THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION, INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT TOWARDS POVERTY IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

Poverty is one of the main problems regarding economic aspects in countries around the world including Indonesia. This research aims to analyze the correlation between the level of corruption perception index, inflation rate and unemployment rate towards poverty rate in Indonesia with the time span from 1998 – 2017. Data used on this research is from secondary data. Corruption perception index data is collected from Transparency International, hence inflation rate, unemployment rate and poverty rate are collected from Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia. The data analysis technique in this research is using multiple regression analysis. Based on the research result, it shows that corruption, inflation and unemployment altogether are creating a significant effect on poverty. The result also shows that both corruption and inflation bring significant effect on poverty, while unemployment alone has no significant effect on poverty. The research result is expected to be a reference for the government of Indonesia and other countries in overcoming poverty problem.
***Keywords**: Corruption, Inflation, Unemployment, Poverty*

Abstrak

Kemiskinan merupakan salah satu masalah utama yang menyangkut aspek ekonomi di negara-negara di dunia termasuk Indonesia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hubungan antara tingkat indeks persepsi korupsi, tingkat inflasi dan tingkat pengangguran terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Indonesia dengan rentang waktu tahun 1998 – 2017. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah data sekunder. Data indeks persepsi korupsi dikumpulkan dari Transparency International, maka tingkat inflasi, tingkat pengangguran dan tingkat kemiskinan dikumpulkan dari Badan Pusat Statistik. Teknik analisis data dalam penelitian ini menggunakan analisis regresi berganda. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa korupsi, inflasi dan pengangguran secara bersama-sama memberikan pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap kemiskinan. Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa korupsi dan inflasi berpengaruh signifikan terhadap kemiskinan, sedangkan pengangguran saja tidak berpengaruh signifikan terhadap kemiskinan. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menjadi acuan bagi pemerintah Indonesia dan negara-negara lain dalam mengatasi masalah kemiskinan.
Kata Kunci: Korupsi, Inflasi, Pengangguran, Kemiskinan

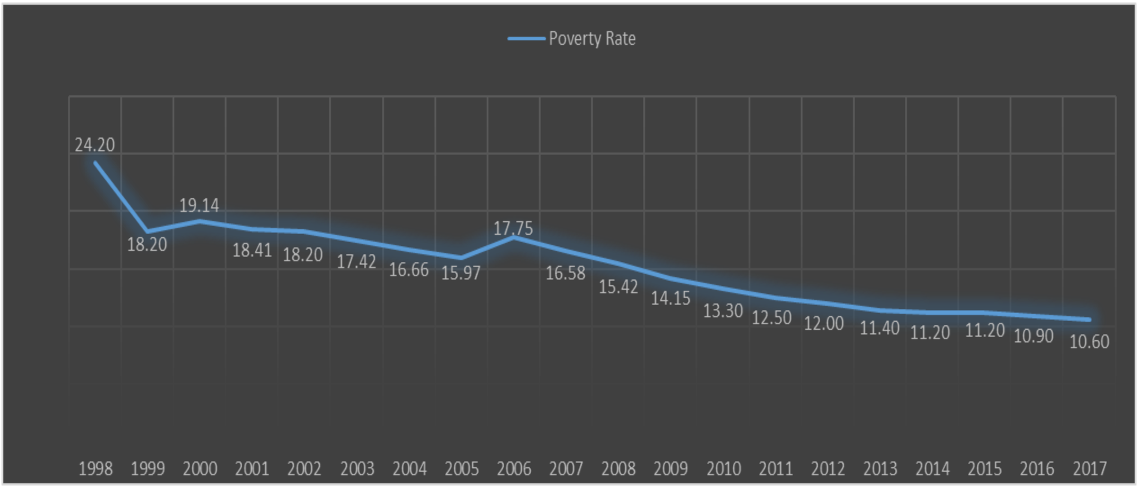
INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social problem that always exists in developing countries. Poverty always attracts the attention of various groups, including both academics nor practitioners. Various kinds of theories, concepts and approaches are constantly being developed to reveal the mystery of poverty. In Indonesia, the problem of poverty is a social problem that is always relevant to be studied continuously.

