

## **Analysis of the Influence of Economic Factors on the Divorce Rate in Gorontalo Province**

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### **Abstract:**

This study examines the partial and simultaneous effects of unemployment, education, and poverty on divorce rates in Gorontalo Province. Using an associative quantitative approach, the research analyzes seven years of secondary time-series data (2018–2024) obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Gorontalo Province. The study applies panel data regression to evaluate relationships among variables. The findings show that unemployment significantly influences divorce rates, indicating that higher unemployment is associated with a greater likelihood of divorce. Education level has a significant negative effect, meaning higher educational attainment tends to reduce divorce occurrences. Poverty demonstrates a significant positive effect, suggesting increased poverty elevates divorce risk. Simultaneously, unemployment, education, and poverty jointly exert a significant influence on divorce rates, confirming that divorce represents a multidimensional social phenomenon shaped by interacting economic and social conditions over time. These results highlight the importance of integrated policy interventions, including employment expansion, educational improvement, and poverty alleviation programs, to reduce family instability. Future research is recommended to incorporate cultural and psychological variables to better understand regional variations in marital dissolution.

Keywords: Unemployment Rate, Education Level, Poverty Level, Divorce Rate

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Divorce is a social phenomenon that continues to increase in various countries, including Indonesia. Changes in social structures, economic dynamics, and increasingly complex life pressures present significant challenges to household resilience. Divorce not only impacts married couples but also has far-reaching social and economic consequences, such as increased household economic vulnerability, psychological problems for children, and a social burden on society and the government.

In Indonesia, the divorce rate has been increasing year after year. National data shows that economic factors are a dominant factor in divorce, alongside social and psychological factors. Household economic instability, limited income, and the inability to meet basic family needs often trigger conflicts that lead to divorce. This situation demonstrates that divorce is inextricably linked to the economic dynamics faced by households.

This phenomenon also occurs in Gorontalo Province. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of divorce cases in Gorontalo Province over the past few years has shown relatively high fluctuations and tends to increase during certain periods.

Differences in socioeconomic conditions between districts/cities in Gorontalo Province contribute to variations in divorce rates, indicating that economic factors potentially play a significant role in explaining these differences. Therefore, divorce in Gorontalo Province is a relevant social issue that deserves further in-depth study.

Province has an area of 12,025.15 km<sup>2</sup> (BPS Gorontalo, 2022), with an estimated population of 1,250,960 people. In recent years, (BPS Gorontalo Province) shows that from 2023 there were 2,062 recorded divorce cases, and looking at the latest data in 2024 there was an increase in divorce cases in Gorontalo Province with 2,124 divorce cases occurring in Gorontalo Province, (BPS Gorontalo Province), this indicates that family dynamics in this area are experiencing serious pressure, especially in vulnerable groups such as young couples and low-income families. From the statement above, it is certainly necessary to look at the number of divorce cases that occurred within a certain period based on the following table.

Table 1. Number of Divorces in Gorontalo Province (2018-2024)

Year	Number of Divorces
2018	1,914
2019	2,272
2020	1,452
2021	2,418
2022	2,361
2023	2,062
2024	2.124

Source: BPS Gorontalo Province, 2025

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) data above shows that the number of divorce cases in Gorontalo Province remains quite high and tends to increase. In 2023, 2,062 cases were recorded, increasing to 2,124 cases in 2024. Looking back since 2018, the divorce trend has fluctuated, but remains above 2,000 cases annually. The highest spike occurred in 2021, with 2,418 cases. This fluctuation in the divorce rate is believed to be related to the dynamics of the regional economy, particularly unemployment, education, poverty, and social and psychological conditions post-pandemic. These conditions indicate that family stability in Gorontalo Province faces serious challenges and requires special attention .

Theoretically, various economic factors such as unemployment rate, education level, and poverty level are considered important determinants of household stability. High unemployment rates can reduce income and increase family economic stress, leading to domestic conflict. This can be seen in the unemployment rate in Gorontalo Province from 2018 to 2024 as follows.

