

Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program: Its Challenges and Prospects

JOAN GALAS VELASQUEZ, RN
Master of Arts in Nursing Student
Urdaneta City University

MARI JANE C. ANDAYA, MAN, EdD
Adviser

Abstract — The study determined the responsiveness of the respondents to the implementation of the 4Ps program, as well as its challenges and prospects. Both qualitative and quantitative research were conducted using interview guide questions and a survey questionnaire among selected 4Ps members in the 6th district of Pangasinan. Different statistical tools were utilized for the quantitative aspect, such as frequency and percentage, weighted mean, and ANOVA test. The respondents were mostly young adults, married, high school graduates, unemployed, and had an average number of children. Most were members of the 4Ps for a few years and had children in their adolescence.

On the responsiveness of mothers to the implementation of the 4Ps program, they were more inclined towards education, followed by well-being and security. Challenges encountered by the respondents were identified, and their participation in the program was monitored. Their prospects in the program are highest in terms of the education and nutrition of their children.

There were no significant differences in the level of responsiveness of the respondents on the 4Ps program across their profile variables. The level of responsiveness to the 4Ps program concerning health and well-being is significantly related to the number of children. The significant positive *r*-value indicates that as the number of children mothers have increases, so does their level of responsiveness related to health and well-being. The younger the mother, the higher their level of responsiveness to the 4Ps program, along with security.

Keywords — 4Ps, responsiveness, mothers, implementation, health

I. Introduction

There is good evidence that conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have improved the lives of poor people. Transfers have targeted poor households and have reduced poverty in some countries. CCTs have been an effective way to redistribute income to the poor while recognizing that even the best-designed and best-managed program cannot fulfill the needs of a comprehensive social protection system. CCTs must be complemented with other interventions, such as workfare or employment programs and social pensions. The report also considers the rationale for conditioning program beneficiaries' transfers to use specific health and education services. There is good evidence that conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have improved the lives of poor people. Transfers generally have been well-targeted to poor households and have reduced poverty by a substantial amount in some countries. Offsetting adjustments that could have blunted the impact of transfers,

such as reductions in the labor market participation of beneficiaries, have been relatively modest. Moreover, CCT programs often have provided an entry point to reforming badly targeted subsidies and upgrading the quality of safety nets. The report also considers the rationale for conditioning program beneficiaries' transfers on using specific health and education services (Schady et al., 2019).

CCTs can be helpful compared to unconditional cash transfer (UCT) programs, which have also grown in popularity. A CCT makes its payment conditional on the completion of a behavior. Examples of common conditions include school enrollment and attendance at meetings, health check-up visits of children, and vaccinations. A CCT can have a greater positive welfare impact if the encouraged behavior has a greater social benefit than its social cost. However, it would not be undertaken in the absence of conditionality. Unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) are cheaper to deliver and administer because no monitoring of conditions is required. This leads to a fundamental tradeoff that policymakers designing transfer programs must grapple with, adding conditions to transfer programs and monitoring adherence (Bryan et al., 2023).

Very poor families receive cash to send their children to school and to access healthcare in an effort to end the cycle of poverty. The cash transfers are contingent upon families meeting education and health requirements. For example, poor households with children 6 to 14 years old can receive P300 per child per month for 10 months in a year for up to three children. The conditional cash transfers are a direct intervention by the national Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Interaction with beneficiaries has given them the opportunity to hear directly about the impact of the project on their lives. They are happy to note that the conditional cash transfers have benefited the children and their parents - the beneficiaries - in their education and health.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) was institutionalized in 2019 by Republic Act No. 11310 or the 4Ps Act. The national poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment program provides conditional cash transfers to poor households for seven (7) years to improve health, nutrition, and education. The 4Ps aim to improve the health and nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care; increase the enrollment and attendance rate of children in child development centers, preschool, elementary, and secondary schools; contribute to the reduction of child labor incidence; raise the average consumption rate in food expenditure of poor households; encourage parents to invest in their children's health, nutrition, and education; and, enhance the performance of parenting roles of beneficiaries and their participation in community development activities.

The 4Ps was institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310 in 2019 as a long-term poverty reduction strategy. Beyond financial support, it promotes responsible parenting and civic engagement, enhances food security, reduces child labor, and strengthens school participation and preventive healthcare. The program's focus on sustained human capital investment supports

broader national goals of productivity and resilience in basic education and social development (Capulso et al., 2024; Singh & Rawat, 2023).

Beneficiaries are households that are classified as poor and near-poor based on the Standardized Targeting System and the poverty threshold issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) at the time of selection; have members who are aged zero (0) to eighteen (18) years old or have members who are pregnant at the time of registration; and, are willing to comply with a set of conditions (DSWD, 2024).

Poverty is a worldwide problem that occurs also here in the Philippines. People living in extreme poverty face challenges and difficulties because they cannot afford to buy their basic and survival needs for their families. In response, the Philippine government implemented a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program that provides cash assistance to indigent families nationwide, both in urban and rural areas, dubbed in the Filipino language as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program" (4Ps). CCT refers to the 4Ps, which aim to reduce poverty and improve access to education and health care for the poorest of the poor families by providing them cash grants for their basic educational and health care needs. Findings revealed that the CCT program has become instrumental in uplifting the standard of living and improving the quality of life among its beneficiaries. The cash grants primarily facilitated children's access to education and healthcare services. However, recipient families often spend the received grants on home consumption rather than for the educational and healthcare needs of the schooling-age children, indicative of a weak understanding of the financial literacy and management aspects among program beneficiaries (Malinao et al., 2022).

