

Tides of change: Role of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in the social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare in fishing communities in Capiz

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ABSTRACT

Fishing communities in Capiz continue to face challenges, including unstable income, limited educational opportunities, and social vulnerability. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a government intervention that aims to improve living conditions through social assistance and human capital development. This mixed-method study used survey-based correlational analyses and in-depth interviews to examine the role of the 4Ps in enhancing social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among beneficiaries in coastal communities. The study involved 348 participants and employed a four-part researcher-made and modified questionnaire. Frequency, percentage, mean, and Pearson's r were used to analyze the data at the 0.05 level of significance. Findings showed that most respondents were 20–30 years old (48%) and predominantly male (57%). Fathers (30%) and grandfathers (28%) were commonly identified as household heads. Most households earned below ₱10,000 monthly (88%) and had six or more family members (39%). Nearly half of the respondents (49%) had been beneficiaries for 1–2 years. In terms of education, 49% reported having one child who graduated from college, while 48% had none. Most households had one child currently attending school (79%). Economic activities mainly included selling fish in local markets (60%) and small-scale fishing (40%). The findings revealed high levels of social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among beneficiaries. However, statistical analysis showed no significant relationships among these variables.

Keywords: Social empowerment, educational outcome, economic resilience, economic welfare, and pantawid pamilyang pilipino program (4Ps).

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INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains one of the most serious global challenges, especially among rural and coastal communities that depend heavily on natural resources for survival. Fishing communities are among the most vulnerable sectors because their livelihoods are greatly

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affected by climate change, declining fish production, natural disasters, unstable market prices, and limited access to social services. These challenges influence not only their economic condition but also their social participation, educational opportunities, family relationships, and overall quality of life. To address these concerns, governments and international organizations have implemented social protection programs to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development among marginalized populations.

From a global perspective, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs have been widely recognized as effective poverty alleviation strategies. Countries such as Brazil and Mexico successfully implemented programs that improved education, healthcare, and household welfare among low-income families. These initiatives inspired the Philippines to establish the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), a government program that provides financial assistance to disadvantaged households while encouraging investments in education and health. International organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank emphasize that poverty reduction programs should not only provide economic support but also strengthen social empowerment, educational development, economic resilience, and family welfare (Reyes, 2019). In the Philippines, fishing communities remain among the poorest sectors due to unstable income, limited livelihood opportunities, and vulnerability to environmental disasters, conditions that underscore the necessity of targeted institutional responses.

To address these issues, the government institutionalized the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program through Republic Act No. 11310. The program provides financial assistance to poor households on the condition that beneficiaries comply with educational and health requirements, such as school attendance and regular health check-ups. Through this intervention, the government aims to break the cycle of poverty and improve the overall welfare of disadvantaged families. Within this framework, the present study focuses on four interrelated variables through which the program's contributions may be examined. The first is social empowerment, defined as individuals' and families' ability to actively participate in community activities, decision-making, and social development. Through Family Development Sessions (FDS), 4Ps beneficiaries gain knowledge about parenting, financial literacy, health, disaster preparedness, and community involvement, activities that may help fisherfolk families become more confident, informed, and socially engaged despite the challenges they face (Mina, 2019). The second variable is educational outcomes, focusing on children's academic participation and opportunities in fishing communities. Education is considered a vital tool in reducing poverty and improving future opportunities; however, many children from poor fishing families struggle to continue schooling due to financial difficulties and the demands of their livelihoods. The 4Ps Program supports education by helping families manage school-related expenses and encouraging regular school attendance, which may contribute to better educational attainment and long-term development.

The third variable is economic resilience, or the ability of families to cope with and recover from financial difficulties. Fishing communities are highly vulnerable to economic instability because their livelihoods depend on seasonal fishing activities and environmental conditions. Through financial assistance, the 4Ps Program may help families meet basic needs, reduce financial stress, and improve their capacity to withstand economic challenges and uncertainties (Tabuga, 2018). The fourth variable is family welfare, which refers to the overall well-being of family members, including health, nutrition, safety, emotional relationships, and quality of life. Poverty often limits a family's ability to provide proper healthcare, nutritious food, and stable living conditions. The 4Ps Program promotes family welfare by encouraging health compliance and providing financial support that helps families meet daily needs and improve their living standards. Taken together, these four variables represent an interconnected

set of outcomes through which the program's broad developmental impact on marginalized coastal communities may be assessed.

The significance of this study is further reinforced by its alignment with institutional, national, and international research priorities. In relation to institutional research priorities, Capiz State University, through its Research, Development, and Extension Center (RDEC), advocates studies that support sustainable development, inclusive education, community engagement, and socio-economic advancement. This study aligns with the university's research agenda by addressing the lived experiences and welfare conditions of marginalized fishing communities in Capiz, and it contributes to community-based research that may serve as a basis for policy formulation, extension programs, and sustainable development initiatives for coastal communities (Asis, 2021). Furthermore, this research is aligned with the College of Education Research Thrusts and Priorities 2024 to 2028, particularly the FORGE agenda under the Doctor of Education major in Industrial Education. The study supports the dimensions of research-driven practice, community partnership, organizational development, and sustainable social transformation. At the international level, the study is anchored on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. These goals collectively emphasize the importance of poverty reduction, educational access, improved health, livelihood sustainability, and social inclusion for marginalized communities such as fisherfolk families.

Despite numerous studies on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, several research gaps remain, particularly regarding fishing communities. Most previous studies have primarily focused on poverty reduction, compliance with program conditions, and educational participation among beneficiaries. While these studies provide important insights into the program's effectiveness, limited research has examined the combined influence of the 4Ps Program on social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare as an integrated set of outcomes. Furthermore, there is a lack of localized studies in Capiz that specifically explore the lived experiences and welfare conditions of fisherfolk families who continuously face economic and environmental challenges. Fishing communities remain among the most vulnerable sectors in society due to unstable income, seasonal livelihood opportunities, climate-related disasters, and limited access to basic social services. Despite government interventions, many fisherfolk households continue to struggle to meet their daily needs and improve their quality of life. These realities motivated the researcher to conduct the present study. Through this research, the researcher aims to determine how the 4Ps Program contributes to the social empowerment, educational development, economic resilience, and family welfare of fishing communities in Capiz. The study's findings may provide policymakers, local government units, and community development programs with valuable insights to strengthen social protection initiatives and promote sustainable, inclusive growth among marginalized coastal communities.

