TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN WEST JAVA

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Article Info	Abstract
Article Info Keywords: economic growth, Partial Least Square (PLS), poverty alleviation, tourism development impact. Received: April 15, 2024 Approved: August 9, 2024 Published:	Abstract Poverty alleviation is on the agenda of regional development in West Java. One of the priority sectors is tourism development, which supports inclusive economic growth and is expected to address poverty. Through various unit analyses, the study analyzed how tourism development in West Java impacts economic growth and poverty alleviation. These included indicators such as the number of tourist visits, hotel room occupancy rate, the number of hotels and restaurants, average length of stay, and the tourism sector's contribution to Original Local Government Revenue (PAD). Economic growth was assessed using indicators such as Gross Regional Demostic Product (CRDD) uncomplexement actor Circle Index
Published: November 08, 2024	Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), unemployment rate, Gini Index, and regional investment value. In contrast, the poverty variable used the percentage and number of people living in poverty, poverty line statistics, Poverty Depth Index, and Poverty Severity Index. Inferential statistical analysis, specifically Partial Least Square (PLS), was conducted using a quantitative approach and data from BPS - Statistics of West Java. Hypotheses were formulated based on the literature review, asserting that tourism development significantly and positively impacted economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java. Results showed that tourism development significantly boosted economic performance, directly influencing economic growth. Additionally, high economic growth correlated with reduced poverty rates, highlighting the importance of inclusive growth for alleviation. Key indicators played crucial roles in poverty alleviation, including the number of hotels and restaurants, the tourism sector's contribution to regional revenue, GRDP, and regional investment value. These findings provided valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders to develop effective strategies for leveraging tourism potential to
	Java.

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of poverty alleviation emerges as a major concern in many nations as one of the social development pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are designed as an enhancement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Zhang et al., 2023). Under the tenet of "eliminating all forms of poverty", this aim is intended to be accomplished by 2030 (Q. Liu, 2022). Alibašić (2018), in terms of alleviating poverty, particularly in developing nations, emphasizes upholding human rights to avoid discrimination by lowering poverty and boosting financial stability (Hugo & Nyaupane, 2016). The global poverty alleviation agenda is relevant to Indonesia's development goals in the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Presidential Regulation to end poverty and efforts to fight socio-economic inequality and injustice (Alisjahbana & Murniningtyas, 2018).

Efforts to alleviate poverty in Indonesia need to pay attention to supporting indicators that are measurably calculated for the sake of policy redistribution through poverty reduction efforts. According to the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) in 2020, poverty indicators are needed to ensure that development policies are aligned in achieving targets in line with planning (Alisjahbana & Murniningtyas, 2018). Statistics Indonesia (BPS, 2023) sets poverty indicators by considering the poverty line, the number of poor people, the percentage of poor people, the poverty depth index, and the poverty severity index. Poor status is the population at the poverty line (GK). The number at the poverty line is calculated every six months. The poverty percentage is obtained based on the accumulated calculation of the total population, showing that Indonesia's poverty percentage in March 2023 was 9.36% (BPS, 2023). Other indicators are the depth index and severity index of poverty in Indonesia; the depth index measures the average expenditure gap of each poor person, while the severity index provides a picture of the distribution of expenditure among the poor. The information and results of these calculations inform policies and development plans for addressing welfare inequality (Nugroho et al., 2020).

Poverty alleviation, according to literature, is conceptualized through various fields: industrial and technological development (M.-Y. Liu et al., 2021; Ye et al., 2022), financial funding support (Acheampong et al., 2021), improvement and development of education and health (Q. Liu, 2022) and not least tourism development (Gibson, 2009). As a multidisciplinary industry, tourism is designed to play a role in poverty alleviation and economic growth. This article attempts to test the narrative of tourism development as a strategy for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The development of the tourism industry aims to increase economic growth and people's welfare, eliminate poverty, and overcome unemployment. Tourism significantly affects global welfare and needs to be used as a development strategy and policy direction (Brida et al., 2020; A. Liu & Wu, 2019). Tourism is a strategic sector that increases foreign exchange and has significant implications for a country's economy (Moenir et al., 2021). The increase in tourist destinations influences the improvement of the regional economy. The impact of tourism is based on the amount of tourist spending (Mardianis & Syartika, 2018) and exposure to tourism activities (Hugo & Nyaupane, 2016). The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in the Tourism Trends and Policies