The study of Capulong and Cuevas (2024) on the effectiveness of conditional cash transfer in rural areas in the Philippines finds that CCT has a significant effect on education for household beneficiaries in rural areas and has improved the quality of food consumed by household beneficiaries in urban areas. Also, a decrease in the household beneficiaries' per capita total and per capita food expenditures is revealed in urban areas driven by their improved saving behavior. The CCT program, at some point, is effective in meeting its short-term goal, but it must be more targeted to improve its impact on other conditionality goods. Also, according to de Layola (2023), the DSWD mentioned that they take proactive steps to ensure that enrolled children will not drop out of school.

Furthermore, the study of Penalba (2019) revealed six dominant themes in their study on exploring the health outcomes like enhanced health practices, improved uptake of health care services, increased awareness of health issues, improved living conditions, responsive program implementation, and persisting implementation challenges. While it is evident that the positive impacts reflect the beneficiaries' strict compliance to meet the program's conditionalities, there is still much to be done to ensure the program's sustainability. The provision for adequate health care should then be supplemented with reinforced delivery of the program's learning component (family development session) and support mechanism to the implementers.

Sannadan et al. (2022), in their study on the impact of conditional cash transfer, revealed that the respondents perceived that the CCT-4Ps program has a moderate impact on their lives, and the identified weaknesses were perceived as moderately severe. For Kalinga's low-income families, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has a lot of compelling objectives, goals, and rewards. The 4Ps are an excellent illustration of how the government may improve its ability to allocate the country's resources to people who need them. It is evident that the program will benefit many underprivileged families. The program meets fundamental requirements that would otherwise go unmet and mirrors the government's efforts to promote social mobility and equality. The 4Ps theory, according to academics, states that well-fed and educated persons are essential for a prosperous country and society.

The study of Herrera et al. (2023) revealed high rates of malnutrition, with significant rates of stunting, wasting/thinness, and overweight/obesity among children and adolescents. 4Ps beneficiaries had higher odds of stunting and overweight/obesity compared to non-4Ps beneficiaries. However, no significant association was observed between the inclusion of 4Ps and concurrent stunting and wasting/thinness or overweight/obesity.

Theoretical/ Conceptual Framework

The study used the Health Belief model (HBM). HBM is a popular model applied in nursing, especially in issues focusing on patient compliance and preventive healthcare practices. The model postulates that health-seeking behavior is influenced by a person's perception of a threat posed by a health problem and the value associated with actions aimed at reducing the threat. HBM addresses the relationship between a person's beliefs and behaviors. It provides a way to understand and predict how clients will behave concerning their health and how they will comply with healthcare therapies.

This study also adapted the theory of Imogene King on conceptual systems and goal attainment theory, which deals with the man as a biopsychosocial being. The theory deals with re-establishing positive adaptation to their environment. She describes nursing as a profession that assists individuals and groups in society in attaining, maintaining, and restoring health. If this is not possible, nurses help individuals die with dignity.

Nursing is an interaction process between the client and the nurse whereby during perceiving, setting goals, and acting on them, transactions occur and goals are achieved. The goal of nursing is health promotion, maintenance or restoration, care of the sick or injured, and care of the dying. Human beings are the focus of nursing, particularly on fundamental health needs like the need for care that seeks to prevent illness and the need for care when human beings are unable to help themselves (Bautista, 2010).

II. Methodology

Research Design and Strategy

The research used a mixed methods design, which combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a more comprehensive understanding of a research problem. This methodology involves the systematic collection and analysis of both numerical data and narrative information. Specifically, an explanatory sequential design was employed, consisting of two distinct phases: quantitative data collection and analysis followed by qualitative data collection and analysis (Creswell, 2006). The initial quantitative phase provided statistical results, which were then explored more deeply in the subsequent qualitative phase. This sequencing allowed the researchers to interpret and elaborate on the statistical findings through the lived experiences and perspectives of the participants. The integration of both data types occurred during the intermediate phase, enhancing the depth and clarity of insights into the research questions. This approach aligns with recent efforts in Philippine education research that emphasize methodological rigor and productivity, such as the study by Capulso et al. (2024), which demonstrates how a mixed-methods framework can effectively address complex issues in basic education and policy implementation.

Population and Locale of the Study

The subjects of the study were the mothers who are members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in six barangays of District 3 of Bayambang, Pangasinan, which is being supervised by the researcher. The study was conducted during the Second Semester of 2024-2025. It was composed of 30 respondents from the identified barangays. This study utilized purposive-convenient sampling to have a good representation of the population. It was strictly delimited to mothers of those 0-5 children under the 4Ps.

Data Gathering Tool

The study utilized a survey questionnaire tool to determine the responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program and interview guide questions for 10 participants. The tool was based on the implementing rules of the 4Ps program and related studies and articles related to the problem. Part I deals with the profile of the respondents in terms of their age, civil status, highest educational attainment, occupation, monthly family income, number of children, and number of years as 4Ps members. Part II focuses on the responsiveness of mothers to the 4Ps program and the challenges encountered.

Data Gathering Procedures

Before gathering data, the researcher sought approval from the Acting Dean of the Institute of Graduate and Advanced Studies to conduct the study. When permission was granted from the Institute of Graduate and Advanced Studies, the researcher requested and coordinated with the

Municipal Social Worker and the Municipal Health Officer for their endorsement of the qualified respondents. The questionnaire was given to the respondents so they could answer the questions identified, retrieve them, and tally them for analysis and interpretation. Moreover, 10 participants were interviewed for in-depth information among them.

The researcher sought the proficiency of research experts from researchers, social workers, and Faculty members to determine the validity of the questionnaire. A validity checklist was used as a rating guide. It is to preserve the integrity of the questionnaire. Their comments and concerns were noted and integrated for further enhancements of the questionnaire before being given to the respondents.

After the validation, a consent letter was prepared and presented to the participants. The researcher gathered data and conducted interviews when the participants agreed with the terms and conditions.

The data was collected, coded with numbers, analyzed, and interpreted to determine the responsiveness of mothers to the 4Ps program.

