

A STUDY ON ATTENDANCE, ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND COMPLETION RATE FOR THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS IN A SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Abstract

This study attempts to track recipients of a conditional cash transfer program, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), as for their scholastic status based on academic performances in comparison with the class attendance, level of progress and achievements and completion rate in a selected high school in the Philippines. It highlights a school-based implementation of 4P's and three classes of all their school days, from Grade7 to Grade10, as for the class attendance and academic performance from SY2013-2014 to SY2018-2019. The authors utilized the survey with the date recorded by classroom advisers who have 4P's recipients in order to compute their completion rate. Based on this study, 4P's recipients' academic performances decreased whenever their average attendance also decreased. 21 out of 87 recipients in Grade 10 for SY2016-2017 were retained with a completion rate of 75.86%, while 3 out of 69 students in Grade 10 for SY2017-2018 were retained with a completion rate of 95.65%. As for 4P's recipients in Grade 10 for SY2018-2019, 8 out of 66 recipients were retained with a completion rate of 87.88%. Therefore, 4P's recipients for SY2017-2018 has the best completion rate of the above three classes and there were great variations on a completion rate among them, the rate ranges from 75.86% to 95.65%.

Keywords: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Academic performance, Completion rate

1 INTRODUCTION

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a conditional cash transfer program of the Philippine government and a poverty reduction strategy that provides monthly allowance to the poorest of the poor to improve their health and education particularly of children from 0 to 18 years old. It provides cash grants to poor households based on the condition of said households increasing their investments in their children's human capital. The beneficiaries are selected through a Proxy Means Test. The monthly cash grants are withdrawn from government bank ATMs. Cash cards are issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the classified poor. They are imposed the following conditions: Pregnant women must avail pre- and post-natal care, and be attended during childbirth by a trained professional; Parents or guardians must attend the family development sessions, which include topics on responsible parenting, health, and nutrition; Children aged 0-5 must receive regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines; Children aged 6-14 must receive deworming pills twice a year; and Children-beneficiaries aged 3-18 must enroll in school, and maintain an attendance of at least 85% of class days every month (Official Gazette.gov.ph).

Not only the Philippines and also it spreads in other countries. The success of the different conditional cash transfers in Latin American Countries inspired the implementation of the 4Ps. In conditional cash transfer program, poor families receive monthly support on the condition that they send their children to school and bring them to medical centers for regular checkups. Earlier data have shown that there is positive increase in participation, but the long-term effects on human capital has not yet been fully identified. The 4Ps was started by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2008 and continued in massive scale during the Aquino Administration. The Philippine government is doing its best to help the poorest families of the country. These families are being helped until they are able to provide for themselves and become independent from government support.

Under the 4Ps, the DSWD provides cash grants to beneficiaries consisting of 6,000 Philippine Pesos, PHP, a year, or 500PHP per month, to households for health and nutrition expenses and 3,000PHP per school year or 300PHP a month for each child's educational expenses (1.00 PHP \approx 0.019USD, Mar.20,2019). A total of 62.6PHP billion was allocated for the 4Ps in 2014 and 62.32PHP billion in 2015. A maximum of three children per household is allowed. In order to remain a beneficiary of the 4Ps program, household-recipients need to comply with their co-responsibilities which are 85 percent school attendance, as mentioned above. Monitoring of recipient's daily attendance is always checked by classroom advisers. The recipients who failed to comply with the required percentage of school attendance is reported to the Municipal Social Welfare Development (MSWD) by presenting the certified checklist. Constant coordination among the teachers, parents and MSWD is being practiced to track the recipients' school attendance.

This study attempts to observe three classes for 7 years and to track the 4P's recipients' scholastic status based on average attendance, academic performances and completion rate in a selected high school. The authors would like to find out whether the 4P's recipients can go to school continuously or not.

