

Knowledge and Practices on Family Development of 4Ps Beneficiaries in Camarines Sur, Philippines

STANLEY O. DY¹

ABSTRACT. The study assessed the knowledge and practices on family development among the 4Ps beneficiaries in Camarines Sur. Research methods employed were survey, KIIs, and review of secondary data. The data gathered from the 169 randomly selected respondents were analyzed through descriptive statistics, particularly frequency, percentage, and mean. Most topics discussed during family development sessions relate to disaster risk reduction and management, according to 27% of the respondents. Other topics were on fire, gardening, barangay improvement, community, and nutrition. Almost all respondents indicated that the family development sessions (e.g., proper parenting) are effective, relevant, interesting, and are easy to apply. They added that they teach their children the lessons that they learned from the sessions, and they also expressed willingness to encourage other beneficiaries to do the same. There was high satisfaction level from the respondents; thus, increase in knowledge resulted in positive changes in practices. In terms of proper hygiene among their children, it is important to note that only 46% of the respondents reported that they no longer experience having illnesses. Most respondents indicated that they give high importance to their health and safety. Findings of this research could be useful in planning family development campaigns for behavior change. Future studies may assess other sectors relevant to the agenda using various research designs and measuring other variables of changes in behavior. The 4Ps program should be evaluated to better cater to the needs of its beneficiaries, and its provisions must align with policies relating to parenting, education, and capacity development.

Keywords: *Knowledge, practices, family development*

¹*College of Health Sciences
Naga College Foundation, Inc.
City of Naga, Philippines
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8495-0203>
stanleydy65@yahoo.com*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains a major concern for the majority of the world's peoples and nations (Shah, 2011). Roser (2016) notes that population growth is among the main drivers of poverty. Over time, the observed gap between the rich and the poor has widened significantly.

The poorest sector of the Philippine population has dismal access to health, education, and other services. They often face issues relating to hunger, malnutrition, and diseases. They also compose the marginalized sector of the society, having little representation in public and political debates, making it harder for them to escape the vicious cycle of poverty (Shah, 2011).

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), 26.3% of the population in the Philippines experience poverty (PSA, 2015). In 2012, 10% of the population was in extreme poverty. Three years later, this figure decreased to 9.2%. During the first semester of 2015, a family of five would need at least PhP6,365 (US\$ 167) monthly to meet the basic food needs of all household members. To meet the non-food needs, a family would need PhP9,140 monthly (US\$ 183) (PSA, 2016). Poverty alleviation is a main focus of many local and international agencies (UNESCO, 2016).

In developing countries, governments make use of the conditional cash transfer scheme to alleviate poverty (ADB, 2013). Most programs grant poor families the opportunity to receive financial support, which could be used by their children for health and education. To address the poverty issues in the Philippines, in 2003, E.O. No. 221 *Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* mandated the DSWD to provide assistance to concerned offices to effectively carry out activities that could alleviate poverty. The DSWD then came up with the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program, otherwise known as 4Ps. It is a human development program of the Philippine government that uses the conditional cash transfer scheme for poor families. It is a scheme whereby beneficiaries receive cash grants based on their compliance to their shared responsibilities on health and education. The program has dual objectives as the flagship poverty alleviation program by the Aquino administration. It is also pursuant to the country's commitment to meet one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)—to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Orbeta & Paqueo, 2016).

Compared to previous development programs, the 4Ps is more than just a welfare program, as it also seeks to address structural inequalities that exist in the Philippine society. The 4Ps develops the capacity of poor families; thus, it aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Parents benefiting from the program are required to undergo training on responsible parenthood, and ensure that their children undergo health check-ups and attend their classes in school (Defensor, 2010).

The 4Ps is regarded as a form of community development. The Philippine government regards 4Ps as a human development measure that benefits the poorest of the poor. As a community development initiative, 4Ps has dual objectives: 1) provision of financial assistance and 2) social development to break intergenerational poverty cycle. For example, children who are 0-5 years old must undergo regular check-ups. Pregnant women are given the opportunity to avail themselves of pre-natal care while schoolchildren aged 6-14 are given the chance to undergo deworming (Presidential Communications Operations Office, n.d.).