Report 2023 states that in 2023 the tourism sector contributed 4.9% of Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The impact of the tourism sector on economic growth attracts the attention of experts with various perspectives. An empirical study from Naseem (2021) finds significant growth in the micro and macro economy. Economic growth occurs at the grassroots, nationally, and among large-scale actors. Chidakel et al. (2021) and Singh and Alam (2024) explain tourism acts as an industry with a significant multiplier effect on the development of other sectors. Tourism improves the macro economy through job creation, increasing national income, and reducing income inequality (Ruan & Zhang, 2021; Turan & Abdiu, 2024). In addition, tourism provides opportunities for medium and small-scale enterprises to grow (Maziliauske, 2024; Son et al., 2021). Ashley et al. (2001) assess tourism as a pro-poor industry that impacts the community's economy through the provision of employment, income from the procurement of goods and services or side jobs, and profits earned from economic activities. Furthermore, the basic principle of tourism as a multidisciplinary industry requires support from various components that encourage the development of other sectors. Deng et al. (2020) and Zhuang et al. (2024) examined the development of accessibility, and Wilco et al. (2024) stated amenity has a positive impact on increasing added value and economic circulation. Substantially, tourism development successfully creates significant economic growth (Andolina et al., 2021).

On the contrary, many studies highlight the positive impact of the tourism industry on economic growth, and some highlight it from an opposing lens. Gilbert (2017) notes how tourism can lead to the dispossession of land rights, eliminate the livelihoods of indigenous people, and become an arena for neoliberal struggles (Gardner, 2012). The concept of tourism development that ignores the welfare and rights of grassroots communities is seen by Büscher and Fletcher (2017) as a means of capital accumulation. Several studies highlight the tourism industry and its role in capital accumulation, such as international tourism movements (Fitchett et al., 2021), commodification and privatization of resources (Hof & Blázquez-Salom, 2015), labor exploitation (Bullock et al., 2024), as well as the assertion that the economic benefits of tourism tend to be concentrated on capital owners, creating social inequalities (Koot, 2016). Tourism boosts the economy, however, it does not eliminate poverty (Lagos & Wang, 2023). Debating the impact of tourism in academic circles continues with different empirical studies. Pham and Nugroho (2022) claim that tourism contributes significantly to poverty reduction, while Lagos and Wang (2023) argue the opposite. At the same time, revamping tourism development models to provide more positive impacts requires further empirical testing. These studies show the complexity of tourism impacts, which can provide significant economic benefits while bringing negative consequences that need serious attention in planning.

Scientific debates on the impact of the tourism industry on socio-economic conditions continue to occur, indicating the urgency for further research. This study reevaluates the impact of tourism development as an instrument of economic growth and its relation to poverty alleviation. Testing the economic contribution of tourism, UNWTO suggests the use of The International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS) in 2008 (UNWTO, 2010) as the main concept, definition, and classification of tourism measurement by each country's statistical standards and provides an efficient methodological framework for data aggregation and compilation according to the indicators. The implementation of the indicator calculation is adjusted to the calculation in

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Indonesia (Mun'im, 2022), including the corporate services sector, provision of accommodation, food and beverage, transportation and warehousing, wholesale and retail trade; repair of cars and motorbikes, and other services (UNWTO, 2010) which are important indicators in measuring the contribution of tourism. The contribution of the tourism sector to regional income can be used as an indicator because tourist attractions affect the increase in community income through tourist visits and activities (Hugo & Nyaupane, 2016; Mardianis & Syartika, 2018; Moenir et al., 2021).

The researcher chose to sample tourism development in West Java. This region focuses on poverty alleviation and prioritizes the tourism industry of the 2024 Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD) as part of inclusive economic growth. The West Java government intensively conducts accelerated poverty alleviation programs, one of which is through the tourism sector. This article discusses economic growth and poverty alleviation, the role of tourism in accelerating economic growth, and its contribution to poverty alleviation in West Java. This study is expected to significantly contribute to the objective assessment of the effectiveness of tourism development as an instrument of economic growth and poverty alleviation at the regional level.

