

ABSTRACT

The high unemployment rate in Indonesia, particularly among the productive-age population, poses a major challenge to national economic development. This study aims to analyze the effect of vocational education on individuals' likelihood of experiencing unemployment in Indonesia, with case studies in three provinces representing different regional characteristics: North Sumatra, Central Java, and West Nusa Tenggara. The study also evaluates the role of socio-demographic variables such as age, gender, marital status, and area of residence in influencing employment status. The data were obtained from the National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas), covering more than 49,000 respondents aged 17–65 years, and analyzed using descriptive crosstab methods and logistic regression, with vocational education as the main independent variable and demographic factors as control variables.

The results indicate that individuals with vocational education have a higher probability of being employed compared to those with non-vocational education. Graduates of vocational high schools (SMK) and diplomas have greater chances of employment, although the distribution varies across regions. At the secondary level, SMK graduates consistently have a higher probability of employment than senior high school (SMA) graduates, while at the tertiary level, diploma holders are more competitive in Central Java and West Nusa Tenggara, but in North Sumatra their employment probability is lower compared to bachelor's degree graduates. Age has a significant non-linear effect, where the probability of employment increases until around age 49 and then declines. Males have a higher probability of employment than females, married individuals are more likely to work, and those living in urban areas are more vulnerable to unemployment than those in rural areas, particularly in North Sumatra.

Keywords: *Vocational Education, Unemployment, Logistic Regression, North Sumatra, Central Java, West Nusa Tenggara.*

