

Association between Temperature and Relative Humidity in Relation to COVID-19

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to determine the association between temperature and humidity in relation to COVID-19 above 3°C. This was carried out in the cities of Bandung and Surabaya which have temperatures of about 22°C to 31°C. Data was analyzed using descriptive analysis and the Pearson and Spearman correlation for normally and abnormally distributed data. The results showed that there was no association between people under monitoring (ODP)/close contact, patients under surveillance (PDP)/suspect, and COVID-19 confirmed cases in relation to the temperature and humidity in Bandung and Surabaya. Furthermore, there was no relationship between temperature and humidity with ODP, PDP, and COVID-19 Confirmed cases in both cities, because they had a comfortably wet category (RH > 70%). This results are expected to provide information to the government that weather cases in Indonesia (temperatures around 26°C–30°C with humidity > 60%) do not affect the spread of COVID-19. In addition, it is expected that further studies would be carried out on other factors that influence the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia, for example, how the level of alternating flow in and/or out of the population into an area.

Keywords: Temperature; relative humidity; COVID-19

1 Introduction

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that currently exists worldwide. Based on the data from WHO, as of April 6th 2020, there were 1,210,956 confirmed cases and 67,594 deaths [1]. COVID-19 outbreak was first detected in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. It is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) [2]. Most people infected with the virus experienced a mild to moderate respiratory disease and later recovered without the need for special care. Meanwhile, for older people that were infected and have a history of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory illnesses, and cancer may experience different treatment in order to be cured. This is in line with [2] the study which stated that on February 11th 2020, there were 44,672 confirmed cases in China, and most of them were aged between 30 and 69 years (77.8%). Furthermore, 12.8% had hypertension, 5.3% diabetes and 4.2% cardiovascular, and 81% of the infected Chinese that died were 60 years and above [2,3]. The following



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individuals conducted a research on COVID-19, namely Ahmar [4] studied everything about COVID-19 and weather/climate, El Safty et al. [5] studied about Topological Modeling for Symptom Reduction of Coronavirus; Alblowi et al. [6] studied about decision making in COVID-19; Ahmar et al. [7–9] studied about forecasting COVID-19 in Spain, and Atuahene et al. [10] studied the effects of COVID-19 on the educational sector management and economy.

Temperature also has an effect in increasing the number of COVID-19 cases. Xie et al. [11] stated that “in China when mean temperature (lag 0–14) was below 3°C, each 1°C rise was associated with a 4.861% (95% CI: 3.209–6.513) increase in the daily number of confirmed cases”. However, there is no supporting evidence of this study which stated that the confirmed cases occurred at temperatures above 3°C. Shi et al. [12] also conducted a study on the relationship between temperature and absolute humidity with COVID-19 in China. The results showed that lower and higher temperatures might be positive for reducing the incidence of COVID-19. Furthermore, this is in line with Ma et al. [13] which stated that an increase in temperature and absolute humidity per 1 unit would be associated with a decrease in the death rate of COVID-19. Wang et al. [14] revealed that the arrival of summer and the rainy season in the northern hemisphere could effectively reduce the COVID-19 transmission in the region.

The COVID-19 case in Indonesia was detected on March 2nd 2020 in Jakarta and over time, the pandemic had spread to various provinces. As of April 7th 2020, more than 2738 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 32 provinces in Indonesia. Furthermore, more than 204 people have recovered and 221 people died [15]. Based on the outcomes, it was necessary to determine whether the temperature above 3°C would increase the number of COVID-19 cases. Therefore, this study was conducted in Bandung and Surabaya cities, Indonesia with an average temperature of around 24°C and 29°C.

