

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps): Assistance to Pupil's Education

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Abstract – *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a version of cash transfer program here in the Philippines under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, its aim is to eradicate extreme poverty in the Philippines by investing in health and education particularly to children from 0-18 years old. The research focused on the education of pupils with the 4Ps assistance. To verify the use, help and satisfactory level of this program to the pupils from poor families in the said school, the researchers used the quantitative and qualitative method. With the use of a rating scale, questionnaires and interview guide, it was revealed that pupils very satisfactorily benefit from the assistance given by the 4Ps in terms of Health and excellent in terms of Nutrition and Education. Thus, 4Ps has significant impact on pupils' education based on its beneficiary conditionalities, is able and motivated to attend classes because of adequate school supplies, satisfied meals, parasitic free stomach and supportive and active parents.*

Keywords – *4Ps, assistance, education, health, nutrition*

INTRODUCTION

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps (formerly Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino) is a version of conditional cash transfer program here in the Philippines under the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It aims to eradicate extreme poverty in the Philippines by investing in health and education particularly in children from 0-18 years of age. It is patterned on programs in other developing countries like Brazil (Bolsa Familia), Columbia (Familias en Accion) and Mexico (Oportunidades) (Defensor). The 4Ps program now operates in 17 regions, 79 provinces and 143 cities, and 1,484 municipalities covering 4,326,208 household beneficiaries (4Ps).

Masbate Province is one of the poor provinces, and one of the 4Ps beneficiaries. Wherein the goal of the program is to help poor residents to improve their health, nutrition, and education especially children from 0-18 years by providing cash grants (Social Assistance) and invest human capital (Social Development) (Defensor). Masbate is facing an extreme poverty, hunger, high growth of population, and malnutrition. Hence, 4Ps helps to resolve these existing problems for example, pregnant women and children visits health center for check-ups and vaccination, parents or guardians attend Family Development Sessions (FDS) for responsible parenting, and parents sent their children in public schools in behalf of the conditionalities to receive cash grants. However, there are issues emerged towards the proper use of cash grants, for example other parents or guardians spend the money for gambling and other expenditures instead of complying on the conditions.

In order to find out the answer regarding the issues, the study focused on the help and aid given by the program for the pupils to succeed in their schooling and complete their primary education. 4Ps as mentioned helps to improve education, and beneficiaries look forward on this perspective despite its short term implementation, ranging only for at most five years (4Ps Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines).

Indeed, the program and its major objective is to alleviate poverty and break its intergenerational cycle is still a big question as poor Filipino families, children, and pupils experienced today in our country particularly in Masbate province, specifically in Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School. However, every beneficiary aims for a positive change in their societal status with the help of this program, concerning their health, nutrition, and children's' education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS**Research Design**

This study used the quantitative and qualitative research method, wherein the researchers utilized the survey with the use of interview method, rating scale and questionnaire. The said interview method, rating scale, questionnaire helped the researchers find out the response of the beneficiaries (parent & pupil) and teacher toward the assistance given by the 4Ps program.

The researchers interviewed the Pupil beneficiaries one by one in the school. The responses of the respondents have to be synthesized into one to come up with a very dominant answer.

Respondents Profile

The respondents of this study are the beneficiaries of the 4Ps Program: Pupils studying in Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School, Bat-ongan, Mandaon, Masbate; Parent / guardian of the pupils who are also 4Ps beneficiary and; Teacher of the pupils.

Research Instrument

This Study used the Probability Sampling Technique, which is the lottery method or draw by lots. Out of 27 Elementary Schools with 4Ps beneficiaries in the entire District of Mandaon, the researchers come-up with Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School as the result of the draw, and obtained samples from respondents through Quota Sampling.

The method used in data gathering included an interview guide for eparent that was formulated in Mother tongue, while for teachers is the English language. The rating scale is also formulated in English, and in concrete words to be more comprehensible. The researchers found these methods useful and effective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Percentage of 4Ps Beneficiaries in Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School

No. of Teacher	Total population	No. of Pupils beneficiaries	%
11	447	295	66%

There are 295 pupils with 4P's benefits out of 447 total populations in Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School.

Table 2. Level of Satisfaction of Pupils with 4Ps benefits.

