Goals-Based Assessment of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Municipality in Laguna: Inputs for Program Enhancement

Abstract

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is the Philippines' flagship conditional cash transfer initiative aimed at alleviating poverty through social assistance and social development interventions. Despite its nationwide implementation, localized evidence on its perceived effectiveness remains essential for program refinement. This study assessed the perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in a selected municipality in Laguna, Philippines, focusing on its social assistance and developmental objectives and their association with beneficiaries' demographic characteristics. Employing a descriptive-quantitative research design, data were gathered from 160 registered beneficiaries using a validated survey instrument, exceeding the computed minimum sample size. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation) and inferential analyses (one-sample t-test and analysis of variance) were utilized to examine effectiveness levels and demographic associations. Results indicate that the 4Ps is perceived as very effective in delivering social assistance (M = 3.59) and promoting social development (M = 3.76), particularly in improving children's school enrollment and participation in family development sessions. Access to learning-related technology and internet resources was also rated effective (M = 3.24, SD = 0.75). However, the program was perceived to have limited influence on beneficiaries' long-term financial sustainability, such as savings accumulation and debt reduction. Moreover, no significant associations were found between beneficiaries' demographic profiles—age, educational attainment, income, family size, and employment status—and their assessments of program effectiveness. While the findings provide empirical support for the program's immediate social gains, the reliance on self-reported perceptions constitutes a key limitation and may not fully reflect objective socioeconomic outcomes. Nonetheless, the study contributes localized evidence that may inform policy enhancement, targeted interventions, and sustainability-oriented refinements of conditional cash transfer programs.

Keywords: *Senior Citizens, Services, Quality of Life, Satisfaction, San Antonio, Quezon*

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Introduction

The Philippine government's commitment to poverty alleviation is institutionalized through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), a conditional cash transfer (CCT) initiative modeled after successful social protection programs in Latin America. Introduced in 2007 and scaled nationally in 2008, the 4Ps has evolved into the country's flagship poverty reduction program, currently serving approximately 2.3 million households across 80 provinces, 734 municipalities, and 62 highly urbanized cities. Administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the program was formally institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310 in 2019, reinforcing the State's constitutional mandate to alleviate poverty and ensure access to adequate social services as enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Anchored in human capital theory, the 4Ps seeks to address poverty through both immediate income support and long-term investments in education, health, and family development. Cash grants are conditional upon compliance with school attendance, health check-ups, and participation in family development sessions, reflecting contemporary social protection frameworks that conceptualize CCTs as mechanisms for reducing vulnerability, enhancing household resilience, and interrupting the intergenerational transmission of poverty. From this perspective, program effectiveness extends beyond the monetary value of transfers to encompass beneficiaries' lived experiences and their capacity to translate program support into sustained social and developmental gains. A growing body of national and regional studies has examined the 4Ps, with much of the literature concentrating on program design, fiscal sustainability, and sector-specific outcomes. For example, a policy evaluation by Buenaagua (2022) for the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) highlighted the erosion of the real value of cash grants due to inflation, noting that benefit adjustments were introduced only in 2017 and 2020. The study further observed that, in comparative terms, the Philippine 4Ps ranks among the least generous CCT programs globally. While such macro-level analyses provide valuable insights into policy adequacy and financing, they offer limited understanding of how beneficiaries themselves assess program effectiveness within localized contexts.

At the micro level, Rusiana (2019) demonstrated that the 4Ps positively influenced the academic participation and financial capacity of pupil-beneficiaries, reinforcing evidence that cash transfers can mitigate educational barriers among disadvantaged populations. However, existing empirical work remains largely sectoral, often isolating education or health outcomes, and seldom captures beneficiaries' holistic perceptions of both social assistance and social development dimensions of the program. Moreover, the role of demographic characteristics in shaping these perceptions has received scant scholarly attention.

Addressing these gaps, the present study examines the perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in a selected municipality in Laguna using a descriptive-quantitative approach. Specifically, it evaluates beneficiaries' assessments of the program's dual objectives—social assistance and social development—and analyzes whether selected demographic variables are significantly associated with perceived effectiveness. By situating beneficiary perceptions within human capital and social protection frameworks, this study contributes localized, evidence-based insights into the implementation of national poverty alleviation policies. The findings aim to inform program refinement, enhance responsiveness at the municipal level, and support the broader goal of sustainable human development among disadvantaged Filipino households.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive–quantitative research design to assess the perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in a selected municipality in Laguna, Philippines. The design enabled the systematic measurement and description of key variables and the examination of statistical associations without inferring causality. Specifically, the study explored the relationship between beneficiaries' demographic characteristics and their perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in achieving its two core objectives: social assistance and social development. Data were collected through structured survey questionnaires and analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to generate empirical evidence relevant to program evaluation and policy enhancement.