A similar study by Patera and Suardana (2015) examined the relationship between tourism development, economic performance, and poverty alleviation in Badung Regency, Bali. The indicators included the number of tourist visits, hotel and restaurant tax revenue, particularly from South Badung, the length of tourist stays, and tourist expenditures, all aligned with Badung government policies. GRDP, employment absorption, and investment levels measured economic performance. At the same time, poverty indicators included the number of poor people, the poverty line, the percentage of poor people, the poverty depth index, and the poverty severity index. The model showed a direct relationship between tourism development and poverty alleviation. In contrast, the current research in West Java aims to measure the indirect impact of tourism on poverty alleviation based on the belief that tourism-driven economic growth will eventually trickle down to the local poor through multiple channels, such as employment, public welfare, and family networks (Zhao & Ritchie, 2007). This study uses different variables and performance indicators aligned with West Java's fundamental planning policy to assess tourism's impact on economic growth and poverty alleviation in the region.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted with a quantitative approach. Creswell (2014) defined quantitative methods as suitable for examining specific theories. The testing of referenced theories or previous research findings was described using the Partial Least Squares (PLS) structural equation model to analyze the relationships between variables in this study. The quantitative approach was also employed to describe secondary data obtained from BPS or related institutions. The data used were based on previous theories or research, which were adjusted to fit with indicators utilized by West Java in assessing the impact of tourism development on economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The impact of the tourism sector on the economy can be reviewed from several variables. The contribution was calculated based on the number of tourist visits (Tai et al., 2022), hotel room occupation rate (Yamin et al., 2020), length of stay of tourists (Oklevik et al., 2021), the number of hotels and restaurants (Bastomi & Wijaya, 2023), and tourism

sector contribution to Original Local Government Revenue (PAD) of West Java (Moenir et al., 2021), which was based on the amount of tourists expenditure (Mardianis & Syartika, 2018) and exposure to their activities (Hugo & Nyaupane, 2016). Economic growth is measured based on the macroeconomic indicators set by West Java's regional planning policies. These indicators include the tourism sector GRDP (following IRTS standards), unemployment rate, Gini index, and the amount of regional investment value. The economic impact of poverty is measured based on poverty indicators listed by BPS – Statistics of West Java, which includes the number of poor people, the poverty line, the percentage of poor people, the Poverty Depth Index, and the Poverty Severity Index.

Secondary data used referred to BPS – Statistics of West Java in 2014 – 2023 and related agencies in West Java, namely: Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), Regional Revenue Agency (Bapenda), Investment and One-Stop Integrated Services Office (DPMPTSP), Communications and Informatics Agency (Diskominfo), and Tourism and Cultural Agency (Disparbud). Historical data from the past ten years were used to consider the fluctuations in demand during COVID-19 over the last five years, which affected the stability of the data in producing the model. Therefore, historical data were extended further back to 10 years to create a model that was more relevant, stable, and capable of capturing important trends and patterns for accurate results. The data obtained were explained in the compilation of structural equation models, which had been studied in advance based on theories or previous research results.

The available data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods, first to provide information on the development conditions of the tourism sector, economic growth, and poverty in West Java. Then, the data were processed by inferential statistical analysis, Partial Least Square (PLS). PLS has been a popular alternative to Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The strengths of using PLS are the sample used is not too large, the testing with the theories referenced is not too much, the prediction accuracy has been the most important thing, and the accuracy of model specifications that had not been guaranteed can be ascertained (Wong, 2013).

The PLS model does not require parametric techniques in testing significance because it does not assume the existence of a certain distribution for parameter estimation. The measurement model (outer model) with the reflexive indicator type was evaluated using convergent and discriminant validity of the indicator and composite reliability for indicator variables. In addition, structural models (inner model) were evaluated by the percentage of variance explained by R² (R-square) for the dependent latent variable using measurement of the Stone Geisser Q-Squares Test and based on the magnitude of the structural path coefficient. This stability and estimation were evaluated using t-statistical tests (Sholiha & Salamah, 2016). The SMART PLS-SEM ver 3.0 software assisted data processing and theory testing in this research. The systematics of the research workflow can be seen in the Figure 1 below.

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Source: Author's results, 2024

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Tourism Development in West Java

Tourism development is largely driven by supply and demand potential. Supply potential refers to the attractiveness of a tourist destination, while demand potential indicates the tourist influx from the origin area. The number of visits from domestic and foreign tourists measures the attractiveness of a destination. According to BPS – Statistics of West Java in 2019, tourist visits were higher near airports, terminals, and economic centers. From 2012 to 2019, the number of tourists in West Java increased by an average of 6.41% per year, but there was a 43.70% contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. BPS – Statistics of West Java 2023 showed that tourist visits rebounded to 59.33 million (Figure 2). However, higher hotel room occupancy rates did not always match this increase, which tended to fluctuate (Figure 3). Similarly, the average length of stay was inconsistent (Figure 4).

