Analysis of Dropout Rates in Primary Schools in North Luwu Regency

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Abstrak

Angka putus sekolah merupakan salah satu masalah yang perlu untuk ditekan dan diturunkan terlebih khusus pada jenjang pendidikan wajib atau pendidikan dasar. Penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menganalisis tren angka putus sekolah pada pendidikan dasar atau jenjang SD dan SMP di Kabupaten Luwu Utara, Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan. Data dikumpulkan melalui studi literatur dan dianalisis secara statistik deskriptif dan menggunakan uji regresi untuk menganalisis trend. Dari hasil penelitian dan analisis data menunjukan nilai Y=176,429 -23,429X sehingga dapat disimpulkan bahwa tren angka putus sekolah pada pendidikan dasar jenjang SD dan SMP menurun dan semakin rendah. Hal ini menunjukan bahwa Pendidikan Dasar di Luwu Utara bergerak ke arah positif.

Kata Kunci: *Angka Putus Sekolah; Pendidikan Dasar; Kabupaten Luwu Utara*

Abstract

The issue of high dropout rates, particularly in compulsory education or basic education, requires effective suppression and reduction. This study aims to examine the dropout rate trends in primary and junior high schools within North Luwu Regency, located in the South Sulawesi Province. The data for this study was collected through a literature review and analyzed using descriptive statistics. Additionally, a regression test was conducted to analyze the trends. The research findings and data analysis indicate a declining trend in dropout rates for elementary and junior high school students, as represented by the equation Y = 176.429 - 23.429X. This downward trend signifies a positive direction for basic education in North Luwu.

Keywords: *Dropout Rate; Primary School; North Luwu Regency*

Introduction

Education is a crucial role in a country's development, as seen in the experiences of developed nations. Therefore, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that education is accessible, affordable, and of high quality for all members of society. In line with Indonesia's commitment to

improving human resources, a compulsory education program has been established.

The aim of the compulsory education program is to provide equal access to education for all Indonesians. Education plays a vital role in shaping students' character and skills, so it is essential to prioritize the quality and affordability of educational services. The Indonesian government has a significant role to play in ensuring the availability of educational facilities, competent teachers, and a curriculum that meets students' needs.

According to data from statistic.data.kemdikbud.go.id, the dropout rate for elementary, middle, and high school levels is 734,827. Looking at these figures in detail, there were 40,623 dropouts at the elementary level and 694,204 at the junior high school level (Pusdatin Kemdikbudristek, 2023). These statistics indicate a significant dropout rate in Indonesia, suggesting that many children in the country are being deprived of their right to basic education. The 9-year compulsory education program in Indonesia needs further improvement to address this issue effectively. The government must make more impactful efforts to ensure that every child in Indonesia can access their fundamental right to education.

The issue of school dropout rates is a concern for all stakeholders because it has negative implications for various sectors. UNICEF Indonesia reports that dropping out of school results in missed opportunities for children to reach their full potential, a lack of essential academic skills, and limited employment prospects due to inadequate skills (UNICEF Indonesia, 2023). Addressing the problem of school dropouts is crucial, as it has long-term consequences for individuals and society as a whole. Every child deserves the opportunity to access quality education and develop their full potential.

Dropping out of school has a significant impact that extends beyond individuals, affecting society as a whole. When children leave school prematurely, they miss out on opportunities to reach their full potential, leading to limited career options and reduced earning potential. Moreover, this decision can result in a lack of fundamental academic skills, making it more challenging to succeed in the workforce or pursue higher education (Rokhmaniyah et al., 2022).

The consequences of dropping out extend beyond the individual level, impacting society and the economy at large. Those who do not complete their education are more susceptible to poverty and unemployment, affecting not only themselves but also their families and the community. Moreover, this situation can increase the demand for social welfare programs and strain public resources. To address this issue effectively, it is crucial to tackle the root causes of dropout rates and provide support and resources that enable children and youth to remain in school and complete their education. By doing so, we not only benefit individuals but also contribute to the development of a stronger and more prosperous society.