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The study population consisted of 261 registered 4Ps beneficiaries who had been enrolled in the program for at least eight years as of October 2024. Simple random sampling was employed to ensure that each eligible beneficiary had an equal probability of selection, thereby enhancing sample representativeness. Using the SurveyMonkey Sample Size Calculator, a minimum sample size of 156 respondents was determined. To improve statistical robustness, data were successfully collected from 160 respondents, which was deemed sufficient to represent long-term 4Ps beneficiaries in the municipality.

Data were gathered using a researcher-developed questionnaire anchored on the goals and provisions of Republic Act No. 11310, which institutionalized the 4Ps. The instrument underwent content validation by six subject-matter experts, including officials from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local social welfare officers, a 4Ps program officer, and academic professionals. To enhance clarity and accessibility, the questionnaire was translated into Filipino and reviewed for linguistic accuracy.

The instrument comprised four sections: (1) demographic characteristics (age, educational attainment, employment status, household size, and monthly household income); (2) perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in delivering social assistance, including cash adequacy and immediate household needs; (3) perceived effectiveness in promoting social development through education, health access, and participation in family development sessions; and (4) informed consent and data privacy statements. Reliability testing yielded acceptable Cronbach's alpha coefficients following item refinement, with values of 0.722 for the social assistance scale and 0.703 for the social development scale, indicating satisfactory internal consistency.

Prior to data collection, formal permission was secured from the DSWD Regional Office IV-A CALABARZON. Ethical clearance was obtained from the institutional ethics review board to ensure respondent safety, confidentiality, and data protection. A pilot test involving 30 beneficiaries from neighboring barangays was conducted to validate the instrument and refine data collection procedures. Necessary revisions were made based on statistical and methodological feedback. Survey questionnaires were personally administered to eligible respondents with the assistance of barangay officials to facilitate access.

Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained prior to administration. Respondents' identities were anonymized, access to raw data was restricted, and all collected data were securely stored for analysis.

The study adhered to established ethical principles in social science research. Participants were fully informed of the study's purpose, assured of confidentiality and anonymity, and informed of their right to withdraw at any stage without consequence. All data were used exclusively for academic purposes and managed in accordance with institutional data protection and privacy protocols.

Descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were used to summarize respondents' demographic profiles and perceived levels of program effectiveness. Mean scores were computed to assess the perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in terms of social assistance and social development. Inferential analyses, including t-tests and analysis of variance (ANOVA), were conducted to determine whether significant differences existed in perceived effectiveness across demographic groups.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the 160 respondents in terms of age, employment status, educational attainment, household income, and household size. The profile provides essential context for interpreting beneficiaries' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age Group	<= 20 years old	5	3.13
	21-30 years old	3	1.88
	31 40 years old	36	22.50
	41-50 years old	68	42.50
	51-60 years old	41	25.63
	> 60 years old	7	4.38
Employment Status	Unemployed	104	65.00
	Employed	56	35.00
Educational Attainment	Elementary	48	30.00
	Junior High School	100	62.50
	Senior High School	4	2.50
	College	5	3.13
	None	3	1.88
Household Income	<= PHP 1,000	5	3.13
	PHP 1,001-5,000	88	55.00
	PHP 5,001-10,000	58	36.25
	PHP 10,001-15,000	4	2.50
	> PHP 15,000	5	3.13
Household Size	1-3	11	6.88
	4-6	97	60.63
	7-9	46	28.75
	>=10	6	3.75

n = 160

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In terms of age, the largest proportion of respondents belonged to the 41–50 age group (42.50%), followed by those aged 51–60 years (25.63%), indicating that the majority of beneficiaries were middle-aged to older adults. Only a small fraction of respondents were below 30 years old (5.01%). This age distribution is consistent with findings by Eslabon and Parreño (2022), who reported that older beneficiaries tend to express higher satisfaction with conditional cash transfer programs, particularly in relation to health, education, and nutritional support. The relatively low representation of younger beneficiaries suggests that perceptions captured in this study are largely shaped by households with longer exposure to program implementation.

With respect to employment status, 65.00% of respondents were unemployed, while only 35.00% reported being employed. This distribution aligns with previous studies indicating that a substantial proportion of 4Ps beneficiaries face limited access to stable employment opportunities (Togle et al., 2023). The high unemployment rate underscores the relevance of social assistance mechanisms in mitigating income insecurity among economically vulnerable households and highlights the continued dependence of beneficiaries on program support.

