

# Analysis of Poverty Data in Bengkulu City by Small Area Estimation using Penalized Splines Regression

Idhia Sriliana<sup>1</sup>, Etis Sunandi<sup>1</sup> and Ulfasari Rafflesia<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Statistics, the University of Bengkulu, Bengkulu, 38125, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, the University of Bengkulu, Bengkulu, 38125, Indonesia

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze poverty data in Bengkulu City. The method of this study is Small Area Estimation (SAE) with penalized splines regression approach. Then descriptive statistical analysis is carried out. The data used is the Bureau of Statistics (BPS) Of Bengkulu with some poverty indicators as predictor variables. The results showed the best spline model is a model that is considered linear spline with some node points. Evaluation of model used optimal GCV. The results of descriptive statistical analysis of the average of per capita outcome at the village level in the city of Bengkulu using the extensive estimation method with the p-spline regression approach has an average value of Rp.1,009,817.20. About 75% of urban villages in the city of Bengkulu have an average per capita yield of Rp 1,244,188.15 and the twenty-five percent of urban villages in Kota Bengkulu have an average per capita outcome about Rp 753.527.25. The high average per capita outcome is in the Kebun Dahri Village Rp. 3.115.614,20 and the lowest outcome from the Padang Nangka Village that is Rp 439.830.40.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In general, the level of poverty in Bengkulu Province period 2009-2017 decreased both in terms of quantity and percentage of exceptions, except in March 2012 and March 2013. Based on the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), the number of poor people in Bengkulu Province in September 2017 reached 302,620 people (15, 59 %). There was a decreasing number of poor people by 14,360 people compared to March 2017. Meanwhile in the last September, the number of poor people decreased by 22,980 people. Nevertheless, poverty problem is still be a challenge for local governments of Bengkulu. The poverty alleviation becomes the priority programs in Bengkulu Province, including in Bengkulu City. Bengkulu city is the capital of Bengkulu province which the high rate of poverty equals to 20.72% (BPS, 2018).

Besides policies and programs of poverty alleviation, poverty data validation is also necessary. Thus, the program launched is on target. The poverty is a multi-dimensional problem. It is not easy to measure and need appropriate measurement approach. BPS uses the concept of basic needs approach to measure the poverty data. Through this

approach, poverty is figured as an economic inability to meet the basic needs of food and not food measured by expenditure. As result, poor people are people who the average per capita outcome is lower than the poverty line (BPS, 2012).

The method that can be used to estimate the average of per capita outcome as an indicator of poverty measurement is the Small Area Estimation (SAE). SAE is a statistical method for predicting parameters at a subpopulation where the number of samples is smaller or nonexistent. This estimation technique uses data from large domains to predict parameters at smaller domains that can be a village, sub-district, district, ethnic group, or age group. SAE methods have concept indirect estimation of parameters in a relatively small area in survey sampling, which the direct estimation does not provide adequate accuracy if the sample size is in a small area, thus the statistics result will have a large variance, or the predictions cannot be made because they are not represented in the survey (Prasad and Rao, 1990)

Generally, the SAE uses parametric modeling to link a small area statistic with supporting variables. However, the SAE model can also be made using the nonparametric approach. This modeling is more

flexible in adjusting survey data patterns that may not as similar as formal distribution at all. One of the nonparametric approaches that can be used Penalized spline regression. Penalized spline regression can estimate data that do not have a specific pattern. This method can control the smooth characteristic of the regression curve, so it is avoided from over fitting problems (Litawati and Budiantara, 2013)

Various researches are have been done using small area estimation with nonparametric approach such as: Sriliana et al. (2018) researched poverty modeling in Bengkulu Province using SAE with Semiparametric Penalized Spline approach, Sriliana et al. (2016) mapped poverty in Mukomuko District using SAE with Penalized Spline regression approach, Baskara (2014) examined SAE with P-spline approach to estimate per capita outcome in Sumenep District, Salvati et al. (2008) used a nonparametric based direct estimator model, and Opsomer et al. (2008) develop SAE with penalized spline regression approach .

In this research, the poverty data in Bengkulu City is analyzed using method SAE with approach Penalized spline regression. Next, the estimation of model parameters by using penalized spline regression is used to model the average per capita outcome at village-level in Bengkulu City based on several variables of poverty indicators. The evaluation of prediction results is done by looking at the GCV values in the model.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Small Area Estimation

Small Area Estimation (SAE) is a statistical technique for estimating parameters of a subpopulation that the sample size is small or even areas that are not sampled. In SAE there are two basic model types used, i.e. area-based model and unit-based model (Rao, 2003). In the area-based SAE model, supporting data are available only to the area level. The area-level model connects the direct estimator of a small area with supporting data from another domain for each area.

