



THE PANTAWID FAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSINGAL, ILOCOS SUR

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Abstract

This study aims to look into the implementation of the 4Ps in the Municipality of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Specifically, it determined the profile of the 4 Ps beneficiaries, their level of compliance to the conditionalities of 4Ps, issues/problems relative to its implementation, and aspirations of the members for better implementation. It used the descriptive method of research, convenience sampling, checklist questionnaire and open-ended questions, frequency, percentage, and mean. The findings show that the 4Ps members in Magsingal are among the poor; have a very good compliance on the conditionalities of the program especially on school attendance of their children and getting regular preventive vaccines, availing pre-natal care by pregnant women and having attended by a skilled birth attendant/midwife/nurse/doctor during child delivery. Problems relative to the 4Ps include some members who developed laziness and indulged in gambling, many do not attend regular meetings/seminars, not bring their children for regular medical check-up; some pawn their ATMs; late release of grants with many deductions such as fines, mortuary aid and snacks; and having unqualified members while some obviously indigent households are not members. It is recommended that the program implementers should look into the issues raised, strictly monitor the compliance of the members to the terms and conditions and remove those who are otherwise not qualified including members who frequently violate the conditions; 4Ps should be institutionalized; and livelihood projects with initial capital should be provided by the government to increase the chance of the members in alleviating their poverty situations.

Key words: compliance; conditionalities, 4Ps, poor, issues, aspirations

INTRODUCTION

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program refers to the 4Ps or CCTs (Conditional Cash Transfers).

Introduced by President Gloria Arroyo during the twilight of her administration, President Benigno Aquino adopted it as the main strategy to alleviate poverty during his administration. It is being implemented by the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) in the Philippines.

This program covers families with members whose age are within the bracket of 0-18 to ensure that the children beneficiaries will finish high school and have chances for employment. The household beneficiaries have to comply with certain conditionalities of the program which include getting regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines and also pre-natal care or attended by skilled birth attendant and post natal care (for pregnant women); and attending day care/preschool, elementary, or high school with 85% attendance (for children); mother's classes (for mothers); and parent effectiveness and responsible parenthood seminars (for parents).

The program benefits include cash assistance of P6,000 per year or P500 per month for Health and Nutrition; P3,000 per year or P300 per month per child for 10 months a year, to a maximum of 3 children per household for education or P1,400 per month for a family with 3 children in school.

Eligible beneficiaries are households whose economic condition is equal to or below the provincial poverty threshold; households that have children within 0-14 years old and/or have a pregnant woman at the time of assessment; and households that agree to meet conditions specified in the program.

The conditional cash transfer or the payments are made to the most responsible adult in the household (usually the mother) via Landbank Cash card.

The program aims to address the following millennium development goals (MDGs): 1) Reducing extreme poverty and hunger, 2) Achieving universal primary education, 3) Reducing child mortality, 4) Improving maternal health, and 5) Promoting gender equality & empowering women.

It converges the services of the following partner government agencies: Department of Health (DOH) to ensure that supply of health and nutrition services are available in the target provinces/cities/municipalities/barangays; Department of Education (DepEd) to guaranty that supply of schools, teachers, and education materials are available to 4Ps target provinces/cities/municipalities/barangays; Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to assist lead implementing agencies in capacitating target LGUs in accessing resources for the upgrading of facilities and to help in the monitoring and evaluation of program implementation, specifically, at the barangay level; Local Government Units (LGUs) to ensure the availability of supply for health and education in the target areas and to provide necessary technical assistance for program implementation; and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) to exercise oversight functions in the implementation of the program and provide data and statistics on poor communities in the country pursuant to its role as the coordinating and advisory body of the Social Reform Agenda (SRA).

