

The Impact of Fiscal Decentralization on Economic Growth in Indonesia: A Literature Study

Kumba Digdowiseiso

Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta

Email: kumba.digdo@civitas.unas.ac.id

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Abstract.

This research examines the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in Indonesia. The research sample comprises a collection of literature pertaining to the subjects of fiscal decentralization and economic growth in Indonesia, sourced from diverse information outlets. The variables under analysis encompass fiscal decentralization and its impact on economic growth. The methodology employed for data analysis involved the utilization of a qualitative literature review approach. The research findings suggest that fiscal decentralization yields favorable outcomes, including the stimulation of investment, productivity, and regional competitiveness. Additionally, it empowers regions, catalyzes regional economic growth, fosters innovation and competition, and mitigates development disparities among regions. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge the adverse consequences that may arise from this approach, including the possibility of exacerbating regional inequalities and the susceptibility to corruption in the administration of local funds. The scholarly literature presents varying perspectives on the influence of fiscal decentralization on economic growth. Consequently, scholars have proposed several strategies to optimize the potential benefits of fiscal decentralization, including enhancing regional fiscal capacity, improving the efficiency of intergovernmental transfers, and implementing rigorous oversight mechanisms to ensure effective local financial management.

Keywords: Fiscal Decentralization, Economic Growth, Impact, Indonesia.

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1. Introduction

Fiscal decentralization refers to the systematic transfer of fiscal authority from the central government to local government entities. The fiscal authority under consideration encompasses the power to levy taxes, oversee spending, and administer the budget (Hastuti, 2018). Fiscal decentralization has emerged as a prevailing global phenomenon, with numerous countries, including Indonesia, adopting this approach. According to Khusaini (2018), the implementation of regional autonomy and fiscal decentralization policies in Indonesia grants regional governments the autonomy to independently manage revenues and allocate budgets. This authority empowers them to determine the development priorities within their respective regions. The implementation of fiscal autonomy and decentralization is anticipated to facilitate a more equitable distribution of economic development, aligning with regional aspirations to leverage their individual potentials for regional growth. The aforementioned principles are outlined in the Regional Autonomy Law No. 9 of 2015 pertaining to Regional Government, which supersedes Law No. 23 of 2014. Nevertheless, the practical implementation of the delegation of authority policy in Indonesia has encountered numerous challenges. There are instances where compliance with the expectations outlined in different regulations may not always be observed (Nazikha et al., 2021). Multiple research findings demonstrate that the correlation between fiscal decentralization and economic growth does not consistently follow a linear pattern and can be influenced by a range of contextual factors.

Indonesia has undergone substantial alterations in the administration of its fiscal resources following the implementation of the Law on Regional Autonomy. Indonesia, being an archipelagic nation characterized by extensive economic and cultural heterogeneity, has undertaken a significant endeavor in the form of fiscal decentralization. This initiative aims to harness the economic capabilities of local regions in order to foster development and growth. Within this particular context, the matter of how fiscal decentralization impacts economic growth assumes significant importance. Resource allocation is a crucial aspect that warrants attention in this study. The allocation of resources and its impact on investment and economic development in different regions of Indonesia has raised concerns about the efficiency of revenue and budget management when local governments are granted increased authority (Kusuma, 2016). Furthermore, it is important to note that the regional financial management exhibits a significant level of quality, which deserves considerable attention. The manner in which local governments effectively handle their financial affairs will significantly influence the trajectory of local economic growth.

In addition to this, the issue of regional empowerment is a significant factor that must not be overlooked. To what extent has fiscal decentralization facilitated enhanced autonomy for local governments in formulating their economic policies, thereby fostering innovation and sustainable growth at the local level? The significance of this matter lies in the fact that various regions within Indonesia exhibit distinct characteristics and possess diverse economic potential. In addition, the literature review will also investigate the effects of fiscal decentralization on regional disparities. Prasetyo (2023) highlights a recurring concern regarding the potential of fiscal decentralization to exacerbate regional economic inequality. Hence, it is imperative to conduct an analysis on the degree to which fiscal decentralization has contributed to either ameliorating or exacerbating economic growth inequality across

different regions within Indonesia.