Statement of the problem

The primary purpose of this study was to describe the role of the 4Ps Program in social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fishing communities in Capiz.

Specifically, this sought to answer the following questions.

1. What is the socio-demographic profile of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz in terms of age, sex, household size, income level, number of children who graduated in college, number of children in school, and type of fishing activity?
2. What is the level of social empowerment among fishing households in general and in terms of community participation, decision-making capacity, and access to social networks?
3. What is the level of educational outcome among fishing households in general and in terms of school attendance, retention, and educational aspirations of their children?
4. What is the level of economic resilience among fishing households in general and in terms of income stability, savings behavior, and coping mechanisms during the lean fishing season?
5. What is the level of family welfare among fishing communities in general and in terms of health, nutrition, and overall quality of life?
6. Is there a significant relationship among social empowerment, educational outcome, economic resilience, and family welfare?
7. What output can be proposed based on the findings of the study?

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed-methods research design, which was deemed appropriate for investigating the role of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program in social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare in fishing communities in Capiz. As Mark (2016) explains, the term mixed-methods commonly designates the combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods within the same research project, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem through the integration of both approaches. The quantitative component utilized a survey-correlational method, which enabled the researcher to measure and analyze relationships among variables. As explained by David in Caluba (2016), survey research systematically gathers data to answer questions about human behavior under natural conditions, producing measurable and generalizable results on the effects of 4Ps participation. Complementing this, the qualitative component consisted of in-depth interviews that provided deeper insights into the lived experiences of beneficiaries. According to Boyce (2016), in-depth interviews explore participants' perceptions, feelings, and meanings, helping explain how and why the program influences their lives, decisions, and coping strategies. The integration of both approaches ensured triangulation, improved validity, and a more holistic interpretation of results, given that quantitative data identifies patterns and relationships while qualitative data explains the context behind these findings. This design was therefore suitable for capturing both measurable outcomes and lived experiences, providing a complete analysis of the 4Ps program's impact on social empowerment, education, economic resilience, and family welfare.

The participants of this study consisted of 348 4Ps recipients selected from a total population of 2,688 beneficiaries from the municipalities of Roxas City, Ivisan, Panay, President Roxas, Pilar, and Sapián. The sample size was determined using the Raosoft formula to ensure adequate representation while maintaining feasibility. Purposive sampling was used to identify participants who met the inclusion criteria of being active 4Ps beneficiaries from fishing households, ensuring that the respondents were directly relevant to the objectives of the study. In addition, convenience sampling was applied to select participants who were readily accessible and willing to participate during the data collection period, allowing for efficient gathering of information within the given time frame. The selection process was conducted in close coordination with the local government units to ensure the proper identification,

validation, and inclusion of qualified participants, thereby enhancing the accuracy and reliability of the sample.

The stratification of 4Ps fishing households across the selected municipalities reflects the proportional distribution of both the total beneficiaries and the corresponding sample participants. Roxas City, with 914 beneficiaries, was allocated 118 participants, representing 34% of the total sample. Ivisan, which has 213 beneficiaries, was represented by 28 participants or 7.92%. Panay, with 171 beneficiaries, was allotted 22 participants or 6.36%. President Roxas, having 129 beneficiaries, was represented by 17 participants or 4.80%. Pilar, which recorded the highest number of beneficiaries at 1,075, was represented by 139 participants or 39.99% of the sample. Lastly, Sapián, with 186 beneficiaries, was represented by 24 participants or 6.92%. The total population of 2,688 beneficiaries yielded a total sample size of 348 participants, comprising 100% of the allocated sample across all six municipalities.

To measure the variables of the study, the researcher developed a structured questionnaire aligned with the research objectives. The instrument was written in clear and simple language to ensure that participants could easily understand and accurately respond. It was composed of five parts. The first part gathered the socio-demographic profile of the participants, including age, sex, head of the family, monthly household income, number of household members, length of 4Ps membership, number of children who graduated from college, number of children currently in school, number of children who are 4Ps beneficiaries, and type of fishing activity. This section provided essential background information about the participants. The second part focused on social empowerment and was adapted from Zimmerman (2015). It measured participants' involvement in decision-making, community participation, self-confidence, and awareness of their roles in the family and community, reflecting the influence of the 4Ps program on their social engagement. The third part assessed educational outcomes using a modified instrument based on Darling-Hammond et al. (2021). It examined school attendance, academic participation, parental involvement, and improvements in children's learning behavior. The fourth part measured economic resilience using a researcher-made questionnaire. It evaluated households' ability to cope with financial difficulties, manage unstable income, and sustain daily needs, particularly in the context of fishing livelihoods. The fifth part assessed family welfare, focusing on health practices, nutrition, and access to basic services, family relationships, and overall quality of life among beneficiaries. Overall, the questionnaire provided a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic conditions and program impacts among 4Ps fishing households in Capiz.

Before the conduct of the main study, the research instrument underwent face and content validation by a panel of experts. The comments, suggestions, and recommendations of the validators were incorporated into the revision of the instrument. After validation, the questionnaire was pilot-tested, and Cronbach's Alpha was used to determine its reliability. The instrument obtained a reliability coefficient of 0.948, indicating excellent internal consistency. According to Taber (2018), values above 0.90 are considered highly reliable, suggesting that the instrument produced consistent and dependable results.

Following validation and reliability testing, the questionnaire was distributed to the participants for data collection. A five-point Likert scale was utilized to interpret the data on social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare, allowing for the computation of mean scores and corresponding descriptive interpretations. Under this scale, a score of 5 corresponds to the verbal interpretation of Always, covering an interval of 4.21 to 5.00. The condition expressed by the statement is manifested in a very remarkable manner at all times, with extra evidence to support it, and is described as Extremely High. A score of 4 corresponds to the verbal interpretation of Often, covering an interval of 3.41 to

4.20. The condition expressed by the statement is manifested in a remarkable manner, with consistent evidence to support it, and is described as High. A score of 3 corresponds to the verbal interpretation of Sometimes, covering an interval of 2.61 to 3.40. The condition expressed by the statement is manifested in an ordinary manner every once in a while, with evidence that is not consistent to support it, and is described as Moderate. A score of 2 corresponds to the verbal interpretation of Seldom, covering an interval of 1.81 to 2.60. The condition expressed by the statement is exhibited in a negligible manner, with hardly any evidence to support it, and is described as Low. A score of 1 corresponds to the verbal interpretation of Never, covering an interval of 1.00 to 1.80. The condition expressed by the statement is not manifested, and is described as Extremely Low.

