

Perceived Effects of Conditional Cash Transfer Program among Beneficiaries in Selected Barangays in Pila, Laguna, Philippines

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Abstract

Poverty remains to be an unresolved problem in the Philippines. More than one-quarter (27.9%) of the population fell below the poverty line the first semester of 2012. This complex issue of poverty can be connected to other main issues that the country is facing today such as hunger, prevalence of out of school youth and others. As a response to this challenge, the ongoing CCT or the Conditional Cash Transfer program of the government was implemented under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It tries to help in fulfilling the country's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. The then Aquino administration saw CCT, or more popularly known as 4Ps or in long form, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Bridging Program for the Filipino Family) as a strategy to reduce the poverty incidence from 33% to 16.6% by 2016. This study aims to determine the perceptions of the beneficiaries on the effects of the 4Ps program; characterize the CCT beneficiaries; determine the respondents' knowledge on the CCT as a program; assess the perceived effects of the program in terms of education, health, economics, and other areas of interest; and formulate recommendations for the improvement of the program implementation. The study was done in two villages, namely, Barangay Pansol and Barangay San Antonio in Pila, a third class municipality in the Province of Laguna. Complete enumeration of the 4Ps beneficiaries using a survey questionnaire was done. This study used descriptive analysis.

The results showed that the program is generally acceptable to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries even believed that after its five- year implementation, it would have considerably helped their families by then. However, the program must meet the short-term and perceived long-term needs of the beneficiaries.

Keywords: Conditional Cash Transfer; (CCT); 4Ps – Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Bridging program for the Filipino Family); Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Introduction

Poverty remains an unresolved problem in the Philippines. The country's poverty line marks a per capita income of 16,841 pesos⁷ a year. According to the data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), more than one-quarter (27.9%) of the population fell below the poverty line the first semester of 2012, an approximate one percent (1%) increase since 2009. Fishermen, farmers, and children remain to have the highest poverty incidences among the nine basic sectors in the Philippines in 2012 (National Statistical Coordination Board NSCB, 2014).

This complex issue of poverty can be connected to other main issues that the Philippines and other

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⁷ \$338 USD, \$1 = 50 Philippine Peso

developing countries are facing today such as hunger, malnutrition, child mortality, corruption, crime, prevalence of out of school youth, and others. In effect, poverty hinders development; and according to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held last June 2012, sustainable development cannot be achieved if poverty still exists.

In addressing poverty issues through development, Amartya Sen, through his book *Development as freedom*, pointed out that development is expanding the substantial freedoms people enjoy and it also means requiring the removal of major sources of “unfreedoms”⁸ like poverty and Tyranny, social deprivation and poor economic opportunities to name a few. Freedom implies not just to do something, but the capabilities to make it happen. Development is seen through peoples’ capabilities to make choices and the achievements based on their capabilities is influenced by, as Sen would say, economic opportunities, political liberties, social powers, and the enabling condition of good health, basic education, and the encouragement and cultivation of initiatives.

As a response to this challenge of freeing people from poverty, various organizations and institutions formulated and designed concrete interventions. One of which is the ongoing CCT or the Conditional Cash Transfer program of the national government or more popularly known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or “4Ps” in short. This conditional cash transfer program under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) helps in fulfilling the country’s commitment to meet the Millennium Development Goals, namely: (1) to eradicate poverty and hunger; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality; (4) reduce child mortality; and (5) improve maternal health; and aims to target the “poorest of the poor”. This program was patterned after other developing countries such as *Familias en Accion* in Columbia the *Bolsa Familia* in Brazil and *Oportunidades* in Mexico, and in some European countries (Reyes, et.al, 2015).

As a result of having positive impacts in other countries, the Aquino administration saw CCT as a strategy to reduce the poverty incidence from 33% to 16.6% by 2016. The administration hopes to achieve the same results of Brazil where they were able to reduce their poverty incidence by 15% in just three years (Reyes, et.al, 2015). The program operates in 79 provinces, covering 1,484 municipalities, and 143 cities in all 17 regions nationwide. It has a total of 4,353,597 registered households and 570,056 are Indigenous households as of 26 August 2015 (DWSW). Since it has started as a small CCT pilot in 2007, the 4Ps program had undergone incremental improvements in its implementation.

