Human Capital and Productivity: a Case Study of East Java

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Abstract

This research examines the influence of level of education and health rate as the measurement of human capital to productivity in East Java Province, during 2009 to 2015. Variable of level of education is measured by literacy rate, while the variable of health rate is measured by infant mortality rate. The panel data analysis is used as research method, which is Fixed Effect Model is the best model than the other models. The research results show that the variable of level of education is not significant to productivity, whereas, the variable of health rate has negative and significant influence to productivity. The reason is because educated worker is not really needed in East Java Province. Some workers with skills and experiences are preferred. Therefore, in this research literacy rate cannot be used as good proxy to measured variable of level of education. Moreover, a decrease in infant mortality rate is indicating that the health rate is good. Hence, productivity will increase if the health of labor increase.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to analyze the influence of human capital and productivity in East Java Province during 2009 to 2015. The location of East Java Province is on the eastern part of Java Island. East Java Province's economy growth having place in the second rank of the highest regional economic growth after Jakarta. According to the Central Berau of Satatistic data, in 2012 the economy growth in East Java Province achieved 6.64% or increase as many as 0.2% from 6.44% in 2011. The Gross National Product (GDP) of East Java Province has big contribution to an increase in National GDP. In 2012, East Java province contributed as many as 14.87% of national GDP, and it increased to 14.99% in 2013. During 2011 to 2013 East Java Province's Human Capital Index (HDI) has positive trend. On 201, HDI of this province was 66.06% and increased to 66.74% in 2012, and to 67.55% in 2013. Higher of HDI means that the quality of social-economy is good. Event though the performance of GDP and HDI in East Java Province is good, however the poverty and unemployment rate in this province is still high. The percentage of poor people living below the poverty in the rural area was 16.88% and in the urban area was 8.90% in 2012. In 2013, the poverty rate both in the rural area and urban area decrease as many as 16.23%. The number of unemployment rate 2012 was 4.09% and increased to 4.30% in 2013. Moreover, in 2013 the percentage of job occupancy was domintaded by some people who worked in agricultural sector as many as 38.25% and some people who worked in trade sector as many as 20.78% of total workers. Then in 2013, as many as 52.61% the number of job occupancy according to the education rate was dominated by some workers who gradutaed from elementary school.

To analyze economy performance of a country, economic growth is the one of important indicators. Basically, economy growth shows the ability of a country to generate outputs. Labor and capital are some factor influencing output. However, Sollow (1956) argues that the advantage of technology could increase outputs. Hence, Sollow built model called as Sollow Growth Model, which explain that the outputs of a country can determined by capital stock growth, labor, and the advances of technology. However, on the other hand an increase in output is not only determined by capital, labor, and technology advance but also determined by the growth of productivity. According to Mankiw (2006), productivity can be defined as the number of total goods and services produced by workers in each their working hours. How much total productivity produced by workers also be determined by capital. Capital can be devided into parts; physical capital and human capital. Building, machine, land, and equipment or all factors used to produce which are physically existing be called as physical capital, while human capital is the qualitative dimension of human resource.

Some previous researchers have been conducted research about human capital and productivity. However, their research result is still showing different. Hendarmin, et.all (2019) investigates the impact of the human capital on the economic productivity level in provinces of Kalimantan Island during the period of 2013 to 2017 using panel data analysis. The result shows that human capital, measured by the education level which is the average of years of education, the health level which is life expectancy and investment has a positive effect on the productivity level of the regional economy. Moreover, health variable has a bigger magnitude compared to the education and physical capital investment variables.

Oluwabunmi (2017) analyze the causality between human capital and productivity growth in Nigeria during the period of 1970 to 2010. According to the Engle-Granger causality test, the research result shows that in Nigeria, the productivity growth has been very low and unstable as it oscillated between -1.5% and 0.6%. In addition, the relationship between human capital and productivity growth show that productivity growth caused human capital development, while human capital development does not cause productivity growth.
Mohd Nahar, et al. (2015) investigates the impact of human capital on labor productivity on 14 states in Malaysia during the period of 2009 to 2012. The result show that according to the fixed effect model, that human capital quality has positive significant effect in improving the level of labor productivity in Malaysia. Their estimate suggest that the impact of health on labor productivity is greater than the impact of education. Improvements in the quality of health and education are therefore crucial for Malaysia to achieve higher productivity growth.

