

doi [10.14710/jdep.9.1.47-57](https://doi.org/10.14710/jdep.9.1.47-57)

Received: 12th June 2025;
 Last Revised: 23rd January 2026;
 Accepted: 27th January 2026;
 Available Online: 13th October 2026

The Impact of Poverty: Community Decisions to Become Scrap Collectors in Kefamenanu City, Nusa Tenggara Timur

Kamilaus Konstanse Oki*, , Ismi Andari, and Adriana Yunita Taus

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Timor, Timor Tengah Utara, Indonesia

*Corresponding Email: tanceoki301@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the Influence of socioeconomic factors on individuals' decisions to become scavengers in the city of Kefamenanu. Using linear regression, this study found that employment and income significantly influence this decision. Of the variables of number of dependents, employment, income, and education level, only employment and income contributed significantly ($p < 0.005$) to the decision to become a scavenger. In contrast, the number of dependents and education level did not show a significant Influence. These findings emphasize the importance of access to decent work and increased income in improving people's lives, as well as the need for greater attention to the social factors that shape economic conditions in Kefamenanu. In addition, employment and income contribute, with R-Square indicating that the four variables explain 21.1% of the variation in decisions. The number of dependents creates economic pressure, forcing individuals to seek informal employment, while low levels of education exacerbate the situation. This study provides insights for the government in formulating poverty alleviation strategies.

Keywords: Family Dependents, Employment, Income, Education, and Scavengers

JEL Classification: J46, J24, I32

Copyright © 2026 by the authors, published by the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Diponegoro



This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA 4.0 license

How to Cite: Oki, K. K., Andari, I., & Taus, A. Y. (2026). The impact of poverty: Community decisions to become scrap collectors in Kefamenanu City, Nusa Tenggara Timur. *Jurnal Dinamika Ekonomi Pembangunan*, 9(1), 47-57. <https://doi.org/10.14710/jdep.9.1.47-57>

Introduction

Poverty is an inevitable social problem. For a long time, poverty has persisted and deepened in many places. Poverty occurs because of the livelihoods of the poor themselves. (Ravnborg & Gómez, 2015). Poverty in cities occurs due to the migration of poor people from rural areas, and the problem of poverty is very complex because it creates slums in cities. (Voiculescu, 2025). In addition, poverty is closely related to the inability of communities to meet their basic needs, and has a broad impact on access to education, health, and community empowerment (Stehl et al., 2025; Bavaro et al., 2024). Therefore, assistance is needed through social assistance programs (de Senna & Souza, 2016) and cash assistance programs (Robson et al., 2024).

The Indonesia-Timor Leste border region has strategic value in both economic and political terms. Poor countries have a much higher level of mobilization than developed countries (Deutschmann et al., 2023). Economically, border areas become centres of growth because they serve as transit hubs for goods, services, money, people, and other resources that drive economic growth. Therefore, investment is needed in border areas (Krishnakumar et al., 2014). However, economic growth has negative impacts and affects poverty levels (Berlianantiya et al., 2022). Politically speaking, border regions reflect a country's macroeconomic performance. Therefore, the government continues to focus its development efforts through the Nawa Cita program, one of whose objectives is to develop from the periphery. Nawa Cita is aimed at economic equality for the development of peripheral regions in particular (Soleman et al., 2017).

Kefamenanu is a rapidly developing border town with increasingly complex social dynamics. Many residents have turned to scavenging for scrap materials due to low human resources, poverty, and high urbanization rates. To address this issue, a comprehensive management strategy is needed that not only focuses on technical aspects but also changes stakeholders' perceptions and behaviors through effective education (Anokye et al., 2024). The quality of available human resources and the lack of innovation have led some people to choose to become scavengers (Mahama et al., 2024). Therefore, substantial job creation is needed through a combination of labor market and fiscal policies (Oyvat & Onaran, 2022). High unemployment rates not only cause economic problems but also social problems such as poverty, social insecurity, and the forced status of many workers as scavengers (Mulyadi, 2016). Becoming a scavenger is the last resort because it is difficult to find other jobs (Aminatus Zuhriya et al., 2019). In a developing socioeconomic context, the role of scavengers is often overlooked, even though they contribute to creating independent employment and a clean, comfortable environment (Moerad, 2012). The decision to become a scavenger was not without reason, as it was necessary to support a family with limited resources.

Scavengers play an important role in waste management in various locations, including landfills, where they collect and process waste into economically valuable commodities. Scavengers generally have low levels of education and no other skills, which impacts their families' incomes (Ghaedrahmati et al., 2023). Scavengers collect used items that can still be processed into products with sale value, thereby contributing to the recycling sector and waste reduction. This situation is exacerbated by heavy family burdens and limited access to skills training, making it difficult for them to improve their standard of living. The average level of education among waste pickers is very low, limited to elementary school, which is an additional obstacle to finding better, more stable employment. In this context, waste pickers are not merely garbage collectors but individuals facing complex social and economic challenges that require attention and support from various parties to improve their welfare and strengthen their role in sustainable waste management.

