



Poverty In Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

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Abstract

Bengkulu is one of the provinces with the highest poverty in Indonesia. The Poverty Gap Index in 2017 is also higher than Indonesia. The purpose of this research is to determine the development of poverty in Bengkulu Province in 2010-2017. The method used in this research is descriptive quantitative based on secondary data. The variables include the percentage of poor people, poverty gap index, poverty severity index and gini index. The results are analyzed descriptively with a macro analysis unit based on the district /city administration unit. The results of this research show that poverty in Bengkulu Province was increasing from 2010 to 2015 and then it's decreasing until 2017, this increasing was caused by inflation that made the prices of needs increase. The lowest poverty rate is in Bengkulu Tengah District, while the highest level is in the southern part of Bengkulu Province includes Bengkulu Selatan Regency, Seluma Regency, Kaur Regency, and Bengkulu City.

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INTRODUCTION

Poverty is one of the main problems that experienced by various countries and is usually more dominant in developing countries includes Indonesia. Poverty is often synonymous with the low economic conditions of people and is characterized by high unemployment. Poverty is defined as deprivation in welfare (Bank Dunia, 2005). Based on its causes, poverty can be divided into two, i.e natural poverty and structural poverty. Natural poverty occurs because of scarcity of natural resources so that people productivity is low, while structural poverty occurs because the allocation of existing resources is not equally divided (Supadi and Nurmanaf, 2004).

Poverty in Indonesia has been declining since 2007, but there are still ten provinces that still have high poverty levels, one of it is Bengkulu Province. Based on this, it can be concluded that there is still a large gap both in terms of human development and the economy in Indonesia. Bengkulu Provin-

ce also had a high Poverty Gap Index in 2017 at 2.85, while Indonesia only had 1.83 (Central Bureau Statistics, 2019). This indicates that the poverty of Bengkulu Province is quite severe. Besides, the Gap Index of Poverty in Bengkulu Province has increased and decreased. In 2015, the Poverty Gap Index reached 3.63 and was the 4th highest index in Indonesia after West Nusa Tenggara, Maluku and West Papua.

The Poverty Gap Index in each district in Bengkulu Province is different, Bengkulu City which is the capital city of Bengkulu Province has the highest Poverty Gap Index compared to other districts in 2017 which was 4.69. This number defeated the Poverty Gap Index of all provinces in Indonesia except Papua and West Papua. Based on these conditions, the purpose of this study was to determine the development of poverty in Bengkulu Province in 2010-2017.

METHODOLOGY

Location and Time of Research

Bengkulu Province is one of the provinces on the island of Sumatra which is located extending
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from the border of West Sumatra Province to the border of Lampung Province. Bengkulu Province is between 2°16" – 03°31" latitude dan 101° 01' -103°41' east longitude. The area of Bengkulu Province is approximately 1,991,933 ha. Administratively, the province is divided into 9 districts and 1 city. The majority of the population of Bengkulu province in 2017 worked in agriculture, namely 458,715 people with a percentage of 49.17%, beside that 17.1% of the population of Bengkulu Province worked in the trade sector namely 159,496 people (Central Bureau Statistic of Bengkulu, 2017).

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive-quantitative method based on secondary data. The variables in the study include variables that describe poverty in a region. These variables are referenced based on the provisions of Central Bureau Statistics of Indonesia (Central Bureau Statistics of Indonesia, 2019), including:

Percentage of poor people

The percentage of poor people shows the level of poverty in general in a region. The percentage of poverty is measured by the formula:

$$P = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^q \left[\frac{z-y_i}{z} \right]^0 \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Information:

- Z = Poverty line
- Yi = The average monthly expenditure per capita population below the poverty line (i=1,2,3, ..., q), yi < z
- q = Total population under poverty line
- n = Total population.

Poverty Gap Index (P1)

The gap index of poverty is a measure of the average expenditure gap of each poor person to the poverty line. The higher the index value, the further the average population expenditure from the poverty line. The smaller the gap value of poverty shows the deeper the poverty of a person from the poverty line. The following is the formula P1:

$$P1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^q \left[\frac{z-y_i}{z} \right]^1 \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

Information:

- Z = Poverty line
- Yi = The average monthly expenditure per capita population below the poverty line (i=1,2,3, ..., q), yi < z

- q = Total population under poverty line
- n = Total population

Poverty Severity Index (P2)

