

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Iloilo, Philippines: An Evaluation

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Abstract - *This study attempted to evaluate the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Iloilo, Philippines. The Input-Process-Output Model was used. The participants were the 327 beneficiaries selected through random sampling method. Four municipalities in the Province of Iloilo with high poverty incidence, gap, and severity were included in the study. The data were gathered through survey-checklist form. The statistical tools used were frequency count, percentage, and mean done through the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Results revealed that there was ample evidence on the improvement in the preventive healthcare among pregnant women and younger children. Improvement was observed in the reduction of malnourished children. Results also showed an increase in the enrollment of children in public schools. Likewise, the attendance rate of children also increased. Accordingly, the decrease was observable in the incidence of child labor among children. The decrease to nearly 0% in the drop-out rate of school children was an indication of improvement. Moreover, the results showed that the beneficiaries spent the largest amount of income on food, followed by education, hospitalization (medicine), and savings. In the same manner, the 4Ps program increased parents' participation in the Family Development Sessions to nearly 100%.*

Keywords - *conditional cash transfer program (CCT), poverty gap, poverty severity, poverty incidence, the pantawid pamilyang pilipino program (4Ps)*

INTRODUCTION

One factor that is associated to the health status of an individual is poverty. Persons suffering from poverty are getting sick easily for they are often exposed to environmental health risks. These persons are also less well-nourished and have less access to healthcare and education that could aid them for a healthy lifestyle. The poorest of the poor around the Philippine archipelago and even in the province of Iloilo have the worst health condition.

Indeed, the country has been facing problems and challenges concerning poverty and inequality. Factors that are associated to these problems may include inequalities among income groups and unmanaged population growth.

In 2012 Annual Poverty Statistics of the National Statistical Coordination Board, reported that one in every five Filipino families (19.7 percent) was poor. Also, PhP 5,513 should be the income of a Filipino family of five to meet their basic needs in a month. And to stay above the poverty threshold, PhP 7,890 should be needed to meet the monthly income of basic and non-basic needs [1].

Specifically, in Western Visayas, PhP5,258 should be the monthly income of a family of five to meet their basic needs. In order for them to overcome poverty, they should have an income of PhP 7,512 to have sufficient income to meet their needs. The poverty thresholds of the region increased by 12.9% from year 2009-2012. However, 25.9% increase was recorded in terms of poverty threshold [1].

To address this problem the Philippine government implemented the social assistance program known as the Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT). This cash transfer program was renamed by the government and is now known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's), with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the lead agency in championing the poverty alleviation strategy program of the government [2].

The researcher considered it worthwhile to evaluate the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) as a poverty-reduction strategy of the government designed for the poorest among the poor households which has serious implications to the

quality of life especially in the aspects of education and health and nutrition of every individual. In addition, the researcher evaluated the status of the program, whether there are improvements in the quality of life among the beneficiaries after three years of its implementation, especially in the poorest municipalities in the Province of Iloilo.

In addition, the 4Ps is a flagship program of the government in poverty alleviation of the country implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development with the key partner government agencies in the Province of Iloilo. The findings of this study may benefit the officials of the concerned government agencies, such as the national and local government units, DSWD, DepEd, DOH, 4Ps beneficiaries, and the researcher himself.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study sought to evaluate the cash transfer program of the government known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) in the municipalities with high poverty incidence, high poverty gap, and high poverty severity in the Province of Iloilo. Specifically, this study sought answers to the following questions: What is the rate of improvement in the preventive healthcare among pregnant women and young children? What is the rate

of increase of enrolment and attendance of children in school? What is the reduction rate in the child labor incidence? What is the expenditure pattern of poor households? What is the rate of increase of parents' participation in the family development sessions?

METHODS

This study was conducted to evaluate the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the four poorest municipalities in the Province of Iloilo for the year 2012-2013. The Input-Process-Output Model of program evaluation was used as research design [3].

The participants in the study were the 327 4P's beneficiaries chosen on the basis of the municipal poverty incidence index in the Province of Iloilo. As to the municipal level small area estimates, the top four (4) municipalities in the province of Iloilo were as follows: Carles, Concepcion, Lemery, and San Dionisio [4].