The choice to become a scavenger is a last resort because it is difficult to find other work (Aminatus Zuhriya et al., 2019). In a developing socioeconomic context, the role of scavengers is often overlooked, even though they contribute to creating independent employment and a clean, comfortable environment (Moerad, 2012). The decision to become a scavenger was not without reason, as it was necessary to support a family with limited resources. According to Jefriyanto (2019), scavengers collect used items that can still be processed into products with market value, thereby contributing to the recycling sector and waste reduction. This study highlights that scavengers generally have low levels of education and no other skills, which impacts their family income (Ghaedrahmati et al., 2023). This situation is exacerbated by heavy family burdens and limited access to skills training, making it difficult for them to improve their standard of living. The average level of education among scavengers is very low, limited to elementary school, which is an additional barrier to finding better and more stable employment.

Another influencing factor is the number of dependents in the family, which affects a person's decision to become a scavenger. According to Pangaribuan et al. (2017), scavengers working to supplement their family income is an interesting phenomenon. In many cases, the more family members there are to provide for, the greater the economic pressure, which can drive individuals to seek work in the informal sector. In addition, the nature of one's job is an important consideration: whether one's main job is sufficient to meet daily needs, making scavenging an alternative. Some members of society undertake scavenging due to complex constraints, including economic, social, and cultural factors, as well as limited structural, natural, and human resources (Suhartono et al., 2014). On average, scavengers come from low-income families and have limited resources, such as assets, liveable homes, and limited formal and informal education.

The main factor contributing to family poverty is the livelihoods of the poor themselves (Ravnborg & Gómez, 2015). Meanwhile, poverty in cities arises from the migration of poor people from villages who lack certain skills and capacities (Voiculescu, 2025). Thus, the problem of poverty is very complex because it creates slums in cities (Voiculescu, 2025). In addition, poverty is closely related to communities' inability to meet their basic needs. It has a broad impact on access to education, health, and community empowerment (Stehl et al., 2025; Bavaro et al., 2024), through social assistance programs (de Senna & Souza, 2016) and cash assistance programs (Robson et al., 2024). The government's main objective is to lift the community out of poverty (Tahitu & Lawalata, 2017). Therefore, this issue should be a concern for the government in poverty alleviation and protection.

through social assistance (Robson et al., 2024; Adji et al., 2020). Poverty is viewed, from an economic perspective, as the inability to meet basic food and non-food needs, as measured by expenditure (Tahitu & Lawalata, 2017)

This study offers a new perspective on poverty as a complex social phenomenon, especially in border areas such as Kefamenanu. In this context, poverty is not only caused by limited natural resources but also by the migration of poor people from villages to cities, which creates new challenges, including slum settlements and limited access to basic needs (Marshall et al., 2024). Another novelty lies in the in-depth analysis of the social and economic impacts of scavenging. However, this study also has limitations, particularly in terms of the generalizability of its findings, which may be limited to the local context and specific situation at the Research site.

Literature Review

The Socioeconomic Dynamics of Scavengers

Scavengers are individuals who search through trash to resell valuable items, such as scrap metal, bottles, and paper. Scavengers collect used items from trash and usually come from underprivileged communities, often living as migrants. Scavengers can work either individually or in groups. Scavengers are divided into two categories: street scavengers and permanent scavengers. Street scavengers live freely on the streets, while permanent scavengers live around landfills (Huzaemah, 2020). Scavengers generally run their businesses without proper organization, lack permits, and operate with limited capital and low business turnover. Formal education is not necessary, as work experience is more valuable. The profession of scavenger is carried out of necessity or voluntarily due to economic constraints (Huzaemah, 2020).

Scavengers can be distinguished by where they live. Street scavengers, often considered vagrants, operate without a permanent residence. In contrast, settled scavengers live in permanent or semi-permanent homes, often near final disposal sites. Limited capital and job opportunities are the main drivers behind people turning to this line of work. The factors that influence a person to become a scavenger are very diverse. Difficult economic conditions, low levels of education, and a lack of skills are the main reasons. Many scavengers feel compelled to take this job because there are no other alternatives. Scavenging is done either out of necessity or voluntarily (Huzaemah, 2020). Scavenging is often a primary source of income, even if it is undesirable. Internal factors, such as physical health and strong networks, as well as external factors, such as population growth and increasing waste, contribute to the growth in the number of scavengers. Thus, scavenging reflects complex socioeconomic conditions and is often a last resort for marginalized people.

