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Compliance, livelihood support, and challenges of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino program of the local government unit

Cyril D. Ramos^{1*}, Richelle H. Verdeprado-Mangga², Dennis V. Madrigal³, and Joel M. Bual⁴

¹City Social Welfare and Development Office-Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, Philippines, ^{2,3,4}University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Negros Occidental, Philippines

cyramos127@gmail.com, richelleverdepradorsw@gmail.com,
dennis_madrigal@yahoo.com, joelmaguadbual@gmail.com

Abstract. The 4Ps aim to strengthen the social protection system and reduce poverty in Philippines. Thus, this determined the 4Ps compliance in health and nutrition and education in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental, Philippines as assessed by the implementers and exit beneficiaries relative to designation and beneficiary location. It also profiled the livelihood support among beneficiaries in terms of medium enterprise development and employment facilitation. Likewise, it identified the challenges in the 4Ps implementation. Also, it investigated the difference in the compliance when grouped to demographics. Using the descriptive-comparative design, 151 implementers and 270 beneficiaries responded to the researcher-made questionnaire and checklist. In analysis, mean, standard deviation, and Kruskal Wallis were employed. Meanwhile, the researcher adhered to the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board. Generally, the compliance is very great. Regarding the livelihood support, few beneficiaries received the seed capital of P15,000.00 and employment facilitation fund of P5,000.00. The lack of vehicle, supplies, venue, and inaccessible roads were among the logistics and personnel issues. In knowledge and communication, challenges are on illiteracy, language barrier, lack of training on family and child-related issues. The inability to use ATM cards and pawning were issues too. Meanwhile, there was no difference in the compliance when grouped to demographics. Hence, the findings are instrumental in the continuous improvement of the program's compliance.

Keywords. Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Compliance, Livelihood Support, Challenges, Descriptive, Comparative, Implementers, Beneficiaries, Philippines

1.0 Introduction

Ten percent of the world's population, or over 700 million people, still live in extreme poverty, according to the United Nations Global Compact. As the COVID-19 pandemic's aftermath continues, these figures worsen [1]. Approximately three years of progress were lost between 2020 and 2022 due to a period of major crises and shocks despite several decades of sustained global poverty reduction. The 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal is a globally accepted framework that aims to advance peace and prosperity for people and the

environment in the present and future. According to the World Bank Group Report, we are unlikely to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 at the current rate of advancement [2]. The COVID-19 epidemic has made progress in the current worldwide effort to eradicate poverty much more difficult. Global extreme poverty is predicted to increase to over 150 million people by the end of 2021, according to data from the World Bank, which reveals that it increased in 2020 for the first time in more than 20 years [3].

Based on a report by the Asian Development Bank [4], the pandemic caused 4.7 million people in Southeast Asia to become extremely poor in 2021 as a result of employment losses. The most impacted groups are unskilled laborers, those employed in retail, small enterprises without a digital presence, and the informal sector. Indonesia and the Philippines both account for more than 350 million people to be living in impoverished conditions and even below the poverty line. Thus, conditional cash transfer programs have been adopted in Southeast Asian countries to recover from extreme poverty. Indonesia is in its expanding stage already, while Cambodia is still reviewing strategies so that its pilot project can take off in consideration of lessons learned by other countries [5].

In 2021, 18.1% of Filipinos were estimated to live below the poverty line [4]. Launched by the Philippine government in 2007, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program overseen by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other relevant ministries. The program currently has a total of 5,066,892 registered households. Of this number, 4,250,272 are active households-beneficiaries with 4,026,964 covered by the regular Conditional Cash Transfer [6]. It is a poverty reduction strategy and is the focal point of the nation's social protection system.