An in-depth interview was employed as a qualitative technique for validity checking. Seven research-based questions focusing on social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fishing communities in Capiz were developed and administered to six participants who were not included in the actual survey participants to avoid bias and ensure objectivity. The interview guide underwent face validation by a panel of experts to ensure its clarity, relevance, and appropriateness to the study. The in-depth interview enabled the researcher to gather rich and detailed narratives regarding the experiences of 4Ps beneficiaries. Participants were asked about the changes in their family's living conditions, community involvement, children's education, financial stability, health, and overall welfare after becoming part of the 4Ps program. Participants were also encouraged to share the challenges they encountered as beneficiaries and provide suggestions for improving the program in fishing communities in Capiz. Through these interviews, the researcher was able to explore the participants' diverse perspectives and lived experiences. The qualitative insights gathered served to deepen the understanding of the study and validate the quantitative findings of the research.

Permission to conduct the study was first secured from the Dean of the School of Capiz State University and from the respective Local Government Units (LGUs) of Capiz. After approval was granted, the researcher coordinated with the selected municipalities, namely Roxas City, Ivisan, Panay, President Roxas, Pilar, and Sapián, to facilitate the data gathering process involving 348 4Ps recipient participants. Before data collection, informed consent was obtained from all participants. They were fully informed about the purpose of the study, the procedures involved, and their rights as participants. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were allowed to withdraw at any time without penalty. Strict confidentiality and anonymity were observed, ensuring that no personal identifiers were disclosed and that all responses were used solely for academic and research purposes.

During the actual data gathering, the researcher personally administered the questionnaires and also utilized online platforms such as Google Forms distributed via Messenger and email to ensure accessibility and a higher response rate. This dual approach ensured the efficient and complete retrieval of responses from all selected participants. After collection, all questionnaires were carefully checked for completeness and accuracy, then encoded, tallied, and tabulated. Appropriate statistical tools were applied for analysis and interpretation of the findings in relation to the study objectives. After the quantitative data were encoded and processed, an in-depth interview was conducted to further enrich and validate the results. This qualitative phase involved six selected participants and was held on March 6, 15, and 17, 2026. Each interview lasted for one hour and was conducted in Barangay Barra, Roxas City; Barangay Basiao, Ivisan; and President Roxas Town Plaza. Ethical considerations were strictly observed throughout the study, including securing institutional and LGU approvals, obtaining informed consent, ensuring voluntary participation, maintaining confidentiality and

anonymity, and protecting participants from any harm or discomfort. Data privacy was upheld at all stages, and all information gathered was used exclusively for academic research purposes.

All data collected were subjected to computer processing using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Frequency count was used to determine the number of participants belonging to each category, such as age, sex, school, grade level, monthly household income, number of household members, and length of 4Ps membership. Mean was used to determine the level of social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fishing communities in Capiz. Pearson's *r* was used to determine the relationship among social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fishing communities in Capiz. The 0.05 alpha level was used as the criterion for the acceptance or rejection of the null hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results and discussion of the study examining the role of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fishing communities in Capiz. The study employed a mixed-methods research design integrating a survey-correlational approach for the quantitative component and in-depth interviews for the qualitative component. A total of 348 participants were selected from a population of 2,688 4Ps beneficiaries across six municipalities, namely Roxas City, Ivisan, Panay, President Roxas, Pilar, and Sapián, using purposive and convenience sampling. Data were gathered through a structured, researcher-developed questionnaire evaluated on a five-point Likert scale and supplemented by in-depth interview responses from six selected participants. Quantitative data were processed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), with frequency count, mean, and Pearson's *r* as the primary statistical tools. The 0.05 alpha level was used as the criterion for the acceptance or rejection of the null hypothesis. The results are interpreted and discussed in direct relation to the objectives of the study, and all findings are grounded in the data gathered from the identified participants.

Socio-demographic profile of the participants

The socio-demographic profile of the 348 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz was examined across multiple variables, including age, sex, head of the family, monthly household income, number of household members, length of 4Ps membership, educational attainment of children, number of children in school, number of children who are 4Ps beneficiaries, and type of fishing activity.

In terms of age, the largest group consisted of participants aged 20 to 30 years old, with 167 participants (48%), followed by those aged 41 to 50 years, with 121 participants (35%). Participants aged 51 to 60 years numbered 40 (11%), while those aged 61 years old and above comprised the smallest group, with only 20 participants (6%). These results imply that 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz are largely composed of younger individuals, particularly those aged 20 to 30, indicating an active workforce capable of performing physically demanding fishing activities. The presence of individuals aged 41 to 50 reflects a group of experienced members who contribute valuable knowledge, skills, and stability to household livelihoods. In contrast, the smaller proportions of those aged 51 to 60 and 61 and above suggest limited participation of older adults in income-generating activities, likely due to age-related physical limitations or a transition of responsibilities to younger members.

Overall, the findings indicate that household livelihoods are mainly sustained by younger and middle-aged individuals, with older members playing a lesser role in economic activities. This demographic pattern highlights the importance of designing development programs and support mechanisms that account for age distribution to ensure sustainability, productivity, and appropriate assistance for both active workers and aging members of fishing households.

Regarding sex, 199 (57%) of the 348 respondents are male and 149 (43%) are female, indicating a slightly higher representation of males among 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz. This suggests that fishing activities and related livelihood roles remain predominantly male-oriented, reflecting traditional gender roles in the sector. However, the considerable proportion of female respondents implies that women still play a significant role in household and economic activities, possibly through support functions, income supplementation, or management of family responsibilities. Overall, the data highlights a gender imbalance with male dominance in participation, while also emphasizing the importance of recognizing the contributions of female household members.

Regarding the head of the family, 103 participants (30%) identified the father as the household head, 96 (28%) reported the grandfather, 85 (24%) the mother, and 64 (18%) the grandmother. These results imply that household leadership among 4Ps fishing families in Capiz is not solely centered on the father, as a significant proportion of households are headed by grandparents and mothers. This suggests a diverse family structure in which caregiving and decision-making responsibilities are shared or transferred across generations, possibly due to migration, parental absence, or economic conditions. It also reflects the important role of extended family members, particularly grandparents, in maintaining household stability and supporting family needs.

