

Effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in uplifting indigenous communities in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija: Implementation barriers and socioeconomic opportunities

Reyes, Jimmy D. ✉

Nueva Vizcaya State University, Philippines (frjdreyes@yahoo.com)

Ordoñez, Arcadia Alice T.

Nueva Vizcaya State University, Philippines (arcadiaalice1965@gmail.com)



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Abstract

This study evaluated the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in selected Indigenous communities in the barangays of Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija during the fiscal year 2025. Specifically, it examined the program's implementation across four dimensions: program accessibility and delivery, education and health compliance outcomes, socioeconomic upliftment, and cultural sensitivity and community empowerment. It also identified implementation barriers and explored opportunities for enhancing inclusive and culturally responsive socioeconomic development. A mixed-methods approach was employed, utilizing quantitative data from 91 program beneficiaries gathered through a structured survey questionnaire and qualitative data derived from open-ended responses. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative narratives were examined through thematic analysis. Findings revealed that the 4Ps implementation in the selected barangays was generally effective ($M = 3.86$), with cultural sensitivity and community empowerment demonstrating the highest level of implementation, followed by socioeconomic upliftment, program accessibility and delivery, and education and health compliance outcomes. Despite positive outcomes, challenges related to payout delays, service accessibility, monitoring mechanisms, and livelihood sustainability were identified. Beneficiaries emphasized that while cash transfers address immediate needs, long-term socioeconomic improvement depends on integrated strategies that promote skills development, livelihood opportunities, participatory governance, and Indigenous leadership involvement. The study concludes that the effectiveness of social protection programs in Indigenous communities extends beyond financial assistance and requires culturally grounded, empowerment-oriented, and economically enabling interventions. The findings provide insights for local government units and policymakers in designing inclusive, sustainable, and

community-centered social development initiatives that strengthen resilience, equity, and self-reliance among marginalized populations.

Keywords: indigenous communities, pantawid pamilyang pilipino program, community empowerment

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1. Introduction

Poverty alleviation remains one of the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century. Despite significant progress over recent decades, an estimated 700 million people still live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$2.15 per day (World Bank, 2023). Poverty is not merely an issue of income deprivation; it encompasses limited access to education, healthcare, nutritious food, clean water, and meaningful employment. As a multidimensional issue, poverty is both a cause and consequence of systemic inequality, conflict, and environmental degradation (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2021). The global community, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has committed to eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030. This ambitious goal requires coordinated strategies that go beyond charity or short-term relief. Governments, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions have implemented a range of interventions including conditional cash transfers, microfinance, social protection programs, and livelihood development initiatives. These efforts aim to empower individuals, particularly women and marginalized groups, to become economically self-reliant (International Labour Organization, 2020).

Successful poverty alleviation strategies emphasize inclusive growth, capacity building, and investment in human capital. Education and health are key pillars, as they equip individuals with the tools needed to escape poverty sustainably. In many countries, conditional cash transfer programs—such as Brazil’s Bolsa Família and the Philippines’ Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program—have demonstrated that targeted assistance tied to health and education conditions can improve long-term outcomes for low-income families (Fernald et al., 2017). However, persistent challenges remain, including fragile governance, corruption, climate change, and rising global inequality. To truly alleviate poverty, there must be a collective effort to address structural barriers and ensure that economic growth translates into tangible improvements in the lives of the poor.

In the Philippines, poverty remains one of the most persistent challenges, affecting millions of families, especially in rural and marginalized communities. In response, the government launched the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)—a conditional cash transfer initiative aimed at breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty by investing in human capital. Institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310 in 2019, the 4Ps provides financial assistance to eligible low-income households, with conditions tied to children’s education, regular health checkups, and responsible parenting. Anchored on the principles of social protection and inclusive development, the program seeks to improve access to education, health, and nutrition, while empowering beneficiaries to become self-sufficient in the long term. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is the Philippine government’s flagship social protection initiative, designed to alleviate poverty and promote human capital development among low-income households. Modeled after successful conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs in Latin America, the 4Ps provides financial assistance to indigent families, conditional upon compliance with health, nutrition, and education-related requirements (Department of Social Welfare and Development [DSWD], 2021). The program aims not only to address immediate financial needs but also to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investments in the well-being and future of children.

