

# Examining the Effect of Poverty Alleviation Programs on Improving Community Welfare; Case Study in Serdang Bedagai Regency, Indonesia

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**Abstract.** The Central Statistics Agency recorded that the number of poor people was 48.22 thousand in Serdang Bedagai Regency, Indonesia. Poverty alleviation programs such as Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) and the Family Hope Program (FHP) are expected to improve the community's economy. The aim of the research is to examine the impact of poverty alleviation programs on community welfare. The results show that NCFA and FHP have an influence on community welfare. The FHP program has had a significant impact and is considered more targeted because it meets basic needs, basic insurance, basic social services, and aid for people with disabilities.

**Keywords:** Community Welfare, Family Hope Program, Non-Cash Food Aid, Poverty Reduction, Serdang Bedagai Regency

#### 1 Introduction

One of the problems that Indonesia still faces is poverty. The problem of poverty is complex and multidimensional, making it a development priority [1]. During this time, the Indonesian government has had many programs for poverty alleviation. Poverty is a major problem that needs to be resolved. The synergistic and systematic eradication of poverty must be done so that all citizens can enjoy a life of dignity [2].

In essence, economic disparities or inequalities in income distribution between highand low-income groups and poverty levels or the number of people below the poverty line are two major problems in many developing countries, not the exception in Indonesia [3]. That's why it's not surprising that inequalities always exist, whether in poor countries, developing countries, or even advanced countries. The only thing that makes a difference is how much inequality happens in each country.

The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) recorded the number of poor people in Indonesia in 2022 as 26.16 million people. The CSA of the Province of North

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Sumatra recorded that the population of the poor in North Sumatra in 2022 was 1.26 million people scattered in 33 districts and cities. The cause of poverty is the low availability of jobs, which leads to unemployment, low levels of education, and uneven development in every region. The poverty rate of the Serdang Bedagai district has increased by 0.33 points from 7.97% in March 2020 to 8.30% by March 2021. This poverty figure equals 51.16 thousand people in March 2021, or an increase of about 1.98 thousand in the last year (CSA of Serdang Bedagai Regency, 2021).

The government has issued ideas, strategies, policies and programmes in poverty alleviation [4]. The presence of poverty alleviation programmes such as the Family Hope Program (FHP) and Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) is expected to stimulate the economic activity of the people so that they are free from poverty and backwardness. The poverty eradication programme is a set of actions, both economic and humanitarian, aimed at lifting people permanently out of poverty [5].

As an effort to accelerate poverty alleviation, since 2007, the Government of Indonesia has implemented the Social Protection Programme, also known internationally as Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT), which has proved to be quite successful in addressing the poverty faced in these countries, especially chronic poverty. Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) is a social food aid in the form of a non cash or Sembako Card, which is given by the government to people who are not able to afford it every month. This aid is channelled through the electronic account mechanism, so that the sembako card can only be used to buy foodstuffs in stores that cooperate with the banks.

The efforts that have been made by the government appear to have not yielded optimal results as most of the lower-class communities are still untouched by the program. The condition is due to inappropriate government policy. Therefore, research needs to be carried out on the extent to which poverty alleviation programmes such as the Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) and the Hope Family Program have an impact on the community welfare, a case study by Serdang Bedagai, Indonesia. It is hoped that with this research, local governments can focus their poverty alleviation policies through programmes that have been academically proven to make a significant contribution to improving the welfare of communities.

#### 2 Methods

#### 2.1 **Data Collecting**

The research was carried out in Serdang Bedagai District, North Sumatra Province. The research was conducted over a period of one year from August 2022 to August 2023. The data used in this research is primary data through a questionnaire and supported by secondary data for the study's depth. The population in this study is the entire household (HH) associated with the aid of poverty eradication program. The number of households receiving aid from the poverty eradication program using the basis of 2018, which is 21.814 household (HH). As for the method of determining the minimum number of samples using the prescribed formula, namely by multiplying 5-10 times the number of indicators in the study [6].

Based on the above calculations, a minimum sample was obtained for this study of 160 respondents. Sampling is done by probability sampling, which is a technique that

gives equal chances for each member of the population to be selected as a member of a sample [7].

