

Original Article

Determinants of Economic Growth and Poverty Levels of Districts/Cities in East Nusa Tenggara Province

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Abstract: East Nusa Tenggara Province is one of the provinces with a high poverty rate and low economic growth among 37 other provinces. The gap between high economic growth, which is not in line with reducing poverty levels, is a major problem in NTT Province. This research uses determinants of investment, education level, Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), economic growth and poverty level. This research aims to analyze the determinants of economic growth and poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province. The data used in this research is panel data, with a total of 10 years of observations starting from 2014-2023 in districts/cities in NTT Province. However, it was excluded in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 case, so the amount of data was 176 observation points. Based on the analysis, the results show that investment has an insignificant effect, education level has an insignificant effect, and the level of labor force participation has a significant effect on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province. Investment has a significant effect, education level has a significant negative effect, while the level of labor force participation and economic growth have an insignificant effect on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province. Investment, education level and labor force participation rate indirectly have no effect on poverty levels through economic growth.

Keywords: Investment, Economic Growth, Poverty Level, Education Level, Labor Force Participation Rate.

I. INTRODUCTION

Under the regulations of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, development is a system of progress toward an improved and ongoing direction with the aim of establishing an Indonesian society that is fair, competitive, developed, and wealthy. Every stage of development needs to be guided toward the end result. A decent life is a human right that is universally recognized. National development is basically about improving general welfare that is fair and equitable for all Indonesian people. Thus, poverty alleviation is a top development priority. The Indonesian government understands that National Development aims to attain the objectives of a wealthy and just society. Numerous development initiatives have been focused on the development of regions in order to achieve this goal especially areas that are relatively underdeveloped (Pratama, 2015).

The Indonesian government understands that achieving national development is a necessary step toward building a society that is both just and wealthy. To this end, a number of development initiatives have focused on regional development, particularly in places where poverty rates are relatively high and rising annually. With national development foundations and aims that have been established via both immediate and long-term growth, regional development is implemented in an integrated and sustainable way based on the priorities and needs of each region. As a result, the rate at which the number of poor people is declining serves as a key barometer of the effectiveness of national development. Effectiveness in reducing the number of poor people is the main factor in choosing development strategies. This indicates that the ability to effectively reduce the number of impoverished people is one of the primary reasons for choosing the primary industry or sectors in national development (Wijayanto, 2016).

Economic development is one of the important factors that a country, especially developing countries, must consider because the economy of developing countries is greatly influenced by economic development in that country (Sukirno, 2002). A number of initiatives are taken in the name of economic development in an attempt to raise living standards and increase population welfare. In order to achieve the highest level of Gross National Product (GNP), economic development must first eradicate poverty, end inequality in income, create job opportunities, improve education, raise requirements for health and nutrition, improve the environment, equalize possibilities, distribute individual freedoms equally, and revitalize cultural life (Saputri, 2018). The goal of emerging nations' economic development is to achieve equal economic growth throughout society, increasing the rate of economic growth, increasing employment opportunities, equal distribution of income, reducing differences in capabilities between regions and a balanced economic structure (Sukirno, 2005).



Throughout the world, poverty is a serious issue for many nations, particularly developing nations. A person is considered to be in poverty if they are unable to meet their basic necessities, which include clothing, food, housing, and medical care (Hardinandar, 2019). Poverty itself is one indicator of social and economic conditions used to evaluate the effectiveness of government development in a certain area. (Oktaviana et al., 2021). These days, poverty is defined not only as a lack of financial means but also as the inability to exercise fundamental rights and the inequity of treating an individual or group of individuals with respect. The provision of food, health care, education, work, housing, clean water, natural assets, the preservation of the environment, feeling safe from abuse or threats of assault, and the ability to engage in social and political life are among the widely acknowledged basic rights. The welfare of people, as well as society as a whole, is significantly impacted by poverty. This can lead to hunger, inequality, health problems, poor education, and even crime (Ginting & Rasbin, 2010).

Indonesia has 38 provinces with socio-economic conditions that vary from one region to another. In 2022, Indonesia will develop its provincial regions by adding to the division of Papua Province, namely into the provinces of South Papua, Central Papua, Mountainous Papua and Southwest Papua. One of the conditions that is quite worrying in national development is the high level of poverty in a region of the country. Each province in Indonesia has different economic problems. Table 1 presents the poverty level in Indonesia by province in the last five years, namely from 2018 to 2022.

Table 1: Poverty Levels by Province in Indonesia 2018-2022 (%)

No.	Province	Years					Average
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1.	Aceh	15,97	15,32	14,99	15,33	14,64	15,31
2.	Sumatra Utara	9,22	8,83	8,75	9,01	8,42	8,823
3.	Sumatra Barat	6,65	6,42	6,28	6,63	5,92	6,38
4.	Riau	7,39	7,08	6,82	7,12	6,78	7,038
5.	Jambi	7,92	7,6	7,58	8,09	7,62	7,762
6.	Sumatra Selatan	12,8	12,71	12,66	12,84	11,9	12,582
7.	Bengkulu	15,43	15,23	15,03	15,22	14,62	15,106
8.	Lampung	13,14	12,62	12,34	12,62	11,57	12,458
9.	Kep.Bangka Belitung	5,52	4,62	4,53	4,9	4,45	4,804
10.	Kepulauan Riau	6,2	5,9	5,92	6,12	6,24	6,076
11.	DKI Jakarta	3,57	7,47	4,53	4,72	4,69	4,996
12.	Jawa Barat	7,45	6,91	7,88	8,4	8,06	7,74
13.	Jawa Tengah	11,32	10,8	11,41	11,79	10,93	11,25
14.	DIY	12,13	11,7	12,28	12,8	11,34	12,05
15.	Jawa Timur	10,98	10,32	11,09	11,4	10,38	10,834
16.	Banten	5,24	5,69	5,92	6,66	6,16	5,934
17.	Bali	4,01	3,79	3,78	4,53	4,57	4,136
18.	NTB	14,75	14,56	13,97	14,14	13,68	14,22
19.	NTT	21,35	21,09	20,90	20,99	20,05	20,876
20.	Kalimantan Barat	7,77	7,49	7,17	7,15	6,73	7,262
21.	Kalimantan Tengah	5,17	4,98	4,82	5,16	5,28	5,082
22.	Kalimantan Selatan	4,54	4,55	4,38	4,83	4,49	4,558
23.	Kalimantan Timur	6,03	5,94	6,1	6,54	6,31	6,184
24.	Kalimantan Utara	7,09	6,63	6,8	7,36	6,77	6,93
25.	Sulawesi Utara	7,8	7,66	7,62	7,77	7,28	7,626
26.	Sulawesi Tengah	14,01	13,48	12,92	13	12,33	13,148
27.	Sulawesi Selatan	9,06	8,69	8,72	8,78	8,63	8,776
28.	Sulawesi Tenggara	11,63	11,24	11	11,66	11,17	11,34
29.	Gorontalo	16,81	15,52	15,22	15,61	15,42	15,716
30.	Sulawesi Barat	11,25	11,02	10,87	11,29	11,75	11,236
31.	Maluku	18,12	17,69	17,44	17,87	15,97	17,418
32.	Maluku Utara	6,64	6,77	6,78	6,89	6,23	6,662
33.	Papua Barat	23,01	22,17	21,37	21,84	21,33	21,944
34.	Papua	27,74	27,53	26,64	26,86	26,56	27,066
	Indonesia	9,66	9,22	10,19	9,71	9,57	9,67