Educational attainment among respondents was generally low, with 62.50% having completed only junior high school and 30.00% reaching elementary level. Only 3.13% of respondents reported completing college education. This pattern is consistent with earlier research documenting limited educational attainment among 4Ps households (Magtagad et al., 2019; Togle et al., 2023). The prevalence of lower educational levels reinforces the importance of the program's social development component, particularly its emphasis on improving children's educational participation to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

In terms of household income, more than half of the respondents (55.00%) reported monthly incomes between PHP 1,001 and PHP 5,000, while 36.25% earned between PHP 5,001 and PHP 10,000. These income levels are consistent with prior studies showing that 4Ps beneficiaries typically fall within the lowest income brackets and rely heavily on cash transfers to meet basic needs (Zarsuelo, 2018; Togle et al., 2023).

The concentration of respondents in low-income categories highlights the financial vulnerability that the 4Ps is designed to address.

Regarding household size, most respondents reported having four to six household members (60.63%), followed by households with seven to nine members (28.75%). This finding aligns with Zarsuelo et al. (2018), who observed that 4Ps beneficiaries often belong to larger households with higher dependency ratios. Larger household sizes imply increased demands for food, education, and healthcare, further emphasizing the role of the 4Ps in supporting families with multiple dependents.

Overall, the demographic profile of the respondents reflects characteristics commonly associated with 4Ps beneficiaries—low income, limited educational attainment, high unemployment, and relatively large household sizes. These factors provide a critical backdrop for understanding beneficiaries' perceptions of program effectiveness and underscore the importance of sustained social assistance and human capital investments. The findings further suggest that complementary interventions targeting employment generation and adult education may enhance the long-term outcomes of the 4Ps.

Table 2 presents beneficiaries' perceptions of the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in delivering social assistance and improving household socio-economic conditions. The overall mean score of 3.59 (SD = 0.38) indicates that respondents generally perceived the program as very effective, reflecting strong agreement that the 4Ps plays a critical role in addressing immediate household needs and providing social protection for economically vulnerable families.

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Table 2
Perceived level of effectiveness of the 4Ps in Social Assistance

Indicators	Mean	SD	VI
I prioritize spending the cash incentives to improve living conditions.	3.89	0.40	Strongly Agree
The program plays a role in disaster preparedness and response for participating households.	3.66	0.76	Strongly Agree
I believe that the program contributed to reducing intergenerational poverty.	3.91	0.35	Strongly Agree
The program adapts to beneficiary families' changing needs and circumstances over time.	3.91	0.32	Strongly Agree
The program helps stabilize my household incomes.	3.75	0.57	Strongly Agree
The program has made buying things easier for my family.	3.73	0.55	Strongly Agree
The program has impacted my family's savings and investments.	2.87	1.09	Agree
The program leads my family to long-term improvements in household welfare.	3.79	0.58	Strongly Agree
The program impacted my/our debt levels.	2.84	1.24	Agree
OVERALL	**3.59**	**0.38**	***Very Effective***

***Legend**: 4.00 3.26 Strongly Agree (SA)/Very Effective (VE); 3.25 2.51 Agree (S)/ Effective (E); 2.50 1.76 Disagree(D)/Ineffective (I); 1.75 1.00 Strong Disagree(SD)/Very Ineffective (IE)*

High levels of agreement were observed across most indicators. Respondents rated the program most favorably in terms of its contribution to reducing intergenerational poverty (M = 3.91, SD = 0.35) and its capacity to adapt to beneficiaries' changing needs and circumstances over time (M = 3.91, SD = 0.32). Similarly, strong agreement was recorded for prioritizing cash incentives to improve living conditions (M = 3.89, SD = 0.40), stabilizing household income (M = 3.75, SD = 0.57), facilitating household consumption (M = 3.73, SD = 0.55), and supporting longer-term household welfare (M = 3.79, SD = 0.58). These results are consistent with previous empirical evidence demonstrating that conditional cash transfer programs enhance consumption smoothing and improve access to basic services, particularly in education and health (Calimag et al., 2023; Canlas et al., 2022).

In contrast, indicators related to longer-term financial outcomes received comparatively lower ratings. The perceived impact of the program on household savings and investments (M = 2.87, SD = 1.09) and on reducing household debt (M = 2.84, SD = 1.24) was rated as effective rather than very effective.

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This pattern aligns with World Bank (2020) findings that cash transfer programs tend to generate stronger short-term welfare gains than long-term asset accumulation, particularly when benefit levels are modest and not paired with livelihood support.