The number of dependents greatly affects household consumption patterns. The higher the number of dependents, the higher the consumption expenditure will be (Tamawiwi, 2015). As the number of family members increases, consumption patterns also become more varied, as everyone has different preferences. The relationship between family size and household income is an important factor that affects spending. Families with more members usually face more complex and diverse needs, so their consumption patterns tend to be broader and more varied (Jorge, 2025). In families with many members, there are more needs to be met. Conversely, families with fewer members have fewer needs. This shows that household size is directly proportional to the number of needs that must be met (Harahap, 2021). Thus, in large families, the burden of meeting daily needs increases, especially when there are children who require education, healthcare, and other living expenses, all of which depend on the head of the family and their spouse.

Challenges and Social Conditions of Scavengers

Items that are no longer used for various reasons are referred to as trash and can cause waste that is dirty, smelly, disgusting, and filthy (Sarja, 2020). This situation led to the creation of unpaid initiative groups called scavengers. According to Yunitasari Anggraeny et al. (2023), the social challenges faced by waste pickers include unsafe working conditions, limited access to health and education facilities, and the negative stigma attached to the profession of waste picking. Waste conditions not only harm health and other social aspects, but also have economic value (Wiyatna et al., 2015). Trash is simply waste material discarded by humans that has no economic value and may even have negative value, because it is dirty, disgusting, smelly, and unusable. Scavengers are individuals who collect valuable

items from waste to resell, such as scrap metal, bottles, and paper. Scavengers contribute to environmental cleanliness and human comfort (García-Jiménez et al., 2022). They often come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, have limited skills, and live as migrants. In carrying out their activities, scavengers work individually or in groups and do not have specific permits. Therefore, according to scavengers García-Jiménez et al. (2021), it is a personal perspective due to economic hardship and other social access issues.

Street scavengers live freely on the streets, while scavengers remain around the final disposal site. Scavengers exhibit unorganized business activities, a lack of business permits, and irregular work patterns (García-Jiménez et al., 2021). Scavenger groups tend to use simple technology and have limited capital, so their businesses are small-scale and limited to collecting and selling. The more used goods they collect, the greater their profits (Huzaemah, 2020).

Research Method

This study uses a quantitative, descriptive design to explore the relationship between socioeconomic variables and individual attitudes toward scavengers in Kefamenanu City. The data used in this study were obtained from a survey of respondents involved in scavenging activities. The data collection techniques included structured questionnaires and interviews to gather in-depth information about respondents' views and experiences. This method was chosen to obtain comprehensive and representative data on the phenomenon under study and to facilitate statistical analysis.

Data analysis was performed using simple and multiple linear regression. This regression model was chosen for its ability to examine the relationship between a single dependent variable and one or more independent variables. The variables were described operationally, namely: Concept Definition.

Table 1. Operational Definition

Variable	Concept Definition	Operational Definition	Indicators	Variable Measurement
Number of Dependents	The number of family members who depend on one individual to meet their daily needs	Number of family members dependent on the respondent	Number of family members who work	Measured by counting the number of family members
Main occupation	The main type of occupation individuals had before becoming scavengers	The occupational category respondents belonged to before becoming scavengers	Type of occupation	Measured by the occupational categorization reported by respondents
Income	The amount of money earned by individuals from their jobs	Respondents' monthly income from working as scavengers	Average monthly income	Measured by total monthly income in currency units
Level of Education	The level of formal education completed by the individual	The highest educational qualification achieved by the respondent	Level of education (SD, SMP, SMA, PT)	Measured based on the level of education reported by the respondent
The Decision to Become a Scavenger	Individuals' choice to become scavengers based on their needs and circumstances	Reasons individuals take up work as scavengers	Driving factors	Measured through a survey on motivations and reasons for becoming a scavenger

The simple linear regression model is formulated to measure the relationship between one independent variable and one dependent variable. The general equation is expressed as:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \epsilon \quad (1)$$

In this equation, Y represents the dependent variable, whilst X₁ is the independent variable that influences it. The value of β_0 denotes the constant or intercept, which is the estimated value of Y when X₁ is zero. The regression coefficient β_1 describes the magnitude of the change in the value of Y for every one-unit change in the variable X₁. Finally, the value of ϵ represents the error term, which accounts for the variation that cannot be explained by the model.

Meanwhile, the multiple linear regression model (Multiple Linear Regression) is used when the dependent variable is influenced by more than one independent variable. The equation for this model is formulated as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon \quad (2)$$

In the multiple models, Y continues to act as the dependent variable. The independent variables influencing it include the number of dependants (X1), main occupation (X2), income level (X3) and educational attainment (X4). The constant β_0 represents the model's intercept, whilst β_1 , β_2 , β_3 and β_4 are the regression coefficients that measure the individual effect of each independent variable (X1 to X4) on Y. ϵ , or epsilon, represents the influence of other factors outside the model.

The variable selection process was guided by theoretical foundations relevant to the research topic and by existing literature reviews. A regression model was applied to test the Influence of each variable on the decision to become a scavenger, thereby providing a clearer picture of each variable's contribution.