The decision to drop out of school is influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors, such as a lack of motivation to learn, inadequate skills, and unfavorable psychological conditions, can play a significant role in students' choices to leave school (Hakim, 2020). Additionally, external factors, such as a lack of parental attention and financial support, peer influences, an unsupportive local culture, and unfavorable school conditions, can also contribute to students' decisions to discontinue their education.

Addressing the issue of school dropout is an ongoing concern that requires immediate attention in order to advance national objectives. To effectively tackle this problem, it is crucial to foster collaboration between the central and regional governments. The government, including

district authorities, must extend support to students who drop out, while also fulfilling their responsibility of ensuring access to education for all children within their jurisdiction. District governments should proactively engage in ensuring comprehensive education for every child, thus creating equal opportunities for future success.

North Luwu Regency, located in the northern region of South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, spans an area of approximately 5,742.67 km² and is home to a population of around 319,332 people (BPS Luwu Utara, 2020). Similar to various regions across Indonesia, North Luwu District faces a significant challenge of high dropout rates. The Education Office of North Luwu Regency's data reveals relatively high enrollment rates of 96.08% at the elementary school (SD) level and 92.52% at the junior high school (SMP) level. However, the graduation rates for junior and senior high schools in this district remain low, standing at approximately 75.73% and 67.57% respectively (Pusdatin Kemdikbudristek, 2023).

Several factors contribute to the problem of school dropout in North Luwu Regency. Hence, it is crucial to analyze the trend of dropout rates in the region to identify key influencing factors and provide recommendations for overcoming this challenge.

Method

The methodology employed in this study follows a quantitative approach with the aim of conducting a systematic and objective exploration of facts or phenomena. Statistical analysis techniques are utilized to process the collected data. The data for this study are sourced from various reputable references, including scientific journals, articles, books, and other relevant sources that provide numerical data.
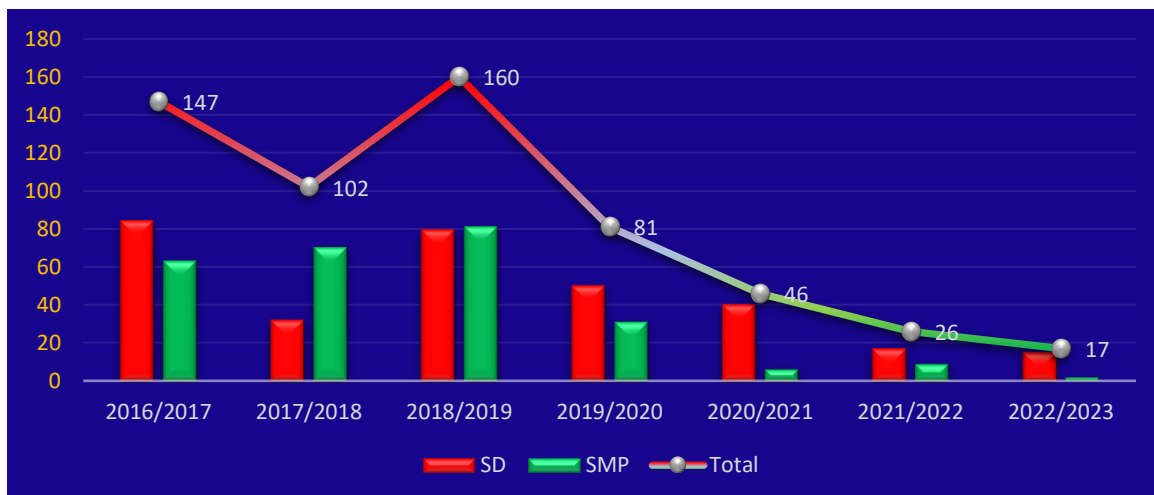
In this study, data analysis will be performed using descriptive statistical methods and trend analysis. Descriptive data analysis is employed to provide a comprehensive description of the data, including average values and the distribution of student data concerning dropout rates. This analysis allows for an understanding of the dropout rate in recent years and how it is distributed across different sub-districts within North Luwu district.

Furthermore, trend analysis will be conducted using the linear regression method. This approach enables the calculation of the linear trend of dropout rates at the district level over the past years, providing insights into the overall direction and magnitude of the dropout rate.