Poverty in Indonesia is one of the diseases in the economy, its manifestations leads to many sustainable livelihood’s problems, such as hunger, malnutrition, access to education, etc, so there must be a comprehensive solution or policy to reduce poverty. The problem of poverty is a complex and also a multidimensional one, therefore the policies made for poverty’s alleviation must be carried out thoroughly and integratedly as well.

In general, the percentage of poverty rates in Indonesia in the last 20 years from 1998 to 2017 has been decreased, except in 2000 and 2006. The increase in the percentage of poverty in that period was triggered by the increase in prices of staples food. The poverty rate in 2017 is the lowest during this period. This shows the government's success in reducing the percentage of poverty. The histories of poverty rate levels from 1998 to 2017 is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Poverty Rate 1998 – 2017



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia

However an estimated 36 million people in ASEAN regional still live below the international poverty line (5 percent of the total global), almost 90 percent of these people live in Indonesia or the Philippines (UNDP, 2017: 11). The number of poor people in 2017 has successfully decreased to 27.8 million from 49.5 million in 1998.

Based on National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019, the percentage of poverty should have reached 8.5% - 9.5% in 2017, but in reality, the percentage of poverty rate only reached 10.60%. While the target percentage of poverty rate in 2019 is between 7.00% - 8.00%, thus the government still needs to undertake approaches to reach the targeted poverty levels with concrete steps to promote its achievement. One of them is to find out what variables will affect the poverty level.

In the previous research, a number of key causes or at least correlates of poverty have been discussed. They can be grouped according to the channels through which they affect poverty levels: economic (economic growth, inflation, globalisation, unemployment and underemployment, inadequate access to productive assets and markets); social (rapid population growth, inequality, public corruption, inadequate access to shelter, education, HIV/AIDS and health); demographic (household size, age and gender of the household head); and environmental/situational (natural disasters, rural location, migration) (Mbuli, 2008). In this research aims to analyze the correlation between corruption, inflation and unemployment towards poverty in Indonesia with the time span from 1998 – 2017.

1.1. The Influence of Corruption on Poverty

Corruption is one word that is quite popular in the community and has become the everyday topics to talk about. However, there are still many people who do not understand what corruption is. In general, the public understands corruption as something that is detrimental to state finances. Whereas in law of the republic of Indonesia number 31 year 1999 in conjunction with law of the republic of Indonesia number 20 year 2001 concerning Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption, there are 30 types of corruptions that basically can be grouped into seven, namely: i) State financial losses; ii) bribery; iii) missappropriation of authority; iv) extortion; v) cheating; vi) conflict of interest in procurement; and vii) gratification.

Corruption in country's development causes the budget that was originally used to improve the quality of education, provide health facilities, provide infrastructure and expand employment evaporated into irresponsible hands. The impact of corruption does not only cause state financial loss that may reach to trillions of rupiah, but also destroy human resources, as well as social and natural resources (Widjayanto et al, 2010: ix). This is the beginning of Indonesia's poverty and backwardness disaster (Kuntadi, 2015: 154). The corruption perception index in Indonesia since 1998 until 2017 has been steadily increasing to score of 37.

Corruption could affect the poor directly since it lead to increase the prices of public services, lower quantity and quality of public services, hamper poor people's access to public services (health care, water, sanitation, education and other public services) (Rahayu, 2012:533). Azwar and Saragih (2018:1) analyzed the impact of corruption on poverty in Indonesia, the results of study indicated that corruption has positive significant effect on the level of poverty ratio in 1% significance level in the long run.

Dincer and Gunalp (2008:15) analyzed the impact of corruption on income inequality and poverty in the U.S., they found robust evidence that an increase in corruption increases income inequality and poverty. Kamiti (2004:30) analyzed the impact of corruption on poverty in Kenya and she found indication that corruption actually perpetuates poverty as it prevents the efficient allocation of resources meant to improve the standard of living of Kenyans. Hypothesis H1 taken in this research, namely:

H1: Presumed positive effect corruption is significant to poverty

1.2. The Influence of Inflation on Poverty

Inflation is one of the economic problems which is always experienced by almost all countries, the discussion of inflation is always associated with price increase, because price is an important indicator of inflation (Priyono and Chandra, 2016: 5). Inflation is simply interpreted as increasing prices in general and occur continuously. The price increase of just one or two items cannot be called as inflation unless the increase extends (or affecting increase in prices) for other goods. Inflation causes purchasing power of income becomes lower, especially for people who have small fixed income (Rahardja and Manurung, 2004: 169). The inflation population in Indonesia in 1998 was greatly high which reached to 77.63% while in 2017 it was 3.6%.

