

V. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

A. Conclusions

This study has the following conclusions:

1. The Mean Years of Schooling (MYS) variable has a positive and significant effect on life expectancy in East Java Province. The District/City Minimum Wage (DCMW) has a positive but insignificant effect on life expectancy. GRDP per capita has a negative and insignificant effect on life expectancy.
2. Simultaneously, the variables of mean years of schooling, district/city minimum wage, and GRDP per capita have a significant effect on life expectancy in East Java Province. This confirms that educational and economic factors jointly play a role in determining the level of health and welfare of the community.
3. The variable that has the most significant effect on life expectancy in East Java Province is mean years of schooling.

B. Implications

1. Mean Years of Schooling has a positive and significant effect on Increasing Life Expectancy in East Java Province. This means that the higher the Mean Years of Schooling of the population in a district/city, the higher the Life Expectancy tends to be. The implication of this finding for East Java Province is that educational development is a strategic instrument in improving the quality of public health. Therefore, the East Java Provincial Government needs to prioritize policies to improve education, especially in

districts with low Mean Years of Schooling. These policies can include equalizing access to secondary and higher education, improving school quality, strengthening compulsory education programs, and reducing dropout rates. In practice, the high dropout rate in several districts/cities in East Java is generally influenced by household economic constraints, such as the inability of families to cover education-related expenses (school fees, transportation, and learning equipment), as well as the tendency of students to enter the labor market early to support family income. In addition, the limited availability of secondary education facilities that are geographically accessible, particularly in rural and peripheral areas, also contributes to low school continuation rates. Improvements in access and continuity of education are expected to increase health literacy, awareness of healthy lifestyles, and the ability to utilize health services, which in turn directly contribute to higher life expectancy in East Java.

2. The District/City Minimum Wage has an effect on increasing Life Expectancy in East Java Province. But this effect is not statistically significant. This shows that the increase in the DCMW in East Java Province has not had a real impact on life expectancy. The implication for East Java is that the DCMW policy has not been fully effective in improving public health quality. This is due to several structural conditions, including the dominance of informal sector workers who are not fully covered by the minimum wage policy, regional disparities in the cost of living, and the limited ability of the minimum wage to meet long-term health needs. In

addition, a significant proportion of workers in East Java are employed in vulnerable and informal jobs with unstable income and limited access to employment-based health protection, which reduces the potential impact of minimum wage increases on improving living standards and health conditions. As a result, increases in the DCMW have not yet translated into better access to health services, improved nutrition, or healthier living environments for a large part of the population.

3. GRDP per Capita has an effect on lowering Life Expectancy in East Java Province. But this effect is not statistically significant. These findings indicate that economic growth in East Java is not yet fully inclusive and has not been optimally allocated to sectors that have a direct impact on increasing life expectancy. Income distribution disparities between regions, differences in access to health facilities, and the concentration of economic activity in certain areas mean that the benefits of economic growth are not evenly felt by the entire community. In several districts/cities, increases in GRDP per capita are largely driven by specific economic sectors and concentrated in certain areas, while improvements in public services, particularly in health infrastructure and basic services, remain limited. Consequently, economic growth has not been sufficiently translated into better health outcomes, improved environmental conditions, and more equitable access to health care, which explains why higher GRDP per capita has not yet contributed significantly to increasing life expectancy in East Java Province.

C. Research Limitations

This study has several limitations, particularly regarding the duration of the observation period. The analysis is based on data covering 2020–2024, a relatively short timeframe that coincides with the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery phase. Consequently, data availability is limited and may not adequately capture long-term trends or structural relationships between socio-economic factors and life expectancy. Short-term shocks and transitional economic and health conditions during the recovery period may have affected the stability of the variables observed. Therefore, the results may not fully reflect the long-run dynamics of life expectancy in East Java Province and should be interpreted with appropriate caution.