In terms of monthly household income, 305 households (88%) earn below 10,000 pesos, while only 43 households (12%) earn between 10,001 and 20,000 pesos. These results imply that the majority of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz live below the low-income threshold, with most earning less than 10,000 pesos per month. This indicates a high level of economic vulnerability and limited financial capacity to meet basic needs. The small proportion of households earning between 10,001 and 20,000 pesos suggests that only a few have slightly better income sources. Overall, the findings highlight the continued need for government assistance and livelihood support programs to improve household incomes and enhance economic stability.

As for household size, 137 households (39%) have six members or more, 90 (26%) have four members, 81 (23%) have three members, 23 (7%) have five members, 10 (3%) have only one member, and 7 (2%) have two members. These results imply that most 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz have relatively large family sizes, with many comprising six or more members. This indicates a high dependency ratio, where a limited number of income earners support several dependents within the household. Such a situation may create additional financial pressure on families, particularly given their generally low-income levels. The prevalence of larger households also suggests that extended family living arrangements are common in these communities. In contrast, smaller households are less frequent, highlighting a tendency toward multi-member family structures. Overall, this household composition may affect the allocation of limited resources and pose challenges to achieving financial stability.

Regarding the length of 4Ps membership, 169 participants (49%) have been members for one to two years, 158 (45%) for five years or more, and 21 (6%) for three to four years. These results imply that most 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz are either newly enrolled or long-term beneficiaries, with only a small proportion in the three-to-four-year category. This indicates a continuous influx of new participants while still maintaining support for households that have been in the program for a longer period. The presence of both new

and long-term members reflects the sustained implementation of the program and its ability to reach different beneficiary groups over time. Overall, it suggests that the program remains relevant and continues to serve households at various stages of participation in the community.

With respect to the educational attainment of children, most households have either no child (48%) or only one child (49%) who has graduated from college, while only a small percentage have two (2%) or three (1%) college graduates. This indicates that college completion is generally limited to one child per family, suggesting modest levels of higher educational attainment. The findings imply that financial constraints and limited access to higher education may affect households' ability to support multiple children in college. Thus, there is a need to strengthen educational support through scholarships, financial aid, and government assistance, as well as improve livelihood opportunities for parents. Guidance programs promoting educational planning may also help increase college completion rates among children in the future.

Concerning the number of children currently in school, most households (79%) have at least one child currently enrolled, while 21% have no children enrolled. This indicates that the majority of families continue to support at least one child's education, reflecting sustained participation in formal schooling. However, the presence of households without children in school may be linked to factors such as financial constraints, school completion, or dropout rates. The findings suggest that although access to education remains generally strong, some families still face barriers to continuous enrolment. This highlights the need for targeted interventions to improve educational participation further. Programs such as financial assistance, scholarships, school re-engagement initiatives, and livelihood support for parents may help address these challenges. In addition, strengthening community awareness on the importance of continuous education can encourage families to prioritize schooling and prevent dropouts.

With respect to the number of children who are 4Ps beneficiaries, 213 households (61%) reported having no children currently covered by the program, while 135 households (39%) reported having one child who is a beneficiary. These findings suggest that many families may either not meet the eligibility criteria, have graduated from the program, or are not yet registered. Meanwhile, those with 4Ps support may have better access to educational and financial assistance, which can help improve children's school attendance and overall welfare. The implication of these results highlights the need to ensure broader and more equitable access to social protection programs, especially for vulnerable households. Strengthening awareness, targeting mechanisms, and livelihood support programs may help improve coverage. Continued monitoring of non-beneficiary households is also important to identify those who may still need assistance.

Lastly, in terms of type of fishing activity, 208 participants (60%) are engaged in selling their catch to local markets, while 140 participants (40%) are involved in small-scale fishing activities. The findings indicate that the majority of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz primarily rely on market-oriented fishing as their main source of livelihood. Selling fish directly to local markets suggests that many households depend on daily fishing income to sustain their basic needs, including food, education, healthcare, and other household expenses. This also reflects the importance of local market systems in supporting the economic survival of fishing communities. Meanwhile, a considerable proportion of participants remain engaged in small-scale fishing operations, which are commonly characterized by limited fishing equipment, inadequate capital, low production capacity, and dependence on traditional fishing methods. These households may experience unstable income due to factors such as unpredictable weather conditions, seasonal fish availability, rising fuel costs, and limited

access to larger markets. As a result, many families remain economically vulnerable and highly dependent on government assistance programs such as the 4Ps.

Level of social empowerment

The level of social empowerment was assessed across three dimensions: community participation, decision-making capacity, and access to social networks. The overall grand mean of 3.47, interpreted as "High," indicates that the participants generally experience a strong level of social empowerment within their communities. This suggests that the 4Ps contributes not only to financial assistance but also to improving beneficiaries' social well-being by encouraging active participation, cooperation, confidence, and stronger community relationships. Through continuous involvement in program and community activities, participants may develop a greater sense of belonging, social responsibility, and interpersonal connection.

Regarding community participation, participants obtained a mean score of 3.48, indicating "High." This indicates that most beneficiaries actively participate in barangay meetings, community programs, livelihood activities, and other social events. This high participation may be influenced by the social development activities and conditionalities of the 4Ps program, which encourage beneficiaries to become more involved in community affairs. In fishing communities, cooperation and collective action are also important for community survival and development. The findings imply that active participation strengthens social relationships, builds self-confidence, improves access to government services and livelihood opportunities, and promotes unity and social cohesion within the community. This is further reflected in the lived experience of one participant, who shared that joining barangay activities such as clean-up drives is not merely an obligation but a way of showing cooperation and active involvement, noting that even simple acts of help and support contribute to strengthening unity, cleanliness, and the overall well-being of the barangay.

Regarding decision-making capacity, the participants obtained the highest mean score of 3.49, which is also interpreted as "High." This suggests that beneficiaries are generally capable of making informed decisions regarding household management, budgeting, children's education, and livelihood concerns. This may be attributed to Family Development Sessions and other educational activities under the 4Ps program that provide knowledge on parenting, financial management, and family welfare. The findings imply that improved decision-making capacity helps families manage resources effectively, prioritize essential needs, and cope more effectively with economic difficulties. It also highlights the importance of continuing empowerment and leadership programs to strengthen participants' confidence and problem-solving skills further.