However, the tourism development of West Java has been directly proportional to the increase in hotels and restaurants (Figure 5). Hotels and restaurants are physical infrastructures directly relevant to tourism facilities (Mandić et al., 2018), which must exist and play a major role in increasing investment projects (Buhalis et al., 2023). The contribution of the tourism sector in PAD West Java showed a high (Figure 6), which highest increased in 2018, reaching IDR 1,931.4 Billion or 234.68% higher than the previous years. PAD mirrors regional independence of revenue resulting from the utilization of regional potential following applicable laws such as the revenue of taxes, retribution, segregated regional financial processing results, and other legitimate revenues. Tourism Development Impact on Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in West Java Simorangkir et al. (2024)



Figure 2. Number of Tourist Visits in West Java, 2014 – 2023 (Million tourists) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 3. Hotel Room Occupancy Rate, 2014 – 2023 (%)

Source: BPS - Statistics of West Java 2014 - 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 4. The Average Length of Stay, 2014 – 2023 (Day) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 5. Number of Hotels and Restaurants, 2014 – 2023 (Number) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 6. Tourism Sector Contribution to PAD of West Java, 2014 – 2023 (Billion IDR) Source: Open Data (Diskominfo) and Disparbud of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024

Economic Growth in West Java

One indicator that determines West Java's economic growth is the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). GRDP used was GRDP by field of business at current prices in West Java, consisting of the supporting sectors of the tourism industry according to IRTS standards, namely company services, provision of accommodation and food/beverage, transportation and warehousing, large and retail trade, and other services. During 2014 – 2023, GRDP at current prices increased from IDR 342,242 Billion in 2014 to IDR 684,016 Billion in 2023, or an average increase of 10.39% per year (Figure 7). Meanwhile, the Gini Index from 2014 – 2023 greatly fluctuated (Figure 8). Based on data from BPS – Statistics Indonesia 2023, West Java's Gini Index placed in the third highest position compared to other provinces in Indonesia, reaching 0.425. The condition of the GRDP and the value of the Gini Index indicate that the increase in per capita income in West Java is unevenly distributed throughout the region, resulting in greater income inequality.

West Java, which has the largest population in Indonesia, faces more complex labor dynamics than other provinces. Although over the last ten years, the average Unemployment Rate (UR) has decreased by 0.41% per year (Figure 9), the value is categorized as poor. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic put great pressure on the employment sector in West Java. Based on BPS – Statistics Indonesia in 2020, there were 4.63 million people (12.16% of the working-age population) affected, consisting of unemployment due to COVID-19 (0.46 million people), Non-Labor Force (BAK) (0.17 million people), temporary unemployment (0.29 million people), and working residents who experience reduced working hours (3.71 million people).

Regarding regional investment, West Java is the province that absorbed the largest investment throughout 2023, capable of reaching IDR 210.61 Trillion or 14.84% of the total national investment realization. During 2014 – 2023, the value of regional investment tended to increase with an average growth of 5.61% per year (Figure 10). According to the former Governor of West Java, Mr. Ridwan Kamil, several policies that support increasing the value of regional investment are adequate infrastructure development, increasing the productivity of Human Resources (HR), ease of managing permits, and carrying out direct offers to potential investors regarding the advantages of investing in West Java. From 2020 to 2023, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the joints of the Indonesian economy, and West Java remained the investment champion for four consecutive years.

The investment value that consistently grew in crucial years was influenced by government policies that supported the investment climate and fiscal sustainability (World Bank, 2021), one of which was the issuance of an omnibus law. Similarly, the Tourism Travel Development Index showed significant improvement for Indonesia in the Travel and Tourism Policy sub-category, rising from 23rd place in 2019 to 4th place in 2021 (World Economic Forum, 2022), thereby supporting investment growth in the tourism sector, particularly in West Java. President Joko Widodo also revealed that West Java could top Indonesia's investment charts due to its extensive toll road infrastructure, citing that the region has seen the highest number of toll roads constructed in the country, accelerating mobility for both people and goods and attracting a surge of investors (BPMI Setpres, 2023).