Table 2. Number of Unemployed in Gorontalo Province (2018-2024)

Year	Number of Unemployed (People)
2018	23,347
2019	23,409
2020	25,410
2021	17,959
2022	16,284
2023	19,817
2024	20,404

Source: BPS Gorontalo Province, 2025

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) data above shows that the unemployment rate in Gorontalo Province tends to be relatively low nationally, but shows a fluctuating trend with a slight increase. In 2018, the number of unemployed was 23,347, but in 2019, the number of unemployed increased slightly to 23,409. Then, in 2020, there was another, less significant increase, to 25,410. However, in 2021 and 2020, the number of unemployed decreased to 17,959 and 16,284, respectively. Meanwhile, in 2023-2024, the number of unemployed increased again to 19,817 and 20,404 in 2024.

Education level plays a role in shaping an individual's ability to manage finances, make rational decisions, and resolve conflicts constructively. This can be seen in the following figures for educational attainment in Gorontalo Province from 2018 to 2024.

Table 3. Number of Participation Levels of Education in Gorontalo Province (2018-2024)

Year	Number of Education Levels (%)
2018	62.70
2019	63.06
2020	63.34
2021	63.65
2022	63.82
2023	64.11
2024	64.66

Source: BPS Gorontalo Province, 2025

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) data above shows that the number of education levels in Gorontalo is generally still relatively low compared to other provinces in Indonesia, especially in access to higher and secondary education (SMA), although there is a slight increase from year to year in indicators such as Average Length of Schooling (RLS) and an increase in the number of universities, but the participation rate is still not optimal. Access to education in Gorontalo is often in the top 3 lowest in Indonesia, indicating a serious challenge to increase the participation of SMA/SMK graduates to continue their studies .

Meanwhile, poverty reflects limited access to economic resources, which can worsen household living conditions and increase the risk of divorce. This can be seen in the unemployment rate in Gorontalo Province from 2018 to 2024, as follows.

Table 4. Poverty Rate in Gorontalo Province (2018-2024)

Year	Number of Poverty (Thousand)
2018	198.51
2019	186.03
2020	185.02
2021	186.29
2022	185.44
2023	183.71
2024	177.99

Source: BPS Gorontalo Province, 2025

The data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) above shows that the number of poor people in Gorontalo Province. The poverty rate in Gorontalo generally shows a downward trend from year to year, although there are small fluctuations and the disparity between urban and rural areas is still high, but the latest data for March 2025 shows a significant decrease (to 13.24% or 162.74 thousand people) compared to previous years .

Various previous studies have examined the influence of economic factors on divorce, both at the national and regional levels. However, most of these studies still use a descriptive approach or limited cross-temporal analysis. Research specifically examining the influence of economic factors on divorce rates in Gorontalo Province using a panel data approach capable of capturing variations between regions and over time is still relatively limited. However, the use of panel data is crucial for providing a more comprehensive picture of divorce dynamics, which are influenced by changes in economic conditions over time and differences in characteristics between districts/cities.

### **Definition of Divorce**

Divorce is the termination of the marital bond between husband and wife as regulated in Law Number 1 of 1974. From a family sociology perspective, divorce is seen as a failure of couples to maintain a relationship due to incompatibility of values, prolonged conflict, or socio-economic pressures (Goode, 1983). The high divorce rate indicates a vulnerability in family resilience, which is often related to economic factors. Financial pressure can reduce marital satisfaction, reduce family functioning, and increase the risk of conflict leading to divorce .

According to Hurlock (2011:54), divorce is the end of a marriage when the husband and wife are unable to resolve their marital problems, which have led to marital happiness. Divorce can be carried out legally or extralegally. Siswanto (2020:220) suggests that divorce can result in a decrease or even a loss of closeness and frequency of communication between a child and one of the divorced parents, altering the dynamics of their previously strong relationship when they were still part of a unified family.

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that divorce is the end of a husband and wife relationship that is formalized by law or religion (through divorce) due to loss of mutual interest, lack of trust, and incompatibility that leads to disharmony in married life.

### **Factors That Cause Divorce**

There are many factors that cause divorce. Dagun stated that the factors causing divorce are economic problems, religion, culture, environmental influences, work, large age differences between husband and wife, as well as the desire to have children, and the problem of different life principles (Dagun, 2013: 113) which is explained as follows:

#### **1. Economic factors**

The first possible cause of the rise in divorce in society is "Socioeconomic Status." Couples with low incomes and education are more likely to divorce. Even women with more education (five or more years of college) than their husbands, have a higher average divorce rate than women with poorer and lower levels of education. Today's economic demands force both partners to work to meet the family's needs, often leading to differences in income or salary, especially if the husband is unemployed.

