



The role of conditional cash transfers in enhancing socio-economic well-being in Nueva Ecija, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

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This study assesses the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and its impact on the socio-economic status of beneficiaries in selected municipalities of Nueva Ecija, Philippines. A mixed methods approach was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies within a triangulation design. The study involved 340 respondents from four municipalities of varying income classes. Data were gathered through survey questionnaires, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using frequency distribution, ranking, weighted mean, and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), while qualitative data were analyzed using in vivo coding and thematic analysis. The results reveal differing levels of program effectiveness across the municipalities and significant impacts on the socio-economic status of beneficiaries. The findings suggest that while the 4Ps program has positively impacted the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, there is a need to refine its implementation strategies to ensure more uniform benefits across different municipalities. Enhancements to the 4Ps program's implementation could further improve its effectiveness in poverty alleviation across various municipalities in the Philippines.

Contribution/Originality: This study uniquely examines the localized impact of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) across multiple municipalities in Nueva Ecija, Philippines, using a mixed-methods approach. It fills a gap in the literature by providing a comparative analysis of program effectiveness in different socio-economic contexts.

1. THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction and Review of Related Literature and Studies

The Republic Act No. 11310 is an Act institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, equally known as 4Ps. The Act aims to provide financial aid to families who are among the poorest. Human development challenges have plagued the Philippines for many years now (Asis & Baggio, 2008). The source of income of the growing population of the poorest of the poor is now at risk, and issues with regard to employment and satisfaction of basic needs, among others, remain part of critical national concerns (PSA, 2019).

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act, also known as the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program, provides financial assistance to impoverished families in exchange for meeting specific conditions, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). These conditions include children's school attendance, timely

vaccinations, and regular healthcare visits for pregnant women. The primary objective of the CCT program is to alleviate and combat poverty by providing immediate financial support. The CCT program gives families the autonomy to allocate or save this money. This financial assistance can positively impact the recipients' health, education, and overall socio-economic well-being. The CCT program employs a dual approach to poverty reduction by offering cash aid and enhancing human capital through improved health and education. Ultimately, this program aims to break the cycle of poverty across generations (World Health Organization, 2008).

The other countries that have the same condition in the Philippines are also experiencing struggles against poverty, and while some children inherit the plight of their parents, they also struggle to change their life conditions (Ahmed & Kingsolver, 2005). The same is also the case of every elected president who inherits the problem from the outgoing, according to Atty. David S. D'Amato, an expert policy advisor. He also added that the decision makers of the past themselves are giving weight to the poor instead of creating their own strategies and policy adaptations to address the issue (D'Amato, 2017).

In an attempt to resolve the intergenerational poverty issue, the Philippine government during the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched a social program which later became the flagship program of her administration. In 2007, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), conducted pilot testing of the program dubbed the "PantawidPamilyang Pilipino Program" (4Ps) patterned after the Conditional Cash Transfer Program of Latin America and Africa (Fernandez & Olfindo, 2011; Fiszbein et al., 2009; Raquiza, 2018). It was also the DSWD that was tasked with spearheading the selection of the grantees and the provision of cash grants to eligible beneficiaries (Reyes, Tabuga, Asis, & Mondezo, 2014).

The 4Ps was pilot-tested in 2007. It was the government's intervention to help poor families break free from poverty. In 2019, 4Ps was institutionalized by making it into law under Republic Act No. 11310. The 4Ps became the national poverty reduction strategy of the past and present administration. It is oftentimes called a human capital investment program. The government provides cash grants to poor households, aiming to improve their health, nutrition, and the education of their children (Acosta, Avalos, & Zapanta, 2019).

As per the Republic Act No. 11310, Section 5 and Section 6, it provides for the selection of household beneficiaries to ensure that the help goes only to those who need it most. The 4Ps employs a standardized targeting system, which automatically considers farmers, fishermen folks, the homeless, indigenous peoples, and those in geographically isolated and otherwise disadvantaged areas. To be eligible for the cash grants, those in the poor and near-poor households must be: a) 0-18 years old; b) Pregnant at the time of registration; or c) Willing to comply with the conditions.

The Republic Act No. 11310 is an Act institutionalizing the 4Ps, which require the conditions for entitlement. It concerns the children from before they are born to their eighteenth year. The requirements under Section 11 are the following: (a) Children three to eighteen years old must be enrolled in school, maintaining a class attendance of at least 85% every month; (b) Children up to five years old must receive vaccination and health check-ups regularly; (c) Children up to fourteen must be dewormed twice a year; and (d) at least one responsible person from each household must attend Family Development Sessions. If a household disregards the conditions, they will receive a warning. Non-compliance following multiple warnings will result in termination of the grants, and removal from the program.

Under the CCT of said Act, the beneficiaries will receive financial support from the government. In each household, the children are covered by an education grant, where every monitored child in the elementary school receives 300 pesos a month, in the junior high school at 500 pesos a month, and in the senior high school from 500 pesos before institutionalization, to 700 pesos a month; a health grant from 500 pesos before institutionalization, to 750 pesos a month. Additional benefits are provided to the beneficiaries, as mandated by other laws, through the General Appropriations Act, a rice subsidy of 600 pesos a month, and through the Unconditional Cash Transfer, a tax subsidy under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, which amounts to 300 pesos a month.

In the First State of the Nation Address of His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, to the Congress of the Philippines on July 26, 2010, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was directed to implement the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), wherein the members of the poorest of the poor will be identified. According to PhilHealth Circular No. 10, s. 2012, all beneficiaries identified and listed among the poorest of the poor by NHTS-PR and DSWD are now automatically covered by PhilHealth, and are the priority in the availment of modalities and interventions under the DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). PhilHealth provides the grants for a maximum period of seven years. During this period, 4PsAct employs a case management approach, with the city or municipality links who are working directly with the families to better their well-being. Members of the household can only receive the grants once they have registered, become active and complied with the program's conditions.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program is a community-based capacity-building program that adopts a community-driven enterprise development approach, enabling household participants to contribute actively to production and labor markets by leveraging available resources and accessible markets. It facilitates interventions that broaden the livelihood asset base—including human, social, physical, natural, and financial capital—thereby preparing them for gainful employment or the successful management of microenterprises. The program runs through the Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation Track. Key parts of the SLP are technical-vocational skills training, which enhances participants' employability and microenterprise management skills; seed capital funding, which provides grants for microenterprise development, including credit and savings facilities; pre-employment assistance, which helps participants access employment opportunities by covering necessary job application costs; and cash for building livelihood assets, which offers short-term employment to support the development, rebuilding, and protection of physical and natural assets, ultimately fostering profitable and sustainable livelihood projects for participants and their communities.

The beneficiary's households will have access to the grants as stated in Section 9, which is the Mode of Cash Transfer. To provide them with direct and secure access to cash, the DSWD works with accredited government depository banks, or contracts the services of rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative banks, and institutions engaged in money remittances duly accredited by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). To make sure that the grants continue to positively impact the health, nutrition, and education of the beneficiaries, and to make sure that the program is being implemented accordingly, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies evaluates every three years the veracity of the beneficiary list. It also tracks the effectiveness of the program. In addition, the implementation of 4Ps is kept in check by three major systems: First, the Beneficiary Update System (BUS), which validates, reports, and records the status of every member of the household beneficiaries. It monitors and adjusts the amounts of cash grants that each household is to receive. Second is the Compliance Verification System (CVS), which checks the household beneficiaries' compliance with the program conditions. Third is the Grievance Redress System (GRS), which records and resolves grievances effectively and efficiently. The National and Regional Advisory Councils (NRAC) recommend measures and policies, and secure the necessary funding, to ensure that the commitments of 4Ps are delivered responsibly. The NRAC includes representatives from multiple national and regional agencies. The NRAC also includes representatives from accredited non-government organizations involved with social welfare service programs. And fourth, the 4Ps Oversight Committee sets the framework for reviewing the implementation of the Act, identifying inherent weaknesses in the law, and recommending remedial legislation or executive measures. The DSWD is taking the lead, but 4Ps is a national government program. Its success calls for a whole-of-government approach with all Filipinos responsible for every step.

The social impact of CCT is concentrated on smaller-scale impacts mostly on the relationship between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Nonetheless, some researchers looked into the communal aspects of the program, including social relationships and government support. According to [Holmes and Slater \(2007\)](#) the effect of the program on the social cohesion was in terms of the citizens' willingness to cooperate to achieve certain objectives,

and they found out that through the program, the beneficiaries gained access to public goods and therefore became more engaged in community affairs. However, the beneficiaries also became separated from non-beneficiaries since they are often seen together during civic engagement activities (Cortes, 2013).

Evaluating and improving social programs like the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program is essential for ensuring their effectiveness and impact, particularly when dealing with complex, community-wide issues where cause-and-effect relationships may be unclear (Jr, 2023). Continuous quality improvement interventions, guided by the theory of change framework, are crucial for breaking down the steps needed to achieve long-term goals and enhancing service delivery. Understanding the satisfaction of beneficiaries, such as Indigenous Peoples, and considering their specific needs and cultural contexts during program implementation can provide valuable insights for improvement (Pineda, 2023). Moreover, ongoing evaluation throughout the program's development is vital for maintaining the quality and relevance of interventions, enabling policymakers to make informed decisions that enhance the program's effectiveness in diverse settings (Alharthi, Almotairi, & Elsigini, 2023). According to De Lara and Santos, (2024) and Grantcraft, (2006) doing so can significantly enhance the overall evaluation of whether the programs executed as planned and produced the expected outcomes.

1.2. How is the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program Perceived Across Different Countries?

Several studies on CCT across different countries mentioned that the social impact of CCT is concentrated on smaller-scale impacts mostly on the relationship between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Nonetheless, some researchers looked into the communal aspects of the program, including social relationships and government support. This section is dedicated to the description of the CCT programs in various countries and the result of the research conducted by other scholars. The information will be useful in comparing how the CCT program of the Philippines fared with others.

1.3. Mexico's Oportunidades

Holmes and Slater (2007) determined the program's effect on the social cohesion in terms of the citizens' willingness to cooperate to achieve certain objectives (Stanley, 2003). They found out that through the program, the beneficiaries gained access to public goods, and therefore became more engaged in community affairs. However, the beneficiaries also became detached from non-beneficiaries since they are often seen together during civic engagement activities (Cortes, 2013).

1.4. Brazil's Bolsa Familia

In Brazil, the program is said to affect the voters' choice, as manifested in the change in support for the governing party in regions where Bolsa Familia beneficiaries are located during the 2006 presidential elections (Zucco, 2010). Fried (2012) believes that the shift occurred because the poor citizens of Brazil based their election decision on the tangible benefit they received from the political process and the program.

1.5. Peru's Juntos

In Peru, the Juntos had negative influence towards public trust and social engagement. The reason for this finding is that non-beneficiaries perceive the selection process for cash transfer as unfair (Camacho, 2014). Nonetheless, it is said that the program made both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries more active in terms of voting behavior (Perova, 2010).

1.6. Colombia's Families in Action

In Columbia, it has been observed that the communities in Cartagena that received coverage from the program exhibit considerably higher level of community engagement than the non-beneficiaries. Civic engagement is measured

in the form of community members' attendance in civic organization meetings, and participation in the electoral process (Attanasio, Pellerano, & Polanía, 2009).

1.7. Honduras' Family Allowance Program

It has been observed that the program has an impact on government support, as observed in the municipal-level government party implementing the program having the higher chance of reelection (Linos, 2013). Krishnaswamy (2012) noted that the non-beneficiaries demonstrated more support for the government than the beneficiaries.

According to the WHO, the implementation of the program in the other countries showed that through the program, the beneficiaries gained access to public goods and therefore, made them more engaged in community affairs. However, the beneficiaries also became detached from non-beneficiaries since they are often seen together during civic engagement activities. In addition, the program also had a negative influence on public trust and social engagement. The reason behind the finding is that non-beneficiaries believe that the selection in availing the cash transfer is unfair.