2 RELATED LITERATURE

In a study on the Impact of 4P's in Tagbina II District by Kirk Andrew Abellanosa (2014) The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in no doubt plays a significant role in reenergizing the Philippine Educational System. Since its implementation in 2008, the enrolment and daily attendance had increased prior the implementation of the program. The data shows that the drop-out rate had decreased from 3.52% in S.Y 2006-2007 to 0.76% in S.Y 2009-2010 to 0.52% in S.Y 2012-2013. The data also shows an increased-on promotion rate from 91.76% in S.Y 2006-2007 to 95.28% in S.Y 2009-2010 to 96.43% in S.Y 2012-2013.

Conchada, M.I.P. and Tiongco, M. (2014) evaluated the supply side of the CCT program (health and education services) in Bagac, Bataan, Philippines. It revealed that the number of children who attend day care centers and elementary schools have increased as a result of the 4Ps program; the level grade 4 had the highest increase (7.2%) this school year. Health care provision, especially for the pregnant mothers, is very limited; There is only one doctor servicing the main health center, one midwife per health center, but there is a limited number of nurses. There is a need to increase the number of health workers and supplies in the barangays especially with the increase in demand because of the compliance with the 4Ps program.

In addition to these, a study entitled Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps): Assistance to Pupil's Education by Monica M. Montilla et al (2015), revealed that because of 4P's, pupils are able to attend classes and they are motivated to go to school every day. The study also reveal that their parents/guardian are able to pay their school contributions and their parents/guardian are able to provide their school requirements (projects, school supplies, allowance, etc.) Findings also revealed that 4P's beneficiaries are attending classes regularly.

However, a research entitled Promoting Inclusive Growth through the 4Ps by Celia M. Reyes et al (2015) stresses that although the 4P's program leads to an increase in the school participation, the current coverage by 4P's of children 6-14 years old is intended that all children complete elementary school. However, before the age coverage was not expanded from 15-18 years old, the maximum five years of support may mean that a child who was six years old at the time the family first received the benefit may only complete grade 5. Thus, for the very poor who rely solely on the assistance from 4P's to send their children to school, their children may not finish elementary school.

Baez, J.E. and Camacho, A. (2016) investigated the educational benefit of children who have been part of the Familias en Acción, a conditional cash transfer program in Colombia for 9 years, in terms of school attendance and academic test performance at the high school level. Household surveys, census of the poor and administrative records of the program were utilized to identify the impacts of the program. Results show that more participant children, particularly girls and those in the rural areas are more likely to finish high

school than non-participant children by an average of 4-8% points. In terms of long-term impacts on test scores, participant and non-participant graduates seem to perform at equally the same level even after correction factors have been incorporated. Because of the lack of positive effects on the test scores, there is a need to review the program policy against the objective enhanced learning to increase human capital.

3 METHODOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION

The authors focused the 4Ps' recipients of a secondary school called Los Baños National High School. The school is one of the biggest government high school in terms of student population in the province of Laguna in the Philippines, with thousands of students enrolled every year. The said students come from different Barangays and nearby municipalities. Being a government high school, it is understood that majority of students belong to marginal class and some are even from below poverty level. The reason why many of the students are recipients of 4P's, a conditional cash transfer program that aims to improve the living conditions of poor households while at the same time encouraging them to increase their investments on the education and health of their children. It provides cash grants to poor households based on the condition of said households increasing their investments in their children's human capital.

To measure the effect of the 4Ps' recipients, this study attempts to track the student recipients' scholastic status based on academic performances in comparison with average attendance, level of progress and achievements and completion rate in a selected high school in the Philippines. To employ 4P's program at school-based level, the Municipal Social Welfare Development (MSWD) provides the list of 4Ps recipients to the school every year. And then, the Guidance Office checks the list to identify the recipients who are enrolled in the school. During the opening of school year, there is a general assembly of parents of the students' recipient together with the school's administration and the MSWD representatives. In compliance with the government's effort of promoting quality of life through education, High School, organizations and agencies are committed to implement the said measure to attain its goal.