Specifically, 4Ps health component comprises target outcomes such as increase in the number of pregnant women getting ante-natal and post-natal care; having childbirth attended by a skilled health professional; increase in the number of children 0-5 years that avail themselves of preventive health services and immunization; decrease in stunting among children 0-5 years, and decrease from baseline level in the growth rate of the population (DSWD, 2009). The 4Ps covers 79 provinces, 143 cities, and 1,484 municipalities (GovPh, 2016). In 2015, the program covered more than 4,400,000 Filipino households.

One of the main goals of the program is “to raise the average consumption rate in food expenditure of poor households” (Pantawid Pamilya Operations Manual, 2012, p. 7, as cited in Tutor, 2014); and earlier reports indicated that the program sought to increase the share of food in household expenditures by 4% and expenditure on nutrient-dense food items by 2% (DSWD, 2009, as cited in Tutor, 2014).

A study in 2014 notes that the program had no significant effect on the households’ per capita total expenditures (Tutor, 2014). Only expenses on carbohydrates and clothing increased significantly in terms of the monthly per capita expenditure. On the other hand, shares on education and clothing recorded a positive impact among the sample households. In terms of consumption, the program’s impact is more

evident among the poorest households in the 5th class municipalities. In the Philippines, a 5th class municipality is considered to be very poor.

A study evaluating the 4Ps in Iloilo found that there was a significant improvement observed in terms of preventive healthcare among pregnant women and younger children (Frufonga, 2016). For example, the number of malnourished children decreased. Additionally, the number of enrolment of children in public schools increased while the number of school dropouts and incidents of child labor in the area significantly decreased. Results also showed that expenses relating to food, education, hospitalization (medicine), and savings were prioritized by the households. Finally, it is important to note that the results showed almost 100% attendance of the households to the Family Development Sessions under this program.

In Camarines Sur, the first 4Ps cash grant was established amounting to PhP1,400 to PhP7,000 per month covering the months of November to December 2009 and January to March 2010 (DSWD, 2012). In 2015, the number of target household beneficiaries was 117,730. Given the large amount of budget being spent on the 4Ps program, this study sought to gather data, which could serve as the basis for improving its implementation. While not discounting the favorable reports about the program, it is imperative that the program must be continually evaluated to acquire sufficient evidence and basis for its improvement. With the emergence of policies that directly affect the social and economic activities of the poor, it is important to look into the impacts of these policies on the program. Policies such as the Republic Act 10963 or the TRAIN Tax Law, Republic Act 10931 or the Free College Law, and the K12 Program, among other relevant policies, may be considered in the program review and change process as they directly affect the education and households' consumption.

In terms of health, nutrition, and proper parenting mechanisms of the 4Ps through its Family Development Sessions, provisions of the Republic Act 10354 on Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health are sound bases for evaluation to design better 4Ps program catering to the social welfare of the poor. This study focused on the perception of the beneficiaries on the family development component of the 4Ps program. An evaluation of the family development component of the program has led to recommendations on policy directions, which may impact on its service delivery to improve the quality of life of the 4Ps beneficiaries. Since 4Ps started in Camarines Sur in 2009, the study provides valuable analyses in terms of the impact of 4Ps on the health of beneficiaries coming from an agriculture-based economy within 3rd-5th class municipalities.

This study looked into the changes in the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents as a result of their participation in the program. It is crucial that monitoring and evaluation activities are being conducted to assess the program's impact and make adjustments or replanning in areas found to have gaps (Llanto, 2008). These activities could also be beneficial in developing new policies and guidelines that would benefit the beneficiaries while at the same time enable them to graduate from the program.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in selected areas in Camarines Sur. The study sites chosen were hard-to-reach areas, which included an upland barangay in Libmanan (Pag-Oring Nuevo); an island barangay in Siruma (Matandang), and a barangay along the coastline in Cabusao (Castillo). The selected sites are the farthest upland, island, and coastal barangay in Camarines Sur. Descriptive research was used in this undertaking. Data gathering method included survey and review of documents.