Source: BPS Indonesia, 2023

In Table 1, the poverty level in Indonesia has fluctuated over the last five years from 2018 to 2022. The highest poverty level occurred in 2020 because, at that time, one of the COVID-19 pandemic phenomena occurred, and the impact of this

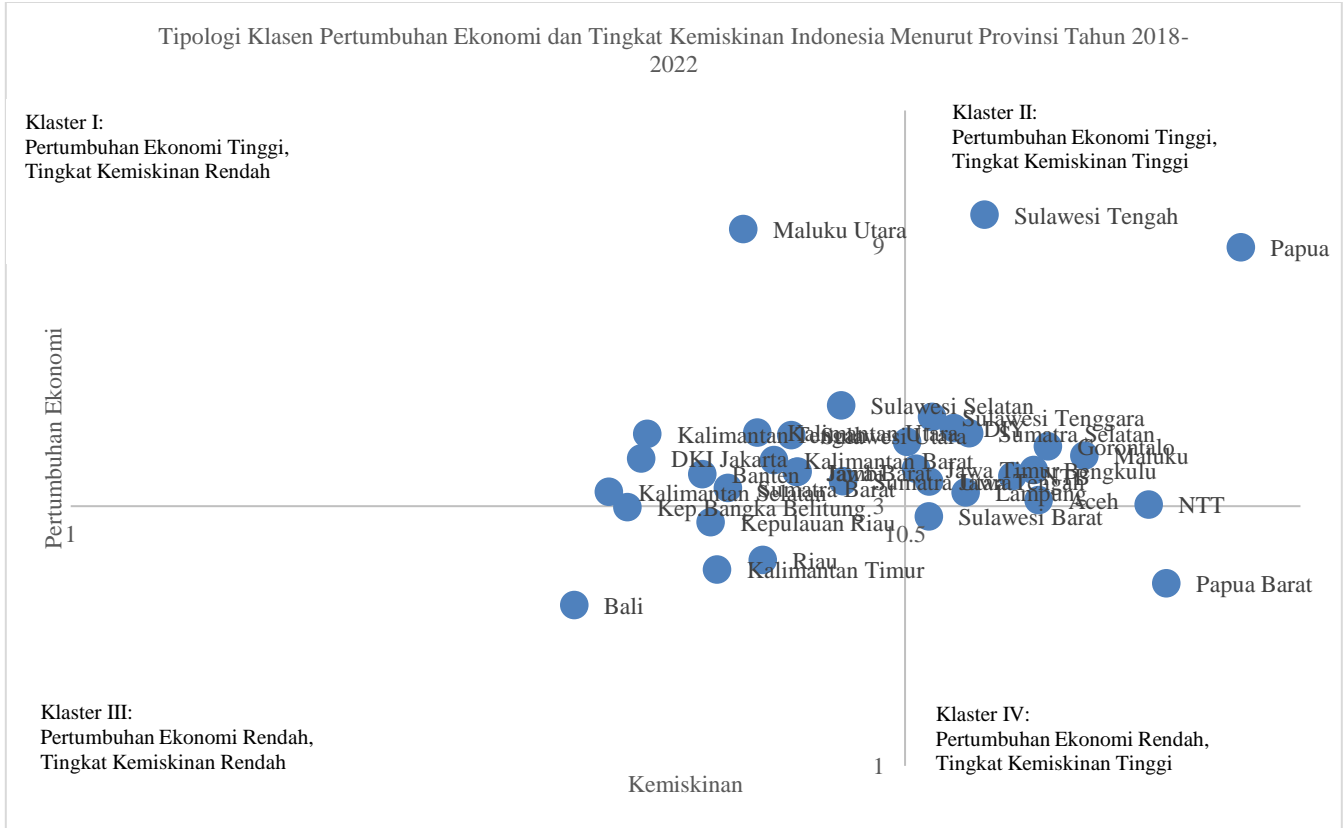
phenomenon was the death of economic activity. Each province in Indonesia has different levels of poverty. The three provinces with the highest poverty rates in Indonesia are Papua Province, followed by West Papua Province and then NTT Province.

One of the provinces experiencing conditions of poverty in Indonesia is East Nusa Tenggara Province. In the last four years, from 2018 to 2021, NTT Province experienced an increase in the number of poor people; where in 2018, the number of poor people in NTT Province was 1,142.17 people; in 2019, it increased to 1,146.32 people; in 2020 it increased to 1,153.76 people and in 2021 it will increase to 169.31 people. From the data obtained from BPS (Central Statistics Agency) of East Nusa Tenggara Province, it can be explained that the problem of poverty in NTT Province is still quite crucial. If we look at the poverty level over the last five years in NTT Province, the poverty level has fluctuated every year and when compared with the national poverty level, the poverty level in NTT Province itself has always been far above the national poverty level. In 2018 the poverty rate in NTT Province was 21.35 percent, then in 2019, the NTT poverty rate fell to 21.09 percent, but in 2020 the poverty rate fell to 20.90 percent, and in 2021, it rose to 20.99 percent. In 2022, the poverty level in NTT Province will decrease to 20.05, but this figure is still considered high when compared to the national poverty level.