The poverty severity index describes the spread of spending among the poor. The higher the index value indicates that expenditure inequality among the poor is also getting higher. The formula of P2:

$$P2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^q \left[\frac{z-y_i}{z} \right]^2 \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

Information:

- Z = Poverty line
- Yi = The average monthly expenditure per capita population below the poverty line (i=1,2,3, ..., q), yi < z
- q = Total population under poverty line
- n = Total population

Gini Index

The gini index shows a cumulative expenditure curve that compares the distribution of a particular variable (eg income) with a uniform (uniform) distribution that represents the cumulative percentage of the population. The gini index is formulated by:

$$GR = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n F_{pi} \times (Fc_i + Fc_{i-1}) \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

Information:

- GR = Gini index/ gini ratio
- F_{pi} = Frequency of residents in the i class of expenditure
- F_{ci} = Cumulative frequency of total expenditure in the i class expenditure
- F_{ci-1} = Cumulative frequency of total expenditure in the expenditure class to (i- 1)

All those variables will be used to explain and describe the condition of poverty in Bengkulu Province. Data sources used is secondary data from BPS, including data in each district / city. The collected data is compiled, processed into graphs and tables to facilitate the process of identification and description of poverty. Descriptive analysis is done by using administrative units (districts / cities) by presenting maps from the percentage data of the poor which had been collected using the sturgess method to see patterns of poverty variables in Bengkulu so that they could be seen more signi-

ificantly in their distribution.

Flowchart

This research includes the preparation process, data collection, descriptive analysis and spatial analysis presented in figure 1, the following flow chart:

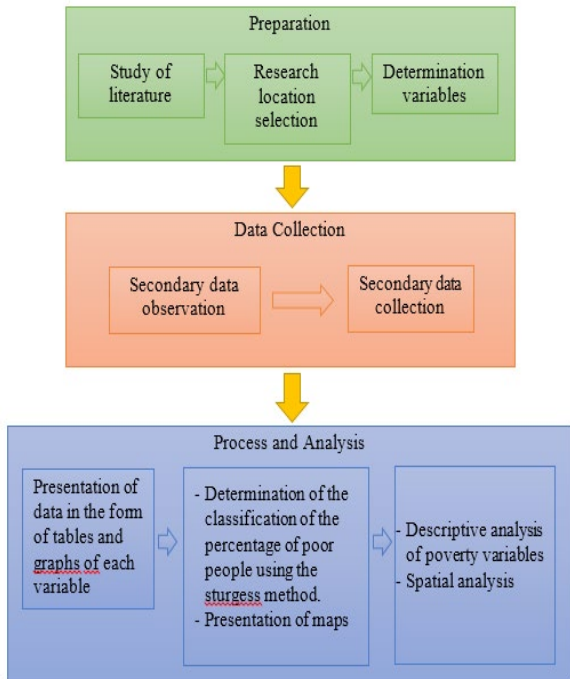


Figure 1. Research Flowchart

DISCUSSION

Percentage of Poor People in Bengkulu Province

In figure 2, the pattern formed from the analysis of poverty in Bengkulu from 2010 to 2017 is that there was an increase in the percentage of poverty in 2015/2016, then in 2017 the percentage dropped back to normal. The increasing poverty in Bengkulu was caused by a decrease in the amount

of consumption or expenditure per capita which caused many people to be close to the poverty line. Rising prices of basic commodities, especially food commodities in 2015/2016, caused the purchasing power of the population to decline (Suryowati E, 2016). Therefore the population in Bengkulu in 2015/2016 experienced poverty with the type of “seasonal poverty” and also “cyclical poverty”, that is poverty caused by climate or season so that productivity decreased and there were other factors in the economic sector such as rising market prices (Djojohadikusumo S, 1995).

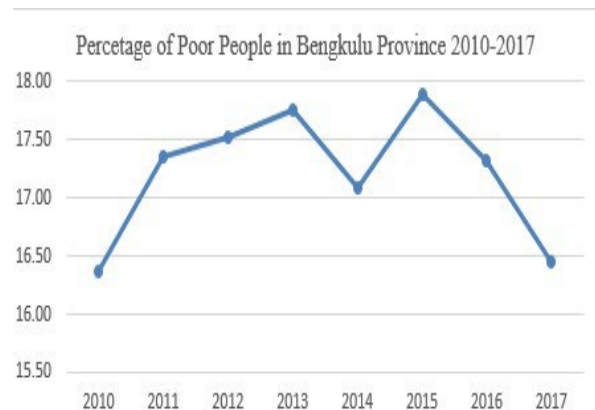


Figure 2. Percentage of Poor People in Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

