

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and District School Performance

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Abstract

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) provides conditional financial assistance to low-income families for nutrition, health, and education, aiming to break the cycle of poverty. This study examined the relationship between 4Ps and district-level school performance in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, for School Year 2024–2025. Key indicators analyzed were enrollment, dropout, graduation, and cohort survival rates. A total of 177 4Ps recipients from Jasaan National High School and Bobontugan National High School participated, selected through stratified random sampling. Data were gathered using a validated questionnaire, and the study employed a descriptive-correlational method using mean, standard deviation, and Pearson correlation.

Results showed that 4Ps had a generally positive impact on education, particularly on graduation rates. However, the program struggled to address food insecurity, limiting its effectiveness in improving nutrition. Enrollment challenges persisted due to poverty and limited access to schools. The relationship between 4Ps and overall district school performance was found to be statistically insignificant, with factors like education quality and family support playing greater roles in student outcomes. The study concluded that financial aid alone is not enough for academic success. It recommended enhancing 4Ps through improved nutrition programs, stronger parent-teacher collaboration, mentorship, better facilities, and broader community support.

Keywords: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, District School Performance

1. Introduction

Education plays a vital role in nation-building, with the Philippine government recognizing it as a means to promote social equity and reduce poverty. However, financial constraints continue to hinder many students from low-income families from accessing quality education. To address this, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program was launched in 2008 by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This initiative provides conditional cash grants to the poorest households to improve education, nutrition, and health, aiming to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Under Republic Act 11310, 4Ps is considered a national strategy for poverty reduction and human capital investment, offering not only financial support but also social protection and development services. Collaboration between DSWD and the Department of Education ensures that student attendance and performance are monitored, with schools playing a critical role in fulfilling compliance conditions.

In the context of Jasaan District, an increase in student enrollment was observed, but financial hardships continued to affect attendance and contributed to dropouts as the school year progressed. This study examined the impact of 4Ps on district-level school performance, focusing on indicators such as enrollment, dropout, graduation, and cohort survival rates. Targeting beneficiaries from Bobontugan National High School and Jasaan National High School, the research aimed to evaluate whether 4Ps contributes to improved educational outcomes. Through a data-driven approach, the study sought to provide valuable insights to policymakers and program implementers for refining strategies that address educational disparities, strengthen school participation, and enhance the long-term effectiveness of 4Ps in reducing poverty through education.

Research Questions

This study aimed to assess the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the District School Performance in Jasaan District, Division of Misamis Oriental, School Year 2021 – 2024.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. How do the respondents assess the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in terms of education, health and nutrition?
2. What is the district school performance of the 4Ps beneficiaries based on enrollment rate, drop-out rate, graduation rate and cohort survival rate for in School Years 2021 – 2022 to 2023-2024?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the respondent's assessment of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the district school performance?

Significance

This study highlights the impact of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) on student performance in Jasaan and emphasizes the need to focus on academic achievement rather than just attendance. It offers insights for government agencies, school administrators, teachers, parents, and future researchers on improving educational outcomes through better support systems and monitoring tools.

Scope and Limitations

This study assessed the impact of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program on school performance in the Jasaan District of Misamis Oriental Division. It focused on 177 4Ps beneficiaries enrolled in Jasaan National High School and Bobontugan National High School, both medium- to large-sized public secondary schools.

2. Literature Review

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a government initiative aimed at reducing poverty through financial assistance that supports children's health, education, and family development (Ledesma & Rodriguez, 2021). It provides conditional cash grants to low-income families, helping ease educational and healthcare costs, with the Department of Education ensuring program compliance and support (Rapista & Pañares, (2023). The program promotes both short-term relief and long-term human capital investment, as seen in improved parental involvement, income generation, and child well-being (Chen et al., 2022; Brooks-Gunn & Duncan, 2022). Inspired by Latin American Conditional Cash Transfer programs, 4Ps has shown tangible benefits in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty (Bustos, 2022; Ramos, 2022).

Research by Galarrita & Nestal (2024) shows that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has positively influenced students' academic outcomes by improving attendance, enrollment, grades, and graduation rates among beneficiaries. Studies by Flores & Miraña (2019), Montilla et al. (2020), and Dela Torre (2021) also highlight the program's role in providing necessary resources, fostering parental support, and increasing awareness among school stakeholders. Additionally, Millán et al. (2022) emphasized the program's effectiveness in reducing illiteracy and boosting enrollment, while Magtagad & Abellar (2019) noted its contribution to mitigating gender disparities and promoting inclusive education. However, challenges remain regarding long-term impacts and the limitation on the number of children per household eligible for educational support.

3. Methodology

Research Design

This study used a descriptive-correlational research design to analyze the relationship between the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and district school performance, focusing on enrollment, dropout, graduation, and cohort survival rates.

Participants

The study involved 177 public secondary 4Ps beneficiaries in Jasaan District, Misamis Oriental, for School Year 2024–2025.

Data Collection

Data were gathered using a two-part questionnaire: Part I covered the 4Ps' health, education, and nutrition components based on Republic Act No. 11310, with modified indicators adapted from Taguiam (2024); Part II used documentary data from school records (SY 2021–2022 to 2023–2024) following DepEd Order No. 8, s. 2015.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics—mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage—were used to interpret the data. Pearson's r correlation coefficient measured the relationship between 4Ps support and school performance indicators.