#### **2. Religion**

Religious differences are a factor that is difficult to tolerate. If they have children, it is difficult to determine what religion the child will follow.

### 3. Culture

Cultural differences and differing customs between partners can also lead to divorce. This occurs because it's difficult to reconcile the customs they each brought with them before marriage, for example, when a couple comes from two different countries.

### 4. Work.

Lack of a stable job is a factor that often triggers long-term arguments, especially if the wife has a job and children. There's a large age difference between husband and wife.

### 5. Many people think that a large age difference between husband and wife often causes arguments.

### 6. The desire to have children and the issue of different life principles.

The presence of children in a marriage is certainly something that everyone desires. According to Ulifiah (2016:14), there are several causes of divorce, including:

1. Lack of Communication. There can be no harmonious relationship without good communication. For example, due to intellectual imbalance, an open person interacting with a closed person, and so on.
2. Lack of Commitment. This lack of commitment usually occurs when one or both partners are unprepared for the realities of marriage.
3. Unequal Money. Money is a sensitive issue, but not discussing it only makes matters worse. If a husband doesn't provide for his family or a wife doesn't live on a level playing field, it often leads to divorce. As a result, both parties feel uncomfortable and the division of responsibilities and rights is unfair.

## Impact of Divorce

Divorce fundamentally has complex consequences for both the divorcing couple and their children. While divorce can resolve a marital problem that could no longer be resolved, it also negatively impacts the household's economic development, damages individual and social relationships between the two families, and, more seriously, affects the psychological development of their children, which in turn affects their behavior.

According to Landis (in Ihromi, 2004:161), the impact of divorce is an increase in the child's feeling of closeness to the mother and a decrease in the child's emotional distance from the father, in addition to the child becoming inferior to other children. In cases of divorce, children generally experience unfavorable psychological, economic, and coparental impacts from their parents. The child's personality becomes divided because they have to choose between one of their parents. Choosing to side with the mother means rejecting the father, and vice versa.

According to Dariyo (2008: 168) the negative impacts of divorce that are usually felt are:

1. Traumatic experiences in one of the life partners (male or female)
2. Instability in work

According to Wiran and Sudarto (in Widayanti, 2014:8), the impacts of divorce include:

1. There is a feeling of being left out and lonely
2. Feelings of pressure due to having to adjust to the new status as a widow/widower
3. Child custody issues
4. There are economic problems, namely a drastic decline in the economy.

According to Goode (in Fatmawati and Kasmiati, 2022: 21-22) that family chaos can be interpreted as the breakup of a family unit, the severance or cracking of the social role structure if one or more members fail to carry out their role obligations adequately, then the main causes of chaos in the family are:

1. Invalidity,

2. Empty membrane family,
3. The absence of a person or partner due to an undesirable event,
4. Failure of important roles is undesirable, disasters in the family may include serious mental, emotional, or physical illness.

### Definition of Unemployment

Unemployment occurs when the workforce is not absorbed in the job market despite being able and willing to work (Todaro & Smith, 2011). In the family context, increasing unemployment results in reduced household income, making it difficult to meet basic needs. According to Naf'an (2014: 132), unemployment or joblessness is a term for people who do not work at all, are looking for work, work less than two days a week, or someone who is trying to find decent work. Unemployment is often a problem in the economy because with unemployment, productivity and income will decrease so that it can lead to poverty and other social problems.

In Sukirno's theory (in Basrowi, et al., 2018: 1) unemployment is explained as a condition in which someone who is included in the workforce (15-64 years old) wants to get a job but feels unemployed. Unemployment is someone who is not working, but is not actively looking for work, aka unemployed because the person has not reached the age of 15 years. Unemployment can be the result of labor market instability. This indicates that the number of jobs offered exceeds the number of jobs demanded.

