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Examining The Influence Of Fiscal Decentralization Components On Capital Expenditure: Evidence From Kendari City

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Abstract: *This study aims to examine the effects of Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Funds (DAU), and Special Allocation Funds (DAK) on capital expenditure (CE) in the Government of Kendari City. The research adopts a quantitative approach using secondary data obtained from the Kendari City Budget Realization Reports for the first to fourth quarters of 2013–2020. The data were analyzed using multiple linear regression with E-Views statistical software to assess both the simultaneous and partial effects of the independent variables on capital expenditure. The results reveal that, collectively, PAD, DAU, and DAK have no significant effect on capital expenditure. However, the partial analysis shows that DAU and DAK have significant positive effects, while PAD has no significant impact. These findings indicate that the capital expenditure of the Kendari City Government remains heavily dependent on intergovernmental transfer funds rather than locally generated revenues. This suggests the need to enhance local fiscal capacity through more effective revenue mobilization strategies to strengthen regional financial independence.*

Keywords: *Local Own-Source Revenue; General Allocation Fund; Special Allocation Fund; Capital Expenditure; Local Government Finance; Fiscal Decentralization; Kendari City*

A. Introduction

Fiscal decentralization, as stipulated in Law Number 23 of 2014 on Regional Government, grants broad authority to local governments to manage and administer public affairs in accordance with local potentials and needs. The implementation of regional autonomy is expected to enhance fiscal independence, strengthen regional capacity in financing development, and accelerate the equitable distribution of community welfare (Nabila, Leviyani, Azis, &

Kurniawan, 2024). Within this framework, the ability of regional governments to manage their revenue sources serves as a key indicator of fiscal decentralization effectiveness (Dwiyanti, Irmawati, Syam, & Asriadi, 2025).

Local Own-Source Revenue constitutes the primary source of development financing and reflects the degree of regional fiscal independence (Lalimbat, Kumenaung, & Rorong, 2025). Nevertheless, fiscal disparities across regions remain a



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fundamental issue in Indonesia, as not all regions possess sufficient economic capacity and tax bases. To address this imbalance, the central government allocates the General Allocation Fund (DAU) and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) to equalize fiscal capacities among regions (Samto, Maftuhannisak, Yani, & Jamil, 2025). The DAU primarily functions to ensure general fiscal equalization, whereas the DAK is specifically designed to finance nationally prioritized programs such as infrastructure, education, and health (Susanto & Berliani, 2024).

The interrelationship between PAD, DAU, and DAK with capital expenditure is an essential issue since capital expenditure represents a tangible form of public investment that enhances the quality of services and regional assets (Samto, Maftuhannisak, Yani, & Jamil, 2025). Capital expenditure refers to regional government spending on the construction or acquisition of fixed assets such as roads, buildings, and public facilities (Kambey, Runtu, & Mawikere, 2024). Empirical studies have produced mixed findings regarding the relationship between regional revenues, intergovernmental transfers, and capital expenditure. (Manurung, Sembiring, & Parhusip, 2025) found that PAD had a positive and significant effect on capital expenditure among local governments in South Sumatra Province during 2017–2021, whereas DAU had no significant effect. However, when examined simultaneously, both PAD and DAU exhibited a positive influence on capital expenditure. These findings suggest that increasing PAD directly stimulates capital allocation, while dependency on central government transfers has yet to demonstrate strong effectiveness.

Conversely, (Suryani & Pariani, 2018), examining local governments in Riau Province, reported different results. Their study found that DAU had a significant

positive effect on capital expenditure, whereas PAD had no significant effect. This indicates that in regions with low fiscal capacity, central government transfers remain the primary source of financing for public investment. Such evidence implies that the degree of fiscal independence may influence the direction and strength of the relationship between fiscal decentralization components and capital expenditure.