Small area parameters to be observed are  $\theta_i$ . Linear model that explains the relationship is:

$$\theta_i = x_i^T \beta + z_i v_i \tag{1}$$

With  $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p)^T$  is the regression coefficient of measurement  $p \times 1$ ,  $z_i =$  known positive constants,  $v_i =$  small area random effect, assumed

$v_i \sim \text{iid } N(0, \sigma^2)$  Where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $x_i^T$  is the supporting data of the to-i area .

In making the conclusions about the population, it is assumed that the value of the estimate is immediate

known then can be expressed as follows:

$$\hat{\theta}_i = \theta_i + e_i \tag{2}$$

Where  $e_i$  is sampling error, assumed  $e_i \sim \text{iid } N(0, \psi_i)$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

The SAE model for the area level consists of two levels of the model component i.e. the indirect estimation model component corresponding to equation (1) and the component of the direct estimation model according to equation (2). The models of equations (1) and (2) if combined form the following equation:

$$\hat{\theta}_i = x_i^T \beta + z_i v_i + e_i \tag{3}$$

Where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

### 2.2 Penalized Splines Regression

Penalized Spline Regression is a very interesting smoothing method because it has a simple nature. Let  $Y$  be the response variable and  $X_i$  is the predictor variable form observation, then according to Eubank (1999) the general model of nonparametric regression can be defined as:

$$Y_i = m(X_i) + e_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \tag{4}$$

Function  $m(\cdot)$  is an unknown function of regression and form assumed smooth. Function  $m(\cdot)$  can be approximated by penalized spline [12]

$$m(x; \beta) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \dots + \beta_p x^p + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_{p+k} (x - \kappa_k)_+^p \tag{5}$$

Where  $p \geq 1$  is an integer which is the order of the spline function,  $\kappa_1 < \dots < \kappa_K$  is the set of  $K$  knots (fixed) and  $\beta = (\beta_0, \dots, \beta_p, \beta_{p+1}, \dots, \beta_{p+K})^T$  is the vector coefficient of the unknown parameter. Vector  $(\beta_{p+1}, \beta_{p+2}, \dots, \beta_{p+K})^T$  is a spline coefficient vector. Function  $m(\cdot)$  large when  $K$  is so large that the smoothing function has a high degree of accuracy

Spline function on using a truncated Polynomial splines base  $\{1, x, \dots, x^p, (x - \kappa_1)_+^p, \dots, (x - \kappa_K)_+^p\}$  to predict the

function  $m(\cdot)$ . Other base also possible, particularly when  $x$  is a multivariate case. Given the selection of base functions, the spline function can be expressed as a linear combination of the base function. In addition, the spline model can be expressed as a parametric model. So, from the Equation (5) identical with:

$$m(x, \beta) = x^* \beta \tag{6}$$

Where

$$x^* = \{1, x, \dots, x^p, (x - \kappa_1)_+^p, \dots, (x - \kappa_K)_+^p\}$$

$$\beta = (\beta_0, \dots, \beta_{p+k})^T$$

Let's  $(X_i, Y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  is a collection of data. Using the least squares method and set a parameter common  $\lambda$ , Equation (6) can be solved by defining the regression parameter estimator as the minimum value of  $\beta$  on:

$$\min_{\beta} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - m(x; \beta))^2 + \lambda \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_{p+k}^2 \tag{7}$$

Where  $\lambda$  is a finishing or penalty parameter (fixed).

If given a function  $m(\cdot)$  for variables  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)^T$ , the additive model for the nonparametric regression model of (3) is an additive function defined as

$$m(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^J m_j(x_j) \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, J \tag{8}$$

According to Ruppert, Wand, and Carrol (2003), the parameter coefficients of the functional base additive model can be estimated using the penalized least square, the additive function in (8) can be estimated by

$$\hat{m}_j(x_j) = \sum_{l=1}^p \hat{\beta}_{lj} x_j^l + \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\beta}_{kj} (x_j - \kappa_{kj})_+^p$$

Where  $\hat{\beta}_{lj}$  is the parameter estimate for  $x_j^l$ .