This literature review will additionally examine the impact of fiscal decentralization on both national and local fiscal stability. The capacity of local governments to effectively oversee and control their financial resources is a crucial factor in upholding economic stability within the local context. Hence, the examination of the influence of fiscal decentralization on financial stability will constitute a fundamental component of the analysis (Priyono et al., 2019). Therefore, this literature review aims to examine the effects of fiscal decentralization on the economic growth of Indonesia. It will present the findings of recent research, highlight significant patterns and outcomes, and enhance our comprehension of the ways in which fiscal decentralization has impacted and is expected to impact the economic growth of different regions within Indonesia. It is imperative to consider the significance of formulating policies that are more efficacious in promoting sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economic growth across the entire nation.

1.1. Fiscal Decentralization

According to Law No. 9 of 2015 on Regional Government, decentralization is characterized as the process through which the central government delegates its powers to autonomous regions, enabling them to govern and manage public affairs within the context of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. According to Rustiadi (2018), the notion of decentralization encompasses multifaceted elements and facets, encompassing political, fiscal, administrative, and governmental system modifications, alongside social and economic progress. The concept of decentralization can be categorized into four primary types, as delineated by Rondinelli's (1981, 1989) research conducted under the auspices of the World Bank and subsequently referenced by Dillinger (1994).

Political Decentralization. Political decentralization refers to the transfer of power and decision-making authority from a central governing body to lower levels of government. The process entails the conferral of rights to individuals using elected representatives who possess the power to make decisions of a public nature. Political decentralization is a concept that centers on the democratization process, wherein representative institutions are granted authority to actively participate in the development and execution of public policies.

Administrative Decentralization. The concept of administrative decentralization refers to the transfer of authority and decision-making power from a central governing body to lower-level administrative units. This category encompasses the transfer of power, accountability, and financial assets to deliver public services. This encompasses the strategic formulation, financial allocation, and administrative oversight of governmental responsibilities that are decentralized from the central authority to regional or subnational officials.

Fiscal Decentralization. Fiscal decentralization refers to the process of transferring fiscal responsibilities and decision-making authority from a central government to lower levels of government. The key elements of decentralization encompass various facets, including the implementation of regional levies, community involvement in financing public services, augmentation of Original Regional Income (PAD) via regional tax impositions, transfers from the central government, and the autonomy of regions to engage in borrowing activities.

Economic Decentralization. The concept of economic decentralization refers to the

dispersal of economic power and decision-making authority away from centralized institutions and towards local ones. This encompasses a strategy of decentralizing decision-making processes in the economic sector, with the objective of attaining economic efficiency in the delivery of public goods through the implementation of liberalization, privatization, and deregulation measures. The primary emphasis lies in the transfer of service functions to the private sector, aligning with policies of liberalization and a market-oriented economy.

In short, fiscal decentralization refers to the allocation of financial resources from higher tiers of government to lower tiers of government, to facilitate the execution of government functions, tasks, and public services in accordance with delegated authority. The objective of this decentralization initiative is to empower autonomous regions with the authority to govern and oversee their own financial affairs, to foster a more balanced and fair economic development that aligns with the unique capacities and requirements of each region.

1.2. Economic Growth in Indonesia

Economic growth refers to a dynamic process characterized by improvements in economic conditions, as evidenced by an expansion in the real value of production over a specific timeframe. Economic growth in Indonesia pertains to the sustained expansion of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) within a specific timeframe. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) serves as a metric to quantify the monetary value of all goods and services generated within the geographical confines of a nation. Meanwhile, economic growth pertains to the assessment of alterations in GDP value across different time periods. Economic growth is a significant metric that reflects the economic prosperity of a nation and serves as the primary objective of economic policy (Syahputra, 2017). The economic growth of Indonesia has exhibited fluctuations throughout the past few decades. During the period of 1997-1998, Indonesia encountered an economic crisis that resulted in a decline in economic growth. Since the year 2000, Indonesia has exhibited a consistent pattern of economic growth.

