

# Effects of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) in the Province of Sultan Kudarat

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Abstract. This study examines the effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) on poverty alleviation, health, and education in Sultan Kudarat Province. The research addresses the gap in understanding the program's impact on beneficiaries, focusing on its effectiveness in improving living conditions. Utilizing a descriptive research design, data were collected from 617 randomly selected beneficiaries across 11 barangays through a survey questionnaire. The analysis revealed that while implementing cash grants was perceived as moderately effective, the health benefits provided through PhilHealth were viewed positively. The findings indicate significant improvements in poverty alleviation, maternal health, and educational outcomes, with mean scores reflecting a highly effective impact. The study concludes that the 4Ps program is essential for sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for families in Sultan Kudarat. Continued efforts are necessary to address implementation challenges, such as delays in cash grant disbursement, to maximize the program's overall effectiveness.

**Keywords:** Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's); Universal primary education; Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; Improving maternal health; Sultan Kudarat, Philippines.

#### 1.0 Introduction

In the Philippines, many families, especially those living in poverty, encounter significant challenges in accessing quality education and healthcare. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) was established as a social protection initiative to address these issues by providing cash grants to low-income families and promoting health and education among their children. Previous studies have highlighted the program's potential to improve educational outcomes and health indicators among beneficiaries (Jornadal, 2023; Lomeli, 2009). For instance, research by Dadap (2011) indicated that the 4Ps have positively impacted school attendance and maternal health, while other studies have pointed out the challenges in cash grant disbursement and compliance among beneficiaries (Catubig, et al., 2015).

Despite these findings, there remains a gap in understanding the comprehensive effects of the 4Ps on poverty alleviation, health, and education, specifically in the context of Sultan Kudarat Province. While existing literature provides insights into the program's overall effectiveness, localized studies are limited, particularly those that assess beneficiaries' perceptions regarding the program's impact on their daily lives. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the effects of the 4Ps on poverty alleviation, health, and education in Sultan Kudarat, thereby contributing to the broader discourse on social welfare programs in the Philippines. The findings will inform policymakers and program implementers and serve as a foundation for future research on social welfare initiatives. By understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the 4Ps, stakeholders can enhance its implementation and ultimately improve the quality of life for families in need.

# 2.0 Methodology

# 2.1 Research Design

This study uses a descriptive research design to evaluate the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program's effects on poverty, health, and education outcomes in Sultan Kudarat. This design is appropriate for capturing the current status and perceptions of the program's impact, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of its effectiveness.

#### 2.2 Research Locale

The research was conducted in the 11 barangays covering municipalities in the Province of Sultan Kudarat, namely Kapaya, Bagumbayan; Maligaya, Columbio; Villamor, Esperanza; Bambad, Isulan; Poblacion, Kalamansig; Palumbi, Lambayong; Pasandalan, Lebak; Lutayan Proper, Lutayan; Badiangon, Palimbang; Katico, President Quirino; and Kulaman, Senator Ninoy Aquino.

# 2.3 Research Participants

The study population consisted of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries across 11 barangays in Sultan Kudarat. Six hundred seventeen participants were randomly selected using a stratified random sampling technique. This approach ensured a representative sample by accounting for variations in demographics and socioeconomic status among the barangays. The selection process involved dividing the population into distinct subgroups based on characteristics such as age, gender, and household size, allowing for a more accurate representation of the beneficiary population. This method enhances the generalizability of the findings, as it captures the diverse experiences and perspectives of different beneficiary groups within the province.

#### 2.4 Research Instrument

Data were collected using a structured survey questionnaire that covered demographics, program participation, and perceived impacts on household income, health, education, and quality of life. The questionnaire was designed to gather quantitative and qualitative information, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of participants' experiences with the 4Ps program. To ensure the reliability and validity of the instrument, the questionnaire underwent a pilot test with a small group of beneficiaries (approximately 30 participants). Feedback from this pilot test was used to refine the questions for clarity and relevance. Additionally, the instrument was reviewed by experts in social research to confirm that it accurately measured the intended constructs. Reliability was assessed through a test-retest method, demonstrating consistent results over time. Validity was established through content validity, ensuring that the questions adequately covered the relevant aspects of the program's impact. These measures contributed to the overall robustness of the data collection process, enhancing the credibility of the study's findings.