### 2.3 Selection of Optimal Knot Points

Smoothing parameters ( $\lambda$ ) is the balance controller between regression curve graduation and suitability of function against data. If  $\lambda$  then the estimated function will be smoother, while if  $\lambda$  small then the estimated function obtained will be greater or the functions become more volatile. One of the methods used to get  $\lambda$  optimal is Generalized Cross Validation (GCV) defined as follows (Ruppert, 2002):

$$GCV(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - m(X_i; \hat{\beta}(\lambda)))^2}{n[1 - n^{-1}tr(\mathbf{S}(\lambda))]^2} = \left( \frac{MSE(\lambda)}{(n^{-1}tr[I - \mathbf{S}(\lambda)])} \right)^2 \tag{9}$$

$\mathbf{S}(\lambda)$  is a fining matrix where  $\mathbf{S}(\lambda) = \mathbf{X}(\lambda)[\mathbf{X}(\lambda)^T \mathbf{X}(\lambda) + \lambda \mathbf{D}]^{-1} \mathbf{X}(\lambda)^T$  with  $\mathbf{X}(\lambda)$  is a spline slice function matrix,  $m(X_i; \hat{\beta}(\lambda))$  is a function estimate.

### 2.4 Small Area Estimation using Penalized Spline Regression Approach

The regression model of p-spline on equation (5) can be written in the form of:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \dots + \beta_p x^p + \sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_j (x_i - k_j)_+^p + e_i \tag{10}$$

Or can be written in the form

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{Z}\gamma + \mathbf{e} \tag{11}$$

Where

$\mathbf{Y} = (y_1 \dots y_n)^T$  Opsomer et al. (2008) is using the Penalized spline to estimate a small area by adding a small area random effect to equation (11), thus obtaining:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{Z}\gamma + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e} \tag{12}$$

Where nonparametric function  $\mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{Z}\gamma$  is a function spline which contains nonlinear components,  $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}$  is the effect of random small areas,  $\mathbf{D} = (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T$  is a covariance matrix, and  $\mathbf{u}$  is a small area effect vector, each random component is assumed to be independent of each other, and

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &\sim (\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{\gamma}), \Sigma_{\gamma} \equiv \sigma_{\gamma}^2 I_K \\ \gamma &\sim (\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_u), \Sigma_u \equiv \sigma_u^2 I_T \\ \gamma &\sim (\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{\epsilon}), \Sigma_{\epsilon} \equiv \sigma_{\epsilon}^2 I_n \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

If the variety component is known, the influence estimate remains  $\beta$  can be done with the Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) method by assuming  $\gamma$  and  $u$  as a random influence. Equation (12) can be written as [7]:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\beta + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*$$

Where  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^* = \mathbf{Z}\gamma + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}$  (13)

Parameter estimator  $\beta$  can be obtained by maximizing the likelihood function so obtained:

$$\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{Y} \tag{14}$$

Where  $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Z} \Sigma_{\gamma} \mathbf{Z}^T + \mathbf{D} \Sigma_u \mathbf{D}^T + \Sigma_e$  is the variance covariance matrix of  $\mathbf{Y}$ .

Best predictor for parameters  $\gamma$  and  $u$  obtained by minimizing MSE from  $\gamma$  and  $u$ . Thus, the GREG (Generalized Regression) estimator is obtained  $\gamma$  dan  $u$  as follows:

$$\hat{\gamma} = \sum_{\gamma} \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \hat{\beta}) \tag{15}$$

$$\hat{u} = \sum_u \mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \hat{\beta}) \tag{16}$$

### 3 METHODS

This study uses secondary data from the results of the National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) and Potential Villages (Podes) BPS Bengkulu Province in 2014. The object of this research is 59 villages. The variables used in the study include: average per capita outcome as the response variable (Y), whereas the auxiliary variables are total of families without electric (X<sub>1</sub>), total of education facilities (X<sub>2</sub>), total of healthy facilities (X<sub>3</sub>), total of public health insurance receiver (Jamkesmas) (X<sub>4</sub>), and total of the incapable certificate (SKTM) receiver (X<sub>5</sub>).

The steps taken in this research are:

1. Exploration of relationship patterns between response variables (Y) with each predictor variable (X)
2. Modeling the average of per capita outcome at the village level in Bengkulu City using the small area estimation with Penalized spline regression approach with steps are as follows:
  - a. Determine the order of polinomial, the number of optimal knots, and optimal smoothing parameter based on the GCV criteria for each predictor variable.
  - b. Declare the pattern of a small area ( small area ) with a penalized spline approach
  - c. Estimate the variance of parameters by using REML
  - d. Estimate parameter model by using Penalized spline SAE approach
  - e. Evaluate the model by calculating the AIC and BIC values of the model

3. Estimating the average per capita outcome for each village in Bengkulu City based on the model obtained.

### 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The process of poverty data analysis in Bengkulu City using small area estimation with penalized spline regression approach is done in three stages: exploring the correlation patterns between the response variable and each predictor variable, modeling average per capita outcome at the level of the village in Bengkulu City use method small area estimation approach penalized splines regression, and predicting the average per capita outcome in all village non samples in Bengkulu City based on the model obtained.