Based on the data provided by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022, it is projected that Indonesia's economic growth will attain a rate of 5.31%. The expansion was facilitated by a range of factors, encompassing heightened domestic demand propelled by amplified household consumption and burgeoning investment. The exports of Indonesia are also undergoing a period of recovery as a result of the global economic resurgence. The Indonesian government has endeavored to enhance investment in infrastructure, encompassing roads, ports, and airports, to augment connectivity and foster economic growth.

However, the economic growth of Indonesia continues to encounter various challenges. Indonesia continues to grapple with a significant level of income inequality, while poverty and extreme poverty persist as pressing issues within the country. There is a need for enhancement in the quality of human resources, while certain regions still face insufficiencies in infrastructure. In order to address this challenge, the Indonesian government has implemented a range of measures. There is an expectation that augmenting the allocation of funds towards the advancement of infrastructure can engender a rise in economic growth while concurrently mitigating disparities in societal wealth distribution. Enhancing community productivity and welfare is a key objective that is closely associated with the endeavor to expand educational and healthcare opportunities (Ginting, 2023). In addition to the aforementioned factors, community empowerment, heightened investment,

and expanded exports are also recognized as viable strategies for fostering economic growth.

2. Research Method

The sample in this research is literature related to the topic of fiscal decentralization and economic growth in Indonesia (Digdowiseiso, 2017). Data searches will be carried out through academic databases, libraries, and other information sources. The data required is in the form of journal articles, books, government reports, policy documents, and other relevant sources related to the research topic.

The variables that will be analyzed in this study include:

Fiscal Decentralization. This variable will include aspects of fiscal decentralization such as the allocation of transfers to regions, regional autonomy in financial management, and types of taxes managed by regional governments.

Economic growth. This variable will include economic growth indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), growth of economic sectors, employment, and other relevant indicators).

In this research, data analysis will be carried out using a qualitative literature review approach. The data that has been collected will be analyzed thematically, with steps that include identifying key findings in the literature related to the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in Indonesia, categorizing the findings into positive impacts, negative impacts, or neutral impacts, and comparative analysis to identify patterns. patterns or trends in the literature, as well as preparing conclusions that describe the overall impact and its implications. Thus, this research will provide an in-depth understanding of this relationship, as well as provide an important contribution in the context of research and policy development in Indonesia.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Fiscal Decentralization

Fiscal decentralization is the process of transferring authority and responsibility in managing state finances from the central government to regional or provincial governments. In Indonesia, fiscal decentralization is an important topic in efforts to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and equitable development throughout the region. Since reforms in 1998, the Indonesian government has made various efforts to encourage fiscal decentralization. One of the main results of fiscal decentralization in Indonesia is increased regional financial autonomy. Initially, local governments had little authority in managing their resources and budgets. However, with the existence of Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, regional governments are given more authority in managing their own finances (Christia et al., 2019). Apart from that, fiscal decentralization has also increased community participation in the budget planning and management process. This is realized through the Development Planning Deliberation (Musrenbang) mechanism which involves active community participation in determining regional development priorities.

Fiscal decentralization in Indonesia aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of regional financial management, encourage regional economic growth, and improve public services and community welfare. One important aspect of fiscal decentralization is the allocation of transfer funds to regions. These transfer funds are used to support

development activities in the region, such as infrastructure, education, health, and so on (Zarkasyi & Digdowiseiso, 2023; Digdowiseiso & Rahadi, 2023; Digdowiseiso et al., 2023a; Digdowiseiso et al., 2023b; Digdowiseiso et al. al., 2023c). Fiscal decentralization also provides fiscal autonomy to regions in managing regional finances. This allows regions to regulate and manage regional income and expenditure according to local needs and potential. Fiscal decentralization in Indonesia has a significant impact on regional economic growth. With fiscal autonomy, regions can optimize the use of local resources and encourage investment and growth in regional economic sectors. However, fiscal decentralization in Indonesia also faces several challenges.