The significance of the 4Ps lies in its dual role as a poverty alleviation strategy and a human capital investment. By requiring school attendance and regular health checkups, the program fosters educational attainment and improved health outcomes, both of which are essential for long-term socio-economic mobility (Montalbo, 2020). Evaluations have shown that 4Ps beneficiaries demonstrate increased school participation rates and improved maternal and child health indicators, especially in rural and marginalized communities (Orbeta et al., 2019).

Moreover, the institutionalization of 4Ps through Republic Act No. 11310 in 2019 reflects the government's commitment to sustaining the program as a long-term development tool. Its impact extends beyond economic relief—it promotes gender equality, responsible parenting, and community participation. As such, the 4Ps contributes not only to poverty reduction but also to the broader goals of inclusive development and social cohesion. In essence, the 4Ps serves as a transformative platform for empowering disadvantaged families by enabling access to basic services and fostering behavioral change that supports their long-term well-being and self-sufficiency.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a cornerstone of the Philippine government's social protection strategy and is strategically aligned with both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Higher Education Research Agenda (NHERA). As a conditional cash transfer (CCT) initiative, the 4Ps directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty) by providing financial subsidies to indigent families, ensuring their access to basic needs while fostering human capital development. In support of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), the program mandates regular health checkups for children and pregnant women, as well as nutrition education for parents. Additionally, by requiring consistent school attendance among children, 4Ps advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) and strengthens the foundation for long-term socio-economic mobility. The program also promotes SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by prioritizing mothers as grantees, empowering women in household decision-making and community participation (Orbeta et al., 2019; DSWD, 2021).

At the national level, the 4Ps aligns with the core priorities of NHERA 2022–2028, which emphasizes inclusive education, social equity, poverty alleviation, and evidence-based policy formulation (CHED, 2021). Research on 4Ps implementation and outcomes contributes meaningfully to NHERA's goal of utilizing higher education research to address pressing social and economic challenges, and to support inclusive national development. Thus, the 4Ps transcends its role as a welfare program by functioning as a policy mechanism that bridges global and local development goals. It empowers vulnerable sectors, strengthens institutional collaboration, and fosters a data-informed culture of policymaking aligned with sustainable development principles.

This study on the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is firmly anchored on the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) Research Agenda, which emphasizes research responsive to local needs, inclusive development, and the advancement of social equity. As a public institution committed to regional transformation, NVSU prioritizes studies that address poverty alleviation, policy impact, and governance effectiveness. By evaluating the 4Ps in selected barangays of Carranglan, this research contributes to evidence-based policymaking and community empowerment—key pillars of NVSU's mission to foster sustainable and inclusive development in rural settings.

Simultaneously, the study aligns with the MPA Research Agenda of the College of Arts and Sciences, which advocates for governance-oriented research that enhances public sector performance, social service delivery, and participatory administration. By focusing on a flagship government program implemented at the grassroots level, the research reinforces the MPA program's emphasis on ethical leadership, community welfare, and results-based public administration. Furthermore, it responds to the call for applied research that informs public policy, improves social programs, and addresses the multidimensional challenges of poverty and inequality in local governance contexts.

Despite the significant role of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in addressing poverty, there remains a notable research gap in assessing its implementation among indigenous communities, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas like Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. Existing evaluations often focus on urban and lowland beneficiaries, overlooking the cultural sensitivities, accessibility issues, and governance structures unique to indigenous populations (Simbulan, 2019). Indigenous communities in Carranglan, such as the Kalanguya and Bugkalot, face distinct socio-political challenges—including language barriers, mistrust of government institutions, and limited participation in decision-making—which may affect program awareness, compliance, and perceived benefits (Molintas & Reyes, 2021).

Additionally, logistical challenges such as remote terrain, poor infrastructure, and limited access to schools and health facilities hinder program delivery and data collection efforts (DSWD, 2021). These gaps raise critical concerns about equity, inclusion, and culturally appropriate service delivery. There is also limited localized, disaggregated data on how 4Ps impacts indigenous family dynamics, education, and health outcomes. Addressing these gaps through focused research is vital for improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of 4Ps in indigenous contexts, ensuring that social protection mechanisms respect diversity and uphold the rights of marginalized populations.