Based on the completed assessment of CCT in 2015, children of CCT beneficiaries are enrolling and attending schools. The best showing was during the months of March and April 2015 wherein the school attendance of children aged 6 to 14 were pegged at 98.33%, the daycare level who caters to 3 to 5 years olds were at 97.05%, while the students whose age ranged from 15-18 had a 95.95% showing. With improved health due to regular visits to health stations, and pregnant mothers getting proper care. In addition, the program initially focused on education and health, but now includes services such as feeding and livelihood programs, scholarships and skills training in order to enable the sustainability and further empowerment of the beneficiaries.

However, despite the good intentions of the program, it is also being criticized by some groups in terms of its effectiveness and sustainability. Monitoring and evaluation of the program is deemed very crucial in determining its effectiveness and ensuring sustainability. Since there have been limited studies in this areas of concern, this study would like to contribute particularly in assessing the perceived impacts of 4Ps, among its beneficiaries.

Rawlings and Rubio (2011) stated that cash transfer is viewed as a new approach in social assistance. The purpose of social assistance is to provide income to the needy; to help these people to fight poverty. Since CCT focuses on human capital development, it could result to long term poverty reduction. Moreover, the program strengthens the relationship between the service provider and the poor. The

⁸ Amartya Sen’s term for lack of freedom

beneficiaries were also becoming open by allowing direct relationship from the government as part of the conditions that these grantees should send their children to school and avail of regular medical check-ups. Aside from the cash grant that was given by the government, the program also acts as a catalyst that will bring a deeper social exchange and social impact between the relationship of the government and the indigent families, as well as the service providers.

There are key design features introduced by the conditional cash transfer programs that depart from the traditional social assistance programs. First is the provision of grants to poor households, which changes the accountability relationships among the stakeholders. The benefits included in the conditions required by the grants are the use of health/nutrition and education services and stronger connection between the service providers and the poor. By this, the government can have a direct relationship with poor families involving them through giving them responsibility for schooling, health care, and the appropriate use of the cash grants. In recognition of the international data that suggest that women often make more decisions on budgeting affecting children's welfare, the programs designate mothers as recipients of the grants. Second, the programs seek to utilize the elements of human capital development such as health, nutrition, and education components. Third is the promotion of efficient and flexible use of cash grants. Under the health component, And lastly, the programs include good technical program design features such as explicit poverty targeting criteria that are based on proxy-means tests and effective monitoring and evaluation systems (Rawlings & Rubio, 2005).

In the reviewed programs there is the inclusion of education component and health and nutrition component. In the education component, the student should have regular school attendance that is usually 80-85% of school days. There are considerable variations in the size of grants across countries. In the countries of Honduras, Mexico and Turkey, the grant in education components include direct costs such as school fees, school supplies and transportation costs and opportunity costs in sending children to school rather than work. Only a part of opportunity costs are covered in the grants in some other countries. In Columbia and Mexico, there is a higher education grants for secondary school than for primary school because as a child grows older, the opportunity cost increases. Higher grants are given for the girls at the secondary level in Mexico to give incentive in reversing the notion of unequal gender participation in secondary education and to internalize the externalities for raising their own families (Skoufias cited by Rawlings & Rubio, 2005). In Turkey, there is a high consideration for the number of children in the family. The value of grant decreases proportionally based on the number of children in the family (Rawlings & Rubio, 2005). To a certain extent, the rules of the CCT in the Philippines is quite similar to the aforementioned programs. Health and Nutrition expenses amount to five hundred Pesos (500 Php) a month and if you have a maximum of three children that attends school, you get an additional ten thousand pesos per school year (10 months) per child.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to:

1. Determine the perceptions of the beneficiaries on the effects of the 4Ps program.
2. Determine the respondents' knowledge on the CCT as a program;
3. Characterize the CCT beneficiaries
4. Assess the perceived effects of the program in terms of education, health, economics, and other areas of interest.
5. Formulate recommendations for the improvement of the program implementation.