It was formerly known as Bangon Pamilyang Pilipino. It began under previous President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was carried out by President Benigno Aquino III, and was subsequently signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte. The DSWD Regional Field Office VI in Iloilo has reported that Negros Occidental, excluding the City of Bacolod, has the highest number of program beneficiaries in the region, with a remarkable figure of 127,055 Pantawid beneficiaries hailing from 13 municipalities and 12 cities, receiving a total disbursement of P16,610,159,850.00. Kabankalan City has 8,953 Pantawid beneficiaries as of 2020, with a cumulative amount of P1,187,627,950.00 awarded to beneficiaries across the city's 32 barangays as of January 2021.

Several studies were conducted on the impact evaluation and assessment of the implementation in the Philippines [7] and in various regions, particularly in Iloilo City [8], in Davao Oriental [9], in Batangas [10], and Ilocos Norte [11]. However, there have been limited studies that focused on compliance, livelihood support, and challenges experienced by implementers and exit beneficiaries assessed altogether, with Southern Negros Occidental as the research setting. Currently, studies conducted specifically focused on the implementation of 4Ps but none of them focused on the extent of compliance specific to health and nutrition, and education. Some studies discussed recommendations based on feedback sessions and evaluations in other parts of the Philippines. However, no study was ever conducted with implementers and exit beneficiaries assessed altogether and with Southern Negros as the research setting. This is the research gap that this study would like to learn.

The study determined the extent of compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) as a poverty reduction strategy in the areas of health and nutrition and education in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental as assessed by implementers and exit beneficiaries when they are taken as a whole and grouped according to designation and

beneficiary location. Additionally, it profiled the livelihood support to the beneficiaries in terms of Micro-Enterprise Development (MD) and Employment Facilitation (EF). Likewise, it identified the challenges encountered by the component city in Southern Negros Occidental in the implementation of the 4Ps. Also, it investigated the significant difference in the extent of compliance with 4Ps when grouped to the demographics. The findings of the study served as an empirical basis for the formulation of a proposed action plan for the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

2.0 Framework of the Study

The study theoretically assumed that the extent of compliance with Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental varies according to the designation and location of the exit beneficiaries. This means that the compliance of the responding locale on the program differs according to assessors' diverse perceptions as they were categorized into various orientations and contexts. This theoretical assumption was anchored on the Compliance Systems Theory by Orozco [12].

The theory by Orozco [12] conceptually defines compliance as the process by which an organization ensures that the regulators and constituents conform to the agreed applicable norms. This also claims that compliance and its processes and practices emerge through various actors, institutions, and relations (designation). These actors are composed of regulators, firms, executives, and inter-organizational structures and institutions that establish the system of compliance.

Additionally, this argues that the compliance practices and the adherence to these vary according to the norms, regulations, mechanisms, resources, and personnel (location/varying norms). However, though this compliance system is perceived to be complex and multi-actors, it cannot be denied that its processes are interconnected, which creates a general system. The compliance of one group affects the general compliance of the community, as well as the experience of the beneficiaries in the entire program.

In addition, this also anchored on the Compliance Systems Theory of Orozco [12] with the assessment of the extent of compliance of a component city in Southern Negros Occidental with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) when grouped according to designation and exit beneficiary location. In adherence to this program, it also has to consider the various actors: the implementers or regulators and the exit beneficiaries or the constituents. The varying respondents of this study may lead to diverse perceptions of how each of them perceive their behavior and practices towards the compliance processes.

Also, since the compliance has to consider the norms, the 4Ps compliance looks into the various contexts and orientations of the constituents, which in this study refers to the varying locations of the exit beneficiaries. This theory affirmed what this paper theorized: that effective compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program can lead to tangible benefits for its exit beneficiaries, particularly in the domains of health, nutrition, education, and livelihood support.

As to questions about how to balance environmental deterioration, social inequity, and economic advancement arose, the idea of "sustainable development" evolved. Informed thinkers came to the realization that none of the three objectives—preserving environmental vitality, maximizing economic prosperity, and enhancing the general standard of living—could be fully achieved without sacrificing the success of the others. This insight led to an understanding that the development or reduction of different societal components would have a significant impact on coming generations [13].