Figure 7. GRDP by Field of Business at Current Prices, 2014 – 2023 (Billion IDR) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 8. Gini Index of West Java, 2014 – 2023 (Point) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 9. Unemployment Rate of West Java, 2014 – 2023 (%) Source: BPS – Statistics of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024



Figure 10. Regional Investment of West Java, 2014 – 2023 (Trillion IDR) Source: DPMPTSP of West Java 2014 – 2023 (reprocessed), 2024

Poverty in West Java

The West Java Government implemented poverty reduction efforts for years, as shown by the decrease in West Java's poverty rate of 1.62% throughout 2014 – 2023. The percentage of poverty significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to BPS – Statistics Indonesia of West Java, the economic contraction reached -2.52% in 2020 and increased West Java's poverty. The extraordinary condition of the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread in early 2020, implicitly causing misery to groups of people

vulnerable to economic shocks. The economic shock caused the regressing of poverty alleviation efforts in West Java, shown by the number of poor people during the pandemic, only slightly different from the number of poor people in 2016 or as many as ± 4.2 million people led into poverty.

Based on the West Java Regional Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPD) Evaluation Document, the percentage of poor people in West Java during 2005-2025 was consistently lower than the national average, with an average difference of 2.14%. The Central and West Java governments have been striving to alleviate poverty by focusing on poor groups. Social protection programs targeting the extremely poor help fulfill their basic needs in rural and urban areas. With the development of national policies, it became necessary to present data on extreme poverty, which showed that the number of extremely poor people in West Java decreased from 4.07 million in 2022 to 3.89 million in 2023, a reduction of 4.42%.

In addition to the number and percentage of poor people, other crucial dimensions include the depth and severity of poverty. Effective poverty policies must address these dimensions to reduce the number and percentage of poor people and the depth and severity of poverty. West Java's Poverty Depth Index spiked during the pandemic, rising to 1.47 points in 2021 from 1.13 points the previous year. Similarly, the Poverty Severity Index increased to 0.38 points in 2021 from 0.23 points in 2020. Table 1 illustrates the poverty situation in West Java based on these indicators.

	Number of	Poverty	Poor People	Poverty Depth	Poverty Severity
Year	Poor People	Line	Population	Index	Index
	(Million People)	(IDR)	(%)	(Point)	(Point)
2014	4.24	291,474	9.18	1.39	0.33
2015	4.44	306,876	9.53	1.63	0.43
2016	4.22	324,992	8.95	1.49	0.37
2017	4.17	344,427	8.71	1.45	0.37
2018	3.62	367,755	7.45	1.32	0.34
2019	3.40	386,198	6.91	1.09	0.24
2020	3.92	410,988	7.88	1.13	0.23
2021	4.20	427,402	8.40	1.47	0.38
2022	4.07	452,580	8.06	1.32	0.33
2023	3.89	495,229	7.62	1.17	0.27
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Table 1. The State of Poverty in West Java, 2014 – 2023

Source: BPS of West Java Province in Figures 2014 - 2023 (reprocessed), 2024

Partial Least Square (PLS)Testing Results

Based on the literature reviewed earlier, hypotheses were formulated regarding the relationship between economic growth, poverty alleviation, and the development of the tourism sector in West Java. The hypotheses in this research are as follows:

- H1: Tourism development significantly and positively impacts the economic growth in West Java.
- H2: Economic growth significantly and positively impacts poverty alleviation in West Java.

Then, these hypotheses were tested using the Partial Least Squares (PLS) model. Figure 11 illustrates the formulated hypotheses to test how tourism development impacts economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java.



Figure 11. Hypothesis Framework for Structural Model Source: Processed by Author, 2024

From the structural model (inner model) above, a measurement model (outer model) was constructed according to the indicators outlined in the methodology section. The structural and measurement models were depicted using the SMART PLS-SEM ver 3.0 software, as shown in Figure 12 below.



Figure 12. Structural and Measurement Model Source: Processed Using SMART PLS, 2024

Measurement Model Testing

The measurement model (outer model) testing in the PLS model is carried out based on three criteria, namely convergent validity, discriminant validity, and composite reliability (Ghozali, 2016).

Convergent Validity

An indicator is considered reliable regarding convergent validity if its outer loading (loading factor) value is greater than 0.70. The reliability can be deemed sufficient for outer loading values ranging from 0.50 to 0.60, while indicators with outer loading values below 0.50 may be considered inadequate. Thus, the elimination or formation of a new model can be done with indicators with outer loading above 0.70. Table 2 shows the outer loading of each indicator.