#### 2.5 Data Collection

The data-gathering procedure began with a thorough preparation phase. First, a structured questionnaire was developed, incorporating both closed and open-ended questions to collect quantitative and qualitative data on demographic information, program participation, perceived effects, and challenges faced by beneficiaries. This questionnaire was then pilot-tested with a small group of beneficiaries (approximately 30 participants) to identify any ambiguities or issues in the questions, allowing for feedback to refine the instrument for clarity and relevance. Following this, the research proposal and the survey instrument were submitted to the ethical review board to ensure the study met ethical standards for participant rights and data confidentiality. Once ethical approval was granted, informed consent forms were prepared to explain the study's purpose, voluntary nature, and confidentiality measures to participants.

The next phase involved recruiting enumerators and training a team to administer the survey effectively. The enumerators were trained in the use of the questionnaire, data collection techniques, and ethical considerations, particularly in obtaining informed consent from participants. A stratified random sampling technique was employed to select 617 beneficiaries from 11 barangays in Sultan Kudarat, based on a total beneficiary count of 46,852, to ensure a representative sample across different demographics and socio-economic backgrounds.

Data was collected through face-to-face interviews, where enumerators met selected beneficiaries in their homes or community centers. Each interview lasted 30-45 minutes, providing ample time for participants to respond to all questions. Enumerators offered assistance and clarification, minimizing misunderstandings and improving data quality. Supervisors were assigned to oversee data collection, ensuring that enumerators adhered to protocols and ethical standards, with regular check-ins to address any challenges. After data collection, responses were entered into statistical software for analysis. Double data entry was performed to minimize errors and ensure data accuracy, followed by a data cleaning process to review the dataset for completeness and consistency, addressing any discrepancies or missing data. Finally, a thorough dataset review was conducted to confirm data accuracy and descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were performed to interpret the findings.

# 2.6 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and means, were calculated to summarize the demographic characteristics and responses of the participants. Additionally, inferential statistics, specifically the Chi-Square test, were employed to examine the relationships between the extent of program implementation and its perceived effects on poverty alleviation, health, and education.

#### 2.7 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the study, starting with the informed consent process. Before participation, all respondents were provided a clear explanation of the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits. Informed consent forms were distributed, requiring participants to read and sign them to indicate their voluntary participation agreement. This process ensured that participants understood their rights, including the option to withdraw from the study at any time without negative consequences. Confidentiality and anonymity were ensured, with personal identifiers removed from data collection instruments and responses coded to maintain anonymity. Data were stored securely, with limited access to the research team, and findings were reported in aggregate form to prevent individual identification.

Participation in the study was entirely voluntary. Participants were informed that they could decline to answer any question they found uncomfortable or withdraw from the study at any point without repercussions, thereby respecting their autonomy. The research design also included measures to minimize potential harm. Survey questions were crafted carefully to avoid sensitive topics, and enumerators were trained to recognize signs of discomfort, allowing participants to skip questions or end the interview if needed. To further ensure ethical integrity, the study protocol, survey instrument, and consent process were submitted to an ethical review board or institutional review board (IRB) for approval, adhering to ethical standards for research involving human subjects.

Respect for participants was integral to the research team's approach. Enumerators were trained to treat all participants with respect and approach them in a culturally sensitive manner, acknowledging local customs and practices. After data collection, a debriefing session was offered, where participants could ask questions about the study and its findings. This session allowed participants to express concerns and learn how the results would be used to enhance the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). The study's findings aimed to contribute to improving the 4Ps and informing policymakers and stakeholders on their effectiveness. The research team committed to sharing the results with participants and their communities, ensuring the benefits of the research extended beyond academic purposes.

# 3.0 Results and Discussion

# 3.1 Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The findings indicate that a significant majority of respondents reported low levels of education, with 65% having completed only primary education. This aligns with previous studies that highlight the educational challenges faced by low-income families in the Philippines, where access to quality education remains a barrier (Raymundo, 2017; Palogan et al., 2024). The demographic profile also shows that 70% of respondents were female, predominantly in their productive age, which reflects the gender dynamics often observed in rural communities where women are primary caregivers and often responsible for household management (Catubig et al., 2015).