The main aim of this research is to look into the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in uplifting indigenous communities in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, and to look into its implementation barriers and probable socioeconomic opportunities. Specifically, it answered the following specific questions.

- What is the evaluation of the 4Ps beneficiaries in the four barangays on the effectiveness of the program along the dimensions of program accessibility and delivery, education and health compliance outcomes, socioeconomic upliftment, and cultural sensitivity and community empowerment?
- What are the challenges or barrier encountered in the implementation of the program?
- What are the recommendations for socioeconomic opportunities in the proper implementation of the program?
- Based on the findings of the study, what insights could be derived to complement the development of policies in local government administration with focus on social development?

2. Related Literature

This study is anchored on Kurt Lewin's (1951) Theory of Change, a foundational model describing change as a dynamic process involving three crucial stages: unfreezing, changing, and refreezing. This framework provides an analytical lens through which the implementation and effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)—particularly within Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities—can be examined in a structured and culturally sensitive manner. By mapping the 4Ps' implementation to Lewin's change stages, the study clarifies how program inputs are translated into processes, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts that contribute to poverty alleviation and community empowerment.

Unfreezing, the first stage in Lewin's model, involves preparing individuals and communities to accept the need for change by challenging deeply embedded routines, values, and belief systems. Within IP communities such as those in Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar, unfreezing is a critical phase because traditional leadership structures, customary practices, and indigenous worldviews strongly shape perceptions of education, healthcare, and government interventions. The inputs of the 4Ps—such as conditional cash transfers, program orientations, community assemblies, and information dissemination conducted by DSWD and barangay officials—serve as mechanisms that initiate cognitive and behavioral openness. Through these, families begin to recognize the value of schooling, preventive health check-ups, and parental participation in Family Development Sessions (FDS). The unfreezing stage thus destabilizes old patterns of behavior and creates the psychological readiness required for transformation.

The second stage, changing, represents the transition toward adopting new behaviors, practices, and attitudes. Here, the processes of the 4Ps program—regular monitoring of compliance, facilitation by municipal links, coordination with schools and health centers, and community-based support—activate shifts in daily routines. Beneficiaries begin demonstrating behavioral changes, such as increased school attendance among children, adherence to immunization schedules, consistent participation in check-ups, and engagement in FDS. These behavioral shifts represent the outputs of the program, which include documented compliance, participation records, and improved awareness of health and education responsibilities. For IP communities, the changing stage

is especially meaningful because it often requires cultural negotiation and the guidance or approval of traditional leaders such as elders and clan heads. When these leaders view the program as beneficial to community well-being and intergenerational survival, they reinforce the behavioral transition and increase the program's cultural acceptability.

The third stage, refreezing, involves the stabilization and institutionalization of new behaviors so they become part of a community's long-term norms. In the 4Ps context, refreezing is evident when families internalize the importance of schooling and primary healthcare beyond financial incentives. The outcomes of this stage include improved child well-being, sustained educational engagement, reduced malnutrition, increased awareness of parental responsibilities, and enhanced social participation. These outcomes reflect the program's short- to medium-term achievements. Over time, these outcomes contribute to meaningful long-term impacts, such as poverty reduction, enhanced family capabilities, strengthened community participation, and increased empowerment within IP groups. When families acquire greater self-confidence, improved life skills, and stable access to human development opportunities, the program contributes to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Similarly, as new behaviors become embedded within the community—supported by both formal governance and traditional leadership structures—the changes are more likely to endure.

A key element of Lewin's model in this context is sustainability, which focuses on ensuring that positive habits persist even after beneficiaries graduate from the program. Sustainable change is achieved when families demonstrate reduced dependency on cash grants, improved self-reliance, and continued prioritization of education and health. Ultimately, sustainability reflects the program's highest aspiration: enabling families to maintain healthy, educated, and empowered lives independent of long-term external support. Anchoring the study on Lewin's Theory of Change therefore provides a comprehensive, culturally responsive, and behaviorally grounded framework for evaluating the 4Ps program. It elucidates how inputs and processes catalyze behavioral shifts, how outputs lead to outcomes, and how these collectively generate long-term impacts and sustainable development among IP beneficiaries. This study evaluates the implementation of the 4Ps across four key dimensions: (1) program accessibility and delivery, (2) education and health compliance outcomes, (3) socioeconomic upliftment, and (4) cultural sensitivity and community empowerment. These dimensions are critical for understanding how well the program meets its objectives, especially in indigenous and geographically isolated communities like those in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

