EMPOWERING FAMILY HOPE PROGRAM (PKH) RECIPIENTS TOWARDS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE IN WEST JAVA PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

This study, entitled "The Influence of Credibility and Performance of Family Hope Program Facilitators on the Independence of Family Hope Program Beneficiary Families in West Java Province," was conducted by Agus Setiaman, NPM 210130220512, with promoter Dr. Dadang Sugiana, M.Si , co-promoter Prof. Dr. Uud Wahyudin, M.Si, and co-promoter Prof. Dr. Hamedi bin Mohd. Adnan. The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which Credibility (X) has a positive and significant effect on the Independence (Y) of Family Hope Program Beneficiaries in West Java Province and to determine the extent to which Performance (Z) strengthens the positive influence of Credibility (X) on the Independence (Y) of Family Hope Program Beneficiaries in West Java Province. This study uses a quantitative research method, namely a structural equation model (SEM) analysis study with a research population of beneficiary families with a multi-stage cluster sampling technique, so that KPM in Ciamis Regency, Cianjur Regency, Sukabumi Regency and Pangandaran Regency are spread across Ciamis District, Karangtengah District, Sukaraja District and Langkaplancar District with a sampling size of 632 respondents. The results of the study show that expertise does not have a significant positive effect on economic independence, while expertise has a significant positive effect on social and psychological independence, the sub-variable of trust does not have a significant effect on economic and psychological independence while on social independence the significant effect of the sub-variable of attraction has a significant effect on economic, social and psychological independence, performance moderation on expertise has a negative effect on economic and social independence but has a positive effect on psychological independence, then performance moderation on trust has a positive and significant effect on economic, social, psychological independence as well as performance moderation on attraction has a positive and significant effect on economic, social and psychological independence. Recommendations from this study include: Because expertise, trust, and attractiveness or commitment significantly influence the three dimensions of independence, strengthening these variables should be a priority in intervention programs. Given the negative influence of the attractiveness of mentors on social initiatives, it is recommended that the Ministry of Social Affairs or relevant agencies redesign training for PKH mentors. The "positive influence" hypothesis is rejected because the presence of mentors actually serves as a substitute for local strengths, not a supplement. For the program to be successful, mentors must be able to gradually

"disappear" as the community's capabilities increase. Successful mentoring is one that ultimately makes the role of the mentor no longer necessary.
Keywords: Credibility, Performance, Poverty, Family, Independence

1. Introduction

Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, leading every regime to establish poverty alleviation programs as an indicator of success in its development programs. Poverty remains a priority because the number of poor people in Indonesia is quite large. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of poor people in Indonesia reached 26.5 million in March 2021 , or 9.71%, while the urban population was recorded at 11.86 million, and the remaining 16 million, or approximately 16 million, lived in rural areas.

To accelerate poverty alleviation and develop social protection policies, the Indonesian government has implemented the Family Hope Program (PKH) since 2007. Similar programs, known as *Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT)* , have been implemented with considerable success in several countries. PKH is not a continuation of the Direct Cash Subsidy (BLT) program, which was provided to help poor households maintain their purchasing power during government fuel price adjustments. PKH is intended more as an effort to build a social protection system for the poor. Based on the experience of other countries, similar programs are very beneficial, especially for families in chronic poverty.

The Family Hope Program (PKH) is a key pillar of Indonesia's national social protection system. It is implemented as part of the Indonesian government's efforts to address structural poverty and social inequality. Since its launch in 2007, PKH has operated as a Conditional *Cash Transfer* (CCT) program, designed to provide not only financial support to poor households but also encourage long-term investment in human capital.

Through cash transfers, PKH ensures that beneficiaries can meet their basic needs while also requiring them to meet certain conditions, particularly in the health sector (for pregnant women and young children) and education (for students at various levels). This integration of cash transfers and fulfillment of obligations is a distinctive feature that distinguishes PKH from regular social assistance.

The paradigm of social protection in Indonesia has fundamentally shifted from simply providing charitable cash assistance to an empowerment model that emphasizes behavioral change and individual capacity building. As a strategic government instrument, the Family Hope Program (PKH) is at the forefront of efforts to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through conditional cash *transfers* (CCT).

Geographically, West Java Province is a strategic province because it is a buffer zone for Jakarta, which serves as a barometer for economic, political, and socio-cultural development in Indonesia. As a province that supports a large city like Jakarta, economic and socio -political turmoil will mutually influence West Java Province and Jakarta Province, thus what happens in West Java will directly affect Jakarta and vice versa. On the other hand, West Java Province has complex demographic and economic characteristics, the biggest challenge to the sustainability of this program lies not only in the accuracy of fund distribution, but also in the ability of beneficiaries to transform into development subjects who are economically, socially, and psychologically independent.

West Java Province, as Indonesia's largest demographic entity, faces significant structural challenges

in its efforts to alleviate multidimensional poverty. The Family Hope Program (PKH), introduced as a conditional cash transfer (CCT) intervention, has evolved into an empowerment instrument that goes beyond a mere social safety net. From a human development perspective, PKH in West Java is directed to become *a center of excellence* that synergizes social protection with national economic empowerment. The implementation of this policy is based on the awareness that poverty is not simply a phenomenon of lack of income, but rather a limited capability to live a decent and meaningful life.