In terms of access to social networks, participants obtained a mean score of 3.44, indicating "High." This indicates that beneficiaries generally maintain strong relationships with relatives, neighbors, friends, community organizations, and government agencies. Such social connections are common in fishing communities where people rely on one another for support and cooperation. The 4Ps program may also help strengthen these networks through meetings and community activities. The findings imply that strong social networks provide emotional support, access to information, financial assistance, and livelihood opportunities, thereby improving resilience and social well-being. Furthermore, these connections encourage collaboration and community solidarity in addressing common social and economic challenges.

Overall, the findings indicate that 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz demonstrate a high level of social empowerment in terms of participation, decision-making, and social connectedness. These results suggest that the program contributes to strengthening

not only beneficiaries' economic conditions but also their confidence, social involvement, and community relationships. These results support the findings of Reyes et al. (2019), who highlighted that 4Ps beneficiaries showed improved access to social services and greater interaction with institutions, which are indicators of empowerment, and who noted that beneficiaries become more informed about their rights and responsibilities, enabling them to make better decisions for their families. Moreover, Davidi and Maromas (2025) concluded that the program fosters social inclusion by integrating marginalized households into formal systems of governance and service delivery, thereby enhancing their social capital and participation. On the other hand, some studies present contrasting findings. Hickey et al. (2017) argued that while cash transfer programs can improve access to resources, they do not automatically lead to deep or sustained empowerment, particularly if beneficiaries remain dependent on government support. Similarly, Karosa (2017) pointed out that true empowerment involves not only access to resources and assistance but also the ability of individuals to exercise agency, make independent decisions, and achieve meaningful outcomes in their lives, meaning that empowerment goes beyond receiving financial aid or complying with program requirements and also includes developing confidence, self-reliance, and the capacity to influence personal, family, and community matters.

Level of educational outcomes

The level of educational outcomes was assessed across three dimensions: school attendance, retention, and educational aspiration. The overall grand mean of 3.48, interpreted as "High," indicates that the participants generally demonstrate positive educational outcomes. This suggests that the 4Ps significantly encourages children's participation in education and motivates families to prioritize schooling despite financial difficulties. The findings further imply that the program strengthens beneficiaries' awareness of the importance of education in improving future opportunities and reducing poverty.

Regarding school attendance, the participants obtained a mean score of 3.45, indicating "High." This indicates that children of beneficiaries regularly attend school and comply with attendance requirements. This may be attributed to the conditional cash transfer mechanism of the 4Ps program, which encourages families to ensure their children's regular school attendance in order to continue receiving assistance. Financial support may also help cover school-related expenses such as transportation, uniforms, and supplies. The findings imply that regular attendance improves children's learning opportunities, academic performance, and social development while reducing absenteeism and the risk of dropping out of school.

Regarding retention, participants obtained a mean score of 3.47, which is also interpreted as "High." This indicates that children of beneficiaries are more likely to remain enrolled and continue their education. The financial assistance provided by the 4Ps program may reduce the economic burden on families, allowing children to stay in school rather than engage in work or other income-generating activities. Family Development Sessions may also help parents recognize the value of education and encourage them to support their children's continuous schooling. The findings imply that high retention rates contribute to educational continuity, reduce child labor, and increase the likelihood of completing basic education.

In terms of educational aspiration, the participants obtained the highest mean score of 3.50, interpreted as "High." This indicates that beneficiaries generally have strong hopes and aspirations for their children's education and future success. Parents may aspire for their children to finish their studies, secure stable employment, and achieve a better quality of life. This positive outlook may be influenced by increased awareness of the importance of education

through Family Development Sessions and other educational activities under the 4Ps program. The findings imply that strong educational aspirations motivate families to support their children's schooling and to persevere despite economic challenges. This is corroborated by one participant's account, who expressed deep gratitude for the program and shared that, despite financial hardships, one child had graduated with a degree in Information Technology, another in Hospitality Management, and another was still currently studying in college, affirming that education is the best investment for the future.

Overall, the findings indicate that 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz demonstrate favorable educational outcomes, including school attendance, retention, and educational aspirations. These results suggest that the 4Ps program contributes not only to improving access to education but also to strengthening families' commitment to children's learning and future success. The results are consistent with Angaras' (2019) findings, which revealed that the 4Ps has a significant positive impact on learners' education, highlighting improvements in school participation, attendance, and overall educational engagement among beneficiary households. This suggests that the financial assistance and conditional requirements provided under the program encourage families to prioritize their children's schooling by reducing economic barriers and promoting compliance with educational conditions. However, the present findings differ from the study by Pedros (2021), which identified persistent concerns, including low enrolment rates, high dropout rates, and low graduation rates among some beneficiaries in the Opol West District of Misamis Oriental. This implies that, despite the support provided through the 4Ps program, educational challenges persist in certain contexts and may not always lead to consistent or long-term academic success. Factors such as poverty, inadequate parental supervision, distance from schools, limited learning resources, and household responsibilities may still affect children's continuous participation and performance in education. Sustained educational assistance, parental support, and community-based educational programs therefore remain important for further improving beneficiaries' educational outcomes and future opportunities.

Level of economic resilience

The level of economic resilience was assessed across three dimensions: income stability, saving behavior, and coping mechanisms during the lean fishing season. The overall grand mean of 3.46, interpreted as "High," indicates that the participants generally exhibit a strong level of economic resilience despite the vulnerable and seasonal nature of fishing livelihoods. This suggests that the 4Ps, together with household coping strategies and community support, helps beneficiaries manage financial challenges and sustain basic needs even during periods of low income.

In terms of income stability, the mean score of 3.46 (High) indicates that although fishing income is often irregular, many households still maintain a relatively steady flow of resources for daily needs. This may be due to combined income sources such as fishing, 4Ps assistance, and other informal work. The result implies that income stability enables families to meet basic needs such as food, education, and health, though continued vulnerability to income fluctuations underscores the need for diversified, more secure livelihood opportunities.

For saving behavior, the mean score of 3.47 (High) indicates that participants practice saving even in small amounts. This may be influenced by financial literacy activities under the 4Ps program, particularly Family Development Sessions. The findings imply that saving behavior helps families prepare for emergencies and school-related expenses and reflects improved financial discipline. Strengthening access to formal savings services and financial education can further enhance long-term financial security.