Result and Discussion

1. Description of School Dropout Rate Data

The data used in this study is derived from a comprehensive literature review. The purpose of analyzing the dropout rate data is to present an overview of the educational landscape in the North Luwu Regency area, specifically focusing on the number of students who have discontinued their education between the years 2015 and 2022. Graph 1 below provides a visual representation of the dropout rate data in North Luwu Regency.

Grap 1 Dropout Rate in Elementary Education in North Luwu Regency from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023

Based on the data description in Graph 1, it can be observed that the dropout rate has shown a decline since the 2018/2019 academic year. During that year, the number of students who dropped out reached its highest point at 160 students. However, over time, there has been a decrease in the dropout rate until the 2021/2022 academic year.

Interestingly, if we closely examine the graph, starting from the 2019/2020 academic year, the dropout rate at the elementary school level (SD) tends to be higher than the dropout rate at the junior high school level (SMP). This indicates an improvement in efforts to minimize the dropout rate at the junior high school level. However, in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic years, there was an increase in the dropout rate at the junior high school level, causing it to surpass the dropout rate at the elementary school level.

The increase in the dropout rate at the junior high school level during those years may warrant special attention from relevant parties in implementing education policies and programs. More effective measures are needed to prevent and reduce the dropout rate at the junior high school level, such as education assistance programs, student mentoring, and enhancing the quality of teaching.

Overall, despite some fluctuations in certain years, the data in Graph 1 indicate a general trend of decreasing dropout rates in recent years. This suggests that successful efforts have been made to improve access to and continuity of education. However, further evaluation and improvement are still necessary to continue reducing the dropout rates at all levels of education, especially at the junior high school level, which shows a less favorable trend compared to the elementary school level.

Lestari, Kurniawan, & Bayu Ardi (2020) suggested that high dropout rates in elementary schools could be attributed to parental factors such as financial constraints and a lack of ability to provide motivational support to students. Additionally, school-related factors such as limited access and inadequate facilities contribute to the issue. On the other hand, internal factors originating from the students themselves, such as a lack of motivation, desire for freedom, and reluctance to continue their education, also play a role. Table 1 provides further details on the dropout rate data.

Table 1. *Dropout Rate in Elementary Education in North Luwu Regency from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023*

Years	SD	SMP	Total

2016/2017	84	63	147
2017/2018	32	70	102
2018/2019	79	81	160
2019/2020	50	31	81
2020/2021	40	6	46
2021/2022	17	9	26
2022/2023	15	2	17
Mean	**45.286**	**37.428**	**82.704**

Source: statistik.data.kemdikbud.go.id

The table 1 provides an overview of the dropout rates among elementary and junior high school students from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023. On average, 45,286 elementary school students dropped out during this period, while the number was lower for junior high school students, with an average of 37,428 dropouts. Notably, there was a significant decrease in dropout rates at the junior high school level, with only 6 students dropping out in 2022/2023 compared to 31 students in 2019/2020. This positive shift suggests a growing awareness among students about the importance of completing their basic education, particularly at the junior high school level.

Likewise, the trend of decreasing dropout rates can also be observed at the elementary school level. Year after year, the number of dropouts has consistently declined, indicating a positive progress in educational retention efforts. The North Luwu Regency government has been actively addressing this issue since 2018 by implementing various programs aimed at reducing dropout rates. To ensure the success of these initiatives, the local government has called upon all segments of society, including the village government, to actively participate and contribute to the cause (Humas Luwu Utara, 2019).

The concerted efforts to reduce dropout rates in North Luwu Regency have yielded promising results. The declining trend in dropout numbers is a testament to the effectiveness of the programs and the collective commitment of the community. By