1.8. Institutionalization of the Philippine CCT Program through RA No.11310

The Philippines evaluates the 4Ps program based on its impact on economic indicators like education and health (Pagasa, 2020). It is recognized for benefiting not only marginalized communities but also for aiding the Philippine government in fulfilling its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal healthcare (Raquiza, 2018). The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the country's primary planning agency, has credited the 4Ps with improving living standards in both rural and urban areas. Since 2007, the number of 4Ps beneficiaries has grown rapidly, reaching 4.5 million households by 2016, and covering about 30 percent of the Philippines' poor households (Pagasa, 2020). Scholars like Cuizon (2016) have noted that the 4Ps successfully addressed the immediate needs of low-income families in many regions of the Philippines. The program not only grants money to the poor but also makes them independent by teaching them how to earn money and turn their skills into source of alternative livelihood. To make the parent beneficiaries more productive, they are required to attend mother's class and family development sessions where they are taught family values and parental responsibilities to also encourage their involvement in community activities (Mangahas, Casimiro, & Gabriel, 2018). According to Lorenciana (2018) the DSWD has steered positive change for the beneficiaries through the said sessions aimed at teaching the beneficiaries life skills.

Based on the published records of DSWD, the 4Ps have been implemented in all regions of the Philippines, with 4,353,597 active household beneficiaries as of August 26, 2015. Of which, 570,056 households are from the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs); 217,359 have at least one member who is considered PWD or Person with Disability (Mangahas et al., 2018) and 10,235,658 are school-aged children ages 0 to 18 years old (Pagasa, 2020). The Philippine government financed the 4Ps program by borrowing money from foreign financial institutions in order to provide conditional cash grants to the marginalized or the so-called "poorest of the poor" (Handayani & Buckley, 2009).

In general, the program served as the integral part of the government's social protection system (Brillantes, Raquiza, & Lorenzo, 2019) and a means to address structural inequalities in society to promote human capital development (Pagasa, 2020; Santos, 2023). These are the reasons why the program gained support both from the administrations of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III and President Rodrigo Duterte. After twelve years, it was institutionalized and signed into law as Republic Act 11310 in 2019.

In spite of the available records, it is noticeable that while the program has been implemented for more than a decade now, there are limited studies on the impact of the program on the beneficiaries, especially at the local level.

It is therefore the purpose of this study to fill the gap in literature and knowledge by assessing the actual outcomes of the program to the beneficiaries in selected municipalities in the province of Nueva Ecija.

1.9. 4P's and Education

One's education is a major factor in the Philippines. The effect of a child's family background and the quality of their schooling on their academic achievement is critical when determining whether or not they have received a satisfactory education (Sanchez-Danday, Ripalda, Delima, & Gabon, 2019).

The long-term goal of the 4Ps is to increase human capital. Studies show that the 4Ps can significantly boost educational attainment while also improving dietary habits and health outcomes. The 4Ps aim to address the issue of dropout rates in education. There is a high enrolment rate for CCT programs in other countries (Tabuga & Reyes, 2012). To prevent the generational transmission of poverty, it is hoped that the cash grant will allow the children of family beneficiaries to complete primary or secondary schooling. 4Ps have been shown to improve academic performance in other countries and to decrease dropout rates among students who benefit from them, including here in the Philippines (Reyes, Tabuga, Mina, & Asis, 2015)

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) benefits students, but for some, dropping out is a better option than staying in school. There is no option for students who drop out of school because it is more practical to do so. Family living conditions, the low standard of living, pose a serious threat to students' education even with the availability of financial assistance, which still ties poverty as an underlying factor (Luz, 2020).

School conditions influence students' academic performance, according to the study's findings. School performance improves significantly if students have access to the basic necessities of education. A study examining the relationship between the quality of elementary schooling and the national per capita Gross National Product (GNP), reference found that schools with more funding outperform those with little or no funding. The economic standing of countries with more educated citizens was also found to be improved (Sanchez-Danday et al., 2019).

The 4Ps program has improved students' academic performance, but more work remains to achieve its goal. Because of this, students came to view education as a long-term investment in their futures and as a means to achieve their aspirations. The 4P recipients' eagerness to attend classes has skyrocketed since they were awarded a grant. Because of this opportunity, fewer children had to drop out of school in order to support their families. As a result of the 4Ps program's attempts to improve the lives of underprivileged backgrounds and help the parent-beneficiaries realize the importance of schooling as an essential component of success, there has been a decrease in the number of cases of child labor (Flores, Espinoza, Enrico, & Casimiro, 2019).

In light of the above, we conducted this study to evaluate the 4Ps' effectiveness and suggest policy changes to improve the program.

1.10. Statement of the Problem

The study aimed to assess the impact of conditional cash transfer program on the beneficiaries of selected municipalities in Nueva Ecija.

Specifically, the study sought answers to the following questions:

1. How may the effectiveness of the implementation of the PantawidPamilyang Pilipino Program be described in terms of the following;
 - 1.1 Health and Nutrition;
 - 1.2 Education;
2. How may the impact of the PantawidPamilyang Pilipino Program on the beneficiaries be described in terms of:
 - 2.1 Health and nutrition;
 - 2.2 Education;

3. Is there a significant difference in the impact of 4Ps on the beneficiaries among the selected municipalities in Nueva Ecija?
4. What are the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries in the duration of the program?
5. Based on the result of the study, what enhancement program may be proposed by the researcher?

1.11. Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference in the impact of the 4Ps on the beneficiaries across and between the municipalities in the implementation of the program.

1.12. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The province of Nueva Ecija selected the municipalities for the study. The respondents of this study were the graduated members of 4Ps program specifically in the municipalities of Nueva Ecija, which are the following: Sta. Rosa, Talavera, Aliagaand, Bongabon.

This research was conducted in 2020, covering the implementation of the 4Ps from year 2010-2016.

1.13. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

This study is anchored on the Theory of Change first theorized by Heraclitus and re-introduced by Carol S. Weiss in mid-1990s. People widely use the theory to describe the mini-steps necessary to achieve long-term goals. Everything has a present state of perfection, which entails a starting point of development. This principle is simply suggesting that all programs and activities have a present state of perfection, which dictates the area of development and the area of improvement. Doing so is said to be powerful towards improving the overall evaluation of whether the programs were executed as planned and produced the expected outcomes (Grantcraft, 2006). The program’s enhancement will be based on its current state of perfection, allowing us to identify areas for improvement. This theory is used to show and explain the outcome and the impact of the CCT program to the beneficiaries in the study locale, from the present state of the members of the program, which is battling from poverty, to accepting another state of perfection, which is the development in the lives of its members.

1.14. Research Paradigm

The Input-Process-Output (IPO) model is utilized in this study to showcase systems approach in conducting the research. Systems approach considers external environment (both resources and society) as critical element in the open-systems view of organizations inducing significant impacts that may be direct or indirect (Jackson, Hitchins, & Eisner, 2010). The interrelationships among the various elements form a complete whole.

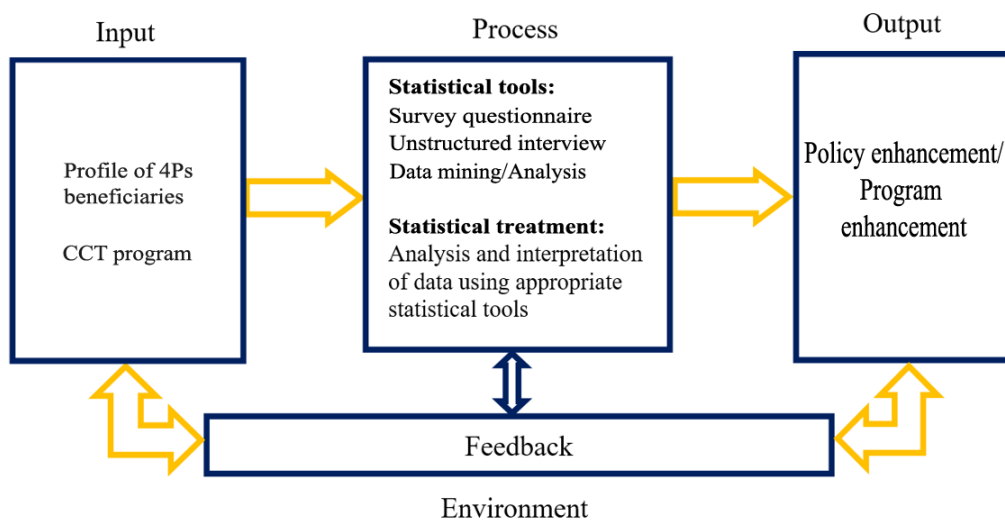


Figure 1. Paradigm of the study.

Figure 1 illustrates the research paradigm of the study, which is structured around the Input-Process-Output (IPO) model. The "Input" section includes the key elements, such as profile of 4Ps beneficiaries and the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program. In the "Process" phase, various statistical tools such as survey questionnaires, unstructured interviews, and data mining/analysis are utilized. Additionally, statistical treatment is applied for analyzing and interpreting the collected data using appropriate statistical tools. The "Output" of this process is focused on policy and program enhancement. The model also incorporates feedback loops within the broader environmental context, indicating that continuous feedback is essential for refining and improving the program based on the findings.

For the input, it includes the profile of the 4Ps beneficiaries according to age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, family income, number of siblings, and number of years as beneficiaries. Also, part of the input is the CCT program, which comprise of social assistance and social improvement. The instruments used in this study include the use of a survey questionnaire, an unstructured interview, and data mining. The One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized since the variables to be considered have several sub-levels and it is effective at comparing the differences of the means for more than two variables. Furthermore, the statistical treatment shall be employed to analyze and interpret the significant data and finally recommend the output of the study, which is the policy enhancement or the program enhancement.

1.15. Significance of the Study

This study aims to provide following benefits:

Discipline of Public Administration. The result of this study shall be able to add valuable inputs in the area of social, economic, and political aspects of human interactions;

Department of Social Welfare and Development. The agency shall be afforded valuable information about the impact of the program and the discernment of the beneficiaries, which will serve as basis for program implementation, review, and improvement;

Beneficiaries of 4Ps. That the 4P beneficiaries will realize the impact of the 4Ps in their lives and seek self-improvement through their own initiatives;

For the Legislature. That the Legislature could improve this program by introducing additional mechanisms to encourage the community's active involvement in its execution;

Future Researchers. That further studies may be conducted in different locales and sets of respondents.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Design

This study adopted a mixed methods approach, which combines the positivist or interpretivist empirical approach. The pragmatists focus more on collecting, analyzing and mixing both qualitative and quantitative data in a single study (Creswell, Plano Clark, Gutmann, & Hanson, 2003). The mixed methods approach in this study adopted a survey design fused with a case study. According to previous studies, there have been several types of mixed methods design depending on the discipline and the approach of the study. In the field of evaluation and operation research, which is common in public administration, the triangulation design of mixed methods is usually employed.

The triangulation design is the most widely recognized approach to mixing methods (Creswell et al., 2003). Its goal is to gather different yet complementary data on the same topic (Morse, 1991) to gain a deeper understanding of the research problem. This design is advantageous because it leverages the unique strengths of both quantitative and qualitative methods while compensating for their individual weaknesses (Creswell et al., 2003).

The researcher utilized a descriptive type of research that employs quantitative and qualitative methodology. This type of research used the responses and narratives of the respondents as the primary source of data. According to Ariola (2006) descriptive research describes current events with questions based on the present phenomena.

Quantitative method puts emphasis on collecting and analyzing information in the form of numbers. The first statement of the problem utilized descriptive methods such as frequency distribution and ranking. The second statement utilized weighted mean, frequency distribution, and ranking. On the third statement, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized in the analysis. These would address the significant differences among the responses of the respondents.

In this study, qualitative research is applied with the data in the form of words, such as interview notes, transcripts of focus groups, answers to open questions, transcriptions of video recordings, data gathering from internet sources, articles, books, and the like. Qualitative data were derived from primary or secondary data. In gathering secondary data, the researcher acquired data from generated and collected reports of the municipal link, books, journal articles, conference proceedings, and the rich sources of the internet.