Treatment of the Data

The study utilized different statistical tools. To answer no.1, the frequency and percentage were used on the respondent's profile. The frequency was determined based on the number of respondents who answered or checked a particular item on the questionnaire.

Formula:

$$P = \frac{F \times 100}{N}$$

where: P = percentage

F = frequency

N = total number of respondents

To answer no. 2 and no. 3 on the responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program, a weighted mean was used. The weighted mean is the mean of a set of values wherein each value or measurement has a different weight or degree of importance. This study used a five-point rating scale system, as shown in the table below.

Formula:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum fi}{N}$$

where: \bar{x} = weighted mean

N = total # of population; and

fi = frequencies corresponding to the given items

To answer problems no. 4 and no. 5 on the significant difference and relationship, Analysis of Variance was used to investigate the strength of the association between two quantitative variables

Formula:

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

$$F = \frac{MSb}{MSw}$$

Where:

MSb-Mean Square Between

MSw-Mean Square Within

$$r = \frac{\sum[(x - \bar{x}) * (y - \bar{y})]}{\sqrt{\sum(x - \bar{x})^2 * \sum(y - \bar{y})^2}}$$

where: r = Pearson correlation coefficient

x = first variable under study

\bar{x} = mean of x

y = second variable under study

\bar{y} = mean of y

The researcher cautiously identified categories and patterns of meanings. A coding system was utilized to analyze the narrative experiences of nurses in providing care, specifically their safety attitudes and practices in providing patient care. These statements were termed initial codes – each significant statement was then provided with meaning to uncover and highlight the participants' shared meanings, and these will be termed categories and double-checked to ensure that they are relevantly grounded with the data. Then, the researcher formulates meanings to organize clusters or categories. Furthermore, a summary of identified themes or patterns of meaning was provided at the end of each participant's story.

Subsequently, qualitative and quantitative results are connected in the intermediate stage of the study to provide a general understanding of the research problem. The qualitative data and their analysis refined and explained the statistical results by exploring participant's views in greater depth.

Ethical Consideration

The researcher ensured that ethical precautions and procedures were met. In the whole process of this study, the researcher considered ethical precautions to follow:

This researcher treated the respondents as autonomous agents with the right to self-determination and the freedom to participate or not participate in the research. Self-respect for persons indicated and should be regarded as autonomous, anonymous, and private, as well as the right for self-preservation and the freedom to participate or not to participate in the research.

This researcher endeavors to treat her subjects fairly regarding the research's benefits and risks. The researcher strictly observed the principle of fair justice and transparency.

This researcher granted the respondents their right to privacy and use of free will to have the freedom to determine the time, extent, and general circumstances under which their private information was shared with or without the help of others. The respondent's right to exercise free will and right to privacy was provided; any personal data and private information given were guarded by the researcher with utmost care and strict confidentiality.

III. Results and Discussion

Part I. Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 on the next page presents the profile of the respondents in terms of their age, civil status, highest educational attainment, occupation, number of children, number of years as 4Ps members, and age of the child.

Age. It can be gleaned from the table that the majority of the respondents are in the age bracket of 41 and above years old, with a frequency of 13 or 33.3 percent, followed by 21-30 years old, with a frequency of 8 or 26.7 percent, 31-40 with a frequency of 7 or 23.3 percent and 20 years old and below with a frequency of 5 or 16.7 percent. It revealed that the respondents were adults who had been members of the 4Ps for some years. It also implied that the respondents were mature individuals registered with the 4Ps program. According to Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, adults navigate through different stages with unique challenges and goals.

Civil status. Most respondents were married, with a frequency of 23 or 76.7 percent, followed by singles, with a frequency of 7 or 23.3 or 40 percent. It showed that the respondents have their own families and children. It also implied that the respondents were in marital relationships. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, marriage is a consensual and legal relationship as a husband or wife.

Table 1
Distribution of Respondents in terms of their Profile Variables
n=30

Profile Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age (in years)		
20 and below	5	16.7
21 – 30	8	26.7
31 – 40	7	23.3
41 and above	10	33.3
Civil Status		
Single	7	23.3
Married	23	76.7
Highest Educational Attainment		
Elementary graduate	2	6.7
High school graduate	16	53.3
College undergraduate	3	10.0
Vocational graduate	3	10.0
College Graduate	6	20.0
Occupation		
Unemployed	20	66.7
Employed	10	33.3
Number of Children		
1 – 2	7	23.3
3 – 4	13	43.3
5 or more	10	33.3
Number of Years as 4Ps member		
1	7	23.3
2	6	20.0
3	3	10.0
4	14	46.7

Profile Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age of Child/Children		
1 – 12 months	5	16.7
1 – 3 years	3	10.0
4 – 6 years	4	13.3
7 – 12 years	6	20.0
13 – 28 years	12	40.0

Highest educational attainment. It revealed that most of the respondents were high school graduates, with a frequency of 16 or 53.3 percent; college graduates, with a frequency of 6, or 20 percent; college undergraduate and vocational graduates, with a frequency of 3, or 10 percent; and elementary graduate with a frequency of 2, or 6.7 percent. It revealed that the respondents only reached the secondary level of education. It also implied that the respondents did not pursue their learning since they were financially incapable of attending school.

Occupation. It revealed that most respondents were unemployed, with a frequency of 20 or 66.7 percent, and employed, with a frequency of 10 or 33.3 percent. It showed that the respondents had no fixed job to earn a living. As revealed, most have reached only a secondary level of education, and nowadays, having no education hinders looking for a good and stable job.

Number of children. Most respondents had 3-4 children, with a frequency of 13, or 43.3 percent; 5 and more, with a frequency of 10 or 33.3 percent; and 1-2, with a frequency of 7 or 23.3 percent. It revealed that the respondents had adequate children who had received the cash grant for their education. Most often, the unemployed have more children than those with work. Their children are dependent on their parents.