The monitoring and evaluation system of 4Ps implementation are to be done at two levels. The *first* is the regular periodic monitoring (done every other month as basis for cash-grant payments) arranged into six major areas, namely, 1) list of 4Ps beneficiaries; 2) updating of household information and composition; 3) education compliance; 4) health compliance; 5) compliance with Capacity Building Package for household head grantees, such as parenting education and; 6) community participation and LGU commitment. These areas were deemed necessary to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of the program. The *second* is the conduct of spot-checking done every six months.

To improve the implementation of the 4Ps program, there is a need to assess the level of compliance on the 4Ps by the beneficiaries.

The result of the study shall be a basis to determine whether or not to recommend the 4 Ps as a regular and permanent mandate of the Department of Social Welfare and Development or to recommend "Strengthening 4 Ps to alleviate poverty" as a policy of the government. For these reasons, the researcher was motivated to conduct this study.

This study is significant to the *DSWD* to assess its implementation on the 4Ps and know the actions which may be vital to take; to the *community* to know the implementation of 4Ps in their place and comment for the necessary action to be done by the barangay captain; to the *evaluators* to know if they need to revalidate the poor family as qualified member/beneficiary of the 4Ps and to take proper action to those members who do not have good compliance to the conditionalities of 4Ps; and to the *lawmakers* as they may enact laws as the basis for the administration's good governance and in the effective delivery of its services to the needful Filipino.

It is also significant to those belonging to the poverty level (poor) for they are to be assisted from their hard life or poor condition of living. Finally, it is significant to our economic growth performance for poverty incidence will be minimized if not eradicated.

OBJECTIVES

Generally, this study aimed to look into the implementation of the 4Ps in the Municipality of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur.

Specifically, it sought the following:

1. To know the profile of the 4 Ps beneficiaries regarding:
 - 1.1 Sources of family income;
 - 1.2 Estimated average monthly income (excluding 4 Ps assistance);
 - 1.3 Number of family members
 - 1.4 Number of children, and
 - 1.5 Ages of children.
2. To determine the level of compliance on the conditionalities of 4 Ps as perceived by the beneficiaries;
3. To find out the issues/problems relevant to the implementation of 4Ps as perceived by the respondents; and
4. To know the aspirations for better implementation as perceived by the 4 Ps members.

METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive method of research. The data are presented in the textual and tabular form.

There were 30 barangays of Magsingal with registered 4Ps and 24 barangays were taken in this study using the convenience sampling whereby only those barangays that returned the questionnaires were included. There was a total of 212 respondents from the 24 barangays.

The data were gathered through a *checklist questionnaire* for the *level of compliance*, and *open-ended questionnaire* for the *issues about the implementation of 4Ps in the Municipality of Magsingal*, and *aspirations of members for the effective implementation of 4Ps program of the government*.

Frequency and Percentage were used to treat the profile, issues/problems, and the aspirations; while *Mean* was utilized to treat the data for the level of compliance on the conditionalities of the 4Ps.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Profile of the Respondents

The profile of the respondents covers their sources of income, estimated monthly family income, the number of family members, the number of children, and ages of children.

On source of family income, Table 2 shows that the greatest percentage (34.43% or 73) of the respondents live on farm labor; followed by farming with 25.47% or 54 respondents; and vending with 11.32% or 24 respondents. The least, on the other hand, live on painting, cosmetology, junk shop, domestic job, and nothing or no income with 0.47% or 1 respondent.

This finding implies that the 4Ps members in the Municipality of Magsingal do not have secured and stable source of income.

On estimated monthly family income, Table 2 reveals that a majority (122 or 57.55%) of the respondents claimed to have income below P5,000. The least (18 or 11.49%) of the respondents, on the other hand, claimed to have income belonging to the range of P10,000-P14,000.

This finding may mean that majority of the 4Ps members in Magsingal are poor for their income is below the poverty threshold which is P9,064 a month for a family with five members.

On number of family members, Table 2 presents that a great percentage (45.28% or 96) of the respondents claimed to have five or six members of the family. The least (4 or 1.89%), however, admitted having 9-10 family members.