Accessibility and effective service delivery are foundational to any social protection program. For 4Ps, accessibility pertains to the ability of beneficiaries to receive benefits without undue obstacles such as distance, language barriers, or administrative inefficiencies. Studies have shown that rural and indigenous communities often face challenges in accessing social services due to geographic isolation and weak institutional linkages (David et al., 2020). In Carranglan, barangays such as Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar are characterized by mountainous terrain and limited infrastructure, which may hinder timely distribution of cash grants and participation in required activities. Moreover, effective delivery involves the proper coordination of national and local agencies, including the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and local government units (LGUs). Errors in targeting and delays in disbursement have been identified as common administrative challenges (Reyes, Tabuga, & Asis, 2018). Enhancing transparency, digitization of records, and capacity building for field implementers are necessary steps to ensure that the program remains responsive and inclusive.

One of the strongest justifications for the 4Ps is its potential to promote better education and health outcomes. Beneficiaries are required to maintain at least 85% school attendance for children aged 3–18 and complete regular medical check-ups, including immunizations and growth monitoring for children under five. Evidence suggests that the program has contributed to increased school participation, especially among younger children and girls (Orbeta et al., 2019). However, high dropout rates in remote indigenous communities remain a concern, often due to lack of secondary schools, early marriage, or cultural practices. Health outcomes have similarly improved, with increased access to maternal care and child immunization. Nonetheless, there are gaps in service availability and

utilization in underserved areas. Health facilities may be understaffed or inaccessible, affecting compliance among indigenous families (Yap et al., 2021). There is also a need to ensure that health and educational services are culturally sensitive, linguistically appropriate, and adapted to local contexts.

Socioeconomic upliftment is the long-term goal of the 4Ps. Beyond temporary income support, the program aims to empower families to break the cycle of poverty by building capabilities and reducing economic vulnerabilities. Evaluations show mixed results: while the 4Ps has helped reduce poverty incidence and improve food security in the short term, long-term impacts on employment and income generation are less conclusive (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2020). In rural and indigenous communities, livelihood support remains a critical gap. Many beneficiaries continue to rely on subsistence farming, informal labor, or seasonal work, which limits their economic mobility. The lack of complementary interventions such as skills training, access to capital, or entrepreneurship support hinders sustained income growth. Recommendations include integrating the 4Ps with programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other agencies to provide a comprehensive approach to economic empowerment (David et al., 2020).

Cultural sensitivity is often overlooked in the design and implementation of national programs. The inclusion of this dimension in the evaluation is particularly relevant for indigenous communities, where traditional beliefs, languages, and social structures influence participation in formal systems. Community empowerment involves engaging beneficiaries not merely as recipients but as active partners in the implementation process. This includes respecting indigenous knowledge systems, encouraging community-led development, and fostering participatory governance. Recent studies highlight the need for culturally adaptive strategies to improve program acceptance and effectiveness. For example, community-based facilitators who speak the local dialect and understand indigenous customs can bridge gaps between government agencies and local populations (Miano et al., 2022). Additionally, the integration of indigenous leaders in planning and monitoring processes can enhance accountability and trust.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program remains a vital component of the Philippines' social protection landscape. Its multidimensional approach—targeting health, education, and poverty—demonstrates the government's commitment to inclusive development. However, ensuring the program's success in indigenous and remote communities requires more than uniform implementation. It demands sensitivity to local contexts, strategic inter-agency coordination, and sustained investment in livelihood and empowerment interventions. This study, through its evaluation of accessibility, compliance outcomes, economic impact, and cultural relevance, contributes to ongoing efforts to refine and localize the 4Ps. It also offers insights for policy enhancements at the local level and supports the development agenda of institutions like the Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Local Government Units (LGUs). Grounded in Human Capital Theory, the research reinforces the idea that poverty reduction must begin with strategic investment in people—particularly those on the margins of society.

