

# Exploring the Effectiveness of Pantawid Pamilyang Filipino Program (4Ps) Family Development Sessions: Understanding, Challenges, and Impact on Exiting Household Beneficiaries in Marawi City

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## **Abstract**

This research examines the understanding level of the 4Ps beneficiaries in Marawi City regarding the Family Development Sessions provided by their assigned city links since joining the program, along with the impact and challenges they face. Structured questionnaires and focused group discussions were carried out with 45 participants. The analysis revealed that the participants' comprehension of the FDS modules was limited, with only certain topics like "Food and Nutrition" and those related to the Marawi Siege and COVID-19 Pandemic being well understood and practiced by the beneficiaries. Challenges mainly revolved around venue issues and social commitments. While the FDS had a positive impact on the respondents, some struggled to implement their learnings due to conflicting beliefs, and the community empowerment aspect fell short. Based on the study's results, the researcher recommends the following actions: 1. Ensure beneficiaries understand topics by evaluating comprehension after each session. 2. Conduct periodic evaluations to assess knowledge retention. 3. Establish fixed FDS dates to avoid communication issues. 4. Secure spacious venues for sessions in coordination with barangay officials. 5. Continuously remind beneficiaries of the importance of FDS attendance. 6. Hold monthly FDS for all parent groups. 7. Tailor activities to suit all beneficiaries' capacities. 8. Encourage questions and feedback during sessions. 9. Stress the importance of communication for parent leaders. 10. Implement spot-checks by higher authorities to ensure compliance with FDS guidelines.

## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

#### **Rationale**

In less developed countries, cash grants for poor sectors become necessary for the government to provide, aiming to alleviate their adverse conditions. The most popular grant is the conditional cash transfer (CCT) that was initially implemented in Mexico and Brazil. In the Philippines, the government launched a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program for its citizens in February 2008. This program was called the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which serves as the country's version of CCT. This was administered and implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as they

are mandated to put into action this initiative, as part of their responsibility to support, safeguard, rehabilitate, and empower individuals, families, and communities facing social, economic, and physical challenges, with the goal of enhancing their quality of life.

On April 17, 2020, the 4Ps became a regular program of the national government through the passage of Republic Act 11310, or “An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program” or, more recently, the “4Ps Act”. According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as of June 30, 2020, the program covers a total of 4,295,738 active household beneficiaries across 41,606 barangays in the entire country. In Lanao del Sur, there were an estimated 70,000 active household beneficiaries, and in Marawi City, there were 11,000 active household beneficiaries.

The 4Ps of the Philippines are different from other CCT programs in other countries because it has the Family Development Session (FDS) as one of its conditionalities that goes beyond improving the economic aspect of the family. FDS is a monthly gathering of 4P beneficiaries in each barangay. It is organized once a month for two hours, facilitated by an assigned city or municipal link, and usually attended by a parent beneficiary, such as the mother or a qualified guardian. The aim is to provide recipients with essential knowledge and skills relevant to their daily lives. FDS aims to enhance their parenting capabilities and encourage them to be more active citizens of society. It is also a psychosocial and psycho-educational intervention of the program to encourage positive family values, strengthen marital relationships, and promote involvement and participation in community development activities, financial management responsibility, social awareness, volunteerism, and leadership for strengthened individual and community development.

These foregoing objectives of the FDS lead the researcher to venture into this kind of study by determining how the 4Ps Marawi City Household Beneficiaries understand the Family Development Sessions modules conducted to them based on the guidelines provided by DSWD and what their purpose in attending the sessions, their challenges, and the impact of the said sessions on their lives as they are going to exit the program after 15 years.

### **Objectives of the Research**

The general objective of this study is to assess the exiting household beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in relation to the family development sessions based on Memorandum Circular No. 22, s. The 2018 “Enhanced Guidelines on the Implementation and the Family Development Session of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program” specifically aimed to:

1. Identify the level of understanding of the respondents to the Modules of Family Development Session.
2. Identify the purpose of the respondent’s attendance at the family development sessions.
3. Identify the challenges experienced by 4Ps exiting household beneficiaries during the conduct of family development sessions.
4. Identify the impact of the family development sessions on the 4Ps of household beneficiaries in Marawi City.
5. Recommend strategies for conducting family development sessions and evaluation methods to ensure the positive impact of the family development sessions on the 4Ps, including household beneficiaries of the 4Ps.

### **Scope and Limitation of the Research**

The study is limited to the 4Ps exiting household beneficiaries in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Philippines.

