



# Implementation BULLETIN



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## IMPACT STUDY SAYS 4PS PROGRAM DID NOT INCREASE DEPENDENCY OF BENEFICIARIES

An impact study on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino (4Ps) Program, which was institutionalized by RA 11310, found that the program did not encourage dependency. Instead, beneficiaries tended to work longer hours if they had a job and were more likely to have a job or business besides their primary occupation. Moreover, being part of the program did not lead to an increase in the consumption of vice goods such as tobacco and alcohol.

Dr. Aniceto C. Orbeta, Jr., Ms. Kriss Ann M. Melad, and Ms. Nina Victoria V. Araos of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) observed these outcomes by revisiting the results of the Regression Discontinuity Report on the 4Ps Program<sup>1</sup>, as well as by conducting companion studies. Their findings were reported in PIDS Discussion Papers dated December 2020<sup>2</sup>, January 2021<sup>3</sup>, and February 2021.<sup>4</sup>

Data for the Regression Discontinuity Report was collected from a sample of 30 municipalities (10 each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) out of 1,627 cities and municipalities covered by the

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Institute of Development Studies. (2020, January). Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Third Wave Impact Evaluation Regression Discontinuity Report. Department of Social Welfare and Development. <https://pantawid.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/4Ps-Impact-Evaluation-Wave-3-RDD-Report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Araos, Melad, & Orbeta. (2020, December). Deepening the Narrative: Qualitative Follow-up Study on the Third Impact Evaluation of Pantawid Pamilya. Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Quezon City, Philippines. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2053.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Araos, Melad, & Orbeta. (2021, January). Longer-term Effects of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial Cohort Analysis (Third Wave Impact Evaluation). Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Quezon City, Philippines. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2101.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Araos, Melad, & Orbeta. (2021, February). Reassessing the Impact of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program: Results of the Third Wave Impact Evaluation. Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Quezon City, Philippines. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2105.pdf>

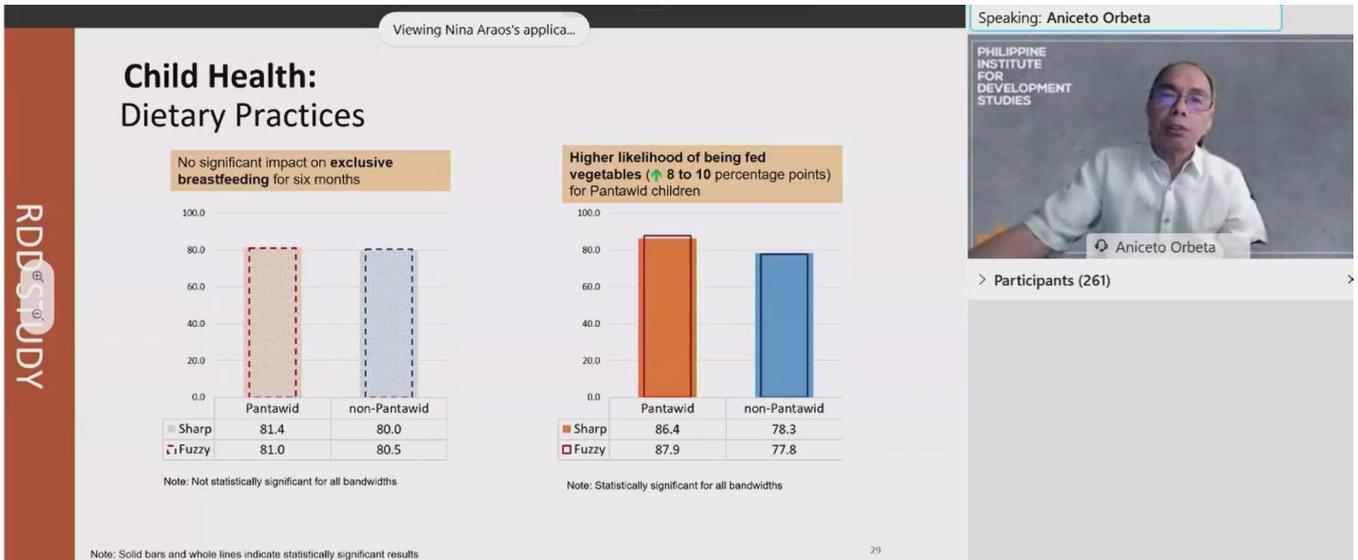


Image: Dr. Aniceto C. Orbeta, Jr. delivers a presentation during a PIDS webinar on Assessing the Impacts of the 4Ps Program on February 11, 2021 (used with permission)

program. Using a technique called regression discontinuity design (RDD), the researchers were able to determine the impact of the 4Ps program on key metrics covering education, health, and social and behavioral aspects.