The 4Ps beneficiaries in the research sites served as the respondents of the study. The program beneficiaries were randomly selected for unbiased representation of data and for generalizability. From the sample population from each selected barangay, the sample size was computed using the Slovin's formula as $n = N / (1 + ne^2)$, at 10% margin of error. The total number of respondents was 570; of which 440 respondents came from the coastal barangay 130 came from the upland barangay, and 27 came from the island barangay. Random sampling was employed through the fishbowl technique in selecting the respondents from the three barangays. However, total enumeration was applied in the island barangay due to the limited number of 4Ps beneficiaries ($n=27$).

Secondary data were obtained from the DSWD, Rural Health Units, and the Municipal Planning and Development Office of the three municipalities. Interviews concerning the family development component of the program were done among 169 4Ps beneficiaries using the locality's documents as basis. Pre-testing of the interview schedule was conducted in barangays Concepcion and Peñafrancia in Libmanan among 20 4Ps beneficiaries with similar setting with that of the study sites for validity and reliability purposes. Key informant interview (KII) was conducted among local officials and key personnel of the DSWD and Rural Health Center in Camarines Sur.

The data collected were encoded and processed using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 24. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and means were used in analyzing and presenting the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge on Family Development

Family development sessions (FDS) are conducted once a month where couple beneficiaries of 4Ps are highly encouraged to attend and participate in discussing topics on family planning, responsible parenthood, and gender sensitivity. Among the purposes of the training is to achieve gender equality and women empowerment through enhancing the capacities of the males by attending FDS (DSWD, 2018).

In terms of information provision necessary to family development, majority (70%) of the respondents said that they were given enough information on the topic. The highest percentage of those who strongly agreed came from the coastal barangay (80%), followed by island respondents (63%), and those from the upland (61%) (Table 1).

Topics such as responsible parenting during the family development sessions were found to be interesting (70% strongly agreed; 27% agree) (Table 2). This denotes that the concerned key health personnel identified the important topics needed by the respondents; hence, the topics proved interesting among respondents as they learned new knowledge and its applications.

Table 1. Knowledge of the 4Ps beneficiaries on family development

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Strongly agree	65	80	17	63	37	61	119	70
Agree	16	20	6	22	24	39	46	27
Undecided	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0	3	11	0	0	3	2
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

Table 2. Respondents' perception on the relevance of the topics of FDS among beneficiaries

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Strongly agree	65	80	15	56	38	62	118	70
Agree	16	20	7	26	23	38	46	27
Undecided	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disagree	0	0	5	18	0	0	5	3
Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

Responsible parenting, as defined in the *Directional Plan of Commission on Population*, is “the will and ability of parents to respond to the needs and aspirations of the family and children. It is a shared responsibility of the husband and the wife to determine and achieve the desired number, spacing, and timing of their children according to their own family life aspirations, considering psychological preparedness, health status, socio-cultural, and economic concerns” (Department of Health, n.d., p. 2).

High satisfaction level from the respondents may be attributed to the relevance of the topics to their needs. This could be the case given that among the topics discussed was disaster risk reduction and management, which is relevant to the respondents as they live in areas exposed to disaster risks and hazards. Topics on parenting, family planning, house management, and proper hygiene also proved relevant as they affect the quality of life of the respondents.

The findings above align with the results of the study conducted by the College of Human Ecology, University of the Philippines Los Baños in 2018. The study titled *Assessment of Family Development Sessions of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program: Effects of Family Development Sessions on Family Life* found that family development modules greatly influence the family life of most of the beneficiaries (i.e., parenting, family planning, food preparation, house management, nutrition and health care).