In terms of coping mechanisms during the lean fishing season, the highest mean of 3.48 (High) suggests that households have developed effective strategies to survive periods of low catch. These include borrowing, engaging in alternative livelihoods, relying on government assistance, and strict budgeting. The findings imply that these coping strategies are vital for household survival, but dependence on borrowing may also increase financial vulnerability and debt risk. One participant affirmed this reality, sharing that the household mainly depends on fishing as the primary source of livelihood but also looks for other sources of income because earnings are not always the same, as they depend on the weather and the number of fish caught, and that saving even a small amount is practiced because emergency expenses can arise at any time.

Overall, the results show that 4Ps beneficiary fishing households demonstrate strong economic resilience through stable income, savings, and adaptive coping strategies. This highlights the program's role in supporting financial management and resilience-building. The results are consistent with those of Orbetaw and Paqueos (2016), who found that the 4Ps helps promote smoother household income flows among beneficiaries, emphasizing that regular cash transfers enable families to manage daily expenses more effectively despite the irregular and unpredictable earnings from primary livelihoods such as fishing, lessening the impact of income instability by providing a more reliable source of funds for essential needs. Similarly, Pomeroya et al. (2017) highlighted that families engaged in small-scale fisheries within coastal communities often experience fluctuating incomes due to seasonal variations in catch, changing weather conditions, and limited access to stable markets, but found that social protection programs such as the 4Ps play a significant role in reducing income fluctuations by providing supplementary financial assistance that enables households to bridge income gaps and sustain basic consumption needs. However, further livelihood diversification, skills training, and sustainable income opportunities are needed to strengthen long-term economic stability.

Level of family welfare

The level of family welfare was assessed across three dimensions: health, nutrition, and overall quality of life. The overall grand mean of 3.47, interpreted as "High," indicates that the participants generally experience a favorable level of well-being. This suggests that the 4Ps, along with household practices and access to basic services, contributes positively to improving the health and living conditions of beneficiaries despite their economic limitations.

In terms of health, the participants obtained a mean score of 3.48 (High). This indicates that households generally have good access to basic health services such as check-ups, immunization, and consultations. This may be due to the 4Ps health conditionalities, which require regular monitoring of children and pregnant women, as well as financial assistance that helps cover medical and transportation costs. The findings imply improved health practices, better disease prevention, and enhanced overall well-being, highlighting the importance of sustaining health services and awareness programs.

Regarding nutrition, participants had a mean score of 3.41 (High). This shows that households generally provide regular, adequate meals for their family members. This may be supported by the cash assistance from the 4Ps program, which helps meet daily food needs. However, the slightly lower mean suggests that food security is still occasionally affected by unstable fishing income. The findings imply the need for ongoing nutrition education, feeding programs, and livelihood support to ensure sustained access to healthy, balanced diets.

In terms of overall quality of life, the participants obtained the highest mean score of 3.50 (High). This indicates that beneficiaries perceive improved living conditions, including better access to basic needs, education, health services, and social support. This improvement may be attributed to the combined effects of financial assistance, health compliance, and social programs under the 4Ps. The findings imply greater life satisfaction, reduced hardship, and improved social well-being, showing that meeting basic needs contributes to better long-term family development. One participant expressed gratitude for having access to the services of the rural health unit whenever there is a need, especially when a family member gets sick, and noted sincere hope that the program will continue to provide support to the family and to others who are also in need.

Overall, the results show that 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz experience positive family welfare in terms of health, nutrition, and quality of life. This highlights the program's role in improving not only income support but also overall well-being. Further supporting this, Canare (2017) noted that although the program does not always result in substantial increases in savings, it enhances financial behavior, particularly in terms of better debt management and more consistent spending on essential needs, suggesting that even when income levels do not significantly increase, economic welfare may still improve through more stable and responsible financial practices. On the other hand, Kabeer (2017) argued that access to financial assistance does not automatically lead to sustained economic empowerment, emphasizing that genuine economic welfare requires not only income support but also greater productive opportunities and stronger agency in economic decision-making, and that in some situations, beneficiaries may continue to rely on cash transfers without attaining full financial independence or long-term economic security. Continued health services, nutrition interventions, and livelihood support are still needed to sustain and further enhance these gains.

Relationships among social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare

The results of Pearson's *r* correlation analysis show that none of the tested relationships among social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare are statistically significant at the 0.05 level of significance, with the exception of one pair, which, although producing a *p*-value below 0.05, yielded a correlation coefficient too weak to carry practical meaning. This indicates that although all variables are generally rated as "High" based on descriptive results, they do not significantly influence or predict one another in a linear relationship among 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz. This suggests that each dimension functions independently and is shaped by factors such as income source, household conditions, and access to services, rather than directly affecting the others.

In terms of the relationship between social empowerment and educational outcomes, the analysis yielded a very weak negative correlation ($r = -0.031$, $p = 0.560$). Since the *p*-value of 0.560 exceeds the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that social empowerment does not have a significant influence on educational outcomes in this context. This suggests that participation in community activities, decision-making, and social networks does not necessarily translate into improved school attendance, retention, or educational aspiration among children. Although social empowerment may enhance awareness and engagement at the community level, it does not directly address the specific factors that influence educational performance, such as household income, school resources, parental supervision, and the learning environment. This finding is reflected in the account of one participant, who explained that even when families are active in community participation, the lack of money remains the primary barrier to children's regular school attendance and

participation in class, and that social involvement does not directly solve problems related to children's education. This finding implies that educational improvement requires more than social participation alone and is more strongly influenced by economic capacity, access to learning materials, school support systems, and active parental involvement in children's education. The result supports Kabeer's (2017) findings, which highlighted that empowerment is a multidimensional and gradual process that does not always result in immediate behavioral changes in other areas, such as education, and that although individuals may become more socially aware and participative, these developments do not automatically lead to improved academic outcomes among children, particularly when constraints such as poverty, poor learning environments, and low school quality persist. On the other hand, Samson (2016) suggested that empowered households are more likely to place greater value on education and support children's schooling through active participation in school-related decisions, implying that higher levels of social empowerment may indirectly contribute to improved educational outcomes through increased parental involvement, awareness, and support for children's learning.