3. Location and Methods of the Study

3.1 Location of the Study

The municipality of Pila is a third class municipality where in it can be found in the Laguna Province. It has 17 *Barangays*⁹, one of these barangays is Barangay Pansol. At present, the Barangay Pansol has a size of 116 hectares and are divided into six districts or *Puroks* in Filipino. This vast land is mainly used for agriculture. There are be areas that have fish ponds and resort villages. They have recorded 2,278 residents who live in the barangay (NSCB, 2011). Most of them live close to community services because they are easier to reach.

The other study site is Barangay San Antonio, the largest barangay in Pila, Laguna, having a total land area of 230.90 hectares, mostly agricultural lands. It consists of six *puroks*. The barangay is easy to spot as it is located along the highway area only. The village covers mostly agricultural lands and lakeside communities.



Photo 1: Aerial view of Barangay Pansol and San Antonio (generated from Google Earth 2016)

3.2 Respondents

A complete enumeration of the 76 beneficiaries of the CCT program in Barangay Pansol and the 64 members from San Antonio was done. These beneficiaries were divided into two clusters. Those living in farmlands are grouped in cluster A, while those near the lake shore belong to cluster B. These clusters were based on the grouping done by the DSWD officers in order to easily identify the beneficiaries based on their geographical location. The investment or cash grants are given or entrusted to the responsible member or head of household, most of the time the mother or the wife, who are the main respondents in this study.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

Survey questionnaire were administered to all the respondents to determine the socio demographic characteristics of the beneficiary and his/her family, the information about the CCT, their knowledge about the CCT Program, the effects of the CCT on the beneficiaries, and the perceived problems arising from the program. Survey results were tabulated and analysed using frequencies.

⁹ Refers to a village or hamlet in Filipino.

4. Results and Discussions

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents and their household

Table 1 shows the summary of the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Both Barangays Pansol and San Antonio have more female (93%, 92%) than male respondents. Also, both barangays have respondents whose ages are mostly 30-39 years old.

Most of the respondents in Barangay Pansol (75%) and San Antonio (78%) were married since CCT was designed and given to families who were known to be economically marginalized. There were also single parents who qualified for the program. (Two respondents from Pansol and two respondents from Brgy. San Antonio.)

Most of the respondents were high school graduates (28% from Brgy. Pansol, while 30% from Brgy. San Antonio) followed by those who have reached high school but have not graduated (25% from Brgy. Pansol, while 22% from Brgy. San Antonio). Since the majority of the respondents are high school graduates, they have limited employment options, thus making them relatively low income earners. Majority of the respondents are (53% from Brgy. Pansol, while 31% from Brgy. San Antonio) with no income, followed by self-employed respondents (16%) in Brgy. Pansol and skilled workers (14%) for Brgy. San Antonio.

One of the respondents had been a resident in Barangay Pansol for one year, while Brgy. San Antonio had longer staying residents ranging from 21-30 years.

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Brgy. Pansol		Brgy. San Antonio	
	No. of respondents n=76	Percentage (%)	No. of respondents n=64	Percentage (%)
Sex				
Male	5	7	5	8
Female	71	93	59	92
Age				
20-29	12	16	8	12
30-39	30	39	29	45
40-49	17	23	16	25
50-59	12	16	9	14
60-69	4	5	1	2
70 and up	1	1	1	2
Civil Status				
Single	2	3	2	3
Married	57	75	50	78
Separated	5	7	2	3
Widow/Widower	4	5	1	2
Live-in	8	10	9	14
Educational Attainment				
No Formal Education	1	1	0	0
*Primary Elementary level	0	0	1	2
**Intermediate Elementary level	13	17	13	20
Elementary graduate	9	12	13	20
High school level	19	25	14	22
	21	28	19	30

High school graduate ¹⁰				
College level	7	9	2	3
College graduate	2	3	0	0
Vocational	4	5	0	0
No answer	0	0	2	3
Work				
Unemployed	7	9	13	20
Housewife	40	53	20	31
Employed (white collar)	2	3	0	0
Employed (blue collar)				
Self-employed	3	4	6	10
Factory worker				
Skilled worker	12	16	7	11
Farmer/gardener	1	1	0	0
LGU Official	5	7	9	14
No answer	4	5	6	9
	0	0	1	2
	2	2	2	3
Total Income of the family (in Pesos)				
No income	4	5	6	9
1.00 – 500.00	0	0	1	2
501.00 – 2000.00	4	5	5	8
2001.00 – 5000.00	29	38	22	34
5001.00 – 10000.00	24	32	17	27
10001.00 – 20000.00	15	20	11	17
20000 and above	0	0	2	3
Years of Residency (in years)				
Less than 1 year				
1-10	1	1	0	0
11-20	20	26	15	23
21-30	15	20	16	25
31-40	14	19	18	28
41-50	17	23	7	11
51-60	4	5	7	11
No answer	3	4	1	2
	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	76	100	64	100

