

Exploring the Limits of Socioeconomic Characteristics in Explaining the Income of Hindu Communities in Areas Prone to Terrorism Issues

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Abstract

This study was motivated by the issue of terrorism in Indonesia, which has created uncertainty that has seriously impacted the economic welfare of the community, especially minority communities such as Hindus in Tambarana Village, Central Sulawesi. In this context, household income is an important indicator for understanding the economic resilience of vulnerable groups. This study aims to examine the influence of family dependents, family size, and work frequency on the income levels of Hindus affected by terrorism. This analysis can help to understand the income of the Hindu community as part of a larger ecosystem influenced by various socio-economic factors. This study uses a quantitative approach with a descriptive design and a cross-sectional model. Data collection techniques were carried out through a Likert scale questionnaire administered to 92 respondents selected using stratified random sampling. Data analysis was conducted using simple linear regression. The results indicate that the three independent variables do not have a significant impact on household income, with significance values above 0.05 and a model contribution of 1.9%. These findings suggest that demographic factors and work activities are insufficient to explain the income conditions of Hindu communities affected by terrorism. The study concludes that the economic resilience of minority communities is more influenced by structural, social, and cultural factors. Therefore, a multisectoral intervention strategy is needed that integrates cultural approaches, social support, and psychosocial recovery to strengthen the overall well-being of the community.

Keywords: Welfare; Hindu Community; Income; Family

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh isu terorisme di Indonesia telah menciptakan ketidakpastian yang berdampak serius terhadap kesejahteraan ekonomi masyarakat, terutama bagi komunitas minoritas seperti umat Hindu di Desa Tambarana, Sulawesi Tengah. Dalam konteks ini, pendapatan rumah tangga menjadi indikator penting untuk memahami ketahanan ekonomi kelompok rentan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji pengaruh jumlah tanggungan keluarga, jumlah anggota keluarga, dan frekuensi kerja terhadap tingkat penghasilan masyarakat Hindu yang terdampak isu terorisme. Analisis ini dapat membantu memahami penghasilan komunitas Hindu sebagai bagian dari ekosistem yang lebih besar yang dipengaruhi oleh berbagai faktor sosio-ekonomi. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan desain deskriptif dan model cross-sectional. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui kuesioner berbasis skala Likert kepada 92 responden yang dipilih menggunakan metode stratified random sampling. Analisis data dilakukan dengan regresi linear sederhana. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketiga variabel independen tidak memiliki pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap penghasilan rumah tangga, dengan nilai signifikansi di atas 0,05 dan kontribusi model sebesar 1,9%. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa faktor demografis dan aktivitas

kerja belum cukup menjelaskan kondisi penghasilan masyarakat Hindu yang terdampak terorisme. Penelitian menyimpulkan bahwa ketahanan ekonomi komunitas minoritas lebih banyak dipengaruhi oleh faktor struktural, sosial, dan budaya. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan strategi intervensi multisektor yang mengintegrasikan pendekatan budaya, dukungan sosial, dan pemulihan psikososial sebagai upaya memperkuat kesejahteraan masyarakat secara menyeluruh.

Kata Kunci: Kesejahteraan; Komunitas Hindu; Penghasilan; Keluarga

Introduction

In exploring the socio-economic characteristics that explain the income of Hindu communities in areas prone to terrorism, it is important to consider factors that influence the social, economic, and political conditions of these communities. The magnitude of the challenges faced by Hindu communities in these areas is closely linked to their livelihood patterns, social practices, and the impact of the contextualization of terrorism issues. It is important to strengthen the social and cultural bonds of Hindu communities through traditions that are an integral part of their identity (Wirawan, Widana, Sumertha, Kembarawan, & Sumada, 2024).

The results of the observation show the perspective of the Hindu community, which is a minority, that the social and economic impacts of terrorism are very complex, leading to limitations on activities to maintain safety, which in turn triggers social isolation and exacerbates economic instability within an already vulnerable community. In Tambarana Village, one of the areas directly affected by the threat of terrorism, this has created conditions that instill fear and anxiety, leading to a decline in economic activities among the Hindu community. Preliminary studies also confirm that the situation has worsened due to security advisories prohibiting residents from going to their farms, which are their primary source of income, thereby causing.