Empowerment policies at the provincial level now focus on accelerated graduation, a condition where a beneficiary's membership ends when their socioeconomic status significantly improves. This acceleration is not merely an administrative effort to reduce the burden on the state budget, but rather a systematic strategy to achieve social justice by redirecting aid to the poorest communities in greatest need.

West Java Province consistently occupies a strategic position within the national economic architecture, its massive contribution to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) making it one of Indonesia's main growth engines. However, behind these impressive macroeconomic figures lies a complex sociological reality related to the persistence of poverty that shifts from one generation to the next. This phenomenon does not occur in a vacuum, but rather is the result of the interaction between rapid industrial transformation in the northern region and structural pressures on the agricultural sector in the southern and interior regions. Breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty in a region with dualistic characteristics like West Java requires a community empowerment approach that is not only technocratic but also adaptive to shifts in living spaces and cultural values.

Independence is the ultimate goal of an integrated social protection process. However, on the ground, many beneficiary families (KPM) are trapped in long-term dependency. Data shows that more than half of beneficiaries in West Java have been in the assistance system for more than six years, indicating a potential "dependency trap" *that hinders the process of graduating to independence. Achieving* this independence is influenced by the role of PKH social facilitators, who act as agents of change at the grassroots level. The facilitator's credibility and performance are key variables in determining whether PKH interventions will generate individual autonomy or perpetuate economic passivity.

2. Literature Review

2.1 . Theoretical Review: Source Credibility and Community Empowerment

Source Credibility Theory explains that the effectiveness of a message in changing opinions or behavior depends on the audience's perception of the communicator. In the context of developing independence, communicators can be parents, teachers, organizational leaders, business mentors, or even public figures who serve as role models.

Source credibility is built on three main components, which in this study serve as predictors of independence. Expertise *refers* to the extent to which an information source is perceived as possessing competence, knowledge, and skills in a particular field. In the pursuit of economic independence, for example, a business coach's expertise will determine an individual's confidence in starting their own business. The second component, trust worthiness, relates to the source's integrity and honesty. Individuals will more easily adopt the principle of independence if the source conveying it is perceived as sincere and objective. Finally, attractiveness *encompasses* physical charm, personality similarities, or lifestyles that attract individuals to

identify with the source.

When this theory is linked to autonomy, a persuasion mechanism emerges where individuals not only receive information but also internalize the values of autonomy. Autonomy itself, as defined by Steinberg (2014) and other experts, encompasses three broad aspects: emotional (psychological) autonomy, behavioral (social/economic) autonomy, and cognitive (values) autonomy. Therefore, the relationship between source credibility and autonomy represents a psychosocial transformation process in which external influences are converted into internal individual capacities.

Community empowerment in the context of social work is the process of giving power *to* the powerless through strengthening internal capacity and opening access to external resources. Within the framework of *Source Credibility Theory*, the effectiveness of empowerment messages delivered by social facilitators depends heavily on how beneficiaries perceive the facilitator in three main dimensions: expertise*, trustworthiness,* and attractiveness.

The mentor's expertise includes mastery of Family Hope Program (PKH) regulations, facilitation skills in Family Capacity Building Meetings (P2K2), and skills in solving administrative problems faced by beneficiaries. Trust is related to moral integrity, honesty in data updates, and transparency, which builds a sense of security for beneficiaries. Meanwhile, attraction is often demonstrated through ease of communication, empathy, and professional commitment, which make beneficiaries feel humanely supported.

However, the literature on human development warns of the risk of "professional paternalism" in mentoring relationships. If mentors are too dominant in decision-making or overprotective, this can trigger the phenomenon of *learned helplessness*, where beneficiaries feel unable to function autonomously without the mentor's guidance. Therefore, mentors' performance should be evaluated not only by achieving administrative targets, but also by the extent to which they are able to trigger human agency *to* achieve independent graduation.

3. Research Results and Discussion

3.1. Socio-Economic Context and Characteristics of West Javanese Society

West Java Province recorded a consistent decline in poverty rates, with the percentage of the poor dropping to 7.08 percent in September 2024. Despite these positive trends, disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between the formal and informal sectors, remain significant structural challenges. The implementation of the Family Hope Program (PKH) in West Java, particularly in the regencies of Cianjur, Sukabumi, Ciamis, and Pangandaran, operates amidst geographic diversity that impacts accessibility to basic services and economic opportunities.

Cianjur Regency, one of the largest contributors to respondents in this analysis, has more than 108,000 beneficiary families spread across 32 sub-districts. Meanwhile, Pangandaran Regency presents a different challenge, with its coastal and mountainous regions limiting the logistical mobility of the poor. In these areas, the respondent profile shows a predominance of women, accounting for 93.04% of the total sample. This dominance reflects the gender-based empowerment strategy in PKH, where housewives are given authority as domestic managers to ensure that aid funds are allocated efficiently for children's nutrition, health, and education.

Demographically, the majority of beneficiaries are in the late productive age group, namely 41-50 years

(47.47%), but have a very low educational background, where 73.10% are only elementary school graduates or have not attended school at all. This low level of formal literacy creates a linear correlation with low levels of economic well-being, as limited skills force Beneficiaries to work in the informal sector with uncertain daily wages. Household conditions with large family members, often more than 5 people, further burden the economy and reduce the family's economic scale, so that PKH assistance is often considered a "breath" for daily survival rather than future investment capital.