One of the main challenges is the gap between regions. Although efforts have been made to increase equitable development, there are still regions that are more advanced than others, especially in terms of human resources and infrastructure. This can happen because of different administrative capacities between regional governments. Apart from that, there are also issues related to protecting minority rights and preventing corruption in the context of fiscal decentralization. Monitoring and accountability mechanisms must continue to be improved to ensure that funds allocated to regions are actually used for community welfare. It should be noted that fiscal decentralization in Indonesia is also influenced by external factors such as fluctuations in global commodity prices. When the price of Indonesia's export commodities declines,

The Indonesian government has implemented various policies to strengthen fiscal decentralization, such as increasing the allocation of transfer funds to regions, providing incentives for regions that succeed in increasing local original income, and increasing regional financial capacity. Evaluation of the implementation of fiscal decentralization in Indonesia needs to be carried out periodically to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of this policy. This evaluation can involve various parties, including the central government, regional government, academics, and the community. Successful fiscal decentralization requires good synergy between central and regional governments. Good cooperation between the two parties can strengthen the implementation of fiscal decentralization and encourage inclusive economic growth throughout Indonesia.

3.1.2. Economic Growth in Indonesia

Indonesia's economy has experienced impressive growth since overcoming the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s. According to the World Bank (2021), the country's GDP growth is estimated to reach 5.1 percent in 2022, supported by continued growth in commodity exports and economic recovery. Despite facing a difficult global environment, Indonesia's economic growth strengthened to 5.3 percent in 2022, supported by positive trade conditions. Since President Joko Widodo came to power in 2014, Indonesia's GDP growth has averaged around 5 percent per year, below the 7 percent growth target he promised during his first campaign. However, in 2020, the growth rate was hampered due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the tourism, trade, and other sectors. Indonesia's economic planning follows a 20-year development plan, which runs from 2005 to 2025,

According to Budihardjo et al. (2023), Indonesia relies heavily on commodity exports, places limited emphasis on manufacturing, and relies heavily on volatile portfolio investment to cover the current account deficit. The government also spends more than it

receives in revenue, thereby relying on foreign investors' appetite for risk to cover this fiscal shortfall. Indonesia's demographic potential has not yet been fully realized, despite having the largest population in Southeast Asia and a population that will remain young into the future.

Indonesia's economic performance has been influenced by government policies, the country's natural resources, and a young and growing workforce. The country has made major progress in reducing poverty, reducing poverty rates by more than half since 1999, to below 10 percent in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The Indonesian economy is expected to grow by 5.0% in 2022 and 5.2% in 2023 in line with the continued recovery in domestic demand.

Indonesia's economic growth has experienced significant fluctuations in recent years. In 2019, the Indonesian economy recorded growth of 5.02%. This is driven by the positive performance of various economic sectors. The Other Services sector was the star with the highest growth, reaching 10.5%. Followed by the corporate services sector. However, the mining and quarrying sector only grew by 1.2%, indicating lower performance in this sector.

However, 2020 was a year full of challenges for Indonesia due to the global pandemic, COVID-19. Indonesia's economic growth experienced a drastic decline, reaching a negative figure of -2.07%. The impact of the pandemic was felt widely, and almost all economic sectors experienced contraction. The mining sector experienced a decrease of -1.95%, the processing industry experienced a decrease of -2.93%, electricity, and gas procurement decreased -2.34%, the construction sector decreased -3.26%, wholesale and retail trade experienced a significant decrease of -3.72%, transportation, and warehousing experienced a drastic decline of around -15.04%, the provision of accommodation and food fell sharply -10.22% and the corporate services sector also experienced a contraction of -5.44%. The COVID-19 pandemic has really had a serious impact on various layers of the Indonesian economy,

After the "new normal" period and widespread vaccination, economic activity began to recover, and Indonesia's economic growth increased slightly in 2021, reaching 3.69%. Even though there are still challenges such as the wave of the Delta variant of COVID-19, Indonesia's economic growth estimate for 2021 is around 3.7%. In fact, it is hoped that there will be a further increase to 5.2% in 2022, indicating continued economic recovery efforts.