Terrorism-prone areas and unstable socio-political conditions can worsen the economic situation of communities by isolating them from broader economic support networks (Boratti, 2022; Yumitro, Kurniawati, Saiman, Prasetya, & Deniar, 2020). Furthermore, understanding ritual behavior among Hindu communities serves not only as a religious practice but also as a social mechanism that helps maintain stability in times of crisis (Maño & Xygalatas, 2022). Religious rituals and practices can serve as an important source of emotional and social support for communities when facing challenges, including the threat of terrorism. Terrorism is a serious threat to peace and security, which is linked to social stability and economic development in communities (Khudzaifi, Polyando, & Dione, 2024).

The uncertainty created by terrorism has led to economic instability in households in anticipation of a possible crisis (Kholid & Prayoga, 2023). In these circumstances, religious values can serve as a driver of socio-economic characteristics that enhance resilience in the face of disruption and threats (Samanta & Chattopadhyay, 2022; Tohari & Raya, 2021). Social support provided by the community should be encouraged to improve welfare conditions amid the challenges of terrorism (Rocha, Lanyon, & Peterson, 2022). Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of socio-economic constraints will help us understand the income of the Hindu community as part of a larger ecosystem influenced by various socio-economic factors. Thus, this study aims to examine the influence of the number of dependents, the number of family members, and the frequency of work on the income level of the Hindu community affected by terrorism.

Method

This study uses a quantitative descriptive model with a cross-sectional design through interviews using questionnaires. The study was conducted in Tambarana Village, North Poso Pesisir Subdistrict, from August to October 2024. The research location was chosen because it is one of the areas affected by terrorism and is home to several Hindu communities. The independent variables in this study are socioeconomic characteristics consisting of family dependents, number of family members, and frequency of work. Meanwhile, the dependent variable is family income. These variables were determined based on the results of observations that have been conducted and as aspects directly related to the issue of terrorism. The research sample was determined using a purposive sampling approach, where samples were taken from the total population (Hindu community) of 924 people, with 92 respondents selected (10% of the population) using a stratified random sampling approach to ensure proportional representation. The data analysis technique used was simple linear regression. The data analysis technique used is simple linear regression. This analysis was chosen because it is based on the research objective to measure and explain the effect of independent variables (certain socioeconomic characteristics) on one dependent variable. Data collection was conducted through interviews using a questionnaire instrument. The research instrument used a Likert scale. The variables measured consisted of independent variables, namely the number of dependents, number of family members, and frequency of work, while the dependent variable was the income level of Hindu households.

Results and Discussion

1. Number of Family Dependents

The number of dependents in this study is the number of families who are financially or in terms of their basic needs dependent on the respondents. This variable reflects the economic burden borne by the respondents and is often correlated with the level of welfare, as can be seen in table 1. The following;

Table 1. Distribution of the Number of Family Dependents

	Family Dependents			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 1-2 people	36	39,1	39,1	39,1
Medium 3-4	38	41,3	41,3	80,4
Valid people				
Lots \geq 4 people	18	19,6	19,6	100,0
Total	92	100,0	100,0	

Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 1 shows that most respondents (41.3%) have a moderate number of dependents (3-4 people), while 39.1% fall into the low category (1-2 people), and only 19.6% have a large number of dependents (\geq 4 people). These data indicate that most respondents' families have a moderate burden of dependents, with few families having a very large number of dependents.

2. Number of Family Members

Family members in this variable are individuals who live in the same household as the respondent and are related by blood and/or marriage, as can be seen in table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of the Number of Family Members

Number of Family Members					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Kecil 1-2 org	48	52,2	52,2	52,2
	Sedang 3-4 org	40	43,5	43,5	95,7
	Besar \geq 4 org	4	4,3	4,3	100,0
	Total	92	100,0	100,0	

Source: Primary Data 2024

The data in table 2 show that more than half of the respondents (52.2%) came from small families (1-2 people), followed by families with medium-sized members (3-4 people) at 43.5%. Large families (\geq 4 people) were the smallest group, only 4.3%. This indicates that the family structure in the study population is dominated by small to medium-sized families.