Other key findings are discussed below.

### **Mixed results on promoting maternal health, reproductive health, and women's rights**

Positive impact was observed on pregnant beneficiaries availing of the minimum required number of prenatal check-ups prescribed by the World Health Organization and the Department of Health. Moreover, a possible shift from midwife-assisted deliveries to doctor-assisted or nurse-assisted deliveries among pregnant beneficiaries was noted, especially for those in urban areas. But no impact was observed on availing of postnatal care within 24 or 72 hours. The authors proposed that beneficiaries might have had unequal understanding of the value of postnatal care relative to prenatal care.

Among women of reproductive age, Pantawid women were aware of more types of modern family planning methods compared to their non-Pantawid counterparts. The program also encouraged trial use of modern family planning methods. However, there was no evidence of sustained use of modern family planning methods among beneficiaries.

Fewer Pantawid women thought that the husband or partner is justified in hitting his wife if she argues with him. But some 10 percent of the respondents, which included both Pantawid and non-Pantawid women, thought that violence against women was justified.

## **Mixed results on health and nutrition outcomes**

More Pantawid children aged 6 months to 5 years old received vitamin A supplementation compared to non-Pantawid children of the same age bracket. However, the proportion of children that were fully immunized remained low, even if it is a program conditionality. The authors estimated that only 1 in 4 Pantawid and non-Pantawid children between 1 and 5 years old were completely immunized for age-appropriate vaccinations.

Positive impact was observed on receiving deworming pills at least twice, especially in rural areas. But the proportion of children that take deworming pills at least twice per school year remained low at 32-34 percent among beneficiaries, despite it being a program conditionality.

The study also found that more Pantawid children were stunted and severely stunted compared to non-Pantawid children. The authors hypothesized that the children in the sample were not exposed to the program at the right time to counter the effects of nutrition deficiency.

## **Generally positive impact on education**

The RDD study found that children of Pantawid beneficiaries tended to enter school at the prescribed age and kept progressing the education ladder, especially those in urban areas. Moreover, the expansion of age coverage of the program led to better outcomes for older children. The program's age coverage was extended to include 15- to 18-year-olds in 2014. Meanwhile, total school expenditures per child were higher by 9 percent for Pantawid children compared to non-Pantawid children.

Positive impact was observed on enrollment rates of older children, but no impact was observed on the enrollment of children ages 3 to 5 years old in nursery, daycare, preschool, or kindergarten. The authors noted that when parents or guardians were asked why the children were not enrolled, they replied that the children were too young or unprepared to go to school.

Overall, the positive impact of the program on education was more pronounced for children who were monitored compared to those who were not.

## **Better access to government services observed**

Based on the RDD results, beneficiary households were more likely to have at least 1 member of the Philhealth Indigent Program and Social Security System. Moreover, beneficiaries had a higher likelihood of having a copy of their birth certificate and owning an evacuation or emergency kit.

## **Other findings**

The study found that Pantawid children were more likely to demonstrate grit or determination compared to non-beneficiaries. A lower proportion of children who thought that their parents were strict was also observed among beneficiaries.

## **Timely intervention during the first 1,000 days of life led to better health outcomes**

Meanwhile, a companion study analyzing the long-term effects of the program using randomized control trial (RCT) cohort analysis found that timely exposure to 4Ps inputs during the first 1,000 days of life led to more positive health and nutrition outcomes later in life. These include lower prevalence of severely underweight children, and lower incidence of fever and diarrhea.

## **About the 4Ps Program**

Launched in 2008, the 4Ps Program seeks to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by encouraging beneficiaries to meet certain health and education conditionalities in exchange for cash transfers. 4Ps was institutionalized with the approval of RA 11310 on April 17, 2019, while its implementing rules and regulations were signed on December 10, 2019. The implementing agency of this law is the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). DSWD Undersecretary Luzviminda C. Ilagan described the program as both a (1) human capital development program and (2) national poverty reduction strategy of the national government through convergence with other pro-poor programs and services.

A detailed report on the status of implementation of this law as of November 2020 is included in the publication "Implementation of Laws Update" released by Senate DEAR in February 2021. It is posted on the Senate website under Publications-ELLS Publications.

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**Department of  
External Affairs  
and Relations**

Room 411, Senate of the Philippines,  
J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines 1307  
+63 2 8552 6601 loc. 4000, 4109, 4110  
senate.ells@outlook.com

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