Regarding the relationship between social empowerment and economic resilience, the results show a very weak positive correlation ($r = 0.127$, $p = 0.018$). Although the p -value of 0.018 is below 0.05, indicating statistical significance, the very low correlation coefficient suggests a weak relationship with minimal practical importance. This means that increases in social empowerment, such as participation in community activities, decision-making, and access to social networks, are associated with only a slight improvement in economic resilience, which is not strong enough to indicate a meaningful effect in real-life conditions. Despite the p -value indicating statistical significance, the study emphasizes that, in practical terms, there is no significant relationship between social empowerment and economic resilience due to the extremely weak strength of association. Hence, the null hypothesis is still accepted, in that social empowerment does not meaningfully influence economic resilience among 4Ps beneficiary fishing households. One participant explained that although participation in 4Ps meetings and community activities provides some benefits in terms of receiving information and gaining knowledge about government programs, when it comes to money and livelihood, it does not have a big impact, since income still depends on fishing and the daily catch, and basic needs such as food, transportation fare, and school needs must still be prioritized regardless of community engagement. The findings further suggest that economic resilience is more strongly determined by structural and material factors such as stable or diversified income sources, access to financial resources, savings behavior, and institutional support. In fishing communities where income is seasonal and highly uncertain, these economic factors play a more dominant role in shaping household resilience. This result is supported by Nailaz (2017), who emphasized that empowerment is a multidimensional and gradual process and that social participation and awareness do not automatically lead to economic improvement, especially in contexts where structural poverty and limited livelihood opportunities persist. On the other hand, Samsons (2016) argued that social empowerment can strengthen economic resilience through improved access to information, social capital, and community-based support systems, and that empowered households are more likely to make informed decisions and effectively utilize available resources, which can gradually enhance their economic coping capacity over time. Thus, programs aimed at strengthening economic resilience must be complemented by direct economic interventions such as livelihood training, financial literacy, income diversification, and improved access to credit and support services, to achieve more substantial and sustainable improvements in economic stability.

Concerning the relationship between social empowerment and family welfare, the results indicate a negligible and non-significant correlation ($r = -0.023$, $p = 0.673$). Since the p-value of 0.673 is well above the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that social empowerment does not significantly influence family welfare in this context. The correlation coefficient is extremely close to zero, indicating that there is virtually no linear relationship between social empowerment and family welfare in this study. Although the negative sign reflects a slight inverse direction, this is too minimal to have any practical or meaningful implications. One participant shared that even though active involvement in meetings and community activities under the 4Ps provides some information and awareness, health, food, and daily living still depend on money and income from fishing, and that a stable income and access to basic needs have a much greater impact on family welfare than social participation. This finding implies that improvements in social empowerment alone are not sufficient to enhance overall family welfare and that family well-being is more strongly shaped by other critical factors such as household income, employment stability, access to healthcare and education, quality of housing, nutrition, and the availability of social protection and support systems. The result supports Kakusai's (2018) findings, which argued that empowerment is a gradual, multidimensional process that does not automatically lead to improved household welfare, and that even when individuals gain confidence, knowledge, and social participation, structural constraints such as poverty, unstable income sources, and limited access to essential services can still hinder improvements in family welfare outcomes. On the other hand, Samsena (2017) presents a contrasting view, arguing that social empowerment can significantly improve family welfare by enhancing decision-making and increasing awareness of health, nutrition, and parenting practices, and that empowered individuals are more likely to adopt positive household behaviors such as seeking timely medical care, improving dietary practices, and strengthening family relationships.

In terms of the relationship between educational outcomes and economic resilience, the results show a very weak negative correlation ($r = -0.057$) with a p-value of 0.286, which is above the 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is therefore accepted, confirming that educational outcome does not significantly influence economic resilience in this context. The correlation is extremely close to zero, suggesting that variations in educational outcomes do not meaningfully correspond to changes in economic resilience among the participants. One participant explained that even if children have good education, it cannot immediately help with financial problems because they are still a long way from finishing their studies, and it is not certain whether they will immediately find work or be able to contribute to the household, which is why economic resilience depends more on stable income, additional livelihood sources, and government support such as livelihood programs. This finding implies that improving educational outcomes alone may not be sufficient to strengthen the economic resilience of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households, as economic resilience is more strongly shaped by practical and structural factors such as stable or diversified income sources, access to financial resources, skills-based livelihood opportunities, and external support systems. Given the nature of fishing communities, where income is seasonal and highly dependent on environmental conditions, households tend to rely more on short-term economic strategies rather than educational attainment to cope with financial challenges. The result supports Schadyo's (2019) findings, which noted that education is a long-term investment whose effects on household economic outcomes are not immediately observable, and that conditional cash transfer programs like the 4Ps primarily improve short-term consumption and welfare but do not immediately lead to stronger economic resilience or income stability. On the other hand, Baird et al. (2016) found that improved educational participation can lead to better future employment opportunities and higher earning potential, suggesting that education builds

human capital and thereby strengthens household resilience over time by reducing vulnerability to economic shocks and improving access to stable income sources.

With regard to the relationship between educational outcomes and family welfare, the results show a very weak positive correlation ($r = 0.046$) with a p-value of 0.393, which is higher than the 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that educational outcome does not significantly influence family welfare in this study. The correlation coefficient is extremely close to zero, suggesting that variations in educational outcomes are virtually uncorrelated with changes in family welfare among the respondents. One participant explained that the bigger problem is money and daily needs such as food, school expenses, and medical expenses, and that when income from fishing is low, that is the first concern, not the children's schooling, even if it is important, noting that family welfare depends more on stable income, employment, and government support such as health and livelihood programs. This finding implies that family welfare is more strongly influenced by immediate, material conditions than by educational outcomes alone, as factors such as household income, employment stability, access to healthcare, nutritional status, quality of housing, and availability of social support services have a more direct impact on families' overall well-being. The result supports Abe's (2017) findings, which emphasize that education alone is insufficient to overcome structural poverty and improve household welfare, particularly in fishing communities where livelihoods are highly seasonal and vulnerable to environmental conditions. On the other hand, Baird et al. (2016) present contrasting evidence, finding that improved educational participation can lead to higher future earnings potential and better employment opportunities, suggesting that education plays a crucial long-term role in enhancing household welfare by building human capital and helping break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Lastly, economic resilience shows no significant relationship with family welfare, as indicated by the very low correlation coefficient ($r = -0.033$) and a p-value of 0.537, which is above the 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis is accepted, confirming that economic resilience does not significantly influence family welfare in this context. The correlation is negative but extremely close to zero, suggesting that there is virtually no linear relationship between economic resilience and family welfare among the respondents. One participant shared that even though the household is capable of coping with financial problems, this does not directly bring changes to family welfare, and that when income from fishing is low or when there are disasters, daily living remains a struggle, with food, health, and stable employment being the primary concerns rather than economic coping capacity alone. This finding implies that family welfare is not determined solely by economic resilience, and that other more immediate and direct factors such as access to healthcare services, nutritional adequacy, quality of housing, educational support, social protection programs, and community assistance play a more decisive role in shaping family welfare. The result supports the findings of Yie Lin et al. (2024), who emphasize that family welfare is shaped by multiple interconnected factors, including health access, education, and social support systems, rather than being driven solely by economic stability. On the other hand, Baird et al. (2016) found that stronger economic capacity and income stability improve long-term household welfare by enabling better access to education, nutrition, and health services. Likewise, Ellisa Franki (2017) emphasizes that livelihood diversification and economic resilience are key drivers of improved well-being in rural and fishing communities, suggesting a positive relationship between resilience and family welfare.