The multistage random sampling method was used to determine the sample size used in the study. From each municipality, the researcher decided to choose two barangays through random sampling technique. In determining the sample size from each barangay, the researcher used the random sampling technique through the Slovin's Formula [5].

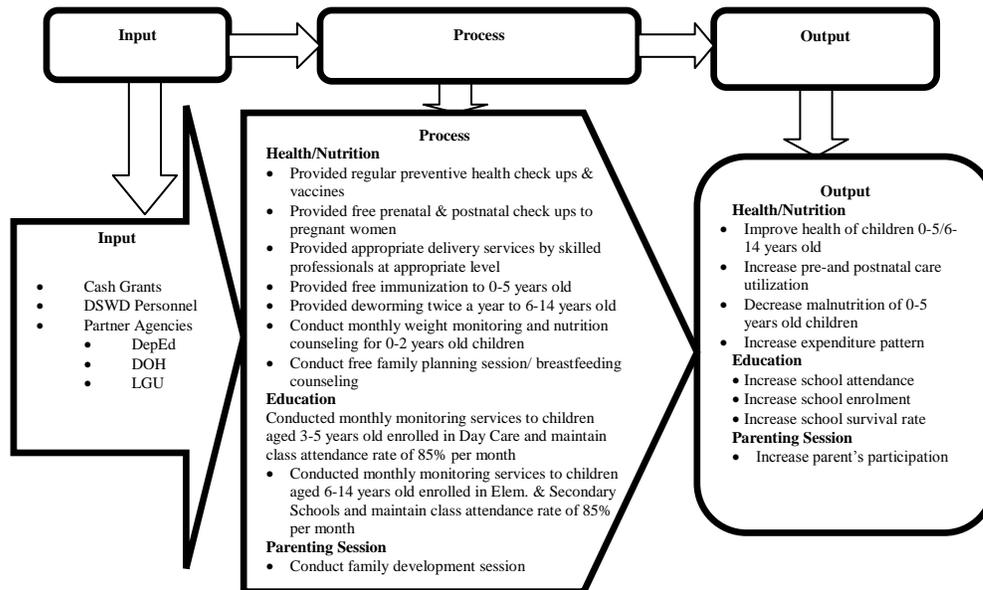


Figure 1. Flowchart of transformation in Input-Process-Output model.

The actual distribution of participants by barangay and municipality is shown in Table 1. Lastly, the researcher employed simple random sampling method study through lottery.

The data needed in this study were gathered through a researcher-constructed survey-checklist form. In addition, the said survey-checklist form was content validated by five jurors. Similarly, descriptive data analysis were analyzed through frequency counts, percentages, rank, and mean.

Table 1. Distribution of 4Ps Beneficiaries

Municipality	Barangay	Population Size	Sample Size
Carles	Bancal	288	52
	Lantangan	395	72
Concepcion	Talotu-an	294	53
	Tambaliza	282	51
Lemery	Milan	86	16
	Pob SE Zone	104	19
San Dionisio	Mandu-Awak	195	35
	Tiabas	159	29
Total		1803	327

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section describes the rate of improvement in the preventive healthcare among pregnant women and young children, rate of increase in the enrolment and attendance of school age children, the reduction rate in the child labor incidence of the expenditure pattern of poor households, the rate of increase of parents' participation in the family development sessions experienced by the 4P's beneficiaries in high poverty incidence municipalities in the Province of Iloilo.

Rate of Improvement in the Preventive Healthcare among Pregnant Women and Young Children

Table 2 presents the results on the rate of improvement in the preventive healthcare among pregnant women and young children before and after

the implementation of the 4Ps program. To determine the rate of improvement, the researcher obtained mean and percentage.

Results revealed that an increase of 47.40% was evident in the immunization of children (0-5 years old). Also, 36.50% was noted on the children who complied with growth and monitoring protocol. Likewise, 44.17% was recorded on children who received the deworming pills twice a year. In addition, a decrease of -8.26% was observed on malnourished children. Also a decrease of -13.46% was noted on the growth of stunted children (0-5 years old).

Another indication of improvement was also evident in the preventive healthcare among pregnant women. An increase of 25.46% on the pre-and post-natal check-ups and 19.88% increase on women getting check-ups in the first trimester of pregnancy. Likewise, the number of pregnant women who availed of the services of trained health professionals increased to 20.18 percent.