The answers to the structured questions were analyzed using descriptive and in vivo coding methods and thematic analysis. The emerging themes arising from the responses of the participants were used to support the findings in this study. Based on the findings, the conclusions and recommendations were drawn with the use of qualitative analysis.

2.2. Research Locale

The four municipalities of Nueva Ecija that were included in this study are the following: Santa Rosa, and Talavera, which were ranked as first-class municipalities, while Aliaga, and Bongabon were ranked as second-class municipalities. Each municipality represents each district of the province. In addition, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the municipalities were chosen based on geographical consideration and low number of infections. The researcher believed that the chosen study location reflected the countries' standing in terms of the study's impact and influence. The location map of the province of Nueva Ecija is shown in Figure 2.

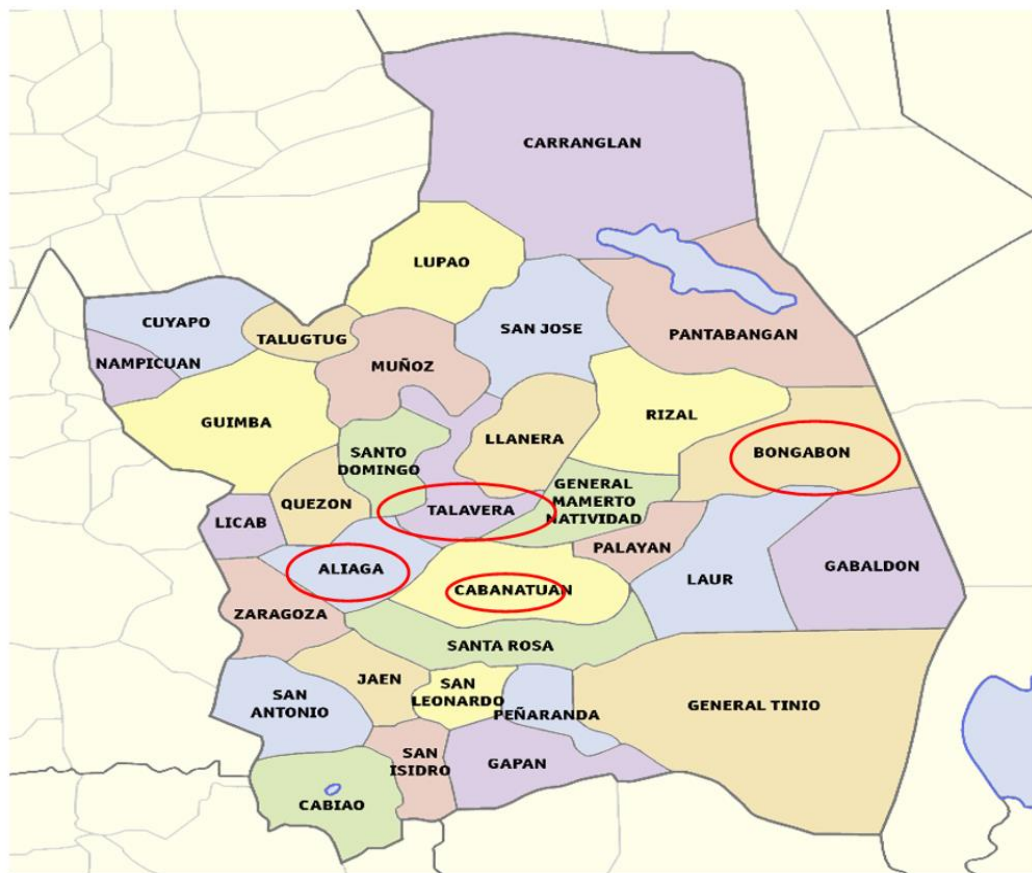


Figure 2. The map of the province of Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

Source: Google map.

Santa Rosa and Talavera are first-class municipalities, while Aliaga and Bongabon are second-class municipalities. The study locale is chosen with consideration to the clustering of geographic location and the income class. The researcher's analysis of this study was aided by the differences in the income class of the municipalities.

2.3. Respondents

The study's respondents include the beneficiaries of 4Ps in the municipalities of Santa Rosa, Talavera, Aliaga, and Bongabon in Nueva Ecija. There is a total of 340 respondents equally distributed to the municipalities, intended to have a better chance of finding systematic differences between the groups. Based on Social Welfare Development Indicator (SWDI) score list monitoring, the provincial head of 4Ps gave the total number of the 2,318 beneficiaries in the four municipalities, and a total of 340 respondents were defined as target respondents.

Table 1 presents the distribution of respondents across four municipalities included in the study: Santa Rosa, Talavera, Aliaga, and Bongabon. Each municipality had an equal sample size of 85 respondents, drawn from the total 4Ps beneficiaries within each area. The total number of 4Ps beneficiaries across all four municipalities is 2,318, and the study sampled 340 respondents in total. The specific numbers for total 4P beneficiaries per municipality are not provided in the table, but the distribution ensures a balanced representation from each location to enhance the reliability of the findings.

Table 1. Respondents per municipality.

Municipality	Total 4Ps beneficiaries	Sample (n)
Santa Rosa	578	85
Talavera	583	85
Aliaga	573	85
Bongabon	584	85
Total	2,318	340

2.4. Sample and Sampling Design

Sampling is the method of getting a representative portion of a population. This representative portion has the same characteristics as the whole population and may provide the needed data in order to make an analysis, description, and generalization of the population.

The researcher used purposive sampling to get the sample size. The following criteria were employed in choosing the respondents of the study:

- (a) Beneficiaries of 4Ps since 2010;
- (b) Completed the program; and
- (c) Willing to participate.

2.5. Research Instrument

The researcher employed the survey method in collecting data. The study used the survey questionnaire as the main tool in collecting the data. The questionnaire was composed of closed and open-ended questions, which were distributed to the respondents through the municipal links. The coordinators are responsible for reviewing and forwarding updates submitted at their level of the Provincial Operations Office.

The self-made questionnaire consists of two parts. Part A aimed to obtain the profile of the respondents. Part B has three sub-parts: the first part used the 4-point Likert-type scales that would answer the effectiveness and the characteristics of implementation of the program by answering Ineffective as the lowest in terms of degree or effectiveness, next is Slightly Effective, then Moderately Effective, and Very Effective as the highest level of effectiveness. The second part (B) would answer the impact of the program to the beneficiaries also through a 4-point Likert-type scale interpreted as No impact at all, Slight Impact, Moderate Impact, and High Impact. The third part

comprises structured questions designed to supplement the result of the instrument and help in the validation of the analysis of the study.

2.6. Validity and Reliability Testing

The research adviser presented the instrument for comments and suggestions. Expert panels then scrutinized the questionnaire to assess its validity.

The instrument was tested on 304Ps beneficiaries who are not included in the sample population for reliability testing. The result of the data gathered was analyzed through the IBM-SPSS 21.0 software for reliability analysis, which resulted in Cronbach alpha value of 0.87, which showed that the internal consistency of the instrument was reliable.

2.7. Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher employed the following procedure for the data gathering:

1. Reviewed literature and related studies;
2. Developed the research instrument that answered the research problems;
3. Established the validity and reliability of the research instrument;
4. Obtained permission or consent from the university president, the graduate school dean, and the research adviser through formal communication to conduct the study;
5. Seek permission from the municipal mayors and municipal links to conduct the data gathering;
6. Upon approval of the said authorities, the data gathering and distribution were conducted with the help of the Municipal Links;
7. The data gathered were encoded and forwarded to the statistician for statistical analysis; and
8. From the findings, conclusions and recommendations were drawn for the completion of the study.

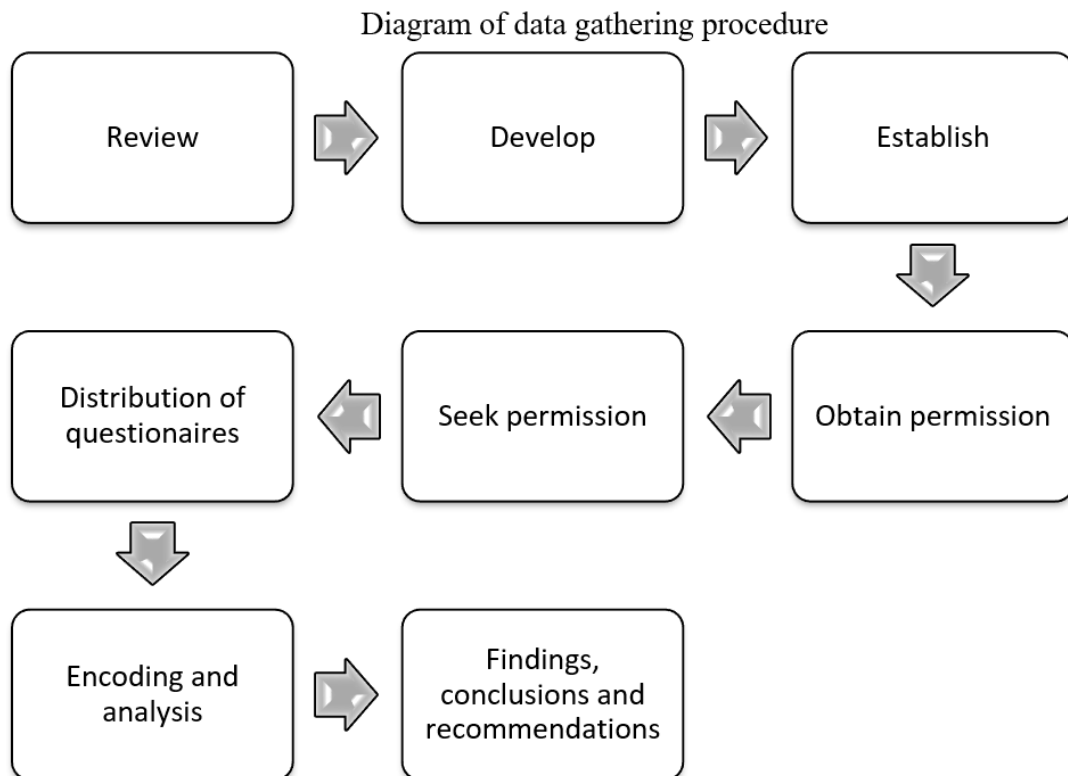


Figure 3. Data gathering procedure.

Figure 3 illustrates the data gathering procedure used in the study. The process begins with a review of relevant literature and studies, which informs the development of the research instrument. Once the instrument is developed, it is established for validity and reliability. Following this, permission is sought from relevant authorities, such as the university administration and municipal officials, to conduct the study. Upon receiving the necessary permissions, questionnaires are distributed to the respondents. The collected data is then encoded and analyzed, leading to the final step where findings, conclusions, and recommendations are formulated based on the analysis. This systematic procedure ensures a thorough and methodical approach to data collection and analysis, ultimately supporting the study's objectives.

2.8. Data Analysis Technique

The study used self-made questionnaires, structured questions, and informal or unstructured interviews. The collected data were presented using descriptive statistics through frequencies, percentages, rankings, and weighted means.

In determining the significant differences in the implementation of the program among the municipalities, the One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized. It is applicable since the variables to be considered have several sub-levels, and it is effective at comparing the differences of the means for more than two variables.

Data mining, content analysis, deductive, and inductive coding were employed for the qualitative analysis. The answers to the structured questions were analyzed using in vivo coding method and thematic analysis. In vivo coding method utilized the exact words coming from the participants, and these codes were categorized into emerging themes. The researcher initiated the process utilizing both descriptive and in vivo coding techniques to identify the emerging themes. The emerging themes were regrouped and recoded to generate the final themes using manual-dual categories. The themes were used to support the findings in the problem statements. Based on the findings, the conclusions and recommendations were drawn with the use of qualitative analysis also.

The researcher also utilized Key Informant Interviews (KII) and gathering of secondary data to triangulate the answers of the respondents.

3. PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

3.1. Effectiveness of the 4Ps Implementation Program

The data analysis and interpretation are presented below. The data gathered show the description and interpretation of the ratings based on the effectiveness of the 4Ps implementation in the selected municipalities of Nueva Ecija.

