



Development In Figures: Human Development Index of Tabalong Regency 2010-2024

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Article History:

Submitted: 30-12-2025

Accepted: 06-01-2026

Published: 10-01-2026

Keywords:

Human Development Index;
Regional Development; Public
Policy; Tabalong Regency; South
Kalimantan.

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ABSTRACT

The Human Development Index (HDI) serves as a vital instrument for assessing regional progress by integrating health, education, and living standards. As a strategic buffer zone for Indonesia's future capital, Tabalong Regency's pursuit of enhanced human development is of particular importance. This study analyzes the longitudinal evolution of Tabalong's HDI from 2010 to 2024, quantifies the relative contributions of its core components, and proposes evidence-based policy interventions. Employing a quantitative approach with time-series and cross-sectional data from official statistics, the analysis employs multiple linear regression and t-tests. The findings indicate that Tabalong maintains the third-highest HDI in South Kalimantan, driven overwhelmingly by per capita expenditure (99.6% contribution), with education indicators as secondary contributors, while life expectancy exhibits a markedly weaker influence. Statistical tests confirm significant differences in all component means between regencies with medium and high HDI. The discussion contextualizes these results within contemporary scholarship on regional development and inequality. The study concludes by advocating for an integrated policy framework emphasizing strengthened community health services, equitable and quality education, environmentally conscious pedagogy, and economic diversification through agricultural productivity, MSME empowerment, and sustainable tourism. These measures are essential for fostering inclusive and resilient human development in alignment with national strategic planning.

INTRODUCTION

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a globally recognized measure introduced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assess human well-being beyond economic output. The index integrates three key dimensions—a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living—providing a comparative framework for assessing development progress (UNDP, 2020). From a contemporary perspective, human development is viewed as the expansion of capabilities and improvements in the quality of life, with the HDI serving as a practical instrument for capturing such progress (UNDP, 2020; 2022). In Indonesia, the HDI calculation follows the methodology established by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), which adapts global standards to the local context with more detailed data coverage (BPS, 2020; 2024). Through the HDI, the government can identify the level of progress of a region while measuring the effectiveness of implemented development policies (BPS, 2020). A high HDI value reflects the government's success in improving community welfare (Lestari, 2020).

As one of the regencies in South Kalimantan Province with abundant natural resource potential, especially in the mining, agriculture, and tourism sectors, Tabalong Regency faces the challenge of converting this economic potential into equitable improvements in quality of life. BPS data (2024) shows that Tabalong's HDI reached 75.43, ranking third among 13 regencies/cities in South Kalimantan (Table 1). This position indicates significant room for improvement, particularly in addressing developmental disparities between districts.

Table 1. HDI of Regencies/Cities in South Kalimantan

No	Regency/City	HDI
1	Banjarbaru	81.25
2	Banjarmasin	79.98
3	Tabalong	75.43
4	Banjar	74.01
5	Tanah Bumbu	73.86
6	Tapin	73.52
7	Hulu Sungai Selatan	73.21





8	Tanah Laut	72.98
9	Balangan	72.97
10	Hulu Sungai Tengah	72.76
11	Kotabaru	72.01
12	Hulu Sungai Utara	71.12
13	Barito Kuala	70.67

Source: Badan Pusat Statistik (2025)

HDI is formed by three main components: (1) the health dimension measured through Life Expectancy (AHH), (2) the education dimension represented by Expected Years of Schooling (HLS) and Mean Years of Schooling (RLS), and (3) the living standards dimension measured by real per capita expenditure (Herdiansyah & Kurniati, 2020). According to Daeng (2021), development occurs through the diffusion of growth from the leading sector in a country's economy to the lagging sector, from one industry to another, so it is called the growth strategy and equitable development. The Human Development Index has a negative and significant effect on regional inequality in Java and development countries in ASEAN (Wati et al, 2024), meaning the HDI can reduce regional inequality (Zusanti et al., 2020; Raharti et al., 2021; Farhan and Sugianto, 2022). In line with the research results of Kholis and Toto Gunarto (2025), improving the quality of education, health, and the standard of living can reduce poverty levels.

Recent studies highlight that HDI disparities are influenced by factors such as income inequality (Azhar & Nuryadin, 2025), unemployment (Haryono et al., 2023), and access to basic services (Nuryulianingdyah, 2022). In South Kalimantan, research confirms persistent gaps in HDI and its components across districts, including Tabalong (Abdurrahman & Rachman, 2021). Given Tabalong's strategic position adjacent to Indonesia's future capital (IKN), targeted policy interventions are imperative to ensure inclusive growth (Bella et al., 2025). This study aims to: (1) analyze the trajectory of Tabalong's HDI from 2010 to 2024; (2) quantify the relative contribution of each HDI component; and (3) formulate evidence-based policy recommendations to enhance human development in the regency.

LITERATURE REVIEW

HDI provides a multidimensional lens for evaluating development, emphasizing capabilities and quality of life over economic metrics alone (UNDP, 2020). In Indonesia, BPS adapts the UNDP methodology to local conditions, enabling nuanced regional assessments (BPS, 2020). Prior research in South Kalimantan notes that economic reliance on extractive industries often results in uneven human development outcomes (Abdurrahman & Rachman, 2021; Bella et al., 2025). Globally, studies reinforce that education and income are primary HDI drivers, while health outcomes frequently require more targeted intervention (Rontos et al., 2023; World Bank, 2023). This study extends existing literature by focusing on Tabalong Regency—a region of growing strategic importance—and examining the component-wise contributions to HDI over 15 years.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive design with a quantitative approach. The type of data used is annual time series data for the 2010–2024 period and cross-sectional data for Tabalong Regency, sourced from official publications of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Research variables include HDI and its components (AHH, HLS, RLS, and Per Capita Expenditure).