They are the code 14: No Eligible (0–18 y/o) for CVS Monitoring (Certified by RPMO) as of Period 4 of the year 2023. The family development session modules that were investigated in this study were based on the guidelines of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in implementing the family development sessions.

### **Research Methodology**

To accomplish the abovementioned objectives, the following research activities were conducted:

- A. Structured Questionnaire. The questionnaire focused on the family development session modules identified in the DSWD guidelines for implementing FDS.
- B. Focused group discussion. Focusing on the purpose of household beneficiaries in attending FDS, strategies and challenges that they are experiencing during the conduct of FDS, and the impact of FDS on their health and nutrition, family values, marital relationships, education, psychosocial needs of children, and community empowerment and participation as they are going to exit or graduate from the program.

### **Research Design**

This research employed a quantitative research approach; thus, it utilized the ex-post factor research design, specifically a cross-sectional survey conducted and focused group discussion, as its primary data needed during the conduct of this research. Moreover, it focused on how the 4Ps Marawi City Exiting Household Beneficiaries understand the Family Development Session modules conducted to them based on the guidelines provided by DSWD, what are the strategies and challenges of the 4Ps Marawi City Exiting Household Beneficiaries, and what is the impact of the said sessions as they are going to exit the program after 10+ years. Furthermore, it used statistical tools such as frequency count, percentage distribution, and mean score (weighted mean).

### **Locale of the Study**

The locale of this research is Marawi City, which is the only Islamic city in the Philippines, and it is a 4th-class component city and the capital of the province of Lanao del Sur, Philippines. According to the 2020 census, it has a population of 207,010 people. It is located on the shores of Lake Lanao and is primarily inhabited by the Meranaw people. The city is also called the "summer capital of the south" due to its higher elevation and cooler climate, a nickname it shares with Malaybalay City. Currently, it has 98 barangays, after the two barangays known as Brgy. Boganga II and Brgy. Datu Dalidigan was added to the previous 96 barangays (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020). Moreover, there are an estimated 11,000 active household beneficiaries of the Panatwid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

### **Population and Sample**

The population of the study, which totaled one hundred fifty (150), were exiting or graduating beneficiaries of 4Ps. A sample of forty-five (45) was obtained, which constitutes thirty (30) percent of the total population.

### **Sampling Techniques Used**

The data gathering involved multiple stages. These are the following: first, coordinate with the 4Ps Marawi Cluster Office and identify the exiting household beneficiaries of 4Ps. Second, identify barangays that

have existing household beneficiaries of 4Ps. Third, identify the statistics of exiting household beneficiaries who will serve as respondents in the study. Lastly, the study used simple random sampling.

### Statistical tools used

The following statistical tools will be used in the treatment of the data:

1. Frequency & Percentage – this will be used to illustrate the tabular demonstration of the respondent's profile.

The formula is:

$$P \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

2. Weighted Mean – this will be used to determine the overall percentage in a group of data.

The formula is:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i n_i}{n}$$

Where  $\bar{x}$  = mean percentage

$\Sigma$  = total summation of percentage in a given category or component

$n$  = number of cases observed

## Chapter II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RELATED STUDIES

#### Related Literature

##### A. Definition

##### Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, also known as 4P's, is a government initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of the most impoverished families by offering conditional cash grants to support the nutrition, health, and education of children aged 0-18. This program draws inspiration from successful Conditional Cash Grant programs in Latin America and African nations, which have effectively helped lift millions of individuals out of poverty globally (Official Gazette of the Philippines, 2012).

##### Family Development Session

The Family Development Session is one of the conditions of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. According to Memorandum Circular No. 22 of the Enhanced Guidelines for Implementation of Family Development Session of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Family Development Session was deemed an important intervention to realize the family development trust of the program as well as strengthen the fulfillment of investing in the human capital of families and children 0–18 years old. It is a psychosocial and psycho-educational intervention that encourages positive family values, strengthens marital relationships, and promotes involvement, participation, volunteerism, and leadership to strengthen individual and community empowerment. This is conducted once a month at the agreed-upon time and schedule of the parent group and the assigned officer.

