

## Gaps In Education Quality In Maluku

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### ABSTRACT

The gap in education quality in Maluku is a serious challenge that affects educational development in the region. Factors such as limited resources, geographical distance, and unequal access to education are the main causes of unequal education quality between regions in Maluku. The low education budget and lack of educational infrastructure are the main obstacles in improving the quality of education in Maluku. Limited human resources, especially unqualified teaching staff, also contribute to low educational standards. The geographical distance between the islands in Maluku makes it difficult for many schools to access education. There are significant gaps in the availability of educational facilities on remote islands, which has an impact on the quality of education for children in these areas as well as inequality in access to education between social and economic groups. Children from underprivileged families tend to face difficulties in accessing quality education, causing inequality in the quality of education in Maluku to become increasingly sharp. Furthermore, the impacts of this gap in educational quality include low literacy rates, a lack of skills needed to contribute to the local economy, and increased social inequality. Therefore, joint efforts need to be made by the government, community and related parties to overcome the gap in education quality in Maluku. Increasing the education budget, improving the qualifications of teaching staff, and increasing access to education in remote areas must be the main focus in efforts to improve the quality of education and create educational equality throughout Maluku.

**Keywords :** Gaps, Quality of Education

## INTRODUCTION

Maluku is a province in the eastern part of the Republic of Indonesia which has a very important location. This province is located between the Western and Central regions of Indonesia and Papua in the East, and also functions as a link between the Southern regions, such as Australia and Timor Leste, and the Northern regions, such as North Maluku and Sulawesi. In addition, Maluku Province is located on an international route, which is traversed by three Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ALKI). This strategic strategy has a significant impact in the fields of economics, trade and investment.

Education is a system or process designed to transmit knowledge, skills, values and cultural norms from one generation to the next (Rahman et al., 2022). The educational process involves teaching and learning in various forms, including formal education in schools and colleges, non-formal education through courses and training, and informal education through social interactions and daily experiences. The quality of education has always been the focus of improvement by governments throughout history. Supervision of the quality of education basically includes the management of human resources (HR) within the system (Rahmatullah, 2021). To understand this management, information regarding the condition of students, changes that occur, teacher functions, and school support for educational programs is needed, so that optimal results can be achieved. In the national education strategy, one of the main concerns is improving the quality of education. These efforts involve setting educational goals and competency standards.

The low quality of education in Maluku can be related to several factors, including the lack of educational infrastructure. Some factors that may contribute are Accessibility and Travel Distance, Lack of Educational Facilities, Lack of Educators and Qualifications, Economic Conditions and Financial Resources, Limited Technology and Internet Access, Lack of Educational Development Programs, Geographical Conditions and Natural Disasters (Maula et al., 2023). To improve the quality of education in Maluku, there needs to be greater investment in educational infrastructure, training of teaching staff, as well as strategic planning that focuses on the specific needs and challenges of each region. Increasing accessibility, quality of

educational facilities, and availability of educational resources can contribute positively to the quality of education in Maluku.

The consequence of low educational standards is a decline in the level of human resource capabilities, which then has an impact on reduced productivity and competitiveness. In accordance with this view, (Ahmmad Fawaid, 2020) stated that "Humans as a resource are the most essential element in all activities." This can happen anywhere, if the government of each region does not pay enough attention to such problems, one of which happened in Maluku.

## **METHOD**

The method applied in this research uses a library approach, which is often referred to as library research. Literature or library research involves a series of steps related to collecting data from reading material, reading, taking notes, and processing research material. By following this approach, data collection in this research was carried out through reviewing and/or exploring a number of journals, books, documents (both printed and electronic), as well as other data and information sources deemed relevant to this research or study.