In terms of information provision necessary for family development, majority (70%) of the respondents said that they were given enough information on the topic (Table 3). The highest percentage of those who strongly agreed came from the coastal barangay (80%), followed by those from the island (63%), and upland respondents (61%).

Table 3. Respondents' perception on the provision of necessary information on family development through FDS

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Strongly agree	65	80	17	63	37	61	119	70
Agree	16	20	6	22	24	39	46	27
Undecided	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0	3	11	0	0	3	2
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

These results are similar with the findings of Zarsuelo et al. (2015). They found that the main source of information of 4Ps grantees were the family development lectures conducted at health centers. However, it was found that attendance to family development sessions was not significantly associated with the knowledge on health and nutrition. Vidal et al. (2018), in their study in Nueva Ecija, found that 4Ps beneficiaries were only aware of the importance of the lessons learned during the sessions, but were not actively participating and practicing the required activities due to lack of financial resources at the LGU level. Therefore, it shows that there is a need to reinforce the awareness component with adequate resources such as Information, Education, and Communication materials, hygiene kits, and funds for monitoring and evaluation. This will help ensure that the beneficiaries are able to meet the program's objectives, which will hopefully lead to a positive change in behavior.

As families increase their knowledge and engagement with the family development sessions, they are able to empower themselves as evidenced by their ability to voice out their concerns. A study by Chin (2013) noted that a participant shared that she gained self-confidence and considered the learning from attending the family development sessions a form of formal education. It also taught her to relate with others, widen her perspectives in life, and increase her self-esteem.

The respondents (26%) note that the topics discussed during the family development sessions were related to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Other topics were on fire, DRRM, gardening, barangay improvement, community, and nutrition (Table 4).

Table 4. Topics discussed during the family development sessions

TOPICS	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
None	32	40	4	15	21	34	57	34
Disaster	23	28	0	0	22	36	45	26
DRRM	20	25	23	85	2	3	45	26
Fire	0	0	0	0	14	23	14	8
DRRL	5	6	0	0	0	0	5	3
Gardening	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
Barangay improvement	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
Community/ Nutrition	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

Findings from the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that when a typhoon disrupts a non-resilient community, people tend to depend on the outside environment for help. Moreover, a well-developed health systems and a well-trained, well-equipped health workforce in communities are much better prepared for disasters (WHO, 2021).

Topics on DRRM play an important role in enhancing the capacities of the households and the community as a whole to adapt to adverse effects of climate change, especially in relation to their livelihoods. Community-related topics help equip the families with community-based knowledge and practices, which contribute to their overall capacity development. This was shown in study by Vidal et al. (2018) where it was found that majority of the 4Ps beneficiaries were aware of the effects of climate change. However, inadequate resources, technology and lack of support from the local government make it difficult to translate the knowledge and awareness to practices. Therefore, it is imperative for the local government units to provide not only information but also the necessary equipment, facilities, and training program for the implementers of the family development sessions on various relevant topics. It is important to note, however, that 34% of the respondents did not properly comprehend the topics discussed to them during the family development issues.

There was a high agreement among respondents that they had acquired family development-related knowledge through their attendance to the family development sessions (Table 5). These results imply that the content of the lectures during the sessions were informative.

Table 5. Topics discussed during the family development sessions

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Strongly agree	57	70	7	26	14	23	78	46
Agree	23	29	15	55	47	77	85	50
Undecided	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Disagree	1	1	4	15	0	0	5	3
Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

This result relates to point made by Frivaldo (n.d.) that social assistance provided under the auspices of the 4Ps facilitates faster realization of the MDGs. The family development sessions, which feature continuous education and value formation are expected to make parents more responsible. Furthermore, the sessions play pivotal roles in ensuring that all beneficiaries would be able to improve their lives and comply with the requirements of the program. Aside from learning key topics on values formation and pressing issues in the society, the family development sessions also allow the parents to discuss their concerns on 4Ps implementation. Most (79%) respondents reported that their FDS attendance positively helped them with their family planning methods and practices. The respondents shared that they learned to manage their financial resources with their spouse.