Table 2. Rating, verbal description, and interpretation used in assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the conditional cash transfer program.

Rating	Verbal description	Interpretation
1.0 – 1.75	Not effective - NE	Major to severe shortcomings in the implementation of the program
1.76 – 2.50	Slightly effective - SE	Significant shortcomings in the implementation of the program
2.51 – 3.25	Moderately effective - ME	Minor shortcomings in the implementation of the program
3.26 – 4.00	Very effective - VE	No shortcomings in the implementation of the program

Table 2 presents the rating scale, verbal descriptions, and corresponding interpretations used to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program. The ratings range from 1.0 to 4.0, with each range associated with a specific verbal description and interpretation of the program's effectiveness. A rating of 1.0 to 1.75 is described as "Not effective" (NE), indicating major to severe shortcomings in the program's implementation. A rating of 1.76 to 2.50 is labeled "Slightly effective" (SE), pointing to significant shortcomings. A

rating of 2.51 to 3.25 is considered "Moderately effective" (ME), suggesting minor shortcomings. Finally, a rating of 3.26 to 4.00 is categorized as "Very effective" (VE), implying no shortcomings in the program's implementation.

This table serves as a framework for interpreting the responses collected from the study's 340 respondents, providing a structured method for evaluating the effectiveness of the CCT program based on specific criteria.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents by age group, sex, and civil status.

Indicators	Category	Aliaga (n=85)		Bongabon (n=85)		Sta. Rosa (n=85)		Talavera (n=85)	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Age group	20-30	27	31.8	16	18.8	0	0.0	59	69.4
	31-40	22	25.9	24	28.2	0	0.0	13	15.3
	41-50	21	24.7	29	34.1	41	48.24	11	12.9
	51-60	14	16.5	16	18.8	26	30.59	2	2.4
	61-70	1	1.2	0	0.0	18	21.17	0	0.0
Sex	Male (Lalaki)	33	38.8	30	35.3	19	22.4	24	28.2
	Female (Babae)	52	61.2	55	64.7	66	77.6	61	71.8
Civil status	Single (Binata/Dalaga)	17	20.0	16	18.8	0	0.0	43	50.6
	Married (May Asawa)	51	60.0	52	61.2	72	84.7	40	47.1
	Single Parent (Solong/Magulang)	12	14.1	8	9.4	0	0.0	2	2.4
	Widow (Balo)	5	5.9	9	10.6	13	15.3	0	0.0
	Etc. (Iba Pa)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 3 presents the distribution of respondents across four municipalities—Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera—categorized by age group, sex, and civil status. Age. The age distribution of the respondents from the four municipalities is as follows: The respondents from the municipalities of Aliaga were dominated by 20 to 30 years old, with 27 (32.8%), and 59 (69.4%) respondents, respectively; while, Bongabon and Santa Rosa were dominated by respondents who are 41 to 50 years old; with 29 (34.1%) from Bongabon and 41 (48.4%) respondents from Santa Rosa. The result revealed that most of the members of 4Ps in the sample municipalities still belong to the working age, which means they can be productive given the opportunity and means.

Sex. The population of respondents from the four municipalities was mostly female, with 52 (61.2%) from Aliaga, 55 (64.7%) from Bongabon, 66 (77.6%) from Santa Rosa, and 61 (71.8%) from Talavera. The result revealed that despite the fact that ratio of male population in the province of Nueva Ecija is higher compared to females; females are more participative in the research than males.

Civil Status. In terms of civil status, majority of the respondents from Aliaga (51 or 60%), Bongabon (52 or 61.2%), and Santa Rosa (72 or 84.7%) are married; and only respondents from Talavera (43 or 50.6%) are mostly single. The result revealed that since most of the respondents belong to the marrying age, it is expected that most of them should be married, except for the respondents from Talavera, wherein almost 70 percent of them are in the 20 to 30 age bracket.

Table 4 presents the distribution of respondents across the four municipalities—Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera—categorized by their highest educational attainment, monthly income, number of children, and years of being 4Ps beneficiaries.

Highest Educational Attainment. The highest educational attainment of majority of the respondents from Santa Rosa reached elementary education (28 or 32.9%), while most of the respondents from Aliaga (34 or 40%) and Bongabon (26 or 30.6%) reached high school; on the other hand, majority of the respondents from Talavera (32 or 37.6%) finished High School Education. The result of the respondents' highest educational attainment manifests that majority of the members of 4Ps who participated in this study achieved elementary up to high school education.

Monthly Income. The income of the majority of the respondents from the four municipalities is in the 1,000 to 5,000 peso bracket, to wit: Aliaga with 54, or 63.5 percent, Bongabon, 56 or 65.9 percent, Santa Rosa, 62, or 72.9 percent; and Talavera, 61 or 71.8 percent. The result revealed that since the respondents are members of 4Ps, it is expected that most of them should be in the lowest income bracket of 1,000 to 5,000.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents by highest educational attainment, monthly income, and number of children.

Indicators	Category	Aliaga (n=85)		Bongabon (n=85)		Sta. Rosa (n=85)		Talavera (n=85)	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Highest educational attainment	Reached elementary (Nakaabot ng elementarya)	17	20.0	20	23.5	28	32.9	4	4.7
	Finished elementary (Nakatapos ngelementarya)	15	17.6	13	15.3	13	15.3	9	10.6
	Reached high school (Nakaabot ng high school)	34	40.0	26	30.6	20	23.5	25	29.4
	Finished high school (Nakataposnghigh school)	18	21.2	21	24.7	18	21.2	32	37.6
	Reached college (Nakaabot ng Kolehiyo)	1	1.2	5	5.9	6	7.1	6	7.1
	Finished college (Nakatapos ng Kolehiyo)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.5
	Etc. (Iba pa)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	7.1
Monthly income	1,000-5,000	54	63.5	56	65.9	62	72.9	61	71.8
	5,001-10,000	22	25.9	22	25.9	17	20.0	15	17.6
	10,001-15,000	6	7.1	5	5.9	6	7.1	6	7.1
	15,001-20,000	3	3.5	2	2.4	0	0.0	3	3.5
Number of child/Children	1-2	27	39.1	28	32.9	21	24.7	54	63.5
	3-4	20	29.0	34	40.0	33	38.8	27	31.8
	5-7	18	26.1	19	22.4	27	31.8	4	4.7
	8-10	4	5.8	4	4.7	4	4.7	0	0.0
	More than (Mahigitsa) 10	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Years of being 4P's beneficiary	1-3	30	35.3	11	12.9	5	5.9	5	5.9
	4-6	43	50.6	60	70.6	67	78.8	71	83.5
	7-9	9	10.6	9	10.6	10	11.8	9	10.6
	More than (Mahigitsa) 10 taon)	3	3.5	5	5.9	3	3.5	0	0.0

Number of Children. The majority of the respondents from Aliaga (27 or 39.1%) and Talavera (54 or 63.5%) have 1 to 2 children; while Bongabon (34 or 40%) and Santa Rosa (54 or 63.5 %) have 3 to 4 children. It is also interesting to note that most of the respondents from Aliaga, Bongabon, and Santa Rosa have 8 to 10 children.

Years of being a 4Ps Member. The number of years of being 4Ps members of the majority of the respondents from the four municipalities are 4 to 6 years; to wit: Aliaga with 3 or 50.6%, Bongabon with 60 or 70.6%, Santa Rosa with 67 or 78.8%, and Talavera with 71 to 83.5%. The results of the study showed that most of the respondents have been in the 4Ps program of the government since its institutionalization in 2019. And it is also interesting to note that there were respondents in the three municipalities of Aliaga, Bongabon, and Santa Rosa who were already beneficiaries of 4Ps for more than 10 years or even before the said program was institutionalized through RA No. 11310.

3.2. Effectiveness of the Implementation of the 4Ps Program

The result in Table 5 showed the summary of the responses of the respondents in terms of the effectiveness of the 4Ps program along the four parameters of health and nutrition, and education.

Table 5. Summary of the effectiveness of the implementation of the 4Ps program by parameters and per municipality.

Average mean and verbal description				
Parameters of effectiveness	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta. Rosa	Talavera
1. Health and nutrition	3.3379 (VE)	3.6118 (VE)	3.7674(VE)	3.6498(VE)
2. Education	3.3912 (VE)	3.7176 (VE)	3.8353(VE)	3.7054(VE)
Grand mean	3.37(VE)	3.67 (VE)	3.80(VE)	3.68(VE)

3.3. Summary of the Effectiveness of the 4Ps Program in Terms of the Five Parameters

The result in Table 6 revealed that in general, the respondents from the four municipalities perceived the implementation of the 4Ps program of the government as very effective in terms of the four parameters, as evidenced by the following overall computed means for every municipality:

Aliaga. The computed mean of 3.34 was obtained for the health and nutrition parameter; 3.39 for the education parameter; 3.35 The overall mean of 3.36 for the four parameters was obtained from the respondents in the municipality of Aliaga, which implies that they considered the implementation of the 4Ps program in their municipality as “Very Effective.” The analysis of the specific means of the respondents from Aliaga showed that the highest mean of 3.39 for education parameter showed that being a member of the government’s 4Ps program is very effective in providing educational assistance to the students whose parents or other family members cannot afford to send them to school for appropriate education.

Bongabon. For the respondents from the municipality of Bongabon, the computed mean of 3.61 was obtained for the health and nutrition parameter; 3.72 for the education parameter. The analysis of the computed mean per parameter manifested that respondents from Bongabon perceived the parameter of education as the most effective program of the government’s 4Ps program in their municipality.

Santa Rosa. The highest computed mean among the responses of 4Ps members from Santa Rosa was for the parameter education, which is 3.83; on the parameter health and nutrition, mean of 3.77 was obtained. Analyzing this result, it implied that respondents from the municipality of Santa Rosa perceived that the most effective implementation of the 4Ps program of the government was manifested in terms of the education of the members, while the lowest mean was obtained for the parameter of health and nutrition.

Talavera. The highest mean obtained by the respondents from the municipality of Talavera was on the Parameter Education with a mean of 3.705; and 3.649 for the Parameter Health and Nutrition. This result showed that the implementation of the government’s 4Ps program was very effective in terms of alleviating education among the members from the municipality of Talavera; while the lowest mean was obtained for the parameter health and nutrition with a mean of 3.649 for said municipality. This result indicates that members of 4Ps from the municipality of Talavera believed that the 4Ps program of the government was mostly effective in its objective of alleviating education.

The response of the 4Ps members to the specific item-statements of the four parameters of the effectiveness of the implementation of the 4Ps program is presented and discussed below.

3.4. Health and Nutrition

One component of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program in the Philippines is to monitor the health and nutrition of the beneficiaries and their children. The study analyzed the indicators to see if the program really motivated the beneficiaries to prioritize their health and nutrition. The Barangay Health Workers who live in the communities they serve act as change agents in their communities. They provide basic information, education, and motivation services for primary health care, maternal and child health, child rights, family planning, and nutrition. Shown in Table 6 is the mean per indicator on Health and Nutrition of the following municipalities:

Aliaga. The respondents from the municipality of Aliaga perceived the 10 out of the 13 item statements of the health and nutrition parameter of the 4Ps program as very effective, while they perceived 3 out of the 13 item statements as moderately effective. The highest mean of their response was for the item-statement: “Children under 2 years of age and younger are given the appropriate vaccination once a month by family members of 4Ps” (Mean = 3.565); while the lowest mean was for the item-statement: “Children aged 6 to 14 years old and in elementary school are purged twice a year,” and a mean of 2.094, with verbal interpretation of “moderately effective.” The results imply that 4Ps members from Aliaga found the health and nutrition component of the 4Ps program as most effective in terms of the once-a-month vaccination of children who are 2 years old and younger, while the least effective

component was in terms of purging 6 to 14 year-old elementary students twice a year. It can be gleaned from the overall result that respondents from Aliaga obtained the lowest mean of 3.338, and this can be attributed to the lack of equipment, mechanisms, and trained personnel in the barangay health clinic to perform such duties necessary for health and nutrition services among the members of 4Ps.