Generally, results revealed that improvements were shown in the high rate of change. Hence, the 4P's program had met its objective on keeping children and women healthy.

The results of the study are congruent to the findings conducted in the country Peru [6], there was an increase of 30% in the Juntos program immunizations of children under one year of age in one year implementation of the program. Another evidence of increase was noted in pre-and post-natal visits to health centers of approximately 65 percent. Also, there was a decrease noted in birth delivery at home.

Studies conducted in Sudan and Somalia [7] showed that the households overcome barriers which then resulted in the increase of health monitoring and preventive healthcare services.

Table 2. Rate of Improvement in the Preventive Healthcare among Pregnant Women and Young Children

Item	Mean		Rate of Change
	(Before)	(After)	
No. of children fully immunized (0-5 y.o.) per family	2.65	3.13	47.40%
No. of children who complied with growth monitoring Protocol per family	2.51	2.87	36.50%
No. of pre- & post-natal check-ups per mother	3.10	3.35	25.46%
No. of women getting a check-up in the first trimester per mother	0.90	1.10	19.88%
No. of women assisted by trained health worker during delivery per mother	0.49	0.70	20.18%
No. of children received the deworming pills twice a year per family	3.01	3.45	44.17%
No. of malnourished children per family	0.01	0.03	-8.26%
No. of stunted children five years and below per family	0.22	0.09	-13.46%

Table 3. Rate of Increase in the Enrolment and Attendance of Children in School per Family

Item	Before	After	Rate of Change
Number of children enrolled in Day Care/Pre-school aged 3-5 years old	1.60	1.92	32.11%
Number of children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools aged 6-14 years old	2.30	2.76	46.18%
Attendance rate of pupil enrolled in Day Care/Pre-school	85.61	96.9	10.58%
Attendance rate of children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools	86.71	97.1	11.09%

Table 3 presents the results on the rate of increase in the enrolment and the rate of attendance of children in school. A before-and-after comparison of the enrolment and attendance rate of children provides some early indications of the program success.

The results showed that an increase of 32.11 percent in the pre-schoolers (3-5 years old). Another evidence of increase of 46.18 percent was observable in the enrolment of elementary/secondary schools (6-14 years old). As to attendance rate, 10.58 percent increased was observed among pre-schoolers. Likewise, the rates of attendance of children in elementary/secondary schools (6-14 years old) were increased to 11.09 percent.

The findings of the evaluation study on enrolment and attendance rate of children in school are early indications that the 4Ps program met its objective of helping to keep poor children in school within three years of implementation in the areas under study.

A study conducted in the Philippines [8], to document the causal effect of the 4Ps program on school participation. According to the record in 2011, appositive impact was identified because of an increase in enrolment among children aged 9-12. These children received educational benefits under the 4Ps program. In general, 6-17% was estimated effect of the program on the younger cohort.

The results likewise seem to conform to the findings of the research on the CCT experience in Ecuador [9], that when International Food Policy Research Institute conducted an evaluation, favorable education outcomes were identified from the experience of Progresa. Also, the evaluation revealed that there was an increase of enrolment of pupils particularly of the girls. There was also an increase in secondary school where 6% was recorded for boys and 9% for girls. In case of the girls, an increase of 15

percentage points was recorded for the transition rate for girls who dropped out before the secondary school. In addition, a raise of 9 and 13 percentage points were recorded on CCT programs in Bangladesh and Nicaragua.

Table 4. Reduction Rate in the Incidence of Child Labor per Family

Item	Before	After	Rate of Change
Number of school age children aged 6-14 y.o. who are not enrolled in Elem/High School	0.25	0.00	-25.08%
Number of school age children aged 3-5 y.o. who are not enrolled in Day Care Center	0.17	0.01	-16.83%
Number of drop-out children in Elem/High Sch.	0.14	0.01	-13.76%

To ascertain the data on the reduction rate in the child labor incidence, the researcher obtained the mean and percentage in a before-and-after comparison of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) implementation.

Table 4 shows a decrease in the incidence of child labor among 4P's school-age children within three years of implementation of the 4Ps program in the four subject municipalities. The results indicated that school age-children were officially enrolled in the schools where they reside.