Number of years as 4Ps member. It revealed that most respondents were members for 4 years with a frequency of 14 or 46.7 percent, followed by those 1 year with a frequency of 7, or 23.3 percent, 2 years with a frequency of 6 or 20 percent, and 3 years with a frequency of 3 or 10 percent. It showed that most respondents had been program members for a few years. It also implied that the respondents religiously obey the program's policies, or if not, they are removed from the roster of members.

Age of children. It showed that most respondents had children aged 13-28, with a frequency of 12, or 40 percent; 7-12 years old, with a frequency of 6 or 20 percent; 1-12 months with a frequency of 5 or 16.7 percent, 1-3 years old with a frequency of 3, or 10 and 4-6 years old with a frequency of 4 or 13.3 percent. It revealed that the respondents had children who were adolescents and early young adults. It also means that the children are of different age groups.

Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along Health and Well-Being

Table 2 on the next page presents the responsiveness of mothers to the implementation of the 4Ps program in terms of health and well-being. It revealed that all the indicators were rated "Highly Responsive"; however, the highest is item number 1, "Complete the immunization prescribed by the health workers," with a weighted mean of 4.90 or "Highly Responsive." It implied that mothers submitted their children to the vaccination program. It means that the mothers were aware of the benefits of vaccination for their children. The mothers knew the advantages of completing the vaccination of their children to prevent the incidence of childhood diseases. According to Bryan et al. (2023), common conditions in the 4Ps include school enrollment and attendance, health check-up visits of children, and their vaccination. A CCT can have a greater positive welfare impact if the encouraged behavior has a greater social benefit than its social cost. However, it would not be undertaken in the absence of conditionality.

The lowest indicator is item 10, "submit my child for the feeding program," with a weighted mean of 4.53, or "Highly Responsive." It implied that the respondents let their children avail themselves of the 4Ps feeding program to improve their children's weight. Republic Act No. 11310, or the 4Ps Act, is the national poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven (7) years to improve health, nutrition, and education. The 4Ps aim to improve the health and nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care. The 4Ps primarily focus on cash transfers and support feeding programs, particularly for children in public daycare centers, kindergartens, and elementary schools.

Table 2
Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along with Health and Well-Being
n=30

Indicators	WM	DE
Complete the immunization prescribed by the health workers.	4.90	HR
submit my child for regular health check-ups	4.83	HR
submit my child for deworming twice a year	4.70	HR
submitted for prenatal check-ups regularly	4.67	HR
undergo post-natal check-ups	4.73	HR
submit my child for growth monitoring	4.87	HR
let my child join the nutrition feeding programs	4.77	HR
undergo tetanus toxoid vaccinations	4.73	HR
submit my child for weight monitoring	4.87	HR
submit my child to the feeding program	4.53	HR
Overall Weighted Mean	4.76	HR

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Highly Responsive (HR)
3.50 – 4.49	Responsive (R)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately Responsive (MR)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly Responsive (SR)
1.00 – 1.49	Not Responsive (NR)

Overall, the responsiveness of the mothers in the 4Ps program, along with health and well-being, got an average weighted mean of 4.76, or "Highly Responsive." The 4Ps program aims to improve the health and, well-being, nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care, increasing the enrollment and attendance rate of children in child development centers, preschool, elementary, and secondary schools, contributing to the reduction of child labor incidence; raise the average consumption rate in food expenditure of poor households; encourage parents to invest in their children's health, nutrition, and education (Republic Act No. 11310). It shows that the 4Ps beneficiaries adhered to the policies and guidelines of the program, or else they would be delisted from the roster of members.

Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along Education

Table 3 on the next page presents the responsiveness of mothers on the implementation of the 4Ps program along with education. It revealed that all the indicators were rated "Highly Responsive"; however, the highest are item numbers 2, 3, 7, and 9, "let my child attend daycare or preschool classes at least 85% attendance," "let my child attend to elementary school classes at least 85% attendance," "Attend to seminars conducted about 4Ps," and "assists my child in his needs in school" with a weighted mean of 5.00 or "Highly Responsive." It implied that the respondents were aware of the provision of the 4Ps program to help their children enter school. As provided in the national Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), beneficiaries have been allowed to hear directly about the project's impact on their lives. They are happy to note that the conditional cash transfers have

benefited the children and their parents - the beneficiaries - in their education and health. Also, according to Schady et al. (2019), the cash transfer considers the rationale for conditioning the transfers on using specific health and education services among program beneficiaries. School attendance is essential for their children's education, and again, the program personnel closely monitor the children's attendance.

The lowest indicator is “received the regular cash allowance monthly for my child's education,” with a weighted mean of 4.70, or "Highly Responsive." It implies that those program members enjoy monthly payouts to help them meet their children's educational needs. Children need school supplies, daily allowances, and basic needs like food, uniforms, and other needs of children in school. As provided in RA No. 11310, impoverished families receive cash to send their children to school and to access healthcare in an effort to end the cycle of poverty. The cash transfers are contingent upon families meeting education and health requirements. For example, poor households with children 6 to 14 years old can receive P300 per child per month for 10 months in a year for up to three children. Their payouts are a big help for these 4P members to meet the needs of their children.