Bongabon. Respondents from Bongabon perceived the 12 out of the 13 item-statements of the health and nutrition parameter of the 4Ps program as very effective, and one item-statement was perceived as moderately effective. This statement pertains to visiting local health centers every two months, with the lowest mean of 3.129. During the random interviews, the respondents revealed that they were rarely visited by the local health center personnel because their place of residence is far from the health centers. It was also gathered that they preferred to stay at home and save their time and money than to visit their local health centers, especially if they don't feel any health problems.

Santa Rosa. The respondents from Santa Rosa perceived all the 13 item-statements of the health and nutrition parameter as Very Effective. The highest mean obtained was for the following statements: "A pregnant 4Ps beneficiary family member can go to a local health center to get tested"; "The birth of a pregnant woman with a 4Ps beneficiary family is performed by a doctor or midwife"; "The vaccine is given to children under 2 years of age according to the vaccination records of health centers"; "Children aged 6 to 14 years old and in elementary school are purged twice a year"; and "Babies are vaccinated from birth to nine months." All these indicators obtained a mean of 3.835. On the other hand, the lowest mean obtained was for the item statements: "Children of 4Ps members can go to local health centers for testing"; and "Children under 2 years of age and younger are given the appropriate vaccination once a month by family members of 4Ps," with a computed mean of 3.506. The lowest mean of the responses of the 4Ps members from Santa Rosa in terms of providing appropriate vaccines to children under 2 years old was due to the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, children are not allowed to go out, thus these health and nutrition services were not properly observed.

Further analysis of the result in [Table 6](#) revealed that respondents from the municipality of Sta. Rosa gave the highest Mean of 3.767, which is described as "Very Effective," followed by Talavera (3.65), Bongabon (3.65), and Aliaga (3.338). The result showed that respondents from Aliaga perceived the three item-statements on health and nutrition parameter as "Moderately Effective." This may mean that although the government implements health and nutrition programs, these services were not fully carried out and further, due to the lack of barangay health volunteers who will carry out such duties. Likewise, respondents of Bongabon also perceived that indicator 3 is "Moderately Effective" due to the remote location of some beneficiaries who would rather choose to stay at home than to visit their health centers. Overall, the rest of the item statements were perceived as "Very Effective" by the respondents from the four municipalities, which means these health and nutrition services are fully implemented and very effective.

Effective implementation of the program necessitates the ardent participants of the beneficiaries. They were given guidelines to observe for the duration of the program. Non compliance on the part of the beneficiaries will certainly affect the implementation of the program. As mentioned by [Hill and Hupe \(2002\)](#) the effective implementation of a program in the government requires community empowerment and participation. For the government to fully and effectively implement its programs for the people, the public must do their part; hence, proactive action from the public is vital to these government programs. Thus, every government program provides policies that reach out and empower the vulnerable sectors, but these programs will fail the moment the public does not perform its part.

3.5. Education

The education parameter of the 4Ps program was implemented mainly to help improve the lives of the disadvantaged sectors. They were provided by the government with the means to keep their children healthy and educated. [Table 7](#) shows the perceived effectiveness of the 4Ps program implementation in the area of education.

Table 6. The mean of the effectiveness of implementation of 4Ps program per indicators of health and nutrition by municipalities.

Health and nutrition	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta Rosa	Talavera
1. Children of 4Ps members can go to local health centers for testing. <i>Ang mgaanak ng miyembrongkasapisa 4Ps ay nakakapunta sa local na health centers upangmagpasuri.</i>	3.294 (VE)	3.506 (VE)	3.506 (VE)	3.595 (VE)
2. A pregnant 4Ps beneficiary family member can go to a local health center to get tested. <i>Ang kasapi ng pamilya nabeneπισaryo ng 4Ps na nagdadalang-tao ay nakakapunta sa local na health centers upang magpasuri.</i>	3.282 (VE)	3.753 (VE)	3.835 (VE)	3.595 (VE)
3. Visits to local health centers are done every two months. <i>Ang pagpunta sa local na health centers ay isinasagawaminsansadalawangbuwan.</i>	3.318 (VE)	3.129 (ME)	3.824 (VE)	3.571 (VE)
4. The pregnant woman and the family of the 4Ps beneficiary can go to the local health center for a quarter-trimester checkup during pregnancy. <i>Ang nagdadalang-tao na kasapi sa pamilya ng beneπισaryo ng 4Ps ay nakakapunta sa local na health center upang magpasuri minsan sa kada-trimester sapanahon ng pagbubuntis.</i>	3.306 (VE)	3.753 (VE)	3.824 (VE)	3.583 (VE)
5. The birth of a pregnant woman with a 4Ps beneficiary family is performed by a doctor or midwife. <i>Ang pagpapa-anak sa nagdadalang-tao nakasapi sa pamilyang beneπισaryo ng 4Ps ay isinasagawa ng doktor o midwife.</i>	3.388 (VE)	3.647 (VE)	3.835 (VE)	3.647 (VE)
6. The family member examines a post-natal caregiver within the first six (6) weeks. <i>Nagpapasuri sa isang nangangalaga sa post-natal ang miyembro ng pamilya na bagong panganak sa loob ng unang anim (6) Nalinggo.</i>	3.400 (VE)	3.553 (VE)	3.671 (VE)	3.659 (VE)
7. Children aged 0 to 5 can be screened at the city/Municipal health centers or the Barangay health station. <i>Naipapasuri ang mgaanakna may gulang 0 hanggang 5 taonsa city/Municipal health centers o sa Barangay health station.</i>	3.471 (VE)	3.765 (VE)	3.824 (VE)	3.729 (VE)
8. Children under 2 years of age and younger are given the appropriate vaccination once a month by family members of 4Ps. <i>Nabibigyan ng karampatang bakuna minsan sa isang buwan ang mga anak na nasa 2 taong gulang pababa sa pamilya na miyembro ng 4Ps.</i>	3.565 (VE)	3.318 (VE)	3.506 (VE)	3.718 (VE)
9. The vaccine is given to children under 2 years of age according to the vaccination records of health centers. <i>Nabibigyan ng bakuna ang mga anak na nasa 2 taong gulang pababa ayon sa talaan ng bakuna ng health centers.</i>	3.400 (VE)	3.671 (VE)	3.835 (VE)	3.682 (VE)
10. Children aged 2 to 5 years are seen at the health center once every two months.	3.447 (VE)	3.718 (VE)	3.824 (VE)	3.726 (VE)

Health and nutrition	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta Rosa	Talavera
<i>Ang mga anak na nasa edad 2 hanggang 5 taong gulang ay ipinatitingin sa health center minsansaika-lawangbuwan.</i>				
11. Children aged 2 to 5 years are seen at the health center twice a month for weight monitoring. <i>Ang mga anak na nasa edad 2 hanggang 5 taong gulang ay ipinatitingin sa health center dalawang beses sa isang buwan para sa pag monitor ng timbang.</i>	3.200 (ME)	3.788 (VE)	3.824 (VE)	3.667 (VE)
12. Children aged 6 to 14 years old and in elementary school are purged twice a year. <i>Ang mga anak na may edad 6 hanggang 14 nataon at nag-aaral sa elementarya ay pinupurga ng dalawang beses sa isang taon.</i>	3.094 (ME)	3.718 (VE)	3.835 (VE)	3.667 (VE)
13. Babies are vaccinated from birth to nine months <i>Ang mga sanggol ay pinababakuna simula sa pag silang hanggang sa ika-siyam na buwan.</i>	3.226 (ME)	3.635 (VE)	3.835 (VE)	3.714 (VE)
Average mean	3.338 (VE)	3.612 (VE)	3.767 (VE)	3.65 (VE)

Table 7. The mean of the effectiveness of implementation of 4Ps program per indicators of education by municipalities.

Weighted mean and verbal description				
Education	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta Rosa	Talavera
1. Children ages 3 to 5 are required to enroll in a day care program or Kindergarten. <i>Ang mgabatangnasaedad 3 hanggang 5 taonggulang ay kinakailangang mag-enrolsa day care program o Kindergarten.</i>	3.388 (VE)	3.329 (VE)	3.506(VE)	3.714(VE)
2. Children enrolled in day care or Kindergarten are required to record attendance at 85% maturity. <i>Ang mgabatangnaka-enrolsa day care o Kindergarten ay kinakailangangmagtala ng attendance nahindibababasa 85% kadaburwan</i>	3.341 (VE)	3.894 (VE)	4.000(VE)	3.679(VE)
3. Children 6 to 18 years old are required to enroll in daycare, Kinder, Elementary or Secondary school. <i>Ang mgabatangnasa 6 hanggang 18 taonggulang ay kinakailangang mag-enrolsa Daycare, Kinder, paaralangElementarya o Sekondarya.</i>	3.400 (VE)	3.800 (VE)	4.000(VE)	3.702(VE)
4. Children enrolled in daycare, kinder, elementary or secondary school are required to attend classes and record attendance at 85% maturity. <i>Ang mgabatangnaka-enrolsa Daycare, Kinder, paaralangElementarya o Sekondarya ay kinakailangangdumalosaklase at magtalang attendance nahindibababasa 85% kadaburwan.</i>	3.435 (VE)	3.847 (VE)	3.835(VE)	3.726(VE)
Average mean	3.3912(VE)	3.7176 (VE)	3.8353(VE)	3.7054(VE)

Aliaga. In general, the respondents from Aliaga perceived the four item-statements of the 4Ps education parameter as “Very Effective.” The highest weighted mean of 3.435 was obtained for the statement “Children enrolled in daycare, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school are required to attend classes and record attendance at 85% maturity”; while the lowest mean of 3.341 was obtained for the item-statement “Children enrolled in daycare or kindergarten are required to record attendance at 85% maturity.” This finding showed that the distance between the daycare center and the place of residence of the 4Ps members from Aliaga seems to be the barrier why children whose age is for daycare and kindergarten education cannot fully attend their classes regularly, compared to the attendance of elementary or secondary school children of the members.

Bongabon. The response of the 4Ps members from Bongabon regarding the effectiveness of the education program of 4Ps manifested that they perceived it as “Very Effective.” The highest mean of 3.894 was obtained for the item-statement “Children enrolled in Day Care or Kindergarten are required to record attendance at 85% maturity;” while the lowest mean of 3.329 was obtained for the item-statement “Children ages 3 to 5 are required to enroll in a Day Care Program or Kindergarten.” The result indicated that members of the 4Ps from Bongabon perceived the education program of sending to school those children who are in day care or kindergarten as the most effective program, while attendance at the daycare center of 3 to 5 year old children is the least effective among the 4 item statements of the education parameter.

Santa Rosa. The response of the 4Ps members from Santa Rosa to the item-statements of the education parameter of 4Ps manifested that the highest mean of 4.0 was obtained for the items “Children enrolled in Day Care or Kindergarten are required to record attendance at 85% maturity” and “Children 6 to 18 years old are required to enroll in Daycare, Kinder, Elementary or Secondary school,” while the lowest mean of 3.506 was obtained for the item-statement “Children ages 3 to 5 are required to enroll in a Day Care Program or Kindergarten.” This result regarding the most effective education program of respondents from Santa Rosa is the same with the response of the 4Ps members from Bongabon, except for the fact that respondents from Santa Rosa also perceived the education

program for 6 to 18 years old as Very Effective as evidenced by the highest mean of 4.0. The same result for the lowest mean for the same item among the respondents from Aliaga, Bongabon, and Talavera was obtained.

Talavera. The response of the 4Ps members from Talavera revealed that the highest mean of 3.726 was obtained for the statement “Children enrolled in daycare, kinder, elementary, or secondary school are required to attend classes and record attendance at 85% maturity”; while the lowest mean of 3.679 was obtained for the statement “Children enrolled in daycare, kinder, elementary, or secondary school are required to attend classes and record attendance at 85% maturity.”

Analyzing the general result of the findings regarding the effectiveness of the education program of 4Ps, respondents from Aliaga and Talavera both obtained the highest weighted mean for the same item statement, which indicates that attendance of students in elementary and secondary schools is the most effective education program of 4Ps; while for the respondents from Bongabon and Santa Rosa, attendance of students in day care and kindergarten is the most effective education program of 4Ps in their municipality.