When asked regarding their level of satisfaction regarding the family development sessions they attended, 68% of the respondents shared that they were very satisfied while 30% were satisfied (Table 6). The satisfaction levels may be attributed to the knowledge gained despite their limited educational attainment. Additionally, the sessions may have also provided them an opportunity to become better citizens as the sessions equipped them not only with important information about parenthood and responsible citizenship but also with good values.

As mentioned earlier, in the study by Pambid (2017), results showed that all the purposively sampled 60 4Ps beneficiary-respondents attended all the health-related topics in the Family Development Sessions. The respondents indicated that they always apply their learning under the topics *Garantisadong Pambata*, Prevention on Cases of Common Childhood Illnesses, *Wastong Nutrisyon*, Waste Management and Backyard Gardening. The only topic found to be least effective was the one on backyard gardening while the most effective ones were the ones on health.

Table 6. Respondents' level of satisfaction in attending family development sessions

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Very satisfied	64	79	17	63	34	56	115	68
Satisfied	17	21	6	22	27	44	50	30
Undecided	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dissatisfied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very dissatisfied	0	0	4	15	0	0	4	2
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

The study of Dela Torre (2016) noted that the family development sessions provide the implementers an opportunity to conduct reactive monitoring among beneficiaries. In reactive monitoring, staff members of the local government units are the ones who act on complaints. This system was considered a good venue by the participants although they also felt some level of discomfort in filing complaints against their fellow recipients.

As of 2011, there were already 77,438 4Ps beneficiaries who have attended monthly family development sessions of the DSWD. The sessions, with 97% compliance, were positively perceived by the beneficiaries. Paque et al. (2013) noted that the parents became more responsive and focused on the development activities in their area. The sessions prove to be a vital platform to enhance the family's formation of values and facilitates collective actions beneficial to the marginalized sector of the society.

The Philippines is said to be the only country, which implements a conditional cash transfer program that includes family development sessions. These sessions are important in achieving the 4Ps' goal of improving the human capital of poor families in the Philippines (UNICEF, 2015).

Practices on Family Development Sessions

Majority of the respondents (69%) reported that they were transferring learning from family development sessions on proper hygiene, health care, sanitation, and other family development practices to their children (Table 7).

Table 7. Respondents' perception on transferring family development information to children

RESPONSE	COASTAL (Castillo)		ISLAND (Matandang Siruma)		UPLAND (Pag-Oring Nuevo)		TOTAL	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Strongly agree	62	77	16	59	38	62	116	69
Agree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undecided	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disagree	0	0	4	15	0	0	4	2
Strongly disagree	19	23	5	18	23	38	47	28
Total	81	100	27	100	61	100	169	100

The beneficiaries learned to teach their children despite their busy schedules and the need to perform multiple tasks, such as doing household chores, taking care of the children, and earning a living. The results indicate that the intervention is relatively effective in increasing knowledge and awareness among poor households, which may result in behavior change on key family and community practices (e.g., exclusive breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding, and improved hygiene, etc.). This finding may help realize earlier projection that in the Philippines “a US\$ 1.00 investment in an early childhood nutrition programme would yield at least a 43% return in higher income and better educational outcomes among the beneficiaries of the programme” (WHO, n.d.).

Only a few (28%) declared that they were unable to convey the needed information to their children. This result implies that there is a need to continue the program until a significant percentage of behavior change is achieved.

Moreover, the same results were drawn from study by Pambid (2017) where most beneficiaries applied their learning from the topics *Garantisadong Pambata*, Prevention of Childhood Illness, *Wastong Nutrisyon*, Waste Management, and Backyard Gardening on their households. They also indicated that *Garantisadong Pambata* topic on proper hygiene practices for children and all health-related practices and activities of FDS were effective except for Backyard Gardening which was considered as least effective. Respondents further recommended that Backyard Gardening must be imposed properly with regular monitoring of homes and families.