Data Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, testing was conducted in two ways. First, validity was tested by involving experts in distributing questionnaires, ensuring that each item was relevant to the variables being measured. Second, reliability was analysed using Cronbach's alpha, with a high alpha indicating good internal consistency of the measuring instrument. With a detailed methodology, the study can provide accurate and valid results and contribute to a better understanding of the factors that Influence individuals' decisions to become scavengers.

Results and Discussion

Inferential analysis is an important stage in Research aimed at exploring the causal relationship between variables. In this study, data were analyzed using SPSS and simple linear regression methods to assess the effect of independent variables on the decision to become a scavenger in Kefamenanu City.

Table 2. Regression results

Variable	β	Std. error	Beta	t	p-value
Constant	6.492	0.488	N/A	13.302	< 0.001
Number of Family Dependents	-0.039	0.058	-0.087	-0.684	0.497
Occupation	-0.231	0.077	-0.472	-2.997	0.004
Income	0.244	0.081	0.470	3.025	0.004
Education Level	0.141	0.105	0.170	1.343	0.185
Observations					55
R					0.459
R ²					0.211
Adjusted R ²					0.148
Std. error of estimate					0.806
F-statistics (4, 50)					3.341
Prob. > F					0.017

Notes: Dependent variable: decision to become a scrap collector. Predictors were entered simultaneously using the Enter method. B denotes the unstandardized coefficient; Beta denotes the standardized coefficient. The standardized coefficient is not applicable to the constant. The original p-value of 0.000 is reported as $p < 0.001$. Observations are derived from total degrees of freedom (54 + 1)

The Effect of the Number of Family Dependents on the Decision to Become a Scavenger

The main variables that affect people's inability to meet their basic and other needs, as analyzed, are the number of dependents in the family, which helps identify their impact on individual decisions. Based on the results of the partial regression test (t-test) in the coefficient table, the variable "number of family dependents" has a regression coefficient (B) of -0.039, with a calculated t-value of -0.684 and a significance level of 0.497. Since the significance value for this variable is greater than the significance level of 0.05 (0.497 > 0.05), the hypothesis stating that there is a significant effect of the number of family dependents on the decision to become a scavenger is rejected.

These results indicate that the number of dependents is not a primary consideration or a significant motivating factor for an individual in deciding to work as a waste picker. Whether the number of dependents is high or low does not directly determine the choice of this profession. The respondents'

decisions in this study appear to be more strongly driven by other factors in the model that proved to be statistically significant, such as income level (Sig. = 0.004) and employment (Sig. = 0.004).

Based on the results of the statistical analysis, the variable “number of family dependents” showed a significance value of 0.497 (> 0.05), indicating no significant influence on the decision to become a waste picker. Theoretically, a large number of dependents has the potential to increase poverty levels and the family’s economic burden, such as basic needs, education, and health care (Rahayu et al., 2022). When resources are insufficient, the imbalance between needs and income often prompts all family members to seek additional income through any kind of work (Manetti, 2021). However, the findings of this study indicate that the size of one’s family burden does not automatically lead a person to decide to become a scavenger.

This lack of influence indicates that the decision to work as a scavenger is primarily driven by urgent economic needs at the individual level among those in the lowest social strata, regardless of how many family members they support. (Kumar, 2022), A person with few or many dependents may still choose to become a scavenger if faced with a lack of steady employment, a low level of education, and limited access to the formal sector. Therefore, government policy interventions through social assistance programs, the provision of decent jobs, and sound development planning (Mapa et al., 2024) Efforts must focus on eliminating these structural barriers so that people do not remain trapped in the cycle of poverty.

The Influence of Primary Occupation on Decisions as a Scavenger

A simple regression analysis conducted to assess the effect of primary occupation variables on the decision to become a scavenger in the city of Kefamenanu shows a correlation. The poorly structured primary occupation of scavengers results in very low income. Based on the results of the partial regression analysis (t-test) in the coefficient table, the occupation variable has a regression coefficient (B) of -0.231 and a standardized coefficient (Beta) of -0.472. The calculated t-value is -2.997 with a significance level of 0.004. Since the significance value is well below the 0.05 significance level ($0.004 < 0.05$), the hypothesis stating that occupation influences the decision to become a scavenger is accepted. The negative regression coefficient (0.231) indicates an inverse relationship between previous employment status or level and an individual’s tendency to choose a career as a scavenger.

This negative relationship indicates that the lower a person’s status, job quality, or job security in their primary employment (e.g., not having a permanent job, being a freelance worker in the informal sector, or being unemployed), the more likely that individual is to choose to work as a waste picker. Conversely, individuals with more stable jobs or higher employment status in the formal sector tend not to choose waste picking as a profession.