##### 1. Legal Basis

According to Memorandum Circular No. 22 series of 2018 on Enhanced Guidelines on the Implementation and the Family Development Session of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the following are the

legal basis of the Family Development Session:

**A. *REPUBLIC ACT No. 11310 An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)***

*Section 4. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). - The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) serves as the country's primary poverty reduction initiative and a program for investing in human capital. It offers conditional cash transfers to impoverished households for up to seven (7) years, aiming to enhance their health, nutrition, and education. In exceptional cases, the National Advisory Council (NAC) may suggest extending this period.*

*Section 11. Conditions for Entitlement. - All qualified household-beneficiaries shall comply with all of the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:*

*(f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family development sessions conducted by the DSWD, at least once a month.*

**B. *Agenda for Sustainable Development***

*The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets aim to expand upon the accomplishments of the Millennium Development Goals and address any gaps that remain. Their objective is to uphold the human rights of all individuals, promote gender equality, and empower women and girls. These goals are interconnected and cannot be separated, as they strive to harmonize the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.*

**C. *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)***

*The UNCRC, adopted by the Philippines in 1990, is an international agreement that establishes basic benchmarks for state parties to safeguard and advance the rights of children.*

**D. *1987 Philippine Constitution***

*The state acknowledges the importance of family life, safeguarding and enhancing the family as a fundamental independent social entity. It also commits to equally supporting the well-being of both the mother and the unborn child from the moment of conception (Article 2, Section 1).*

**E. *EO 209 s. 1987: The Family Code of the Philippines***

*Both spouses are required to reside together, demonstrate mutual love, respect, and fidelity, and provide each other with mutual assistance and support (Article 68). The responsibility for managing the household is the right and duty of both spouses (Article 71).*

**F. *PD 603: The Child and Youth Welfare Code***

*The Child and Youth Welfare Code emphasizes that a child's character development starts at home. It is crucial for all family members to collaborate in fostering a nurturing and harmonious home environment, as this greatly influences the child's overall growth and development.*

**G. *RA 8980: Early Childhood care and development Act***

*The goal is to empower parents as the main caregivers and educators of their children from birth, utilizing parent education to support and facilitate optimal growth and development.*

**H. *Section 7 of Executive Order No. 43, issued in 2011, focuses on Human Development and Poverty Reduction within the Cabinet Cluster.***

*The aim is to enhance the quality of life for Filipinos by translating the benefits of good governance into tangible advantages that empower disadvantaged groups. Specifically, the cluster will work towards:*

1. Prioritizing education as a key investment in people, poverty reduction, and national competitiveness;
2. Emphasizing the importance of promoting and safeguarding public health;



3. Enhancing the capabilities and opportunities for the poor and marginalized;
4. Strengthening social protection and involving communities in their own development;
5. Advocating for gender equality in all public policies and programs; and
6. Ensuring the effective implementation of national government poverty reduction programs at the local level.

### Related Studies

A study conducted in assessment on the Family Development Session Module of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and conducted in nine cities and municipalities in different regions of the Philippines found that eleven (11) FDS modules got low ratings on comfort of use and delivery because of the absence of facilitator's notes and suggestions on how to adapt the FDS module to the local setting and participant group. And its text was heavy and lacked visuals; therefore, it is not attractive to readers, and in terms of understandability, the topics are too technical for the participants to absorb. The assessment of the FDS modules was done by undertaking a desk review of 11 modules following a set of criteria, namely, content (30%), structure (10%), visual design (10%), relevance and practicability (15%), coherence (10%), understandability (10%), and ease of use and delivery (15%). Moreover, based on the assessment, the ECCD Manual got the highest rating, while the FCBDP Manual got the lowest rating. In general, the modules were rated from fair (FCBDP) to very satisfactory (Gabay, PAM, Module on Disabilities, PACD, WASH). On the other hand, MEP, ACM, CSAP-P, and CSAP-CY got satisfactory ratings. Only ECCD got an excellent rating. As noted, the FCBDP module got the lowest rating. The indicators that got low ratings are ease of use and delivery, understandability, and visual design.

The researchers suggested that the technical topic and the manual should provide enough guides for facilitators and references for additional reading. In addition, the technical terms should be simplified for a clearer understanding. Another area of improvement is the use of in-text citations, particularly for technical topics. Also, it was observed by the researchers that the majority of the modules did not observe proper citation of resource materials, and there was inconsistency in the modules in terms of their layout. Accordingly, it would be better to have one format and one layout for all the modules used in the Family Development Session (Dizon, Albor, Serrano, & Reyes, 2017).

Another study titled "Level of Application of Family Development Session to Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) Beneficiaries" by Raquel C. Pambid, Ph.D., of Pangasinan State University. The researcher used the descriptive method of research with sixty (60) respondents from Bayambang, Pangasinan. They were selected purposefully and asked about their family profile, their family size, family type, and number of children; their level of application of the health-related topics in Garantisadong Pambata, Cases on Common Childhood Illnesses, Wastong Nutrisyon, Waste Management, and Backyard Gardening; and the level of effectiveness of the health-related topics in their family life.