2 Methods

2.1 Data Collection

The temperature and relative humidity data of both Surabaya and Bandung cities were obtained from BMKG (<http://dataonline.bmkg.go.id>) [16], while the COVID-19 data were obtained from the website of Surabaya (<https://lawanCOVID-19.surabaya.go.id>), and Bandung cities (<https://covid19.bandung.go.id>), respectively from March 6th to April 23rd 2020. These COVID-19 data consist of people under monitoring (ODP), patients under surveillance (PDP), and positive patients (Confirmed) [17]. Furthermore, people under monitoring (ODP) are those that have symptoms of fever more than 38°C and have a history of fever or ARI without Pneumonia and travelling to affected areas in the last 14 days before the symptoms appeared. Patients under surveillance (PDP) are those that have symptoms of fever more than 38°C and have a history of fever, ARI and mild to severe Pneumonia and travelling to the coronavirus epicenter or have made contact with people suspected to be COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days [17]. In addition, the data for confirmed cases of COVID-19 are those that have been officially announced by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia [15].

2.2 Statistical Analysis

Data was analyzed using descriptive analysis and the Pearson and Spearman correlation analysis for normally and abnormally distributed data. The stages of correlation data analysis are as follow:

- a) Data need to be standardized first, because their units differ.
- b) Test data normality
- c) Look for associations between temperature, humidity, ODP, PDP, and Confirmed cases variables by using Pearson correlation analysis for normally distributed data and Spearman rho correlation analysis for abnormally distributed data.

3 Result and Discussion

Based on [Tab. 1](#), the average temperature in Bandung during the COVID-19 period was 24.04°C (in the minimum temperature range of 22.30°C and a maximum of 25.60°C) with an average humidity level of 82.14%. Furthermore, the humidity of the city of Surabaya was included in the category of uncomfortably wet [18] and of high humidity with a normal limit of 30% to 60% [19]. A high humidity level >70% could trigger asthma and allergies. In addition, the average number of people with ODP status was about 63 people, PDP was 10, and patients with confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 was about 3 people per day with a standard deviation of 66, 13, and 7 respectively.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of temperature, relative humidity, and COVID-19 in Bandung

Statistics	Temperature	Relative Humidity (RH)	ODP	PDP	Confirmed
Mean	24.04°C	82.14%	63	10	3
Standard Deviation	0.78°C	5.17%	66	13	7
Range	3.30°C	23.00%	301	62	36
Minimum	22.30°C	69.00%	0	0	0
Maximum	25.60°C	92.00%	301	62	36
N	49	49	49	49	49

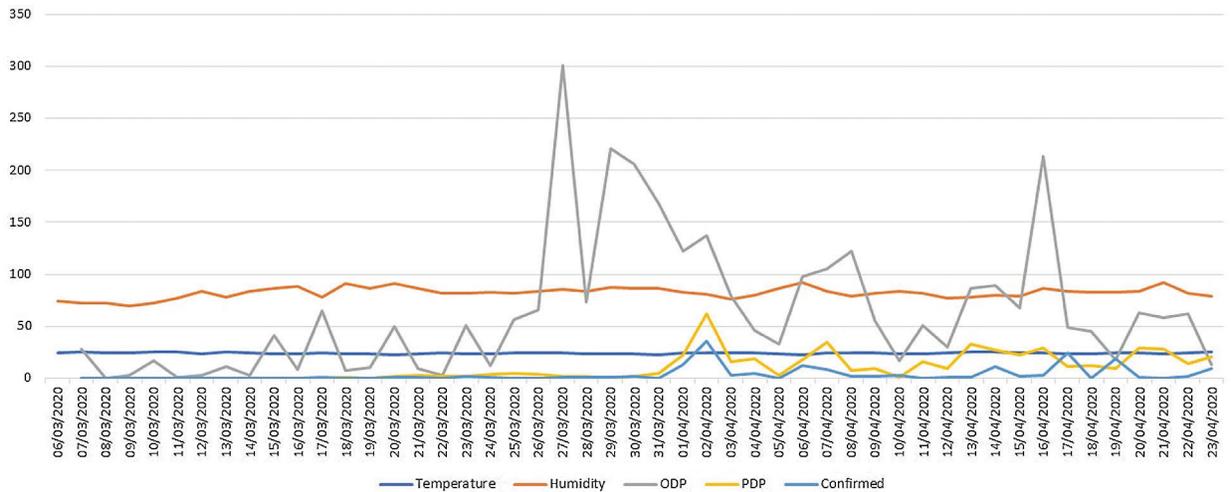
For the case of Bandung, based on [Tab. 2](#), the average temperature in Surabaya during the COVID-19 period was 29.34°C (in the minimum temperature range of 28.00°C and a maximum of 30.90°C) with an average humidity level of 78.97%.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of temperature, relative humidity, and COVID-19 in Surabaya