Further evidence provided by Samto et al. (2025) supports fiscal decentralization theory, demonstrating that PAD, DAU, and DAK all have positive and significant effects on capital expenditure among local governments in Central Java during 2021–2023. This finding reflects the effectiveness of fiscal transfer management in supporting infrastructure development and strengthening regional assets. Similarly, (Tran & Nguyen, 2024) found that a higher level of fiscal decentralization in Vietnam improved the efficiency of local government expenditure, particularly after the 2015 budget law reform. However, Nabila et al. (2024), revealed more nuanced results PAD and DAK had positive and significant effects, while DAU showed a negative and insignificant effect on capital expenditure among local governments in Java during 2015–2020. This suggests that, despite the annual increase in DAU allocations, such funds are often absorbed by routine rather than productive expenditures like capital investment.

Overall, these findings indicate that the direction and magnitude of influence among fiscal decentralization components are not uniform across regions. Several studies consistently show that PAD exerts a positive and significant influence on capital expenditure, particularly in regions with high fiscal independence, whereas the effects of DAU and DAK vary positive and significant in some cases but insignificant or even negative in others. Such variations may

be attributed to differences in fiscal capacity, governance effectiveness, and the proportion of personnel expenditure within total regional budgets.

This study occupies an important position in the empirical literature by providing micro-fiscal evidence at the city level, offering a more detailed understanding of the relationship between fiscal decentralization components and capital expenditure. Unlike most previous studies that employed cross-regional analyses with relatively short observation periods, this research emphasizes the medium-term dynamics of fiscal decentralization's impact on capital expenditure in a region with limited yet representative fiscal capacity Kendari City.

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the influence of Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Fund (DAU), and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) on the Capital Expenditure of the Kendari City Government. The findings are expected to contribute theoretically to the literature on regional public finance and provide practical recommendations for policymakers in optimizing fiscal resource allocation to support regional economic development. Therefore, this study not only reinforces empirical evidence on the nexus between fiscal decentralization and capital expenditure but also offers novel insights by highlighting the varying effects of decentralization components among urban regions outside Java Island.

B. Materials and Methods

This study employs a quantitative research method using numerical data to examine the causal relationship between independent and dependent variables. The secondary data were obtained from the Regional Financial and Asset Agency (BKAD) of Kendari City, consisting of the Regional Budget Realization Reports (APBD) for the period 2013–2020, complemented by

relevant literature and official documentation.

Data were collected through documentation and archival research techniques, which involved the investigation of financial records, historical reports, and other textual materials produced by the local government.

The study analyzes the relationship between Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Fund (DAU), and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) as independent variables, and Capital Expenditure as the dependent variable. Each variable was operationally defined based on Indonesian public finance regulations, where PAD represents the fiscal capacity of local revenue, DAU and DAK indicate central government transfers, and Capital Expenditure reflects local government investment in public assets.

Data analysis was conducted using multiple linear regression with time-series data, processed through the E-views software. Prior to hypothesis testing, classical assumption tests (normality, autocorrelation, and heteroscedasticity) were performed to ensure the model's validity. The F-test was employed to assess the simultaneous influence of the independent variables, while the t-test was applied to examine their partial effects. In addition, the coefficient of determination (R^2) was used to evaluate the explanatory power of the independent variables on capital expenditure variation.

The results of this analysis are expected to provide empirical evidence on how fiscal decentralization mechanisms, through PAD, DAU, and DAK, affect regional capital expenditure (CE) performance in Kendari City, thereby contributing to a better understanding of local fiscal management and its implications for regional development.

C. Result and Discussion Descriptive Statistical Analysis

This study employs four main variables, namely Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Fund (DAU), and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) as independent variables, and Capital Expenditure as the dependent variable. Descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to provide an overview of the data characteristics before further testing. The descriptive statistics include the minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation values, which were obtained from secondary data sourced from the *Budget Realization Reports (Laporan Realisasi APBD)* of the Kendari City Government for the 2013–2020 period.