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) Benefits	WM	VI
Health		
1. I receive deworming pills twice a year.	4.02	VS
2. My weight is monitored every month.	4.37	E
Average Weighted Mean	4.19	VS
NUTRITION		
1. I eat my meal three (3) times a day.	4.84	E
2. My parents/guardian are able to give my daily school allowance ("baon")	4.63	E
Average Weighted Mean	4.73	E
EDUCATION		
1. I am able to attend classes everyday	4.37	E
2. My parents/guardians are able to pay my school contributions.	4.69	E
3. My parents/guardians are able to provide my school requirements (projects, school supplies, allowance, etc.)	4.74	E
Average Weighted Mean	4.56	E

Scale: 4.21- 5.00 – excellent (E); 3.41- 4.20 – very satisfactory (VS); 2.61- 3.40 – satisfactory (S); 1.81- 2.60 – fairly satisfactory (FS); 1.00-1.80 – not satisfactory (NS)

HEALTH. Two of health conditionalities or benefits including 6-14 years old should receive deworming pills twice a year and should have weight monitoring (4Ps DSWD, 2006). Study shows that pupils are very satisfactorily receiving deworming pills with the weighted mean of 4.02. As supported by (20th Century Hookworm Eradication, 2007) found treatments to increase enrollment, attendance, literacy and adult incomes, and based on (Randomized Trial in Kenya, 2000), found that school-based deworming reduces school absenteeism with 25%. Findings also revealed a weighted mean of 4.37 responded that they are excellently satisfied in terms in weight monitoring. As cited by (Conchada & Tiongco, 2014) that health check-ups and visiting the health center have increased because of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino

Program. Consequently, findings show that very satisfactorily they are benefited by 4Ps in terms of health with an average weighted mean of 4.19.

NUTRITION. Findings revealed from pupils' responses that they eat their meals three (3) times a day with a weighted mean of 4.84, considered as a help of financial support given by the 4P's to buy their daily food. From the financial support (Php 500/month) (4Ps DSWD, 2006) as well, that a weighted mean of 4.63 (excellent), pupils responded that their parents/guardian are able to give their daily school allowance ("baon"). As supported by the findings of (NFSMI, 2001) they found out those school-age children who eat breakfast does better on performance tests than with no breakfast. Same with the study conducted by wherein around 72% of respondents answered that they spend at least P200 on daily meals, and majority of them said that their food budget only partly covers 3 meals per day, based on this, the DSWD said the 4Ps program is "on track in achieving its goal of empowering poor families including the improvement of their nutritional status." However, (National Nutritional Survey) revealed that many Filipinos of being beneficiaries of government assistance programs or not- still suffer from undernutrition. Accordingly, findings revealed that pupils are excellently benefited by 4Ps in terms of their nutrition with an average weighted mean of 4.73.

EDUCATION. 4Ps gives Php 300/month as support for the education of pupils from 3-4 years, thus as a condition, a child enrolled in elementary school must maintain class attendance rate at least 85% per month (4Ps DSWD, 2006) and as expected by schools they can pay their contribution and provide school requirements (projects, school supplies, allowance, etc.). Findings show that pupils responded excellently that they are able to attend classes everyday with the average rating of 4.37, and motivated to go to school every day because of 4P's. Study also reveals that pupils of D.R.C.E.S. responded excellently with an average rating of 4.69 that their parents/guardian are able to pay their school contributions and 4.74 weighted average shows a excellently response of pupils that their parents/guardian are able to provide their school requirements (projects, school supplies, allowance, etc.). With the support of (Amico,1995) states, traditionally parent involvement in education has

included home-based activities (such as homework, encouraging children to read, and promoting school attendance) and school-based (such as attending PTA meetings, parent-teacher conferences, concerts and other school events, helping to raise money for various school-improvement projects, and voluntary at school during the day). Thus, study shows that 4Ps beneficiary pupils are excellently benefited by the program with an average weighted mean of 4.56.

Impact of 4Ps to the Pupil beneficiaries on their schooling

Table3. Attendance, Compliance of requirements, and Difficulties encountered by teachers in handling 4Ps beneficiary pupils.

