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# Comparative Analysis of Indonesia's Human Development Achievements Among ASEAN Countries

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## ABSTRACT

In a development concept that focuses on humans, development must be carried out in a balanced manner. This balance must be established between building capabilities and utilizing them. This means that human development does not only focus on human capabilities, such as the ability to achieve better health, a longer life, or a higher level of education. This research aims to analyze the comparison of Indonesia's human development achievements among ASEAN countries. This study was conducted through a qualitative comparative study. To help explain this comparative study, secondary data from the United Nations Development Programme regarding the human development index of ASEAN countries from 1990 to 2023 were used. The results show that the comparison of Indonesia's human development achievements through the human development index among ASEAN countries shows a continuous upward trend. Indonesia's human development index ranked 6th out of 11 ASEAN countries in 2023, with a score of 0.73. The highest human development indexes are still held by Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, with scores of 0.95 and 0.84, respectively. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Myanmar have the lowest human development indexes, both with the same score of 0.61.

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## INTRODUCTION

People are the nation's wealth. The primary goal of development is to create an environment that enables people to enjoy long, healthy lives and lead productive lives. This seems simple, but is often overlooked by the short-term pursuit of wealth and money (Tambunan et al., 2025). Human development positions humans as the ultimate goal of development, not as a tool.

The human development index plays a crucial role in modern economic development because good human development maximizes the use of production factors (Arisman, 2018). A high-quality population enables innovation and development of existing production factors. Furthermore, high human development leads to a high population, which in turn increases consumption levels. Human development is a process that expands human choices. The concept or definition of human development essentially encompasses a very broad dimension of development (Amalia, 2007). In the concept of human development, development should be analyzed and understood from a human perspective, not just from economic growth.

Human development has the following criteria:

1. Development must prioritize the population.
2. Development is intended to expand choices for the population, not simply to increase their income. Therefore, the concept of human development must focus on the population as a whole, and not solely on the economic aspect.
3. Human development focuses not only on efforts to improve human abilities or capabilities but also on efforts to optimally utilize these abilities.

In a development concept that focuses on humans, development must be carried out in a balanced manner. This balance must be established between building capabilities and utilizing them. This means that human development does not only focus on human capabilities, such as the ability to achieve better health, a longer life, or a higher level of education. It must also consider how humans utilize their abilities for things that can improve their lives, for example, by utilizing their ability to work (Kuncoro, 2000).

Indonesia's human development achievements continue to improve, demonstrating improvements in quality of life in terms of health, education, and a decent standard of living, driven primarily by increases in life expectancy, expected years of schooling, and real per capita expenditure.

Improving quality of life from a health perspective includes adopting healthy lifestyles such as nutritious diets, exercise, adequate sleep, stress management, access to good healthcare, and improved sanitation and nutrition. These collectively enhance physical and mental well-being, prevent chronic disease, and enable individuals to lead more productive and fulfilling lives. It is a combination of personal and systemic efforts to achieve optimal physical, mental, and social functioning. Improving quality of life through education is realized by providing individuals with better knowledge, skills, and character, opening access to decent work, increasing incomes, improving economic well-

being, health, and social participation, and strengthening democracy, all of which contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Quality education shapes intelligent, creative, ethical individuals capable of making positive contributions to themselves and their communities. Improving quality of life from a decent standard of living encompasses various fundamental aspects that ensure individuals and families can live with dignity and well-being. This involves meeting basic needs and access to essential services.

This research aims to analyze the comparison of Indonesia's human development achievements among ASEAN countries.

## **RESEARCH METHODE**

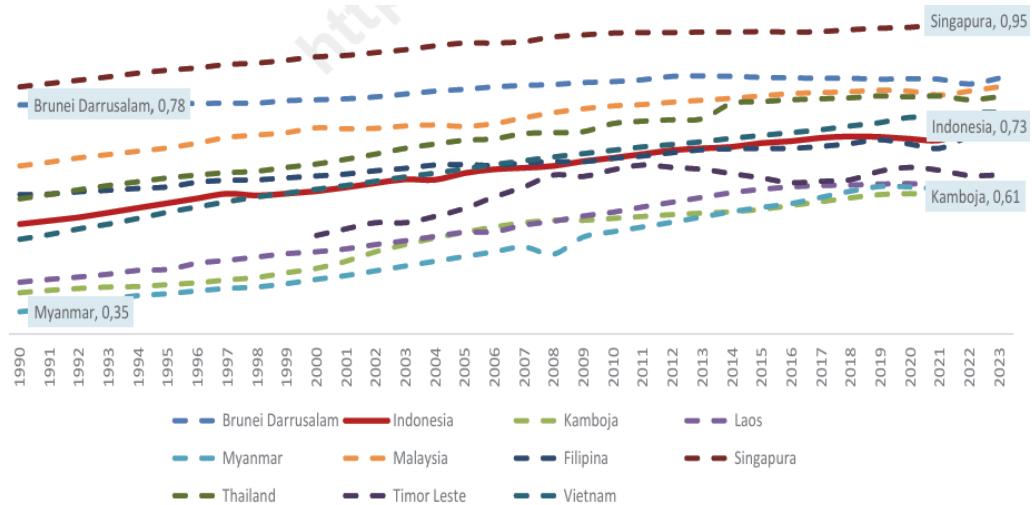
This study was conducted through a qualitative comparative study. Qualitative comparative study is a method for understanding the in-depth similarities and differences between two or more phenomena through concepts, cases, conditions, or experiences using narrative data such as interviews, observations, or documents. The aim is to find contextual patterns, not just numbers, to explain how and why something happens and to examine the combination of factors that produce an outcome (Kurdhi et al., 2023). The goal is to understand variations in human experiences, social processes, or cultural phenomena in depth, rather than measuring them statistically.