From the definition above, it can be concluded that unemployment is any workforce that is not working or is trying to find work but has not found it. In this incident, it generally occurs because the skills of job applicants do not match the needs sought in the labor market and also because the number of job seekers is greater than the number of jobs so that the job market can only accommodate a small portion of job applicants, while other job applicants who are not selected can only try to find work in other job fields.

### Factors Affecting Unemployment

Factors that cause unemployment according to (Muhdar, 2018) as follows:

1. First, the size of the workforce is not balanced with job opportunities. Imbalance occurs when the workforce is larger than available job opportunities
2. Second, the job structure is unbalanced, due to the job market. limited and declining levels of work participation,
3. Third, the need for the number and type of educated personnel and the provision of personnel unequally educated. If the opportunity for cooperation is the same or greater than the workforce, unemployment does not necessarily not occur because .
4. Fourth, the increasing role and aspirations of the female workforce in the workforce the entire workforce structure.
5. Fifth, the provision and utilization of labor between regions is not balanced. The workforce of an area may be greater than employment Opportunity. This situation resulted in the movement of workers from one area to another.

So, from the factors causing unemployment above, we can take the following: This means that the causes of unemployment are influenced by several factors. factors include: an unbalanced workforce size, structure unbalanced employment opportunities, the need for the number and type of educated workers imbalance, increasing roles and aspirations of the workforce, inadequate provision of employment opportunities.

## The Relationship between Unemployment and Divorce

Unemployment occurs when workers are not absorbed in the labor market despite being able and willing to work (Todaro & Smith, 2011). In the family context, rising unemployment results in reduced household income, making it difficult to meet basic needs. This financial pressure can trigger stress, emotional tension, and arguments, which theoretically increase the risk of divorce. Research by Matondang (2014) found that unemployment is positively associated with domestic conflict and marital instability.

### Understanding Education Levels

Education Levels according to Lestari (in Wirawan, 2016: 3) are an activity of a person in developing his abilities, attitudes, and forms of behavior, both for future life through certain organizations or unorganized. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and state (Republic of Indonesia. 2003. Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning Education. No. 1)

In Sukirno's (2012) view, the unemployment rate refers to individuals in the workforce who actively seek employment at a specific wage level, but experience difficulties in finding jobs that meet their expectations. Essentially, the unemployment rate results in a loss of production potential ( *Lost Output* ) and causes suffering for those without jobs ( *Human Misery* ). Furthermore, the unemployment rate is also a form of wasted economic resources. Other negative impacts include reduced production output and increased government spending on unemployment compensation programs and social welfare.

From the several definitions of education above, it can be concluded that education is a process to develop all aspects of human personality as a whole to achieve a better individual personality.

### Education Level Indicator

Education level indicators according to Lestari (in Wirawan, 2016:3), namely:

1. Formal education

The indicator is the last level of education completed by each worker, which includes elementary school, middle school, high school and college.

2. Informal Education

The indicators are attitudes and personality formed by family and environment.

### Function of Education Level

Komaruddin (in Widiensyah, 2017: 209), is of the opinion that education makes a significant contribution to increasing the standard of living, human quality and national income, especially in the following matters:

1. The teaching and learning process ensures an open society (that is, a society that is always willing to consider new ideas and hopes and accept new attitudes and processes without having to sacrifice itself).
2. The education system provides the right foundation for development and results in rises (inherent guarantee for the sustainable growth of modern society).
3. If in every economic sector we get all the factors that society needs except skilled labor, then investment in the education sector will increase per capita income in that sector, unless the social structure that lives in that society is not profitable.
4. The education system creates and maintains a supply of human skills in a flexible labor market. It is also able to accommodate and adapt to changing workforce needs and the

changing demands of a modern technological society.

### Factors Affecting Education Level

According to Hasbullah (2017:63) said that the factors that influence education are as follows:

1. Ideology, all humans born into the world have the same rights, especially the right to receive education and increase knowledge and education.
2. Socioeconomic, the higher the socioeconomic level, the more likely a person is to achieve a higher level of education.
3. Socio-culturally, many parents are still unaware of the importance of formal education for their children.
4. The development of science and technology demands that we always update our knowledge and skills so as not to be left behind by developed countries.
5. Psychology, conceptual education is a tool to develop individual personality to be more valuable.