The result showed that topics such as Garantisadong Pambata, Prevention of Childhood Illness, Wastong Nutrisyon, Waste Management, and Backyard Gardening Practices and Activities were always applied in the 4Ps families. Garantisadong Pambata topic on proper hygiene practices for children was in. In addition, all health-related practices and activities of FDS were "effective" except for backyard gardening, which according to them was "least effective." Thus, the researcher suggested that backyard gardening be properly imposed and monitored for all 4P families at home.

Subsequently, a study on the familial relationship of 4P beneficiaries in Bay, Laguna, Philippines, was conducted by Thessalonica Soriano Manguiat of the Laguna State Polytechnic University San Pablo City

Campus. The study aimed to analyze the changes in the familial relationships of 4P beneficiaries brought about by FDS. This study utilized a descriptive design, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses were used. A simple random sampling procedure was applied to select eighty-four respondents who were 4Ps parent beneficiaries in Bay, Laguna, Philippines. The use of a questionnaire and a focus group discussion were employed to gather data on the respondent's attitude and practices toward marital and parental relationships.

Consequently, the parent beneficiaries found it easier to implement lessons on parental relationships rather than marital relationships. The parent beneficiaries improved their parental relationship by being 4P beneficiaries, positively affecting the children's behavior. Likewise, they became more responsible and sensitive to the needs of their children.

As gleaned from the review of completed studies, family development sessions have effects on the 4P beneficiaries. However, there's no local study conducted on the beneficiaries of Marawi City, as they were also part of the program. The present study was an attempt to partly fill in the gap.

### **Chapter III**

#### **RESULT, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS**

This chapter presents the data and analysis of the findings as well as their discussion, categorized under the following headings: Level of Understanding from FDS Modules, Intent in Attending the FDS, Challenges of Beneficiaries in Attending the FDS, and the Impact of FDS on the Beneficiaries in Terms of Health and Nutrition, Family Values, Marital Relationships, Education and Psychosocial Needs of Children, and Community Empowerment/Participation.

##### **Level of Understanding from FDS Modules**

Table 1 presents the frequency count, percentage distribution, and mean score of the responses as to the perceived level of understanding of the exiting beneficiaries of the Family Development Sessions that they attended since they became part of the 4Ps.

A close look at the same table, considering the twenty-four (24) general topics as indicators of the variable, obtained a weighted mean of 2.84, interpreted as discussed, and understood a small part. This generally means that now and then the majority of the beneficiaries understood a small part of the topics that are being discussed by the City Links: goals and directions, conditionalities, appreciating early childhood enrichment, social preparation and recertification, empowerment and re-affiliation of paternal abilities (ERPAT) manual, and parenting effectiveness manual. Moreover, the respondents disclosed during the focused group discussion that the reason why they understand a small part of the topics is that they cannot relate sometimes to the terms that are being used, and they are shy to clarify it to the city link because they thought that they would make fun of them or laugh by their co-beneficiaries, labeled as "bobo" or stupid, and also that the city link might get mad at them.

Particularly, there were indicators in which the answer of the respondent seemed to confirm a positive result. The indicators that "Food and Nutrition Module (30, 67%) and other modules formulated about the Marawi Sege and COVID-19 Pandemic (30, 67%) obtained a mean score of 4.67 and 4.36, respectively, were interpreted as the respondents being able to understand the topic and practicing it with their families. These findings imply that the respondents were able to involve in their daily lives the provision of nutritious food for their children. Also, during the two (2) big challenges that affected them, they were able to understand the things that they needed to do at that moment. This result can be supported by the

study of Raquel C. Pambid, Ph.D., of Pangasinan State University, in which she found that Wastong Nutrisyon is one of the practices and activities that were always applied in the 4Ps families as per the Family Development Session.

However, there are also modules in which most of the respondents answered that those topics were not discussed with them. The modules on “Pagiging Mabuting Pilipino: Active Citizenship Module (20,44%), Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CSAP) (20,44%), Regional IP (Indigenous People) (31,69%), and Positive Discipline Manuals (30,67%) obtained a mean score of 1.56, 1.67, 1.49, and 1.67, respectively, interpreted as not discussed. During the focused group discussion, the respondents disclosed that they could not remember if these topics were discussed with them, which is why they answered not discussed. Accordingly, sometimes some of their city links don’t conduct FDS monthly, so maybe at the time when the city links did not conduct FDS, the said topics were the assigned topics for the month.