In table 1, general the percentage of poor people each district from 2010 to 2017 had decreased. However, poverty in Bengkulu Tengah and the City of Bengkulu actually had been increasing in the 7-year period. One of the causes of this high poverty was the low level of people’s education. The relationship between poverty and education can be viewed from two things, i.e (Oxaal Z, 1997):

- Investment in education is a strategy to reduce poverty, because it can improve skills and productivity among poor households
- Poverty is a form of limitation in achieving

Table 1. Percentage of Poor People in Bengkulu Province

District/City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bengkulu Selatan	22.6	22.55	22.97	22.59	21.91	22.76	22.1	21.06
Rejang Lebong	15.1	16.79	17.3	18.48	17.99	18.03	17.81	16.97
Bengkulu Utara	14.8	14.4	14.4	14.5	13.95	14.78	13.67	13.11
Kaur	21.2	22.26	22.65	23.25	21.96	22.87	22.36	21.54
Seluma	20.8	20.9	21.19	21.84	21.17	22.98	21.68	20.73
Muko-muko	14.1	13.28	13.21	12.98	12.48	13.45	13.01	12.2
Lebong	13	12.43	12.47	12.89	12.44	12.32	12.26	11.83
Kepahiang	14.8	15.02	15.34	16.13	15.65	16.83	16.31	15.95
Bengkulu Tengah	6.4	6.49	6.52	7.24	8.22	8.33	8.71	8.41
Bengkulu City	17.7	22.23	22.1	21.51	20.16	21.14	20.72	19.18

education both on a macro scale (as a poor country) and micro scale (children from poor households with low education)

The basic theory underlying the relationship between education and poverty is the theory of human capital which makes education as an important instrument in reducing poverty. Education increases worker productivity and efficiency through increasing economically productive human cognitive abilities (Olaniyan DA and Okemakinde T 2008), so people with better (higher) education have the probability of working, and economically become more productive and therefore they will earn more income (Berg SVD, 2008).

Poverty Gap Index

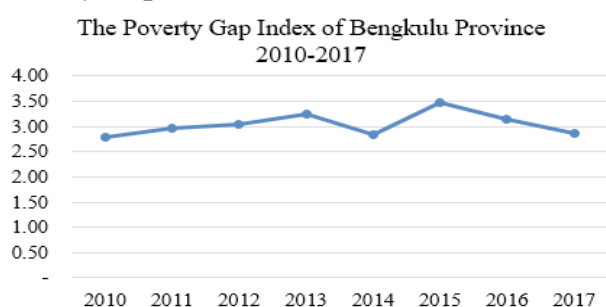


Figure 3. Poverty Gap Index of Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

In figure 3, Bengkulu Province had a fluctuating Poverty Gap Index from 2010 to 2017. The increase in the Poverty Gap Index in 2011 was influenced by rising commodity prices (World Bank, 2011). The increase in commodity prices had made population expenditures further away from the poverty line so that the Poverty Gap Index became higher. Meanwhile, the increase from 2010-2013 could also be caused by an increasing inflation since 2011. In 2012, inflation was up to 2 percent caused by the government increasing the basic electricity tariff (TDL) by an average of 10 percent and would ban black plate cars use subsidized pre-

mium (Soelistianingsih L, 2012). Indonesia’s inflation in 2015 also increased to 3.35% (Suryowati E, 2016). Inflation is characterized by the increase in the price of commodities which can cause purchasing power to decrease (Sugiartiningsih and Shaleh K, 2017). Declining purchasing power caused the population expenditure in Bengkulu Province to be further away from the poverty line, especially from the food poverty line so that the Gap of Poverty Index increased.

In 2016, the Bengkulu Province Poverty Gap Index had been decreasing until 2017. This shows a condition that is beginning to improve and stabilize. The economy of Bengkulu Province was optimistic that it would improve in 2016, looking at a number of vital sectors that supported the economy that had begun to recover such as plantations and agriculture (Metro TV News, 2016). In addition, throughout April 2016, there was a deflation of 0.45% (Jefriando M, 2016). The large number of basic commodities which had decreasing price had caused a lot of poverty lines to rise so that many people came out of the poverty line because they had been able to buy minimum basic needs.