Exploration of the correlation pattern between averages per capita outcome as a response variable and each predictor variable is performed through a linearity test to determine whether the predictor variable is the linear or non-linear. Linearity test results can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Test of Predictors Variable Linearity.

Variables	Significance	Conclusion
Y vs. X <sub>1</sub>	0. 487	Not Linear
Y vs X <sub>2</sub>	0. 750	Not Linear
Y vs X <sub>3</sub>	0. 118	Not Linear
Y vs X <sub>4</sub>	0. 771	Not Linear
Y vs X <sub>5</sub>	0. 964	Not Linear

Based on Table 1, the five predictor variables which are assumed affecting the poverty in Kota Bengkulu have unknown form, random and irregular regression curves, and all predictor variables have nonlinear relationship patterns to response variable. Consequently, the five predictor variables can be used for formatting the model of average per capita outcome in Bengkulu City using small area estimation with Penalized spline regression approach.

Formation of small area estimation model with Penalized spline regression approach is done by determining the number of knots optimal and optimal smoothing parameters based on minimum GCV value at the Equation (9). Then, they are used to estimate the model parameters SAE Penalized spline regression approach. Based on the results obtained by the number of knots and smooth Parameter optimum for all 5 predictors as follows:

Table 2: Number of Knots and Optimal Smoothing Parameters based on GCV Criteria.

Predictor Variable	Order	Number of Knots	Knot Point	Smoothing Parameters	GCV
X <sub>1</sub>	1	1	16.5	10000	228189135159
X <sub>2</sub>	1	5	2.83; 5.67; 8.5; 11.33; 17.17	7	214527637977
X <sub>3</sub>	1	1	9.5	88	214467526054
X <sub>4</sub>	1	2	217.33; 603.33	10000	229155102983
X <sub>5</sub>	1	1	170.5	10000	224994696041

Based on Table 2, the optimum finishing parameter with minimum GCV is found in the 1st order spline function or referred to as the linear penalized spline model. It can be concluded that the model of the small area estimation with Penalized spline regression approach used to model poverty based on average per capita outcome in Bengkulu City is obtained from a linear spline penalized model with a maximum of five knots .

After determined the location of the knot point and penalized spline model with optimum finishing parameters, the next step is to estimate the model parameters consisting of fixed impact parameters and random effects. Estimate of fixed influence  $\beta$  by maximizing the likelihood function or its log likelihood, and searching  $\hat{\gamma}$  and  $\hat{u}$  which is the GREG (Generalized Regression) of  $\gamma$  and  $u$  as a random influence. The predicted value  $\beta$  for SAE model with linear spline penalized with maximum five knot point can be seen on Table 3.

Table 3: Fixed influence estimator.

Parameter	Estimator
$\beta_0$	1159578,6
$\beta_1$	-644,5
$\beta_2$	2012,5
$\beta_3$	6589,4
$\beta_4$	-121.9
$\beta_5$	-1694,1

So, obtained model to estimate the average per capita outcome in Bengkulu City at the village level as follows:

$$Y = 1159578,6 - 664,5X_1 + 2012,5X_2 + 6589,5X_3 - 121,9X_4 - 1694,1X_5 + \gamma_{11}(X_1 - 16,5)^4 + \gamma_{21}(X_2 - 2,83)^4 + \gamma_{22}(X_2 - 5,67)^4 + \gamma_{23}(X_2 - 8,5)^4 + \gamma_{24}(X_2 - 11,33)^4 + \gamma_{25}(X_2 - 17,17)^4 + \gamma_{31}(X_3 - 9,5)^4 + \gamma_{41}(X_4 - 217,33)^4 + \gamma_{42}(X_4 - 603,33)^4 + \gamma_{51}(X_5 - 170,5)^4 + u \quad (17)$$

Which  $\gamma_{ij}$  and  $u$  is a random effect factor with value estimator  $\hat{\gamma}_{ij}$  depending on the knot point and  $\hat{u}$  depending on each area. The model of Equation (17) is a linear spline penalized model with a maximum of five knot points in the predictor variable  $X_2$ . The model of equation (17) shows that there are differences in outcomes for each village in Bengkulu City. This is because the value of per capita outcome depends on the predictor variables for each village.