Overall, the findings underscore the effectiveness of the 4Ps as a social assistance mechanism that mitigates immediate economic vulnerability and supports basic household functioning. However, the weaker outcomes related to savings accumulation and debt reduction highlight important policy implications. To strengthen the program's developmental impact, social assistance should be complemented with financial literacy initiatives, livelihood and skills training, and employment-oriented interventions. Integrating these components may enhance beneficiaries' capacity to translate short-term assistance into long-term financial stability, thereby reinforcing the 4Ps as a comprehensive social protection strategy rather than a solely consumption-focused intervention.

The perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in advancing social development was examined across four core domains: healthcare access for pregnant women and children aged 0–5 years, deworming services for school-aged children (6–14 years), school enrollment and participation in family development sessions, and an overall assessment of social development outcomes. These domains reflect the program's human capital–oriented framework, which emphasizes health, education, and family engagement as pathways to long-term poverty reduction.

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As shown in Table 3.1, respondents perceived the 4Ps as very effective in facilitating access to healthcare services for pregnant women and young children, with an overall mean score of 3.73 (SD = 0.42). High levels of agreement were recorded across all indicators, particularly for school-based health services such as vaccinations and regular medical check-ups (M = 3.85, SD = 0.49), satisfaction with community healthcare services (M = 3.84, SD = 0.49), and reduced financial stress related to children's education and health needs (M = 3.83, SD = 0.45). These findings indicate that conditional health requirements under the 4Ps have effectively strengthened beneficiaries' access to preventive and routine healthcare services, thereby contributing to improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Table 3.1
Health check-ups for pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5

Statement	Mean	SD	VI
I have at least free prenatal consultation during each trimester of my pregnancy.	3.58	0.88	Strongly Agree
I receive pregnancy or lactation supplements when I am pregnant or lactating.	3.59	0.86	Strongly Agree
My children aged 0-5 receive health services according to the schedule determined by the Department of Health.	3.77	0.70	Strongly Agree
My family members and I visit a healthcare facility for check-ups regularly.	3.80	0.60	Strongly Agree
I am satisfied with the healthcare services provided in my community.	3.84	0.49	Strongly Agree
I have easy access to clean and safe drinking water.	3.69	0.55	Strongly Agree
I received medical assistance or health check-ups from the program coordinators.	3.64	0.82	Strongly Agree
My children receive health services (e.g., vaccinations and check-ups) at school.	3.85	0.49	Strongly Agree
I believe the program has reduced my financial stress regarding my children's education.	3.83	0.45	Strongly Agree
OVERALL	**3.73**	**0.42**	***Very Effective***

***Legend**: 4.00 – 3.26 Strongly Agree (SA)/Very Effective (VE), 3.25 – 2.51 Agree (S)/ Effective (E), 2.50 – 1.76 Disagree(D)/Ineffective (I), 1.75 – 1.00 Strong Disagree(SD)/Very Ineffective (IE)*

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Other health-related indicators, including regular visits to healthcare facilities (M = 3.80, SD = 0.60), access to clean and safe drinking water (M = 3.69, SD = 0.55), and receipt of pregnancy or lactation supplements (M = 3.59, SD = 0.86), also received strong agreement. The comparatively lowest-rated indicator—access to free prenatal consultations during each trimester (M = 3.58, SD = 0.88)—still reflected a high level of perceived effectiveness but suggests potential variability in service availability or quality across communities. This finding implies that while program compliance is generally achieved, disparities in local health system capacity may influence the consistency of prenatal care delivery.

These results are consistent with prior studies reporting improved utilization of maternal and child healthcare services among 4Ps beneficiaries (Braganza, 2018; Frufonga, 2015). However, as noted by Bustos et al. (2023), the capacity of cash transfers alone to address persistent nutritional and healthcare challenges remains constrained by structural limitations within the health system. From a policy perspective, these findings highlight the importance of strengthening coordination between the 4Ps and local health service providers to ensure equitable and sustained access to quality healthcare. Enhancing health infrastructure, expanding prenatal care coverage, and integrating nutrition-focused interventions may further amplify the social development gains of the program and reinforce its long-term human capital objectives.

Table 3.2 shows that deworming services for school-aged children (6–14 years) were perceived as very effective, with a mean score of 3.86 (SD = 0.52). This finding highlights the effectiveness of school-based health interventions implemented under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in promoting child health and supporting sustained educational participation. Regular deworming contributes to improved physical well-being, which is closely linked to reduced absenteeism and enhanced learning engagement among children.