The modules on Principles in Implementing the Program and in Upholding the Rights of Women, Children, Indigenous People, and Persons with Disabilities, Preparing Families and Ensure the Growth and Development of Children, including Children with Disabilities, Parental Responsibilities, Law Protecting Women and Children Against All Forms of Violence, Abuse, and Exploitation, Modyol Ukol sa Kapanasanan, Child Labor, and Social Preparation Module of the Sustainable Livelihood Program obtained a weighted mean of 1.80–2.59 with an interpretation of discussed but did not understand the topic. Accordingly, there were complex terms used in the sessions that made the beneficiaries confused. That’s why most of the topics were discussed with them, but they did not understand them. Moreover, some of the beneficiaries disclosed that sometimes during the discussion they could understand it, but when they went home, they had already forgotten it. And the noisy environment also contributes to the factors that hinder them from properly understanding the topics. That is why most of them answered the questions discussed, but they did not understand.

Lastly, the modules on Enhanced Module on Sanitation (Water and Sanitation and Hygiene or Wash), Session Guide on Tuberculosis Awareness, and Family and Community-Based Disaster Preparedness obtained a weighted mean of 3.78, 4.18, and 4.13, respectively, with an interpretation of discussed and understand all the topics. The respondents disclosed that these topics were all discussed with them, and they understood them, but they did not usually practice them with their families.

**Table 1 Frequency Count, Percentage Distribution and Mean Scores on Respondent’s Responses to the Level of Understanding from FDS Modules**

Modules:	ND		DBDU		DUSP		DUAT		DUATPF		%	W	I
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
<b>A. Module 1 - Laying the foundation of 4Ps. Discusses the overall perspective of Pantawid Pamilya as a nationwide program that seeks to uplift the lives of the poor households in the country.</b>													
<b>a. Goals and Direction of the Program</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		2.89	DUSP



<b>b. Conditionalities</b>	0	0	4	9	40	89	1	2	0	0	2.93	DUSP
<b>c. Principles in Implementing the program and in upholding the rights of women, children, indigenous people and person with disabilities.</b>	5	11	10	22	30	67	0	0	0	0	2.56	DBDU
<b>B. Module 2 – Preparing and nurturing the Filipino Family. Discussed about strengthening and enabling families to become active participants in facilitating change.</b>												
<b>a. Preparing Family and ensuring the growth and development of children including children with disabilities.</b>	4	9	30	67	11	24	0	0	0	0	2.16	DBDU
<b>b. Parental Responsibilities</b>	0	0	30	67	15	33	0	0	0	0	2.33	DBDU
<b>c. Law protecting women and children against all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.</b>	5	11	35	78	5	11	0	0	0	0	2	DBDU
<b>C. Participation of Filipino Family in the Community Development</b>												
<b>a. Appreciating Early Childhood Enrichment (Early Care and Development)</b>	0	0	5	11	40	89	0	0	0	0	2.89	DUSP
<b>b. Pagiging Mabuting Pilipino: Active Citizenship Module</b>	20	44	25	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.56	ND
<b>c. Modyol Ukol sa Kpanasanan</b>	20	44	10	22	10	22	5	11	0	0	2	DBDU
<b>d. Gabay at Mapa para sa Listong Pamilya</b>	0	0	0	0	40	89	5	11	0	0	3.11	DUSP
<b>e. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CSAP)</b>	20	44	20	44	5	11	0	0	0	0	1.67	ND
<b>f. Child Labor</b>	20	44	10	22	15	33	0	0	0	0	1.89	DBDU
<b>g. Enhanced Module on Sanitation (Water and Sanitation and Hygiene or Wash)</b>	0	0	0	0	10	22	35	78	0	0	3.78	DUAT
<b>h. Food and Nutrition Module</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	33	30	67	4.67	DUATPF
<b>i. Social Preparation and Recertification</b>	0	0	0	0	45	100	0	0	0	0	3	DUSP