This finding is an implication that majority of the 4Ps members in Magsingal do not have big families. Note that a family is composed of father, mother, and children. Five to six members of a family is considered here as the ideal size taking consideration on the citation of Gao (2015) that the latest ideal number of children for a small family is 2.9 or 2 to 3. Moreover, the ideal number of children considered by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the Philippines is four. Hence, the consideration of five to six members of the family as a small family or ideal size of a family.

On number of children, Table 2 displays that the greatest number (96 or 44.28%) of respondents affirmed to have three to four children only. The least (8 or 3.77%) of the respondents, on the other hand, professed to have seven to eight children.

The above finding may connote that majority of the 4Ps members in Magsingal are avoiding big family which usually indicates harder life because of many mouths to feed and members to clothe.

On number of children by age, Table 2 exhibits that most (201 or 94.81%) of the respondents contended that their children have ages belonging to the 7-12 bracket. The least (85 or 40.09%) of the respondents, however, assented that their children belong to the age bracket of 6 and below.

This finding may evoke that the children of most 4Ps members in Magsingal meet the age requirement for membership to the program.



Table 1. Profile of respondents.

Characteristics (Profile)	As a whole	
	f=212	%
<u>Sources of family income*</u>		
Buying and Selling	2	0.94
Carpentry	22	10.38
Cook	2	0.94
Cosmetology	1	0.47
Domestic Job	1	0.47
Dressmaking	3	1.42
Driving	7	3.30
Farming	54	25.47
Farm Labor	73	34.43
Fishing	4	1.89
Foreign Aid	4	1.89
Jueteng	2	0.94
Junk shop	1	0.47
Laundering	18	8.49
Masonry	7	3.30
Painting	1	0.47
Cattle Raising	13	6.13
Chicken Raising	6	2.83
Goat Raising	18	8.49
Hog Raising	11	5.189
Salary/wage	19	8.96
Store	6	2.83
Vending	24	11.32
None (no income)	1	0.47
<u>Estimated monthly family income (excluding 4Ps aid)</u>		
Below P5,000	122	57.55
P5,000-9,000	72	33.96
P10,000-14,000	18	8.49
<u>Number of family members</u>		
3-4	62	29.25
5-6	96	45.28
7-8	50	23.58
9-10	4	1.89
<u>Number of children</u>		
1-2	63	29.72
3-4	94	44.34
5-6	47	22.17
7-8	8	3.77
<u>Number of children by age*</u>		
6 and below	85	40.09
7-12	201	94.81
13-18	189	89.15
above 18	164	77.36

* multiple responses

Level of Compliance

Table 2 presents that overall the 4Ps members got an overall mean rating of *Very Satisfactorily Complied* with an overall score of 4.12 due to the *Always* and *Most of the Time* ratings in all the items.

The above finding is an implication of a very good compliance of the 4Ps members in Magsingal on the conditionalities of the program.

Table 3. The level of compliance on the conditionalities of 4Ps by the members.

Conditionalities	Mean	Descriptive Rating
1. Children get regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines.	4.25	A
2. Children attend school (daycare/preschool/elementary/high school) with at least 85% attendance.	4.60	A
3. Pregnant mother gets pre-natal care.	4.23	A
4. The pregnant mother was attended by a skilled birth attendant/midwife/nurse/doctor during child delivery.	4.22	A
5. Mother gets post-natal care.	3.97	MT
6. Mother attends mothers' classes.	3.69	MT
7. Attend parent effectiveness and responsible parenthood seminars.	3.86	MT
Overall	4.12	VSC

Legend: Item Rating Overall Rating
 4.21 – 5.00 Always (A) Outstandingly complied (OC)
 3.41 – 4.20 Most of the time (MT) Very Satisfactorily complied (VSC)
 2.61 – 3.40 Sometimes (S) Satisfactorily complied (SC)
 1.81 – 2.60 Rarely (R) Poorly complied (PC)
 1.00 – 1.80 Never (N) Not complied (NC)

Issues on 4Ps

Among the issues raised by the respondents, the major or top seven problems are: 1) There are members who no longer work for their living, just depend on the grant; 2) There are those who play gambling like tong-its and jueteng; 3) The 4Ps grant is released very late; 4) There are 4Ps members who do not attend meetings/activities nor follow conditions/rules/regulations; 5) There are very poor who are not 4Ps members; 6) There are many deductions upon receipt of grant, i.e., mortuary aid, fines, snacks; and 7) There are those who pawn their ATM cash card.