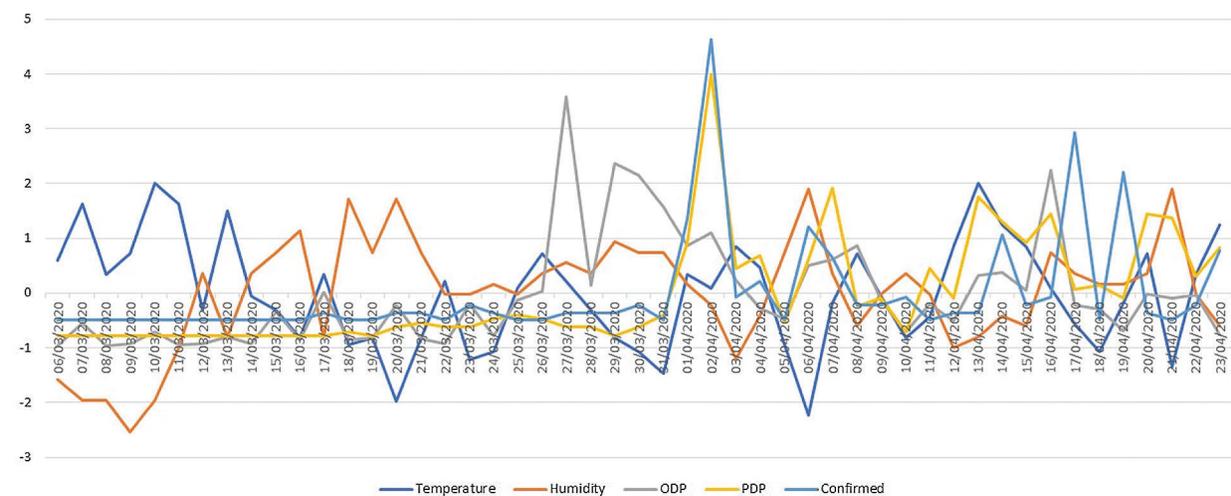
Statistics	Temperature	Relative Humidity (RH)	ODP	PDP	Confirmed
Mean	29.34°C	78.97%	62	28	9
Standard Deviation	0.74°C	3.38%	61	24	16
Range	2.90°C	13.00%	250	109	83
Minimum	28.00°C	72.00%	0	0	0
Maximum	30.90°C	85.00%	250	92	83
Sum	938.80°C	2527.00%	1990	888	302
N	32	32	32	32	32

[Figs. 1b](#) and [1d](#) show that at the beginning of the plot, the temperature curve was inversely proportional to the humidity curve, which is different from that of the PDP and confirmed cases that are directly proportional. Furthermore, based on [Figs. 1b](#) and [1d](#), temperature and humidity do not significantly affect the amount of ODP, PDP, and Confirmed cases. In Bandung, as of April 4th 2020, it was found that the ODP, PDP, and confirmed cases curves are directly proportional, in other words, when humidity rises, ODP, PDP, and confirmed cases would also rise. These things happen because the average high humidity level in Bandung (82.14%) could cause asthma which is an indicator of ODP and PDP. Furthermore, in order to determine more about the association between temperature and humidity in relation to the COVID-19 case, a correlation analysis was conducted. It was divided into 2 namely Pearson and Spearman rho correlation analysis. In order to determine the use of this analysis, the data normality test