3.2. Overview of the Independence of PKH Beneficiaries in West Java

The descriptive analysis reveals varying levels of self-sufficiency among beneficiaries in West Java. Economic independence was recorded as high for 44.30% of respondents, but the accumulated medium and low categories still reached over 55.7%. This confirms that government interventions have so far succeeded in bringing nearly half of the target population to a reasonable level of self-sufficiency, but the majority remain vulnerable and require further capacity building to prevent them from falling back into extreme poverty.

Social independence showed a more positive figure, with 49.84% of respondents in the high category. This reflects the high level of bonding social capital *at* the local community level in West Java. KPM often demonstrate strong solidarity, are actively involved in mutual cooperation, and adhere to the norms of the P2K2 group. However, these social skills often do not translate into real economic independence because their social networks tend to be confined to the poor, so that access to market opportunities and technological innovation remains limited.

Psychological independence is the most challenging dimension, with a relatively balanced distribution between the high (30.70%), medium (36.08%), and low (33.23%) categories. Only about a third of respondents were truly psychologically ready for independence, while the remainder still displayed a dependence on external control. The autonomy dimension was found to be the weakest, with many beneficiaries still doubting their ability to survive if PKH assistance were discontinued. This low self-confidence is often rooted in long-term poverty, which slowly erodes self-esteem and creates a systemic sense of helplessness.

3.3. Analysis of PKH Companion Credibility and Performance

PKH facilitators in West Java are perceived as having excellent credibility by beneficiaries. In terms of expertise, 78.48% of respondents gave them high ratings, a result of the Ministry of Social Affairs' rigorous selection process and ongoing capacity development through training programs such as the BBPPKS Bandung program. The P2K2 module, especially regarding financial management and nutritional health, is the main instrument that KPM mothers feel most benefited from. The ability of the assistant to explain complicated medical terms in local language (Sundanese) that is easy to understand, such as explaining nutrition to prevent *stunting.* increases the perception of his competence in the eyes of people with low educational backgrounds.

Trust in facilitators was also high (80.70%), indicating that facilitators have successfully built moral integrity through consistency between what they say and what they do in the field. The strategy of regular home visits *builds* a sense of familiarity, a prerequisite for trust in social psychology. Facilitators' honesty in data verification and transparency in information regarding KPM rights without manipulation foster psychological loyalty among beneficiaries.

The dimension of attractiveness or commitment of the companion was also rated highly by 79.59% of respondents. A humanistic and persuasive approach, where the facilitator treats the KPM as an equal partner, creates a sense of comfort and openness. However, this high valuation also carries hidden risks; excessive

emotional closeness can blur the professional boundaries that should foster independence. The overall performance of the facilitators was assessed as high (75.79%), indicating that their duties, from administrative aspects to facilitation of empowerment, had been carried out with a level of dedication that exceeded minimum standards.

3.4. Evaluation of the Measurement Model (Outer Model) using SEM-PLS

To ensure the validity of the empirical findings, this study used the Structural Equation Modeling–Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) approach. *The measurement model evaluation stage* was conducted to assess the validity and reliability of the measurement constructs before testing the structural relationships.

Table 3.1 presents the results of *the outer model evaluation*, which shows that all indicators have *outer loading values* above the required threshold (the majority > 0.70). The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values for all variables are also above 0.50, indicating that convergent validity has been met.

Table 3.1. Outer Model Evaluation

Latent Construct	Composite Reliability	Cronbach's Alpha	AVE
Skill (X1)	0.940	0.898	0.830
Trust (X2)	0.896	0.868	0.712
Attraction (X3)	0.932	0.914	0.794
Performance (Z)	0.951	0.944	0.523
Economic Independence (Y1)	0.883	0.859	0.700
Social Independence (Y2)	0.936	0.913	0.743
Psychological Independence (Y3)	0.959	0.912	0.738

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

These results indicate that the measurement instrument used is consistent and reliable in measuring the constructs of facilitator credibility, facilitator performance, and the independence dimension of PKH beneficiaries. Discriminant validity testing using the Heterotrait Monotrait Ratio (HTMT) approach also confirmed that these constructs have adequate conceptual distinctions, although there is a fairly strong correlation between the internal dimensions of credibility.

Based on Table 3.1, the results of *the measurement model evaluation* (*outer model*) show that all constructs in this study have met the criteria for convergent validity and construct reliability required in the SEM-PLS analysis. Convergent validity is assessed through *the outer loading* and *Average Variance Extracted (AVE)* values, while construct reliability is evaluated using *Composite Reliability* and *Cronbach's Alpha values.*

3.5. Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model) and Hypothesis Testing

The structural model evaluation was aimed at testing the model's explanatory and predictive capabilities. Multicollinearity testing using *Variance Inflation Factors* (VIF) showed that all relationship paths between constructs ranged from 3.464 to 5.399, indicating no serious multicollinearity issues.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) shows the proportion of the variance of the dependent variable that can be explained by the independent variables in the model.

Table 3.2. Determination Coefficient R^2

Endogenous Construct	**R^2 value**	**Percentage Variance**	**Criteria**
Economic Independence	0.265	26.5%	Small/Weak
Social Independence	0.225	22.5%	Small/Weak
Psychological Independence	0.273	27.3%	Small/Weak

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

Although the R2 value [is] considered small by pure statistical standards, in the social sciences, an influence of 22.5% to 27.3% is considered significant, given that human behavior is influenced by millions of variables outside the model. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the influence model of expertise, trust, and attractiveness or commitment on autonomy, it can be concluded that the construct of human autonomy is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon. The R2 value, which ranges from 0.225 to 0.273, provides empirical evidence that the credibility of information sources and authority figures plays a significant but not the sole role in the process of forming individual autonomy.