emphasizing the significance of completing basic education, especially at the junior high school level, students are increasingly motivated to stay in school and pursue their studies. The local government's continuous engagement with various stakeholders, including the village government, has fostered a collaborative environment that encourages proactive involvement in combating the issue of student dropout (Supriatna, 2023). This ongoing commitment holds the promise of a brighter future for the region's education system.
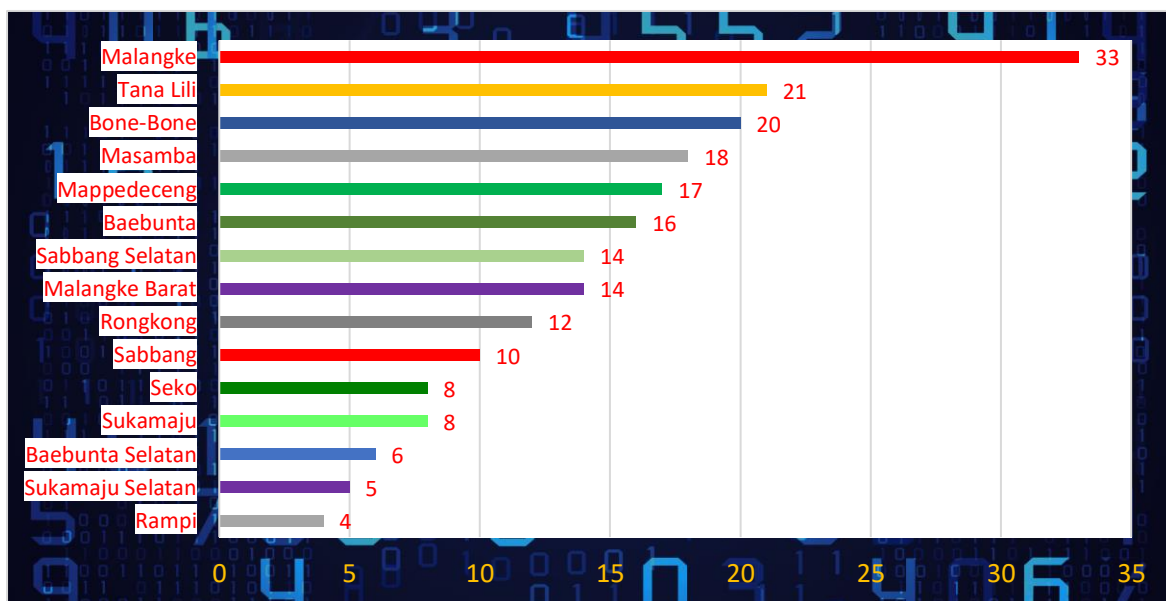
Collaborative governance is an inclusive approach to decision making and policy implementation that involves multiple stakeholders, such as government, civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (Kariem & Afrijal, 2021). This approach seeks to enhance active participation from all parties involved, aiming to generate more effective and sustainable solutions for complex issues.

One key benefit of collaborative governance is its ability to foster a comprehensive understanding of the challenges at hand. By engaging diverse stakeholders, a wealth of information, experiences, and perspectives can be gathered (Yurizal & Aripin, 2022). This enables more informed decision making and a deeper comprehension of the potential implications and consequences of the choices being made. Moreover, collaborative governance creates space for open dialogue and discussion among stakeholders, fostering innovative problem-solving and targeted solutions. Another advantage of collaborative governance is its potential to increase the legitimacy and acceptance of decisions and policies. By involving a range of stakeholders, this approach ensures that the decision-making process is inclusive and transparent. When policies and decisions are crafted through such processes, people feel that their interests are valued and represented. This builds trust and support, paving the way

for the successful implementation of the resulting policies as there is broader agreement and backing from various stakeholders.

Furthermore, collaborative governance strengthens the implementation of policies and programs. Through stakeholder involvement in decision making, a sense of shared responsibility for policy implementation is cultivated. Stakeholders' participation in policy planning and formulation encourages policy owners to prioritize effective and successful implementation. Additionally, collaboration among stakeholders allows for resource-sharing, knowledge exchange, and the leveraging of expertise, resulting in improved efficiency and effectiveness in policy implementation. This collaborative approach also helps mitigate potential conflicts that may arise, as stakeholders work together towards common goals. This is Graph 2 about elementary school dropout rate per district in the last 5 years.

Grap 2. Elementary School Drop Out Rate per District in the last 5 years

The high dropout rates in these sub-districts highlight the need for appropriate interventions and support to address this problem. The reasons for students dropping out of school can vary, including financial constraints, lack of access to quality education, and personal circumstances. To tackle this issue effectively, it is crucial for local governments and educational institutions to collaborate and implement strategies that promote retention and provide necessary resources, ensuring every child has an equal opportunity to receive an education.