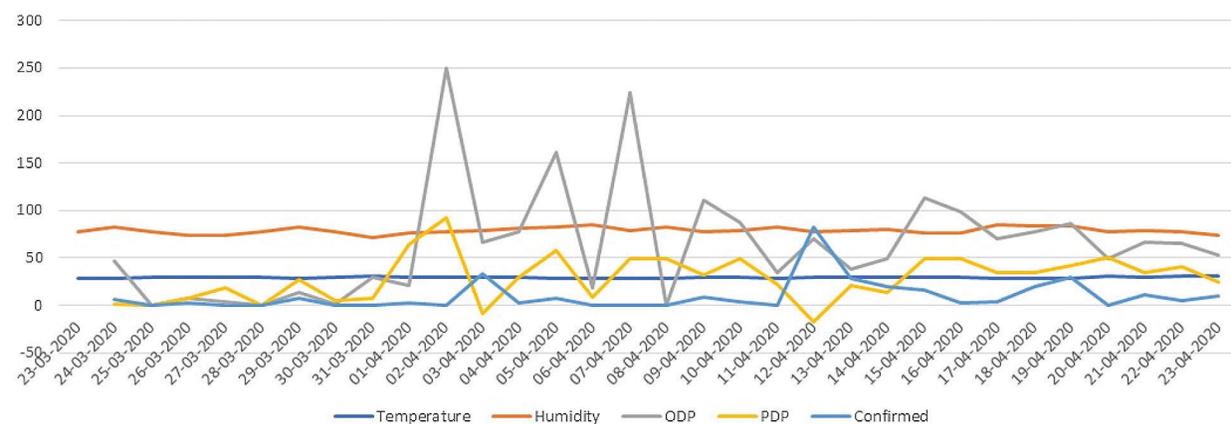
was first performed. When the data do not meet the normality test, Pearson correlation analysis is used and vice versa, before using the nonparametric correlation analysis (Spearman rho).



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 1: (continued)

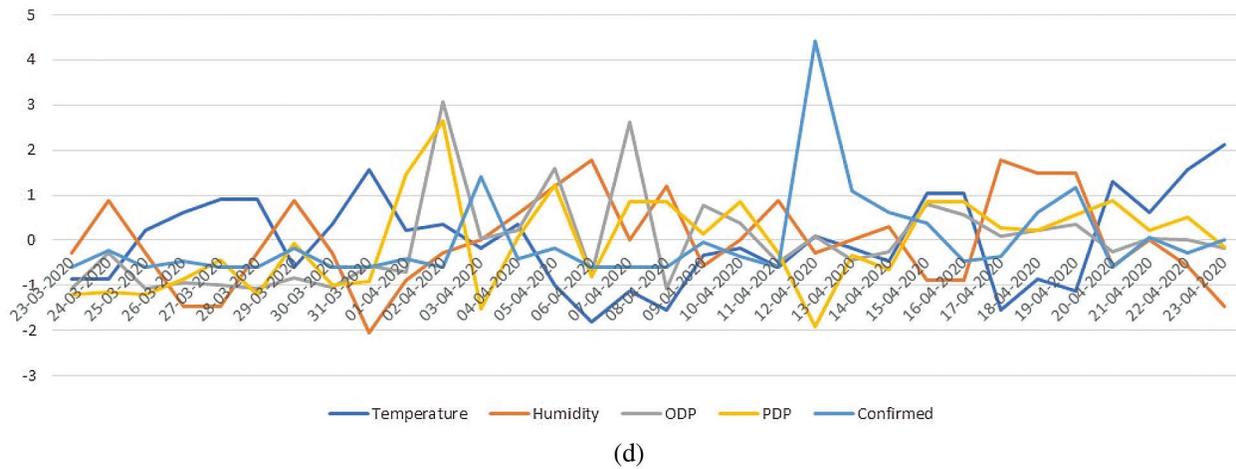


Figure 1: (a) Plots of temperature, humidity, and COVID-19 data in Bandung City; (b) Plots of temperature, humidity, and COVID-19 data in Bandung City that has been standardized; (c) Plots of temperature, humidity, and COVID-19 data in Surabaya City; (d) Plots of temperature, humidity, and COVID-19 data in Surabaya City that has been standardized

From the results of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov normality test in Figs. 2 and 3, it was found that in the city of Bandung, the data that did not meet the normality test (P -value < 0.05) were humidity, ODP, PDP, and confirmed cases, while the temperature data met the normality test (P -value > 0.05). This is inversely proportional to the city of Surabaya, whereby it was only the confirmed data that did not meet the normality assumption. The details of the correlation test are presented in Tab. 3 and the results of the correlation between temperature, humidity, and COVID-19 for the city of Bandung and the city of Surabaya are presented in Tabs. 4 and 5.