These findings are consistent with the view that people from the lowest socioeconomic strata are often forced to take any job available due to limited options in the formal labor market. The lack of permanent employment and minimal access to decent jobs position waste pickers as the most accessible survival strategy, as it requires no specific qualifications or skills. Thus, prior or primary employment status is one of the keys determining factors that either encourages or prevents individuals from entering the informal sector, such as waste picking.

This value not only shows that the relationship between primary occupation and involvement as a scavenger is statistically significant but also confirms that the primary occupation factor plays a crucial role in individual decision-making. In this context, individuals engaged in certain main occupations may feel compelled to seek additional income through scavenging activities. Therefore, the decision to become a scavenger is not merely a choice but often the result of complex economic conditions and challenges, especially poverty. Poverty affects the community’s economic behavior (Rahayu et al., 2022).

The link between primary employment and the decision to become a scavenger also shows that the type of work has a broader impact on individuals and communities. Scavenging has an economic impact on scavengers but benefits the environment by cleaning it up (Nkata & Okpanocha, 2022). When available jobs are inadequate or unstable, individuals are more likely to seek alternative sources of income through scavenging. Social and economic problems force people to continue working without certain restrictions, such as age (Sutarsih & Nurrohmi, 2022). This means that age does not limit a person’s ability to work to meet their needs. This reality illustrates that individuals often feel compelled to find ways to meet their needs, making work an important factor in decision-making. Freedom of exploration has consequences that must be faced independently, including career choices without being

limited by certain social standards ([Purbajati & Hasan, 2024](#)).

The Effect of Income on Decisions as a Scavenger

Income factors affect people's economic behavior. Income is obtained from various sources as a result of previous activities. Scavengers' income, in the form of cash and goods, contributes to the household budget ([Perseveranda et al., 2024](#)). Based on the results of the linear regression analysis in the coefficient table, the income variable has a regression coefficient (B) of 0.244, a calculated t -value of 3.025, and a significance level (Sig.) of 0.004. Since the significance value is less than the significance level of 0.05 ($0.004 < 0.05$), the income variable is proven to have a positive and statistically significant effect on the decision of residents in Kefamenanu Subdistrict to become waste pickers. The positive regression coefficient (0.244) indicates that any increase or potential that drives the need for income will increase an individual's tendency to decide to work as a waste picker.

The results of this study illustrate the economic dynamics of the community in Kefamenanu Subdistrict, where waste picking has become a realistic economic adaptation strategy for directly earning or increasing daily income. The persistent financial pressures amid limited formal employment opportunities have driven residents to take advantage of income opportunities in the informal sector. Scavenging provides relatively quick access to income without requiring complex administrative requirements; thus, income has become one of the main drivers that significantly determines the involvement of the Kefamenanu community in waste scavenging activities.

Thus, an increase in income may prompt individuals to become scavengers in the city of Kefamenanu. On average, scavengers have relatively low incomes and are unable to meet their basic and other needs; they deserve appreciation from the government, as failure to do so will certainly affect other social problems. Poverty leads to social problems, including rampant begging and scavenging ([Fatoni & Susilo, 2023](#)). Income has a significant impact on the decision to become a scavenger. Individuals on low incomes often feel compelled to continue scavenging to meet their daily needs. The positive impact of scavenging on the family economy is the income it generates, which helps meet needs and increase family income ([Perseveranda et al., 2024](#)). The economic instability faced by low-income individuals who turn to informal employment underscores the need for interventions that improve community economic conditions. Scavenging contributes to the sustainability of the economic environment, increased income, and the overall socioeconomic development of the community ([Khan & Khan, 2023](#)).

The Influence of Education on Decisions as a Scavenger

Furthermore, analysis of the effect of scavengers' education levels on their income also shows interesting results. Based on the results of the regression analysis in the coefficient table, the education level variable has a regression coefficient (B) of 0.141, a calculated t -value of 1.343, and a significance level (Sig.) of 0.185. Since the significance value is greater than the significance level of 0.05 ($0.185 > 0.05$), the education level variable is proven to have no significant effect on people's decisions to become waste pickers. These results indicate that the level of formal education completed by respondents, whether high or low, is not a primary determining factor that distinguishes or determines a person's decision to engage in work as a waste picker.

This lack of influence indicates that the decision to become a scavenger is driven more by pressing economic needs and limited access to a formal job market that is welcoming to people with low to moderate levels of education. In practice, scavenging is often the most accessible means of survival for anyone, regardless of educational background, because this sector does not require specific qualifications or administrative requirements. Therefore, other economic factors that have been shown to be significant such as income level and employment status play a far more dominant role in driving individuals' decisions to work in this informal sector than educational attainment.