	Indicator	Tourism Development	Economic Growth	Poverty
TD1	Number of tourist visits	0.540		
TD2	Hotel room occupancy rate	0.068		
TD3	Number of hotels and restaurants	0.848		
TD4	Average Length of Stay	-0.790		

		Tourism	Economic	
	Indicator	Development	Growth	Poverty
TD5	Contribution of the tourism sector on Original	0.940		
	Local Government Revenue (PAD)			
EG1	Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)		0.965	
EG2	Unemployment Rate		-0.428	
EG3	Gini Index		-0.003	
EG4	The amount of regional investment value		0.717	
P1	Number of poor people			0.895
P2	Poverty Line			-0.834
P3	Percentage of poor people			0.976
P4	Poverty Depth Index			0.967
P5	Poverty Severity Index			0.919

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024

Based on the data processing results in the table above, several indicators did not meet the Convergent Validity criteria (outer loading value below 0.70). Those indicators included the number of tourist visits in West Java (TD1), hotel room occupancy rate (TD2), average length of stay (TD4), Unemployment Rate (EG2), Gini Index (EG3), and Poverty Line (P2). Consequently, the six indicators were eliminated from the model. This elimination aimed to identify tourism development and economic growth factors that significantly contributed to poverty alleviation in West Java. Each remaining indicator was expected to have an outer loading greater than 0.70 to ensure precise and accurate PLS model results. Table 3 presents the findings of the revised measurement model, and Figure 13 illustrates the outcomes of the revised model.

Table 3.	Outer 1	Loading	(Loading	Factor)	of Each	Indicator	(Revised)
			(,			(

	Indicator	Tourism Development	Economic Growth	Poverty
TD3	Number of hotels and restaurants	0.974		
TD5	Contribution of the Tourism Sector on Original	0.966		
	Local Government Revenue (PAD)			
EG1	Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)		0.951	
EG4	The amount of regional investment value		0.856	
P1	Number of poor people			0.941
P3	Percentage of poor people			0.967
P4	Poverty Depth Index			0.980
P5	Poverty Severity Index			0.941

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024



Figure 13. The Final Result of The Measurement Model Source: Processed Using SMART PLS, 2024

Discriminant Validity

Discriminant Validity testing is a reflective indicator assessed based on the crossloading between the indicators and their respective variable or construct. Indicators are deemed valid if they have a higher cross-loading factor to the intended variable than crossloadings for other variables. Suppose the correlation between the variable and its constituent indicators is smaller than the size of the other variables. In that case, it indicates that the indicator predicts the size of the variable worse than the size of other variables. The following table (Table 4) shows the cross-loading values for the indicators consisting of the variables tested.

Table 4. Cross-Loading of Each Indicator

Indicator		Tourism	Economic	Dovorty
	Indicator	Development	Growth	roverty
TD3	Number of hotels and restaurants	0.974	0.851	-0.580
TD5	Contribution of the Tourism Sector on Original	0.966	0.746	-0.673
	Local Government Revenue (PAD)			
EG1	Gross Regional Domestic Product	0.920	0.951	-0.784
EG4	The amount of regional investment value	0.483	0.856	-0.544
P1	Number of poor people	-0.483	-0.639	0.941
P3	Percentage of poor people	-0.696	-0.845	0.967
P4	Poverty Depth Index	-0.657	-0.729	0.980
P5	Poverty Severity Index	-0.596	-0.656	0.941

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024

The discriminant validity criterion was properly fulfilled based on the data processing results in the table above. It was observed from the correlation of indicators with their respective variable or construct, as indicated by the highest cross-loading values compared to the correlation of these indicators with other variables.

Composite Reliability

According to Ghozali (2008), the reliability of a variable composed of its indicators can be assessed through composite reliability, which measures internal consistency with a criterion value above 0.60. Table 5 shows the value of Composite Reliability for all variables that meet the expected reliability criteria.

Table 5. Composite F	Reliability of Each	Variable
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Variable	Composite Reliability
Tourism Development	0.970
Economic Growth	0.900
Poverty	0.978

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024

Structural Model Testing

The structural model depicts the relationships between variables or constructs formulated based on the referenced theories. Testing of the structural model begins by determining the R-square value for each dependent variable. The model testing results are used to observe the relationships between dependent variables by comparing the significance and R-square value of the research model (Ghozali, 2008). The structural

diagram resulting from the structural model test can be seen in Figure 14, with the R-Square value also available in Table 6 below.