An abrupt decrease was recorded in the percentage of children who were not enrolled in public pre-school of -16.83%. In addition, a decrease of -25.08% was noted in the elementary/secondary schools. Drop-out children were decreased to -13.76% in the children in elementary and secondary schools in the subject municipalities.

The rate of reduction in the child labor incidence is an indication that 4Ps program through Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the government is effective and therefore a contributory factor to reducing the number of drop-out children in school. Essentially, child labor is associated with early exit from school or drop-out and perhaps this can be linked to hazardous employment, especially on the part of the 4Ps children. Moreover, some children were not engaged in labor force, but rather considered as Out-of-School Youth (OSY).

The foregoing results support the findings of the study conducted in Nicaragua, indicating that there

was a decrease of 4-9 percent on the percentage of children among first to fourth grades who were working. Another results taken from Mexico, indicating a diverse of 15-25% of labor force participation of boys which is relative to the probability of participation before the implementation of the program [10].

On the contrary, the European Union reported that Filipino children aged 5 years old are already engaged in child labor according to the report of European Union. In order for the minors to endure 16 hours of work in mining areas, they were given drugs which is considered as violation with corresponding penalty. The report also showed that there is 14.20% of children are involved in child labor with 93.75% are boys and 6.25% are girls. Indirect employment for girls are implemented in small-scale mines. This is a dangerous act for government to be given consideration because this is a deadliest forms of employment. According to International Labor Corporation, accidents happen in small scale mine with which is 6-7 times higher than those of children recorded in sugarcane plantations [11].

Table 5. Expenditure Pattern of 4Ps Households per Family

Item	Mean(in Peso)		Change (in Peso)
	Before	After	
Amount spent for food per day	115.75	158.71	42.96
Amount spent for education per day	45.31	67.04	21.73
Amount spent for hospitalization (medicine) per month	34.29	54.42	20.13
Amount as savings per month	11.20	29.59	18.39

To determine the data on the expenditure pattern of the 4Ps beneficiaries, the researcher obtained the mean and percentage from a before-and-after comparison as related to the implementation of the 4Ps program.

Data in Table 5 indicate that there was a considerable improvement in the expenditure pattern of poor households living in the subject municipalities. The results showed that the 4Ps

beneficiary households increased their expenditure on food to Php42.96 per day. A change of Php21.73 per day was recorded in education of children. An increase in the amount of Php 20.13 per month was noted in hospitalization (medicine) of the 4P's beneficiaries. Lastly, savings of 4Ps beneficiaries increased to Php18.39 per month.

Household consumers living in underprivileged communities create greater adjustments in household spending on food, with income change and/or even changes in prices of the basic goods. Their second priority is education of children. Hence, education is the only way to uplift standard living in the future. Third priority of the 4Ps beneficiary households under study is health (hospitalization, medicine). Lastly, they paid less attention on savings of the families. Any budget in excess of budget for food, education and health automatically goes to the savings of the families.

Further, results confirmed that the impoverished Filipino household families have a propensity to spend big amount of money on food and other basic needs rather than on the area of education and savings of the household beneficiaries.

Results are in relationship with the report taken from Millennium Development Goal [12], in which it was clearly stated that in 2003, 30.40% of the Filipinos (24.70% of the Filipinos families) were declared as poor when it comes to overall poverty incidence. Moreover, a decrease from 69 to 40 percent in 1993 to 56.90 percent in 2003 was recorded among Filipino households with per capita income below 100 percent dietary energy requirement.

Table 6 presents the results on the rate of increase of parents' participation in the family development sessions of the 4Ps beneficiaries. To determine the rate of increase, the researcher obtained the frequency counts and percentages.

Table 6 shows that of the four (4) items under parents' participation in the family development sessions, only item number two (2), "Responsible

Table 6. Parent's Participation in the Family Development Sessions per Household

Item	Before		After		Rate of Change
	f	%	f	%	
Family Development Session	249	76.15%	327	100%	23.85%
Responsible Parenthood Session	284	86.85%	325	99.39%	12.54%
Family Counseling Session	293	89.60%	327	100%	10.40%
Family Development Education Session	297	90.83%	327	100%	9.17%

Parenthood Session”, came out as of not having a perfect score after the operation of the 4Ps program. The rest of the items got 100% after three years of program implementation on family development sessions.