3. Working Frequency

Work frequency refers to how often respondents perform work activities within a certain period of time. This variable describes the intensity of an individual's involvement in work, as shown in table 3 below;

Table 3. Distribution Working Frequency

Working Frequency					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Low 1-2 hours	9	9,8	9,8	9,8
	Medium 3-4 hours	19	20,7	20,7	30,4
	High \geq 5 hours	64	69,6	69,6	100,0
	Total	92	100,0	100,0	

Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents (69.6%) have a high work frequency (\geq 5 hours), while those with a moderate work frequency (3-4 hours) account for 20.7%, and those with a low work frequency (1-2 hours) only 9.8%. These data reflect the high intensity of work among the study respondents.

4. Family Income

Family income refers to the total financial income earned by all members of a household after deducting fixed expenses during a certain period of time. This variable reflects the economic capacity of a family, which is often used as an indicator of welfare status.

Table 4. Distribution of Family Income Amount

Family Income					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Low 1-2 Million/ month	30	32,6	32,6	32,6
	Intermediate 2-3 Million/ month	51	55,4	55,4	88,0
	High \geq 4 Million/ month	11	12,0	12,0	100,0
	Total	92	100,0	100,0	

Table 4 shows that most respondents (55.4%) fall into the middle income category (2-3 million/month), followed by low income (1-2 million/month) at 32.6%, and high income (≥ 4 million/month) at 12%. This distribution shows that the economic characteristics of the respondents are dominated by the middle class.

5. Multivariate Analysis (Linear Regression)

Table 5. The Effect of Family Dependents, Number of Household Members, and Frequency of Work on Income

Variabel	Koefisien (B)	Std. Error	Beta	t-value	Sig.
(Konstan)	8.937	1.424	—	6.277	0.000***
Family dependents	-0.073	0.073	-0.108	-1.005	0.317
Number of family members	0.030	0.061	0.054	0.494	0.623
Working frequency	0.077	0.096	0.086	0.807	0.422
a. Dependent Variable: Family Income					
b. Predictors: (Constant), Frequency of work, Family dependents, Number of family members					

Source: Primary Data 2024

Note:

1. R^2 (R Square): 0.019 = Independent variable explains only 1.9% variation in Income.
2. Model Sig. (ANOVA): 0.647 = Model insignificant ($p > 0.05$).
3. $p < 0.05$ (statistical significance).

Based on the results of linear regression analysis presented in Table 5, it was found that the variables of family dependents, number of household members, and frequency of work did not have a significant effect on the income level of Hindu minority communities affected by terrorism. This is evident from the significance values of the three independent variables, all of which are above the 0.05 threshold, as well as the R^2 value of 0.019, indicating that the model can only explain 1.9% of the variation in income. Therefore, statistically, these three variables cannot yet be considered strong indicators in explaining the income conditions of the Hindu minority community affected by terrorism.

The insignificance of these results can be explained by considering the sociocultural and geopolitical context of the Hindu community that was the subject of this study. This community lives in an area prone to terrorism, which can cause unpredictable social and economic dynamics. For example, even if someone has many dependents and family members or works frequently, their income may remain low due to limited access to markets, decent jobs, or even social stigmatization faced by minority groups in the area. In this context, conventional socioeconomic characteristics are insufficient to comprehensively explain income levels. The theory of community resilience explains the capacity of a community to survive, adapt, and recover from social, economic, or environmental pressures or disturbances, such as conflict, disasters, or social marginalization. Community resilience is influenced not only by economic resources, but also by community involvement, social bonds, community cohesion, local leadership, and access to external support (Sutley & Lyles, 2023).