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Table 3.2
Deworming at school children aged 6-14

Statement	Mean	SD	VI
My children aged six years old and above receive or take deworming pills twice a year at school.	3.86	0.52	Strongly Agree

***Legend**: 4.00 – 3.26 Strongly Agree (SA)/Very Effective (VE); 3.25 – 2.51 Agree (S)/ Effective (E); 2.50 – 1.76 Disagree(D)/Ineffective (I); 1.75 – 1.00 Strong Disagree(SD)/Very Ineffective (IE)*

The high level of compliance with deworming protocols reflects the program's effective coordination with Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. This result is consistent with the findings of Montilla et al. (2015), who documented significant improvements in child health and school attendance among 4Ps beneficiaries as a result of mandated health services such as deworming and routine health monitoring. Similarly, the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Third Wave Impact Evaluation reported that complementary health practices under the 4Ps—including vitamin supplementation and deworming—contribute positively to household well-being and child development.

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From a developmental perspective, these findings suggest that the integration of health conditionalities within educational settings strengthens the program's dual impact on health and schooling outcomes. Regular deworming not only addresses immediate health concerns but also supports longer-term human capital formation by improving children's readiness to learn. The results imply that sustained investment in school-based health services, coupled with consistent monitoring and inter-agency coordination, is essential to maximizing the long-term social development gains of the 4Ps. Strengthening these mechanisms may further enhance the program's effectiveness in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through improved child health, educational continuity, and overall well-being.

The results presented in Table 3.3 indicate a high perceived level of effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in advancing social development through children's school enrollment and family development sessions. The overall mean score of 3.69 (SD = 0.36) corresponds to a verbal interpretation of very effective, suggesting that beneficiaries recognize the program's substantial contribution to educational participation, parental engagement, and family well-being.

Table 3.3
Enrollment of children and family development sessions

Statement	Mean	SD	VI
The program is the main source of educational assistance for my children.	3.66	0.63	VE
My children's school attendance has improved since joining the program.	3.83	0.58	VE
My children have sufficient school supplies (e.g., books, notebooks, uniforms).	3.72	0.64	VE
The educational assistance from the program has improved my children's academic performance.	3.53	0.86	VE
I participate in health seminars or workshops organized by the program.	3.65	0.79	VE
My children have access to technology and the internet for learning purposes.	3.24	0.75	E
I have attended educational seminars or workshops as part of the program.	3.59	0.83	VE
I regularly communicate with my children's teachers about their progress.	3.84	0.51	VE
I support my children's education at home (e.g., helping with homework reading).	3.61	0.68	VE
My children feel motivated to continue their education because of the program.	3.81	0.62	VE
I gain new skills through the program.	3.48	0.98	VE
I feel more confident in handling family responsibilities due to the program.	3.89	0.35	VE
The program helps me develop better parenting skills.	3.91	0.32	VE
The program helps me build a stronger family bond.	3.95	0.29	VE
OVERALL	**3.69**	**0.36**	***Very Effective***

Legend: *4.00 – 3.26 Strongly Agree (SA)/Very Effective (VE); 3.25 – 2.51 Agree (S)/ Effective (E); 2.50 – 1.76 Disagree(D)/Ineffective (I); 1.75 – 1.00 Strong Disagree (SD)/Very Ineffective (IE)*

Beyond educational outcomes, the program appears to exert a meaningful influence on family dynamics and parental capacity. Respondents expressed particularly strong agreement regarding the development of better parenting skills (M = 3.91, SD = 0.32) and the strengthening of family bonds (M = 3.95, SD = 0.29). Increased confidence in handling family responsibilities (M = 3.89, SD = 0.35) and participation in family development and skills-building activities (M = 3.48, SD = 0.98) suggest that the program contributes to psychosocial and relational dimensions of social development, extending its impact beyond material assistance.

However, one indicator—access to technology and the internet for learning purposes—received a comparatively lower rating (M = 3.24, SD = 0.75), indicating that digital access remains a challenge for many beneficiary households. This finding highlights an important gap in the program's capacity to support learners in increasingly technology-driven educational environments. From a policy perspective, the results suggest that integrating digital inclusion initiatives—such as internet access support, device provision, or partnerships with local schools and telecommunications providers—could enhance the educational effectiveness of the 4Ps.

Overall, the findings affirm that the 4Ps effectively promotes social development by strengthening educational engagement and family functioning. At the same time, they underscore the need for targeted program enhancements that address emerging educational demands, particularly in digital access. Strengthening these components may further amplify the program's long-term contribution to human capital formation and its overarching goal of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Table 3.4 summarizes the perceived level of effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in promoting social development across its key focus areas: health check-ups for pregnant women and children aged 0–5 years, deworming services for school-aged children (6–14 years), and children's school enrollment coupled with family development sessions.