## **FINDINGS/RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### *a. Quality of Education*

Education quality refers to the level of quality or standards possessed by an education system or educational institution (arif fiandi, 2023). In general, the quality of education includes a number of elements that reflect the level of success of an educational system or institution in achieving the desired educational goals. In an era full of competition with ever-increasing consumer demand, quality has become a critical element in surviving in the market, achieving profitability and achieving development. The importance of quality not only applies to individual sectors and organizations, but also has a significant impact on a country's overall economy. Unfortunately, only a few companies in Indonesia recognize the role of educational quality as a major factor in improving business quality, and as a result, strengthening their competitive advantage.

The quality of education is a key element in improving business quality and at the same time strengthening competitive advantages (Mardan Umar, 2017). The right and need for access to quality education must be considered interrelated and cannot be separated. The unavailability of education is the main trigger for poverty, while education also plays a strategic role in maintaining and strengthening the value system that develops in life (Abdul Aziz et al., 2016).

The main components in the evaluation process involve a methodological approach in applying good data collection methods and procedures, as well as the definition of key concepts and their relationship to the concept of quality. An essential prerequisite for improving quality is the establishment of an active internal and external evaluation system. Internal evaluation involves the important role of student assessment as active participants in the education quality evaluation process. Quality education must be considered the most valuable asset to strengthen competitiveness in the market, so that it can become an accelerator of overall economic growth and development of the Indonesian state (Idrus L, 2019).

*b. Quality of education in Maluku*

Education plays a crucial role in social life, because through education, we can gain understanding of various information. Discussions about education in Indonesia are always relevant, with special challenges in remote areas, especially in the Eastern part of Indonesia. The quality of education in the region is a major concern, where obstacles such as the lack of adequate facilities to support the teaching and learning process, as well as problems in the availability of teaching staff who are limited in their knowledge, also hinder educational progress (Patma Sopamena, 2020).

Maluku Province, which is facing various disadvantages, is now entering a period that requires attention from all parties. Currently, development progress in Maluku province is the main focus, both in physical aspects and human resource development. Education is a central issue that cannot be separated from the roots of the social and demographic problems that have haunted Maluku province for years. Even though it is an integral part of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, Maluku province has not been able to escape its status as the poorest province in Indonesia (DP et al., 2022).

One of the factors that influences Maluku's position as a poor province is the issue of education (Patma Sopamena, 2020). When looking deeper, the quality of education in Maluku is significantly influenced by regional constraints, especially because this province consists of islands. Despite efforts from the central and regional governments, existing programs sometimes only look good on paper. This breakthrough has not been distributed evenly to remote areas, far from education centers and the provincial capital, namely the city of Ambon.

The shortage of teachers in the regions is one of the main obstacles affecting the quality of education. Therefore, teacher distribution is the main key to responding to this challenge and improving the quality of education in the archipelago. Despite several efforts, the quality of education in Maluku is still lagging behind the average of 34 other provinces in Indonesia in 2023. In addition, teacher welfare in these areas is still far from adequate.

The condition of education in Maluku is still far from satisfactory, which is exacerbated by the limited educational facilities and infrastructure appropriate for the local population. Equal distribution of education and quality of education in underdeveloped areas in Maluku is still below the national standards that apply in more advanced educational areas. This contrasts with the principle that education is a right for all Indonesian citizens. This situation is an obstacle for Maluku to overcome the problem of low quality human resources.

Consideration of education in Maluku is influenced by several factors, including the government's lack of attention to educational equality, the politicization of education in Maluku, the lack of educational facilities and infrastructure which do not yet cover all districts/cities, and the large number of citizens who do not continue their education. This challenge shows that these problems cannot be overcome quickly given their complexity (DP et al., 2022).

*c. Factors That Influence the Low Quality of Education in Maluku*

The lack of quality of education in Maluku can be influenced by various complex factors involving various aspects. Several factors that may influence the quality of education in Maluku include:

1. *Accessibility and Travel Distance*

Maluku consists of many scattered islands, so accessibility is a challenge. The distance between islands can make transportation and distribution of educational resources difficult.