The following table presents the results of the descriptive statistical analysis based on the EViews 10 output.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistical Analysis

	PAD_X1	DAU_X2	DAK_X3	CE_Y
Mean	101255.1	442509.1	86753.57	144221.8
Median	91857.14	436189.5	57524.19	104832.4
Maximum	221823.2	706229.1	354551.6	492421.1
Minimum	16852.03	185231.3	7622.670	2256.700
Std. Dev.	61626.38	167308.9	80269.99	137462.2
Skewness	0.465759	-0.113063	1.506098	1.002574
Kurtosis	2.113518	1.673385	5.190663	3.023105
Jarque-Bera Probability	2.204768	2.414721	18.49644	5.361533
	0.332079	0.298985	0.000096	0.068511
Sum	3240164.	14160291	2776114.	4615096.
Sum Sq. Dev.	1.18E+11	8.68E+11	2.00E+11	5.86E+11
Observations	32	32	32	32

Source: EViews 10 Result

Based on the results in Table 1, the descriptive statistics can be interpreted as follows:

1. Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD) recorded an average value of IDR 101,255.1 million, with a minimum of IDR 16,852.03 million and a maximum of IDR 221,823.2 million. The standard deviation of 61,626.38 indicates substantial variation in PAD realization over the observed years. The positive skewness value (0.466) suggests that the data distribution is slightly right-skewed,

while the Jarque–Bera probability value (0.332) > 0.05 implies that the PAD data are normally distributed.

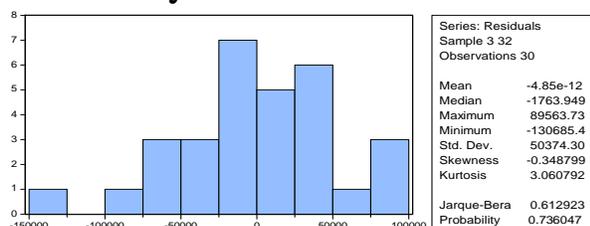
2. General Allocation Fund (DAU) has the highest mean among all variables, amounting to IDR 442,509.1 million, with a range between IDR 185,231.3 million and IDR 706,229.1 million. The relatively large standard deviation (167,308.9) indicates significant annual fluctuations in central government transfers. The skewness value of -0.113 shows that the distribution is nearly symmetrical, while the Jarque–Bera probability value (0.299) > 0.05 confirms that the DAU data follow a normal distribution.
3. Special Allocation Fund (DAK) exhibits an average value of IDR 86,753.57 million with a relatively high standard deviation of 80,269.99, indicating considerable inter-annual variability in the allocation of special funds. The maximum DAK reached IDR 354,551.6 million, whereas the minimum was only IDR 7,622.67 million, reflecting large fluctuations across years. The positive skewness (1.506) and kurtosis (5.191) indicate that the data are right-skewed and leptokurtic (highly peaked). Furthermore, the Jarque–Bera probability (0.0001) < 0.05 suggests that the DAK data are not normally distributed.
4. Capital Expenditure (CE) recorded an average value of IDR 144,221.8 million, with a minimum of IDR 2,256.7 million and a maximum of IDR 492,421.1 million. The standard deviation of 137,462.2 indicates substantial variability in annual capital spending. The positive skewness value (1.003) shows that the data distribution is right-skewed, while the Jarque–Bera probability (0.069) is close to the 0.05 threshold,

suggesting that the capital expenditure data are approximately normally distributed.

Classical Assumption Test

Prior to conducting the regression analysis, a series of classical assumption tests were performed to ensure that the regression model satisfies the criteria of the Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE). The classical assumption tests include the normality test, autocorrelation test, and heteroskedasticity test. The results of these tests determine the model’s suitability in providing valid and reliable estimations of the relationships among variables.

1. Normality Test



Source: EViews 10 Result

Figure 1. Normality Test Results

Based on the normality test results obtained using EViews 10, the Jarque–Bera value was 0.6129 with a probability of 0.7360, while the Chi-Square value ($\alpha = 0.05$) was 44.9853. Since the Jarque–Bera value is lower than the Chi-Square table value and the probability (0.7360) exceed 0.05, it can be concluded that the residuals are normally distributed. Therefore, the data used in this study meet the normality assumption and are suitable for further regression analysis.