Table 3
Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along Education
n=30

Indicators	WM	DE
Let my child attend secondary school classes with at least 85% attendance.	4.93	HR
let my child attend daycare or preschool classes with at least 85% attendance	5.00	HR
let my child attend elementary school classes with at least 85% attendance	5.00	HR
attend to nutritional classes for updates	4.90	HR
received the regular cash allowance monthly for the education of my child	4.70	HR
attend to monthly family development sessions	4.87	HR
Attend to seminars conducted about 4Ps	5.00	HR
regularly monitor the performance of my child in school	4.97	HR
assists my child in his needs in school	5.00	HR
visit his teachers in school to know other concerns for my child	4.83	HR
Overall Weighted Mean	4.92	HR

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Highly Responsive (HR)
3.50 – 4.49	Responsive (R)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately Responsive (MR)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly Responsive (SR)
1.00 – 1.49	Not Responsive (NR)

Overall, the responsiveness of the mothers in the 4Ps program, along with education, got an average weighted mean of 4.92, or "Highly Responsive." It revealed that the program is of great help to the members by letting them send their children to school. As cited in the Conditional Cash Transfer, which refers to the 4Ps, aims to reduce poverty and improve access to education and health care for the poorest of the poor families by providing them cash grants for their basic educational and health care needs. Findings revealed that the CCT program has become

instrumental in uplifting the standard of living and improving the quality of life among its beneficiaries (Malinao et al., 2022). It helps families that are recipients of the program. However, problems are encountered, such as some who advanced their cash grant and some gambling resorts not using it for its intended purpose. For this reason, the personnel in charge of the program strictly monitor families if they comply with the guidelines. Also, the study of Capulong and Cuevas (2024) on the effectiveness of conditional cash transfer in rural areas in the Philippines finds that CCT has a significant effect on education for household beneficiaries in rural areas and has improved the quality of food consumed by household beneficiaries in urban areas.

Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along Security

Table 4 presents the responsiveness of mothers on the implementation of the 4Ps program and security.

It revealed that all the indicators were rated "Highly Responsive," however the highest are item numbers 4, 5, and 6, "Follow the guidelines of 4Ps to maintain our status in the program," "attend meetings conducted to be updated on the program," and "submit the required documents needed by the 4Ps program" with a weighted mean of 4.97 or "Highly Responsive." It implied that the respondents maintained their obedience to the program policies. According to Penalba (2019), the beneficiaries must strictly comply with meeting the program's conditionalities to ensure the sustainability of the program. Also, according to Bryan et al. (2023), a CCT makes its payment conditional on completion of behavior like common conditions that include school enrollment and attendance to meetings, health check-up visits of children, and their vaccination.

Table 4
Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program along Security
n=30

Indicators	WM	DE
1. am given priority in the availment of modalities and sustainable livelihood	4.73	HR
2. availed the yearly rice subsidy	4.70	HR
3. availed the Philhealth automatic coverage	4.47	R
4. follow the guidelines of the 4Ps to maintain our status in the program	4.97	HR
5. attend meetings conducted to be updated on the program	4.97	HR
6. submit the required documents needed by the 4Ps program	4.97	HR
7. spend the allotted amount carefully to secure my child's needs	4.93	HR
8. register only to the persons in charge of the program	4.33	R
9. submit the needed documents to those personnel in charge	4.53	HR
10. make sure my child will not drop out of school	4.70	HR
Overall Weighted Mean	4.73	HR

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Highly Responsive (HR)
3.50 – 4.49	Responsive (R)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately Responsive (MR)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly Responsive (SR)
1.00 – 1.49	Not Responsive (NR)

The lowest indicators are items 3 and 8, "register only to the persons in charge of the program," and "availed the Philhealth automatic coverage," with a weighted mean of 4.33 and 4.47, or "Responsive." It only showed that the respondents were aware that there are personnel in charge of overseeing the smooth operation of the program. According to Sannadan et al. (2022), the 4Ps illustrate how the government may improve its ability to allocate the country's resources to people who need them. It is evident that the program will benefit many underprivileged families. The program meets fundamental requirements that would otherwise go unmet, and it mirrors the government's efforts to promote social mobility, security, and equality.

Overall, the responsiveness of the mothers in the 4Ps program, along with security, got an average weighted mean of 4.73, or "Highly Responsive." It connotes that the respondents felt the security brought about by being members of the Ps program. The findings of Malinao (2022) revealed that the CCT program has become very instrumental in uplifting the standard of living and improving the quality of life and security among its beneficiaries. Many studies have confirmed that the program is very advantageous to the people as a way of helping the poorest of the poor with their children's health and education needs. However, the beneficiaries must comply with the requirements to continue as members.

Summary of the Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program

Table 5 presents the summary of the responsiveness of mothers on the implementation of the 4Ps program. It revealed that all the indicators were rated "Highly Responsive"; however, the highest aspect is education, with a weighted mean of 4.92 or "Highly Responsive." It implied that the respondents find the program necessary to uplift their lives. As cited by DSWD (2024), impoverished families receive cash to send their children to school and to access healthcare in an effort to end the cycle of poverty. The cash transfers are contingent upon families meeting education and health requirements.

Table 5
Summary of the Responsiveness of Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program
n=30

Aspect	WM	DE
Health and Well-Being	4.76	HR
Education	4.92	HR
Security	4.73	HR
Overall Weighted Mean	4.80	HR

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Highly Responsive (HR)
3.50 – 4.49	Responsive (R)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately Responsive (MR)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly Responsive (SR)
1.00 – 1.49	Not Responsive (NR)

The lowest aspect is along security with a weighted mean of 4.73, or "Highly Responsive." Overall, the responsiveness of the mothers in the 4Ps program got an overall weighted mean of 4.80, or "Highly Responsive." It revealed that the program is being appreciated by the poorest of the poor as help in their lives. As cited by Schady et al. (2019), there is good evidence that conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have improved the lives of poor people. Transfers have targeted poor households and have reduced poverty in some countries. CCTs have been an effective way to redistribute income to the poor while recognizing that even the best-designed and best-managed program cannot fulfill the needs of a comprehensive social protection system.

Challenges Encountered by the Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program

Table 6 presents the challenges encountered by the mothers in the implementation of the 4Ps program. It revealed that item 3, "Rigid monitoring of beneficiaries' compliance," was rated "Very Challenging" with a weighted mean of 4.53. It implied that the 4Ps program is being assessed for its proper implementation so that reports can be done for its improvement to benefit those program recipients. The study of Penalba (2019) revealed six dominant themes in their study on exploring the health outcomes like enhanced health practices, improved uptake of health care

services, increased awareness of health issues, improved living conditions, responsive program implementation, and persisting implementation challenges.