Impact of 4Ps to the Pupil Beneficiaries on their schooling	YES		NO	
	f	%	f	%
1. Attendance.				
Are all of them attending their classes regularly?	6	55	3	27
2.Compliance of requirements	9	82	2	18
3.Difficulties encountered by teachers in handling 4Ps beneficiary pupils	3	27	7	64

- 1.
2. **Attendance.** Findings revealed that out of 11, 6 or 55% said that their pupils with 4Ps benefits are attending classes regularly and 3 or 27% said that sometimes attend the classes and sometimes not. Thus, it indicates that there is less absenteeism between the 4Ps pupils. However, this finding is in contrast with (IPC) that whether school attendance will translate into academic achievement, completion of education and eventually gain full employment remains blurry because of lack of other income generating opportunities, high cost of education and limited provision and duration of 4Ps as major constraints, their children's full acquisition and benefits of education. On the other hand, results showed that this differences may occur in different situations since teachers are mandated by DSWD , in Diogenes R. Cabarles Elementary School to monitor the attendance of his/her 4Ps pupils and because education is free. As supported by a study (Manasan,2011) that there is a significant improvement in school attendance and is already

evident in areas covered by the program wherein he found out that the number of students in public elementary schools grew from 0.6%. In 2004-2007 the 4Ps program is not yet implemented and raised to 3.7% in 2008-2010 when the program was already implemented.

Compliance. Study shows that 82% of teachers said that pupils with 4Ps benefits they are handling, comply the requirements (projects, contributions) however, 18% said no. This implies that almost of 4Ps beneficiaries pupils comply the requirements like paying HRPTA contributions. However, findings also show that 18% of teachers said that pupils don't comply the requirements in school. One of the respondents claimed that the "budget for contribution of project are spent in other expenses, like gambling, and hard liquor."

Difficulties encountered by teachers in handling 4Ps beneficiary pupils. Findings revealed 7 (64%) out of 11 said that they don't have difficulties encountered in handling 4P's beneficiary pupils and cited no example, however 3 (27%) also said they encountered difficulties, like absenteeism (most occurring reason) submitting projects, adequate of school supplies and lack of attention. Thus, study shows that there are difficulties encountered by teacher in handling 4Ps pupils but most of the teachers said they don't have.

Advantages in handling pupils with 4Ps benefits. Study shows majority of the respondents (teachers) said that there are advantages in handling pupils with 4Ps benefits. It reveals that the main advantage of this a) pupils always go to school and are able to attend classes and b) equipped with school supplies (paper and pencils). Other respondents claimed also that a) the parents of the pupils are actively paying school's contributions; b) parents support the pupils in project making and comply the school requirements, c) pupils sufficient have "baon", d) other advantages were pupils come to school without complaining about their meals, they are eager to learn, active in class, and participate actively in every school activity.

Occupation. Findings revealed that 68% of the occupation of parents is housekeeper/housewife and they are unemployed and 1% of them are fish vendor, student and carpenter and the remaining

percentage belongs to the farmers. As supported by (4Ps), the eligible households must be a resident of the poorest municipalities which is based on the 2003 Small Area Estimates (SAE) of the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB), those whose economic condition is equal to or below the provincial poverty threshold, those who have children from 0-18 years old and those who have agreed to meet the conditions specified in the program.

Table 4. Occupation of Parents of the Pupils Beneficiary

Occupation	f	%
Housewife/ Housekeeper	71	67
Farmer	24	23
Fish Vendor/Street Vendor	1	0.9
Carpenter	1	0.9
Student	1	0.9

Table 5. Monthly Income

Monthly Income	f	%
1-500	55	52%
501-1000	18	16%
1001-1500	12	11%
1501-2000	6	6%
2001-2500	7	7%
2501-3000	1	0.9%
3001-3500	4	4%
3501-4000	2	2%
4001-4500	0	0%
4501-5000	1	0.9%

MONTHLY INCOME. The income of the parents revealed from 1-500 of 52% of respondents. Findings revealed that they have a low income and it's only enough for their foods. However, findings also show that there are parents said they have a monthly income of Php 500 to Php 5,000. As supported also by (4Ps), the eligible households must be a resident of the poorest municipalities which is based on the 2003 Small Area Estimates (SAE) of the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) includes those whose economic condition is equal to or below the provincial poverty threshold.

VIEWS OF PARENTS ON 4Ps. Is 4Ps really helps your family especially in your children's education? Findings show that all of the parents answered YES. 50% of them stated that the 4Ps program with financial assistance given every month helps them to send their children in school and improve their children's health because they can afford to buy nutritious foods and vitamins (food supplement). One of the respondents claimed "4Ps is a great help for us especially in providing our children's needs, vitamins and for their education.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

A conclusion may review the main points of the paper, do not replicate the abstract as the conclusion. A conclusion might elaborate on the importance of the work or suggest applications and extensions.

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