Variable	R-Square
Economic Growth	0.820
Poverty	0.719

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024



Figure 14. The Final Result of The Structural Model Source: Processed Using SMART PLS, 2024

The R-square value of the poverty variable obtained 0.719, in which 71.9% of the variability in poverty is explained by tourism development and economic growth. In comparison, variables outside the constructed model illustrated 28.1% of the variability in poverty. Similarly, the economic growth variable had an R-square of 0.820, meaning that 82.0% of the variability in economic growth was caused by tourism development, and variables outside the model caused 18.0%.

Tourism Development Impact on Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation

Hypothesis testing in the PLS model simulates each tested relationship between variables. In this case, the bootstrapping method was applied to the data. The bootstrapping method also served to minimize the issues of non-normality data in the research. In this study, the predetermined value of the T-table with a significance level of 5% and degree of freedom (df) of 11 yielded a value of 2.201 based on the two-tailed test table. Subsequently, from the data processing results, it is concluded that all path coefficient values or relationships between variables have a t-stat above 2.201 (see Table 7), indicating that all variables significantly influence each other. The testing of each hypothesis is explained as follows.

	Path	Sample	Standard	Т	Р
	Coefficient	Mean	Deviation	Statistic	Value
Tourism Development \rightarrow Economic Growth	0.827	0.873	0.060	13.484	0.000
Economic Growth \rightarrow Poverty	-0.758	-0.779	0.108	7.029	0.000

Table 7. Relationship Between the Variables

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024

The results of the first hypothesis test indicated that the impact of tourism development on economic growth showed a path coefficient value of +0.827. This finding suggests that tourism development has a positive impact on economic growth. It means that the better the tourism development in West Java is, the better its economic growth will be.

An increase of one unit in tourism development increases the regional economy by 82.7%. Therefore, tourism can be considered one of the "driving forces" of the economy in West Java. Additionally, based on Table 7, the p-value of the first hypothesis is less than 0.05 (P value < 0.05). The value indicates that the first hypothesis is accepted, demonstrating a statistically significant direct impact of West Java's tourism development on regional economic growth.

Goeldner et al. (2000) stated that tourism has long been recognized as part of the economic activities that attract tourists, meet their needs, and rapidly grow into one of the world's largest industries. This statement is supported by the research conducted by Hrubcova et al. (2016), who concluded that tourism is a relevant economic sector for many developing countries and can be seen as a viable and sustainable economic development option. In the regional development priorities listed in the West Java Provincial Government Work Plan (RKPD) document for 2024, the main priorities for West Java's development include Innovation-based Economic Growth, Strengthening Sustainable Food Security Systems, and Tourism Development. In this regard, the government has recognized that tourism is one of the leading sectors that must be developed annually because of its significant economic impact. Therefore, the economic impact of tourism must be considered at any stage of its development.

The results of the second hypothesis testing indicated a significant impact of the economic growth variable on poverty, with a path coefficient value of -0.758. The negative sign of the path coefficient demonstrates that economic performance has a significant negative impact on poverty. It suggests that higher economic performance leads to decreased poverty, and a one-unit increase in economic performance will reduce poverty in West Java by 75.8%. According to Table 7, the p-value of the second hypothesis is also below 0.05 (P value <0.05). Therefore, the second hypothesis is accepted and states that economic growth significantly impacts poverty alleviation in West Java. This finding is consistent with the research from Jonnadi et al. (2012) and Dewanto et al. (2014), who found that the impact of the economy on poverty, measured by GRDP growth and regional investment, had an impact on poverty alleviation. Economic growth and poverty are important indicators to see the success of regional development.

In the context of economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java, significant tourism development indicators can be identified based on the path coefficients obtained from this research (see Table 8). First, the "number of hotels and restaurants" indicator showed the greatest impact with the highest path coefficient of 0.974. Then the "contribution of the tourism sector on Original Local Government Revenue (PAD)" also had a high path coefficient of 0.966. These findings indicate that an increase in the number of hotels and restaurants and the revenue from the tourism sector play a significant role in driving the local economy in West Java. It will support the increase and significance of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and the amount of regional investment value (economic growth variables) in poverty alleviation, with path coefficient contributions for GRDP and investment valued at 0.951 and 0.856, respectively (see Table 8).