Table 6
Challenges Encountered by the Mothers on the Implementation of the 4Ps Program
n=30

Indicators	WM	DE
Insufficient cash grants to cover health, nutrition, and education expenses	3.87	C
Delayed cash releases and strict rules and regulations	3.53	C
Rigid monitoring of beneficiaries' compliance	4.53	VC
Delayed in receiving cash transfers	3.20	MC
Dropping out of learners from school despite availability of financial assistance	2.83	MC
Poor standard of living	3.80	C
Unstable family living conditions	3.47	MC
Limited income, accessibility, lack of clear guidance, motivation and support	3.90	C
Have a significant effect on the academic performance of learners	3.77	C
Limited transparency and communication of the program	3.63	C
Overall Weighted Mean	3.65	C

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Very Challenging (VC)
3.50 – 4.49	Challenging (C)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately Challenging (MC)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly Challenging (SC)
1.00 – 1.49	Not Challenging (NC)

The lowest indicator is item number 4 and 5, “Delayed in receiving cash transfers” and “Dropping out of learners from school despite the availability of financial assistance,” with a weighted mean of 2.83 and 3.20, or "Moderately Challenging." It showed feedback from beneficiaries on the delay in their cash transfers; however, all the prescribed amount is given to them. Having delays in the money transfer is already not under their control, so they have to wait for it. Every move of a family involves money, so if this is delayed, it causes problems for them. According to de Layola (2023), the DSWD mentioned that they take proactive steps to ensure enrolled children will not drop out of school.

Overall, the challenges encountered by the respondents on the 4Ps program got an average weighted mean of 3.65, or "Challenging." It revealed that challenges are part of any program where they are mostly encountered. According to the Commission on Audit year 2024, despite the program's positive impacts, they reported that 90% of 4Ps cash grantees remain poor. The reliability test of the challenges yields almost all the indicators experienced by the respondents in the implementation of the 4Ps program. It implies that the program had many challenges since it was continuous and many people were involved.

Prospects in the Implementation of the 4Ps Program

Table 7 presents the prospects of the mothers on the implementation of the 4Ps program. It revealed that item number 7 and 8 “enable the school children to be able to supply their academic needs such as materials, supplies, and school snacks” and “improve the health and nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care” were rated "Very High" with a weighted mean of 4.50 and 4.63. It implied that the respondents had the prospect that the supplies given to their children would be continuous and that the health program would benefit their children. The 4Ps members had many expectations that the program would be continuous so that the members would benefit from it. As found in the RA 11310, the 4Ps policy aims to improve the health and nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care, increasing the enrollment and attendance rate of children in child development centers, preschool, elementary, and secondary schools; contribute to the reduction of child labor incidence; raise the average consumption rate in food expenditure of poor households; encourage parents to invest in their children's health, nutrition, and education; and, enhance the performance of parenting roles of beneficiaries and their participation in community development activities.

Table 7
Prospects in the Implementation of the 4Ps Program
n=30

Indicators	WM	DE
1. Reduce poverty by up to 6.2 percentage points among beneficiaries.	4.07	H
2. led to a reduction in severe stunting among children, lower maternal mortality, and improved utilization of antenatal and post-natal care	3.97	H
3. increased enrollment and attendance among children, and parents have improved hopes for their children's futures.	4.43	H
4. reducing vices like taking alcohol has decreased among 4Ps households	4.47	H
5. Increased consumption of rice and cereals	4.47	H
6. helps poor households meet their basic and immediate needs	4.30	H
7. enables the school children to be able to supply their academic needs, such as materials, supplies, and school snacks	4.63	VH
8. improve the health and nutrition of young children and mothers by promoting preventive health care;	4.50	VH
9. reduction of child labor incidence	4.13	H
10. increase the enrollment and attendance rate of children in child development centers, preschools, elementary and secondary schools	4.40	H
Average Weighted Mean	4.34	H

Legend:

Statistical Range	Descriptive Equivalent
4.50 – 5.00	Very High (VH)
3.50 – 4.49	High (H)
2.50 – 3.49	Moderately High (MH)
1.50 – 2.49	Slightly High (SH)
1.00 – 1.49	Not High (NH)

The lowest indicator is item number 2, "led to a reduction in severe stunting among children, lower maternal mortality, and improved utilization of antenatal and post-natal care," with a weighted mean of 3.97, or "High." It connotes that along with its implementation, challenges are encountered; however, they have the prospect that this will be improved to minimize the incidence of malnutrition and fewer cases of mortality among women during labor and delivery and child care. The study of Herrera et al. (2023) revealed high rates of malnutrition, with significant rates of stunting, wasting/thinness, and overweight/obesity among children and adolescents. 4Ps beneficiaries had higher odds of stunting and overweight/obesity compared to non-4Ps beneficiaries. However, no significant association was observed between the inclusion of 4Ps and concurrent stunting and wasting/thinness or overweight/obesity.

Overall, the prospects of the respondents on the 4Ps program got an average weighted mean of 4.34, or "High." It only proved that areas must be improved in implementing the program to address the weaknesses identified. According to a 2020 report on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the Philippines, it has positively impacted education and household income. However, some say the program's impact on poverty reduction is limited. Along with **education**, the program has helped reduce dropout rates and improve academic performance, the program has helped increase household income, the program has helped reduce poverty incidence, and parents have improved their hopes for their children's future. Also, according to the DSWD, the program positively impacts various aspects of life, including reducing severe stunting among children, lowering maternal mortality, and increasing access to healthcare services. Additionally, 4Ps beneficiaries consume more rice and cereals and experience a decrease in alcoholism. Also, Sannadan et al. (2022), in their study on the impact of conditional cash transfer, revealed that the respondents perceived that the CCT-4Ps program has a moderate impact on their lives, and the identified weaknesses were perceived as moderately serious.