### 2.2 Data analysis

To identify the factors affecting the community welfare, data analysis techniques such as double linear regression analysis are used. To determine which variables are considered to solve the existing problems, use double lineary regression with 1 dependent variable (Y) and 2 free/independent variables (X) [9].

$$Y = a + Q_1 X_1 + Q_2 X_2 + e (1)$$

Notes:

Y<sub>1</sub> : Community Welfare

X<sub>1</sub> : Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) X<sub>2</sub> : Family Hope Program (FHP)

 $\alpha$  : Constanta  $\beta_1, \beta_2$  : Regression coefficient

e : Eror

**Classical Assumption Test.** A good regression model must meet the classic assumptions. The purpose of fulfilling this classic assumption is that at the time of elaboration of the regression model there are no statistical problems. The regression models obtained can meet the statistical standards so that the resulting parameters can be measured and accurate. To test whether the instruments used are measurable and accurate, assumption tests are used against data with the SPSS program.

- 1. Normality tests are one of the conditions in classical assumptions tests that must be fulfilled to produce more accurate conclusions, especially in relation to predictive analysis, e.g. regression analysis [9].
- 2. Multicollinearity testing is used to find out whether or not there is a correlation between independent variables in the regression model [10].
- 3. The Heteroskedasticity test used to test whether in a regression there is variable inequality from the residual of one observation to another observation [11].

**Hypothesis Test.** The purpose of any hypothesis testing is to accept or reject the hypotheses being tested. A hypothesis is a statement or assumption about a group of people who can be right or wrong [12]. The term "zero hypothesis" is used in the context of testing hypotheses. The tested hypothesis is represented as H0, and it is understood that if H0 is rejected, then H1 is accepted as its replacement.

- 1. Determination coefficient (R2) is a method in determining whether a particular independent variable sufficiently describes a particular dependent variable or not. Between zero and one, determination coefficients can be found.
- 2. Simultaneous Significance Test (Test F) is used to find out how all independent factors influence dependent factors at the same time

3. The partial regression coefficient test (T-Test) was used to determine whether or not free variables are influenced in a regression model against a bound variable tested with a partial-regression coefficient. If the p-value is greater than 0.05, then there is no statistically significant relationship between independent and dependent variables and vice versa [13].

# 3 Findings and Discussion

#### 3.1 Classical Assumption Test

**Normality Test.** One of the methods of testing data normality is using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov theory or formula [14]. Basic in decision- making on the Kolmogorow-Smirnov normality test is that if a significance value is greater than 0.05, then the data can be said to be a normal distribution [15].

One-Samp	Unstandardized Residual		
N			160
Normal Parameters <sup>a,b</sup>	Mean		.0000000
	Std. Deviation		2.00610572
Most Extreme	Absolute		.091
Differences	Positive		.091
	Negative		066
Test Statistic			.091
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)			.003°
Monte Carlo Sig.	Sig.		.132 <sup>d</sup>
(2-tailed)	99% Confidence	Lower Bound	.124
	Interval		
		Upper Bound	.141

Table 1. Results of the normality test

- a. Test distribution is Normal.
- Calculated from data.
- c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.
- d. Based on 10000 sampled tables with starting seed 2000000.

Based on Table 1, the asymp. sig (2-tailed) value is 0.03 where it is less than 0.05. From these results, the data is not distributed normally, so this study uses the Monte Carlo method. The Monte Carlo model is one of the methods to study distribution characteristics [16]. The normality test with the Monte Carlo Sig. a(2-tailed) obtained a value of 0.132 where greater than 0.05 so it is known that the residual value is distributed normally [17].

**Multicollinearity Test.** The detection of multicollinearity can look at the tolerance values and the inflation factor variants (VIF) as the measure. If the value of tolerance

 $\leq$  0,10 and VIF  $\geq$  10 then it can be concluded that in the study there is multicollinearity [18].

		Coefficients <sup>a</sup>	
Mode	1	Collinearit	y Statistics
		Tolerance VI	
1	NCFA	.991	1.009
	FHP	.991	1.009

Table 2. Multicollinearity test results

a. Dependent Variable: Welfare

Based on the results of the multicolonearity test for tolerance values greater than 0.1 and VIF values smaller than 10, of all variable values [19,20]. So from the results of this multicolonearity test, the decision-making benchmark is that there are no symptoms of multicolonarity in this regression model. A good regression is one that does not contain multicolinearity [20].