2. Autocorrelation Test

The results of the Breusch–Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test, as shown in Table 4.6, indicate that the F-statistic value is 3.3587 with a probability of 0.0788, and the Obs*R-squared value is 3.5531 with a

Chi-Square probability of 0.0594. Since the probability value of the F-statistic (0.0788) is greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that there is no autocorrelation in the regression model. This indicates that the residuals across periods are independent, fulfilling the assumption of no autocorrelation.

Table 2. Results of Autocorrelation Test

Breusch–Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test:

F-statistic	3.358730	Prob. F(1,25)	0.0788
Obs*R-squared	3.553118	Prob. Chi-Square(1)	0.0594

Source: EViews 10 Result

3. Heteroskedasticity Test

The results of the Breusch–Pagan–Godfrey Test, presented in Table 3, show that the F-statistic value is 1.2972 with a probability of 0.2964, and the Obs*R-squared value is 3.9056 with a Chi-Square probability of 0.2718. Since all probability values are greater than 0.05, it can be concluded that heteroskedasticity does not exist in the regression model. Thus, the residual variances are homogeneous (homoskedastic), and the model satisfies the assumption of equal variance.

Table 3. Results of Heteroskedasticity

Heteroskedasticity Test: Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey

F-statistic	1.297166	Prob. F(3,26)	0.2964
Obs*R-squared	3.905624	Prob. Chi-Square(3)	0.2718
Scaled explained SS	3.022726	Prob. Chi-Square(3)	0.3881

Source: EViews 10 Result

Based on the results of the three diagnostic tests, it can be concluded that the regression model in this study satisfies all classical assumptions, namely:

1. The residuals are normally distributed;
2. No autocorrelation is present between periods; and
3. No heteroskedasticity is detected.

Therefore, the linear regression model used in this study is considered appropriate

and valid for subsequent hypothesis testing in the regression analysis.

Regression Analysis

Based on the data processed using EViews 10, the estimation results of the multiple linear regression model are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Dependent Variable: DDBM
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 07/05/22 Time: 11:24
 Sample (adjusted): 3 32
 Included observations: 30 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-2308.863	9727.203	-0.237361	0.8142
DDPAD	-0.232647	0.202523	-1.148739	0.2611
DDDAU	0.758629	0.189380	4.005856	0.0005
DDDAK	0.562339	0.077936	7.215432	0.0000

R-squared	0.726197	Mean dependent var	4613.494
Adjusted R-squared	0.694604	S.D. dependent var	96269.79
S.E. of regression	53201.19	Akaike info criterion	24.72512
Sum squared resid	7.36E+10	Schwarz criterion	24.91194
Log likelihood	-366.8767	Hannan-Quinn criter.	24.78488
*9F-statistic	22.98627	Durbin-Watson stat	2.352665
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000		

Source: EViews 10 Result

Based on these results, the regression equation can be expressed as follows:

$$Y = -2308.863 - 0.232647X_{1t} + 0.758629X_{2t} + 0.562339X_{3t}$$

The interpretation of the regression coefficients is as follows:

- a. The constant value of -2308.863 indicates that capital expenditure would be -2308.863 when PAD, DAU, and DAK are assumed to be zero. In other words, this constant represents the portion of capital expenditure not influenced by these three fiscal variables.
- b. The regression coefficient for PAD (X_1) of -0.232647 suggests that a 1% increase in PAD leads to a 0.232647% decrease in capital expenditure by the Kendari City

Government, assuming other variables remain constant.

- c. The regression coefficient for DAU (X_2) of 0.758629 indicates that a 1% increase in DAU increases capital expenditure by 0.758629%, holding other variables constant.
- d. The regression coefficient for DAK (X_3) of 0.562339 means that a 1% increase in DAK results in a 0.562339% rise in capital expenditure, *ceteris paribus*.

Hypothesis Testing

1. F-Test (Simultaneous Test)

The F-test was conducted to examine whether the independent variables collectively exert a significant influence on the dependent variable. As shown in Table 4, the probability value of the F-statistic is 0.000000, which is less than the significance level of 0.05. This result indicates that the independent variables Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Fund (DAU), and Special Allocation Fund (DAK), jointly have a statistically significant effect on Capital Expenditure in the Government of Kendari City.