Farah and Puspita (2014) conducted research to analyze the influence of human capital quality to productivity level in Indonesia in the period of 1996-2006. Level education and health rate are used to measure human capital quality. Their research result shows that level of education has positive significant influence to productivity while health rate has negative significant influence. Beside, their result also show that level of education has stronger influence to productivity than health rate.

The research of the influence of level of education and health rate to productivity level also be conducted by Ameliyah (2013). Her study analyzing about human capital and productivity in Tangerang regency in the period of 2002 to 2010 using time series data analysis. Her research result shows that level of education has no significant effect on labor productivity, whereas health rate has positive significant to labor productivity. Sihombing (2009) analyzing the influence of human capital to productivity through level of education and health rate in Dairi regency, North Sumatra Province during 1993 to 2003. His research result shows that level of education is not significant, but health rate has positive correlation to productivity. Partially, both variables have positive significant correlation to the level of labor productivity.

Some economy figures build definitions about human capital. According to Agenor (2004), skills, knowledge of individual worker and consisting of abilities can be used to view human capital. Schultz (1961) consider that human capital is qualitative dimension of human resource which similar with skill and expertise that influence the productivity of a person. Backer (1994) argues that investment in health and education will have something of return in the future. Therefore, an increase in education and health investment will lead to an increase people productivity in the future.

De la Fuente (2011) built hypothesis about human capital which is human’s knowledge and skill will directly increase both productivity and economic capability in order to develop and adopt new technologies. According to this hypothesis, on 1992 Mankiw et al developed human capital model by modifying Solow Growth Model by adding human capital accumulation in to production function known as Mankiw Romer and Weil (MRW). MRW model formulates production as:

\[ Y(t) = K(t)^{\alpha} H(t)^{\gamma} (A(t)L(t))^{1-\alpha-\gamma} \] .......................... (1)

Where; K is physical capital, H is stock of human capital, A is technology and L is labor.

Equation (1) can be written in the form of per effective labor as:

\[ y(t) = K(t)^{\alpha} H(t)^{\gamma} \] .......................... (2)

Physical capital and human capital are the part of capital. Therefore, the formula of capital accumulation can be written as

\[ \dot{K}(t) = s_k \dot{y}(t) - (\delta + n_L + n_A)\dot{K}(t) \] .......................... (3)

\[ \dot{H}(t) = s_h \dot{y}(t) - (\delta + n_L + n_A)\dot{H}(t) \] .......................... (4)

Where; Sk and Sh is saving rate of physical capital and human capital, \( \delta \) is depreciation rate, nL is population growth rate, and nA is technological growth rate. Steady state is a condition when capital accumulation does not occur, or when \( \dot{K} = 0 \) and \( \dot{H} = 0 \). Physical capital in steady state condition can be written as:

\[ \ddot{K}(t)^* = \left( \frac{\alpha s_k}{\delta + n} \right)^{1-\gamma} \] .......................... (5)

\[ \ddot{H}(t)^* = \left( \frac{\alpha s_h}{\delta + n} \right)^{1-\gamma} \] .......................... (6)
Using equation (5) and (6) into equation (2), the output per capita in steady state condition can be written as:

\[
\hat{y}(t)^r = \left( \frac{S^a}{\delta + \eta} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma - \eta}} \text{........................(7)}
\]

Equation (7) explains that physical capital accumulation rate and human capital can influence steady state of output per effective worker. This equation explicitly shows that output per effective worker is determined by physical capital and human capital investment.

Human capital is one of vital roles in the process of growth and economic development. The achievement of economic growth is depending on the improvement of physical capital and natural capital. Besides those two capitals, human capital also become the important key in order to increase productivity.

Further, Becker (1993) explain that humans are not only a resource but also an investment. This is due to human investment have generate return through their value added. Therefore, education and training can be used to measure human capital.

Generally, according to Hendarmin (2019), the investment can be defined as the spending to purchase the good of capital and production pieces of equipment to advance the ability to produce goods and services in the economy. An increase in adding of the capital goods amount leads to an increase in it possibility to produce more goods and services in the future.