**Heteroskedasticity Test.** A prerequisite to be met in a regression model is the absence of symptoms of heterocadastasis. In this study, a heterocadastaticity test will be performed using a glacier test that correlates the absolute residual value with each variable [21]. The results of the glacier test showed no heterocadastisity when from the SPSS calculation the probability value of its significance was above the confidence level of 0.05 [22].

	Coefficients <sup>a</sup>							
	Unstandardiz	zed Coeffi	cients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.		
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta				
1	(Constant)	.410	.774		.530	.597		
	NCFA	.071	.036	.153	1.936	.055		
	FHP	.010	.037	.020	.258	.797		

Table 3. Results of Heteroskedasticity Test

Based on the results of spearman's rho test it is known that the significance value for the entire free variable tested is > 0.05. Based upon the results following Spearman's Rho for each free variable > 0.05 then it is concluded that the free variables have no symptoms of heteroskedastisity [11] so the series of testing the hypothesis can be continued because it has met the requirements of the classical assumption test.

## 3.2 **Hypothesis Test**

Coefficient of Determination (R2). The coefficient of determination (R2) is a statistical metric used in regression analysis to measure the extent to which variations in dependent variables can be explained by variations within one or more independent variables in a regression model [23]. The closer to value one the independent factor influences the dependent variable. To calculate what dependent variable shift fractions

can be attributed to independent variables shift, the researchers used the coefficient of determination (R2) [24].

Model Summary							
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate			
1	.396ª	.157	.146	2.01884			

Table 4. Results of the Coefficient of Determination Test

a. Predictors: (Constant), FHP, NCFA

Knowing the Adjusted R-squared (R2) value of 0.146 or 14.6%, means that the Community Welfare variable described by NCFA (X1) and FHP (X2) is 14.6% while the rest is depicted by other factors outside the study.

**Simultaneous Significance Test.** To determine whether the dual linear regression model used fits, simultaneous tests are used. If the p-value is less than 0.05 in the basic decision-making F test, then there is a significant influence between the independent variable and the dependent variable; if the p-value > 0.05, then no such effect exists [25].

			ANOVA <sup>a</sup>			
Mode	el	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	119.086	2	59.543	14.609	.000b
	Residual	639.889	157	4.076		
	Total	758.975	159			

Table 5. Simultaneous Test Results

- a. Dependent Variable: Welfare
- b. Predictors: (Constant). FHP, NCFA

Knowing the statistical significance value of 0,000 (0,000 < 0.05) so that H0 is rejected, it can be concluded that the variables NCFA and FHP simultaneously have a significant influence on welfare.

The partial regression coefficient test. The hypothesis test is conducted using the t-test, which is intended to determine the partial influence (individual) of independent variables (NCFA and FHP) on the dependent variable (Welfare) or to test the significance of constants and dependent variables [26].

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
	Unstandardized Coeffici	ents	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta			

Table 6. Partial Test Results

	(Constant)	8.005	1.405		5.699	.000
1	NCFA	.094	.066	.105	1.424	.156
	FHP	.340	.067	.372	5.056	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Welfare

Based on the regression coefficient of each variable, the following regression model is obtained:

$$Y = 8.005 + 0.094X_1 + 0.340X_2 + e$$
 (2)

Simultaneously, these independent variables have an influence on the dependent variable, i.e. the level of use of information technology. However, it was partially found that not all of these independent variables had a significant impact on society's welfare. The results of the double linear regression test showed that of the two independent variables studied in this study, only one independent variable had a significant influence ( $\alpha$ =0,05) [18]. Variable that has a significant influence on the community welfare (with a significance value below 0.05) is Family Hope Program (FHP).