Tabs. 4 and 5 show that there is no relationship between ODP, PDP, COVID-19 confirmed cases with temperature and humidity. This is seen from the P -value of each variable which is $> \alpha = 0.05$. The results of this study are also in accordance with the opinion expressed by Yao et al. [20] whereby the average daily temperature was over 20°C (maximal temperature $>30^{\circ}\text{C}$) and could not reduce the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, Chan et al. [21] also stated that the transmission of SARS coronaviruses could be facilitated in low temperature and humidity environments in subtropical regions (such as Hong Kong). Furthermore, during spring and in air-conditioned environments, and some Asian countries located in tropical regions such as Indonesia, Thailand, or Malaysia which has high temperature and relative humidity, they do not have a large SARS outbreak in their community. Tabs. 4 and 5 also show that ODP, PDP, and Confirmed cases have positive correlations, but are included in the category of moderate (correlations around 0.4–0.6) for Bandung City. However, this is different in Surabaya City, whereby PDP and Confirmed cases had no correlation.

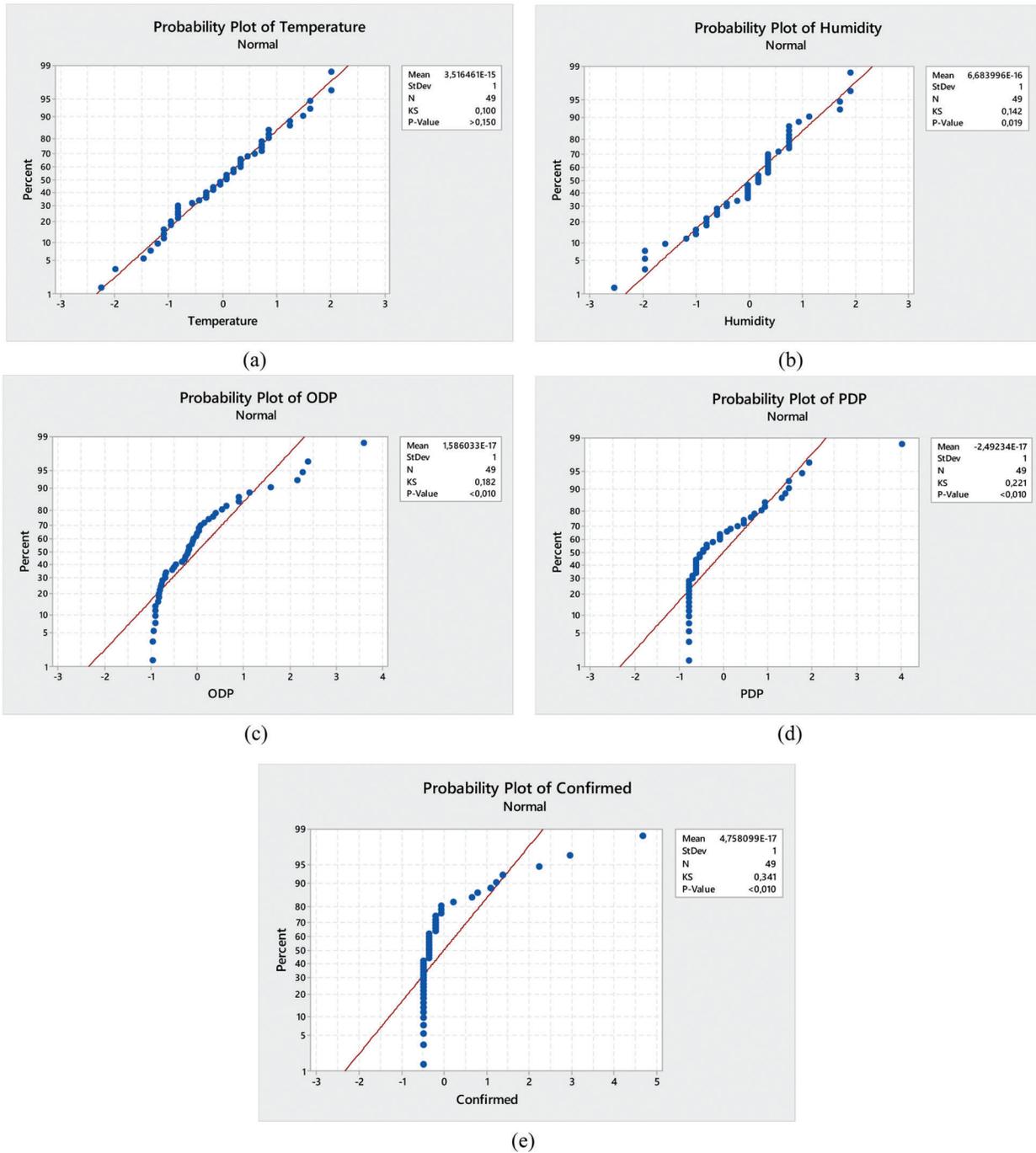


Figure 2: Kolmogorov–Smirnov normality test (a) Temperature data, (b) Humidity, (c) ODP, (d) PDP, and (e) Confirmed cases in Bandung