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 2 below shows the results of the socio-demographic characteristics of the household members of the respondents. Majority of the household members of the respondents were male (57% for Brgy. Pansol,

¹⁰ * Grades 1 to 3 in Elementary is called Primary Level

** Grades 4 to 6 in Elementary is called Intermediate Level

while 65% for Brgy. San Antonio). Most of them were ages 10-19 years old (31% and 37% for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively). Reflective of this is the findings that most were single (73% and 77% for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively). This also reflects the educational attainment profile; 31% from Brgy. Pansol and 41% of the respondents from Brgy. San Antonio are in elementary level.

When asked about their employment status, the respondents answered that majority (55% of respondents from Brgy Pansol and 45% of respondents from Brgy. San Antonio) of their household members are students with no income followed by those who are skilled workers (10%) in Brgy. Pansol, while there were unemployed members in Brgy. San Antonio (13%).

With regards to the household members' income, the majority have no income (74% and 71% for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively). Upon verification with the respondents, the majority of the household members are dependent on the household members who earn and have a source of income.

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Brgy. Pansol		Brgy. San Antonio	
	Frequency n=349	Percentage (%)	Frequency n=311	Percentage (%)
Sex				
Male	199	57	201	65
Female	150	43	110	35
Age				
Less than 1	11	3	8	2
1-9	105	30	98	31
10-19	109	31	115	37
20-29	42	12	27	9
30-39	30	9	24	8
40-49	28	8	20	6
50-59	15	4	11	4
60-69	5	2	5	2
70 and up	4	1	3	1
Civil Status				
Single	256	73	238	77
Married	78	22	60	19
Separated	1	1	2	1
Widow/Widower	6	2	3	1
Live-in	8	2	8	2
Educational Attainment				
No Formal Education	9	2	11	4
Primary Elementary level	35	10	20	6
Intermediate Elementary level	108	31	129	41
Elementary graduate	22	6	27	9
High school level	76	22	46	15
High school graduate	41	12	34	11
College level				
College graduate	24	7	3	1
Vocational	3	1	4	1
Below school age	3	1	4	1

No answer	20 8	6 2	32 1	10 1
Work				
Unemployed	30	9	41	13
Housewife	4	1	2	1
Employed (white collar)	5	1	1	1
Employed (blue collar)				
Self-employed	11	3	21	7
Factory worker				
Skilled worker	5	1	4	1
Security/Marshalls	4	1	3	1
LGU Official	35	10	18	6
Farmer/gardener	1	0	0	0
OFW	1	0	4	1
Tricycle Driver	24	7	24	8
Student	1	1	0	0
Below school age	6	2	3	1
No answer	191	55	141	45
	24	7	39	12
	7	2	10	3
Income (in Pesos)				
No income	259	74	221	71
1.00 – 500.00	1	0	0	0
501.00 – 2000.00	11	3	18	6
2001.00 – 5000.00	40	12	34	11
5001.00 – 10000.00	26	8	27	9
10001.00 – 20000.00	4	1	0	0
Not sure/conditional	8	2	0	0
No answer	0	0	11	3
TOTAL	349	100	311	100

Table 2: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents' household

5. Duration of membership in the CCT Program

Table 3 below shows the duration of the respondents being a beneficiary under the CCT Program. In both barangays, the majority (54% for Brgy. Pansol and 63% for Brgy. San Antonio) of the respondents had been beneficiaries for two years (see *Table 3*). Thus, it is expected that there should be some manifestations of the significant effects of the program already in the beneficiaries and their family members considering that the time frame of the program is five years.