Economic growth is one of the elements that affect poverty. Growth and poverty are strongly correlated since the number of impoverished individuals gradually declines as development approaches its finish, and the degree of poverty tends to rise in the beginning phases of the process (Tambunan, 2001). Siregar (2006) states that economic growth is a necessary condition for poverty reduction. Economic growth in each region in Indonesia also varies from one region to another because regional social and economic conditions also vary. Indonesia itself now has 38 provinces, where the four provinces were expanded from Papua Province to become four new provinces and were expanded in 2022. Economic growth in each province in Indonesia varies greatly and always fluctuates every year. Data obtained from the Central Statistics Agency still displays data from 34 provinces in Indonesia.

Apart from that, it can also be explained that the condition of the poverty level and economic growth in NTT Province has fluctuated in the last five years and from 2019 to 2021, there was a condition that created a gap between the poverty level and economic growth in NTT Province where in 2020 the poverty level decreased from the previous year it was 20.90 percent while economic growth also decreased to -0.84 percent and in 2021 the poverty rate rose to 20.99 percent while economic growth also rose to 2.52 percent. This is inversely proportional to the theory presented by Kuznet that growth and poverty have a strong correlation where these things can influence each other.

Figure 1 shows the division of provinces in Indonesia according to their poverty level and economic growth, which are divided into four clusters/groupings.



Source: BPS Indonesia, 2023

Figure 1: Typology of Economic Growth and Poverty Levels in Indonesia by Province for 2018-2022

Figure 1 shows the typology of economic growth rankings and poverty levels for each province in Indonesia from 2018-2022. From the results of the typology above, the identification of NTT Province is included in cluster II with the classification of high economic growth accompanied by a high level of poverty. In this cluster division, each province can be classified into four clusters. In cluster I (top left), it can be explained that this condition is a condition where economic growth increases and poverty levels decrease; cluster II (top right) can be explained that this condition is a condition where economic growth increases but the poverty level is also high, cluster III (left bottom) can be explained that this condition is a condition where economic growth is falling accompanied by conditions where poverty levels are also falling, cluster IV (bottom right) can be explained that this condition is a condition where low economic growth is followed by high poverty. From the clustering analysis that has been analyzed above, the NTT Province in the last five years of the results of the typology analysis is classified as cluster II, where this situation shows that there is a gap between economic growth and the level of poverty, which is directly proportional. This is contrary to the theory which explains that economic growth and poverty levels are inversely related.

From the data displayed, as well as the description of the class typology in Figure 1, NTT Province is one of the provinces that is classified as belonging to the Cluster II region with economic growth conditions that are directly proportional to the poverty level. Apart from that, it can also be seen from the conditions of poverty levels and economic growth that occur in districts/cities in NTT Province, where there are also different problems in each district/city region.

From Table 2, it can be explained the development of poverty levels that occurred in districts/cities in NTT Province during the last six years from 2018-2023. The poverty rate in this district/city fluctuates every year and this figure is still relatively high when compared with the national poverty rate. The districts/cities with quite high levels of poverty over the last six years are districts on the Sumba and Timor islands.

Table 2: Poverty Level in Districts/Cities in NTT Province 2018-2023 (%)

No	Districts/Cities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Sumba Barat	28,51	28,29	28,17	28,39	27,47	27,17
2	Sumba Timur	30,13	30,02	29,65	29,68	28,22	28,08

3	Kupang	23,10	23,03	22,77	22,98	21,70	21,78
4	Timor Tengah Selatan	28,06	27,87	27,49	26,64	25,45	25,18
5	Timor Tengah Utara	22,31	22,45	22,28	22,62	21,50	21,85
6	Belu	15,70	15,54	15,37	15,68	14,84	14,30
7	Alor	21,63	21,59	21,09	21,09	20,25	19,97
8	Lembata	26,45	26,30	26,14	26,21	25,18	24,78
9	Flores Timur	11,05	10,90	10,84	11,14	10,75	11,77
10	Sikka	13,82	13,53	13,12	13,35	12,61	12,56
11	Ende	24,20	23,18	23,76	24,13	23,00	22,86
12	Ngada	12,94	12,48	12,51	12,58	11,93	12,06
13	Manggarai	20,83	20,55	20,34	20,48	19,84	19,69
14	Rote Ndao	28,08	27,95	27,54	28,08	27,45	27,05
15	Manggarai Barat	18,14	18,01	17,71	17,92	17,15	16,82
16	Sumba Tengah	34,85	34,62	34,49	34,27	32,51	31,78
17	Sumba Barat Daya	28,88	28,06	28,00	28,18	27,16	27,48
18	Nagekeo	12,98	12,85	12,61	12,91	12,05	12,33
19	Manggarai Timur	26,50	26,49	26,52	26,50	25,35	25,06
20	Sabu Raijua	30,83	30,52	30,18	30,13	28,73	28,37
21	Malaka	16,34	16,12	16,04	16,33	15,26	14,42
22	Kota Kupang	9,61	9,22	8,96	9,17	8,61	8,61
	Nusa Tenggara Timur	21,35	21,09	20,90	20,99	20,05	19,96

Source: BPS NTT Province, 2023

Apart from that, economic growth problems that occur in districts/cities in NTT Province also vary according to the conditions of each region. In the last six years, economic growth conditions in districts/cities in NTT Province have fluctuated. Table 3 displays the development of economic growth over the last six years from 2018-2023 in districts/cities in NTT Province.

In Table 4, the development of economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province over a period of six years observed fluctuations from year to year. In 2018 and 2019 economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province showed good economic growth when compared with national economic growth. However, after 2020, a year when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was felt, economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province decreased compared to national economic growth.