These findings suggest that variations in capital expenditure are collectively explained by fiscal capacity and transfer funds received by the local government, reflecting the interdependence between regional revenue performance and central government allocations.

2. t-Test (Partial Test)

The t-test was employed to assess the individual effect of each independent variable on capital expenditure. The test results reveal that:

1. PAD has a negative and insignificant effect on capital expenditure ($t = -1.148739$, $p = 0.2611 > 0.05$). This suggests that increases in regional own-source revenue do not directly translate into higher capital expenditure, possibly due to its allocation toward routine expenditures.

2. DAU demonstrates a positive and significant influence on capital expenditure ($t = 4.005856$, $p = 0.0005 < 0.05$), implying that general transfer funds contribute to enhancing the government's fiscal capacity for infrastructure investment.
3. DAK also exerts a positive and significant effect ($t = 7.215432$, $p = 0.0000 < 0.05$), reflecting the central government's targeted policy in directing specific-purpose grants toward capital-intensive sectors.

In summary, only DAU and DAK significantly affect capital expenditure, while PAD shows no substantial impact. This indicates that local governments remain highly dependent on intergovernmental transfers to finance development projects.

Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

The coefficient of determination (R^2) was used to evaluate how much of the variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variables. As shown in Table 4, the R-squared value is 0.726197, or 72.61%. This finding implies that 72.61% of the variation in capital expenditure can be attributed to the three fiscal variables (PAD, DAU, and DAK), while the remaining 27.39% is explained by other factors not included in the model, such as intergovernmental fiscal transfers, institutional capacity, or the effectiveness of local development policies.

The Joint Effect of PAD, DAU, and DAK on Capital Expenditure

The empirical findings of this study indicate that Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), the General Allocation Fund (DAU), and the Special Allocation Fund (DAK) simultaneously exert a significant influence on Capital Expenditure in Kendari City. This outcome corroborates the fiscal decentralization theory, which posits that both local revenues and intergovernmental transfers jointly determine the fiscal capacity of regional governments to finance development expenditures (Oates, 1999).

Similar results were reported by Samto, Maftuhannisak, Yani, and Jamil (2025), who found that PAD, DAU, and DAK collectively and positively affect capital expenditure among local governments in Central Java, suggesting effective fiscal transfer management in supporting infrastructure investment.

Furthermore, Lalimbat et al. (2025) and Tuwaidan et al. (2024) also demonstrated that PAD and DAU significantly contribute to capital expenditure growth in North Sulawesi, though DAK's role remains mixed. These studies emphasize that simultaneous fiscal capacity improvements can enhance regional capital formation. The consistency between these results reinforces the argument that integrated fiscal autonomy and central transfer mechanisms are essential for promoting regional infrastructure and long-term economic development. A similar pattern was reported by (Amougou Manga & Fouopi, 2025) in Cameroon, where both revenue and expenditure decentralization were found to positively and significantly affect municipal capital spending, with stronger impacts on investment than operational expenditure. Collectively, these studies reinforce the conclusion that fiscal autonomy and transfer efficiency are mutually reinforcing in promoting productive public spending.

The Effect of PAD on Capital Expenditure

This study finds that PAD exerts a negative but statistically insignificant effect on capital expenditure. This result suggests that increases in locally generated revenue in Kendari City do not necessarily translate into higher allocations for capital spending, potentially due to the prioritization of operational and routine expenditures. The finding contrasts with the study by Manurung, Sembiring, and Parhusip (2025), which reported a significant positive influence of PAD on capital expenditure across regencies and cities in South Sumatra. Likewise, Lalimbat et al. (2025) identified PAD as a major determinant of

capital expenditure, reflecting higher fiscal independence in regions with efficient revenue mobilization. (Tuwaidan, Masinambow, & Kawung, 2024) and (Pradana, Ts, & Istiatin, 2024) demonstrated that PAD significantly promotes both capital expenditure and economic growth through improved financial independence. These mixed findings underscore that the role of PAD depends largely on each region's fiscal structure and the efficiency of revenue collection mechanisms.