### The Relationship between Education and Divorce

Education is the process of developing a person's ability to think, behave, and act. Human Capital Theory states that education improves individual qualities, including communication and conflict resolution skills (Becker, 1993). In the context of marriage, individuals with higher levels of education tend to have better emotional stability, interpersonal skills, and family readiness. Conversely, lower levels of education are often associated with a higher risk of conflict and lower adaptability in married life (Rokhmadi, 2018).

### Definition of Poverty

The concept of poverty used by BPS is the fulfillment of basic needs (*basic needs approach*) from an economic perspective to meet basic food and non-food needs measured from the expenditure side. A person is said to be poor if he often suffers from malnutrition and poor health, has little literacy or is completely illiterate, lives in a poor environment, is politically underrepresented, and tries to earn a minimal income on small and marginal farms or in slum areas (Todaro and Smith, 2011: 231).

The Food Poverty Line (FPL) is the minimum food expenditure equivalent to 2,100 kilocalories per capita per day, which includes basic food needs such as carbohydrates, protein, vegetables, and fruit. The Non-Food Poverty Line (NFL) covers the minimum needs for housing, clothing, education, and healthcare. Therefore, a person is considered poor if their average monthly per capita expenditure falls below the poverty line.

A person is said to be poor if their income is less than IDR 332,119 per person in one month or the equivalent of IDR 11,000. per day (BPS). So, a person is considered poor if their income is below Rp 11,000 per day. However, the World Bank's criteria differ. The World Bank sets the international poverty line at US\$1.25 per capita per day. This means that those considered poor worldwide (both in countries and individuals) are those whose expenditure is less than US\$1.25 per day.

Subandi (2016: 91) argues that poverty is multidimensional because human needs are diverse, and therefore can be viewed from various perspectives. From a general policy perspective, poverty is divided into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary factors include a lack of assets, social organization, knowledge, and skills. Secondary factors include a lack of social networks, financial resources, and information. These poverty constructs

manifest themselves in malnutrition, lack of clean water, inadequate housing, inadequate healthcare, and low levels of education.

Based on the definition above, it can be understood that poverty is essentially a lack of basic necessities, including clothing, food, shelter, and basic education. Therefore, the concept of poverty itself is the result of a situation of powerlessness to change one's life for the better.

### Causes of Poverty

According to Suwadi, (2014:25) poverty is caused by two things, namely, firstly, poverty is caused by natural characteristics, characteristics that arise from the behavior of society or an individual, namely:

1. Limited capital resources Limited human resources (HR) can be interpreted as the quality of human resources, for example skills, education and knowledge.
2. A place or geographical location of a region that is remote and difficult to reach, which makes it difficult to interact with developed populations.

According to Todaro and Smith (2011: 26-27), poverty arises because some areas have not been fully addressed. Some sectors must accommodate excess labor with low productivity, and some communities have not participated in the development process and therefore have not been able to adequately benefit from its results.

Meanwhile, according to Kuncoro (2016), there are three factors that cause poverty from an economic perspective. First, poverty arises from unequal resource ownership patterns, which leads to unequal income distribution. Poor people have limited, low-quality resources. Second, poverty arises from differences in the quality of human resources. Low-quality human resources mean low productivity, which in turn leads to low wages. This low quality of human resources is due to low education, disadvantage, discrimination, or heredity. Third, poverty arises from differences in access to capital.

### Poverty Indicators

There are several indicators frequently used to measure poverty levels. According to Arsyad (2016: 298), there are four indicators used to measure poverty levels, namely:

1. Rice consumption level.
2. Income level.
3. Indicators of people's welfare.
4. Human Poverty Index.

Meanwhile, according to Suharto (2017: 80), the dimensions of poverty consist of several aspects, namely as follows:

1. Economic aspects. Economically, poverty can be defined as a lack of resources that can be used to meet the needs of life and improve the welfare of a group of people.
2. Political Aspects. Poverty can be seen from the level of access to power. Power in this sense includes the political system that can determine a group's ability to access and use resources.
3. Socio-psychological aspects. Socio-psychological poverty indicates a lack of social networks and structures that support opportunities for increasing productivity.