Based on the results of the regression analysis, the education level variable showed a significance value of 0.185 (> 0.05), indicating that education level does not have a significant effect on the decision to become a scavenger. Theoretically, an increase in public education is directly proportional to an increase in income; the fact that scavengers' average education level is low or limited to elementary school affects their work patterns and results in minimal income ([Julianto & Dedi, 2019](#)). However, these statistical findings reinforce the reality on the ground that, in the context of decision-making regarding

waste picking, a person's formal educational background whether they have no schooling, a basic education, or a higher level of education is not the primary distinguishing factor determining their involvement in this sector.

This is because scavenging does not require any special strategies or specific academic qualifications; rather, it relies more on physical endurance and a basic understanding of waste collection as a survival strategy (Sumarni, 2012; Nuripuh et al., 2022). The minimal direct influence of formal education on this decision underscores that pressing economic needs far outweigh educational qualifications. Nevertheless, providing better access to education for waste picker communities and their families remains an urgent long-term need, as adequate education is the key to unlocking more decent job opportunities and breaking the cycle of poverty (Julianto & Dedi, 2019; Nuripuh et al., 2022).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The variables of number of dependents, occupation, income, and education level significantly influence an individual's decision to become a scavenger in the city of Kefamenanu. The results of simple linear regression show that each variable contributes to this decision, although most of the influence is due to other factors not studied. Overall, the multiple regression analysis reveals that 21.1% of the decision to become a scavenger is explained by these four variables, with a significant F-value. These findings reflect the complexity of the social and economic dynamics of poverty in Kefamenanu, where economic and educational pressures play a significant role in shaping individuals' decisions to engage in scavenging. It is recommended that the government and relevant institutions formulate social and economic policies. Education improvement and skills training programs can be strategic steps to reduce individuals' dependence on scavenging.

CRedit Authorship Contribution Statement

Kamilaus Konstanse Oki: Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Resources, Funding acquisition, Validation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Ismi Andari:** Software, Visualization, Funding acquisition, Writing – review & editing. **Andrina Yunita Taus:** Project administration, Data curation, Investigation.

Funding

This research was funded by the authors themselves and received no external financial support.

Generative AI Disclosure

The authors used Grammarly for language correction and DeepL for translation while preparing this manuscript. All resulting texts were checked and revised by the authors, who accept full responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and content of the published work.

References

- Aminatus Zuhriya, S., Julisda, E., & Maulida. (2019). Peran pemulung sebagai pendaur ulang sampah di tempat pembuangan akhir (TPA) Kampung Jawa Kota Banda Aceh. *Jurnal Abulyatama*, 3(1), 894–900. <http://jurnal.abulyatama.ac.id/index.php/semiunaya>
- Anggraeny, Y., Abyyu, M. M., & Hariyanto, V. N. (2023). Konstruksi sosial pekerjaan pemulung TPA Pakusari Kabupaten Jember. *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora dan Pendidikan*, 2(2), 154–163. <https://doi.org/10.55606/inovasi.v2i2.1436>
- Anokye, K., Mohammed, A. S., Agyemang, P., Agya, B. A., Amuah, E. E. Y., & Sodoke, S. (2024). Understanding senior high school teachers' perceptions and awareness of the environmental impacts of plastic waste: Implications for sustainable waste education and management. *Social Sciences and Humanities Open*, 10(March), 100999. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.100999>
- Adji, A., Hidayat, T., Asmanto, P., Tuhiman, H., Kurniawati, S., & Maulana, A. (2020). Pengukuran garis kemiskinan di Indonesia: Tinjauan teoretis dan usulan perbaikan. 1–36. <https://doi.org/10.65425/640974>