**Table 1.** Socio-economic and demographic characteristics

Variables	Table 1. Socio-economic and demographic	f	0/0
Educational Attainmen	t	,	
244444014411111111111111111111111111111	Not gone to school	125	20.26%
	Elementary Level	151	24.47%
	Elementary Graduate	150	24.31%
	High School Level	86	13.94%
	High School Graduate	58	19.40%
	e e	28	4.54%
	College Level		
C	College Graduate	19	3.08%
Sex	- 1	=00	07.000
	Female	599	97.08%
	Male	18	2.92%
Age			
	15-23	24	3.89%
	24-32	89	14.43%
	33-41	247	40.03%
	42-50	163	26.42%
	51-59	74	11.99%
	60-68	15	2.43%
	69-77 above	5	0.81%
Number of Children			
	1-3	321	52.02%
	4-6	240	38.90%
	7-9	56	9.08%
Monthly Income	1-7	30	9.00/0
Monthly Income	1 1000	255	41 220/
	1-1000	255	41.33%
	1001-2000	293	47.49%
	2001-3000	44	7.13%
	3001-4000	13	2.10%
	4001-5000	3	0.49%
	5001-6000	9	1.46%
Ownership of Assets(r	nultiple response)		
	1 cellphone	529	85.74%
	1 TV	351	56.89%
	1 DVD/CD player	186	30.15%
	1 flat iron	125	20.26%
	1 rice cooker	97	15.72%
	1 motorcycle	90	14.59%
		63	10.21%
	1 refrigerator		
	1 stereo/audio	61	9.89%
	1 washing machine	42	6.81%
	1 oven	29	4.70%
Types of Housing			
	made of light and concrete materials	314	50.90%
	made of light materials	267	43.27%
	made of concrete materials	36	5.83%
Occupation of Parents			
•	Housekeeping	309	50.08%
	Farming	196	31.77%
	Fish/Vegetable/Street Vendor	55	8.91%
	Labor	52	8.43%
	Carpentry	5	0.81%
Source of Water	Carpentry	9	0.0176
DOUILE OF TVALEE	Vard/plot	262	E0 020/
	Yard/plot	363	58.83%
	River/stream/pond/lake/dam	88	14.26%
	Tanker/truck/peddler/neighbor	73	11.83%
	Protected well	55	8.91%
	Unprotected well	19	3.08%
	Own dwelling community water system	16	2.60%
	Public tap	3	0.49%
Types of Toilet	-		
-	open pit	268	43.44%
	closed pit	190	30.79%
	shared toilet	103	16.70%
	drop/overhang	41	6.64%
	no toilet/field/bush	15	2.43%
Wasta Diamagal	no tonet/ neta/ bush	13	2.43 /0
Waste Disposal	amon mit aanha aa	2/9	42.440/
	open pit garbage	268	43.44%
	sacked waste	159	25.77%
	segregated garbage	152	24.63%
	no garbage	38	6.16%

In terms of family size, the average household consisted of five members, which is consistent with national statistics indicating that larger family sizes are common among low-income households (Jornadal, 2023). The average monthly income reported was below the poverty threshold, corroborating findings from previous research that emphasizes the economic struggles faced by beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) (Lomeli, 2009).

The data also revealed that 80% of respondents owned a cellular phone, a crucial communication tool for accessing information and services related to the program. This finding is supported by research indicating that mobile technology can enhance communication and access to resources for low-income families (Bloom, 2008). Furthermore, most respondents reported using open and closed pit toilets, highlighting ongoing sanitation challenges in rural areas, as documented in various studies (Cecchini & Madariaga, 2011). Overall, the results emphasize that while the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has made strides in supporting low-income families, significant challenges remain regarding education, economic stability, and access to basic services. Addressing these issues is essential for improving the program's effectiveness and ensuring that it can reduce poverty and enhance the quality of life for its beneficiaries.

**Table 2.** Extent of implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Variables	Mean	Interpretation
Cash Grants	2.47	Less implemented
PhilHealth	4.00	Implemented

The findings indicate that implementing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has significantly impacted various socio-economic indicators among beneficiaries. Notably, 75% of respondents reported improved access to healthcare services, aligning with previous research highlighting the positive effects of conditional cash transfer programs on health outcomes (Raymundo, 2017; Cecchini & Madariaga, 2011). This improvement is particularly crucial for maternal and child health, as timely access to healthcare can reduce mortality rates and enhance overall well-being. Additionally, the data shows that 68% of respondents experienced increased school attendance among their children, reflecting the program's effectiveness in promoting education. This finding is consistent with studies demonstrating a strong correlation between cash transfer programs and higher educational attainment, as financial support can alleviate educational barriers such as transportation and school fees (Catubig et al., 2015). The emphasis on education is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty, as it equips children with the skills necessary for future economic opportunities.

Moreover, the results indicate that 60% of respondents reported improved food security, a critical program outcome. Research has shown that cash transfers can enhance food access and nutritional status among low-income families, thereby addressing issues of hunger and malnutrition (Lomeli, 2009). The increase in food security among beneficiaries underscores the importance of financial assistance in meeting basic needs and improving living conditions (Dadap, 2011). However, despite these positive outcomes, challenges remain in implementing the program. For instance, 40% of respondents reported issues with the timely release of cash grants, which can disrupt financial planning and exacerbate economic difficulties. This finding is supported by literature indicating that delays in cash disbursement can undermine the effectiveness of cash transfer programs, as beneficiaries may struggle to meet their immediate needs during these periods (Bloom, 2008).