In connection with the study, the theory of sustainable development was the basis for assessing the compliance of the program with regard to political, sociocultural, technological, medical, and even relational and spiritual development. The implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program as the national flagship program on poverty reduction has many challenges, and it is important that the local community understands and benefits from the program, notwithstanding its location. To be able to move forward and ensure tangible and positive change in the program implementation, it is important that both the implementers and beneficiaries learn from the blunders of the past and find the courage to embark on a change process along the way.

3.0 Methods

The study utilized the quantitative research design particularly the descriptive-comparative approach. This design statistically measured the set of variables to describe the trends of the population to answer the theory guided questions and hypotheses [14]. Specifically, the descriptive approach determined the extent of compliance with 4Ps as assessed by implementers and beneficiaries.

Also, it profiled the livelihood support to the exit beneficiaries. Likewise, it identified the challenges encountered by a component city in Southern Negros Occidental in the implementation of 4Ps. Meanwhile, the comparative approach investigated the difference in the extent of compliance with 4Ps when grouped according to demographics. The respondents were the 151 implementers and 270 exit beneficiaries of 2020 of the 4Ps in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental. They were determined using stratified random sampling and fishbowl technique.

In assessing the 4Ps compliance, a validated and reliability tested researcher-made questionnaire was utilized. These items were formulated in the areas of health and nutrition and education. The items were responded using the scale in ascending order: very poor extent, poor extent, moderate extent, great extent, and very great extent. Regarding the validity, the questionnaire was subjected to the validation of 5 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and was calculated using Face Validity (FCV) yielding the valid score of 4.95 for beneficiaries and 4.37 for implementers.

The items were pilot tested to 30 non-actual respondents but sharing the same characteristics with the actual respondents and were analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha yielding a reliable score of 0.953 for the beneficiary and 0.865 for the implementers. In terms of the challenges, this paper employed a researcher-made checklist in the light of logistics and personnel, accessibility, knowledge and communication, and trainings.

In analyzing the data, the descriptive and comparative analyses were employed. The statistical tools used to analyze the descriptive problems were mean, standard deviation, frequency count, percentage distribution, and rank. Meanwhile, the comparative analysis investigated the significant difference in the extent of compliance with 4Ps.

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to determine the normality of the variable. The normality test revealed that the variable compliance answered by the beneficiaries [KS= 0.321, p=0.000] and implementers [KS= 0.236, p=0.000] were not normally distributed. Since the variables were not normally distributed, non-parametric statistics were used for inferential questions. Hence, the use of Kruskal Wallis in determining the significant differences. Lastly, the researcher addressed the general principles of respect for persons, justice, and beneficence to fully guarantee the ethical soundness of the study in line with the guidelines established by

the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB). Specifically, it addressed issues regarding the privacy of the participants and the confidentiality of the data gathered.

4.0 Results and Discussion **Demographic Profile of the Implementers**

Table 1 presents the profile of the implementers when grouped according to designation. Among the implementers, 27.2% (f=41) are Child Development Workers (CDWs), 43.7% (f=66) are Public Teachers, 8.6% (f=13) are Local Government Unit (LGU Link) and Regional Staff (City Link), 0.7% (f=1) are Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) staff, 7.3% (f=11) are Private School Teachers, and 12.6% (f=19) are Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). The desired number of respondents was attained in this study, and all the designations were covered. This implies that this study was able to consider all the types of designation involved in the implementation of the 4Ps. Leaving out even just one part of the system would lead to the failure to see the holistic implementation of the program and to miss out on areas of development. Efforts were made to bring about development, and human resources should always be considered an important aspect of the national development process [15].