Table 3: Economic Growth in Regencies/Cities in NTT Province 2018-2023 (%)

No	Districts/Cities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Sumba Barat	5,07	5,13	-0,27	1,03	3,23	3,7
2	Sumba Timur	5,19	5,13	-0,83	1,08	2,63	3,12
3	Kupang	5,11	5,12	-0,80	2,70	2,84	3,55
4	Timor Tengah Selatan	5,10	5,10	-0,06	2,41	3,11	3,21
5	Timor Tengah Utara	5,03	5,10	-0,55	2,36	2,80	3,00
6	Belu	5,60	5,38	0,40	1,75	3,19	3,76
7	Alor	5,06	5,10	-0,55	2,50	2,95	4,09
8	Lembata	5,04	5,09	-0,37	1,44	2,60	2,46
9	Flores Timur	4,74	4,81	0,87	0,69	1,71	3,15
10	Sikka	5,26	5,19	-0,85	2,13	3,37	3,77
11	Ende	4,92	5,08	-1,33	2,13	3,09	3,87
12	Ngada	5,00	5,02	0,04	1,13	3,05	3,49
13	Manggarai	5,09	5,00	-0,79	1,30	2,21	3,79
14	Rote Ndao	5,41	5,24	0,30	2,24	3,56	2,71
15	Manggarai Barat	5,23	5,54	0,89	1,29	4,12	4,77
16	Sumba Tengah	4,95	5,01	0,86	1,41	2,58	2,85
17	Sumba Barat Daya	5,01	5,06	0,10	2,08	3,80	3,00
18	Nagekeo	4,75	4,31	0,63	2,04	3,12	3,12
19	Manggarai Timur	5,00	4,98	0,87	2,31	3,74	3,5
20	Sabu Raijua	5,13	5,12	-0,39	1,49	3,02	2,62
21	Malaka	5,11	4,90	0,97	1,95	3,73	3,77
22	Kota Kupang	6,59	6,03	-2,05	1,34	3,43	3,93
	Nusa Tenggara Timur	5,11	5,25	-0,84	2,52	3,05	3,52

Source: BPS NTT Province, 2023

Apart from that, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy (Kemenparekraf) has determined that NTT Province is currently one of the provinces that the government has designated as a province with Super Priority Tourism Destinations (DPSP) due to the tourism potential that exists in this area so that many investors are investing in the Province. NTT currently. Investment is also a factor that can influence economic growth. Capital investment or investment influences the level of economic growth, which reflects the rise or sluggishness of development. Based on the Harrod-Domar theory, which believes that the level of economic growth is very dependent on the level of investment, if the level of investment is high, the higher the level of growth achieved. According to Harrod-Domar, the relationship between investment and employment opportunities is that investment not only creates demand but also increases production capacity, which will automatically increase users. In NTT Province, investment has developed very well, and in the last six years, investment has continued to increase, both PMDN and PMA, except for the year when the COVID-19 pandemic occurred. This shows quite good investment development in NTT Province. In total, investment in NTT Province in 2023 will be IDR 6,867,753,752,000.00.

Apart from that, another factor that influences economic growth is the level of education. The current condition of education in NTT Province has improved from year to year, although it is still low compared to education at the national level; this is marked by the growing integrity of students in attending school. In the last five years in NTT Province, from 2018 to 2022, the average length of schooling for residents aged 15 years and over has increased every year, although not very significantly. In 2018, the average length of schooling for residents in NTT Province was 7.98 years; in 2019, the average length of schooling increased to 8.09 years; in 2020, it became 8.2 years; in 2021, it also increased to 8, 25 years and in 2022 it will be 8.31 years, although this figure is still low when compared to the national level.

Good educational conditions will also refer to a higher level of labor force participation. One of the factors that influence economic growth is the labor force participation rate. In NTT Province itself, the labor force participation rate has increased from year to year, and this shows that the workforce absorbed in employment opportunities in NTT Province is also increasing from year to year, and this can influence economic activities in this region. In the last five years, from 2018 to 2022, TPAK has increased except in 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2018, the TPAK in NTT Province was 70.17 percent; in 2019, it decreased to 68.50 percent, while in the following year, 2020, it increased to 73.11 percent, and the following years in 2021 and 2022 also experienced an increase in TPAK to 73.78 percent and 75.23 percent. This shows that labor force participation in NTT Province is currently developing well.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research design uses an associative quantitative method with a causal relationship. Associative research is used to determine the influence of investment, education level and labor force participation level on poverty levels through economic growth as an intervening variable. The research location was carried out in East Nusa Tenggara Province. The types of data used in this research are Quantitative Data and Qualitative Data. The data sources used in this research are secondary data sources, namely from BPS East Nusa Tenggara Province, BPS Indonesia and other literature that supports the research object. This research uses panel data, namely a combination of time series and cross-section data. The data used is investment data, education level, labor force participation rate and economic growth according to districts/cities in East Nusa Tenggara Province from 2014-2023. The method used in collecting this data is observation. The analytical technique used for problem-solving in this research is quantitative analysis with the help of the SPSS 26 and PLS programs.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to get a general understanding of how maximum and minimum values, averages, and standard deviations were calculated in relation to studies on the effects of investments, educational attainment, and TPAK on economic growth and poverty levels in districts and cities in NTT Province, a descriptive approach was used in this study. The descriptive analysis in this research is based on panel data for 10 years, the results of which can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4: Results of Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std, Deviation
Y2	175	7.83	36.55	21.7475	7.26676
X1	176	163.875.041	1.960.594.200.000	11938573665033776.0000	312507577870.00000
X2	176	5.10	11.62	7.2342	1.16369
X3	176	54.03	86.44	70.9841	5.85240
Y1	176	1.71	6.83	4.5966	.91464
Valid N (listwise)	175				

Source: Secondary Data, 2024

Description:

X1 = Investment

- X2 = Education Level
- X3 = TPAK
- Y1 = Economic Growth
- Y2 = Poverty Level

In Table 4, it can be explained that the variable (X1), namely investment in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023, shows a minimum value of 163,875,041 rupiah, which occurred in 2014 in Nagekeo Regency. The maximum value of investment in regencies/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 1,960,594,200,000 rupiah in 2023. The average value of investment in regencies/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 1,193,857,366,503, with a standard deviation value of 31250757787.

