

MEASURING INCOME INEQUALITY IN MALAYSIA BASED ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEYS

(Pengukuran Jurang Pendapatan di Malaysia Berdasarkan Tinjauan Pendapatan Isi Rumah)

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ABSTRACT

Several policies have been introduced by Malaysian government with the aim of reducing the income inequality among the citizens. This study examines the changes in income inequality based on three different indices, which are Gini, Atkinson and generalized entropy using the household incomes data available from the surveys conducted in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014. Modification for each index is employed by taking sample weights into account for better measurement. Lorenz curves are fitted to the data to describe how the incomes of different household income groups are distributed over the time period. All the indices show a decreasing trend from 2007 to 2014, indicating an overall improvement of income distribution. The proportions of income earned by the low income groups have increased from 14.25% in 2007 to 16.28% in 2014 after taking economic pie from the higher income group while the middle class remains unchanged.

Keywords: Atkinson index; generalized entropy index; Gini index; Lorenz curve; inequality measure

ABSTRAK

Pelbagai dasar telah diperkenalkan oleh kerajaan Malaysia dengan tujuan untuk mengurangkan jurang pendapatan dalam kalangan rakyat. Kajian ini melihat perubahan jurang pendapatan pada tiga indeks yang berbeza iaitu Gini, Atkinson dan entropi umum menggunakan pendapatan isi rumah yang didapati daripada kaji selidik yang dijalankan pada tahun 2007, 2009, 2012 dan 2014. Pengubahsuaian terhadap setiap indeks telah dibuat dengan mengambil kira maklumat pemberat sampel untuk pengiraan yang lebih baik. Lengkung Lorenz dipadankan pada data untuk memerihalkan bagaimana pendapatan kumpulan pendapatan isi rumah berbeza dalam tempoh masa yang diukur. Hasil kajian mendapati, semua indeks menunjukkan trend menurun dari tahun 2007 hingga 2014, menjelaskan peningkatan keseluruhan pengagihan pendapatan. Perkadaran pendapatan yang diperoleh oleh kumpulan berpendapatan rendah telah meningkat daripada 14.25% pada tahun 2007 kepada 16.28% pada tahun 2014 setelah mengambil kira pai ekonomi dari kelompok pendapatan tinggi sementara kelas pertengahan tetap tidak berubah.

Kata kunci: indeks Atkinson; indeks entropi umum; indeks Gini; lengkung Lorenz; ukuran ketidaksamaan

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