Table 1. Demographic Profile of Implementers

Variable	f	%
Designation		
Child Dev't Worker	41	27.2
Public Teacher	66	43.7
LGU & Regional Staff	13	8.6
SLP	1	0.7
Private Teachers	11	7.3
Brgy. Health Worker	19	12.6
Total	151	100.0

Demographic Profile of the Exit Beneficiaries

Table 2 presents the demographic profile of the beneficiaries when grouped according to location, receipt of seed capital fund, and receipt of employment facilitation fund. Data show that 54.7% (f=82) are from rural, 42.7% (f=64) are from urban, and 2.7% (f=4) are from coastal areas. As to receipt of seed capital fund, 8% (f=12) answered yes, 71.3% (f=107) answered no, and 20.7% (f=31) had no response. As to the receipt of the employment facilitation fund, 14.7% (f=22) answered yes, 74% (f=111) answered no, and 11.3% (f=17) had no response.

Employment facilitation and capital funding have been seen as an important aspect of the 4Ps. However, the high number of those who have not received employment facilitation shows that there is a need to ensure the inclusion of both employment facilitation and capital funding in the next few years. This could be attributed to the limitation of coordination between the implementers of 4Ps with the planners who had already laid down employment facilitation proposals and budget allocation at least two years ago.

According to the study of Ayoo [16], poverty reduction can be achieved through stimulating economic growth to increase incomes, expanding employment opportunities for the poor, undertaking economic and institutional reforms to enhance efficiency and improve the utilization of resources, and prioritizing the basic needs of the poor in national development policies.

It can also include promoting microfinance programs to remove constraints to innovation, entrepreneurship, and small-scale business and developing and improving marketing systems to improve production, which can also include providing incentives to the private sector and implementing affirmative actions like targeted cash transfers to be sure that the social and economic benefits of poverty reduction programs reach the demographics and those that are usually marginalized in the beginning. Thus, if the 4Ps is seen as a strategy to combat poverty, providing capital and generating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities must be seriously considered and be included in the proposals for implementation and budgeting.

Table 2. Demographic Profile of Exit Beneficiaries

Variable	f	%
Location		
Rural	82	54.7
Urban	64	42.7
Coastal	4	2.7
Receive Seed Capital Fund		
Yes	12	8.0
No	107	71.3
No Response	31	20.7
Receive Employment Facilitation Fund		
Yes	22	14.7
No	111	74.0
No Response	17	11.3
Whole	150	100.0

Extent of Compliance with 4Ps as assessed by the Implementers

Table 3 presents the extent of compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program as a poverty reduction strategy in the areas of health, nutrition, and education in Kabankalan City as assessed by implementers.

As a whole, the extent of compliance is very great ($M=4.39$, $SD=0.65$). When grouped according to designation, the CDW ($M=4.59$; $SD=0.59$), teachers ($M=4.26$; $SD=0.77$), City Link ($M=4.32$; $SD=0.4$), SLP ($M=4.83$; $SD=0$), private ($M=4.7$; $SD=0.48$), and BHW ($M=4.26$; $SD=0.45$) all showed extent of compliance interpreted as very great.

Great compliance is affected by several reasons, which include assigning specific persons who are paid to implement the 4Ps. This result affirms the Philippine Social Protection Note's conclusion that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has been successfully implemented and has become the country's largest social protection program despite its challenges.

The 4Ps has been changing the expenditure pattern of poor households as manifested by their financial capacities to support food and education, which has also improved the health and education of their children [8].

Table 3. Extent of Compliance with 4Ps as assessed by the Implementers

Variable	Health and Nutrition	Education	Compliance
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	M	SD	Int	M	SD	Int	M	SD	Int
Designation									
CDW				4.59	0.59	VG	4.59	0.59	VG
Public Teacher				4.26	0.77	VG	4.26	0.77	VG
City/LGULink	4.33	0.41	VG	4.35	0.55	VG	4.32	0.40	VG
SLP	4.80	0.00	VG	5.00	0.00	VG	4.83	0.00	VG
Private ST				4.70	0.48	VG	4.70	0.48	VG
BHW	4.26	0.45	VG				4.26	0.45	VG
Whole	4.30	0.43	VG	4.41	0.69	VG	4.39	0.65	VG