To assist in explaining this comparative study, secondary data is used. Secondary data is data that already exists and is collected by others for different purposes and then reused for new research. This data, such as from books, journals, reports, government statistics, or the internet, serves as a complement to the primary data and expedites the research process due to its greater accessibility (Kurdhi et al., 2023). The secondary data used in this study utilizes the United Nations Development Programme data on the human development index of ASEAN countries from 1990 to 2023.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Human development achievement is a measure of progress in the quality of life of a region's population, as measured by the human development index, which encompasses three basic dimensions, health in the form of life expectancy, knowledge in the form of average years of schooling and expected years of schooling, and standards of living (Sukirno, 2006). A decent standard of living is measured by adjusted per capita expenditure. The human development index serves as a strategic indicator for monitoring the success of human development as a whole (Pandiangan et al., 2025). The purpose of the human development index is to provide a comprehensive overview of the

development of human quality of life, not just economic growth, and to serve as a basis for evaluating development policies and comparing them across regions (Arsyad, 2010).



**Figure 1.**  
**Human Development Index of ASEAN Countries 1990–2023**

**Table 1.**  
**Human Development Index of ASEAN Countries 2023**

Negara	UHH Saat Lahir (tahun)	HLS (tahun)	RLS (tahun)	PNB per Kapita (PPP \$)	HDI	Peringkat HDI Dunia
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Singapura	83,74	16,74	11,99	111.239	0,95	13
Brunei Darrusalam	75,33	13,70	9,28	75.827	0,84	60
Malaysia	76,66	12,68	11,09	32.553	0,82	67
Thailand	76,41	15,36	9,04	20.570	0,80	76
Vietnam	74,59	15,46	8,98	13.033	0,77	93
Indonesia	71,15	13,34	8,70	13.700	0,73	113
Filipina	69,83	12,82	9,98	10.731	0,72	117
Laos	68,96	9,61	6,06	8.106	0,62	147
Myanmar	66,89	11,50	6,38	4.919	0,61	150
Kamboja	70,67	11,20	5,20	4.931	0,61	151
Timor Leste	67,69	13,25	6,23	5.435	0,63	142
<b>Dunia</b>	<b>73,38</b>	<b>13,04</b>	<b>8,78</b>	<b>20.327</b>	<b>0,76</b>	

Source: United Nations Development Programme (2025)

The comparison of Indonesia's human development achievements through the human development index among ASEAN countries shows a continuous upward trend. In 1990, Indonesia's human development index was recorded at 0.53, categorized as low. Despite a decline in 1998 and 2004,

Indonesia's human development index continued to increase until 2018, reaching 0.72. Indonesia's human development index ranked 6th out of 11 ASEAN countries in 2023, with a score of 0.73. The highest human development indexes are still held by Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, with scores of 0.95 and 0.84, respectively. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Myanmar have the lowest human development indexes, both with the same score of 0.61. Globally, Singapore ranks 13th in the world in terms of human development index. Followed by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Thailand, placing the country among the top 100 countries with the highest human development index in the world. Indonesia, meanwhile, ranked 113th in 2023.

When viewed by its components, Singapore excels in all components, including life expectancy, expected years of schooling, average years of schooling, and gross national product per capita. Life expectancy is the estimated average number of years a person can expect to live from birth, based on the mortality rate in a given year (Tambunan et al., 2024). Expected years of schooling is the estimated number of years of formal schooling a child, typically starting at age 7, is expected to attend in the future. It reflects the potential access and development of a region's education system. This differs from the average years of schooling, which measures the education completed by residents aged 25 and over (Jhingan, 1999). Gross national product per capita is the total value of all final goods and services produced by a country's citizens, including those abroad, during a given period, divided by the population (Arisman, 2018). It is an important indicator for measuring average income, well-being, and living standards of a country's population, comparing wealth across countries, and evaluating global economic performance. It is often calculated from nominal gross national product per capita or gross national income per capita, reflecting the average income of citizens. In terms of life expectancy, Malaysia has the second-highest life expectancy at 76.66 years. Indonesia ranks sixth in ASEAN with a life expectancy of 71.15 years.

In the Education dimension, Indonesia ranks fifth after Brunei Darussalam in terms of expected school years, with an expected school year of 13.34 years. On the other hand, Indonesia's average school year is relatively low, below the global average, ranking seventh among ASEAN countries with an average school year of 8.70 years. Indonesia's average school year is second only to Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Timor Leste. Similarly, Indonesia's per capita gross national product is also below the global GNP. Indonesia's per capita gross national product is ranked fifth in ASEAN.

## CONCLUSION

The results show that the comparison of Indonesia's human development achievements through the human development index among ASEAN countries shows a continuous upward trend. Indonesia's human development index ranked 6th out of 11 ASEAN countries in 2023, with a score of 0.73. The highest human development indexes are still held by Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, with scores of 0.95 and 0.84, respectively. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Myanmar have the lowest human development indexes, both with the same score of 0.61.

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