Psychological independence is the dimension most responsive to credibility variables, making it the primary gateway to behavioral interventions. Meanwhile, economic and social independence require a more systemic approach and a broader environment to develop optimally. Understanding that the majority of independence (over 70%) is influenced by external variables such as economic policies, social structures, and environmental conditions, efforts toward independence must be undertaken through a holistic approach, addressing not only individual aspects but also improving the surrounding societal structures.

3.6. Predictive Relevance (Q^2) with PLS $_{Predict}$ ($Q^2_{Predict}$)

structural model evaluation is to assess the model's predictive ability through *Predictive Relevance* (Q^2) analysis using the PLS- *Predict* or Q^2 Predict approach. This test aims to evaluate the model's ability to accurately predict indicator values for endogenous constructs, including data not used in the model estimation process.

Table 3.3
LV PredictionPLS $_{Predict Results}$

	Q^2predict	**RMSE**	**MAE**
Economic Independence	0.217	0.887	0.739
Social Independence	0.199	0.897	0.743

Psychological Independence	0.229	0.880	0.734

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

Based on the data in table 3.3, it shows that Independence has different Q^2 predictors, namely:

1. Psychological Independence (0.229): Has the highest predictive relevance, indicating that the exogenous variables in the model are able to predict variations in psychological independence with the highest level of accuracy compared to other dimensions.
2. Economic Independence (0.217): Shows that the model has a solid ability to predict the economic independence conditions of research subjects based on existing theoretical predictors.
3. Social Independence (0.199): Although the lowest of the three, this value still shows substantial predictive relevance, far exceeding the average benchmark's predictive ability.

The finding that the Q^2 Predict value > 0 is a crucial indicator that the structural model is not only capable of explaining the relationships between constructs in the existing dataset, but also has sufficient predictive relevance to be applied to new observations. In the context of research on independence variables covering economic, social, and psychological dimensions, achieving a positive Q^2 Predict value > 0 indicates that the theoretical framework constructed has reliable external validity.

3.6. Variance Inflation Factors (VIF)

Variance Inflation Factors (VIF) are used in structural model evaluation to assess potential multicollinearity issues between exogenous constructs in the research model. VIF testing is essential to ensure that causal relationships between latent variables are not distorted by excessive correlations between predictors, ensuring that the resulting path coefficient estimates are stable and validly interpreted (Hair et al., 2022).

Table 3.4.
Multicollinearity Test (VIF)

Track	VIF
Skills -> Economic Independence	3.464
Skills -> Social Independence	3.464
Expertise -> Psychological Independence	3.464
Trust -> Economic Independence	4.449
Trust -> Social Independence	4.449
Trust -> Psychological Independence	4.449
Attraction/Commitment -> Economic Independence	5.399
Attraction/Commitment -> Social Independence	5.399
Attraction/Commitment -> Psychological Independence	5.399

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

Based on the results of the multicollinearity test as presented in Table 3.4, it is known that *the Variance Inflation Factors* (VIF) values for all relationship paths between constructs are in the range of 3.464 to 5.399. The VIF value for the expertise path towards economic, social, and psychological independence is 3.464 each,

while the trust path towards the three dimensions of independence shows a VIF value of 4.449. The Attraction or commitment path towards economic, social, and psychological independence has the highest VIF value, namely 5.399.

Referring to Hair et al. (2022), a VIF value below 5.0 indicates that multicollinearity is not at a problematic level, while a VIF value below 3.3 is considered ideal . Although there are several paths with VIF values slightly above 5.0, this condition is still tolerable in the context of social research involving multidimensional and conceptually interrelated latent constructs. Hair et al. (2022) emphasized that VIF values up to 5.0-10.0 are still acceptable as long as they do not cause significant distortions to the path coefficient estimates and the model remains stable overall.

3.7. Effect Size Test Results (f ^{2})

Effect size (f²) analysis was conducted to assess the contribution of each exogenous construct to the variance of the endogenous construct in the research model. The f² value provides information on the magnitude of the individual influence of an independent variable on the dependent variable, so it does not only rely on the path coefficient *and* R^2. Evaluation of f² helps determine the strength of the effect between variables, whether the effect is small, medium, or large, according to the criteria set by Cohen (1988). Based on Cohen's (1988) guidelines, f $^2 \geq 0.02$, f $^2 \geq 0.15$, and f $^2 \geq 0.35$ represent small, medium, and large effect sizes, respectively. *The effect size* (f²) value provides a basis for practical interpretation regarding the importance of the contribution of each construct in explaining the variance of the endogenous variable.

Table 3.5.
***Effect Size* Test Results (f ^{2})**

Track	f-square	Criteria
Skills -> Economic Independence	0,000	No effect
Skills -> Social Independence	0.142	Small effect
Expertise -> Psychological Independence	0.136	Small effect
Trust -> Economic Independence	0.001	No effect
Trust -> Social Independence	0.006	No effect
Trust -> Psychological Independence	0.002	No effect
Attraction/Commitment -> Economic Independence	0.026	Small effect
Attraction/Commitment -> Social Independence	0.037	Small effect
Attraction/Commitment -> Psychological Independence	0.010	No effect
Performance x Skills -> Economic Independence	0,000	No effect
Performance x Skills -> Social Independence	0.001	No effect
Performance x Expertise -> Psychological Independence	0.056	Small effect
Performance x Trust -> Economic Independence	0.008	No effect
Performance x Trust -> Social Independence	0.044	Small effect
Performance x Trust -> Psychological Independence	0.005	No effect
Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Economic Independence	0.049	Small effect

Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Social Independence	0.013	No effect
Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Psychological Independence	0.026	Small effect

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

Overall, the results of this *effect size test* indicate that most relationships between variables have small or no effect. This indicates that although some variables and interactions contribute to the independence of PKH beneficiaries, the magnitude of their influence is relatively limited.