#### a. Impact of Non-Cash Food Aid (NCFA) on community welfare

Based on the results of testing the variable hypothesis NCFA against the community welfare in Table 6, the result was that the value of variable significance NCFA is 0,156 (>0,05). The lack of influence of the non-cash food aid programme (NCFA) in improving the welfare of the people can be caused by a number of complex factors. Inappropriate and efficient program implementation can hinder the distribution of aid to families in need. This happened in a study conducted by reference [27] in Lamongan district where the inadequacy of an accurate deposit system resulted in inappropriate receipt of aid. Inadequate training for the officers who handle the program, as well as lack of supervision and evaluation, can lead to errors in the distribution of aid, even to people who should not meet the aid criteria. In addition, corruption and abuse in distribution can also occur, resulting in aid not reaching the intended recipients.

The social and economic aspects of the recipient community also play an important role. If the programmes are not accompanied by efforts to improve education and skills training for aid recipients, communities do not have the knowledge or skills to increase their income independently. Besides, changes in consumer behavior and shopping habits can also be a barrier. If the choice of goods is limited in the non-cash food card and does not reflect local needs or preferences, the community may not feel helped. As a result, despite the aid being granted, the impact is limited because it fails to the primary objective of improving the welfare and economic independence of the recipient community.

#### b. Impact of Family Hope Program (FHP) on community welfare

Referring to the results of the hypothesis in Table 6, the FHP variable has an influence on the community welfare, obtained a significance value of 0,000 (<0,05). It is in line with the government's plan to encourage the poor to have access to and benefit from basic social services such as health, education, food and nutrition, care, and support, including access to various other social protection programmes that are

continuously complementary through the FHP. The FHP is directed to be the epicentre and center of excellence of poverty alleviation that synergizes various national protection and empowerment programmes.

This result is in line with previous research by reference [28-31] which resulted in research that education has a negative impact on poverty. Reference [30] is related to the impact of various areas of government spending on the poverty showed that the average population is less able, not able to continue their education to higher levels caused by financial constraints so they can not have access to the world of education. By raising the level of education of the poor population, they will be able to improve their skills or skills so that they can make it possible to get out of the poverty line. The greater the budget that local governments spend on education, the poorer communities can gain access to education for the purpose of increasing human resources and reducing poverty. Thus, programmes in the field of education have a major role to play in the progress of the nation, the community welfare, the economy, and the social. According to reference [32], national development efforts in the field of education are aimed at improving human resources, education plays an important role for a country and aims to improve human intelligence and skills.

Besides, the health insurance facilitated by the FHP also has a good impact on the poor. The findings are in line with research by reference [33-34] that public spending on health has a negative impact on poverty. The provision of health facilities for the poor must be enhanced as a top priority in programmes and policies in favour of the poor. The allocation of health funds by the Regional Government must be further enhanced and the budgetary aspects must be taken into account so that all poor communities have access to adequate health facilities.

The results of this study are also supported by previous discussions on one of the indicators for measuring poverty levels, which is restricted access to health care. These indicators can be seen from the ease or difficulty of accessing health care facilities, the low quality of health care, the distance to health facilities and the cheap cost of treatment and care. With a serious role for the government to tackle the problem by absorbing maximum and targeted health spending budgets for programs and activities that benefit the poor, poverty rates can be reduced. The state of public health is one of the important things for the success of national development, with a healthy society, development is expected to go smoothly [35]. By guaranteeing the health of the poor people, they can increase the productivity of work, so that the poor can get jobs and work well to the maximum, thus earning income and improving their welfare.

#### 4 Conclusion & Recommendations

Non-Cash Food Aid programme (NCFA) does not have a significant impact on the welfare of the Serdang Bedagai district people, this is not in accordance with the theory that states that the government aid program to the poor can improve the welfare, this happens because the NCFA programme is limited only to the fulfilment of the food needs of the people in the form of a determined product, so that the people can not independently and situationally in using aid effectively and efficiently. It is different from the variable of the Family Hope Program (FHP) expectation that results

that have a significant impact on the community welfare. Family Hope Program (FHP) is judged by the community more accurately targeted because it is aimed at meeting basic needs both social assistance to poor families to meet basic needs (food, education, and health), basic insurance (health and education), basic social services, poverty alleviation (protection and empowerment), as well as assistance for the disabled and disabled to meet their basic needs, the fulfilment of education and health needs of the poor community. It is suggested that local governments focus their poverty alleviation programmes more on FHP or similar programmes. This is because the social needs programmes and the guarantees of education and basic health are long-term investments in human resources so that people can improve their standard of living through better education and health.

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