In table 2, districts in Bengkulu Province that have a high Poverty Gap Index from 2010 to 2017 are Kaur District, South Bengkulu District and Seluma District. Low-income populations, mostly low education, results in poor quality of available human resources so they cannot enter better jobs. This was confirmed by the percentage of people not attending school in Kaur District 82.68 (Central Bureau Statistics of Bengkulu, 2017). Meanwhile in Seluma District, many people attended education that was not in accordance with their age, indicating the possibility of the population working when their education was still low. A similar thing also happened in Bengkulu Selatan Regency where the school enrollment rate was only 21.76% (Central Bureau Statistic of Bengkulu, 2017).

Table 2. The Poverty Gap Index of Bengkulu Province Each District/City 2010-2017

District/City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bengkulu Selatan	3.64	4.56	4.11	4.16	4.26	4.53	4.64	3.32
Rejang Lebong	2.68	2.05	2.53	2.82	2.69	3.02	3.36	2.9
Bengkulu Utara	2.35	1.76	2.37	2.48	1.81	2.3	1.33	1.97
Kaur	3.86	3.54	4.27	3.82	3.95	3.76	3.36	4.12
Seluma	3.36	3.55	3.72	4.6	3.81	4.59	4.12	3.98
Muko-muko	2.65	2.8	2.71	1.66	1.7	2.44	1.95	1.99
Lebong	2.06	1.38	2.49	2.21	1.66	1.8	2.2	1.46
Kepahiang	2.36	2.2	2.6	2.43	2.52	2.74	1.81	1.89
Bengkulu Tengah	0.7	0.67	0.64	0.74	1.23	1.25	0.75	1.42
Bengkulu City	3.3	4.1	3.91	3.74	3.54	4.3	4.11	4.69

Poverty Severity Index

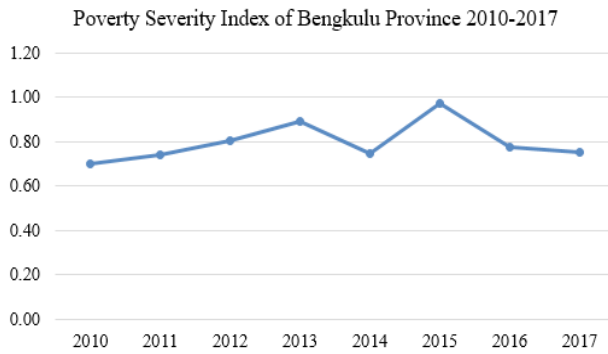


Figure 4. Poverty Severity Index of Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

The severity index provides information about the description of the distribution of expenditure among the poor. This change in inequality index was influenced by the number of people who were below the poverty line and also the average expenditure of the poor. The higher the expenditure inequality among the poor population, the lower the average expenditure and the higher the poverty severity index. In figure 4, the poverty severity index in Bengkulu Province in general had been fairly stable from 2010 to 2017, but still had some fluctuations. The decreasing severity index was caused by the percentage of poor population in Bengkulu which decreased from year to year and also increased in population education.

In table 3, the poverty severity index of 10 districts in Bengkulu has different patterns of change from 2010-2017. Fluctuations in severity index were influenced by the average expenditure of the poor which were also fluctuated. The increase in the poverty severity index of Bengkulu Province in 2013-2014 was triggered by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in Indonesia which reached 8.38 in 2013 and 8.36 in 2014 (Central Bureau Statistics of Indonesia, 2019). Inflation has an in-

fluence on poverty, that the existence of inflation causing the real value of money to decrease so the amount of money to buy becomes less. Less amount of money causes purchasing power to decrease so the population becomes poorer (Fatma FS, 2005). Declining purchasing power caused the poverty line to increase as happened in Bengkulu Province which had a poverty line of Rp. 283,252 in 2012 and increased to Rp. 327,358 in 2013 (Central Bureau Statistics of Bengkulu 2017).

The city of Bengkulu had the highest poverty severity index among the other districts in 2017, which was 1.55 and had fluctuations from year to year. Inequality in expenditure in the city of Bengkulu was high because the percentage of poor people and the standards of poverty was increasingly high. The population in Bengkulu City that lived below the poverty line in 2017 was 70,163 people and the poverty line is Rp.584,265 / capita / month (Central Bureau Statistics of Bengkulu 2017). The number of people who are under poverty in the city of Bengkulu was increasing in number from year to year due to the large number of migrants entering the city who then work in the informal and low-income sectors.