Duration	Pansol		San Antonio	
	Frequency n=76	Percentage (%)	Frequency n=64	Percentage (%)
Less than a month	8	11	0	0
1 yr	20	26	19	29
2 yrs	41	54	40	63
More than 3 yrs	7	9	5	8

Table 3. Respondents' duration of being a beneficiary

As seen in *Table 4* below, the majority (72% and 81% for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively) of the respondents were interviewed to become a CCT Program beneficiary. 9% of respondents from Brgy. Pansol and 17% of respondents from Brgy. San Antonio was endorsed by the barangay officials for them to be considered a beneficiary. The data shows that the beneficiaries underwent a pre-selection screening before becoming an official beneficiary of the program. The pre-screening process is done by looking at the data of the Small Area Estimates (SAE) of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) of all Barangays that have a 50% or higher poverty incidences. The results are then double-checked by looking at the so-called “pockets of poverty” based on the data available with the local municipality (Reyes, et al., 2015).

Methods*	Pansol		San Antonio	
	Frequency n=76	Percentage (%)	Frequency n=64	Percentage (%)
Interviews by DSWD	55	72	52	81
Endorsed by Barangay officials	9	12	17	27
Attended a seminar	6	8	14	22
Passed an application	5	7	15	23
No answer	5	7	0	0

Table 4: Methods of Beneficiary Selection in the Program; *multiple answers

When asked about their sources of information regarding the project, the majority (57% and 59% for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively) of the respondents indicated an announcement from barangay. This shows that the barangay officials were effective in informing their community on government programs like the conditional cash transfer.

Sources of information*	Pansol n=76	San Antonio N=64
	Frequency	Frequency
TV/Radio/Newspaper	0	7
Announcements from Barangay	43	38
Neighborhood	3	7
Internet	1	0
DSWD	24	23
Others	11	10

Table 5: Respondents' sources of information regarding the CCT Program; *multiple answers

The most common CCT Program benefit mentioned by the respondents is receiving cash grants (99% for Brgy. Pansol while 100% from Brgy. San Antonio). This shows that the program really focuses on the financial aspect to aid the marginalized communities for the daily expenses.

Benefit*	Pansol n=76	San Antonio n= 64
	Frequency	Frequency
Cash grants	75	64
Maternal care	3	16
Education	17	22
Livelihood	5	19
Others	16	6

Table 6: Respondents' benefit from the CCT Program *multiple answers

43% of the respondents from Brgy. Pansol and 49% from Brgy. San Antonio receive their cash grants once in every one to two months. While some other beneficiaries received their cash grants longer than the said period, as shown in the table below. This shows that there is no regularity and consistency in the distribution schedule. These delays can be blamed on certain measures that the government, particularly the Commission on Audit (COA) does to ensure funds are properly released. In their COA report of 2012, they stated that 13 Million pesos of funds were put on hold due to errors seen in the list given by DSWD as having double entries. There are also instances wherein the beneficiaries fail to attend required seminars due to accessibility issues of their area and other domestic reasons.

Schedule period	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Once in every 1-2 months	43	57	49	77
Once in every 2-3 months	28	36	15	23
Once in every 4-5 months	3	4	0	0
Once in every 6 months	2	3	0	0

Table 7: Schedule of cash release under the CCT Program

The cash grants are mostly (88% both from Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio) obtained by female household members as shown in the table below since they are the ones taking care of their household.

Gender	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	7	9	4	6
Female	67	88	56	88
Both male and female	2	3	4	6

Table 8: Gender of the household member obtaining the cash grant

There are 68% and 55% respondents from Barangay Pansol and San Antonio, respectively who said the cash grant they received was used for educational subsidies for their children in school. This shows that the cash grant was essential to sustain the needs of the beneficiaries, which is consistent to the goal of the program of keeping children in school.

Allocation of cash grants based on daily needs	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Livelihood capital	5	7	1	2
Educational subsidies for children in school	68	89	55	86
Household expenses	46	61	35	55
Medicine	4	5	9	14

Table 9: Allocation of cash grants according to the respondents' daily needs

The rate of acceptance of beneficiaries in the conditions governing the cash grants are summarized in the table below. Majority (58% for Brgy. Pansol and 67% for Brgy. San Antonio) of the respondents rated the conditions at the average level and some are still having a hard time in complying with the regulations given by the program due to geographical or physical constraints.