The research data above demonstrates a striking disparity in impact across dimensions of independence. For example, mentoring skills have a nearly moderate impact on social and psychological aspects, but are completely paralyzed when dealing with the economic dimension. This confirms that knowledge transfer and behavioral guidance are far easier to achieve than efforts to change the financial status of poor families trapped in structural problems.

3.8. The Direct Influence of Mentor Credibility on Independence

Path coefficient analysis using *bootstrapping techniques* reveals complex and sometimes paradoxical dynamics in the KPM empowerment process in West Java.
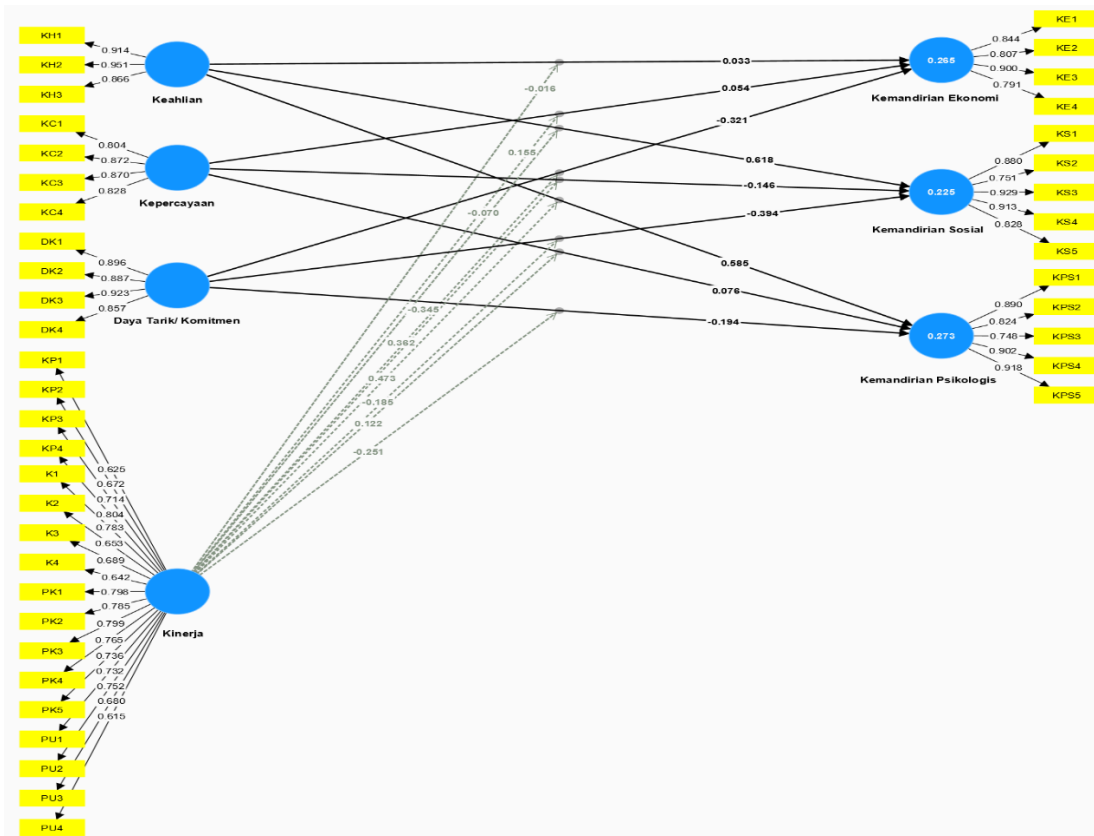

Figure 3.1 SEM-PLS Model PLS *Bootstrapping Estimation Results*

The SEM-PLS model, derived from *PLS bootstrapping estimation,* was used to test the significance of the influence between variables in the research structural model. Through the *bootstrapping procedure*, path

coefficients, *t-statistics* , and *p-values were obtained* , which served as the basis for decision-making regarding the research hypothesis. This allowed for the direct and moderating effects of performance on the relationship between the credibility of facilitators and the independence of PKH beneficiaries.

Table 3.6. Hypothesis Testing Results

Hypothesis	Path Coefficient	T statistics	P values	Information
Skills -> Economic Independence	0.033	0.505	0.307	Not Significant
Skills -> Social Independence	0.618	9.250	0,000	Significant
Expertise -> Psychological Independence	0.585	9.875	0,000	Significant
Trust -> Economic Independence	0.054	0.803	0.211	Not Significant
Trust -> Social Independence	-0.146	1.817	0.035	Significant
Trust -> Psychological Independence	0.076	1.137	0.128	Not Significant
Attraction/Commitment -> Economic Independence	-0.321	4.835	0,000	Significant
Attraction/Commitment -> Social Independence	-0.394	4.800	0,000	Significant
Attraction/Commitment -> Psychological Independence	-0.194	2.644	0.004	Significant
Performance x Skills -> Economic Independence	-0.016	0.176	0.430	Not Significant
Performance x Skills -> Social Independence	-0.070	0.742	0.229	Not Significant
Performance x Expertise -> Psychological Independence	0.473	6.101	0,000	Significant
Performance x Trust -> Economic Independence	0.155	2.468	0.007	Significant
Performance x Trust -> Social Independence	0.362	4.421	0,000	Significant
Performance x Trust -> Psychological Independence	0.122	1.876	0.030	Significant
Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Economic Independence	-0.345	5.415	0,000	Significant
Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Social Independence	-0.185	2.828	0.002	Significant
Performance x Attraction/Commitment -> Psychological Independence	-0.251	4.824	0,000	Significant