Based on the research of Sari and Natha (2016) in Bali Province and Sugiartiningsih and Shaleh (2017) in Indonesia, the results show that inflation has a positive and significant effect on the number of poor people.

Chani et.al (2011: 1060) study aims to investigate the role of economic growth and inflation in explaining the prevalence of poverty in Pakistan. Empirical results show that inflation has positive impact on poverty. Talukdar (2012:49) study the effect of inflation on poverty in developing countries. In lower and upper middle income countries, inflation has a positive relationship with poverty. Hypothesis H2 taken in this research, namely:

H2: Presumed positive effect inflation is significant to poverty

1.3. The Influence of Unemployment on Poverty

Unemployment occurs because the number of workers or employee availability numbers exceeds the level of available employment opportunities. Unemployment is a macroeconomic problem that directly affects the standard of living and psychological pressure of society (Herlambang, 2002: 94). The bad effect of unemployment is a decrease in people's income which eventually may decrease the level of prosperity achieved by a person. Increasing employment opportunities and reducing unemployment are closely related to national income and the people’s prosperity level (Sukirno, 2013: 331). The decreasing welfare of the people due to unemployment will certainly increase their chance of being trapped in poverty because they do not have any income.

Based on data from Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, the level of unemployment in Indonesia since 1998 until 2017 were volatile. In 1998, the unemployment rate was 5.46% and in 2017 it was 5.34%, which means the reduction was only reached to 0.12% for the last 20 years.

This is in line with the results of Susanti's research (2013) that was involving all districts and cities in West Java, Suadnyani and Darsana (2018) in Bangli District, and Andykha, et.al. (2018) in 35 regencies / cities in Central Java Province which showed partially the unemployment variable had a positive and significant effect on poverty.

Siyan, et.al. (2016:18) empirically examine the implication of unemployment and inflation on poverty level in Nigeria from 1980-2014. Three variables are used in this paper which are Poverty level, Unemployment Rate and Inflation Rate. This research revealed that, unemployment and inflation rate have a statistically significant impact on poverty level in Nigeria from 1980-2014. The implication of this is that an increase in unemployment rate and inflation rate will lead to higher poverty level in Nigeria since unemployment and inflation were both significantly cause poverty in Nigeria.

Powers (1995:11) found that unemployment's effect on poverty rates is relatively robust with respect to the poverty concept in the research of Inflation, Unemployment, and Poverty Revisited for Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Aiyedogbon (2012:278) revealed that unemployment, agricultural and services contributions to real GDP as well as population have positive determining influence on poverty level in Nigeria with execptions only on agricultural sector that was statistically insignificant. Hypothesis H3 taken in this research, namely:

H3: Presumed positive effect inflation is significant to poverty

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. The Technique of Data Collection

Causal research design was used to prove the relationship between cause and effect of some variable. In this research the data used is quantitative data, as revealed by the figures that show the values against variable it represents. The data used in this research are corruption perception index, inflation rate, unemployment rate and poverty rate. Corruption perception index data is collected from Transparency International, while inflation rate, unemployment rate and poverty rate are collected from Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia.

2.2. Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis in this research is using multiple regression analysis. In order to test the strength of the free variables (corruption perception index, inflation rate, unemployment rate) against variables bound (poverty rate), thus this research is using multiple regression analysis with quadratic equations by the smallest basic model as follows:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3$$

Description:
Y = Poverty rate
a = Constant
b = Regression Coefficient
X_1 = Corruption perception index
X_2 = Unemployment rate
X_3 = Inflation rate

As for the analysis tools to do multiple regression analysis, it is being done through conducting a classic assumption test first. The data used are secondary data, then to determine the accuracy of the model testing needs to be done on some classic assumptions which is being used, among other things it tests the normality, multicollinearity, heteroskedastisitas and autocorrelation of the data.