Acceptance rate	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High	22	29	14	22
Medium	44	58	43	67
Low	10	13	4	6
No answer	0	0	3	5

Table 10: Acceptance rate by beneficiaries in the conditions governing the cash grants

When asked whether the program will be enough for the beneficiaries after its five- year implementation, majority (82% from Brgy. Pansol and 54% from Brgy. San Antonio) said it is already long enough and have already helped their families by then. 14% of respondents from Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively, who said that the implementation period is not enough stated these reasons: (1) the program isn't enough to sustain the long term needs of the children; and (2) is that the grant is not enough for their daily needs.

Acceptance rate	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
ENOUGH	62	82	35	54
NOT ENOUGH	14	18	22	34
“Lubos na”	0	0	1	2
Can’t decide	0	0	3	5
No answer	0	0	3	5

Table 11: Beneficiaries’ acceptance rate in relation to the five year term of the conditional cash grant

6. Knowledge of Beneficiaries about the CCT Program

Table 12 below summarizes the knowledge of the respondents on their benefits as a CCT program beneficiary. 64% of Brgy. Pansol respondents and 49% from Brgy. San Antonio respondents believed that the program have improved their children’s regular schooling in elementary and secondary schools. Regular check-ups and vaccination of children (59% of respondents) came in second for Brgy. Pansol respondents. For Brgy. San Antonio, 38% of respondents said regular check-up and vaccination of children and regular schooling of pre-schooling came in second.

Benefits*	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Regular maternal check-up	46	61	25	39
Family development sessions	57	75	29	45
Regular check-up and vaccination of children ages 0-5	59	78	38	59
Regular schooling of day care and preschool children ages 3-5	42	55	38	59
Regular schooling of elementary and secondary children ages 6-14	64	84	49	77
Deworming of children ages 6-14 twice a month	32	42	24	38
Others(Livelihood and Scholarship)	2	3	0	0

Table 12: Beneficiaries knowledge on the benefits of the CCT Program; *multiple answers

Table 13 below shows the conditions mentioned by the respondents before they can become a CCT program beneficiary. Almost half (49%) of the respondents from Brgy. Pansol said that having no regular income was the most common criterion to be a CCT program beneficiary.

In Barangay San Antonio, most of the respondents (42%) said that being a registered voter was a condition before becoming a CCT beneficiary. This was followed by having no regular source of income.

Conditions*	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Registered voter	18	24	27	42
Indigent family	15	20	13	20
No regular source of income	37	49	22	34
Family size	15	20	15	23
Not aware	1	1	0	0
Others	20	26	0	0

Table 13: Conditions for the respondents to become a beneficiary; *multiple answers

7. Perceived community effects of CCT program

The respondents were asked their perceived effects of the CCT program on education. Most of them (88% and 89% in Barangay Pansol and San Antonio, respectively) said that their children are able to go to school regularly because of the program. This increase in students' attendance will have a positive impact in the long run since the children can have more focus on excelling academically and could increase the possibility of finishing college and therefore, having more employment options.

Perceived effects*	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Regular schooling	67	88	57	89
Improved academic performance	39	51	13	20
Being able to finish Pre-school	26	34	12	19
Being able to graduate in Elementary	28	37	12	19

Table 14: Respondents' perceived effects of the CCT Program in Education; *multiple answers

Regular check-up and vaccination for children are the most perceived effect of the CCT program on the health aspect (88% on Barangay Pansol while 77% for Barangay San Antonio). Regular vaccination and check-up for children is a good indicator towards better health conditions in the barangay. Children are more prone to getting sick but through regular vaccination and check-up, the health of children can be monitored and worsening of diseases can be prevented.

Perceived effects*	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Regular maternal check-up	25	33	22	34
Regular vaccination and check-up for children	67	88	49	77
Regular deworming for children twice a year	40	53	40	63
Less maternal and children mortality rate	10	13	8	13
Others	6	8	0	0

Table 15: Respondents' perceived effects of the CCT Program in Health; **multiple answers*

Table 16 below shows the respondents' perceived effects on the economic aspect following the CCT program. Majority (88%, 80%) for Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio said that the program helped in reducing their burden in household expenditures. This proves that the cash grants given are helpful to the families and that it is effective in addressing the immediate needs of the beneficiaries.