The differing opinions of the respondents from the four municipalities clearly manifested that the proximity of the schools to the place of residence of the 4Ps member is a big factor in the effective implementation of the education component of the 4Ps program of the government. It is also interesting to note, that members of the 4Ps from the four municipalities in general perceived the education programs as “Very Effective.” This means the government has effectively encouraged the parents to enroll their children in the daycare or kindergarten, elementary, and high school, and allow them to obtain 85% of the monthly attendance. This parameter was found to be effective due to the monitoring and reporting system laid down by the program for the attendance and performance of the 4P beneficiaries. Aside from the reporting and regular meetings of the program beneficiaries, the program also maintained coordination with the school principals to monitor the parents and the attendance of their children at school. This supports the significance of monitoring in any project or program implementation as provided for in the (DepEd Order No. 14, 2020).

3.6. Impact of 4Ps to the Beneficiaries

The highlight of the study aims to assess the impact of the 4Ps program on the beneficiaries. This would demonstrate the program’s effectiveness by examining how the beneficiaries’ lives have been transformed. Table 8 describes the impact of the 4Ps program on the beneficiaries.

Table 8. Rating, verbal description, and interpretation used in assessing the impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries.

Rating	Verbal description	Interpretation
1.0 – 1.75	No impact (NI)	The program did not affect the life and well-being of the beneficiaries
1.76 – 2.50	With slight impact (SI)	The program provided small changes in the life and well-being of the beneficiaries
2.51 – 3.25	With moderate impact (MI)	The program provided some major changes in the life and well-being of the beneficiaries
3.26 – 4.00	With high impact (HI)	The program completely changed the life and well-being of the beneficiaries

3.7. Summary of the Impact of the 4Ps Program in terms of the Five Parameters.

Presented on the next table is the summary of the perceived impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries per municipality.

Table 9. Summary of the impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries per municipality.

Indicators	Average weighted mean and verbal description			
	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta. Rosa	Talavera
1. Health and nutrition	3.2686 (HI)	3.6137 (HI)	3.6549 (HI)	3.6967 (HI)
2. Education	3.3961 (HI)	3.7941 (HI)	3.8255 (HI)	3.7722 (HI)
Grand mean	3.33(HI)	3.70 (HI)	3.74(HI)	3.73(HI)

Table 9 presents a summary of the impact of the 4Ps program on beneficiaries across four municipalities: Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera, based on two key indicators—health and nutrition, and education.

Aliaga. The 4Ps members from the municipality of Aliaga perceived the five parameters of the government's 4Ps program to be with "high impact". The highest mean of 3.3961 was obtained for the parameter education; while the lowest mean of 3.2686 was obtained for the parameter health and nutrition. This result manifested that respondents from Aliaga considered the highest impact of the 4Ps program to their life was in terms of education. Conversely, the parameter health and nutrition yielded the lowest mean score of 3.2686.

Bongabon. The respondents from Bongabon generally perceived the five parameters of the 4Ps program on be "high impact" on their lives. The highest mean of 3.7941 was given to education parameter; while the lowest mean of 3.6137 was obtained for the health and nutrition parameter.

Santa Rosa. The members of the government's 4Ps program from Santa Rosa perceived the five parameters of the 4Ps program to have "high impact" on them. The highest mean of 3.8255 was obtained for the education parameter, while the lowest mean of 3.6549 was obtained for the health and nutrition parameter.

Talavera. The respondents from Talavera generally perceived the five parameters of the 4Ps program to have "high impact" on their lives. The highest impact for them was in terms of education with a mean of 3.7722, while the lowest mean of 3.6967 was given to the health and nutrition parameter.

Analysis of the summary revealed that in general, the 4Ps members from the four municipalities agreed that the programs of 4Ps provided high impact on their lives. It is interesting to note that looking at the parameters with the highest impact, both the respondents from Santa Rosa and Talavera, considered the impact of 4Ps program on education as the most significant. The viewpoints of the participants from Aliaga and Bongabon diverged. Further analysis revealed that the members from the three municipalities of Aliaga, Bongabon, and Santa Rosa, agreed that the least impact of the 4Ps program, according to them, was in terms of health and nutrition.

Further analysis of the results showed that the respondents of Sta. Rosa value education, believing that the future of their children will become better. On the other hand, the respondents of Aliaga are more concerned with their primary source of income, which is farming. The least of their concerns is health and nutrition, probably because of their good health condition at that presentation.

Compared to before the 4Ps program, the respondents' lives and well-being changed completely. However, though the response across the municipalities has shown "high impact in all indicators, it needed to take notice of the least rating provided by Aliaga in "health and nutrition". This means that though majority agreed on the high impact of the program in their lives, there are still respondents who believe that the program did not completely transform their lives and well-being, which is as much as health and nutrition are concerned.

3.8. Impact of the 4Ps Program in Terms of Health and Nutrition

One of the objectives of the program is to improve the health and nutrition of the disadvantaged sectors. The government established guidelines and mechanisms to guarantee the achievement of this objective. This section provides discussion on how these mechanisms affect the lives of those in the program.

The next table displays the average response from the respondents about how the program has affected their health and nutrition.

Table 10. The impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries per indicators of health and nutrition by municipalities.

Weighted mean and verbal description				
Health and nutrition	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta. Rosa	Talavera
1. Children and pregnant women can get tested with their families <i>Nakapagpapasuri ang mgaanak at nagdadalang-taonakasapisapamilya</i>	3.141 (MI)	3.565 (HI)	3.635 (HI)	3.671 (HI)
2. The pregnant family member is monitored for pregnancy <i>Nasusubaybayansapagbubuntis ang miyembro ng pamilyananagdadalang-tao</i>	3.235 (MI)	3.318 (HI)	3.341 (HI)	3.756 (HI)
3. The pregnant family member is having a safe pregnancy <i>Nagkakaroon ng ligtasnagbubuntis ang miyembro ng pamilyananagdadalang-tao</i>	3.188 (MI)	3.576 (HI)	3.647 (HI)	3.646 (HI)
4. The health of the children is taken care of by visiting a local health center <i>Nabibigyangpansin ang kalusugan ng mgaanaksapamamagitan ng pagpunta local na health center</i>	3.26 (HI)	3.776 (HI)	3.824 (HI)	3.726 (HI)
5. The birth and upbringing of the baby in the family is getting better <i>Nagigingmaayos ang pagkapanganak at pagpapalaki ng sanggolsapamilya</i>	3.365 (HI)	3.647 (HI)	3.647 (HI)	3.783 (HI)
6. Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family. <i>Nakaka-irwaspagkakasakit ang mgabata at sanggolsapamilyadahilsapagkakaroon ng karampatangbakuna</i>	3.424 (HI)	3.800 (HI)	3.835 (HI)	3.854 (HI)
Average mean	3.2686 (HI)	3.6137(HI)	3.6549(HI)	3.6967(HI)

Table 10 presents the impact of the 4Ps program on beneficiaries across four municipalities—Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera—specifically focusing on indicators related to health and nutrition.

Aliaga. The respondents from Aliaga, perceived the six item-statements of the health and nutrition parameter of the 4Ps program with high impact. The highest mean of 3.424 was obtained for the item statement: “Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family,” and the lowest mean of 3.141 was obtained for the item statement: “Children and pregnant women can get tested with their families.”

Bongabon. The 4Ps members from Bongabon perceived the six item-statements of the health and nutrition parameter as having high impact. The highest mean of 3.000 was given to the item statement: “Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family,” and the lowest mean of 3.318 was given to the item statement: “The pregnant family member is monitored for pregnancy.”

Santa Rosa. The six-item statements of the health and nutrition parameters of the government’s 4Ps program were perceived by the respondents from Santa Rosa as having high impact. The highest mean of 3.835 was obtained for the item statement: “Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family,” and the lowest mean of 3.341 was for the item statement: “The pregnant family member is monitored for pregnancy.”

Talavera. The respondents from Talavera perceived the six item statements of the health and nutrition parameters of the program as having high impact. The highest mean of 3.854 was obtained for the item statement: “Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family,” and the lowest mean of 3.646 was given to the item statement: “The pregnant family member is having a safe pregnancy.”

The above result revealed that the respondents from the four municipalities perceived the health and education program of 4Ps program as having “high impact”. The response of the members from Talavera obtained the highest overall mean of 3.6967, followed by Sta. Rosa with an overall mean of 3.6549, and respondents from Bongabon with an overall mean of 3.6317. The lowest overall mean was obtained by the respondents from Aliaga, which is 3.2686. It is interesting to note that all the respondents from the four municipalities perceived the item-statement: “Proper vaccination can prevent children and babies from getting sick in the family” as the most significant health and nutrition services of the government’s 4Ps program. On the other hand, the lowest mean obtained from the respondents in the four municipalities was for the statements that involved pregnancies.

Further analysis indicated that municipality of Talavera had a better mechanism for giving vaccines due to the existence of the general hospital in said municipality, while the respondents of Aliaga indicated a low response on the checkups of children and pregnant women due to the remote location of the respondents which was really far from the hospital, and the unavailability of adequate equipment in their own barangay health clinic.

The result regarding the high impact of the health and nutrition parameter indicates that majority of the respondents from the four municipalities believe that the program greatly improved the health and nutrition of their children and pregnant beneficiaries. It can be gleaned that beneficiaries of Talavera believe that the program has prevented sickness in their children due to the vaccination activities. However, it can also be noticed that respondents to Aliaga answered that three item-statements were evaluated with “Moderate Impact” in terms of health and nutrition services. This shows that the check-up activities provided in the program for their children and pregnant members of the family only had some major effect on the intended beneficiaries but not completely due to the inadequate equipment in their barangay health clinic. Most likely it is because the barangay health centers that provide services for the program have limited resources in terms of medical personnel and experts, medicines, medical facilities, and equipment. Particularly for pregnant women, they would need equipment such as ultrasound and would require medical experts like OB-Gyne to have a complete check-up, which the barangay health centers do not have said devices at all. In general, the program has helped the beneficiaries, and it has provided a positive change in their health and well-being.

3.9. Impact of the 4Ps Program in Terms of Education

The 4Ps program of the government in terms of education parameter pertains to the widely utilized social policy tools aiming to facilitate enrolment and regular attendance to education. As a benefit, children of 4Ps members must regularly attend school to avail of the cash assistance. To address the issue of education, it requires the collection of data; hence, the next table shows the response on the level of impact of the 4Ps program on the beneficiaries of the municipalities.

Table 11. The impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries per indicators of education by municipalities.

Weighted mean and verbal description				
Education	Aliaga	Bongabon	Sta. Rosa	Talavera
1. Attention is paid to the education of the children in the family <i>Nabibigyangpansin ang pag-aaral ng mgaanakapamilya</i>	3.565 (HI)	3.529 (HI)	3.506(HI)	3.741(HI)
2. Class attendance is valued <i>Nabibigyanghalaga ang pagdalo ng mgaanaksaklase</i>	3.424 (HI)	3.882 (HI)	3.965(HI)	3.800(HI)
3. Parents who are members of 4Ps are gaining an understanding of the importance of education <i>Nagkakaroon ng pagkaunawa ng kahalagahan ng pag-aaral ang mgamagulangnamiyembro ng 4Ps</i>	3.471 (HI)	3.941 (HI)	4.000 (HI)	3.788(HI)
4. Children or students who are members of 4Ps gain an understanding of the importance of education <i>Nagkakaroon ng pagkaunawa ng kahalagahan ng pag-aaral ang mgaanak o mag-aaralnamiyembro ng 4Ps</i>	3.376 (HI)	3.800 (HI)	3.835 (HI)	3.800(HI)
5. Children graduate from elementary school <i>Nakakapagtapos ang mgaanaksapag-aaralsaelementarya</i>	3.26 (HI)	3.671 (HI)	3.647 (HI)	3.762(HI)
6. Children graduate from high school <i>Nakakapagtapos ang mgaanaksapag-aaralsa high school</i>	3.282 (HI)	3.941 (HI)	4.000 (HI)	3.741(HI)
Average mean	3.396 (HI)	3.794(HI)	3.8255(HI)	3.772(HI)

Table 11 presents the impact of the 4Ps program on the beneficiaries' education across four municipalities: Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera, based on specific education-related indicators.