- Bavaro, M., Carranza, R., & Nolan, B. (2024). Intergenerational poverty persistence in Europe – Is there a ‘Great Gatsby Curve’ for poverty? *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 94(October). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rssm.2024.100991>
- Berlianantiya, M., Wirawan, Y. R., & Sari, N. E. (2022). Pertumbuhan ekonomi terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Kota Madiun Jawa Timur. *Equilibrium: Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi dan Pembelajarannya*, 99–105. <https://doi.org/10.25273/equilibrium.v12i1.19228>
- de Senna, V., & Souza, A. M. (2016). Assessment of the relationship of government spending on social assistance programs with Brazilian macroeconomic variables. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 462, 21–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2016.05.022>
- Deutschmann, E., Gabrielli, L., & Recchi, E. (2023). Roads, rails, and checkpoints: Assessing the permeability of nation-state borders worldwide. *World Development*, 164, 106175. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.106175>
- Fatoni, A., & Susilo. (2023). Analisis faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi keputusan masyarakat miskin sebagai pengemis dan pemulung di Kota Malang. *Journal of Development Economic and Social Studies*, 2(4), 746–759. <https://doi.org/10.21776/jdess.2023.02.4.04>
- García-Jiménez, R., Morales-Reyes, Z., Pérez-García, J. M., & Margalida, A. (2021). Economic valuation of non-material contributions to people provided by avian scavengers: Harmonizing conservation and wildlife-based tourism. *Ecological Economics*, 187. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2021.107088>
- García-Jiménez, R., Pérez-García, J. M., Margalida, A., & Morales-Reyes, Z. (2022). Avian scavengers' contributions to people: The cultural dimension of wildlife-based tourism. *Science of the Total Environment*, 806, 150419. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.150419>
- Ghaedrahmati, Z., Ghaffari, M., Mehrabi, Y., Alavi, N., Amereh, F., Roostaei, K., & Rafiee, M. (2023). Urban informal waste recycling in Tehran: Knowledge, attitudes and practices towards health risks during the recycling process. *Cleaner Waste Systems*, 4(June 2022), 100064. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clwas.2022.100064>
- Harahap, A. S. (2021). Pengaruh pendapatan, jumlah anggota keluarga dan pendidikan terhadap pola konsumsi rumah tangga miskin di Kecamatan Sugai Kanan Kabupaten Labuhanbatu Selatan Provinsi Sumatera Utara. [http://repository.uinsu.ac.id/13397/1/skripsi Ahmad syarifuddin.1.2.pdf](http://repository.uinsu.ac.id/13397/1/skripsi_Ahmad_syarifuddin.1.2.pdf)
- Huzaemah, S. (2020). Sampah adalah berkah: Studi pola kehidupan sosial ekonomi pemulung di sekitaran tempat pembuangan akhir (TPA) Piyungan. *Islamic Management and Empowerment Journal*, 2(1), 81–92. <https://doi.org/10.18326/imej.v2i1.81-92>
- Jefriyanto, C. (2019). Pemulung di era milenial (studi kasus di TPA Jamur Labu, Aceh Timur). *Jurnal Investasi Islam*, 4(1), 102–115. <https://journal.iainlangsa.ac.id/index.php/jii/article/download/1269/848>
- Jorge, E. (2025). Exploring the impact of population aging, population density, and GDP on municipal waste generation in European OECD Countries - When do mediation effects matter? *Social Sciences and Humanities Open*, 11(March), 101432. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2025.101432>
- Julianto, Dedi. & Utari, P. A. (2019). Analisa pengaruh tingkat pendidikan terhadap pendapatan individu. *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*, 53(9), 1689–1699.
- Khan, F., & Khan, R. (2023). Impact of digital marketing on consumer purchase behavior in Pakistan's retail sector. *Advance Journal of Econometrics and Finance*. 1, 79-85. <https://ajeaf.com/index.php/Journal/article/view/56>
- Krishnakumar, D., Sethi, M., & Chidambaran, N. K. (2014). Foreign direct investment and strategic partnerships: Cross-border acquisitions between India and Africa. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 157, 45–54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.11.008>
- Kumar, A. (2022). Socioeconomic conditions of manual scavengers: A study of Meerut City. *RJPP*, XX, No. I(3), 2454–3411. <https://anubooks.com/>
- Mahama, P. Y., Abdulai, A. G., & Asamoah, K. (2024). Local revenue mobilisation in Ghana: Why similar metropolitan and municipal assemblies exhibit different outcomes. *Social Sciences and Humanities Open*, 9(May 2022), 100853. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.100853>
- Manetti, D. (2021). De Medicina : De medicina. 33(3), 349–355. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utpl/detail.action?docID=736996>