<b>j. Session Guide on Tuberculosis Awareness</b>	0	0	0	0	6	13	39	87	0	0	3.87	DUAT
<b>k. Regional IP (Indigenous People)</b>	31	69	6	13	8	18	0	0	0	0	1.49	ND
<b>l. Family and Community-Based Disaster Preparedness</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	82	8	18	4.18	DUAT
<b>m. Empowerment and Re-affiliation of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT) Manual</b>	0	0	0	0	34	76	7	16	4	9	3.33	DUSP
<b>n. Parenting Effectiveness Sessions</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	87	6	13	4.13	DUAT
<b>o. Parenting the Adolescent Manual (PAM)</b>	5	11	21	47	4	9	15	33	0	0	2.64	DUSP
<b>p. Positive Discipline Manuals</b>	30	67	0	0	15	33	0	0	0	0	1.67	ND
<b>q. Social Preparation Module of the Sustainable Livelihood Program</b>	6	13	20	44	8	18	11	24	0	0	2.53	DBDU
<b>r. Other modules developed by the NPMO and RPMO pls specify: <u>BOMB/MARAWI SIEGE 2018 AND COVID PREVENTION PANDEMIC 2020</u></b>	0	0	5	11	4	9	6	13	30	67	4.36	DUATPF
<b>Total Weighted Mean</b>											2.84	
Legend: ND – Not Discussed, DBDU - Discussed but did not understand the topic, DUSP - Discussed and understand a small part of the topic, DUAT - Discussed and understand all the topic, DUATPF - Discussed and understand the topic and practiced it with my family												

Scale: ND; 1.00-1.79, DBDU; 1.80-2.59, DUSP; 2.60-3.39, DUAT; 3.40-4.19, DUATPF; 4.20-5.00

### Purpose of respondents attending FDS

The respondents disclosed their purpose for attending the family development sessions. Most of them answered that they attend FDS because they want to comply with the conditionalities of FDS because FDS is one of the key conditions of the program. A few of them answered that they wanted to learn new things about family development and other social topics, which is the main goal of the FDS. Moreover, there are also respondents who said that they attend the FDS to get an update on their status in the program, especially those respondents who did not receive their grants in the previous period during the FDS. Lastly, they attend because they are being forced by the parent leader to attend by saying that they will be deleted from the program if they not attend the session. This implies that they did not understand the purpose of FDS in their lives.

### Challenges experienced by respondents during the conduct of the FDS

During the focused group discussion, the respondents disclosed the challenges that they experienced during the conduct of the family development session, which were summarized as follows:

1. Small Venue

2. Noisy environment and venue (gym or barangay hall)
3. There are not enough chairs in the venue, and some of the respondents disclosed that they are standing for 2 hours during the FDS, which frustrates them from attending the sessions.
4. They cannot attend because of a conflict with their livelihood and looking after their young children during the FDS.
5. Attending social obligations such as weddings, funerals, family bonding, etc. that hinder them from attending the FDS.
6. Activities beyond the capacity of the respondents (ex., writing; most of the respondents are illiterate people and don't know how to write)
7. Felt nervous to clarify the topic and asked questions to the city links.
8. Late Dissemination of the Schedule of FDS.
9. Not able to attend because the parent leader did not inform the respondents, especially when the respondents and parent leaders have conflict with each other.
10. Distance from the venue. After the Marawi Siege, most of the respondents are coming from the most affected area of Marawi City, and they are now living in different places, such as Iligan City, municipalities in Lanao del Sur, and the different shelters in Marawi City.
11. Hard time locating the respondents by the parent leaders and city links until now after the Marawi Siege.
12. Modular mode of FDS. During the pandemic period of 2020–2021, the modular mode of FDS provided big challenges to the respondents because most of them could not read or write, and their families also had a hard time understanding the topics.

### **Impacts of FDS on the respondents**

The researcher also determines the impact of the FDS on the respondents' health and nutrition status, family values, marital relationships, education and psychosocial needs of children, financial responsibility and literacy, and community empowerment. The responses of the respondents were summarized as follows:

#### **Health and Nutrition**

The health and nutrition status of the family improved, according to the respondents. They learned how to properly prepare their food. They can now serve nutritious food from their gardens because they were taught not to depend on the market alone for their food. Instead, they learned how to grow their own food. Moreover, the respondents practiced regular prenatal care during pregnancy, as reinforced by the program and FDS topics. Before, they just did prenatal care and consulted a doctor when their due date was near. They also visit a real medical doctor when their family members are sick. Before, they just relied on the Quack Doctor in their barrios. They understand the tuberculosis don'ts and dos; before, they were afraid when they heard that one person had tuberculosis because they were not aware of this kind of medical condition. Lastly, the respondents are now aware that weight and height are important to determine the nutritional status of their children. Before, they didn't care about the weight and height of their children; what mattered to them was that they could eat three times a day.

However, some of the respondents said that they are afraid that they are now going to exit the program, and the positive impact of FDS on their health and nutrition might be affected because the inflation rate is going higher and higher, and it is possible that one day it will become difficult for them to provide

nutritious food to their family because the grants that they can get from the program are also used for buying food for their family. Unfortunately, their garden cannot sustain their daily food consumption.