After making estimation model parameters with penalized spline regression approach, the next step is descriptive statistical analysis. The statistical result of estimation of average per capita outcome in Bengkulu City can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4: Comparison of Estimation of average of Outcome per kapita Statistics in Bengkulu City.

Statistics	Outcome per kapita (Rp)	Estimation of Per Capita Outcome (Rp)
Median	1.009.777,60	1.009.817,20
1st quartile	753.526,10	753.527,25
The3rd quartile	1.244.054,30	1.244.188,15
Minimum	439.827,49	439.830,40
Maximum	3.115.622,06	3.115.614,20

Based on Table 4, the estimation of average per capita outcome at the village level in Bengkulu City 2014 using small area estimation method with penalized spline regression approach has a mean value of Rp.1.009.817,20. Approximately 75% of urban villages in Kota Bengkulu have an average per capita outcome of Rp 1.244.188.15 and 25% of Rp 753 .527,25. The average per capita outcome high is located in the Dahri Gardens Village Rp. 3. 115.614,20 and the lowest outcome from the Padang Nangka Village that is Rp 439.830,40 .

Comparison of observed data and the results of an estimator penalized spline against average per capita outcome in each village in Bengkulu City can be seen



in Figure 1. From Fig 1, the results of the estimation using a model of the small area estimation Penalized spline regression approach has trend equal to the observed data. The result model has a good flexibility, can be seen from the plot of the alleged results that can follow the distribution pattern of observation data.

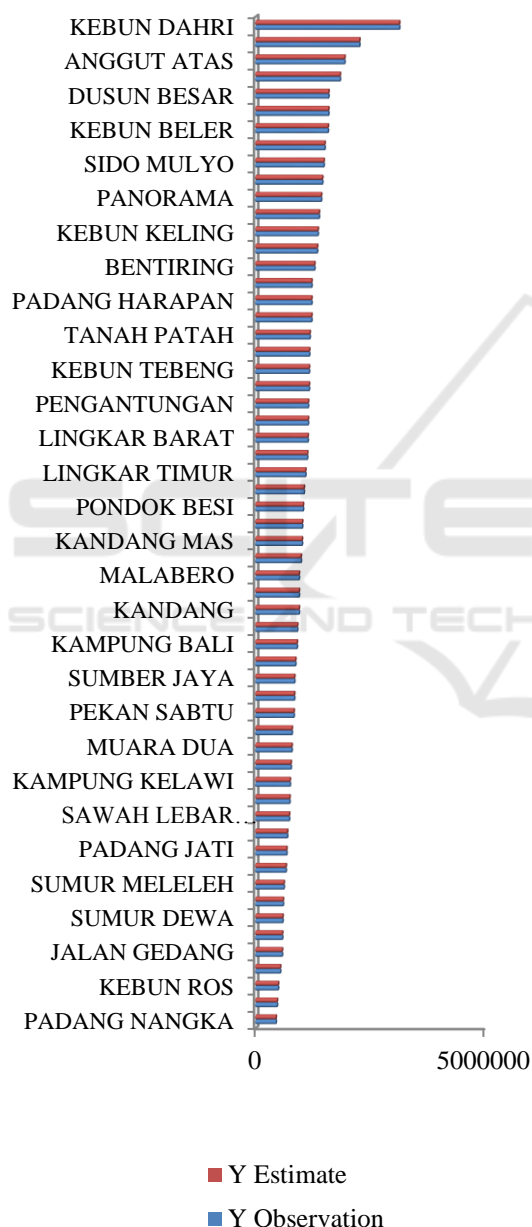


Figure 1: Comparison of Observation Data with Penalized Spline Approach.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

Small area estimation with penalized spline approach can be used to analyze poverty data based on the average estimate of per capita expenditure at the village level in Bengkulu City. The estimation result using small area estimation model with penalized spline regression approach has trend which equals to the observed data. The result model has a good flexibility, can be seen from the plot of the alleged results that can follow the distribution pattern of observation data.

The results of the estimation of the average per capita outcome at the level of village in Bengkulu city year 2014 using the method Small Area Estimation with Regal Penalized spline approach has a mean value of Rp.1. 009.817,20. Approximately 75% of urban villages in Kota Bengkulu have an average per capita outcome about Rp 1.244.188.15 and the twenty-five percent of urban villages in Kota Bengkulu have an average per capita outcome about Rp 753.527.25. The high average per capita outcome is in the Kebun Dahri Village Rp. 3.115.614,20 and the lowest outcome from the Padang Nangka Village that is Rp 439.830.40 .

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