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Table 3.4
Summary of the table of the Level of effectiveness of the 4Ps in Social Development

Variables	Mean $\bar{x}$	Std. Dev. S	Verbal Interpretation
Health check-ups for pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5	3.73	0.42	VE
Deworming at school children aged 6-14	3.86	0.52	VE
Enrollment of children and family development sessions	3.69	0.36	VE
OVERALL	***3.76***	***0.31***	***Very Effective***

***Legend**: 4.00 – 3.26 Strongly Agree (SA)/Very Effective (VE); 3.25 – 2.51 Agree (S)/ Effective (E); 2.50 – 1.76 Disagree(D)/Ineffective (I); 1.75 – 1.00 Strong Disagree(SD)/Very Ineffective (IE)*

As shown in the table, all three domains were rated very effective by the respondents. Deworming services for school-aged children obtained the highest mean score (M = 3.86, SD = 0.52), followed by health check-ups for pregnant women and young children (M = 3.73, SD = 0.42), and enrollment of children and participation in family development sessions (M = 3.69, SD = 0.36). The overall mean score of 3.76 (SD = 0.31) indicates a consistently high level of perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in advancing social development outcomes.

These findings demonstrate the program's substantial contribution to improving access to essential healthcare services, sustaining school participation, and strengthening family engagement—core pillars of human capital formation. The strong performance of school-based health interventions, particularly deworming, underscores the value of integrating health conditionalities within educational settings. At the same time, the favorable ratings for family development sessions reflect the program's broader psychosocial impact on parenting practices and household functioning. Collectively, these outcomes align with the objectives articulated in Republic Act No. 11310 and corroborate earlier evidence highlighting the positive effects of the 4Ps on preventive healthcare utilization and educational attendance (Frufonga, 2015).

From a policy and implementation perspective, the results suggest that the 4Ps has been effective in operationalizing a multidimensional approach to social development. However, sustaining and amplifying these gains requires continuous monitoring of compliance, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and ensuring consistent service delivery across local contexts. Enhancing program responsiveness—particularly in addressing emerging educational and health needs—may further improve its capacity to foster long-term human capital development and contribute more effectively to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

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The association between beneficiaries' demographic profiles and their perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in delivering social assistance and social development was examined using inferential statistical analysis. This section presents findings on whether age, educational attainment, household income, household size, and employment status significantly influence beneficiaries' assessments of program effectiveness.

Table 4.1 presents the results of the analysis on perceived effectiveness of social assistance across respondent profiles. Overall, the findings indicate that none of the demographic variables examined exhibited a statistically significant association with perceptions of social assistance effectiveness ($p > 0.05$). Although descriptive variations in mean scores were observed, these differences did not reach statistical significance, suggesting a generally uniform perception of the program's effectiveness across beneficiary groups.

Table 4.1
Association in the level of effectiveness of providing social assistance when respondents are grouped according to profile

		Mean	SD	t	p-value	VI
Employment Status	Unemployed	3.59	0.40	-0.101	0.920	NS
	Employed	3.60	0.34			
Age Group	<= 20 years old	3.53	0.51	0.326	0.897	NS
	21-30 years old	3.52	0.06			
	31-40 years old	3.62	0.48			
	41-50 years old	3.60	0.33			
	51-60 years old	3.54	0.40			
	> 60 years old	3.70	0.23			
Educational Attainment	Elementary	3.62	0.34	0.340	0.851	NS
	Junior High School	3.59	0.40			
	Senior High School	3.39	0.48			
	College	3.62	0.35			
	None	3.63	0.64			
Household Income	<= PHP 1,000	3.52	0.30	0.993	0.413	NS
	PHP 1,001-5,000	3.64	0.33			
	PHP 5,001-10,000	3.52	0.47			
	PHP 10,001-15,000	3.58	0.57			
	> PHP 15,000	3.73	0.22			
Household Size	1-3	3.58	0.38	1.100	0.351	NS
	4-6	3.58	0.40			
	7-9	3.59	0.37			
	>=10	3.87	0.22			

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Across age categories, respondents aged above 60 years reported the highest mean score (M = 3.70), while those aged 21–30 years reported the lowest (M = 3.52). However, age did not significantly influence perceptions of social assistance effectiveness, diverging from the findings of Eslabon and Parreño (2022), who suggested that older beneficiaries tend to place greater emphasis on program benefits. This result implies that, within the present study context, perceived program effectiveness is not age-dependent but may instead be shaped by shared experiences of economic vulnerability.