Monitoring of recipient's daily attendance is always checked by classroom advisers. The recipients who failed to comply with the required percentage of school attendance is reported to the MSWD by presenting the certified checklist. Constant coordination among the teachers, parents and MSWD is being practiced to track the recipients' school attendance.

According to the said school based monitoring system, this study gathered the data from the classroom advisers who traced 4P's recipients to evaluate the 4Ps. The research period was from SY 2013-2014 to SY 2018-2019 and so the authors requested the classroom advisers to show the following data every year.

1. Profile of the respondents (Gender, Age, Grade Level)
2. Average attendance (number of school days)
3. Average academic performance for the school year (based on 100%)
4. Completion rate

4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Firstly, the profile of the sample respondents are explain below. 4P's recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2016-2017 or Class 2017, there are 32 males and 55 females with a total of 87 students. Out of them, 59 were 15 years old, 23 were 16 years old, 3 were 17 years old and 2 were 18 years old. The next 4P's recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2017-2018 or Class 2018, there are 30 males and 39 females making a total of 69. From the 69 recipients, 7 were 15 years old, 41 were 16 years old, 13 were 17 years old, 6 were 18 years old and 2 were 19 years old. Additionally, 4P's recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2018-2019 or Class 2019, there are 31 males and 36 females, therefore the total number of them is 66. Out of them, 9 were 15 years old, 38 were 16 years old, 9 were 17 years old, 6 were 18 years old, 3 were 19 years old and one was no date for her age.

Secondly, the results on average attendance rate of 4P's recipients for Class 2017, Class 2018, and Class 2019 are provided with Table 1. Average attendance rate is the sum of actual daily attendances divided by the number of serving days in this high school. As a whole, there is a trend toward a decrease from Grade 7 to Grade 9 and it has improved in Grade 10. Therefore the average attendance rate in Grade 9 fell to the lowest level for all three classes. As for Class 2019, their average attendance rate recorded below 85% when they were in Grade 9. Their parents have to give particular attention to their children's attendance in school. Attendance is a key factor in students' success and affects his/her academic performance. This

result provided the information of the difficulty which 4P's recipients keep going to school and their parents manage the cost of schooling, despite receiving the amount of 300 pesos every month.

Table 1 Average Attendance Rate of 4P's Recipients for Class 2017, Class 2018, and Class 2019

	Class 2017	Class 2018	Class 2019
Grade 7	96.99	97.62	93.94
Grade 8	97.42	91.90	90.44
Grade 9	94.84	88.96	84.00
Grade 10	92.20	90.30	94.51

Thirdly, table 2 shows the summary of academic performance by general average of 4P's recipient of Grade 10 in SY 2016-2017. Based on the summary, there is an inconsistent increase and decrease during their promotion from their Grade 7. 82.63% was their general average. An increase of .89% during Grade 8 with 83.52% as their general average. During their Grade 9, there was a decrease of .52% at 83% for their Grade 9 general average and for Grade 10 a decrease of 1% at 82% is their general average. For their average attendance, 97% was their average attendance during their Grade 7 and 8. A decrease of 2% on their Grade 9 at 95% and a decrease of 3% at 92% on their Grade 10.

Table 2 Academic Performance by General Average About 4P's Recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2016-2017

	GENERAL AVERAGE		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Grade7	80.89	83.64	82.63
Grade8	81.64	84.61	83.52
Grade9	81	84	83
Grade10	81	84	83

On the other hand, Table 3 shows the summary of academic performance by general average of 4P's recipient of Grade 10 in SY 2017-2018. For their academic performance, there is a trend toward a decrease in their grades from their Grade 7. 82.17% was their general average. A decrease of .52% during Grade 8 with 81.65% as their general average. During their Grade 9 and Grade 10, they have consistent general average of 81%. For their average attendance, during their Grade 7 98% was their average attendance. A decrease of 6% on their Grade 8 at 92% was their average attendance. A decrease of 3% at 89% was their average attendance during Grade 9. An increase of 1% at 90% was their average attendance during Grade 10. Data reveals that there is 94% of completion rate for 4P's recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2017-2018.