### The Relationship between Poverty and Divorce

Poverty is the inability to meet basic needs, which can lead to prolonged economic stress. According to Todaro and Smith (2011), poverty impacts a family's psychological well-being and can reduce the quality of marital interactions. The inability to meet basic needs, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, often triggers conflict and dissatisfaction within the household. In the long term, this condition can increase the risk of divorce.

### Relevant Research Studies

Several studies have examined the relationship between economic factors and divorce. Annur (2013) found that poverty is a significant determinant of divorce in low-income communities. Matondang (2014) demonstrated a positive relationship between unemployment and marital tension. Rokhmadi (2018) concluded that low education contributes to family instability. However, most of these studies were conducted at the national or district level, not in the context of Gorontalo Province as a whole. Furthermore, few studies have used time series data from 2018–2024 and tested three economic variables simultaneously, making this study relevant and novel.

### Research Framework

This research begins with the understanding that household stability is influenced by economic conditions. Unemployment, education, and poverty are economic factors that can increase or decrease the risk of divorce. Unemployment can impact divorce, for example, the pressure of an uncertain income; education can impact decision-making; and poverty can impact prolonged marital conflict. Thus, economic constraints can lead to conflict, reduce marital satisfaction, and weaken family resilience.

H1: Unemployment rate has a significant effect on divorce rate.

H2: Education level has a significant effect on divorce rate.

H3: Poverty level has a significant influence on divorce rate.

H4: Unemployment rate, education level, and poverty level simultaneously have a significant effect on the divorce rate.

### Research methods

This research was conducted in regencies/cities in Gorontalo Province using annual data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) and the Gorontalo Provincial Religious Court. The location selection was based on the high divorce rate from 2018–2024 and the availability of comprehensive economic and social data. The research was conducted from September to November 2025, covering data collection, data processing, analysis, and report preparation.

This study uses an explanatory research *method*. According to Sugiyono (2017: 6), *explanatory research* is a research method that aims to explain the position of the variables studied and the influence between one variable and another. The main reason this researcher uses the *explanatory research method* is to test the proposed hypothesis, so it is hoped that this study can explain the relationship and influence between the independent and dependent variables in the hypothesis, namely the unemployment rate, education level, and poverty level affect the divorce rate in the Regency/City of Gorontalo Province based on statistical data.

The population in this study comprises all data related to divorce rates, unemployment rates, education levels, and poverty rates in regencies/cities in Gorontalo Province for the period 2018–2024. The study sample used a saturated sampling technique, where all

members of the population were sampled due to their relatively small size and complete availability. Therefore, the study sample comprises annual data for seven years (2018–2024)

Data collection techniques for publication of BPS (Central Statistics Agency) data from Gorontalo Province and other sources .

The data analysis technique used in this study is panel data regression analysis, which is a combination of *time series* and *cross-section data* . *The time series* includes data on unemployment rates, education levels, poverty rates, and divorce rates from 2018 to 2024. The *cross-sections* consist of data on districts/cities in Gorontalo Province.

## RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Data Analysis Results

#### Classical Assumption Test

Before using the *Fixed Effect regression model* as a basis for drawing conclusions, a *classical assumption test* is necessary to ensure that the model meets the *BLUE ( Best Linear Unbiased Estimator )* requirements . This is essential to ensure that the resulting regression coefficient estimates are unbiased, efficient, and consistent. The classical assumptions tested in this study include:

#### 1. Data Normality Test

The normality test is used to determine whether the data used is normally distributed or not. A good regression model is one whose data distribution is normal or close to normal. To test the normality of the data, the test results used are the *Jarque-Bera test* . If the probability is equal to or less than  $\alpha$  (0.05), the data is not normally distributed. If the probability is greater than  $\alpha$ , the data is normally distributed. The results of the normality test are as follows:

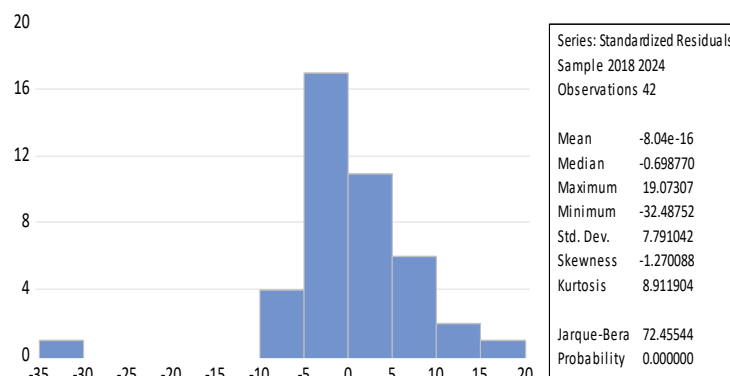


Figure 1. Normality Test Results

Source: Eviews Processed Results, 2025

Based on the test results, the probability value *Jarque-Bera*  $0.0000 < 0.05$ , it can be concluded that the residuals are not normally distributed, so the assumption of normality is not statistically met. However, in panel regression and linear regression in general, there is statistical justification that violation of the normality assumption is not a serious problem, as long as the sample size is large. This is in accordance with the *Central Limit Theorem (CLT)*, which states that if the sample size is large enough, the sampling

distribution of the parameter estimates will approach a normal distribution, even if the original data is not normal (Gujarati, 2004).

In this study, the number of observations was 42 (6 districts/cities x 7 years), which is large enough to rely on the CLT principle. Therefore, even though the *Jarque-Bera test* indicates non-normality, the model can still be used.

## 2. Multicollinearity Test

test is useful for examining a regression model to determine whether there is a correlation between the independent variables. A model is considered good if there is no correlation between the independent variables. According to (Gujarati, 2013), if the correlation coefficient between the independent variables is  $>0.8$ , multicollinearity occurs. Conversely, if the correlation coefficient is  $<0.8$ , the model is free from multicollinearity. The results of the multicollinearity test are as follows:

Table 4. Multicollinearity Test Results

	X1	X2	X3
X1	1,000,000	0.518552	-0.596758
X2	0.518552	1,000,000	-0.760261
X3	-0.596758	-0.760261	1,000,000

Source: Eviews Processed Results, 2025

The results in the table above show that the correlation between the independent variables does not exceed 0.8. This means that in this regression model, there is no correlation between the independent variables, meaning there is no multicollinearity.

## 3. Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity is a condition in which the distribution or variance of disturbing factors ( *disturbing factors* ) is not constant throughout the observation. To determine the presence or absence of heteroscedasticity, Spearman Rank Correlation is used. If the probability value ( *Sig* ) of the residual is greater than  $\alpha = 0.05$ , then heteroscedasticity does not occur. The results of the heteroscedasticity test are as follows:

Table 5. Heteroscedasticity Test Results

Dependent Variable: ABSRES				
Method: Panel Least Squares				
Date: 12/22/25 Time: 20:54				
Sample: 2018 2024				
Periods included: 7				
Cross-sections included: 6				
Total panel (balanced) observations: 42				
Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-0.1154	46.2514	-0.0025	0.9980
X1	0.8091	0.4530	0.4654	0.5780
X2	- 0.2749	0.5375	-0.5114	0.6125
X3	0.5979	1.1847	0.5047	0.6172

Source: Eviews Processed Results, 2025

Based on the test results, the probability values for all variables were greater than the 5% significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). This indicates that there is no heteroscedasticity in the model. Thus, the homoscedasticity assumption is met, and the regression model can be said to have produced efficient estimates.

## Panel Data Regression Model Estimation Test

In panel data regression analysis, there are three approaches to estimating panel data regression models, namely:

### 1. Common Effect Model (CEM) Test

*common effect* test assumes that the existing combined data shows the actual conditions and the results of the regression analysis are considered to apply to all time objects, the results of the *Chow test* are as follows:

Table 6. *Common Effect Model Test Results*

Dependent Variable: Y  
 Method: Panel Least Squares  
 Date: 12/22/25 Time: 20:54  
 Sample: 2018 2024  
 Periods included: 7  
 Cross-sections included: 6  
 Total panel (balanced) observations: 42

Variab les	Coefficien t	Std. Error	t- Statistic	Prob.
C	93.8613	42.5595	2.2054	0.0335
X1	-4.7464	1.5926	-2.9802	0.0050
X2	-4.2246	1.6813	-3.3864	0.0013
X3	-2.3829	0.4901	-4.8616	0.0000

Source: *Eviews Processed Results, 2025*

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the form of *common effect regression* is as follows:

$$Y_{it} = 93.86128 - 4.746412$$

## The Effect of Unemployment Rate on Divorce Rate

The regression results indicate that the unemployment rate has a **negative and statistically significant coefficient** on the recorded divorce rate in Gorontalo Province. Statistically, this means that higher unemployment is associated with a lower number of officially registered divorces. However, this does not imply that unemployment reduces marital conflict or family breakdown. Instead, the finding reflects a socio-institutional phenomenon rather than a purely causal relationship.