2. *Lack of educational facilities*

Many areas in Maluku may face limitations in educational facilities such as schools, classrooms, libraries and laboratories. This can affect the quality of teaching and learning.

3. *Lack of Educators and Qualifications*

Regions with minimal infrastructure may find it difficult to attract and retain quality teaching staff. Teaching staff who do not have adequate qualifications can have a negative impact on the quality of education.

4. *Economic Conditions and Financial Resources*

Difficult economic conditions in several regions in Maluku can result in inadequate education budget allocations. This can hinder infrastructure development and investment in educational resources.

5. *Limitations of Technology and Internet Access*

Limited technological infrastructure and internet access can be obstacles in implementing modern learning approaches. This can impact the ability of students and teaching staff to access educational resources effectively.

6. *Lack of Educational Development Programs*

The availability of educational development programs for teachers and educational staff may be lacking in some areas. This can hinder improving the overall quality of education.

### 7. *Geographical Conditions and Natural Disasters*

Maluku is located in an area that is vulnerable to natural disasters. Disasters such as earthquakes or floods can damage educational infrastructure, hampering the teaching and learning process.

#### *d. Efforts to Improve the Quality of Education in Maluku*

Improving the quality of education in Maluku, as elsewhere, involves a variety of comprehensive strategies and efforts. This effort requires cooperation between the government, society and the private sector to achieve sustainable improvements in the quality of education in Maluku. The following are several steps that can be taken to improve the quality of education in the region:

##### 1. *Education Infrastructure*

- a) Improve and build educational infrastructure such as schools, classrooms, libraries and laboratories.
- b) Ensure accessibility of educational facilities for the entire community, especially in remote areas.

##### 2. *Improving Teacher Quality*

- a) Provide regular training and professional development to teachers to improve the quality of teaching.
- b) Encourage teachers to continue to improve their qualifications through further education.

##### 3. *Relevant Curriculum*

- a) Develop a curriculum that is relevant to local needs and potential, combining local elements in lesson material.
- b) Provide a curriculum that prepares students for future challenges, including technological and entrepreneurial skills.

##### 4. *Community Empowerment*

- a) Involve parents, communities and local stakeholders in educational decision making.
- b) Encourage active participation of parents in supporting their children's education.

5. *Technology in Education*
  - a) Integrating technology in the learning process to improve students' digital skills.
  - b) Providing internet access and digital devices for students and teachers.
6. *Assistance and Scholarship Programs*
  - a) Provide financial assistance to students in need to ensure that the cost of education is not an obstacle.
  - b) Providing scholarships for outstanding students so that they can continue their education to a higher level.
7. *Monitoring and Evaluation*
  - a) Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the education system to identify problems and opportunities for improvement.
  - b) Implement a performance appraisal system for teachers and schools as a basis for improvement.
8. *Promotion of Literacy and Culture*
  - a) Encourage literacy activities outside the curriculum, such as reading books, holding art performances, and introducing local culture.
  - b) Organizing programs that promote multicultural understanding and tolerance.
9. *Partnership with External Parties*
  - a) Invite the participation of non-governmental organizations, private institutions and international institutions in supporting education in Maluku.
  - b) Building partnerships with research and educational institutions to support educational innovation and development.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the analysis carried out regarding the gap in education quality in Maluku, there are several possible conclusions related to the gap in education quality in Maluku, including:

1. Limited resources

There are many limitations in facilities, textbooks, equipment, or other resources that can affect the quality of education.

2. Infrastructure gaps

Difficulty in accessing education due to infrastructure gaps such as roads, transportation or other supporting facilities.

3. Lack of qualified teaching staff

If qualified teaching staff are not available, it could affect the quality of education in the area.

4. Economic factors

Economic disparities can affect educational accessibility, such as school costs or other learning needs.

5. Lack of government support

If local governments do not provide adequate support to the education sector, this could exacerbate education quality disparities.

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