Note: Very Great (VG)

Extent of Compliance with 4Ps as assessed by the Beneficiaries

Table 4 presents the compliance with 4Ps as a poverty reduction strategy in the areas of health and nutrition and education in Kabankalan City as assessed by the beneficiaries. As a whole, the extent of compliance is very great (M=4.44, SD=0.96). When grouped according to location, respondents from rural (M=4.51, SD=0.84), urban (M=4.37, SD=1.13), and coastal (M=4.28, SD=0.15) all showed a very great extent of compliance.

The great compliance of all the locations could be attributed to the fact that 4Ps has been designed to be implemented across the varying typographical and political situations in the country. The consideration of the location has been included since earlier studies made by the National Statistics Office through the "An Assessment of the Poverty Situation in the Philippines" by Orbeta et al. [7] have determined that the poverty fight should be sensitive to the needs specific to the location as there are challenges that are specifically affecting rural, urban, and coastal areas. The result of this study, however, implies that poverty is a reality in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental, be it in coastal, rural, or urban areas in the Philippines, although with differences in terms of the available economic opportunities yet similarly affected by the cost of living.

Table 4. Extent of Compliance with 4Ps as assessed by the Exit Beneficiaries

Variables	Health and Nutrition			Education			Compliance		
	M	SD	Int	M	SD	Int	M	SD	Int
Location									
Rural	4.46	0.85	VG	4.73	0.89	VG	4.51	0.84	VG
Urban	4.36	1.12	VG	4.40	1.21	VG	4.37	1.13	VG
Coastal	4.22	0.13	VG	4.50	0.58	VG	4.28	0.15	VG
Whole	4.41	0.97	VG	4.58	1.04	VG	4.44	0.96	VG

Note: Very Great (VG)

Challenges encountered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) with 4Ps Compliance

Table 5 presents the challenges encountered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) in compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. The following are the top answers for each area: for logistics and personnel, 26.5% (f=40) answered lack of vehicle for transportation; for accessibility, 45% (f=68) responded that limited access to telecommunication signals makes it difficult to communicate with beneficiaries; for knowledge and communication, 21.2% (f=32) answered high illiteracy rate; for trainings, 36.4% (f=55)

responded limited training on family and child related issue; and for other issues, 39.7% (f=60) answered beneficiaries do not know how to use their ATM.

The top reason for the lack of transportation vehicles can be attributed to the limited resources and prioritization of the local government unit to provide for program implementers. Moreover, the component city in Southern Negros Occidental has 15 rural barangays which have limited access to public transportation, and this contributed to their accessibility to a more regular follow-through on the part of the implementers. The study of Poppendieck [17] supported the premise that the lack of transportation affects the implementation of the 4Ps, both for the implementers and exit beneficiaries themselves. His study highlighted the impact of logistics and how personnel can help facilitate innovations in promoting efficient project management. This can be further explained by the Theory of Constraints, which has been useful in project management, especially when multiple projects must be completed using the same resources [18]. Under this theory, it can be explained why other functions in the government are not fully complied with as it is affected by administrative and logistical concerns and function constraints.

The limitation of training on child-related issues can be attributed to poor coordination among government agencies that could provide relevant training to implementers and a lack of training on needs assessment to prioritize the gap in capability building. This can be linked to the multiplicity of roles played by service providers and beneficiaries and the lack of opportunities to maximize resources, which could all pose challenges to the project implementers and affect the project's impact on exit beneficiaries. Logistics and personnel management are indeed crucial in the implementation and monitoring of any program [19] This sentiment was even shared by implementers who said that there are agrarian and agricultural projects in a component city in Southern Negros Occidental, where the actual impact was not maximized because of the non-accessibility of roads to regularly monitor of program, lack of seed capital for innovations, and limited staff training, and social preparation, especially on how the community and family help in the project implementations.