Table 3 Academic Performance by General Average About 4P's Recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2017-2018

	GENERAL AVERAGE		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Grade7	81.35	82.79	82.17
Grade8	80.43	82.59	81.65
Grade9	80	82	81
Grade10	80	82	81

Additionally, table 4 shows us the summary of academic performance by general average of 4P's recipient of Grade 10 in SY 2018-2019. For their academic performance, there is also an inconsistent increase and decrease of their grades from their Grade 7. In the first year, 82.58 was their general average. An increase of .33 during Grade 8 with 82.29 as their general average. Their general average of Grade 9 has decreased by 5.91, but on the other hand, that of Grade 10 has increased by 7. The highest average,84, has been recorded in their high school days. For their average attendance, during their Grade 7 94% was their average attendance. A decrease of 4% on their Grade 8 at 90% was their average attendance. A decrease of 6% at 84% was their average attendance during Grade 9. An increase of 9% at 95% was their average attendance during Grade 10. Data reveals that there is 98% of completion rate for 4P's recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2017-2018.

Table 4 Academic Performance by General Average About 4P's Recipients of Grade 10 in SY 2018-2019

	GENERAL AVERAGE		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Grade7	81.79	83.29	82.58
Grade8	82.03	83.69	82.91
Grade9	79	74	77
Grade10	83	85	84

Finally, the comparison of Class 2017, Class 2018 & Class 2019 for the number of 4P's recipients in Grade 7 and Grade 10 are provided with Table 5. The data reveals that all of 4P's recipients did not graduate from this secondary school. Namely, completion rates did not reach 100%. Researchers observed the number of 4P's recipients for 7 years at the same school because the completion rate is a more important indicator of human capital formation and the quality and efficiency of the school system in comparison with gross and net enrolment ratios. For the comparison of retention and completion rate, 21 out of 87 recipients were retained with a completion rate of 75.86% for Class 2017, While 3 out of 69 students were retained with a completion rate of 95.65% in Class 2018. As for Class 2019, 8 out of 66 recipients were retained with a completion rate of 87.88%. Therefore, 4P's recipients for Class 2018 or SY2017-2018 has the best completion rate of the above three classes and there were great variations on a completion rate among them, the rate ranges from 75.86% to 95.65%.

Table 5 Comparing Grade7 and Grade 10 for Class 2017, Class 2018 & Class 2019 Focused on the Number of 4P's Recipients

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Grade7	Grade10	Grade7	Grade10	Grade7	Grade10
Class 2017	32	30	55	36	87	66
Class 2018	30	30	39	36	69	66
Class 2019	31	29	35	29	66	58

5 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were drawn.

1. There is a trend toward a decrease in 4P's recipients' rate of average attendance from Grade 7 to Grade 9 and it has improved in Grade 10. This result provided the information of the difficulty which 4P's recipients keep going to school and their parents manage the cost of schooling, even though they received the amount of 300 pesos (\$5 USD) per child every month for the duration of the school year or 10 months but the limitation is up to three children per household.

2. 4P's recipients' academic performances decreases as they are promoted to higher grades affecting its Promotional Rate. Their Average Attendance rate tended to decline in higher grades. And retained/dropped students of Grade 10 increase affecting a decrease of its completion rate. Before the interpretation of 4P's, this conditional cash transfer shows significant effects on students' academic performance, attendance and completion rate. Overall data reveals high percentage of completion rate which justify the effectiveness of this cash transfer program as support mechanism to the poor student recipients. Furthermore, this is also instrumental in combatting poverty through education and with this intervention implemented by the government would also result into a better future of each young citizen.

3. Although there is a school-based implementation of 4P's to promote human capital through education, there are students who were not able to finish their studies because there are many reasons in the life circumstance and their motivation for learning. School and home factors affects student attendance. For example, most of them have a financial problem in their own family. Some of them has no interest in studying and prefer to skip school. Parental involvement in school and the improvement of teaching methods can help solve problem with enough supervision of students' activities by teachers and parents.

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