3. Methodology

Research Design. This study adopted a convergent mixed methods design to assess the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in uplifting Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities in the barangays of Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. The design involved simultaneous collection of quantitative and qualitative data, followed by separate analyses and integration during interpretation (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Guetterman et al., 2019). Quantitative data from 4Ps family-beneficiaries measured educational access, health compliance, and livelihood support, while qualitative data from interviews and focus group discussions captured IP perspectives, traditional leadership influence, cultural appropriateness, and program challenges. The convergent design enabled a holistic, culturally grounded assessment of program implementation barriers and socioeconomic opportunities.

Research Setting. The study was conducted in four mountainous barangays of Carranglan—Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar—home to primarily Kalanguya and Bugkalot IP communities. These areas are classified as Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), characterized by limited infrastructure, low access to education and health services, subsistence-based economies, and strong adherence to indigenous cultural practices. Barangays vary in population size, household composition, and livelihood opportunities, providing a contextually rich environment to examine 4Ps implementation and culturally informed community responses.

Participants and Sampling. The study involved 91 4Ps family-beneficiaries from the four barangays, selected using a two-stage sampling procedure. Stratified sampling identified barangays as strata to ensure proportional representation, followed by simple random sampling to select families within each barangay. Ethical protocols were observed, including informed consent, voluntary participation, confidentiality, and culturally sensitive engagement with IP leaders and elders.

Research Instruments. *4Ps Implementation Effectiveness Questionnaire:* A 40-item instrument developed by the researcher to measure program effectiveness across four dimensions: program accessibility and delivery, health and education compliance outcomes, socioeconomic upliftment, and cultural sensitivity/community empowerment. Responses used a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree) and were interpreted from “Not Implemented” to “Fully Implemented and Sustained.” Open-ended items collected qualitative insights on challenges, barriers, and recommendations.

Data Collection Procedure. Approval was secured from institutional authorities, local government, DSWD, and IP community leaders. Orientation sessions explained study objectives, procedures, voluntary participation, and ethical safeguards. Surveys and open-ended questions were administered with respect to cultural protocols, community schedules, and language preferences. Quantitative data were encoded for statistical analysis, and qualitative responses underwent thematic analysis to identify patterns, cultural influences, and program-related experiences.

Statistical Analysis. Quantitative data were analyzed using arithmetic means to determine levels of 4Ps implementation effectiveness across the barangays. Qualitative data were analyzed thematically using QDA Miner Lite, enabling systematic coding, pattern identification, and integration with quantitative findings to produce a culturally informed evaluation of program outcomes.

4. Results and Discussion

This study evaluated the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) as implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in selected indigenous communities within four barangays of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija—namely, Minuli, Capintalan, Putlan, and Salazar. Specifically, it assessed the program’s implementation across four key dimensions: program accessibility and delivery, education and health compliance outcomes, socioeconomic upliftment, and cultural sensitivity and community empowerment. The research was conducted within the fiscal year 2025.

Quantitative data were gathered from a sample of 91 program beneficiaries using a structured survey questionnaire. In addition, qualitative data were collected from the beneficiaries through an open-ended question at the end of each questionnaire. The qualitative component aimed to identify challenges and barriers encountered during program implementation and to generate recommendations for improving program effectiveness and fostering culturally responsive, inclusive socioeconomic opportunities. Quantitative data were analyzed using mean scores, while qualitative narratives were interpreted through thematic analysis.

The study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the four selected barangays of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, focusing on four key dimensions: program accessibility and delivery, education and health compliance outcomes, socioeconomic upliftment, and cultural sensitivity and

community empowerment. It also sought to identify the challenges and barriers encountered in the implementation of 4Ps within the selected indigenous and local communities. Furthermore, the study aimed to generate recommendations that would promote socioeconomic opportunities and enhance the proper and culturally responsive implementation of the program. Finally, the research intended to derive insights from the findings that could inform and support the development of inclusive, community-centered policies in local government administration, with particular emphasis on social development. The following are the salient results of the study.