In the variable (X2), the level of education in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023, the minimum value was 5.10 years, which occurred in 2014 in Central Sumba Regency. The maximum value of education level in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 11.62 years, which occurred in Kupang City in 2023. The average value of education level in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 7.2342, with a standard deviation value of 1.16369.

In variable (X3), namely TPAK in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023, has a minimum value of 54.03 percent which occurred in Kupang City in 2016. The maximum value of TPAK in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014- 2023, namely 86.44 percent in East Manggarai Regency, occurred in 2017. The average value of TPAK in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 was 70.9841, with a standard deviation value of 5.85240.

The variable (Y1), namely economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023, has a minimum value of 1.71 percent which occurs in 2022 in East Flores Regency. The maximum value of economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 was 6.83 percent which occurred in 2017 in Kupang City. The average value of economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 4.5966, with a standard deviation value of 0.9146.

The variable (Y2), namely the poverty level in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023, has a minimum value of 7.83 percent which occurred in 2014 in East Flores Regency. The maximum value in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 was 36.55 percent in 2016 in Sumba Regency. The average poverty level in districts/cities in NTT Province during 2014-2023 is 21.7475, with a standard deviation value of 7.26676.

R-square for the dependent variable and its significant value that depends on the t-values for each path must be used to evaluate the structure model using PLS. There are no signs of multiple linearity because, according to Figure 2, which shows the path correlations between the variables, none of the variables have a path coefficient greater than 1. Analyzing the inner model is equivalent to examining the path coefficient estimation results at the importance level to determine the connection between latent variables. The variable that has the greatest influence is the education level variable on the poverty level, with an influence value of -0.633. The R-square value in Table 5 shows the influence value for each endogenous variable.

Table 5: R-square value

	R-square	Description
Economic growth	0.367	Moderate
Poverty level	0.380	Moderate

Source: Secondary Data, 2024

Table 5 shows that the R-square value for the economic growth variable is 0.367, which means that economic growth can be explained by the investment, education level and TPAK variables of 36.7 percent, and the remaining 63.3 percent is explained by other factors. Furthermore, the poverty level variable has an R-square value of 0.380, which means that the poverty level can be explained by the investment, education level, TPAK and economic growth variables of 38 percent, and the remaining 62 percent is explained by other factors. The Q2 calculation result is 0.608 so it can be interpreted as having moderate predictive prevalence, so the resulting model is suitable for use for predictions. A figure of 0.608 means that 61 percent of the variation in poverty levels can be explained by variations in investment variables, education level, TPAK, and economic growth, while other variables outside the model explain the remaining 39 percent.

**Table 6: Path Analysis Test Results (Structure I)
Coefficients^a**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std.Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	10,598	1,059		10,009	,000
	Investment	,041	,033	,087	1,261	,209

	Level of education	-.094	.056	-.119	-1,677	.095
	TPAK	-.089	.010	-.571	-8,675	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Economic growth

Source: Secondary Data, 2024

Based on the results of the substructure I path analysis, which shows how much influence the independent variable has on the dependent variable, which can be presented in Table 6, the following structural equation can be created.

$$Y1 = 0,087X1 - 0,119X2 - 0,571X3 \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

**Table 7: Path Analysis Test Results (Structure II)
Coefficients^a**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	37,332	10,202		3,659	,000
	Investment	,503	,252	,133	1,991	,048
	Level of education	-3,946	,432	-.633	-9,131	,000
	TPAK	,017	,094	,014	,178	,859
	Economic growth	-.101	,587	-.013	-.172	,864

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty level

Source: Secondary Data, 2024

Based on the results of substructure II path analysis as presented in Table 7, the following structural equation can be created.

$$Y2 = 0,133X1 - 0,633X2 + 0,014X3 - 0,013Y1 \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Table 8: Summary of Path Coefficients of Relationships Between Variables

Relationship Between Variables	Coefficient	P Values	Description
X1 → Y1	0,087	0,209	Not significant
X2 → Y1	-0,119	0,095	Not significant
X3 → Y1	-0,571	0,000	Significant
X1 → Y2	0,133	0,048	Significant
X2 → Y2	-0,633	0,000	Significant
X3 → Y2	0,014	0,859	Not significant
Y1 → Y2	-0,013	0,864	Not significant

Source: Secondary Data, 2024

Description:

X1 = Investment

X2 = Education Level

X3 = TPAK

Y1 = Economic Growth

Y2 = Poverty Level

Indirect effect of investment (X1) on poverty levels (Y2) through the intervening variable economic growth (Y1)

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{\beta_7^2 S\beta_2^2 + \beta_2^2 S\beta_7^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{(-0,101)^2 (0,033)^2 + (0,041)^2 (0,587)^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = 0,02$$

To test the significance of the indirect effect, calculate the z value of the coefficient of influence of variable X1 on Y2 through Y1 using the following formula,

$$Z = \frac{\beta_2 \beta_7}{S\beta_2\beta_7}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,133)(-0,013)}{0,02}$$

$$Z = -0,086$$

Because the calculated z is $-0,086 < 1,96$, this means that investment indirectly has no effect on poverty levels through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province or in other words, economic growth is not a mediating variable for investment on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province.

Indirect effect of education level (X2) on poverty level (Y2) through the intervening variable economic growth (Y1).

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{\beta_7^2 S\beta_2^2 + \beta_2^2 S\beta_7^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{(-0,101)^2 (0,056)^2 + (-0,094)^2 (0,587)^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = 0,05$$

To test the significance of the indirect effect, calculate the z value of the coefficient of influence of variable X1 on Y2 through Y1 using the following formula

$$Z = \frac{\beta_2 \beta_7}{S\beta_2\beta_7}$$

$$Z = \frac{(-0,633)(-0,013)}{0,05}$$

$$Z = 0,164$$

Because the z count is $0.164 < 1.96$, it means that the level of education does not directly influence the level of poverty through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province or in other words, economic growth is not a mediating variable for the level of education on the level of poverty in districts/cities. in NTT Province.