Source: Research Data Analysis Results, 2025

1. The test results obtained a *path coefficient value* of 0.033 with *a t-statistic* of 0.505 (<1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.307 (>0.05). This finding indicates that expertise (X1) does not have a significant positive effect on economic independence (Y1), so hypothesis H1.1 is rejected. This finding indicates that the expertise of the facilitator has not been able to provide a real impact on increasing the economic independence of beneficiaries.

2. The analysis results show a *path coefficient value* of 0.618 with *a t-statistic* of 9.250 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This indicates that expertise (X1) has a significant positive effect on social independence (Y2), thus hypothesis H1.2 is accepted. This confirms that the expertise of the companion plays a significant role in building the social capabilities of PKH beneficiaries.

3. The results of the study showed a *path coefficient value* of 0.585 with *a t-statistic* of 9.875 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05) indicating that expertise (X1) has a significant positive effect on psychological independence (Y3), so that hypothesis H1.3 is accepted. This finding indicates that the expertise of companions can increase the psychological independence of PKH beneficiaries.

4. The test results show *a path coefficient* of 0.054 with *a t-statistic* of 0.803 (<1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.211 (>0.05). This finding indicates that trust (X2) has a significant positive effect on economic independence (Y1), thus rejecting hypothesis H1.4. This indicates that although the direction of the effect is positive, the level of trust is not yet strong enough to drive real changes in the economic independence of PKH beneficiaries.

5. The analysis results show *a path coefficient* of -0.146 with *a t-statistic* of 1.817 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.035 (< 0.05). This indicates a significant but negative influence, thus rejecting hypothesis H1.5 because the direction of the influence does not align with the positive hypothesis. The high level of trust that PKH beneficiaries place on their facilitators can reduce social independence by encouraging dependency in social interactions, thus reducing social independence.

6. The results of the study showed a *path coefficient value* of 0.076 with *a t-statistic* of 1.137 (<1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.128 (>0.05) indicating that trust (X2) did not have a significant positive effect on psychological independence (Y3), so that hypothesis H1.6 was rejected. This indicates that trust in a companion is not enough to significantly influence psychological independence.

7. The test results show *a path coefficient* of -0.321 with *a t-statistic* of 4.835 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This indicates a significant but negative influence, thus rejecting hypothesis H1.7 as the direction of the influence does not align with the positive hypothesis. High levels of companion attraction can reduce the economic independence of PKH beneficiaries by encouraging dependency in decision-making and economic activities, thus reducing initiative and motivation to develop independent businesses.

8. The results of the research analysis showed a *path coefficient value* of -0.394 with *a t-statistic* of 4.800 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This indicates a significant but negative influence. Therefore, hypothesis H1.8 is rejected because the direction of the influence does not align with the positive hypothesis. This indicates that high companion attractiveness has the potential to reduce the social initiative of PKH beneficiaries because it encourages dependency and passivity in social interactions.

9. The results of the research analysis showed *a path coefficient* of -0.194 with *a t-statistic* of 2.644 (> 1.64) and *a p-value* of 0.004 (< 0.05). This indicates a significant but negative influence, thus rejecting

hypothesis H1.9 because the direction of the influence does not align with the positive hypothesis. Excessive emotional closeness between companions and PKH beneficiaries can weaken psychological independence by fostering emotional dependence. This condition results in PKH beneficiaries having a low level of psychological independence.

10. The test results show *a path coefficient* of -0.016 with *a t-statistic* of 0.176 (<1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.430 (>0.05). This finding indicates that the moderating effect of performance is insignificant, meaning that performance (Z) does not strengthen the positive influence of expertise (X1) on economic independence (Y1), so that hypothesis H2.1 is rejected. This finding indicates that performance has not been able to increase the effectiveness of expertise in encouraging economic independence.

11. The results of the study showed a *path coefficient value* of -0.070 with *a t-statistic* of 0.742 (<1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.229 (>0.05) indicating that performance did not significantly moderate the relationship, meaning that performance (Z) did not strengthen the positive influence of expertise (X1) on social independence (Y2). Thus, hypothesis H2.2 was rejected. This indicates that the relationship between expertise and social independence is relatively stable without being influenced by the level of performance of the companion.

12. Based on the analysis results, *the path coefficient* is 0.473 with *a t-statistic* of 6.101 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This finding indicates that performance positively and significantly moderates the relationship, meaning that performance (Z) strengthens the positive influence of expertise (X1) on psychological independence (Y3), so that hypothesis H2.3 is accepted. This finding indicates that high performance makes the companion's expertise more effective in building psychological independence.