Aliaga. In terms of the education parameter of the government's 4Ps program, it was evaluated by the respondents from Aliaga as having "high impact." The highest mean of 3.565 was obtained for the item statement: "Attention is paid to the education of the children in the family," while the lowest mean of 3.26 was given to the item-statement: "Children graduate from elementary school."

Bongabon. The respondents from Bongabon rated the education parameter of the 4Ps program as having "high impact." Particularly, they gave the highest mean of 3.941 to the item statement: "Parents who are members of 4Ps are gaining an understanding of the importance of education," while the lowest mean of 3.529 was given to the item statement: "Attention is paid to the education of the children in the family."

Santa Rosa. The respondents from Santa Rosa perceived the six item statements of the education parameter as with "High Impact." The highest mean of 4.0 was obtained for the two item statements: "Parents who are members of 4Ps are gaining an understanding of the importance of education," and "Children graduate from High School". The lowest mean of 3.506 was obtained for the item statement: "Attention is paid to the education of the children in the family."

Talavera. The education parameter of 4Ps was perceived as having "high impact" by the respondents from Talavera. The highest mean of 3.800 was given to the item statements: "Class attendance is valued"; and "Children or students who are members of 4Ps gain an understanding of the importance of education." While the lowest mean of 3.741 was obtained for the item statements: "Attention is paid to the education of the children in the family," and "Children graduate from High School."

Further analysis of the result showed that the respondents from the four municipalities believed that the education component of the 4Ps program has "high impact" on the education of their children. The overall mean obtained from each municipality showed that respondents from Santa Rosa gave the highest mean average of 3.8255,

while the municipality of Bongabon gave an overall mean of 3.794, followed by the respondents from Talavera with an overall mean of 3.772, and lastly, the response of respondents from Aliaga with an overall mean of 3.396. These results manifested that the 4Ps members' mindset on the importance of education has changed. The parents who are members of the 4Ps program perceived the importance of education; and they adhered that because of the education component of the 4Ps program, many of their children are able to finish their studies, particularly in elementary and secondary.

The PantawidPamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act, also known as the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), gives money to the poor people in return for fulfilling specific behavioral conditions. These conditions include the children's school attendance, up-to-date vaccinations, or regular visits to a health care facility for those pregnant women. CCT is a new type of social program with the primary objective of alleviating and fighting poverty. A CCT has a direct effect on poverty by providing immediate financial aid for the poor family.

3.10. Significant Difference on the Impact of 4Ps to the Beneficiaries Across and Between the Municipalities

To determine the significant difference in the impact of the 4Ps program among responses of the respondents from the four municipalities, Analysis of Variance was employed in this study. The following tables show the descriptive statistics table and the results of ANOVA for the testing of the hypothesis of the study.

Table 12. Descriptive statistics of the four municipalities.

Municipality	N	Mean	Std. deviation
Aliaga	85	3.3720	0.19669
Bongabon	85	3.7252	0.14919
Sta Rosa	85	3.7386	0.12674
Talavera	85	3.7327	0.51678

Table 12 presents the descriptive statistics of the four municipalities—Aliaga, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera—based on the respondents' overall evaluation of the 4Ps program's impact.

Table 13. One-way ANOVA results.

Dependent variable: Impact of the 4Ps program to the beneficiaries					
Indicator	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	p-value
Between groups	8.253	3	2.751	32.599	0.000
Within groups	28.101	337	0.084		
Total	36.354	340			

Note: Significant at p-value < .05.

Table 13 presents the results of a One-Way ANOVA test conducted to evaluate the impact of the 4Ps program on beneficiaries across the four municipalities.

The Municipality of Aliaga obtained a Mean response on the indicator level of impact of the 4Ps Program of 3.3720 (SD=.19669) while the Municipality of Bongabon obtained M=3.7252 (SD=.14919). The Municipality Sta. Rosa indicated a M=3.7386 (SD=.12674); and the municipality of Talavera showed M=3.7327 (SD=.51678).

The analysis showed that there was a statistically significant difference between groups as determined by One-Way ANOVA ($F(3,337)=32.599$, p-value<.001). A Tukey post hoc test was used to determine where the differences occur among the municipalities. The Tukey post hoc test revealed that there is a statistically significant difference between the responses in Aliaga and the other three municipalities, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera. It indicates that the Mean response of those in Aliaga with regards to the impact of the 4Ps program on the beneficiaries is significantly lower than the rest of the three municipalities. There was no statistically significant difference between the rest of the municipalities.

It can be noticed that the significant difference in the response from Aliaga with the rest of the municipalities is attributable to their perception of the indicators of impact of the program. The respondents from the Municipality of Aliaga expressed a moderate impact in terms of the parameter of health and nutrition. According to the socio-economic profile of the municipality of Aliaga, being an agriculture-based economy, the majority of the population of Aliaga depends on agriculture as their means of livelihood. Rice cropping is the main source of income for the people of Aliaga; there are times that they are short financially and they have to wait for the harvest to make money for the next season (Municipality of Aliaga, 2012).

3.11. Challenges Encountered by the Beneficiaries in the Duration of the Program

The qualitative analysis of the respondents' responses to the questions regarding the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries during the duration of the 4Ps program is revealed as follows:

The respondents explicitly shared some of their experiences with the improvement in the quality of life since they became beneficiaries of the 4Ps program. The respondents manifested that as beneficiaries of 4Ps, they were provided aid for their everyday financial challenges. The 4Ps members mentioned that *"this program improved their life, improved their living, often underspent their money when they are not yet members of 4Ps; this program helped them to pay at the same time, and reduced their debt."* In addition, 4Ps members described that that program is significantly beneficial to them since it provided an alternative source of education assistance and daily needs for their family. This was perceived as their solution to their daily expenses, such as allowance for students, scholarships in some ways, and aid for their food. These observations are rooted in their narrative that *"the student's pocket money is not a problem anymore and becomes the source of day-to-day expenses."* Furthermore, a sense of hope was instilled in the members. reover, there was an installation of hope among the members. According to them, they wished that this kind of program would reach the majority of people who are in need, and more programs would be cascaded by the agency to reach out to more poor families. This can be found in their stories that these 4Ps brought them hope, as stated, *"Hopefully the government continues to give 4Ps to others and continue to provide livelihood to many people."*

Further analyses of the results of the interviews undertaken by the researcher were presented using thematic grid for qualitative research. The researcher initiated the process with open coding, utilising both descriptive and in vivo coding to identify the emerging themes. The emerging themes were regrouped and recoded to generate the final themes using manual-dual categories. To wit;

Table 14 presents the challenges that beneficiaries faced during their participation in the 4Ps program, as identified by the emergence of various themes. These themes highlight the specific difficulties that beneficiaries face, which can affect their overall experience and the program's effectiveness.

Although the implementation of 4Ps is significantly beneficial to the members, it was found out that there were still challenges in the implementation of this program. These challenges may be associated with the accessibility of information conducted through meetings. There was an observed struggle for people who are in the far-flung areas, as mentioned, *"The meeting place is usually far from our place."* On the other hand, physical conditions such as age and illness of some of the members served as hindrances in the implementation of program. According to their narratives, *"They are unable to participate due to illnesses such as diabetes."* Also, members of 4Ps felt shy about participating in the meetings and activities conducted by the program implementer. As members said, *"They feel shy to attend the meeting,"* but later they were able to cope with this feeling. In addition, political issues, *"padrino system,"* are one of the challenges of the members. In an interview, members were talking about how relatives of the barangay officials can easily access the grant in spite of the existing policies being implemented. *The statement suggests that the 4Ps appear to be reserved for individuals who are close to the leaders. Because it is usually not difficult to line up to get assistance but also to be close to the councilor."* Respondents complained about the continued increase in the price of commodities in the market. They expressed concern that the financial aid was inadequate to keep pace with the increasing cost of living. This is one of major struggles of members, as they mentioned, *"Sometimes we can survive for a month, and sometimes the money*

we get doesn't last for a month. The prices have also gone up. They added, this is a good program and hopefully will increase the cash.”

Table 14. Challenges encountered by the beneficiaries in the duration of the program.

Emergence of themes	
Proximity of meeting place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting place is usually far from our place (<i>Malayo ang lugar ng pulong</i>) We had a challenging time getting a membership because we didn't know anyone in the municipality. Additionally, the 4Ps office was located a considerable distance from our home. The coordinators come up rarely in a month, so they come up to our place. (<i>Sapagpapa-miyembro naming medyonahirapan kami kasi wala naman kamingkakilalasamunisipyo. at isa pa ay malayo ang amingbahay para tumungosatanggapan ng 4Ps. Madalangsaisangburwanupangsilang ay umakyatsalugarnamin</i>)
Physical condition (Sickness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to participate due to illnesses such as diabetes. (<i>Hindimakalahokdahilsamgasakitnanararamdamantulad ng diabetes</i>)
Shyness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They feel shy to participate in meetings but eventually learn to participate as well. (<i>Nahihiyanglumahoksamgapulongngunitkalaunan ay natututona ring lumahok</i>)
Political issues (Padrino system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It seems like 4Ps are for those close to leaders. Because it is usually not difficult to line up to get assistance but also to be close to the councilor. (<i>Parang ang 4Ps ay para samgamalalapitsamganamumuno. Dahilkadalan hindi naman mahirap ang nakapila para kumuha ng assistance kundi may kaya din namalalapitsakonsihal</i>)
The high price of commodity and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes we can survive for a month, sometimes the money we get doesn't last for a month. The prices have also gone up. This program is beneficial and should lead to an increase in revenue. (<i>Minsannakakaraossaisangburwanminsanhindi naman umaabotsaisangburwanyungperananakukuha. Tumaas nadin kasi ang mgabilihin. Magandaitongprograma at sana ay lakihan pa ang cash</i>)

In response to the above-mentioned challenges, the DSWD municipal links and the parent leaders and coordinators tried to adhere to the advocacy that there should be no one left behind. According to some coordinators, they conduct home visits at least once or twice a month. During this pandemic, they only call and send their talks to those who attended the meetings and near the homes of those who were not able to attend. Therefore, the 4Ps coordinator addressed the challenges faced by the beneficiaries by enlisting the support of parent leaders living in the same vicinity. The parent leaders were the ones who convinced irregular attendees to attend meetings regularly as part of the requirements of the conditional cash transfer in the spirit of “TulongangKapamilya or Bayanihan.” In addition, the PantawidPamilyang Pilipino Program as the largest social protection and human development program has to develop the mechanisms of implementation to improve the services especially in terms of giving the assistance to beneficiaries living in the far-flung areas. According to the World Bank Social Protection Policy Note in September 2019 series no. 20, the Philippine Government has to develop a strategic payment reform agenda to address some challenges in the payment to the beneficiaries.

4. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Summary of Findings

The study assessed the impact of conditional cash transfer program and the effectiveness of the government's 4Ps program in four municipalities of Nueva Ecija. The study utilized the mixed method of research. The quantitative analysis was done using measures of central tendency and spearman rank correlation to be able to establish the significant relationship between the profile characteristics of the respondents and the impact of the 4Ps. In

determining the significant differences in the implementation of the program among the municipalities, the One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized.

Since the study utilized descriptive type of research that employed quantitative and qualitative methods, questionnaires were administered and interviews were conducted among the beneficiaries of conditional cash transfers in the selected municipalities of Nueva Ecija, particularly Bongabon, Aliaga, Talavera, and Sta. Rosa.