Figure 2.

Economic Growth Rate, Percentage of Poor Population, and Open Unemployment Rate (percent), 2012-2022

Source: Central Statistics Agency, 2023

In the 2012-2022 period, Indonesia experienced various economic and social trends. After facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Indonesian economy managed to recover with economic growth continuing to increase since 2021. Social indicators such as the percentage of poor people and the unemployment rate also showed improvement in 2022 compared to the previous year. In addition, macroeconomic indicators such as investment realization show a significant increase in 2022, with domestic and foreign investment increasing markedly. This reflects investor confidence in the condition of the Indonesian economy. The IMF projects that Indonesia's economic growth will remain strong, with economic growth of around 5.0 percent in 2023 and increasing to 5.1 percent in 2024.

Table 1. Projections of Indonesia's Economic Growth Rate and Inflation Rate, 2023-2024

Indicator	Projection Results	2023	2024
Economic growth	BI	4.5 – 5.3	4.7 – 5.5
	IMF	5.0	5.1
	ADB	4.8	5.0
Inflation	BI	3.0 ± 1	2.5 ± 1
	IMF	4.4	3.0
	ADB	4.2	3.0

Source: Central Statistics Agency, 2023

Indonesia, despite facing a global economic slowdown, is still showing quite good resilience but must pay attention to the turmoil that might affect demand from trading partners. Projections from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) show Indonesia's economic growth slowing to 4.8 percent in 2023, partly because exports of goods are hampered by the weakening economies of developed countries. Indonesia's economic growth prospects are highly dependent on global conditions, including China's economic recovery, geopolitical developments, inflation, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Bank Indonesia is optimistic that the Indonesian economy will remain strong, driven by economic diversification, infrastructure, foreign investment, and a growing tourism sector. Economic growth is estimated to be in the range of 4.5-5.3 percent in 2023, and increasing to 4.7-5.5 percent in 2024, with support from positive private consumption, investment, and exports. In addition, inflation is projected to decline at a maintained level, with various policies adopted by Bank Indonesia to maintain economic stability, including monetary, macroprudential, payment system, money market deepening, and green economic-financial inclusion policies.

3.1.3. The Impact of Decentralization on Economic Growth in Indonesia

Fiscal decentralization refers to the transfer of fiscal responsibility and decision-making power from the central government to lower levels of government, such as regional or local governments. Fiscal decentralization is believed to have an impact on a country's economic growth. In the case of Indonesia, much research has been conducted to analyze the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth. According to research conducted by Saree (2014) analyze the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in underdeveloped regions in Indonesia. The study found that fiscal decentralization had a positive impact on the economic growth of these regions. On the other hand, the nature of research conducted by Dyanti (2021), several factors influence economic growth in Indonesia, one of which is fiscal decentralization. This research uses secondary data from the Central Statistics Agency

website and the analysis model used is panel data regression. The research results show that the Human Development Index (HDI) and Labor Absorption (PTK) have a positive effect on Economic Growth (PE). Whereas Fiscal Decentralization (DF), Number of Poor Population (JPM), Regional Minimum Wage (UMR), and Investment (INV) do not affect Economic Growth (PE). This study concludes that there is no conclusive evidence to support the claim that fiscal decentralization has a positive impact on economic growth in Indonesia

The impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in Indonesia can be described as follows:

Regional Empowerment. Fiscal decentralization gives local governments the authority to regulate and manage their own revenues and budgets. This encourages regions to be more proactive in exploring sources of income, including regional taxes and levies. With more control over financial resources, regions can plan and implement development programs that suit local needs. This can increase economic productivity at the regional level.