13. Based on the analysis results, *the path coefficient value* is 0.155 with *a t-statistic* of 2.468 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.007 (< 0.05), indicating that performance acts as a significant positive moderator, meaning that performance (Z) strengthens the positive influence of trust (X2) on economic independence (Y1). Thus, hypothesis H2.4 is accepted. This indicates that trust will have a greater impact on economic aspects when supported by good companion performance.

14. The test results show *a path coefficient* of 0.362 with *a t-statistic* of 4.421 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This finding indicates a positive and significant moderating effect, meaning that performance (Z) strengthens the positive influence of trust (X2) on social independence (Y2), thus hypothesis H2.5 is accepted. This finding confirms that the performance of the companion strengthens the role of trust in encouraging social independence.

15. Based on the research results, *the path coefficient value* is 0.122 with *a t-statistic* of 1.876 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.030 (< 0.05), indicating that performance significantly moderates the relationship, meaning that performance (Z) strengthens the positive influence of trust (X2) on psychological independence (Y3). Therefore, hypothesis H2.6 is accepted. This indicates that the performance of the companion increases the effectiveness of trust in building psychological independence.

16. The results of the research analysis show *a path coefficient* of -0.345 with *a t-statistic* of 5.415 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This finding indicates that performance significantly moderates but in a negative direction, so that hypothesis H2.7 is rejected because performance actually weakens the influence of attraction on economic independence. High performance of companions accompanied by strong personal attraction tends to increase the dependence of PKH beneficiaries, so that KPMs are more likely

to follow directions rather than develop initiatives and economic independence. Therefore, performance acts as a moderating variable that weakens, not strengthens, so it needs to be balanced with an empowerment approach that reduces dependence.

17. The results of the research analysis showed a *path coefficient value* of -0.185 with *a t-statistic* of 2.828 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.002 (< 0.05), indicating a significant but negative moderating effect. Thus, hypothesis H2.8 was rejected in terms of the direction of the relationship because performance actually weakens the influence of attractiveness on social independence.

18. The test results show *a path coefficient* of -0.251 with *a t-statistic* of 4.824 (> 1.64) and *a p-value of* 0.000 (< 0.05). This finding indicates that performance moderates significantly but in the opposite direction, so hypothesis H2.9 is rejected because performance weakens the effect of attractiveness on psychological independence. High companion attractiveness , when accompanied by intensive performance, tends to increase emotional dependence, thus decreasing the psychological independence of PKH beneficiaries.

To overcome the stagnation of economic independence, integration between PKH and productive empowerment programs such as the Indonesian Economic Heroes (PENA) is crucial. PENA offers a more aggressive approach by providing capital assistance in the form of business equipment and raw materials, rather than consumer cash. This program aims to screen KPM who have business start-ups and the potential to become economically independent.

The sustainability of the PENA program depends heavily on the quality of social facilitators who act as *link persons* or liaisons between beneficiaries and the business ecosystem, from raw material providers to digital market access. By leveraging information technology, beneficiaries' MSME products can reach a wider market, significantly increasing household income and accelerating the process of graduating to independent prosperity. This aligns with the adage: ***"Social Assistance is Temporary, but Empowerment is Forever."***

The findings regarding the small strength of the effect and the negative influence of the companion attractiveness dimension provide a strong signal for the need to re-engineer the PKH policy in the future.

1. Reorienting Competence of Social Workers : Training programs for social workers should not focus solely on technical-administrative skills, but should also include in-depth psychosocial intervention techniques to build client autonomy. Social workers need to be equipped with *empowerment coaching skills* , which teach them how to provide motivation without creating emotional dependency.

2. Strengthening Professional Boundaries : The Ministry of Social Affairs needs to develop ethical standards and practical guidelines for managing interpersonal relationships between caregivers and beneficiaries. This aims to prevent the phenomenon of covert paternalism that hinders beneficiaries' independent initiative.

3. Recertification System Reform and Exit Strategy : Recertification instruments must be implemented rigorously, transparently, and based on objective data to minimize *inclusion errors* . Clear participation time limits (e.g., 5-6 years) need to be enforced, along with a transitional safety net to help beneficiaries adapt when cash assistance is no longer available.

4. Multisectoral Economic Synergy : Economic independence cannot be the sole responsibility of one ministry. Program convergence is needed between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, and the Ministry of Manpower through instruments such as the "Affirmative Business Card" that connects beneficiaries with access to formal capital and professional job training.

5. Digitalization and Service Innovation : The use of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and data integration through the National Socio-Economic Single Data (DTSEN) must continue to be encouraged to improve targeting accuracy and reduce transaction costs for poor communities in remote areas.

4. Conclusion and Suggestions

4.1. Conclusion

1. Empowering PKH recipients in West Java Province toward economic, social, and psychological independence is a complex and challenging process. Empirical evidence shows that despite the high credibility of social assistants, their impact on independence is not always linear.
2. Companionship skills are a key driver for mental and social transformation, but they are completely paralyzed in the face of structural economic barriers without adequate capital support and a market ecosystem.
3. The most fundamental finding of this analysis is the identification of the "Dependency Paradox": overly charismatic and overly helpful companions inadvertently perpetuate the KPM's dependency mentality.
4. Trust will only produce real change if it is activated by professional performance that is oriented towards achieving independence targets, not just administrative services.
5. To achieve the target of independent and prosperous graduates, West Java must lead the transition from a social assistance model that is based on assistance to a human agency development model that positions the poor not as objects of assistance, but as active subjects who have the power, will, and autonomy for a better future.