SUMMARY OF ANOVA FOR MEAN DIFFERENCE IN THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIVENESS OF MOTHERS ON THE 4PS PROGRAM ACROSS THE PROFILE VARIABLES

Relative to the problem of this study, which sought to determine the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program across the profile variables, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was computed and indicated by F-values with their corresponding significance level. This was done to make a more in-depth analysis of data gathered in this study whereby the profile of the respondents was compared to their level of responsiveness on the 4Ps program.

Table 8 summarizes the ANOVA mean difference with the corresponding significance value.

Table 8
Summary of ANOVA for Mean Difference in the Level of Responsiveness of Mothers on the 4Ps Program Across the Profile Variables

Profile Variable	Health and Well-Being		Education		Security	
	F-value	Sig	F-value	Sig	F-value	Sig
Age	.571	.639	.599	.621	2.393	.091
Civil Status	-.268	.791	-.104	.918	-.985	.333
Highest educational Attainment	2.313	.085	1.670	.188	1.007	.423
Occupation	.225	.823	.708	.485	-.722	.446
Number of Children	4.778	.017*	.962	.395	.724	.494
Number of Years as 4Ps member	.284	.837	.950	.431	1.066	.381
Age of Child/Children	1.563	.215	.797	.539	.835	.516

*Significant at .05 level

The summary table for ANOVA indicates the mean difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program across the profile variables. Generally, most of the data do not indicate a significant difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers in the 4Ps program, especially across age, civil status, highest educational attainment, occupation, the number of years as a 4Ps member, and the age of their children. Therefore, the research null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program across the aforesaid variables, is accepted at a .05 level of significance. These ANOVA results mean that their variations are different.

On the other hand, there is a significant difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program along with health and well-being across the profile variable number of children at a .017 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected at .05 level significance, stating that there is no significant difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers to the 4Ps program on the aforesaid variable. This indicates a statistically significant difference among the groups being compared. This could mean that the fewer the number of children in the family of 4Ps, the higher/greater their responsiveness to their health and well-being.

Table 9 on the next page presents the t-test results and the corresponding significance of profile variable occupation.

Table 9
T-test Results on the Significant Difference in the Level of Responsiveness of Mothers on the 4Ps Program Across their Profile Variable Occupation

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	F	Sig.	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	13.260	.925	-2.783	28	.006	-.17751	.06379	-.30319	-.05184
Equal variances not assumed			-2.584	28	.011	-.17751	.06870	-.31374	-.04129

The overall significant value indicator of .925 across the profile variable occupation can be gleaned from the table. The results warrant the acceptance of the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant difference in the level of responsiveness of mothers to the 4Ps program across the profile variable occupation. Therefore, occupation is not significant in the level of responsiveness of mothers in the 4Ps program. This could mean that an effort or pattern does not exist. Regardless of the mothers' occupation, they can respond to the elements of the 4Ps program.

Table 10 on the next page shows the relationship between the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program and their profile variables.

Table 10
Relationship Between the Level of Responsiveness of Mothers on the 4Ps Program and their Profile Variables

Profile Variable	Health and Well-Being		Education		Security		Level of Responsiveness	
	r-value	sig	r-value	sig	r-value	sig	r-value	sig
Age	-.105	.580	-.084	.660	-.456	.011*	-.282	.131
Civil Status	.051	.791	.020	.918	.183	.333	.116	.542
Highest educational Attainment	.016	.935	.000	1.000	.030	.877	.020	.915
Occupation	-.043	.823	-.133	.485	.144	.446	.018	.925
Number of Children	.387	.034*	.095	.618	-.010	.957	.233	.216
Number of Years as 4Ps member	-.109	.566	-.230	.221	-.144	.446	-.172	.363
Age of Child/Children	-.028	.885	-.103	.589	-.216	.251	-.131	.491

*Significant at .05 level

It can be observed from the table that the Pearson-r values of most of the independent variables, such as civil status, highest educational attainment, occupation, number of years as a 4Ps member, and age of the children, do not indicate any significant relationships to the respondents level of responsiveness on the 4Ps program. In this regard, the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between the level of responsiveness of mothers on the 4Ps program and the aforementioned variables, is accepted at a .05 level of significance. In other words, the respondents' level of responsiveness to the 4Ps program can be affected by the aforesaid variables.

On the other hand, significant relationships exist between age and security, with a .011 level of significance, and between the number of children and health and well-being, with a .034 level of significance. This could mean that young mothers are more aggressive in responding to the elements of the 4Ps program than older ones who are still exploring the different elements and aspects of the program. Likewise, mothers with fewer children are considered to be more responsive to the health and well-being of their children than mothers with a greater number of children.

Cases

It can be gleaned from the interview among the ten respondents that along age, the respondents were in the age bracket of 43-44, married, housewives with 2-5 children, and were members of the 4Ps program between one year to twelve years.

Along with health and well-being, most of them submitted for prenatal and post-natal check-ups, vaccination of their children, and participation in the feeding program.

In terms of education, all respondents monitored their children's going to school, and part of the subsidy given goes to the needs of their children.

Along with security, all respondents were members of Philhealth and were given a monthly subsidy for rice and money for their needs.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE THE RESPONSIVENESS OF THE 4Ps BENEFICIARIES

General Objective: To significantly boost the engagement and active participation of 4Ps beneficiaries in promoting health, well-being, educational opportunities, and community safety, which will roll out tailored community-focused strategies. These initiatives will heighten awareness about available resources, foster a sense of individual responsibility, and improve access to essential services. By focusing on the community's unique needs, we aim to create a supportive environment that empowers beneficiaries to take charge of their health and educational journeys while ensuring a safer, more secure community.