Regional Economic Growth. Fiscal decentralization can trigger economic growth in various regions in Indonesia. Regions that have economic potential and natural resources can more effectively allocate their resources for the development of local infrastructure and industry. This can create jobs, increase citizens' incomes, and support balanced regional economic growth.

Innovation and Competition. Inter-regional competition to attract investment and economic development can spur innovation and efficiency. Local governments will strive to create a conducive business environment to attract investors and entrepreneurs. This can encourage improvements in the delivery of public services and infrastructure, which in turn can increase the competitiveness of the region.

Development Balance. Fiscal decentralization can also help reduce the development gap between rich and poor regions. Regions that previously received less attention from the central government can have greater access to resources for developing basic infrastructure, education, and health. This can equalize economic growth across the country.

Limitations and Challenges. However, it is important to remember that fiscal decentralization also has challenges. Some regions may not yet have sufficient administrative and technical capabilities to manage their resources efficiently. In addition, there is a risk of misuse of regional funds which needs to be monitored and managed carefully.

Thus, the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in Indonesia is likely to be positive because it gives autonomous regions more control over their financial resources and encourages sustainable economic growth in various regions of the country. However, effective implementation and careful monitoring are needed to maximize the benefits of fiscal decentralization.

3.2. Discussion

Fiscal decentralization is a mechanism in which the central government transfers regional financial management authority to regional governments. This has been

implemented in Indonesia since 1999 as part of the concept of regional autonomy. Fiscal decentralization can have both positive and negative impacts on Indonesia's economic growth.

The positive impact of fiscal decentralization is increased investment in the regions. Because local governments have the freedom to set investment policies that suit local needs, this can encourage investors to invest in various regions. Apart from that, fiscal decentralization can also increase productivity in the regions, because local governments can manage local resources more effectively. This will have a positive impact on regional economic growth. Furthermore, fiscal decentralization can also increase regional competitiveness, because regional governments have the freedom to develop competitive advantages in accordance with the potential of their respective regions.

However, there are also negative impacts that need to be considered. Fiscal decentralization can widen fiscal gaps between regions. Regions with better natural resources and economic potential will have higher incomes, while less fortunate regions will be left behind. In addition, fiscal decentralization can lead to regional dependence on balancing funds from the central government, because they may not have sufficient fiscal capacity to finance regional development. Lastly, the risk of corruption in regional financial management also has a negative impact, because regional development funds that should be used to improve community welfare can be misused.

The results of research regarding the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in Indonesia are still unclear. Some studies support positive impacts, while others show negative impacts. To ensure that fiscal decentralization has a positive impact on economic growth, steps need to be taken. First, it is necessary to increase regional fiscal capacity through increasing Original Regional Income (PAD) and efficient use of balancing funds. Second, the efficiency and effectiveness of the use of development funds need to be improved in order to encourage economic growth in the region. Finally, the supervision of regional financial management needs to be strengthened to prevent corruption. With these steps, fiscal decentralization can become an effective tool to support economic growth in Indonesia,

4. Conclusion

Fiscal decentralization in Indonesia has had a significant impact on economic growth in various regions. Some of the positive impacts include increasing investment, increasing productivity, increasing regional competitiveness, and regional empowerment. By providing financial autonomy to regions, fiscal decentralization encourages regional governments to manage their financial resources more effectively, spurs regional economic growth, and reduces development gaps between regions. However, fiscal decentralization also has negative impacts that need to be considered, such as the potential for widening fiscal gaps between regions and the risk of corruption in the management of regional funds. Therefore, regional financial management that is transparent and accountable is needed.

In facing the complexity of the impacts of fiscal decentralization, the Indonesian government needs to continue to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy. Corrective steps, such as increasing regional fiscal capacity, efficient use of balancing funds, and strengthening supervision, need to be taken to ensure that fiscal decentralization truly supports inclusive economic growth throughout Indonesia. With synergy between central

and regional governments, fiscal decentralization can be an important instrument in advancing the country's economic development.

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