These results are important to note in the context of the research objective, which is to examine the effect of income on the welfare of the Hindu minority community. The low contribution of household variables to income suggests that there are other factors beyond demographics and work activities that have a more dominant influence on the welfare of this group. This finding is in line with research showing that socioeconomic

factors are often insignificant in predicting income among the minorities under consideration (Rosengren et al., 2019; Tang, Wu, Chen, Pan, & Yang, 2019; Venkataramani, Daza, & Emanuel, 2020). Previous research has also shown that overly simplistic statistical models often fail to explain the complexity of individual livelihoods in a social context (Coleman, Garriott, & Kosmicki, 2022; Kako Ouraga, 2022; Patel, Graham, & Chow, 2020).

This study is in line with Amartya Sen view of capability-based welfare theory, in which welfare is not only measured by income, but also by individuals' freedom to access resources that enable them to live a life they value (Sen, 1999). Other studies have reinforced this view by showing that non-physical achievements such as spiritual satisfaction have a significant influence on the well-being of Hindu clergy, while economic aspects are not always the main determining factor (Ayuningsasi & Sukadana, 2025). Furthermore, the Hindu community affected by terrorism in West Tolai faces challenges not only economically, but also socially and psychologically. The adaptation strategies that have emerged are mostly communitarian in nature, such as forming social solidarity or seeking alternative employment in the informal sector (Suparman & Yudistira, 2023). This finding reinforces that the socio-political context is more dominant in shaping welfare conditions than conventional household economic variables.

Gupta dan Kothe (2021) explains that pre-market discrimination such as barriers to accessing education and training contributes significantly to income inequality based on social identity, including caste and minority groups (Gupta & Kothe, 2021). In the case of Hindu communities experiencing post-terrorism stigma, low income may be due more to structural marginalization than to internal household factors.

Furthermore, these results are also in line with the study by Wahbi and Ariwibowo (2020), which states that income is not the only key indicator of family welfare; financial management and the quality of household relationships also play an important role (Wahbi, Syahrudi, & Ariwibowo, 2020). In the context of Hindu minorities affected by terrorism, psychosocial dynamics and community cohesion may play a greater role than simply the number of family members or frequency of work. From a cultural perspective, this shows that the practice of Hindu religious rituals also encourages local economic activity and strengthens community-based welfare (Sunariani, Sukarsa, Sri Budhi, & Marhaeni, 2015). This could be an opportunity for social intervention, where strengthening cultural and communal practices could support the economic recovery of vulnerable minority communities.

The relationship between income and welfare has also been explored in the context of farming, fishing, and laboring families by several studies. Arimawan and Suwendra (2022) show that consumption patterns and income management are more decisive for welfare than income size itself (Arimawan & Suwendra, 2022). Similar findings were also reported by Tikawati (2021), who emphasized the importance of women's role in improving household economic conditions (Tikawati, Norvadewi, & Raihanah, 2021). The effectiveness of income in improving welfare is highly dependent on management factors and access to sustainable economic opportunities (Haq, Asriati, & Syamsuri, 2024; Kadir, Panigoro, Sudirman, Hafid, & Damiti, 2025).

Thus, this study shows that the welfare of Hindu minorities after terrorism cannot be adequately explained by household microeconomic indicators alone. An interdisciplinary approach that includes structural, cultural, and psychosocial factors is important in formulating responsive and contextual policies.

Conclusion

Based on the objectives of this study, the results reveal that the variables of family dependents, number of family members, and work frequency do not significantly affect the income of Hindus affected by terrorism. These findings prove that this issue does not have a direct impact on communities experiencing systemic trauma, so that what is needed to maintain welfare is a policy that integrates the dimensions of security, justice, and psychosocial recovery. To address these findings, a multisectoral program combining assistance with social reconciliation and adaptive skills training is needed. Its implementation must involve collaboration between the government, religious leaders, and NGOs with culture-based strategies, such as building community cooperatives. This is essential because such integrated interventions not only restore income but also build long-term resilience to the multidimensional impacts of terrorism.

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