4. Results and Discussions

Problem 1. How do the respondents assess the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in terms of health, education and nutrition?

Table 1

Summary Table of the Respondents Assessment of
Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Variables	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Health	3.06	0.91	Observed
Education	3.13	0.86	Observed
Nutrition	2.98	0.87	Observed
Overall	3.06	0.88	Observed

Table 1 summarizes the respondents' assessment of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), with an overall mean of 3.06 (SD = 0.88), indicating that program indicators related to health, education, and nutrition were “Most of the Time” observed, reflecting moderate consistency in perception. Among the three variables, education received the highest mean (3.13), suggesting that the cash grants effectively supported children's schooling by helping cover expenses such as school supplies and uniforms. However, challenges such as fund distribution delays and unmet school-related needs persisted. Nutrition had the lowest mean (2.98), indicating that while families used the grants for food, proper nutrition remained a concern due to limited resources, knowledge, and access to healthy options. The study highlights the importance of efficient implementation, guidance, and inter-agency collaboration to maximize the program's impact, aligning with findings from previous research that emphasize the role of financial aid in improving education and health outcomes and reducing poverty.

Problem 2. What is the district school performance of the 4Ps beneficiaries based on enrollment rate, drop-out rate, graduation rate and cohort survival rate for School Years 2021 – 2022 to 2023-2024?

Table 2

Summary Table of the District School Performance of 4Ps
Beneficiaries for School Years 2021-2022 to 2023-2024

Variable	School	Percent	Total	Interpretation
Enrollment Rate	A	45.13%	50.36%	Moderately Effective
	B	55.58%		
Drop-Out rate	A	0.59%	0.46%	Very Effective
	B	0.33%		
Graduation Rate	A	100%	99.81%	Highly Effective
	B	99.62%		
Cohort Survival Rate	A	99.61%	99.70%	Highly Effective
	B	99.78%		
Overall			62.58%	Effective

Table 2 reveals that the overall district school performance of 4Ps beneficiaries from School Years 2021–2022 to 2023–2024 was rated Effective at 62.58%, indicating that while the program positively impacted enrollment, retention, and graduation, there remains room for improvement in maximizing its full potential. The very low dropout rate of 0.46% and a high graduation rate of 99.81% reflect the success of conditional cash grants in reducing barriers to school completion. However, challenges persist—especially in enrollment, which scored the lowest at 50.36% (Moderately Effective), due to poverty, inaccessibility, and social factors that continued to hinder some students from entering or staying in school. While financial aid significantly reduced dropout rates and encouraged graduation, it did not fully address issues such as poor learning conditions, limited parental involvement, and lack of educational resources, which affected overall academic readiness. Studies suggest that to sustain and enhance the program's impact, interventions must go beyond financial support to include mentoring, school improvements, and community engagement for long-term educational success.

Problem 3. Is there a significant relationship between the respondent's assessment of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the district school performance?

Table 3

Correlation Between the Respondents' Assessment of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the District School Performance

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	School Performance				
	4Ps Enrollment Rate	4Ps Drop Out Rate	4Ps Graduation Rate	4Ps Cohort Survival Rate	Overall
	r-value	r-value	r-value	r-value	r-value
	p-value	p-value	p-value	p-value	p-value
	0.207	-0.655	-0.207	-0.655	-0.395
Health	0.694	0.158	0.694	0.158	0.439
	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
	0.630	-0.266	0.210	-0.399	0.216
Education	0.180	0.611	0.690	0.434	0.589
	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
	0.000	-0.655	-0.207	-0.655	-0.516
Nutrition	1.000	0.158	0.694	0.158	0.295
	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 3 shows that there is no statistically significant relationship between the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and key indicators of district school performance—enrollment, dropout, graduation, and cohort survival rates—as evidenced by consistently high p-values and weak, inconsistent r-values across categories. This suggests that any observed correlations may have occurred by chance, indicating that while 4Ps provides essential financial support, it does not directly influence academic outcomes in a measurable way. Factors such as parental support, educational quality, school facilities, and student motivation appear to play a more critical role in school performance than cash grants alone. Researchers like Basco (2022), Taguam (2024), and Competente (2019) argue that although the program may improve access and attendance, it falls short in enhancing academic achievement due to unresolved issues such as inadequate teaching resources and classroom conditions. Thus, to fully realize the benefits of 4Ps, complementary interventions—such as improved educational infrastructure, teacher training, and community engagement—are needed for a more holistic impact on student learning and development.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Education remains a top priority for 4Ps families, with cash grants effectively supporting school attendance and contributing to high graduation rates. However, no significant relationship was found between the 4Ps and overall district school performance.

Recommendations

Strengthen partnerships with schools and Barangay Health Centers for feeding programs through workshops and local market collaboration.

Promote collaboration between parents and teachers to overcome barriers to enrollment and retention, supported by community hubs and parent engagement.

Enhance the 4Ps program with non-monetary support such as mentorship, academic assistance, teacher training, and improved school facilities.

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