	- - - <i>-</i>	Path	Sample	Standard	Т	Р
Indicator		Coefficient	Mean	Deviation	Statistic	Value
TD3	Number of hotels and restaurants	0.974	0.969	0.020	49.781	0.000
TD5	Contribution of the Tourism	0.966	0.964	0.023	42.185	0.000
	Sector on Original Local					
	Government Revenue (PAD)					
EG1	Gross Regional Domestic Product	0.951	0.971	0.020	46.549	0.000
EG4	The amount of regional	0.856	0.812	0.212	4.028	0.000
	investment value					

Table 8. Contribution of Each Indicator Constituting the Variables

Source: SMART PLS Data Processing Results, 2024

The impact of tourism development on economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java can be profound. The tourism sector creates employment opportunities with more hotels and restaurants. It stimulates local businesses and services, contributing significantly to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). It aligns with the Strategic Plan (Renstra) of the Tourism and Cultural Agency of West Java, 2018 – 2023, which aims to enhance tourism-supporting facilities through the establishment of restaurants, eateries, cafes, as well as both starred and non-starred hotels, tourism travel businesses, and recreational or entertainment facilities in West Java, all supported by the use of digital platforms for promotional purposes.

Moreover, as the tourism sector flourishes, it enhances the tourism sector's contribution to Original Local Government Revenue (PAD), providing additional resources for public services and infrastructure development. This growth in economic activity attracts regional investments, further boosting the regional investment value. Therefore, the cumulative impact of tourism development has the potential to alleviate poverty and improve people's living standards through economic improvement (Li et al., 2022). Although the results of our analysis regarding the significant contribution of the tourism sector to economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java, this finding can be debated considering that the benefits may not be equally distributed among all segments of society, particularly the lower strata. The great benefits of tourism tend to be felt by those with the knowledge, skills, connections, and capital, consequently, income inequality is possible (Truong et al., 2014).

Researchers reiterate that the indicators used to measure the impact of tourism development on economic growth and poverty alleviation in West Java include the number of hotels and restaurants, the tourism sector's contribution to local government revenue, GRDP, the amount of regional investment value, the percentage and number of people living in poverty, Poverty Depth Index, and Poverty Severity Index. However, research on the relationship between tourism and poverty alleviation in developing countries, as conducted by Odhiambo (2021), indicates that measuring tourism development depends on defined analytical indicators; consequently, research using different indicators may yield disparate findings. It highlights the importance of selecting appropriate indicators that effectively capture the nuanced impacts of tourism on local economies and poverty levels and are tailored to the conditions of each region.

CONCLUSION

The research underscores the pivotal role of tourism development in fostering economic growth and alleviating poverty in West Java. It accentuates the substantial positive impact of tourism on the region's economy, establishing this sector as a crucial contributor to economic growth. Furthermore, the study reveals a correlation between robust economic performance and poverty reduction, emphasizing the importance of inclusive economic growth in poverty alleviation. Tourism Development (TD) is represented by two indicators: the number of dining establishments or restaurants and hotels (TD3), as well as the contribution of the tourism sector to regional income (TD5), which collectively contributes 82.7% to economic growth. The other two indicators: GRDP (EG1) and regional investment (EG4) represent economic growth and contribute 75.8% to poverty alleviation. The interconnectedness of the hotel, culinary, and tourism sectors underscores the need for tailored policies across various supply chain stages to maximize economic benefits for small businesses and ensure equitable distribution of tourism revenues.

Policy implications for West Java's tourism sector include the need for targeted strategies to enhance infrastructure, promote tourism attractions, and support the hospitality and culinary industries. Specific policies should focus on improving access to tourism sites through strategic investments in transportation and accommodation facilities. Moreover, fostering a conducive business environment through regulatory frameworks that support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism supply chain is crucial. Additionally, initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable tourism practices and preserving cultural heritage will attract tourists and ensure long-term economic benefits for local communities. By implementing these policies effectively, West Java can leverage its tourism potential to drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, and enhance overall prosperity while mitigating poverty through inclusive economic development strategies.

It is essential to note the limitations of this research, which focuses on examining the relationship between tourism development, economic growth, and poverty using indicators based on statistical data. This analysis employs the PLS model in conjunction with regional development indicators specifically tailored to the data provided by the West Java Government. Future research could delve into each district/city of West Java to identify specific challenges, providing valuable insights for tailored policies and interventions to maximize tourism's benefits for poverty alleviation across the region. Further exploration of tourism's impact on social and environmental dimensions and investigating its direct role in poverty alleviation is necessary. Utilizing additional measurement indicators based on referenced theories and previous research could describe structural variables more comprehensively.

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