Normality tests are used to test whether the regression model in both the independent variable or dependent variable has a normal distribution of the data or not. The good regression model is that it has a normal distribution of the data or close to normal. Multicollinearity test aimed to test whether the regression model has found the existence of a correlation between independent variables. Good regression model should not happen correlation among variables. Test heteroskedastisitas aimed to test whether the model regression residual variance inequality occurs from one observation to another observation. If the residual variance from one observation to another observation remains, it is called homoskedastisitas. A good model is the homoskedastisitas one. Autocorrelation test aimed at testing whether in a linear regression model, there is a correlation between the error of a bully on the data period t with error bullies in the period t-1. Good regression model is a regression that is free of autocorrelation.

The next test of the hypothesis test phase, the coefficient of determination (R^2) measures how far the capability model in explaining the variation of the dependent variable. The value of the coefficient of determination is between zero and one. The value of R^2 that is small means the ability of the independent variable in the dependent variables is very limited. F test or ANOVA test basically indicates whether all the variables included in the independent model of influence act simultaneously against all the dependent variables. Statistical tests t basically shows how far is the influence of one independent variable in explaining variation in partially dependent variables.

2.3. Variable Measurement

2.3.1. Poverty

A person whose expenditure per capita per month is below the poverty line is considered as poor. To measure poverty, Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia has used the concept of basic needs approach. Therefore, poverty is viewed as economic inability to fulfll food and nonfood basic needs which are measured by consumption/expenditure. The method used is by calculating poverty line, which consists of two components, that are Food Poverty Line (FPL) and Non-Food Poverty Line (NFPL). The poverty line was calculated separately for urban and rural areas.

The Food Poverty Line refers to the daily minimum requirement of 2,100 kcal per capita per day. The Non Food Poverty Line refers to the minimum requirement for household necessities for clothing, education, health, and other basic individual needs. A new standard to measure poverty has been adopted since December 1998. This new standard was the revision for the old standard. The revised standard included the extension of the commodity coverage to be accounted in estimating the minimum basic needs. The new standard was also improved in its regional comparability, by using the reference population of the same real income (expenditure) class across regions so that it is also comparable over time. The revised poverty standard hopefully will be able to measure the incidence of poverty more realistically.

In Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, Poverty Measures consists of Head Count Index (HCI-P_0) which simply measures the percentage of the poor among population.

$$P_\alpha = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{q} \left[\frac{z - y_i}{z} \right]^\alpha$$

Where:
$\alpha = 0$
z = the povertyline
y_i = average expenditure per capita per month of the poor (i=1,2,…,q), yi < z
q = the number of poor
n = the total population

Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia measured poverty incidence for the first time in 1984. The measurement covered the period of 1976–1981. Basic data used to measure poverty were obtained from the results of the National Socioeconomic Survey–Consumption Module. Since then, Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia routinely released the figures of poverty incidence once every three years which were presented by urban and rural areas. This research using Percentage of Poor People (Poverty Rate) data from every year within the time span from 1998 – 2017.

2.3.2. Corruption

Corruption generally comprises illegal activities, which are deliberately hidden and only came to light through scandals, investigations or prosecutions. Whilst researchers from academia, civil society and governments have made advances in terms of objectively measuring corruption in specific sectors, to date there is no indicator which measures objective national levels of corruption directly and exhaustively.

Transparency International conducts various studies, one of which is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The CPI scores and ranks countries/territories based on how corrupt a country’s public sector is perceived to be by experts and business executives. It is a composite index, a combination of 13 surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide.

The CPI includes only sources that provide a score for a set of countries/territories and that measure expert perceptions of corruption in the public sector. Transparency International reviews the methodology of each data source in detail to ensure that the sources used meet Transparency International's quality standards. The CPI uses a scale of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and one hundred means that a country is perceived as very clean. This research using CPI data during the period from 1998 to 2017.

2.3.3. Inflation

Consumer Price Index is the indicator of inflation in Indonesia. Since January 2014, the Consumer Price Index has been calculated fom the 2012 Cost of Living Survey (CLS) of 82 cities, which covered 225–462 commodities. Consumer Price Index consists of 7 groups as follows: foodstuff (prepared food, beverages, and tobacco), products (housing, water, electricity, gas), fuel (clothing; health; education, recreation), and sports(transportation, communication, and fnancial services).

In Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, the percentage change of the monthly Consumer Price Index (inflation/deflation rate) is obtained fom:

$$\frac{I_n - I_{n-1}}{I_{n-1}} \times 100$$

Where:
In = Consumer Price Index for month n
In-1= Consumer Price Index for month n-1
Inflation if the value > 0
Deflation if the value < 0

The percentage change of the yearly Consumer Price Index is calculated by using point-to-point method. In calculating Consumer Price Index, every country has their own approaches with different coverage and sample unit. In some countries, the sample coverage may consist of only urban area, only metropolitan areas, or only the capital city. In terms of sample unit, it can be household, trade sector, government official, industrial worker, etc. This research using Consumer Price Index (Inflation Rate) data in Indonesia with the time span from 1998 – 2017.

2.3.4. Unemployment

Unemployment Rate for each country is calculated based on the result of Labor Force Survey conducted in each respective country with different time reference. In calculating the Unemployment Rate, each country applied different concept of working age. 15 years is generally used as the minimum working age, but in several countries 16 years, 14 years, or even 10 years are used as the minimum working age. Upper boundary of working age is not commonly applied, but in several countries the maximum working ages of 64 years, 66 years, 72 years and 74 years are used.

Unemployment Rate is an indicator that can be used to measure the level of labor's supply that is not used or not absorbed by the labor market. In Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, Unemployment Rate is the percentage of the number of unemployed people divided by the labor force.

$$\text{Unemployment Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Unemployment}}{\text{The Labor force}} \times 100$$

Labor force is persons aged 15 years old and over who in the previous week were working, temporarily absent from work but having jobs, or those who did not have work and were looking for work or in the process of establishing new business. Meanwhile unemployment consists of person without work but looking for work, person without work, but in the process of establishing new business, person without work who are not looking for work, because they do not expect to find work or person who have made arrangements to start work on a date subsequent to the reference period (future starts). This research using Unemployment Rate data in Indonesia with the time span from 1998 – 2017.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Normality test results may concluded that all of the variables used in this research, namely, Poverty Rate, CPI, Inflation Rate and Unemployment Rate have significant level above 0.05. Means the data used in this research have a normal distribution and shows that the regression model is worthy to be used since it met normality assumptions.

Multicollinearity test results showed that all the independent variable of the regression model is not available. There is no indication of multicollinearity when the tolerance value of all variables is greater than 0.10 and VIF of all variables is smaller than 10. This indicates that the regression model is worth to be used because there are no variables that tends to meet multicollinearity.

Based on the results of the heteroskedastisitas test, it looks like that there are points which does not form a specific pattern or points with a spread above and below zero, so it could be concluded that the regression model in this research does not experience heteroskedastisitas.

Autocorrelation test aims to test whether in a linear regression model, there is a correlation between the error of a bully on the data period t with error bullies in the period t-1. Good regression model is a regression that is free of autocorrelation. This research will use the durbin watson (dW) test for autocorrelation. SPSS output results note that dW of 1.815, then this value will be compared with the value of the table dW with significance 5%, n = 20 and k = 3, then retrieved the value of dU = 1.6763 and dL = 0.9976. The results show that dW 1,815 is greater than the upper limit (dU) 1.6763 and less than (4-dU) 4-1.6763=2.3237, so it can be concluded that there is no autocorrelation in the regression model.

Coefficient determination of test results shows that the value adjusted of R square is 0.953, it suggests that variations in the independent variables are able to explain the variation in the dependent variable as much as 95.3%, while the rest of 4.7% is explained by variables other than the independent variable. The correlation coefficient value (R) of 0.976 suggests that the strong relationship between the independent variables against the dependent variables of 97.6%.

Standard Error of the Estimate Poverty Rate is 0.854 which shows that the value is much smaller than its standard deviation, then the regression model of 3.622 is better in the act as the predictor of poverty rate compared to the average itself. From the calculation result of the value, it shows that the ANOVA significance of 0.000 and value is an F count of 108.506. Thus the value of significance is smaller than 0.05 regression models then it can be used to predict the existence of the poverty rate or in other words it tells that corruption, unemployment rate and inflation simultaneously act against the poverty rate.

