ABSTRACT

Public safety stability remains a vital aspect of regional development in Central Java that has not been uniformly distributed across jurisdictions. This study aims to analyze the direct and indirect effects of human capital (Mean Years of Schooling/RLS), economic capacity (GRDP), employment opportunity, economic welfare, population density, and the Covid-19 pandemic on Regional Security ($\ln SEC$*) across 35 regencies/cities in Central Java from 2018 to 2023. Adopting a positive goods production function framework (*$\ln(1/CR)$*), this study employs spatial econometric analysis using the Spatial Durbin Model with Fixed Effects (SDM-FE) based on a K-Nearest Neighbors (*$k = 3$*) spatial weight matrix, with substantive effects interpreted through direct, indirect, and total effects.*

The empirical results confirm a significant positive spatial dependence at the 5% level, proving that regional security is geographically interdependent. Real GRDP is the most consistent driver of regional security, exhibiting positive indirect and total effects that are statistically significant at the 1% level. Conversely, RLS and the Economic Welfare Rate yield negative indirect and total effects that are statistically significant at the 10% level, indicating a reporting effect and cross-border crime displacement. Employment opportunity, population density, and the Covid-19 pandemic show no substantive significance. This study concludes that regional security enhancement in Central Java is driven more by real economic capacity spillovers than by human capital, whose spillover effects tend to increase crime reporting rates.

Keywords: *Regional Security, Human Capital, Spillover Effects, Spatial Durbin Model (SDM).*