in increasing their per capita GDP. Although per capita GDP provides an overview of the average income in Southeast Sulawesi Province, this data does not reflect an even distribution of income within the community.

The magnitude of per capita GDP in Southeast Sulawesi Province can reduce disparities if balanced with efforts to equalize development, improve the quality of education and infrastructure to enhance productivity and competitiveness in underdeveloped areas, by designing policies that support inclusive economic development so that the benefits of economic growth can be evenly enjoyed by all layers of society. This is reinforced by Drucker's (1994) opinion that policies supporting social innovation, such as improving education and strengthening infrastructure, can play a role in reducing social and economic disparities.

#### *2.4) Development of Each District's Region in Southeast Sulawesi Province*

The results of the data analysis in tables 1.4a and 1.4b clearly prove Muta'ali, L's (2015) opinion that regional disparity is a condition of economic inequality characterized by the presence of advanced and underdeveloped areas, where the districts of Kolaka, Kendari City, and Baubau City are in Quadrant I with per capita GRDP and HDI above the average of other regions, supported by strong economic growth and improved quality of life for the community. On the other hand, areas such as Buton Tengah, Muna Barat, and Buton Selatan are still classified as Underdeveloped Regions (Quadrant IV) during certain periods, indicating a lower per capita GDP and HDI compared to the regional average. Several districts experienced significant improvements during the period 2018-2023, such as Konawe Islands Regency, Muna Barat, Buton Tengah, and Buton Selatan, which initially fell into the category of Underdeveloped Areas but successfully became Potential Areas (Quadrant II). According to the opinion quoted from Bapennas (2020), this improvement indicates an economic enhancement accompanied by an increase in social indicators such as education, health, and community purchasing power. However, these potential areas still require attention to encourage economic growth and improve human resources so that they can transform into advanced regions. Districts such as Kolaka, North Kolaka, North Konawe, North Buton, and the city of Kendari have shown stable performance, categorizing them as Advanced Regions (Quadrant I) in recent years. This stability reflects the success in optimizing local economic potential, such as the management of natural resources, industry and services, as well as adequate infrastructure support. This is reinforced by the statement of Barro, R.J., & Sala-i-Martin, X. (1992) that regions with low per capita GDP have a higher economic growth rate compared to wealthy regions or countries regardless of structural characteristic differences, where all regions will eventually converge at the same income level.

The role of the government through the strengthening of development policies, such as improving access to education and health, also contributes to the increase in HDI and per capita GDP. Overall, the results of the Klassen Typology analysis indicate an improvement in regional conditions in Southeast Sulawesi, with an increasing number of areas transitioning to the Potential Region and Advanced Region categories. However, this improvement is not uniform across all regions, so government policies need to be directed towards reducing regional disparities by focusing on infrastructure development, economic investment, and enhancing the quality of human resources as the main keys to encourage underdeveloped areas to advance. This is in line with the statement by the World Bank (2009) that regional disparities are an unavoidable phenomenon in the development process, but they can be minimized through the active role of the government in underdeveloped areas, such as opening access to domestic and international markets, providing fiscal incentives and proactive policies to attract investors, building economic infrastructure such as industrial zones and affordable energy zones, and strengthening local resources.



Source: Analysis Results, 2024

## D. Conclusion

Based on the research results, the following conclusions can be drawn; (1) Regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province remains a major challenge, although the disparity trend is decreasing (Williamson Index from 0.77 to 0.48); (2) Advanced areas with per capita GDP and HDI show consistency in Quadrant I, while underdeveloped areas remain in Quadrant IV; (3) Regional disparity in Southeast Sulawesi Province occurs due to the inability of certain areas to accelerate development to be on par with more advanced areas; (4) Economic equality strategies need to be focused on areas with low GDP and HDI, especially through strengthening infrastructure, education, and the local economic sector.

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