Perceived effects*	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Reduces burden in household expenditures	67	88	51	80
Helpful in family savings	22	29	16	25
Helps in allocating the money for basic needs of the family	44	58	39	61
Not of help	3	4	0	0
Others (livelihood)	1	1	0	0

Table 16: Respondents' perceived effects of the CCT Program in Economic Aspect; **multiple answers*

Perceived effects of CCT in the Family	Pansol	San Antonio
Improved relationship between husband and wife	52	55
Improved relationship among parents and children	64	57
Improved relationship among siblings	37	54
There are positive behavior changes per member in the family	37	60
Not of help	6	4

Table 17: Respondents' perceived effects of the CCT Program in the Family

8. Problems and Issues in the Barangay in relation to CCT

Table 18 below shows the distribution of the respondents who have identified presence and absence of issues in the barangay regarding the program. Most of them (78% of respondents from Barangay Pansol while 86% of respondents from Barangay San Antonio) said that there is no problem, while only a few (22% of respondents from Barangay Pansol while 14% of respondents from Barangay San Antonio) have mentioned some problems regarding the implementation of the program, which is summarized in *Table 19*.

Presence of Issues in the barangay regarding CCT program	Pansol n=76		San Antonio n=64	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Present	17	22	9	14
Absent	59	78	55	86

Table 18: Presence of issues in the barangay regarding CCT program

Certain problems were raised like, or education, a beneficiary said that lack of allowance hindered the children from regularly attending school.

For the health aspect, one member specified unequal benefits given to beneficiaries as a problem. Some will get free treatment or medicines while others do not since supply has already run out. While for the economic and livelihood aspect, seven of the respondents from Brgy. Pansol said gambling of household members as a problem. This may denote that the cash grants may not be used for its intended purpose of uplifting marginalized communities and improving their conditions. Also, a respondent said that having no regular livelihood is a problem with the program since they do not have a stable source of income to sustain their needs.

On its overall implementation, some respondents (two for Brgy. Pansol and three for Brgy. San Antonio) said that there is a “bias” in the selection of beneficiaries and only beneficiaries of certain political alliances are able to get and enjoy their privileges. This runs counter to what the program is mandated to do, which is to unbiasedly give help to those who are truly need without prejudice. Also, three respondents from Brgy. San Antonio said that they are not able to receive their pay out without any valid reason given. Although 14 respondents found that five years is not enough to sustain the needs of their schoolchildren, only one said that, in general, CCT is not enough to sustain its long term goals.

ASPECT	PROBLEM/ ISSUE	Pansol n=17	San Antonio n=9
Education	Children have no allowance therefore they are not regularly able to go to school	1	0
	Haven't specified but said there is a problem	16	9
Health	Unequal benefits being given	0	1
	Haven't specified but said there is a problem	17	8
Economic and Livelihood	Gambling	7	0
	No regular Livelihood	1	0
	Haven't specified but said there is a problem	9	9
Overall Program	Only selected gets privileges	2	3
	Pay out isn't received/ delayed/ reduced	4	6
	The span of five years of getting benefits from CCT is not enough	1	0
	Haven't specified but said there is a problem	10	0

Table 19: Current issues and problems in the implementation of CCT program

Table 20 below summarizes the observed reasons of the respondents for the absence of issues and problems in the implementation of CCT. In Brgy. Pansol, 32 % of respondents were not able to state the reason, while 10% respondents said the program is well executed and therefore see no problem.

On the other hand, in Brgy. San Antonio, 20% said that program is well executed, and there were no perceived issues in CCT's implementation.

REASONS	Pansol n=59	San Antonio n=55
Beneficiaries follow conditions	7	7
The program as a whole is well executed	10	20
It helps the families	3	4
Settles conflicts immediately	1	2
No Answer	32	12

Table 20: Beneficiaries' observed reasons for the absence of issues and problems on the implementation of CCT

The table above summarizes the suggestions of the beneficiaries who said that a problem exists in the implementation of the program. Majority of the respondents, in all aspect were not able to specify a recommendation; only a few were able to identify what they think could be a solution to their problem.