However, the current finding aligns more closely with Suryani and Pariani (2018) and Nabila et al. (2024), who revealed that PAD does not significantly affect capital expenditure in regions with low fiscal capacity. This pattern implies that fiscal autonomy, while conceptually empowering, is often constrained by the limited ability of local governments to generate substantial revenue. As such, the role of PAD in financing development remains secondary to central transfers in regions with limited economic bases.

The Effect of DAU on Capital Expenditure

The positive and significant relationship between DAU and capital expenditure observed in this study supports the fiscal equalization framework, which asserts that central transfers play a vital role in bridging regional fiscal disparities. The result is consistent with Suryani and Pariani (2018) and Samto et al. (2025), who found that DAU significantly promotes local capital investment, especially in fiscally dependent regions. Similarly, Tran and Nguyen (2024) documented comparable evidence in Vietnam, where intergovernmental transfers have improved local expenditure efficiency following budget reform. Moreover, Lalimbat et al. (2025) also confirmed that DAU exerts a positive impact on capital expenditure, consistent with the fiscal equalization theory, which posits that general transfers reduce vertical imbalances and stimulate public investment.

In contrast, Manurung et al. (2025) found that DAU had no significant effect on capital expenditure in South Sumatra, suggesting that in some contexts, DAU may be predominantly allocated to personnel and routine expenditures. The variation across regions reflects differing levels of fiscal discipline and transfer utilization. Therefore, while DAU remains a crucial component in supporting regional investment, its developmental impact depends largely on the governance quality and budget prioritization strategies of local governments. In practice, as argued by Amougou (Amougou Manga & Fouopi, 2025), decentralization effectiveness depends not only on fund availability but also on the institutional capacity of local governments to convert transfers into productive investments.

The Effect of DAK on Capital Expenditure

The findings of this study demonstrate that DAK exerts a positive and statistically significant effect on capital expenditure, highlighting its effectiveness as a targeted fiscal instrument for financing infrastructure and sectoral priorities. This outcome aligns with the studies by Samto et al. (2025) and Nabila et al. (2024), who observed that DAK consistently enhances regional capital spending, particularly in public infrastructure and service delivery. However, Lalimbat et al. (2025) reported that DAK does not have a significant effect on capital expenditure in North Sulawesi, suggesting that the fund's impact may vary based on sectoral allocation and administrative efficiency. According to (Tuwaidan, Masinambow, & Kawung, 2024), regional dependence on DAK tends to persist where local fiscal innovation is weak, implying that while DAK stimulates development activities, it may simultaneously reinforce dependency on central transfers.

These findings collectively underline that effective DAK utilization requires robust planning, local matching funds, and

performance-based allocation mechanisms to ensure sustainable infrastructure development outcomes.

D. Conclusion

The study findings reveal that Local Own-Source Revenue (PAD), General Allocation Fund (DAU), and Special Allocation Fund (DAK) simultaneously have a significant effect on Capital Expenditure in the Kendari City Government. Partially, DAU and DAK have a positive and significant impact, while PAD has a negative and insignificant influence. These findings indicate that Kendari City's capital expenditure remains heavily dependent on intergovernmental transfers, and the contribution of locally generated revenue to financing development activities is still limited. This condition reflects the ongoing challenge of achieving fiscal independence at the regional level.

The results of this study provide an empirical foundation for expanding the discourse on fiscal decentralization and regional development financing. However, the findings also highlight several dimensions that warrant further investigation. The observed dominance of intergovernmental transfers (DAU and DAK) over locally generated revenues (PAD) raises important questions about the sustainability of local fiscal autonomy in Indonesia's decentralized framework. Future research should therefore explore whether this pattern persists in other regions with different socio-economic structures and governance capacities. Moreover, a longitudinal or comparative cross-provincial approach could be employed to assess how variations in fiscal management practices affect developmental outcomes. Such an approach would not only validate the generalizability of the present findings but also contribute to the refinement of fiscal decentralization theory by integrating local governance, institutional effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility into a cohesive analytical model.

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