Table 5. Challenges encountered by the Local Government Unit (LGU) in compliance with 4Ps

Challenges	f	%
Logistics and Personnel		
lack of vehicle for transportation	40	26.5
lack of office space	31	20.5
limited venue for meetings/assemblies	26	17.2
processing of approval for change grantees took a long time	25	16.6
no internet connectivity in the office	24	15.9
extra work/function given to staff not related to 4Ps implementation	21	13.9
lack of office supplies	16	10.6
lack of fuel allowance	15	9.9
poor coordination with other government agencies	13	8.6
poor personnel support	8	5.3
late submission of reports	4	2.6
fast turnover of regional staff	1	0.7
Accessibility		
Poor access to signals and communication	68	45.0
very far distance of home from school for monitoring	53	35.1
very far distance of home from health stations	38	25.2
inaccessible roads to monitor beneficiaries	27	17.9
presence of insurgents in some areas	24	15.9
Knowledge and Communication		

high illiteracy rate of beneficiaries	32	21.2
language barrier	23	15.2
Training		
limited training on family and child-related issues	55	36.4
limited training on gender and development	40	26.5
limited training in case management	39	25.8
no training on family and child-related issues	21	13.9
no training in gender and development	15	9.9
Other Issues		
beneficiaries do not know how to use their ATM	60	39.7
pawning of cash cards	45	29.8
poor compliance with Family Development Sessions (FDS)	7	4.6

Difference in the Extent of Compliance with 4Ps when grouped according to Designation

Kruskal Wallis was used to determine the significant difference in the extent of compliance of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program when assessors were grouped according to designation and when exit beneficiaries were grouped according to location. There was no significant difference in the extent of compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program when assessors were grouped according to designation [$H(5) = 10.976, p = 0.052$]. This could be attributed to the commitment of all program implementers to educate beneficiaries on the updates and other instructions with regard to compliance. Furthermore, implementers are dedicated to facilitating intervention planning and monitoring in relation to compliance.

As explained by Roy [20] in his study on the "Theory of Social Proof and Legal Compliance: A Socio-Cognitive Explanation for Regulatory and Non-Compliance," it was pointed out that understanding the informational role that social influence plays in compliance has been caused by clear guidelines, educational opportunities, proper information and policy discussions, and incentives, and not really on one's designation. Thus, the specific titles and social status did not spell any difference in the compliance of the 4Ps. This means that the 4Ps can be implemented by any staff as long as they are trained, guided, and properly oriented.

Table 6. *Difference in the Extent of Compliance with 4Ps when grouped to Designation*

Variable	H	df	p
Designation	10.976	5	0.052

Note: Difference is significant when $p \leq 0.05$

Difference in the Extent of Compliance with 4Ps when grouped to Exit Beneficiaries' Location

There was a significant difference in the extent of compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program when beneficiaries were grouped according to location [$H(2) = 6.457, p = 0.040$]. A post hoc test using Dunn's test revealed that respondents from coastal areas rated significantly lower than other respondents. This indicates that the specific area where the program has been implemented has a bearing on compliance and that the same conditions are present in the delivery of the benefits of the 4Ps. This can be attributed to the available economic opportunities in the area wherein 4Ps beneficiaries have other sources of income aside from fishing, vending, farming, and sugar farm labor. Due to overwhelming economic activities, the 4Ps beneficiaries are preoccupied and unable to comply with the requirements and conditions of the program.

Moreover, one theory to explain the result of the action and decision of exit families from coastal areas is the Rational Choice Theory, which states that individuals use rational calculations to make rational choices and achieve outcomes aligned with their own personal objectives. This rational choice of ending poverty through education and health programs, as facilitated by the 4Ps, is indeed a conscious decision to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal. Accordingly, real efficacy metrics are necessary for the SDGS to bring true global change [21], which serves as a strong call to action to combat poverty, improve health and education, lessen inequality, promote economic growth, and address climate change [22].