### **Family Values**

According to the respondents, they were able to learn how to communicate with their children and control their emotions towards them when they get angry and stressed. Before, they directly hit their children. They are also now valuing having meals together as family time. Before, once a week they could eat together because the parents were going out early to do their livelihood, and they just left the food in the kitchen so that their children could eat on their own. Also, they are teaching their children to respect others, express their own ideas, and involve them in family problem solving.

Accordingly, these positive values that they acquired are a result of FDS topics about family values. Although this was already thought to them by their religion, Islam, this was strengthened during the FDS because they were reminded about it. In fact, during the FGD, most of them are lonely because they will now exit the program, and they said they cannot have the opportunity to listen to relevant topics for family development in a modern way.

### **Marital Relationships**

The marital relationship of the respondents is positively changing; they now have strong respect for each other. Moreover, they have become knowledgeable about family planning. However, when they use contraceptives as part of family planning, they are not practicing it because it is against their beliefs.

### **Education**

After knowing the importance of education and that education is one of the basic rights of their children, the respondents now monitor their children at school. In addition, the FDS session contributes a lot to the education status of their children because of the grants that they can have for every attendance in the Family Development Session, for which they can get 750 pesos. They added it to the grants for the educational needs of their children.

Now, the respondents were able to send their children to school, and some of their children finished college and were able to pass the licensure examination for teachers, social workers, and criminologists.

However, there were children who were not interested in finishing college because they preferred pursuing Arabic schools over Western schools after graduating high school.

### **Financial Responsibility and Literacy**

The respondents disclosed that they were able to learn about financial responsibility and literacy because this topic is very relatable to them since most of them are vendors in the market. However, their learnings are not applicable sometimes to their situation because they have relatives and friends who keep on borrowing money or crediting their small sari-sari store, and they are not paying on time, and sometimes they don't pay it anymore. This led to damage to their livelihood. For them, financial responsibility is a matter of trust and integrity.

On the other hand, the respondents are hoping to receive LAG after they graduate from the program because in other municipalities in Lanao del Sur, every graduate will receive 15,000 pesos as starting capital for their livelihood, and they are being monitored by the Sustainable Livelihood Program Officers of DSWD. But, in Marawi City, beneficiaries accordingly don't have funds provided for them.

### **Community Empowerment/Participation**

Accordingly, most of them are participating in community activities because most of the activities in their barangay are about the 4Ps program. However, when it comes to other activities, they choose to stay in their house and cook for their children or look after their small businesses and farms. It is because they don't want to waste their time on some activities in the barangay.

Although there are a few of them who have disclosed that they are now participating in other activities in their community; however, most of them are still thinking that if they can get incentives from the activity, they will participate in it. This only implies that the respondents are just participating if they can get something in return.

Thus, based on the results of the impact of the FDS modules on the respondents, we can conclude that they really learned something that provided positive change in their lives. However, we cannot deny that there are cases where their learnings cannot be implemented in their lives because it contradicts their beliefs, like the use of contraceptives as part of family planning. Also, their success in their livelihood is very risky because, as they said, they have borrowers who don't mind paying them back, which is why most of their small stores went bankrupt. Lastly, the community empowerment of FDS modules is likely to have failed to empower the respondents because, as they have said, they just participate in the activities in their community that deal with the 4Ps, or if the activity being conducted in the community will provide them incentives, they will participate. But if it's not, they choose not to participate.

## **Chapter VI**

### **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Summary**

This study aimed to assess the respondents' comprehension of the FDS modules provided by City Link, as well as the challenges and effects of these sessions as they prepare to leave the program after 15 years of participation. The study addressed the following questions: 1. What is the level of understanding of the respondents to the FDS modules conducted for them? 2. What is the purpose of the respondent's attendance at the FDS? 3. What are the challenges that they faced during the conduct of FDS? 4. What is the impact of the FDS modules on the respondents in terms of health and nutrition, family values, marital relationships, education, financial responsibility and literacy, and community empowerment and participation?

This was conducted on November 2–3, 2023, in Marawi City. Furthermore, the research approach used was both qualitative and quantitative, with a cross-sectional survey research design and an unobtrusive research design using frequency count, percentage distribution, and the mean in presenting, analyzing, and interpreting the data obtained from a sample of forty-five (45) respondents. In addition, the instruments used in the study were a questionnaire and focused group discussions. To gather the data, the researcher used the questionnaires to identify the level of understanding of the respondents to the FDS modules and a focused group discussion to deeply investigate their answers and determine their intent in attending the FDS, challenges experienced during the conduct of the FDS, and the impact of the FDS modules on their lives.