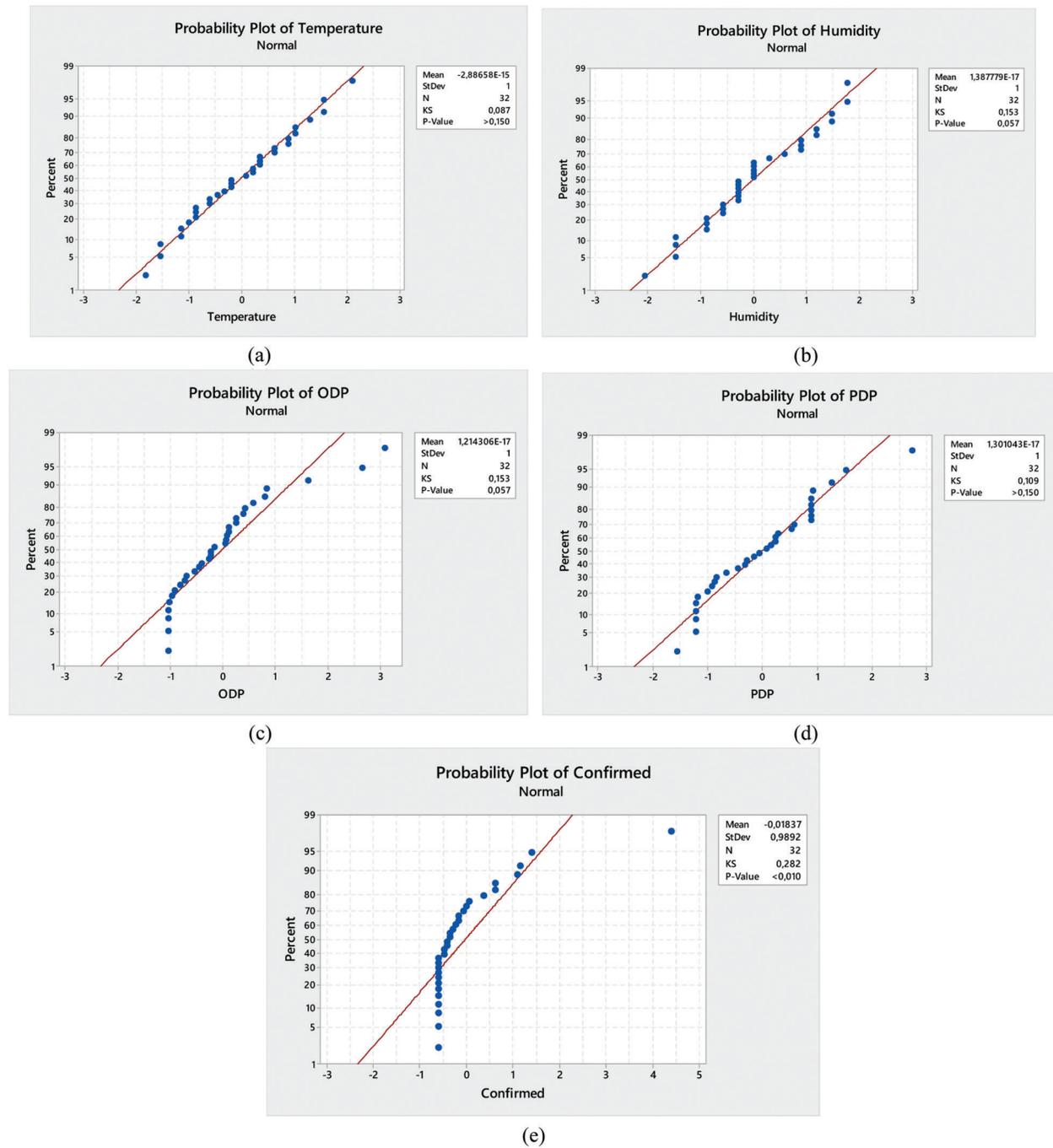


Figure 3: Kolmogorov–Smirnov normality test (a) Temperature data, (b) Humidity, (c) ODP, (d) PDP, and (e) Confirmed cases in Surabaya

Table 3: Correlation of temperature, relative humidity, and COVID-19 in Bandung and Surabaya

City		Correlation Test		
		ODP	PDP	Confirmed
Bandung	Temperature	Spearman rho	Spearman rho	Spearman rho
	Humidity	Spearman rho	Spearman rho	Spearman rho
Surabaya	Temperature	Pearson	Pearson	Spearman rho
	Humidity	Pearson	Pearson	Spearman rho

Table 4: Correlation of temperature, relative humidity, and COVID-19 in Bandung*

Status	Temperature	P-Value	RH	P-Value	ODP	P-Value	PDP	P-Value	Confirmed	P-Value
ODP	-0.073	0.620	0.239	0.098	1.000	<0.001	0.581	<0.001	0.530	<0.001
PDP	0.050	0.734	0.052	0.721	0.581	<0.001	1.000	<0.001	0.630	<0.001
Confirmed	0.027	0.856	0.004	0.980	0.530	<0.001	0.630	<0.001	1.000	<0.001

*Spearman rho.

Table 5: Correlation of temperature, relative humidity, and COVID-19 in Surabaya

Status	Temperature	P-Value	RH	P-Value	ODP	P-Value	PDP	P-Value	Confirmed	P-Value
ODP	-0.087**	0.638	0.086**	0.640	1.000**	<0.001	0.660	<0.001	0.445*	0.011
PDP	0.004**	0.984	0.078**	0.672	0.660**	<0.001	1.000	<0.001	-0.010*	0.958
Confirmed	-0.086*	0.639	0.197*	0.281	0.445*	0.011	-0.010*	0.958	1.000*	<0.001

*Spearman rho.

**Pearson correlation.

4 Conclusion

There was no relationship between temperature and humidity with ODP, PDP, and COVID-19 confirmed cases in the cities of Bandung and Surabaya. This is because these two cities have a comfortably wet category (RH > 70%). Temperature and humidity could have a relationship with COVID-19 when the temperature of the area is about 3°C and have a low humidity. Furthermore, the results of the study is expected to provide information to the government that weather cases in Indonesia (temperatures around 26°C to 30°C with humidity > 60%) do not affect the spread of COVID-19. It is expected that further studies would be conducted on other factors that influence the spread of COVID-19 In Indonesia. For example, how the level of alternating flow in and/or out of the population into an area. Although the results of the study showed that there was no relationship. However, it is important to be careful of high humidity in the two cities, because it would trigger asthma and allergies.

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