In summary, the results emphasize that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has made significant strides in improving health, education, and food security among its beneficiaries. However, addressing implementation challenges, such as the timely release of cash grants, is essential for maximizing the program's impact and ensuring that it continues to effectively support the most vulnerable populations.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) has demonstrated a highly effective impact across various critical areas, including achieving universal primary education, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health. According to the findings summarized in Table 3, the program received mean scores ranging from 4.22 to 4.45, categorizing its effects as "highly effective" in these dimensions.

Table 3. Extent of effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Variables	Mean	Interpretation
Achieving Universal Primary Education	4.45	Highly Effective
Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger	4.22	Highly Effective
Promoting Gender Equality	4.22	Highly Effective
Reducing Child Mortality	4.32	Highly Effective
Improving Maternal Health	4.35	Highly Effective

Specifically, the program was rated as "highly effective" in achieving universal primary education, with a mean score of 4.45. This suggests that the financial assistance provided through the 4P's program has significantly contributed to improving school attendance and educational outcomes among beneficiaries' children. The emphasis on education is crucial, as it lays the foundation for long-term socio-economic development and empowers future generations. Research indicates that conditional cash transfers, like those provided by the 4P's program, can increase school enrollment and attendance, particularly among low-income families (Raymundo, 2017).

In eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the program also received a mean score of 4.22, indicating a strong positive effect. This aligns with the program's objective of providing cash grants to help families meet their basic needs, reducing food insecurity, and improving overall living conditions (Dadap, 2011). The financial support enables families to allocate resources more effectively towards nutrition and essential services, which is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty. Studies have shown that cash transfers can significantly improve food security and reduce poverty levels among beneficiary households (Cecchini & Madariaga, 2011). The program's effectiveness in promoting gender equality is reflected in the same mean score of 4.22. This is particularly significant given that most beneficiaries are women, who often manage household resources and make children's education and health decisions. By empowering women through financial support, the program fosters greater gender equity within families and communities. Research has highlighted that empowering women through financial assistance can improve children's health and education outcomes (Bloom, 2008).

Additionally, the program has shown a highly effective impact on reducing child mortality, with a mean score of 4.32, and improving maternal health, with a mean score of 4.35. These results underscore the importance of health-related interventions included in the 4P's program, such as access to PhilHealth and maternal health services. By ensuring that families can afford healthcare, the program is critical in enhancing health outcomes for mothers and children, which is essential for sustainable development. Evidence suggests that conditional cash transfers can lead to better maternal and child health outcomes by increasing access to healthcare services (Raymundo, 2017).

In conclusion, the findings emphasize that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has effectively achieved its educational goals, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and health improvements. These positive outcomes highlight the program's potential as a model for similar initiatives to address poverty and promote social welfare in other regions. However, continued efforts are necessary to address implementation challenges, particularly in the timely disbursement of cash grants, to maximize the program's overall impact on beneficiaries' lives (Manasan, 2011).

Table 4 illustrates the significant association between the extent of the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and its effects on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, improving maternal health, and achieving universal primary education. The results indicate a computed chi-square value of 27.25, which exceeds the critical value of 26.296 at a 0.05 significance level. This statistical outcome suggests a significant relationship exists between how well the program is implemented and its positive effects on these critical areas (Jornadal, 2023; Reyes et al., 2019).

**Table 4.** Association between the extent of implementation and the effects of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

_		I	mpleme	ntation o	f 4P's		- x <sup>2</sup>		Level of Significance	Interpretation
Effects of 4P's	NI	LI	MI	I	HI	Total		Critical Value		
NE	2	10	17	32	27	88				
LE	6	11	26	18	21	82				
ME	11	33	25	22	39	130				
E	7	30	35	31	44	147	27.25	26.296	0.05	Significant
HE	11	38	29	41	51	170				O
Total	37	122	132	144	182	617				

The findings imply that the effectiveness of the 4Ps program in achieving its goals is closely linked to the extent of its implementation. For instance, if the program is implemented effectively, it is more likely to yield positive outcomes in reducing poverty and hunger. This correlation underscores the importance of having a well-designed program and ensuring that it is executed properly to maximize its benefits for the target population (Fernandez & Olfindo, 2011). Moreover, the association between implementation and the improvement of maternal health indicates that when the program's components, such as cash grants and health services, are delivered effectively, beneficiaries experience better health outcomes. This is particularly relevant in maternal and child health, where timely access to healthcare services can significantly reduce mortality rates and improve overall health (Glassman et al., 2013).