Similarly, educational attainment showed no significant association with perceived effectiveness. Respondents with no formal education registered the highest mean score (M = 3.63), while those with senior high school education recorded the lowest (M = 3.39). This pattern is consistent with Fellizar et al. (2017), who noted that individuals with lower educational attainment often exhibit greater reliance on cash transfer programs. However, the absence of statistically significant differences suggests that the program's perceived benefits are broadly experienced regardless of educational background.

Household income and household size likewise did not significantly influence beneficiaries' perceptions. Although respondents earning above PHP 15,000 reported the highest mean score (M = 3.73) and those earning PHP 1,000 or less reported the lowest (M = 3.51), these variations were not statistically meaningful. Similarly, respondents from larger households (≥10 members) recorded a relatively higher mean score (M = 3.87), aligning with Flaminiano et al. (2020), who argued that household size alone does not significantly shape program perceptions. Employment status also showed no significant effect, as both unemployed (M = 3.59) and employed respondents (M = 3.60) reported nearly identical evaluations, contradicting earlier claims that employment status influences program satisfaction (Eslabon & Parreño, 2022).

Taken together, these findings suggest that the perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in providing social assistance is broadly consistent across diverse demographic groups. From a policy perspective, this indicates that the program's design and implementation may be sufficiently inclusive to deliver perceived benefits equitably among beneficiaries, regardless of age, income, education, or employment status.

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However, the absence of demographic differentiation also implies that future program refinements may need to consider contextual and structural factors—such as geographic disparities, quality of service delivery, and access to complementary support services—rather than relying solely on demographic targeting. Strengthening these dimensions may further enhance the program's capacity to deliver responsive and sustainable social protection outcomes.

Table 4.2 presents the analysis of associations between beneficiaries' demographic profiles and their perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in delivering social development outcomes. The results indicate that none of the examined demographic variables—employment status, age, educational attainment, household income, and household size—exhibited a statistically significant association with perceived social development effectiveness ($p > 0.05$). This suggests that beneficiaries' assessments of the program's social development components are broadly consistent across demographic groups.

Table 4.2
Significant association in the level of effectiveness of providing social development when respondents are grouped according to profile

		Mean	SD	t	p-value	VI
Employment Status	Unemployed	3.77	0.28	0.682	0.497	NS
	Employed	3.74	0.35			
Age Group	<= 20 years old	3.73	0.35	0.388	0.857	NS
	21-30 years old	3.92	0.05			
	31-40 years old	3.78	0.35			
	41-50 years old	3.77	0.32			
	51-60 years old	3.71	0.29			
	> 60 years old	3.77	0.14			
Educational Attainment	Elementary	3.76	0.33	0.706	0.589	NS
	Junior High School	3.75	0.30			
	Senior High School	3.93	0.08			
	College	3.85	0.26			
	None	3.57	0.54			
Household Income	<= PHP 1,000	3.82	0.18	0.344	0.848	NS
	PHP 1,001-5,000	3.75	0.31			
	PHP 5,001-10,000	3.75	0.32			
	PHP 10,001-15,000	3.90	0.12			
	> PHP 15,000	3.83	0.25			
Household Size	1-3	3.72	0.25	1.209	0.309	NS
	4-6	3.73	0.35			
	7-9	3.80	0.22			
	>=10	3.92	0.13			

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Although descriptive variations in mean scores were observed, these differences did not reach statistical significance. For instance, employed respondents (M = 3.74) and unemployed respondents (M = 3.77) reported comparable perceptions of effectiveness, indicating that employment status does not substantially shape beneficiaries' evaluations of social development outcomes. Similarly, across age groups, mean scores ranged narrowly from 3.71 to 3.92, suggesting a generally uniform appreciation of the program's contributions to health, education, and family development regardless of age. These findings contrast with Eslabon and Parreño (2022), who reported age-based differences in beneficiary priorities, with younger households emphasizing education and nutrition and older beneficiaries prioritizing health-related benefits.

Educational attainment likewise showed no significant association with perceived effectiveness, despite slightly higher mean scores among respondents with senior high school (M = 3.93) and college education (M = 3.85). While prior studies suggest that parental education enhances children's educational outcomes and may influence longer-term perceptions of program benefits (Chevalier, 2015; Magtagad et al., 2019), the present findings indicate that such effects may not translate into immediate differences in perceived program effectiveness. This suggests that the program's social development interventions are experienced as broadly beneficial, regardless of educational background.

Household income and household size also did not significantly influence perceptions of social development. Respondents across income categories reported consistently high mean scores, supporting earlier findings by Montilla et al. (2015) that satisfaction with 4Ps services remains relatively uniform even among households with varying income levels. Likewise, although respondents from larger households (≥10 members) recorded slightly higher mean scores (M = 3.92), household size did not emerge as a statistically meaningful factor, aligning with observations that family size may shape priorities without substantially altering overall program evaluations.