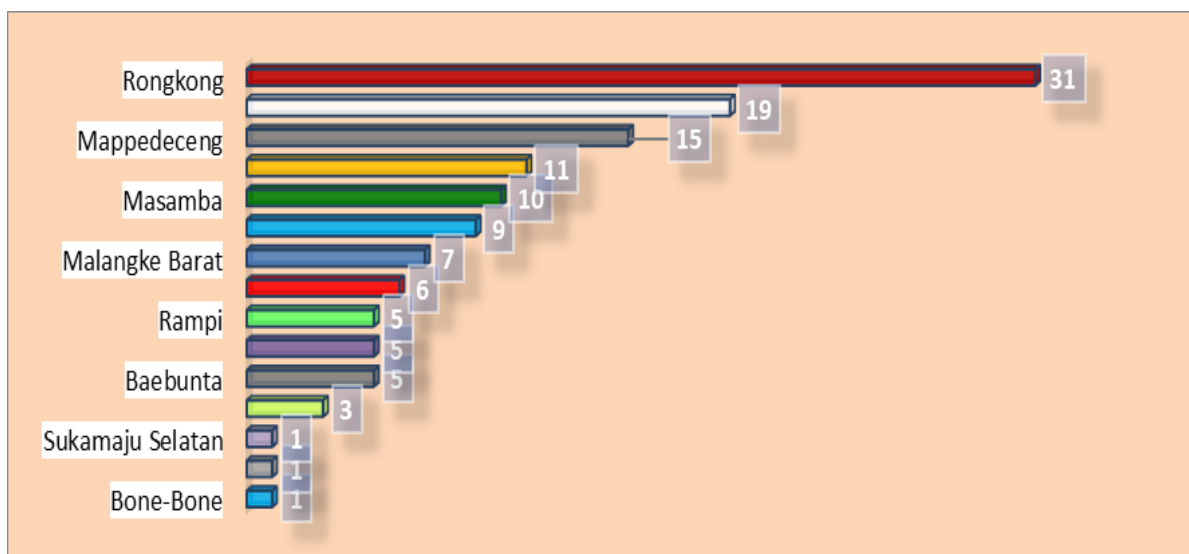Efforts should be focused on identifying the causes of high dropout rates in specific sub-districts and developing suitable solutions. This may involve providing financial assistance or scholarships to underprivileged families, improving infrastructure and facilities in schools, enhancing teacher training programs, and implementing initiatives that engage students and create a positive learning environment. By comprehensively addressing this issue, we can work towards reducing dropout rates and increasing educational attainment for all students.

Addressing the problem of dropout rates requires cooperation between the government, educational institutions, and the local community. The government should allocate sufficient budget for education and formulate policies that

support efforts to prevent dropouts. Additionally, educational institutions play a vital role in ensuring the provision of quality education and actively involving students in their learning process. The local community can provide support by paying attention to and assisting students who are at risk of dropping out, offering motivation, financial aid, or access to educational resources. Through strong collaboration among all stakeholders, we can minimize

dropout rates and provide better opportunities for the younger generation's future. Description of dropout rates per district in junior high school can see at the graph 3.

Level	a	bX	MSE
SD	84,714	-9,857	371,77
SMP	91.714	-13.571	309.71
SD+SMP	176,429	-23,429	798,85

Graph 3. Dropout Rate for Basic Education Junior High School level per District in the last 5 years

Over the past five years, an analysis of junior high school dropout rates reveals significant disparities among districts. The Rongkong District stands out with the highest dropout rate, totaling 31 students. Following closely behind is the Seko District, while the Mappedeceng District also struggles with notable dropout numbers. Conversely, the South Sukamaju District, South Sabbang District, and Bone-Bone District exhibit commendably low dropout rates, indicating a more favorable educational environment. It is crucial for local authorities and educational institutions to address the factors contributing to high dropout rates in districts such as Rongkong, Seko, and Mappedeceng, while also studying the successful practices of districts like South Sukamaju, South

Sabbang, and Bone-Bone to replicate their positive outcomes. By identifying and implementing effective strategies, we can strive towards reducing dropout rates uniformly and ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students in the region.