The above findings indicate that there are controversial issues on the implementation of the 4Ps in Magsingal though many members hesitated to comment.

Aspirations of 4Ps Members

The top seven major aspirations of the 4Ps members in Magsingal are: 1) The 4Ps should continue and become a mandate of the government and those poor or on poverty line should only be the members; 2) There should be strict monitoring to update qualified members and determine those members who do not follow conditions/rules/regulations; 3) More livelihood projects, either individual or by group, with initial capital to be provided by the government; 4) The grant should be increased; 5) The 4Ps grant should be given monthly and on a fixed date; 6) The college graduates who are children of 4Ps members should have an outright job; 7) The 4Ps grant should be given completely, no deduction.

The findings imply that there needs improvement on the implementation of the 4Ps program in Magsingal, thereby the existence of the aspirations of the members.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on the above findings, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. The 4Ps members in Magsingal are poor for they have no secured and stable source of income, have an income below the poverty threshold, maintain an ideal family size, and have children with ages covered by the 4Ps criteria.
2. The 4Ps members in Magsingal have a very good compliance on the conditionalities of the program especially on going to school with at least 85% attendance and getting regular preventive vaccines by the 4Ps children as well as getting pre-natal care and having attended by a skilled birth attendant/midwife/nurse/doctor during child delivery of the mother.
3. There are controversial issues in the implementation of the 4Ps program which must be looked into especially on laziness and gambling which has practiced by the beneficiaries, not religiously attending meetings/seminars by the members, not getting regular health check-up of their children, having members not belonging to the poor family and existence of poor family which is not included as member, late release of 4Ps grant and making many deductions on the grant like mortuary aid, fines, and snacks, and pawning of ATMs.
4. There are aspirations of the 4Ps members for better implementation of the program, such as, the 4Ps should continue and become a mandate of the government, strict monitoring to update qualified members and determine those members who do not follow conditions/rules/regulations, more livelihood projects with initial capital to be provided by the government, increase of grant and should be given completely, and children of 4Ps members should have an outright job after their schooling.

Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, the following are recommended:

1. The poor should truly be assisted by the DSWD in making them as 4Ps members and giving them livelihood training, initial capital, and guidance till they grow or live securely.
2. The implementers should strictly monitor the compliance of the 4Ps members in a way that the members should always be reminded of the conditionalities of the program, including the rules and regulations to maintain or improve more their level of compliance.
3. There should be a closer supervision on the implementation of the 4Ps program and that revalidation should be strictly done to address the issues in the Municipality of Magsingal, such that the names of those who are not qualified including members who frequently violate the conditions should be sanctioned, not removed (e.g., suspended for 1 month for 1st offense, 2 months for 2nd offense, and so on).
4. The government should have a look into the aspirations of the 4Ps members and perform the proper action so that the purpose of the program is perfectly served, such that the *4Ps should be institutionalized and livelihood projects with initial capital should be provided by the government* to the 4Ps to increase their chance of alleviating their poverty situations. Also, there should be *construction of infrastructure buildings* for graduate-children of 4Ps members *where they are trained for entrepreneurial activities* in order to have greater and more assurance of getting out from poverty. In this connection, there should be a **public-private partnership** to finance infrastructure buildings. Further, *coordination of the DSWD (Department of Social Work and Development), TESDA (Technical and Educational Skills Development Authority), SUCs (State Universities and Colleges) and Land Bank* should be done for the *entrepreneurial training* of the 4Ps children and later for the *financial support on their initial capital*.

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