Positive behavior change passed on to the members of the family will only be achieved with the support and participation of every member. It is only achievable if the continuity of the program along with inclusivity mechanisms is ensured throughout the process. There might also be a chance that involvement of the whole community would be possible.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study interviewed 169 4Ps beneficiaries in relatively hard-to-reach areas in Libmanan, Siruma, and Cabusao, Camarines Sur. Key informant interviews (KII) were conducted among local officials and key staff members of the DSWD and Rural Health Center in Camarines Sur.

In terms of the perceived effectiveness of the health component of 4Ps on the access to knowledge, practices, and program participation, results showed that there is a very high attendance to the family development sessions organized by the DSWD. These sessions contributed to increased awareness, knowledge, and practice towards holistic well-being of families. The compulsory attendance to family development sessions opened the minds of most mothers to important issues in their immediate communities. The sessions were lauded by the respondents due to the richness of the information conveyed. Results saying that 69% of the respondents strongly agreed that they were practicing family planning as learned from the FDS complemented with high attendance rates are an indication that the topics discussed invited interest among the beneficiaries. Additionally, it is good to note that the respondents conveyed and applied the information they learned from the family development sessions to their children despite their busy schedules.

Upon assessing the differences in the perceived community development effectiveness of the health component across the hard-to-reach areas in the upland, island, and coastal barangays, result showed that the highest percentage of those who strongly agreed came from the coastal barangay (80%), followed by those from the island (63%) and the upland respondents (61%).

This study recommends policies to enhance the health component of the 4Ps program. The participation of the 4Ps beneficiaries in family development sessions should be required by the social and health workers since these sessions are highly beneficial to the beneficiaries. To

encourage participation, the DSWD and the Health Center may effectively and efficiently discuss the health topics that are directed towards the specific needs of the beneficiaries through interactive activities that will stir attention and retain interest among the beneficiaries. Diverse methods in facilitating family development sessions may help increase the engagement of the beneficiaries.

Findings of this study may inform the development of family development-related messages and campaigns, which seek to target various stakeholders and effect behavior change. In-depth qualitative data may provide a more profound basis in crafting family development messages. The 4Ps as a human development approach of the government that contributes to overall community development could still be improved. Some areas for improvement are on policies, provisions, overall implementation, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Improvements in these areas would mean that the program would be in a better position to acquire lessons learned, best practices, and suitable recommendations within and among the municipalities involved.

Policies and overall provisions of the 4Ps program, specifically on the areas for capacity development of the families and the LGU through the DSWD, should be regularly reviewed and amended based on the needs of both the benefactor and beneficiary. Evaluators should consider the emergence of relevant policies affecting the 4Ps such as the TRAIN Tax Law or the Republic Act 10963, which is known to affect the purchasing power and financial capacity of the families. Moreover, implementers of the program, particularly the DSWD, must also be regularly updated of the necessary adjustments they must do in conducting the learning sessions. They should maximize the use of data and exposure to relevant and helpful public documents relating to family development, which are available in various platforms and are published by the government, non-government, and other advocacy institutions focusing on family health and nutrition.

Monitoring and evaluation play a very important role in ensuring that the 4Ps program is still adherent to its mandates, goals, and objectives while catering to the needs of its beneficiaries, aligned with the values of Filipino communities. With the Republic Act 10354 or Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, it is imperative to evaluate the alignment of the 4Ps program with the relevant family health and nutrition policies. As for the education provision mechanisms of the 4Ps, it is essential to anchor the necessary amendments on the provision mechanisms with the K-12 program as

well as with the Republic Act 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act. Doing so would help the government forecast the necessary education support among children of the beneficiaries. Monitoring of program implementation is essential to determine if the guide in doing the family development sessions is being properly implemented. If the models would be given to beneficiaries, this would definitely impact not only on knowledge but also on behavior, attitude, and practices. Needs assessment is also important in determining relevant topics.

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