Data analysis was conducted in the following stages: (1) Normality Test (Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk) to ensure data distribution; (2) Homogeneity Test (Levene's Test); (3) Independent t-test to compare the means of HDI components based on HDI classification (medium vs high, referring to BPS); and (4) Multiple Linear Regression Analysis to determine the influence of each component on HDI. All analyses were performed using SPSS software.

RESULT

Tabalong Regency's HDI shows a consistent increase from 2010 to 2024, with an average annual growth of 0.8 points. In 2024, HDI reached 75.43, placing it in the *high* category. However, this achievement is still below the two main urban areas, Banjarbaru City (81.25) and Banjarmasin City (79.98). Based on SPSS results, the following data were obtained:

Table 2. Normality & Homogeneity Tests

No	Variable	Kolmogorov-Smirnov	Shapiro-Wilk	Sig. Levene's Test
1	Per Capita Expenditure	0.200	0.877	0.720
2	RLS	0.200	0.447	0.860
3	HLS	0.200	0.721	0.042
4	AHH	0.101	0.133	0.000
5	IPM	0.200	0.978	0.706

Source: Processed by researchers (2025)

Normality test results (Kolmogorov-Smirnov) show that all variables are normally distributed (significance > 0.05). Homogeneity test (*sig. Levene's Test*) indicates that data for HLS and AHH variables are not homogeneous. Therefore, in the independent t-test (Table 3), interpretation for these two variables refers to the *equal variances not assumed* row.

Table 3. Independent T-Test

Variable	HDI Category	Mean	T	Sig.
Per Capita Expenditure	Medium	9843.17	-5.358	0.000
	High	11619.00		
RLS	Medium	7.7683	-6.560	0.000
	High	8.8722		
HLS	Medium	11.7100	-4.728	0.003
	High	12.7100		
AHH	Medium	69.3733	-3.101	0.014
	High	71.6767		
IPM	Medium	67.6033	-6.378	0.000
	High	72.2144		

Source: Processed by researchers (2025)

The T-test results show significant differences (p-value < 0.05) in all HDI components between medium and high categories. The mean value of each component is consistently higher in the high HDI category group. Furthermore, to see the influence of each variable on HDI, refer to the following table:

Table 4. Regression Test Results

Model	B	T	Sig.	R
(Constant)	31.516	51.566	0.000	0.999
Per Capita Expenditure	0.001	33.281	0.000	0.996
RLS	1.481	27.361	0.000	0.993
HLS	1.108	24.501	0.000	0.992
AHH	0.022	2.408	0.000	0.606

Source: Processed by researchers (2025)

Based on Table 4, the regression equation formed is:

$$Y = 31.516 + 0.001X_1 + 1.481X_2 + 1.108X_3 + 0.022X_4$$

Regression analysis results show that all variables have a positive and significant influence on HDI. The coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.999 indicates that 99.9% of HDI variation can be explained by these four components. Per capita expenditure contributes the most (99.6%), followed by RLS (99.3%), HLS (99.2%), and AHH (60.6%).

DISCUSSION

These findings align with research by Bella et al. (2025) and Utami et al. (2025), which state that per capita expenditure and education are the main determinants of HDI. Additionally, these results reinforce findings by Rontos et al. (2023), highlighting the role of education in improving human resource quality. Per capita expenditure has the greatest influence on HDI value formation in Tabalong Regency. This means that as per capita expenditure increases, the HDI value also rises. This is consistent with research by Bella et al. (2025) and Utami et al. (2025), stating that per capita expenditure positively and significantly influences HDI.

Mean Years of Schooling (RLS) positively influences HDI improvement in Tabalong Regency. This aligns with research by Rontos et al. (2023), stating that Regional Gross Domestic Product and RLS have a positive and significant influence on HDI in Bolaang, South Mongondow. Meanwhile, Expected Years of Schooling (HLS) also significantly influences HDI improvement in Tabalong Regency. This condition is consistent with research by Patiung & Ernawati (2024), which states that HLS can enhance HDI value in Bojonegoro Regency.

The relatively low contribution of life expectancy (AHH) indicates that health aspects require more targeted interventions. Although health services have improved, challenges such as malnutrition, limited healthcare access in remote areas, and environmental health issues may still hinder optimal life expectancy outcomes. This underscores the need for integrated health programs focusing on preventive and promotive measures, especially for vulnerable groups.



CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Tabalong Regency's HDI shows good performance, ranking third in South Kalimantan with a consistent upward trend. This achievement is primarily driven by significant contributions from per capita expenditure and education components (RLS & HLS). However, the main challenge lies in the relatively low contribution of the health aspect (AHH) and potential inter-district disparities. Policy recommendations focused on improving basic health services, educational equity, strengthening community-based economies, and environmentally conscious development are expected to drive more inclusive and sustainable HDI improvements. To ensure policy effectiveness, further research is needed to conduct in-depth evaluations of human development programs implemented by local governments.

Recommendations

Based on research findings, applicable policy suggestions are:

1. Improving Health Quality: Addressing the relatively low AHH contribution through integrated nutrition programs for mothers and children, improving environmental sanitation, and strengthening the role of community health posts (POSYANDU) as the frontline of primary healthcare services.
2. Equity and Improvement of Education Quality: Expanding educational access in remote areas through school infrastructure development, scholarship provision, and student transportation support. Improving teacher quality and relevant curricula is also necessary.
3. Environmentally Oriented Education: Integrating waste bank programs and environmental education into school curricula and community activities to build ecological awareness while supporting the circular economy.
4. Increasing Purchasing Power and Economic Productivity: Encouraging inclusive economic growth through sustainable agricultural training programs, business diversification focusing on strengthening MSMEs and tourism development based on local potential, and strengthening distribution and marketing chains

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