Taken together, these findings suggest that the perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps in promoting social development is largely independent of beneficiaries' demographic characteristics.

From a policy perspective, this indicates that the program's design and implementation may be sufficiently inclusive to deliver social development benefits equitably across diverse household profiles. However, the presence of descriptive variations—despite statistical non-significance—highlights the importance of examining how specific program components (e.g., health, education, nutrition) resonate differently across beneficiary groups. Future program enhancements may benefit from more targeted monitoring and adaptive strategies that respond to nuanced household needs while maintaining the program's universal social protection mandate.

The findings of this study underscore the need to further strengthen the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) to enhance its effectiveness in achieving its core objectives of social assistance and social development. While the program already operates under a quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, the results suggest that more targeted and outcome-oriented monitoring mechanisms may be necessary to ensure that program resources are optimally aligned with long-term developmental goals, particularly those related to educational empowerment and human capital formation.

A key area requiring attention is the limited access of beneficiary households to digital technology and internet connectivity for educational purposes. The relatively lower ratings associated with children's access to technology and online learning resources indicate a persistent digital divide that may constrain the program's capacity to support learning continuity and academic performance, especially in increasingly technology-dependent educational environments. Addressing this gap is essential to ensuring that the educational gains facilitated by the 4Ps are sustained and responsive to contemporary learning demands.

In light of these findings, the integration of digital inclusion initiatives—such as subsidized or free monthly internet access for beneficiary households, provision of learning devices, or partnerships with local government units and telecommunications providers—emerges as a strategic enhancement to the program. Embedding such measures within the existing framework of the 4Ps may strengthen its ability to translate short-term social assistance into long-term educational and socioeconomic outcomes.

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Collectively, these inputs aim to reinforce the program's role as a comprehensive social protection mechanism that not only alleviates immediate poverty but also fosters sustainable development and intergenerational mobility.

Conclusions

This study examined the perceived effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in delivering social assistance and social development among 160 beneficiaries in a municipality in Laguna. The findings indicate that the respondent population is largely composed of middle-aged to older adults experiencing economic vulnerability characterized by high unemployment, low educational attainment, and limited household income. These conditions underscore the continued relevance of the 4Ps for larger, low-income households that rely on social protection to meet basic needs. Overall, the 4Ps was perceived as very effective in improving beneficiaries' immediate social and economic conditions, particularly in enhancing living standards and mitigating intergenerational poverty. The program demonstrated strong positive effects on healthcare access, educational participation, and family well-being, especially in maternal and child health, school attendance, and family development outcomes.

However, its impact on longer-term financial outcomes—such as savings accumulation, investment, and debt reduction—remains comparatively limited, indicating that while the program effectively addresses short-term vulnerability, it is less effective in fostering sustained financial resilience. Notably, beneficiaries' perceptions of program effectiveness did not significantly vary across demographic characteristics, including age, educational attainment, income level, household size, and employment status. This consistency suggests that the program's benefits are broadly experienced across diverse beneficiary groups. Nevertheless, persistent gaps—particularly in access to digital technology and internet connectivity—constrain the program's capacity to fully support educational adaptation in increasingly technology-driven learning environments. These findings highlight the importance of continuous program assessment and targeted enhancements to strengthen the 4Ps' long-term contribution to poverty alleviation and human capital development.

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Recommendations

Based on the findings, several evidence-based recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

First, integrating complementary employment and skills-development initiatives may strengthen beneficiaries' long-term economic stability. Facilitating access to livelihood programs, vocational training, and higher education opportunities can help translate short-term assistance into durable income gains.

Second, strengthening financial literacy interventions is recommended to address the program's limited impact on savings, investment, and debt reduction. Providing structured training in financial management and establishing partnerships with microfinance institutions or community-based credit programs may empower beneficiaries to make informed financial decisions and improve household financial resilience.

Third, addressing the digital divide should be prioritized to support educational outcomes. Expanding access to technology through subsidized learning devices, free or low-cost internet connectivity, and digital literacy programs can enhance students' learning engagement and ensure that educational gains under the 4Ps remain relevant in contemporary contexts.

Fourth, incorporating longitudinal indicators—such as length of program participation—into future evaluations may provide deeper insights into whether sustained enrollment yields cumulative developmental benefits.

Finally, strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system through localized feedback mechanisms and regular assessments of contextual differences can enhance program responsiveness. A more adaptive and data-driven implementation framework will help ensure that the 4Ps continues to deliver equitable, efficient, and sustainable social protection outcomes across diverse communities.

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