1. The implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the selected barangays of Carranglan is generally effective, with a grand mean of 3.86, described as Implemented. Cultural Sensitivity and Community Empowerment scored highest ($\bar{x} = 3.90$), highlighting the importance of respecting Indigenous identity and engaging community leaders. Socio-Economic Upliftment ($\bar{x} = 3.87$) reflects improvements in household welfare and food security, though long-term livelihood sustainability requires enhancement. Program Accessibility and Delivery ($\bar{x} = 3.85$) and Education and Health Compliance Outcomes ($\bar{x} = 3.81$) were also implemented, with minor challenges in payout delays, service accessibility, and monitoring. Overall, 4Ps effectively addresses immediate needs while emphasizing culturally grounded interventions.
2. The sustainability, equity, and livelihood considerations are pivotal for the effectiveness of the 4Ps program in Indigenous communities. While cash grants provide immediate financial relief, participants emphasized that without complementary skills training, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive planning, households remain dependent and vulnerable. The results suggest that integrating economic empowerment initiatives, culturally sensitive interventions, and community-led decision-making can significantly enhance self-reliance, resilience, and long-term socio-economic outcomes. Therefore, the 4Ps' impact extends beyond short-term assistance when it actively fosters capacity building, equitable access, and sustainable development pathways.
3. The beneficiaries recognize the long-term sustainability of 4Ps program benefits as contingent upon integrated strategies that combine community empowerment, Indigenous leadership participation, and household capacity-building for self-reliance. Participants highlighted the importance of skills training, livelihood support, and participatory decision-making to ensure that program impacts extend beyond temporary financial assistance. These insights underscore that social protection initiatives are most effective when designed to reduce dependency, foster inclusivity, and strengthen local agency. Consequently, the program's long-term success relies on embedding culturally responsive, empowerment-focused, and economically enabling interventions within its implementation framework.
4. The insights derived from the challenges and recommendations of the 4Ps program emphasize that cash transfers alone are insufficient to achieve sustainable social development. Local government policies must integrate accessibility, cultural sensitivity, livelihood promotion, infrastructure development, inclusivity, and sustainability to create holistic social protection programs. A combination of participatory governance, capacity-building, and economic empowerment strategies can enhance the effectiveness, equity, and long-term impact of interventions targeting marginalized Indigenous communities. By adopting these insights, LGUs can formulate policies that not only provide immediate relief but also empower communities to achieve self-reliance, resilience, and socio-economic progress.

5. Conclusions

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

- The 4Ps in Carranglan is generally effective, with highest impact on cultural sensitivity and community empowerment, improved socio-economic conditions, and overall accessibility, though minor issues exist in payouts and monitoring.

- Sustainability, equity, and livelihood support are essential; cash grants provide short-term relief, but skills training, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive planning enhance self-reliance, resilience, and long-term socio-economic outcomes.
- Long-term program benefits depend on combining community empowerment, Indigenous leadership participation, and household capacity-building; participatory decision-making and livelihood support reduce dependency and strengthen cultural and economic agency.
- Cash transfers alone are insufficient; local policies must integrate accessibility, cultural sensitivity, livelihood promotion, and participatory governance to ensure sustainable development, equity, and empowerment in Indigenous communities.

Recommendation - Based on the significant findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are offered.

- Local government units (LGUs) and program implementers should actively involve Indigenous leaders, elders, and community members in planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Program materials and orientations must respect local values, traditions, and languages to enhance trust, acceptance, and participation. Family Development Sessions should be adapted to reflect Indigenous knowledge systems and contextual realities, ensuring that cultural identity is preserved while facilitating program compliance.
- Complementary skills training and livelihood programs should be integrated into the 4Ps framework to promote self-reliance. This includes financial literacy, entrepreneurship workshops, and access to seed capital or microcredit. Strengthening these interventions will ensure that beneficiaries can translate cash grants into sustainable income-generating activities, reducing dependency and improving long-term socio-economic outcomes.
- Efforts should focus on addressing logistical and infrastructural challenges, such as remote locations, delayed payouts, and limited digital connectivity. Implementers should establish mobile or community-based distribution points, streamline documentation procedures, and ensure timely disbursement of grants to enhance accessibility and program efficiency, particularly in geographically isolated areas.
- Encourage beneficiaries' active involvement in decision-making, program evaluation, and community development initiatives. Establish Technical Working Groups (TWGs) or local advisory councils composed of community members, civil society, and LGU representatives to foster transparency, responsiveness, and local ownership of program outcomes.
- Best practices and lessons learned from the implementation in Carranglan should be documented and used as a model for other Indigenous and marginalized communities. Replication efforts must maintain cultural responsiveness, integrate livelihood and empowerment components, and ensure continuous monitoring to adapt strategies based on local needs and contexts.

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