The high population in need of work, the limited employment opportunities and the tight work competition in the city of Bengkulu caused a high number of unemployed people. The number of open unemployment in the City of Bengkulu in 2012 was 31,128 and increasing in 2016 to 32,942 people, while the unemployed numbered 82,192 people (Central Bureau Statistic of Bengkulu, 2017). Unemployment has an influence on the number of poor people because with the loss of jobs the income to buy needs will decrease (Fatma FS, 2005). The decrease in purchasing power makes the poverty line increases.

Gini Index

The Gini Index shows the overall level of

Table 3. Poverty Severity Index of Each District/City in Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

District/City	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bengkulu Selatan	0.9	1.41	1.24	1.1	1.24	1.34	1.3	0.79
Rejang Lebong	0.69	0.37	0.6	0.66	0.6	0.74	0.91	0.72
Bengkulu Utara	0.52	0.34	0.63	0.67	0.39	0.56	0.2	0.49
Kaur	1.06	0.8	1.22	0.98	1.13	0.83	0.75	1.27
Seluma	0.82	0.87	0.97	1.53	1.11	1.32	1.09	1.11
Muko-muko	0.63	0.89	0.88	0.34	0.37	0.74	0.42	0.48
Lebong	0.46	0.27	0.87	0.55	0.31	0.42	0.55	0.39
Kepahiang	0.51	0.48	0.67	0.56	0.63	0.67	0.3	0.36
Bengkulu Tengah	0.13	0.16	0.1	0.14	0.25	0.27	0.09	0.34
Bengkulu City	0.94	1.14	1.1	0.98	0.91	1.42	1.22	1.55

income inequality. The value of this index ranges from 0 to 1. Value 0 indicates that there is perfect income equalization, or that everyone has the same income while the value of 1 indicates the existence of income inequality between residents. Inequality in a region naturally occurs especially in developing regions. The unevenness of both human and economic development triggers uneven economic growth and various other things including poverty. The problem of unemployment, low labor productivity, and the quality of human resources are the triggers of uneven income in society.

Seluma Regency, and Bengkulu City. While other districts / cities in the north had a low to moderate percentage of poor people. The high level of poverty in the four districts / cities is unique because in a long period of time, the four still have high levels of poverty (no change).

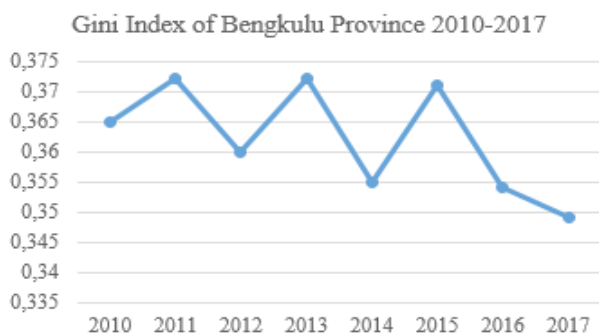


Figure 5. Gini Ratio of Bengkulu Province 2010-2017

In figure 5, the Gini index of Bengkulu Province since 2010-2017 had been fluctuated. But it can be seen that these fluctuations are always in the range of 0 which indicates that income inequality in Bengkulu society is not too large. This can be caused by almost the same economic activities of people which are supported by the location of Bengkulu which is close to the coast so that there are still many engaged in the agricultural, plantation and marine sectors. In general, the gini index in this province has decreased which shows the increasing prevalence of income in the community.

Percentage of Poor People Map in Bengkulu 2010 and 2017

Based on the explanation in the previous discussion that the poverty rate in Bengkulu has a fluctuating trend, and since 2015-2017 has a tendency to decline. This shows that the poverty rate in general in the province has improved, in the sense that the poor are decreasing. In figure 6, based on the Sturgess classification, both in 2010 and 2017 the poverty rate in Bengkulu was concentrated in certain regions, shown in red on the map of percentage of poor people in province of Bengkulu, 2010 and 2017 i.e the southern part of Bengkulu Province included Bengkulu Selatan Regency, Kaur Regency,