- Mapa, M. T. Bin, Sahido, M. H. A. Bin, Jafar, A., & Sakke, N. (2024). Social and economic aspects of the scavengers at the waste disposal site in Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 1406(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1406/1/012014>
- Marshall, F., Dolley, J., Bisht, R., Priya, R., Waldman, L., Randhawa, P., Scharlemann, J., Amerasinghe, P., Saharia, R., Kapoor, A., Rizvi, B., Hamid, Y., Arora, M., Chopra, I., & Sawansi Teresa, K. (2024). Recognising peri-urban ecosystem services in urban development policy and planning: A framework for assessing agri-ecosystem services, poverty and livelihood dynamics. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 247(March), 105042. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2024.105042>
- Martins, G. K. M., Gutberlet, J., Ramos, H. M. P., Galato, D., & Cruvinel, V. R. N. (2025). Discussion on "Policy implications for the nexus of climate change and gender-based issues in Thailand: Case study of waste management." *Environmental Reviews*, 33(2021), 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1139/er-2025-0025>
- Moerad, S. K. (2012). Pengelolaan lingkungan binaan. *Nuansa*, 9(2), 235–250.
- Mulyadi, M. (2016). Peran pemerintah dalam mengatasi pengangguran dan kemiskinan dalam masyarakat. *Jurnal Kajian*, 21(3), 221–236. <https://jurnal.dpr.go.id/index.php/kajian/article/view/776>
- Nkata, R. A., & Okpanocha, O. S. (2022). *Study of Warri*, Delta State, Nigeria. 71, 1150–1159.
- Nuripuah, J. G., Duwiejuah, A. B., & Bakobie, N. (2022). Awareness and health-risk protection behaviours of scavengers at the Gbalahi landfill site, Ghana, in the era of sustainable development. *Discover Sustainability*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-021-00070-7>
- Oyvatt, C., & Onaran, Ö. (2022). The effects of social infrastructure and gender equality on output and employment: The case of South Korea. *World Development*, 158, 105987. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105987>
- Pangaribuan, S., Siti, D., & Siddig, S. (2017). Intensitas ibu rumah tangga pemulung dalam mewujudkan kehidupan keluarga di Kelurahan Sail Kecamatan Tenayan Raya. *Jurnal Online Mahasiswa Fakultas Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Riau*, 4(1), 1–15. <https://www.neliti.com/publications/186254/>
- Perseveranda, M. E., Lawalu, E. M., Indrawati, A. S., Pongge, M. I., Ketmoen, A., Masri, M., Tje, E., Dima, Y., Leki, S., Katolik, U., Mandira, W., Pembangunan, E., Katolik, U., & Mandira, W. (2024). Pengelolaan pendapatan dan belanja rumah tangga pemulung. *Jurnal Abdimas Bina Bangsa* 5(2), 1786–1793.
- Purbajati, H. I., & Hasan, Z. (2024). Pemikiran eksistensialisme jean-paul sartre dalam perspektif kehidupan masyarakat kontemporer. *Jurnal Kolaboratif Sains*, 7(11), 4143–4150. <https://doi.org/10.56338/jks.v7i11.6489>
- Rahayu, E. B. S., Moonti, U., Ardiansyah, Dama, M. N., Gani, I. P., & Toralawe, Y. (2022). Pengaruh jumlah tanggungan keluarga dan pendidikan terhadap kemiskinan. *Oikos Nomos: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Dan Bisnis*, 15(1), 22–32. <https://ejurnal.ung.ac.id/index.php/ONM/article/view/15572>
- Ravnborg, H. M., & Gómez, L. I. (2015). Poverty reduction through dispossession: The milk boom and the return of the elite in Santo Tomás, Nicaragua. *World Development*, 73, 118–128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2014.08.012>
- Robson, M., Vollmer, F., Doğan, B. B., & Grede, N. (2024). Distributional impacts of cash transfers on the multidimensional poverty of refugees: The emergency social safety net in Turkey. *World Development*, 179(March), 106599. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2024.106599>
- Sarja. (2020). Sampah melimpah sebagai sumber kekuatan ekonomi para pemulung. *Madaniyah*, 10(1), 1–14. <https://journal.stitpemalang.ac.id/index.php/madaniyah/article/view/4>
- Soleman, M., Nasional, U., Noer, M., & Nasional, U. (2017). Nawacita sebagai strategi khusus Jokowi periode oktober Nawacita: Superior strategy of Jokowi. *Jurnal Kajian Politik dan Masalah Pembangunan*, 13(1), 1961–1975.
- Stehl, J., Depenbusch, L., & Vollmer, S. (2025). Global poverty and the cost of a healthy diet. *Food Policy*, 132(April 2024), 102849. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2025.102849>
- Suhartono, D., Kanto, S., & Mu, S. (2014). Kajian Tentang Makna, Penyebab, dan Strategi Penanggulangan Kemiskinan. *WACANA, Jurnal Sosial dan Humaniora*, 17(4).
- Sumarni. (2012). Sosial ekonomi komunitas pemulung di TPA Lubuk Minturun. *Journal of Economic and Economic Education*, 1(1), 111. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22202/economica.2012.v1.i1.111>
- Sutarsih, P., & Nurrohmi, N. (2022). Coping strategy lanjut usia dalam memenuhi kebutuhan dasar pada masa pandemi Covid-19. *Jurnal Ilmiah Rehabilitasi Sosial (Rehsos)*, 4(2), 110–127. <https://doi.org/10.31595/rehsos.v4i2.708>

- Tahitu, A., & Lawalata, C. M. (2017). Kemiskinan perkotaan: Strategi pemulung di Kota Ambon. *Sosio Informa*, 3(1), 40–48. <https://doi.org/10.33007/inf.v3i1.388>
- Tamawiwi, K. N. (2015). Pola konsumsi masyarakat miskin Desa Tiwoho Kecamatan Wori Kabupaten Minahasa Utara. *Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan*, 6(9), 1–11.
- Voiculescu, S. (2025). Kunz and post-communist geographies of urban poverty in Romania. *Cities*, 156(November 2024), 105582. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105582>
- Wiyatna, Putri Y., Utama, S., & Marhaeni. (2015). Analisis pengaruh faktor sosial demografi dan aktivitas ekonomi terhadap kesejahteraan keluarga pemulung di Kota Denpasar. *E-Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Bisnis Universitas Udayana*, 4, 282–295. <https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/EEB/article/view/11386/9527>