The indirect effect of TPAK (X3) on poverty levels (Y2) through the intervening variable economic growth (Y1)

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{\beta_7^2 S\beta_2^2 + \beta_2^2 S\beta_7^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = \sqrt{(-0,101)^2 (0,010)^2 + (-0,089)^2 (0,587)^2}$$

$$S\beta_2\beta_7 = 0,05$$

To test the significance of the indirect effect, calculate the z value of the coefficient of influence of variable X3 on Y2 through Y1 using the following formula,

$$Z = \frac{\beta_2 \beta_7}{S\beta_2\beta_7}$$

$$Z = \frac{(0,014)(-0,013)}{0,05}$$

$$Z = -0,003$$

Because the z count is $-0.003 < 1.96$, it means that TPAK does not directly influence the poverty level through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province or in other words, economic growth is not a mediating variable for TPAK poverty levels in districts/cities in the Province. NTT.

1) The direct effect of investment on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

Investment has a positive and insignificant effect on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province. This means that increased investment is followed by increased economic growth, although not significant. This is in accordance with Harrod-Domar's theory, which states that the economic growth model is a development of Keynes' theory, which focuses on the role of savings and investment, which is very determined in regional economic growth.

The results of this research are in line with research from Barimbing & Karmini (2015), which claims that although not statistically significant, investment has a favorable impact on the growth of the economy. The results of this research are also in line with research from Demung et al. (2024), which states that investment does not have a significant effect on economic growth. The results of this research are different from research from Sari et al. (2018), Fidyansyah et al. (2023) and Sulistiawati (2012), which said that investment has a positive and significant effect on economic growth.

The uneven distribution of investment in districts/cities in NTT Province is one of the triggers for the insignificant influence between investment and economic growth. From the ICOR data that has been provided in the general description, the ICOR value for captains/cities in NTT Province varies in each region and ranges between 0.020-0.782 points. This also shows that there is inequality in investment activities carried out. The lack of significant impact of investment on economic growth in NTT Province can be attributed to the focus of investment primarily on the tourism, industrial and agricultural sectors, limiting the overall effect on economic growth and the lack of efficiency in investment. This suggests that the nature and allocation of investments, especially when concentrated in certain sectors or lacking diversity, can hinder their ability to substantively drive economic growth in certain areas such as NTT Province. This inequality can be explained by districts that have more investment than other regions, such as West Manggarai Regency (Labuan Bajo), which tends to be a concentrated area of investment for both PMDN and PMA due to the highly developed tourism development in this region. The ICOR value can also show this in the last six years, which varies from one district to another.

Investment that has not been able to encourage or increase economic growth to the maximum through the value of Gross Regional Domestic Product is also caused by the average use of GRDP for investment, which is still lower than expenditure for consumption (Sulistiawati, 2012).

2) Direct influence of education level on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

In NTT Province, districts and cities have seen a slight but positive correlation between economic growth and their degree of education. This indicates that there is no relationship between educational attainment and economic growth. This is not in accordance with the Cobb-Douglas production theory, which states that achieving economic growth cannot be separated from the quality of human capital, where human capital with quality economic performance is also believed to be better. Cadil et al. (2014) stated that the high quality of human resources sometimes actually increases unemployment rates. This is because the high quality of human resources encourages people to look for jobs that match their abilities and expected income, while the availability of jobs and the wages offered do not match expectations.

The results of this research are in line with the results of research from Arifin et al. (2023), which said that the level of education has a negative and insignificant effect on economic growth in Gorontalo City. The results of research from Muhlisin et al. (2021) also show that partially the level of education does not have a significant effect on economic growth in East Java, but this is different from research from Supiyanto et al. (2020), which states that the level of education has a positive and significant effect on economic growth.

The high level of a person's education has no effect on economic growth because people with high education but with low-quality education, such as a lack of practical skills or lack of access to adequate educational resources and special training, do not necessarily have different productivity in handling the same work as other people low education. According to the theory of Allocation or Reproduction of Social Status from Lester Thurow (1974), John Meyer (1977) and Randall Collins (1979) argue that people with low education but with more training and work experience will have relatively the same productivity as people with higher education. Apart from that, the mismatch between the skills possessed by higher education graduates and the needs of the job market is also a factor in the lack of influence of the level of education on economic growth because this can result in high unemployment among graduates who cannot find work according to their qualifications, which in turn does not will support economic growth.

In East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province, education does not have a significant effect on economic growth due to several structural and social factors. One of the main problems is the low quality of education and its unequal distribution, especially in rural areas. Apart from that, the main economic sector in NTT is still dominated by traditional agriculture, which does not require a high level of education. Inadequate infrastructure and low investment in education also worsen this condition. NTT Province also shows quite low average years of schooling in several districts, such as the Sumba Islands, TTU and TTS and several areas on the Flores Islands. Apart from that, the education budget used from the APBD in each district is mostly not used more than 20 percent of the existing APBD, so this is less able to improve the quality of education in certain districts where the actual education budget is less than 20 percent. Facts on the ground show that most young people who have just finished their education are more interested in working outside the region, such as in other cities, and even want to work abroad for the reason of wanting to develop themselves and generate more income than working in NTT Province itself. This is why the level of education in NTT Province has no impact on increasing economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province.

3) The direct influence of TPAK on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

The TPAK variable has a negative and significant effect on economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province. This means that TPAK has no effect on increasing economic growth. This is not in accordance with Lewis's (1959) theory, which states that excess workers are an opportunity and not a problem. Overcapacity in one industry will support increased output and labor supply in other industries.

This result is not in line with research conducted by Hellen et al., (2017), which states that labor has a significant effect on economic growth. According to research conducted by Astuti et al. (2017), it is stated that labor has no effect on economic growth because there are fewer highly-educated workers than low-educated workers.