#### **Major Findings**

The findings revealed that the respondents' level of understanding of the FDS modules was interpreted as it was discussed with them by the city link, and they understood only a small part of it. This is quite



alarming because the goal of FDS will not be achieved if this is the major result of the research. The respondents disclosed during the focused group discussion that the reason why they understand a small part of the topics is that they cannot relate sometimes to the terms that are being used, and they are shy to clarify it to the city link because they thought that they would make fun of them or laugh by their co-beneficiaries, labeled as “bobo” or stupid, and also that the city link might get mad at them.

However, there are modules where the answer of the respondent seems to confirm a positive result. The indicators that “Food and Nutrition Module (30, 67%) and other modules formulated about the Marawi Siege and COVID-19 Pandemic (30, 67%) obtained a mean score of 4.67 and 4.36, respectively, were interpreted as the respondents being able to understand the topic and practicing it with their families. These findings imply that the respondents were able to involve in their daily lives the provision of nutritious food for their children. Also, during the two (2) big challenges that affected them, they were able to understand the things that they needed to do at that moment.

On the other hand, the researcher also determined the respondents' purpose for attending FDS. Most of them answered that they attend FDS because they want to comply with the conditionalities of FDS because FDS is one of the key conditions of the program. Few of them answered that they wanted to learn new things about family development and other social topics, which is the main goal of the FDS. Moreover, there are also respondents who said that they attend the FDS to get an update on their status in the program, especially those respondents who did not receive their grants in the previous period during the FDS. Lastly, they attend because they are being forced by the parent leader to attend by saying that they will be deleted from the program if they do not attend the session. This implies that they did not understand the purpose of FDS in their lives.

Then, the researcher also asked the respondents about the challenges that they experienced during the conduct of FDS. Accordingly, the challenges that they experience during the conduct of the Family Development Session which were summarized as follows: Small Venue, Noisy environment and venue (Gym or Barangay Hall), Not enough chairs in the venue some of the respondents disclosed that they are standing for 2 hours during the conduct FDS and this frustrate them to attend the sessions, Cannot attend because of conflict with their livelihood and look after their young children during the FDS, Attending Social Obligation such as wedding, funeral, family bonding etc. that hinder them to attend the FDS, Activities beyond the capacity of the respondents (Ex: Writing, most of the respondents are illiterate people and don't know how to write), Feeling nervous to clarify the topic and asked questions to the City Links, Late Dissemination of Schedule of FDS, Not able to attend because the parent leader did not inform the respondents especially when the respondents and parent leaders have conflict with each other, Distance of the venue. After Marawi Siege, most of the respondents are coming from the Most Affected Area of Marawi City, and they are now living in different places, such as Iligan City, Municipalities in Lanao del Sur, and the different shelters in Marawi City. It is hard to locate the respondents by the parent leaders and city links until now after Marawi Siege, and lastly, the modular mode of FDS provides big challenges to the respondents because most of them cannot read and write, and their families also have a hard time understanding the topics.

Finally, the researcher tried to determine the impact of FDS on the respondents. As a result, it implies that there is a real impact of the FDS modules on the respondents and that they really learned something that provides positive change in their lives. However, we cannot deny that there are cases where their learnings cannot be implemented in their lives because they contradict their beliefs, like the use of contraceptives as part of family planning. Also, their success in their livelihood is very risky because, as they said, they

have borrowers who don't mind paying them back, which is why most of their small stores went bankrupt. Also, the community empowerment of FDS modules is likely to have failed to empower the respondents because, as they have said, they just participate in the activities in their community that deal with the 4Ps, or if the activity conducted in the community will provide them incentives, they will participate. But if it's not, they choose not to participate.

### Recommendations

Based on the study's results, the researcher recommends the following actions:

1. Ensure beneficiaries understand topics by evaluating comprehension after each session.
2. Conduct periodic evaluations to assess knowledge retention.
3. Establish fixed FDS dates to avoid communication issues.
4. Secure spacious venues for sessions in coordination with barangay officials.
5. Continuously remind beneficiaries of the importance of FDS attendance.
6. Hold monthly FDS for all parent groups.
7. Tailor activities to suit all beneficiaries' capacities.
8. Encourage questions and feedback during sessions.
9. Stress the importance of communication for parent leaders.
10. Implement spot-checks by higher authorities to ensure compliance with FDS guidelines.

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