The analysis of the data collected led the researcher to come up with the following results:

4.2. Effectiveness of the 4Ps Program in terms of Health and Nutrition

The municipality of Sta. Rosa has the highest Mean average of 3.767, which is described as “Very Effective,” followed by Talavera (3.65), Bongabon (3.65), and Aliaga (3.338). It can be observed in the table that the respondents of Aliaga have three indicators that are perceived as “Moderately Effective.” It shows that although the indicators 11 to 13, which are the regular checkup and vaccine for the children, are being implemented by the government, they might not have been fully carried out. Likewise, respondents to Bongabon also perceived that indicator 3, which is on Monitoring is “Moderately Effective.” The rest of the indicators have been perceived as “Very Effective,” across the four municipalities. Given that it is the effectiveness of the implementation of the program that is being assessed in the study, it can be observed that the program also requires participation of the beneficiaries.

4.3. Effectiveness of the 4Ps Program in Terms of Education

The respondents perceived that the indicators of education in the 4Ps program have been implemented “Very Effectively” by all the municipalities, as reflected in the Average Mean and the Weighted Mean per indicator. The highest Average Mean was given by the respondents of Sta. Rosa (3.8353), followed by Bongabon (3.7176), then Talavera (3.7054), and again the least is Aliaga (3.3912).

It can be gleaned from the data that respondents of Sta. Rosa provided full ratings in indicators 2 and 3 (WM = 4.00). It shows that the government has effectively encouraged the parents to enroll their children in the school.

4.4. Impact of 4Ps Program

The respondents from the four municipalities perceived that the 4Ps program has “high impact” on them as its beneficiaries. The highest Grand Mean was provided by respondents from Sta. Rosa (3.7386), followed by Talavera (3.7261), then Bongabon (3.7252), and the least is Aliaga (3.3720). Across the parameters used to describe the impact, Sta Rosa provided the highest Average Weighted Mean in “education” (3.8255) while Aliaga provided the least Average Weighted Mean in “health and nutrition” (3.2686).

4.5. Impact of the 4Ps Program in Terms of Health and Nutrition

Majority of the respondents in the four municipalities perceived that the program has “high impact” in terms of “health and nutrition”. Talavera has the highest Average Mean (3.6967), followed by Sta. Rosa (3.6549), Bongabon (3.6317), and the least again is Aliaga (3.2686). Across all the indicators, respondents of Talavera gave the highest rating in the indicator number 6 (3.854), and the least rating is given by Aliaga in indicator 1 (3.141).

The data indicates that majority of the respondents from the four municipalities believe that the program has greatly affected the health and nutrition of their children and pregnant beneficiaries. It can be gleaned that beneficiaries of Talavera believe the program has prevented sickness in their children due to the vaccination activities. However, it can also be noticed that respondents to Aliaga answered that indicators 1, 2, and 3 only have a “Moderate Impact” on their health and nutrition.

4.6. Impact of the 4Ps Program in Terms of Education

The respondents believe that the 4Ps program has “high impact” on the education of their children. All four municipalities gave high ratings in all indicators of education. Overall, Sta. Rosa gave the highest mean average of 3.8255, the next is Bongabon with 3.794, Talavera has 3.772, and the least is Aliaga with 3.396.

It can also be noticed that respondents from Sta. Rosa gave full ratings (WM=4.00) on the indicators no. 3. “Parents who are members of 4Ps are gaining an understanding of the importance of education and no. 6. “Children are able to finish high school.”

4.7. Conclusions

The study formulates the following conclusions after scrutinizing and interpreting the findings.

The 4Ps program of the government in the selected municipalities in Nueva Ecija, namely, Aliaga, Bongabon, Santa Rosa, and Talavera, is considered by the members as very effective in terms of health and nutrition, and education.

The 4Ps members from the municipalities of Aliaga, Bongabon, Santa Rosa and Talavera perceived the 4Ps program of the government to have a high impact in terms of health and nutrition, and education.

A significant difference in the impact of the 4Ps program across municipalities was established. The analysis revealed that there is a statistically significant difference between the responses in Aliaga and the other three municipalities, Bongabon, Sta. Rosa, and Talavera, in all parameters such as, health and nutrition, and education. This is due to the lack of knowledge that results in the lack of interest of the members of 4Ps in terms of having the benefits for health and nutrition, fulfilling the financial needs, etc.

Analysis of the challenges encountered by the respondents from the municipalities of Aliaga, Bongabon, Santa Rosa, and Talavera, leads the researcher to conclude the following are their major challenges: proximity of meeting place, physical condition (sickness), shyness, political issues (padrino system), and the high price of commodities and services. The result of the study leads the researcher to come up with a proposed enhancement program for the implementation of the government’s 4Ps program.

4.8. 4Ps Beneficiaries Enhancement Program

Based on the study conducted in 2021 (unpublished dissertation) of Mr. John Rowell T. Obligado, the following challenges are identified: Economic challenges brought about by the diminishing value of 4Ps economic assistance and the inability of the beneficiaries to meet both ends meet; and social and political-related issues such as innate shyness of the beneficiaries and health-related problems. In view of the above findings, the following enhancement of the 4Ps program is hereby recommended:

The program shall be known as KAKA Program, which stands for *Kakayahan para sa Kasaganaan* for the beneficiaries of the 4PS. The program rests on the idea that well-being is dependent on a person’s perception and willingness to adjust their own habits and practices that bring him disadvantages both in terms of physical as well as economic capacities.

The KAKA for 4Ps beneficiaries consists of two major projects designed to overcome the beneficiaries’ identified challenges. The first project/activity will aim at enhancing beneficiaries’ capacity to cope with the increasing economic demands for a living, which the economic subsidy given by the program fails to adequately cover. The second project is a personality development activity designed to eliminate socially related barriers experienced by the beneficiaries to have a well-balanced personality input to future success.

Table 15. The project Kakayahan (KAKA 1) Para sa Lahat.

Project title	Time frame	Objectives	Strategy	Responsible units	Expected outputs	Success indicator	Budgetary requirements	Source of fund
KAKAYAHAN PARA SA LAHAT project	This program will take effect when a beneficiary becomes a legitimate member of the 4ps.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To help 4Ps beneficiaries cope with the prevailing economic demand by resetting their economic habits and concept of economic wellbeing. To help 4Ps beneficiaries to equip themselves with simple budgeting and home financial management skills to make the benefits from 4Ps Program an economically and reasonably spent to maximize marginal utility of beneficiaries' families. To learn the basics of budgeting and expenses planning. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Parent leader will be task to make a small group for discussion and sharing of experience. Before and after the session. Interventions and monitoring shall also be implemented together with the financial advisors. 	The responsibility to implement the same shall be given to LGUs having jurisdiction of the beneficiaries. The DSWD and Barangay Health Units may be utilized for the purpose of providing seminar and information campaign on how the beneficiaries may be able to minimize household expenses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4Ps beneficiaries who are economically capable of properly budgeting and disbursing financial assistance given by the Program. Economically empowered to decide on matters involving purchase or sale of goods in the market. Economically able to think of livelihood program to augment family income. 	Number of families who will undergo KAKA program	10, 000 pesos / Session	DSWD fund / GAD fund

Table 15 presents the details of the project "Kakayahan para sa Lahat" (KAKA 1), which is designed to support 4P beneficiaries in improving their economic well-being through better financial management and budgeting skills.

B. *Project: KakayahansaKalusugan 2*. This project is designed to provide the 4Ps beneficiaries with the means to cope with the increasing pressure from the health-related challenges. This will consist of physical, emotional, and psychological capacity to limit or minimize habits that would lessen the courage of 4Ps beneficiaries detrimental to their personal and family aspiration. This applies to social, cultural, and political spheres.

C. The *KakayahansaKalusugan* embraces all health aspects of human life. The program aims to eliminate all practices and habits that are harmful to human health. This includes seminars on antismoking, drinking intoxicating beverages, and eating unhealthy foods that would cause physical diseases and sickness to beneficiaries of the program. The proposed project, part of the 4Ps beneficiaries' enhancement program, is as follows:

Table 16. Kakayahansa Kalusugan (KAKA 2) project.

Title of the project	Time frame	Objectives	Strategy	Responsible units	Expected outputs	Budgetary requirements	Source of fund
Kakayahansa Kalusugan (KAKA 2) project	This program will take effect when a beneficiary becomes a legitimate member of the 4ps.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make the beneficiaries aware of the health implications of some unhealthy habits and practices. 2. To help the beneficiaries acquire healthy practices by providing them knowledge of the health benefits of foods and beverages that are healthy and helpful to maintaining healthy body. 3. Inform the beneficiaries the importance of physical exercise for a healthy living. 4. Make them advocates of healthy living both in their personal life and professional career. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Parent leader will be task to make a small group for discussion and sharing of experience. Before and after the session. 2. Interventions and monitoring shall also be implemented together with the experts in health and nutrition. 	Municipal health office; Barangay health workers and the stop smoking campaign of the DOH	Healthy and less frequency of sickness of the beneficiary's family specially the elders and children Increase purchasing power of the subsidy by using them to purchase healthy foods and beverages at the same time lessen medical related expenses.	10,000 pesos / Session	DSWD fund / GAD fund

Table 16 presents the "Kakayahan sa Kalusugan" (KAKA 2) project, which is aimed at improving the health and wellness of 4Ps beneficiaries.

The above enhancement program, if successful after several pilot studies in areas where many of the 4Ps are encountering the challenges may be considered to become part of the 4Ps and conditions for the continuous enjoyment of the government's socio-economic support. In this way, the beneficiaries shall not only enjoy the program benefits but also make them resilient to economic as well as health shocks, yielding better health outcomes for the community.

This enhancement program may be funded using Local Government Funds or the Department of Social Welfare and Development as part of their routine program in relation to the implementation of the government's conditional cash transfer program.

4.9. Recommendations

Based on the preceding matters, the following recommendations were formulated:

1. Orientations, seminars, and trainings may be conducted for the people involved in this program for at least once a year, involving the administrators, parent coordinators, municipal links, and all the beneficiaries as possible.
2. The beneficiaries may have trainings on financial literacy in order for them to realize the impact of the 4Ps in their lives and seek self-improvement through their own initiatives.
3. The government may enhance the program's guidelines, objectives, and mechanisms of the program in order to achieve the active participation of the community in the process of implementation.
4. Aside from the reporting and regular meetings of the program beneficiaries, the program implementers should also maintain coordination with the school principals and teachers to monitor the parents and the attendance of their children at school.
5. The government may formulate an automatic and responsive system for giving the financial assistance to the beneficiaries. This is to prevent financial assistance from being delayed.
6. The government may also increase the financial assistance for the beneficiaries to keep up with the rising prices of basic commodities.
7. The barangay health centers may be provided with equipment, medicines, and medical facilities, while the skills of the medical personnel can be enhanced with further training or capability-building activities.
8. Barangay health centers may provide enough space, particularly for pregnant women, equipment such as ultrasound, and medical experts like OB-Gyne for a complete check-up procedure.
9. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall strictly follow Rule No. V in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11310, in which the Section No. 6 states that "*On a nationwide basis, the DSWD shall select qualified household beneficiaries of the 4Ps using a standardized targeting system. Until a new standardized targeting system is adopted by the government, the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or Listahanan shall be utilized by the DSWD under this Rule.*" And as an independent body, be equipped with their own machines, personnel, and trainings to freely select, determine and validate the qualified household beneficiaries.
10. The Department of Social Welfare and Development may have a data sharing agreement with the Department of Interior and Local Government pertaining to the data intended to identify the most qualified beneficiaries of the 4Ps Program in accordance with the Data Privacy Act.
11. To further enrich the literature and knowledge related to the topic, the researcher recommends that follow-up studies be considered by future researchers specifically on the following topics:
 - a. Performance of the municipal links of 4Ps and its impact on program implementation;
 - b. Should we abolish the 4Ps;
 - c. Formulation of a standardized evaluation tool in order to measure the performance of the 4Ps implementers;

- d. Review of the planning and budgeting process of 4Ps; and
- e. Enhancement of the 4Ps program.

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Transparency: The author states that the manuscript is honest, truthful, and transparent, that no key aspects of the investigation have been omitted, and that any differences from the study as planned have been clarified. This study followed all writing ethics.

Data Availability Statement: John Rowell T Obligado can provide the supporting data of this study upon a reasonable request.

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