Based on facts on the ground that occur in districts/cities in NTT Province, this increase in the workforce every year is, in fact, not accompanied by increased productivity and skills training to become even more productive. This is why increasing labor force participation does not have a positive and significant influence on economic growth in NTT Province. Apart from that, the UMR in districts/cities in NTT Province varies less from one region to another, so. UMR data obtained over the last six years shows that the UMR is the same in every district except Kupang City, which has a UMR difference of around IDR 50,000 from other regions. This shows that productivity activities in the district tend to be the same, so they do not make a significant contribution to regional economic growth. Apart from that, the UMR provided is also not in accordance with the standard of living needs that exist in each district/city area. Another thing is also influenced because many workers prefer to

work outside the NTT Province area to look for better job opportunities and better income compared to the UMR given in NTT Province.

4) Direct influence of investment on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province

The investigation that was done revealed that, although not statistically significant, investment had a positive impact on the rates of poverty in the NTT Province's cities and regencies. This indicates that it contradicts the study premise, which holds that investment lowers poverty rates. This means that investments made by the government and the private sector are still not evenly distributed and do not reach the poor in every district/city of NTT Province. This is not in accordance with the theory of Endogenous Economic Growth developed by economists Paul Romer and Robert Lucas, which provides a strong theoretical basis for understanding how strategic investment can be an effective tool in reducing poverty and encouraging sustainable economic development. Sukirno (2000) said that ongoing investment projects undertaken by the community would boost the economy, create jobs, raise national income, and raise the standard of living in the neighborhood.

The results of this research are in accordance with the results of research put forward by Mustamin & Nurbayani (2015) Pratama & Utama (2019), which state that the results have no effect on investment and poverty because it is also suspected that most existing investments are only carried out by the middle to middle class. Above, and it only impacts their own lives and has no impact on the lives of the poor. In addition, investment is more concentrated in the development of sectors that absorb less labor, such as the agriculture and trade (MSME) sub-sectors.

To reduce the level of poverty in each district/city of NTT Province, the government must provide land use rights for the poor, considering that in NTT Province, the agricultural sector is the most reliable sector, and the profession of most residents in NTT Province is farming. Having certainty in land ownership is an important factor in increasing investment and agricultural productivity. Providing land rights also opens up poor people's access to credit and loans. By having an ownership certificate, people can borrow money, invest it and get higher returns from activities that will be used to increase their income. Increased investment will open up wider job opportunities, absorbing more labor that absorption of labor will have an impact on improving the standard of living of the people. Apart from that, the efficiency of investment in both PMDN and PMA is not sufficiently absorbed by the lower classes of society, so investment does not have a significant impact on reducing poverty in districts/cities in NTT Province. Apart from that, many people are also victims of fraudulent investments that occur in NTT Province, as stated by Adevi Sobath Sofani, Head of the IDX NTT Representative Office, obtained from Antara Indonesian News Agency on Friday, May 31 2024, at 14.49 WIB. This is why investment has no influence on the poverty that occurs in NTT Province.

5) Direct influence of education level on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province

Based on the results of the analysis it shows that the level of education has a negative and significant effect on the level of poverty in districts/cities in NTT Province. This is in accordance with Human Capital Theory which states that education increases individual skills and knowledge, which in turn increases their productivity. This increase in productivity can lead to increased income and reduced poverty.

These results are in line with the results of previous research conducted by Aksentijevic (2006), Ukwueze (2014), Zakharia (2006) and Capra (2009), Susanto and Pangesti (2019), who determined that the proportion of the population living in poverty is influenced by education level. Aside from that, the findings of this study support Bloom's (2006) argument, which holds that education can lower poverty and increase welfare. Additionally, it fits with the thesis advanced by Arsyad (2010), which holds that education plays a significant direct and indirect impact in lowering poverty in a nation. The findings of this study support not only these two theories but also the theory advanced by Dejanvry and Sadoulet in Kokila (2000), which holds that schooling directly lowers inequality and poverty by improving the opportunities for income gain and efficiency among the impoverished. Higher-paying positions.

In NTT Province itself, the overall HDI is at 60-80 points, where this result shows medium and high HDI points in districts/cities in NTT Province. This situation can make a positive contribution to poverty reduction. Apart from that, the average length of schooling in each district/city varies; areas with good educational conditions can contribute to conditions of poverty and vice versa. People with low levels of education will have trouble finding employment, which will leave them without money and eventually cause them to fall into poverty. Similarly, more education makes it easier for people to find well-paying jobs, improving their welfare and lowering the rate of poverty.

6) The direct influence of TPAK on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province

The results of the regression analysis show that the TPAK variable on poverty has no negative and insignificant effect. This result is in stark contrast to Todaro (2011), namely that one of the main mechanisms in reducing poverty is overcoming unemployment and labor problems. In this theory, it is explained that the high workforce has an influence on economic growth.

Where high labor force participation will encourage economic growth and reduce poverty, this is contrary to the researcher's hypothesis that TPAK can reduce poverty.

Similar results were also carried out by Rahmadeni (2019), who showed that the labor variable had a positive influence on the poverty level, thus stating that an increase in the number of workers could have an effect on increasing the poverty rate. Based on observations made by researchers in the year of observation, TPAK has no effect on poverty, one of which is because it has not been able to meet the expected employment needs, where population growth continues to increase, there has even been or still is a frequent population explosion, especially in remote areas which are still far from The desire to promote family planning programs has increased in the working age. The greater the number of people who are not in the labor force (still attending school and taking care of the household), the smaller the number of the labor force, which makes the TPAK percentage also decrease. The fewer productive people there are, the lower the output will be. Likewise with per capita income, a decrease in a region's TPAK means a decrease in per capita income and consumption levels, which affect economic growth. In addition, increasing the size of the workforce, even though education levels have increased, without being accompanied by an increase in available jobs, will only increase unemployment, which directly increases poverty.