Key Area	Objectives	Strategies/Activity/ies	Resources Needed	Persons Involved	Time Frame	Budget Allocation	Expected Outcome
Health and Well-being	1. Strengthen health education 2. Facilitate access to basic health services	1. Conduct monthly health forums (nutrition, hygiene, maternal care) 2. Set up mobile health check-up stations in barangays	IEC materials, Mobile health kits, Medical supplies	Municipal Health Office, Barangay Health Workers, DSWD staff	Monthly (6 months)	Php 50,000.00	Increased awareness of healthy practices and improved access to healthcare services
Education	1. Promote school attendance through parental involvement 2. Support alternative learning and tutoring	1. Establish a mandatory education forum for parents and students. 2. Implement community-based peer tutoring and Alternative Learning System (ALS) programs.) sessions	School materials, Module kits, Volunteer incentives	DepEd, Parent Leaders, Local ALS Coordinators, Youth Volunteers	Bi-monthly (6 months)	Php 25,000.00	Increased school participation, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced learning
Security	1. Strengthen community awareness of rights and responsibilities 2. Encourage involvement in peace and order initiatives	1. Conduct barangay-based orientation on child protection, anti-violence laws 2. Form "Bantay Pamilya" teams among 4Ps families to assist in community watch	Training materials, IDs for volunteers, and Refreshments	DSWD, Barangay Officials, PNP, 4Ps Parent Leaders	Quarterly (2 sessions in 6 months)	Php 25,000.00	Reduced incidents of domestic issues and improved family discipline and community vigilance

IV. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following are hereby concluded.

The respondents were mostly young adults, married, high school graduates, unemployed, and had an average number of children. Most were members of the 4Ps for a few years and had children in their adolescence.

On the responsiveness of mothers in the implementation of the 4Ps program, they were more inclined towards education, followed by well-being, and lastly, security. Challenges encountered by the respondents were identified, and their participation in the program was monitored. Their prospects in the program are highest in terms of the education and nutrition of their children.

There were no significant differences in the level of responsiveness of the respondents on the 4Ps program across their profile variables.

The level of responsiveness to the 4Ps program concerning health and well-being is significantly related to the number of children. The significant positive r-value indicates that as the

number of children mothers have increases, so does their level of responsiveness related to health and well-being. The younger the mother, the higher their level of responsiveness to the 4Ps program, along with security.

A proposed program is prepared to improve its implementation.

V. Recommendations

Based on the conclusions drawn, the following are hereby recommended:

1. The respondents must continue to improve their participation in the program for their families to benefit, especially their children. They must submit other activities of the 4Ps.
2. The respondents must improve their responsiveness to the program to increase their health, well-being, and security to maintain their status.
3. To lessen the challenges and prospects encountered, the respondents must religiously follow the instructions given to them by those in charge of the program.
4. Future studies must be undertaken using other variables from a broader perspective.

REFERENCES

- [1] Asian Development Bank (2019) Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) in the Philippines, <https://www.adb.org/results/conditional-cash-transfers-ccts-philippines>
- [2] Bryan,G; Chowdhury, S; Mobarak, A; Morten, M; Smits, J. (2023) Encouragement and distortionary effects of conditional cash transfers, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004727272300186X>
- [3] Capulong, Charlyn; Cuevas, A. (2024) The Effectiveness of Conditional Cash Transfer
- [4] Capulso, L. B., Salendab, F. A., Jimlan, J.-T., Bermejo, G. D., Soriano, D. S., Rabacal, R. N., & Ramada, D. M. G. C. (2024). Advancing research excellence in Philippine basic education to harness productivity: A comprehensive mixed-methods approach. *Migration Letters*, 21(S2), 557–578. <https://migrationletters.com/index.php/ml/article/view/6679>
- [5] Program: A Case of Rural and Urban Beneficiaries in Philippines, *Economics Research and social Sciences* <https://journal.umy.ac.id/index.php/jerss/article/view/20726>
- [6] Department of social Welfare and Development, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) (2024) <https://car.dswd.gov.ph/programs-services/core-programs/pantawid-pamilyang-pilipino-program-4ps/#:~:text=Program%20conditions%20are%20the%20following,must%20be%20fully%20immunized%20and>
- [7] De Layola, Zaldy (2023) DSWD takes steps to address school dropouts, *Philippine News Agency*,<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1208830>
- [8] Herrera, DJ; Herrera, M; Amora, D; Bas, S; Miranda, C; Van Hal, G (2023) Mixed methods study on the association between inclusion to CCT program and the multiple faces of malnutrition in children and adolescents aged 2 to 19 years, *Springer Nature*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12887-023-04438-8>

- [9] Malinao, A; Remandaban, R; Abocejo, F. (2022) The Conditional Cash Transfer Program for Poverty Alleviation in the Phil: A Policy Evaluation, International Journal of Social Science Research and Review, <https://ijssrr.com/journal/article/view/845>
- [10] Penalba, E. (2019) Exploring the Health Outcomes of Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Rural Philippines, Bulacan State University - Meneses Campus, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3567177
- [11] Sannadan, JG; Gas-ib, P; Mamma, R. (2022) Impacts of Conditional Cash Transfer on Kalinga Women and Children: Evidence of a Randomized Survey. Indian journal of Science and Technology, Volume 15, Issue 22, <https://indjst.org/articles/impacts-of-conditional-cash-transfer-on-kalinga-women-and-children-evidence-of-a-randomized-survey>
- [12] Schady, N, Ferreira, F; Keleher, N; Grosh, M; Olinto, P; Skoufas, E. Cash Transfers : Reducing Present and Future Poverty,, Open Knowledge Repository (2019), openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/db93c3fe-1810-5834-a9da-c1386caa0323