One respondent from Brgy. San Antonio said increasing the cash grants could be of help to the families. Two from the same same barangay said that distributing free educational materials such as books

and uniforms could aid them. In the health aspect, two respondents from Brgy. San Antonio said distributing free medicines and vitamins could not only solve the health problems of beneficiaries but it can edify the valuable contributions of deliverables promised by the program. A respondent from Brgy. Pansol said that in order to solve economic and livelihood problems, those who are caught gambling should be eradicated from the list of beneficiaries since they might be using the cash grants for illegal activities. Two respondents, each from Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio said being more strict in the monitoring of the beneficiaries of the program helps in addressing problems such as gambling issues. Five respondents from Brgy. San Antonio said having livelihood programs such as curing of meats, which is an added bonus of being in the program, could help in solving the problems previously identified since the families could have alternative sources of incomes. And lastly, following the governing conditions of the program was specified as the solution by two respondents and four respondents from Brgy. Pansol and San Antonio, respectively.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

As a result of having positive impacts in other countries, the Aquino administration saw the 4Ps program as a strategy to reduce the poverty incidence from 33% to 16.6% by 2016. The administration hopes to achieve the same results of Brazil, where they were able to reduce their poverty incidence by 15% in just three years.

The results of this study show that the CCT program in the Philippines, or better known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), is generally acceptable to the beneficiaries in both the villages of Barangay San Antonio and Barangay Pansol. In terms of meeting its target on education, beneficiaries say that their children have been able to go to school due to the help given by the program. Since their children have been going to school, this provides opportunity for them to finish at least elementary level and increase their likelihood of getting a job. In the realm of health and food, the respondents were generally pleased with how the program helps them in alleviating household everyday needs. Most respondents from both areas even believed that after its five-year implementation, it would have considerably helped their families fight off poverty.

However, there is still a lot of room for improvement in terms of meeting short-term and long-term needs of its beneficiaries. Though the two villages of Brgy. San Antonio and Brgy. Pansol generally had a positive response to the program, these are just two of the many villages under the program. Questions about the programs' sustainability as well as a change in the leadership of the national government places the 4Ps in uncertainty. Certain problems can also be pointed out in the program. Factors like there are too many sectors and government agencies involved in the process of implementation, which according to Arulpragasam *et al.* (2011) can create a situation for fraud, error, corruption, resulting in leakages. Another criticism is that it develops dependency to the program creating a reputation of the 4Ps program as more of a "dole out" system that promotes sole reliance to whatever monetary help is extended and nothing more. The current Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Sec. Judy Taguiwalo said that she will not institute or support the long-term institution of a "stop-gap" measure. Instead, she would focus more on long-term economic initiatives that will create more sustainable jobs and livelihood (Lopez, 2016).

Recommendations

The CCT program in the Philippines still needs improvement in order to accurately achieve its targets. It could benefit more by looking at and borrowing the best practices of CCT programs from other countries. For instance, by increasing the age range of student beneficiaries from 14 years old to 22, just like in Mexico's CCT program called *Oportunidades*, the program will not only encourage students to finish their elementary education but also high school and eventually, on towards a vocational program or college degree which will more or less increase their chances of getting a good paying job. The elementary level of education in the Philippines already has the benefit of being the most well-attended level even without 4Ps

intervention (Reyes, et.al., 2013). Based on the Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS), the problem of severe non-attendance in school among older children from ages 15-22 is around 45% in 2011 as compared to the meager 2% attrition from the elementary level.

Another recommendation would be narrowing the frequency of receiving the cash grants. The majority of our respondents use the money for their daily needs, but the government only releases the cash in two to three months time. It would be better if the cash arrives on a weekly basis so that it could truly help the beneficiaries attend to their daily expenses with confidence.

The program implementers should also focus on capacity building programs for the beneficiaries that are sustainable. If the beneficiaries are located in an agricultural area, farming related projects wherein whatever organic produce they grow will be sold at the local market, or better yet, their own sort of Farmers market should be implemented. If they are in the city, domestic skills like cooking, laundrying, driving, and even gardening and landscaping should be taught to the beneficiaries so it would be easy to find employment and hopefully a way out of poverty.

Indeed, there is still much room for improvement with respect to the 4Ps' implementation. Hopefully, given enough time and the needed political support the Program may help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty in the country.

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