RESEARCH METHODS

Panel data analysis is used as research method. This is because panel data analysis has greater data variation and has smaller collinierity in each variable rather than time series data and cross section data (Gujarati and Potter, 2009). In addition, Batalgi (1998) explains that panel data has ability to control individual heterocedasticity that leads to bias estimation. Therefore, the estimation of panel data analysis does not need to conduct classical assumption test.

In the Panel data analysis there are two model, namely Fixed Effect Model and Random Effect Model. Fixed Effect Model assumes that each individual differences can be accommodated from it's intercept distinction. Furthermore, Random Effect Model assumes that the differences of individual intercept is random or stochastic.

This research uses secondary data collected from the publication East Java Province’s Central Bureau of Statistic focusing on 29 regencies and 9 municipalities in East Java Province during the period of 2009 to 2015. The research model is developed refres to the econometrics model developed by Ameliah (2013), where human capital is used as independent variable and productivity as dependent variable. Productivity is measured by GDP per labor whereas education and health are used to measured human capital. The literacy rate is used to measure level of education and infant mortality rate is used to measure health rate. Data on productivity, literacy rate and infant mortality rate are on percentage. Therefore, we can develop the econometrics model as:

\[
LPROD_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_1 EDUC_{it} + \beta_2 HEALTH_{it} + \mu_{it} \text{....(9)}
\]

Where; LPROD is logarithm of productivity per worker, \( \beta_0 \) is intercept, \( \beta_1 \) and \( \beta_2 \) are coefficient, EDUC is level of education, HEALTH is health rate, \( i \) is index unit and \( t \) is time index.

In this research, we develop two research hypotheses as the following level of education, measured by literacy rate, has positive significant correlation to productivity, health rate, measured by infant mortality rate, has negative significant correlation to productivity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before analyzing the regression result, descriptive statistics of the maximum value, minimum value, mean, and standard deviations are presented in Table 1.

According to Table 1, variable productivity has a maximum value of -5.82%, minimum value of -4.25%, mean of -3.12%, and
the standard deviation is 0.70. Then, variable level of education has maximum value of 98.86%, minimum value of 64.81%, mean of 90.38% and the standard deviation is 6.66. Finally, variable health rate has a maximum value of 67.89%, minimum value of 16.89%, mean of 32.20% and the standard deviation is 12.32.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Coefficient of Fixed Effect</th>
<th>P-Value (Prob)</th>
<th>α</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>-2.591195</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Education</td>
<td>0.003215</td>
<td>0.6343</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Rate</td>
<td>-0.081484</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Fixed Effect Model, variable of level of education as measured by literacy rate has P-value (Prob) equals to 0.6343. This number is greater than α (5%). It means that variable level of education is not significant to influence productivity. The reason for that is because most workers in East Java Province are only graduated from elementary school and work in agricultural sector, which is not really need educated workers. They prefer to have workers with skills and experiences. Therefore, education rate measured by literacy rate cannot be used as good reference to analyze the influence of level of education to productivity in East Java Province case and we need other proxies for education. This research result is not consistent to the theory, but it is similar to the research result of Ameliyah (2013) and Sihombing (2009).

Variable of health rate as measured by infant mortality rate has P-value (Prob) of 0.0000. This number is smaller than α (5%). Therefore, this research concludes that variable of health rate as measured by infant mortality rate is significant influencer of productivity. The coefficient value of health rate as measured by infant mortality rate is -0.081. It means that if infant mortality rate decrease as 1%, the productivity will increase as many as 0.081% in ceteris paribus assumption.

The decrease of infant mortality rate is indicating that the health rate is good. Health, therefore, is an important feature to increase productivity. Healthy workers would be more productive than unhealthy one.
The government also has an important role to increase the quality of workers by improving HDI since an increase in HDI would lead to an increase in the quality of human resources and eventually lead to an increase in productivity. This research result is similar to the research result of Farah and Puspita (2013).

CONCLUSION

According to the data analyze result, this research makes two conclusions. First, the level of education variable is not significant in influencing productivity in the case of East Java Province.

The reason for this finding is because most of inhabitants of East Java Province are only graduated from elementary school and they work in agricultural sector that is more concerned with possession of skills and experiences, instead of level of education. Second, health rate as measured by infant mortality has negative significant correlation to productivity. A decrease in infant mortality rate is indicating that the health rate is good which eventually leads to an increase in productivity. Hence, a good health rate of labor will increase productivity and it is important for the government to invest more in this issue.

REFERENCES