4.2. Suggestions

1. Because expertise, trust, and attraction or commitment have a significant influence on the three dimensions of independence, strengthening these variables should be a priority in intervention programs. Such as Human Resource Capacity Building , Local Economic Institution Development , Counseling and Psychological Support , Multisectoral Synergy of community empowerment must be carried out in an integrated manner between the government, the private sector, and educational institutions to create an ecosystem conducive to independence.
2. Given the negative impact of the attractiveness of mentors on social initiatives, it is recommended that the Ministry of Social Affairs or relevant agencies redesign training for PKH mentors. The focus of training needs to shift from strengthening the mentor's personal profile to empowering facilitation techniques, to ensure that the mentor's charisma does not hinder the beneficiary's independence and social engagement.
3. The "positive influence" hypothesis is rejected because the presence of mentors actually serves as a substitute for local strengths, not a supplement . For the program to be successful, mentors must be able to gradually "disappear" as the community's capabilities increase. Successful mentoring is one that ultimately makes the role of the mentor itself unnecessary.
4. The research findings that reject H2.1 provide important lessons for policymakers *at* both the regional and national levels. Programs that focus solely on training (skills) and increasing work hours (performance) have proven insufficient to create an economically independent community. Therefore, an empowerment strategy is needed that places greater emphasis on gradually reducing dependency.

This can be done through several mechanisms: Redefining the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Facilitators : Facilitators' performance should no longer be measured solely by data accuracy or KPM attendance, but should include indicators of "KPM Independent Initiative" and "Reduction of Facilitator Intervention." Strengthening P2K2 as a Laboratory of Independence : P2K2 materials should not be delivered top-down, but should use a dialogic collaborative learning method to foster critical awareness. Group -Based Empowerment (Peer Support) : Shifting KPM dependency from facilitators to peers through Joint Business Groups (KUBE) or the PENA program, so that the social capital built is horizontal, not vertical-paternalistic. Graduation-Oriented Empathetic Communication : The personal appeal of the companion must be used as a tool to motivate the KPM to believe that the KPM has a better future outside the assistance program.

5. Future research in this area should be directed at identifying other variables capable of explaining the remaining variance, such as the role of digital technology, social capital, and macroeconomic stability, in order to formulate a more comprehensive model of independence for society in the era of global disruption.

6. An intersubjective approach that recognizes the limitations of the facilitator's authority is needed. Facilitators must learn to "fail strategically," intentionally allowing beneficiaries to face difficulties and minor setbacks so that beneficiaries can build resilience and self-efficacy. A facilitator performance should no longer be measured by the facilitator's efficiency in resolving client problems, but rather by how quickly the facilitator can make themselves "unnecessary" to the beneficiary.

7. Evaluation of the performance of PKH facilitators should not be limited to quantitative technical and administrative indicators. Performance indicators based on the quality of the empowerment process are needed, such as the facilitator's ability to build reflective dialogue and manage the emotional dynamics of relationships. Only by understanding and managing this performance paradox can the Family Hope Program truly achieve its goal of creating a psychologically and economically independent community, rather than simply one that is obedient and dependent on the assistance system.

8. The strategic recommendation emerging from this analysis is the need for a paradigm shift in the training of PKH facilitators. The focus of training should no longer be solely on the administrative or technical aspects of the program (sole expertise), but should also encompass the development of integrity embodied in concrete performance to build empowering trust. Furthermore, facilitators need to be educated on the limits of emotional closeness (attraction) so that it does not become a barrier to the independence of beneficiary families. By utilizing the results of hypothesis testing validated through bootstrapping, the PKH program can be directed more precisely toward achieving its long-term goal: breaking the intergenerational chain of poverty through true beneficiary independence.

9. Improving Competency Standards for Mentors: Given the vital moderating role of mentors , a continuous training system is needed for social mentors in aspects of micro-business management, communication psychology, and digital literacy.

10. Accelerating Graduation through the PENA Program: Expanding the reach of the PENA program by focusing on productive-age KPM who have high psychological independence, in order to accelerate the circulation cycle of assistance to other residents who are more in need.

11. Data Oversight Modernization: Utilizing the integrity of DTSEN data to conduct monthly feasibility evaluations to ensure the efficient and targeted use of the state budget. Social Stigma Reduction: Changing the identification method for Beneficiary Families (KPM) from physical labeling (house stickers) to digital labeling (QR codes) to maintain social dignity and prevent a decline in social independence due to feelings of shame or exclusion.

12. By implementing a strategy that focuses more on sustainable empowerment and the use of technology, PKH is expected to transform from a mere "survival" program into a "self-employed entrepreneur" program, which will ultimately be able to reduce the national poverty rate structurally and permanently.

13. Performance moderation provides a strategic solution: high trust will only benefit independence if combined with disciplined and results-oriented companion performance. Without strict performance monitoring, the dedication and charisma of the facilitators risk prolonging the poverty of beneficiaries by creating a comfort zone for the beneficiaries. The effectiveness of the Family Hope Program (PKH) in alleviating poverty will depend on a paradigm shift from charitable and paternalistic assistance to empowerment based on skills mastery and autonomous independence. This transformation requires a collective commitment from the government, social facilitators, and beneficiaries themselves to view assistance not as the end of the struggle, but as a stepping stone to a more dignified and independent life. Thus, the grand vision of breaking the chain of poverty in Indonesia can be realized by creating individuals who are not only economically prosperous, but also socially and psychologically resilient.

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