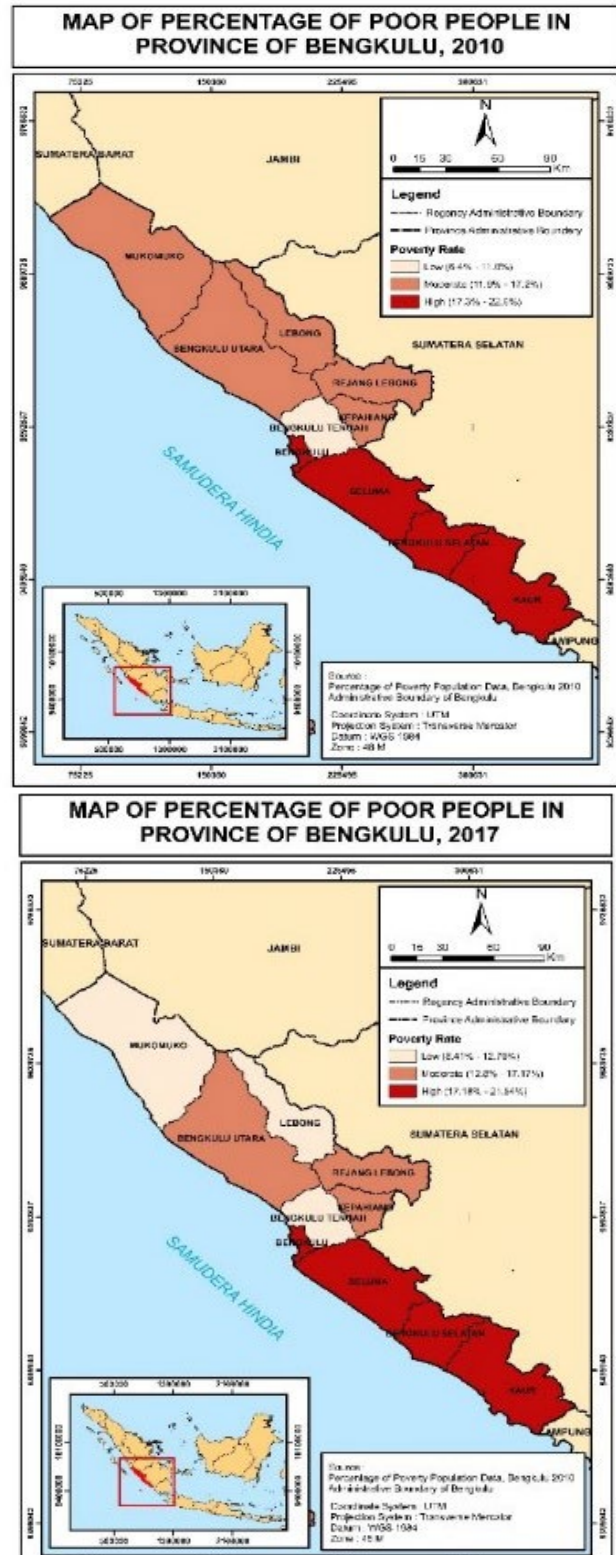


Figure 6. Percentage of Poor People Map in Bengkulu 2010 and 2017

One of the causes of the high level of poverty in Bengkulu Selatan Regency is its weak economic

growth. The economic growth of Bengkulu Selatan Regency in 2013 was 6.17%, down to 5.67% in 2014. Back down to 5.14% in 201, up to 5.56% in 2016 and experiencing the highest decline of 0.96 percent in 2017 (Utama A, 2018) This can indirectly affect the economic turnover that exists in the community which makes the poor who are far below the poverty line unable to get out of the poverty line so that even though it is known that the poverty line is increasing, it is not necessarily that the entire poor come out of poverty.

Besides the conditions of economic growth, population migration can also directly or indirectly affect the high level of poverty in the southern region of Bengkulu Province. Based on the results of the 2013's National Socio-Economic Survey, the high level of poverty in the City of Bengkulu was caused by population migration. Many poor people were from Bengkulu Tengah Regency and many of them moved to cities which eventually led to a decrease in poverty in Bengkulu Tengah and an increase in Bengkulu City . Meanwhile for Kaur Regency, the high poverty in the regency can be caused by the high open unemployment rate which reached 8.03% in 2017 (Afriyanti AF, 2016). Unemployment can reduce people's welfare so that it can increase their chances of being trapped in poverty. On the other hand, the high poverty in Kaur Regency can be caused by the high participation of the workforce with high school education or lower so it can makes a low quality of human resources and finally the available workforce cannot access better employment opportunities.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from this research that based on the measurement from Central Bureau Statistics within poverty, poverty in Bengkulu Province had been increasing from 2010 to 2015 and then decreasing until 2017, this increase was caused by inflation so that prices of needs increased. Districts that have the lowest percentage of poor people in 2010 and 2017 were Bengkulu Tengah, while districts in the south of Bengkulu Province such as Seluma, Bengkulu Selatan, and Kaur had the highest percentage of poor people in 2010 and 2017.

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