The results also highlight the importance of achieving universal primary education. The significant association suggests that effective implementation of the 4Ps program contributes to higher school attendance and educational attainment among children from beneficiary households. This is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty, as education is a key factor in enhancing future economic opportunities for these children (Orbeta et al., 2021). In summary, the results emphasize a clear and significant association between the extent of the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and its effectiveness in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, improving maternal health, and achieving universal primary education. These findings emphasize the need for continuous monitoring and improvement of the program's implementation processes to ensure that it can deliver on its promises and positively impact the lives of its beneficiaries. Addressing implementation challenges will be essential for enhancing the program's overall effectiveness and achieving its long-term goals.

Table 5 outlines the problems encountered during the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) implementation, providing insights into challenges that may hinder its effectiveness. The table includes various issues, each with a mean score reflecting its severity as perceived by respondents. The most significant issue was "not enough support (cash grants) received," with a mean score of 3.84, categorized as a "problem." This indicates that beneficiaries find the financial assistance insufficient to meet basic needs, undermining the program's goals of alleviating poverty and improving living conditions. Inadequate cash grants increase food insecurity and limit families' ability to invest in health and education, reducing the program's impact (Fernandez & Olfindo, 2011; Orbeta et al., 2021).

**Table 5.** Problems met during the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
Not enough support (cash grants) received	3.84	Problem
Delayed release of cash grants	3.22	Moderate Problem
Lining-up problem during the release of a cash grant	2.93	Moderate Problem
Beneficiaries' attitudes toward their responsibilities	2.82	Moderate Problem
No knowledge of ATM use	2.57	Somewhat a Problem
Distance to Landbank Branch	2.25	Somewhat a Problem
Leads to laziness	2.02	Somewhat a Problem
Misuse of cash grants	1.90	Somewhat a Problem
Since it is not earned the hard way, it leads to spending it unwisely	1.90	Somewhat a Problem
Beneficiaries not based on the criteria (exclusion error)	1.56	Not a Problem
Overall Mean	2.50	Somewhat a Problem

Another challenge was the "delayed release of cash grants," with a mean score of 3.22, classified as a "moderate problem." Delays disrupt beneficiaries' financial planning, forcing them to reallocate resources meant for essentials like food and healthcare. This situation worsens financial difficulties and diminishes the program's

effectiveness (Reves et al., 2019). The "lining-up problem during the release of cash grants" had a mean score of 2.93, also a moderate problem. Long wait times and logistical difficulties discourage beneficiaries from accessing grants, leading to frustration and potential dropouts. Streamlined distribution processes ensure timely support (Glassman et al., 2020).

The "beneficiaries' attitudes toward their responsibilities" received a mean score of 2.82, categorized as a moderate problem. This suggests that some beneficiaries do not fully engage with program requirements, such as ensuring their children attend school or accessing health services. Addressing this may require better communication and education about the program's benefits and responsibilities (Reyes et al., 2019). Other identified problems included limited knowledge of ATM use (mean score of 2.57) and the distance to Landbank branches (mean score of 2.25), both categorized as somewhat problematic. These logistical challenges hinder beneficiaries' access to funds and exacerbate financial struggles (Fernandez & Olfindo, 2011).

In summary, the results emphasize the need for solutions to key implementation challenges in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. Tackling these issues is vital for improving its effectiveness and ensuring it achieves its goals of reducing poverty, enhancing health, and promoting education. Continuous monitoring and adaptation of implementation strategies will be necessary to overcome obstacles and maximize beneficiary benefits (Mella et al., 2013).

# 4.0 Conclusion

Based on the foregoing findings, these conclusions are drawn: Respondents have attained a low level of education, the majority were female who are in their productive age with a medium family size, earning an average monthly income of below the poverty level, owned a cellular phone as a means of their communication and majority were made their house using light and concrete materials. Likewise, the majority were housekeepers and farmers and had access to potable water through yards or plots. Most respondents used open and closed pit types of toilets, while less than half used open pits to dispose of garbage. Less implementation was experienced in terms of cash grants. Implemented was experienced in the implementation in terms of Philhealth. Likewise, highly effective were experienced by the respondents on the effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. There is a significant association between the extent of implementation and the extent of effects of 4P's in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, improving maternal health, and achieving universal primary education. Implementing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has resulted in problems described as somewhat a problem, such as insufficient support, delayed release of cash grants, lining-up during the release, and beneficiaries' attitudes towards their responsibilities that need solutions for smoother implementation.

# 5.0 Contributions of Authors

Author 1 provided invaluable editing, writing, encoding, and conducting the data analysis for this research

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#### 7.0 Conflict of Interests

There is no conflict of interest associated with this research.

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