This is because, in NTT Province itself, there is still quite high inequality between regions, especially in urban areas or economic centers in NTT Province, namely in Kupang City, where this location records a low Gini ratio or high equality among districts/cities in NTT Province. Apart from the high inequality that exists in NTT Province, quite a lot of people in NTT Province also tend to have informal jobs. People who work in the informal sector certainly do not always generate sufficient income, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, which in NTT Province experienced a very significant impact, so people who work in the informal sector will experience quite a deep impact due to instability. Work in a pandemic situation. Quite a lot of people in NTT Province have jobs in the informal sector, one of the largest being in the agricultural sector and also MSMEs. Reduced income due to restricted activities has had quite a bad impact on the economic cycle in NTT Province itself.

7) Direct influence of economic growth on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province

In Structure Table II, it can also be seen that the estimation results show that economic growth is negatively but not significantly correlated with the poverty level in districts/cities in NTT Province. This means that as economic growth increases in NTT Province, Indonesia's poverty decreases, although not significantly. This is in accordance with the Pro-Poor Growth concept, which states that inclusive economic growth, where the benefits of growth are felt by all of society, including the poorest, can directly reduce poverty. Pro-poor growth aims to increase the income and welfare of poor households through job creation, increasing access to basic services, and reducing inequality.

The results of this research are apparently not in accordance with the hypothesis proposed at the beginning, namely that economic growth has a significant negative effect on poverty levels or what is called the trickle-down effect theory, which means that economic progress, which is characterized by the rate of economic growth, will itself trickle down, thereby creating fields. Work and creating an equal distribution of economic results. In this case, the implication is that economic growth will be felt by the rich first, then trickle down to the poor, which will happen automatically.

Thus, the results of this research show that there is an indirect influence on economic growth in reducing poverty levels. Economic growth must be able to encourage employment growth with pro-profit, pro-job and pro-poor strategies (Maipita, 2014). This strategy is to minimize income inequality between the rich and the poor, which is caused by economic growth. Don't let economic growth only be enjoyed by the rich, and only revolve around them.

The results of this research also contradict research by Prasetyoningrum et al. (2018), which states that there is a negative influence between economic growth and poverty levels. On the other hand, this research is consistent with Wahyudi et al. (2013), who stated that economic growth in Central Java Province did not have a significant influence on reducing poverty levels.

During that time, there won't be much of an effect from increased economic growth on the number of impoverished individuals. The impoverished's income remains constant and cannot rise above the poverty threshold in the event of economic progress. This is due to the fact that development outcomes are not equally spread among all regions in the regencies/cities of NTT Province, resulting in a high economy that is only experienced by a select few or a select few districts/cities. Poor people do not profit from high economic growth, and few people are responsible for this growth. This can also be shown by the value of the Gini ratio in the last six years in districts/cities in NTT Province, which experienced income inequality or inequality in districts/cities in NTT Province. Several areas have high, medium and low inequality.

8) Indirect influence of investment on poverty levels through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

The findings of the computations indicate that the degree of poverty in the districts and cities of NTT Province is not influenced by economic growth as an intervening investment variable. This indicates that it contradicts the study hypothesis, which claims that economic expansion acts as a moderator for the relationship between investment and poverty levels. This indicates that the weak correlation between expenditure and poverty by means of economic expansion indicates that high investment is more focused on boosting economic development than on lowering poverty, and as a result of the unfavorable expenditure climate, the rate of poverty in NTT Province's cities and districts tends to rise. In this case, the existing investment is still not optimal in increasing the economic growth of the community because, with investment from the private and government, it will be able to increase economic growth. To increase economic growth, it is necessary to make efforts to encourage an increase in investment that is proportional and more favorable to the interests public so that it can have a positive effect on economic growth (GDP) and poverty alleviation in the NTT Province itself. The findings of this study are consistent with those of Pateda et al.'s (2017) research, which found that investment is necessary to meet people's needs by providing a means of subsistence or income so they may purchase the goods and services they require.

9) Indirect influence of education level on poverty level through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

The computations that have been done have shown that economic expansion has no effect on the relationship between the degree of poverty in the districts and cities of NTT Province and the level of education. This indicates that it contradicts the study hypothesis, which holds that economic expansion acts as a mediating factor between the degree of educational attainment and poverty. The study's findings are consistent with those of Adhitya et al.'s (2022) research, which found that poverty is negatively impacted by education through the booming economy. This contrasts with studies by Arjuntara et al. (2021), which found that poverty in Bali Province is not influenced by education level through economic growth. According to Nurkse's vicious cycle hypothesis of poverty, low productivity is the first step in the vicious cycle, which results in low income. Education is unquestionably one of the most important keys or gates for boosting economic growth and lowering poverty. This is due to the fact that education instills in people the information and diverse skill sets necessary to enhance their well-being.

10) The indirect influence of TPAK on poverty levels through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province

The findings of the computations indicate that the relationship between TPAK and poverty levels in the districts and cities of NTT Province is not influenced by economic growth. This indicates that it contradicts the study hypothesis, which claims that economic expansion influences poverty levels by acting as an intervening variable for TPAK. These findings support a study by Prasetya & Sumanto (2019) that found no discernible relationship between indirect labor and poverty reduction through growth in the economy. This is in accordance with the discussion above, which states that labor is not significant for economic growth because the high labor force is not balanced with high training and productivity. Economic growth cannot affect labor and poverty in districts/cities in NTT Province.

IV. CONCLUSION

The following conclusions can be made to address the problem formulation in light of the outcomes of the analysis that has been previously provided. The effects of investment, education level, and TPAK on the economic growth of districts and cities in NTT Province are both beneficial and unimportant, whereas the effects of TPAK are unfavorable and considerable. Investment has a non-negative and significant effect, and education level has a negative and significant effect, TPAK has a non-negative and insignificant effect, economic growth has a negative and insignificant effect on poverty levels in districts/cities in NTT Province. Investment, education level and TPAK indirectly have no effect on poverty levels through economic growth in districts/cities in NTT Province.

Putting the basic needs of the poor first in national development strategies, adopting institutional and economic reforms to boost efficiency, supporting programs for microfinance for entrepreneurship, providing incentives to the private sector and equalizing income in districts/cities in NTT Province, which is unevenly distributed from one region to another. and it can also be done by increasing more efficient investment and better quality human resources so that this can contribute to reducing the level of poverty in NTT Province.

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