

ABSTRACT

The early childhood period, the first five years of life, is crucial for cognitive and socio-emotional development. Despite high economic growth, West Nusa Tenggara remains facing issues related to early childhood development. This study employs the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) framework to analyse the prevalence of early childhood poverty across dimensions and its association with household per capita expenditure in West Nusa Tenggara using the National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas) March 2023. This study reveals a high incidence of early childhood deprivation in West Nusa Tenggara, with nearly six-tenths of the children under five experiencing multiple deprivation in at least two dimensions. Health and education emerge as the most critical dimensions of deprivation. While household per capita expenditure is inversely associated with child deprivation scores, this association varies across dimensions and is moderated by residential area. The findings highlight that increased household economic capacity is insufficient to reduce multidimensional early childhood poverty. It is important to incorporate the multidimensional child poverty measures as a child-centred approach in poverty alleviation initiatives to ensure equitable development for children under five in West Nusa Tenggara.