Parametric statistical test results in the partial regression equation can form Poverty Rate = 25.277 – 0.410 CPI – 0.041 Unemployment Rate + 0.091 Inflation Rate. The hypothesis of the research analysis results on the influence of corruption, unemployment and inflation in response to the poverty rate had partially been as follows:

1. The results of the regression equation shows that the value of t-count of CPI was -11.280 with significance level of 0.000. It indicates that the CPI effect of corruption acts negative significantly to poverty.
2. The results of the regression equation shows that the value of t-count of inflation was 6.710 with significance level of 0.000. It showed that inflation effect is positive and brings significant impact against poverty.
3. The results of the regression equation shows that calculation from the t-value of unemployment rate is -0.299 with a level of significance of 0.769. It indicates that unemployment rate has negative effect and not significant to poverty.

Hypothesis 1 proposed in this research is where corruption positively brings significant impact on poverty. Based on the calculation result on this research, hypothesis 1 was not confirmed. The results of the study show that corruption effect is negative and significant on poverty. It means that increasing CPI will encourage declining in the poverty rate. The results of this research supports Franciari (2013), Gustina (2017) and Witari (2018) that corruption effect is negative on poverty.

Hypothesis 2 proposed in this research is where inflation positively brings significant impact on poverty. Based on the calculation result obtained, hypothesis 2 was confirmed. The results indicate that the decline in the inflation rate will encourage to reduce poverty rate.

Hypothesis 3 proposed in this research is where unemployment positively brings significant impact on poverty. Based on the calculation result obtained, hypothesis 3 was not confirmed. The results of the study show that unemployment effect is negative and insignificant on poverty. It means that any decline in unemployment rate does not encourage a rise in poverty rate. The results of this research support Isa (2019) that the unemployment rate in Gorontalo province, Giovanni (2018) in the provinces of West Java, Central Java, East Java and Probosiwi (2016) in Yogyakarta Special Territory (YST) where unemployment rate did not influence the poverty rate in the province.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis and discussion, then it can be summed up as follows:

1. The results of the study show that corruption effect is negative and significant to poverty. This did not prove the hypothesis that corruption effect is positive and significant to poverty.
2. The results of the study show that inflation effect is positive and significant to poverty. This proves the hypothesis that inflation effect is positive and significant to poverty.
3. The results of the study show that unemployment effect is negative and insignificant to poverty. This did not prove the hypothesis that unemployment effect is positive and significant to poverty.

Implication of research findings and advice that can be expressed as follows:

1. Any increase in the CPI will encourage a decrease in the poverty rate, thus we need to emphasize on eradicating corruption. The existence of law enforcement is very important to eradicate corruption cases, because law enforcers should be the pioneer agenda in eradicating corruption. Eradicating corruption is not just a matter of capturing the corruptors, but also on the prevention efforts that must be done. Anti-corruption education should be included in the compulsory curriculum and become part of the subjects at school, even as compulsory subjects at universities, so nation's next generation are expected not to practice corruption when they become adults and already working. Anti-corruption education here serves to prevent corruption.
2. Any decrease in the inflation rate will encourage a decrease in the poverty rate, the central bank (*Bank Indonesia*) and the government needs to stay focus on Inflation control. Achievement of the inflation target surely need cooperation and coordination between the Government and the central bank in an integrated attempt to develop macroeconomic policy involving fiscal, monetary and sectoral policies.
3. Unemployment rate did not significantly influence the poverty rate probably because the basis data of labor force in Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, labor force are persons of 15 years and over. It is referred to The Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) recommended by The International Labour Organization (ILO). Whereas in law of the republic of Indonesia number 13 year 2013 article 68 states that entrepreneurs are not allowed to employ children. Refer to article 1 in the same law, a child is every person who is under 18 (eighteen) years old. Even though unemployment does not significantly affecting poverty, it is still a social problem that we should be concerned about. What government can do about it is to develop policies to cope with it, such as encouraging friendly environment and requirement for entrepreneurship, creating more jobs, or developing a customized program of development for unemployees.
4. In further research, the results of this research can be used as a basis and it would be interesting to research more extensively by taking the other variables that may affect the poverty rate, for example economic growth, life expectancy and education.

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