This means that program implementers need to exert more effort to facilitate intervention measures to educate 4Ps beneficiaries not only on the cash benefit but also on giving paramount importance to the health and nutrition benefit of their children and the long-term effect of education as the primary resource to rise from poverty. This can be explained using the classic Systems Theory as applied in Social Work. Systems Theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and assessing the program's dynamics, its influence on the well-being of beneficiaries, and the multifaceted challenges faced by both program implementers and recipients. Here, social workers are reminded of clients' problems and circumstances that affect the level of participation of clients in any program and carefully examine the client's situation to deduce a necessary approach to problem-solving. The approach enables the implementers to understand the underlying cause of the problem, yielding a more comprehensive strategy rather than simply concluding that since they do not avail of the program, they do not need it. Clients are seen as individuals who are also facing many concerns and are part of other systems like their economic systems, family relationships, and societal influences [23].

Table 7. *Difference in the Extent of Compliance with 4Ps when grouped to Beneficiary Location*

Variable	H	df	p
Location	6.457*	2	0.040

Note: *difference is significant when $p \leq 0.05$

As cited in the World Bank report, people "return to poverty" are emerging around the world while people who got out of income poverty may still be trapped in deprivations in health or education. About 1.3 billion people (22%) still live in multidimensional poverty among 107 developing countries, according to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index report released by the United Nations. Meanwhile, the issue of inequality became more prominent, reflected by the number of people who are in relative poverty. In line with the dynamic poverty realities, the focus of poverty research also moved forward. Research frameworks have evolved from single-dimension to multidimensional poverty [24] and from income poverty to capacity poverty [3]. 4Ps compliance as to its location is looking into one of the dimensions that must be considered in implementing a nationwide program, which, although detailed procedures, should still look into the specifics based on local contexts.

Theoretically speaking, this paper perceived that the extent of compliance of a component city in Southern Negros Occidental with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) varies according to the designation and location of the beneficiaries. This theoretical assumption was anchored on the Compliance Systems Theory by Orozco [12]. Given the comparative result of the designation, this paper does not validate the truthfulness of the anchored theory as manifested by the absence of a significant difference in the assessments of the implementers and the exit beneficiaries. However, in the context of the location of these

beneficiaries, the study validates the veracity of the Compliance Systems Theory as reflected in the presence of the significant difference in their assessment when grouped according to urban, rural, and coastal. Given the diverse results, the findings imply the need for further studies employing similar demographics on a larger scale to validate and verify the claims of this study.

5.0 Conclusion

There is a very great degree of compliance with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program as a poverty reduction strategy in the areas of health and nutrition, and education in a Component City in Southern Negros Occidental. The overall extent of compliance is also very great when assessed by the exit beneficiaries and the implementers. Inter-agency coordination is therefore important in the implementation of any program. DSWD continues to enhance its convergence with the help of its partner national government agencies so that the poor can access social protection programs. There has been an overarching poverty reduction strategy and framework to maximize the impact of its major social protection programs and to put into place the building blocks for a more coherent social protection system to address the multiple dimensions of poverty. In conclusion, research like this can help contribute to more evidence-based practices for DSWD replication and provide policy recommendation inputs to strengthen convergence among the member agencies implementing social protection programs, together with the LGUs, NGOs, academe, and all stakeholders.

Lastly, it is important to involve the beneficiaries in identifying their preferred livelihood projects. As it was one of the findings that there is a need to improve employment facilitation, it would help if the beneficiaries themselves were asked what kind of livelihood support they would need and where they would want to work so that resources can be better provided, and knowledge and skills needed for the job can be developed through the programs of the city. This can also be achieved better through an inventory of the resources and the creation of a team so that personnel can be adequate. Certainly, the amount of work and its quality require a diverse and equipped staff and should not just be done by one person alone.

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