Accordingly, all items show considerable improvement by comparing the percentage before and after the implementation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P’s). Hence, 4Ps program is effective by meeting its objective on parents’ participation in the Family Development Sessions by increasing the rate of change. The 4Ps beneficiary households seem to have realized the importance of Family Development Sessions. It has improved their knowledge and developed their self-confidence with regard to family-related matters.

Parent grantees were eager and willing to participate to learn and relearn some important matters related to family development sessions despite the time constraints; they made effort to spend their time to attend too.

Generally, the family development sessions conducted under the 4Ps program have positive impact on the basic unit of society, the family, thereby increasing to almost 100% after three years of implementation of the program.

The results likewise appear to strengthen the statement of one of the female beneficiaries interviewed [13] Social Sector Specialist, South Asia Human and Social Development, on the article entitled: “Observations of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in the Field”. He underscored that through the Family Development Sessions, she developed and gained self-confidence and felt like she had earned the so-called formal education. The Family Development Sessions also helped to broaden her perspective in life and taught her how to relate with others. She is no longer afraid to go places and be lost.

CONCLUSIONS

The 4Ps Program has helped improve the preventive healthcare among pregnant women and young children. This is evidence that the 4Ps program achieved its objective to help keeping children healthy. The program has helped improve the nutritional status of younger children (0-5 years old). Second, the 4Ps beneficiary children have more interest in school and more likely to attend regular classes as compared before the 4Ps implementation. Parent beneficiaries believe that investing in education is considered as the only ticket to break the cycle of

poverty and to have their children a brighter future. Third, the reduction rate in the child labor incidence is an indication that the cash transfer program through the 4Ps of the government is effective in attaining its objective. The incidence of child labor is associated with early exit from school and perhaps linked to hazardous employment. Parents have realized the importance of education as the only key to individual success. Fourth, the 4Ps program has achieved its objective in investing in the future of their children by allowing household beneficiaries to devote more to meeting the needs of children in education and health. Pantawid Pamilya is changing the expenditure patterns of poor households, with household beneficiaries spending more on food and education. Thus, improving the health of children has positive impact on education and vice versa. Being educated is often essential component for personal, moral, spiritual and social development of every individual. Lastly, well-fed and educated citizens are imperative for a productive country and society. Fifth, parent grantees have realized that participation in family development sessions is for their own good. In addition, parent beneficiaries are eager and willing to learn and relearn some important matters related to family development sessions conducted. Further, it made parents more confident and felt empowered to voice out their concerns about their situation for self-improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Firstly, appropriate coordination and proper linkages with health service providers should be strengthened and improved to the utmost extent to further guarantee the range of healthcare services.

Secondly, the government should be establish additional measures such as expanding the age of coverage of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P’s) and increasing the amount cash grant for those in the higher level of education of children. The program could be revised to a layer grant scheme similar to other CCT programs. In line with this, parallel supply-side interventions in the education sector are also highly recommended to ensure the success of education. In addition, the government should create provisions to support the four (4) year tertiary level of education with counterparting on the part of the beneficiaries so that the investment of the government can become productive.

Thirdly, that the government should expand the duration of coverage of the 4Ps program so that

children would complete their basic education. The government should establish policies and guidelines that would lessen the effects of poverty among Filipino families and that would help elevate the quality of their life and economic status.

Fourthly, the government should offer long-term investments rather than short-term outlay to answer the needs not only of the household beneficiaries but also of all Filipino families by creating and providing various jobs for the Filipino people to augment their income so much so that they will no longer suffer from overburden when it comes to the family's budget allocation. Further, monitoring of the fund disbursement by the beneficiaries should be strictly addressed so that the health and education of the children are not jeopardized.

Fifthly, livelihood training programs for the household beneficiaries should be established on top and/or even part of the Family Development Sessions of the government. In connection with this, government officials should strengthen the program conducted under the development sessions of the family. Through this intervention, parent grantees could maximize their time in attending the activity. Further, through this livelihood training program design, women participation should be encouraged and they have to be empowered to facilitate different household activities.

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