In economically vulnerable households, unemployment increases financial pressure, psychological stress, and domestic conflict. Nevertheless, couples often postpone legal divorce because the process requires financial resources. In addition, strong social norms and stigma toward divorce – particularly among low-income families – discourage formal separation. Consequently, household conflict may rise while recorded divorce decreases.

This finding is consistent with **economic stress theory**, which explains that job loss and income instability intensify marital tension. Previous studies also note that unemployment remains a major determinant of marital instability, although it may appear statistically negative due to delayed legal filing. Therefore, unemployment should be interpreted as increasing latent divorce risk, even when administrative data show a decline.

## The Effect of Education Level on Divorce Rate

Education level shows a negative but statistically insignificant relationship with divorce rates. This indicates that higher education tends to reduce divorce probability, yet the influence is not strong within the observed period.

Education theoretically improves communication ability, emotional regulation, and rational decision-making within marriage. However, in Gorontalo Province, higher education does not always guarantee stable employment or sufficient income. As a result, education alone cannot significantly reduce marital vulnerability when economic pressure remains high.

Another explanation concerns administrative accessibility. Individuals with higher education are more capable of navigating legal procedures, making formal divorce more likely to be recorded. Conversely, low-education households may experience conflict without registering legal separation. Thus, education functions as a supporting factor rather than a primary determinant of divorce dynamics.

### **The Effect of Poverty Level on Divorce Rate**

The poverty variable also shows a negative and significant coefficient in the recorded data. Similar to unemployment, this result reflects reporting behavior rather than the absence of marital instability.

Poverty intensifies household stress due to unmet basic needs, prolonged financial pressure, and reduced relationship satisfaction. Theoretically and empirically, poverty increases the vulnerability of marriage. However, poor families often lack the financial capacity to pursue legal divorce and are socially pressured to maintain the marriage. Therefore, administrative divorce rates may decline while actual marital breakdown increases.

This supports the view that poverty remains a substantive risk factor for divorce despite its negative statistical coefficient in official records.

### **Simultaneous Effect of Unemployment, Education, and Poverty**

The simultaneous test shows that unemployment, education, and poverty jointly have a significant influence on divorce rates, with an  $R^2$  value of 0.50. This indicates that economic factors explain half of the variation in divorce in Gorontalo Province.

Although individual coefficients appear negative, collectively the variables reflect structural socioeconomic vulnerability. Divorce in this context is shaped by economic hardship, limited employment stability, and unequal access to welfare resources. Education plays a complementary role, while unemployment and poverty act as dominant pressures affecting family resilience.

Overall, the findings confirm that divorce is not solely a personal or cultural issue but a multidimensional socioeconomic phenomenon. Policies focusing on job creation, income stability, and poverty reduction are therefore essential, as improving household economic security may indirectly reduce marital instability even when legal divorce statistics appear stable.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the empirical findings, unemployment and poverty show negative but significant relationships with the recorded divorce rate in Gorontalo Province, indicating that higher economic hardship tends to suppress officially registered divorces due to financial barriers and social pressures rather than reducing marital instability, while education demonstrates a negative but statistically insignificant effect, suggesting it functions only as a supporting factor in maintaining marital resilience; simultaneously, the three variables significantly explain divorce dynamics, confirming that divorce is strongly shaped by interacting socioeconomic conditions. Therefore, the regional government should prioritize job creation, local economic development, and sustainable poverty alleviation programs such as vocational training and micro-enterprise support, while social institutions and counseling agencies need to strengthen family resilience, financial literacy, and marital guidance services for economically vulnerable households; education improvement policies should be integrated with employment expansion to become effective, and future research is recommended to incorporate social, cultural, and psychological variables as well as broader time spans and regional comparisons to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of divorce patterns.

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