2. Trend Analysis Dropout Rate

To predict the dropout rate in North Luwu Regency for the upcoming year, a trend analysis was conducted. This analysis serves as a valuable tool for identifying and analyzing patterns and directional changes in dropout rates over time. Specifically, a linear regression analysis was employed using SPSS 24 software to examine the dropout trends comprehensively.

Table 2. Regression Test Results of dropout rates in North Luwu Regency

At the elementary school level, a score of 84.714 was obtained. Additionally, there has been a yearly decrease in the dropout rate, with each year showing a reduction of 9.857. Considering these factors, the regression test value can be determined.

$$Y = a+bX \text{ then } Y = 84,714 + (-9,857 X)$$

The given equation represents the average dropout rate change per year. The coefficient bX is -9.857, indicating a negative trend. This suggests that the dropout rate decreases by 9.857 students each year. Therefore, it can be estimated that the dropout rate for the 2023/2024 academic year will be around 5 students. The Mean Square Error (MSE) is 371.771, which measures the accuracy of the regression model in predicting the Y value based on the observed X value.

Then at the junior high school level the constant value of a is 91.714 then the value of b is -13.571 following the regression test for data on dropout rates in junior high school

$$Y = a+bX \text{ then } Y = 91,714 + (-13,571 X) = 91,714 - 13,571X$$

Based on the available data, we can make predictions about the dropout rate at the junior high school level in Luwu Utara Regency on an annual basis. The positive value of constant (a) indicates that there was initially a relatively high dropout rate at the starting point (X = 0). On the other hand, the negative value of coefficient (b) suggests that each subsequent year is expected to witness a decline in the dropout rate.

This regression analysis offers valuable insights into the relationship between each academic year and the dropout rates in junior high schools. These findings can be utilized to inform education policies or develop strategies that are more effective in reducing dropout rates. In general, basic education in North Luwu Regency follows the equation 176.429 - 23.429X. This equation demonstrates a positive trend, indicating that on average, the dropout rate has decreased by approximately 23.429 students each school year. These findings highlight the progress being made in education within North Luwu Regency.

One of the primary causes of high dropout rates is the low economic status of families (Asmara & Sukadana, 2016). However, in North Luwu Regency, there has been an improvement in the economic conditions of families, aligning with a decrease in the poverty rate from 13.69% in 2018 to 13.60% in 2020, ultimately reaching 13.41% (BPS, 2022). This reduction in poverty has had a significant positive impact on the decline of dropout rates in North Luwu District.

In addition to economic factors, another determinant affecting dropout rates is the accessibility of schools. North Luwu Regency comprises 11 districts with a total of 173 villages. There are 246 elementary schools (SD) and 73 junior high schools (SMP) within the district (Dinas Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Kabupaten Luwu Utara, 2023). This data indicates that the number of primary schools exceeds the number of villages, and the ratio of junior high schools to sub-districts is 6.63:1. Hence, basic education is more accessible in North Luwu District.

With an adequate number of schools and improved accessibility to education, it is expected that the dropout rate in North Luwu Regency will continue to decrease. Furthermore, additional efforts must be made to continually enhance the economic conditions of families, ensuring that more children receive proper education and are discouraged from dropping out of school.

Conclusion

Based on the research and data analysis, the equation Y = 176.429 - 23.429X reveals a downward trend in dropout rates for elementary and junior high school students. This indicates a positive direction for Basic Education in North Luwu. To complement efforts in enhancing educational access, it is crucial to prioritize the improvement of teaching quality within schools. Local governments can achieve this by offering

training and professional development opportunities for teachers, revising educational curricula, and ensuring sufficient resources for effective teaching and learning.

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Author Profile

Nursalim is a writer and senior lecturer who was born on November 27, 1964. He obtained his Master's degree in 2002, demonstrating his commitment and dedication to education and self-improvement. As a senior lecturer, Nursalim has extensive experience and expertise in the field of management. He has made significant contributions to teaching and research in the Management Study Program at Muhammadiyah Palopo University. As a lecturer, Nursalim strives to transfer knowledge and share his experiences with students in an interactive and inspiring manner.