Proposed program: Sustainable family welfare and economic resilience for 4Ps beneficiaries in fishing communities

Based on the findings of the study, several practical interventions are proposed to address the needs of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz and to enhance their social, economic, educational, and family welfare outcomes. These proposed outputs aim to strengthen areas that are high but not optimal, as well as to address areas where relationships among variables were weak or non-significant.

The first proposed intervention involves community empowerment programs with the objective of enhancing social empowerment, participation, and decision-making among households. The output entails the conduct of regular community workshops, leadership training, and participatory decision-making forums. While social empowerment was rated high, the weak correlation with other variables indicates the need to link empowerment efforts more directly to economic and educational outcomes. Specific examples include community savings groups, cooperative fisheries management programs, and fisherfolk associations that strengthen collective action.

The second intervention involves educational support initiatives aimed at further improving educational outcomes for children of beneficiary households. The proposed output is the establishment of after-school programs, scholarship assistance, and mentorship schemes. Educational outcomes were high but did not significantly correlate with family welfare or economic resilience, and support programs can help translate schooling into long-term benefits for families. Examples include the provision of learning kits, tutorial sessions, and partnerships with local schools for capacity-building programs.

The third intervention involves livelihood enhancement and economic resilience programs with the objective of strengthening income stability and household economic resilience. The output calls for the introduction of alternative livelihood projects, skills training, and microfinance programs tailored for fishing households. Economic resilience is high but shows no significant relationship with family welfare or social empowerment, suggesting that resilience alone may not improve welfare without income diversification. Examples include fish processing and marketing cooperatives, aquaculture projects, and vocational training in non-fishing livelihoods.

The fourth intervention involves health and nutrition programs aimed at improving overall family welfare through better health and nutrition. The proposed output includes the launching of nutrition education programs, health check-up campaigns, and subsidized food or medical assistance. Family welfare was high, but the weak relationship with economic resilience and education suggests that health and nutrition need continuous reinforcement. Examples include monthly health and nutrition workshops, school feeding programs, and household-level nutrition monitoring.

The fifth intervention involves the establishment of an integrated monitoring and support system with the objective of coordinating the above programs for maximum impact. The proposed output is the development of a community-based monitoring system that tracks household social, economic, educational, and welfare indicators. The lack of significant relationships among key variables indicates the need for integrated interventions that address multiple dimensions simultaneously. An example is a dashboard for local government units and non-governmental organizations to track school attendance, income levels, health status, and community engagement.

The sixth intervention involves policy and advocacy outputs aimed at influencing local policies that support sustainable livelihoods and family welfare. The proposed output is the drafting of policy recommendations and advocacy programs for local government units and

stakeholders. Structural support may enhance the effectiveness of the 4Ps and other interventions, especially in linking social empowerment, economic resilience, and family welfare. Examples include policy proposals for subsidized education and health services, livelihood grants, and community-based savings schemes.

The overall findings of this study provide a comprehensive picture of the social, educational, economic, and welfare conditions of 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz. Across all four dimensions assessed, participants consistently demonstrated high levels of social empowerment (grand mean = 3.47), educational outcomes (grand mean = 3.48), economic resilience (grand mean = 3.46), and family welfare (grand mean = 3.47), indicating that the 4Ps program contributes meaningfully to the well-being of beneficiaries in each of these areas. However, the correlation analysis using Pearson's r revealed that none of the relationships among these variables attained practical significance. Social empowerment and educational outcomes yielded $r = -0.031$ ($p = 0.560$); social empowerment and economic resilience yielded $r = 0.127$ ($p = 0.018$), which, while statistically significant, was too weak to carry practical meaning; social empowerment and family welfare yielded $r = -0.023$ ($p = 0.673$); educational outcomes and economic resilience yielded $r = -0.057$ ($p = 0.286$); educational outcomes and family welfare yielded $r = 0.046$ ($p = 0.393$); and economic resilience and family welfare yielded $r = -0.033$ ($p = 0.537$). In all cases, the null hypothesis was accepted, confirming that no meaningful linear relationship exists among the variables. These findings underscore an important insight: while the 4Ps program effectively maintains high levels across each dimension independently, the domains of social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare operate as largely separate constructs within this population, each shaped by its own set of contextual, structural, and material determinants. The qualitative data gathered through in-depth interviews consistently reinforced this pattern, with participants identifying income stability and access to basic services as the primary drivers of their everyday welfare rather than the interplay among program dimensions. These results contribute to the growing body of literature on conditional cash transfer programs by highlighting that high performance in individual program dimensions does not automatically produce synergistic effects across those dimensions, particularly in communities facing structural economic vulnerabilities such as those dependent on seasonal fishing livelihoods. The proposed six-component program, encompassing community empowerment, educational support, livelihood enhancement, health and nutrition interventions, integrated monitoring, and policy advocacy, directly addresses this gap by advocating for coordinated, multi-dimensional interventions that move beyond isolated support to create more meaningful and sustainable linkages among social, educational, economic, and welfare outcomes. The subsequent chapter will present the summary of findings, conclusions drawn from the results, and recommendations for policy, practice, and future research.

CONCLUSION

The present study employed a mixed-methods research design combining surveys, correlational analyses, and in-depth interviews to assess the role of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare of fishing communities in Capiz. A total of 348 4Ps recipients were randomly selected from a population of 2,688 fisherfolk beneficiaries across Capiz. The socio-demographic profile of the participants reveals that most respondents are young to middle-aged, predominantly male, and living in low-income households, with 88 percent earning below 10,000 pesos monthly. Fathers and grandfathers are commonly identified as heads of the

family, and most households have six or more members. The majority of participants have been 4Ps members for one to two years, with most households reporting one child currently enrolled in school. Approximately 60 percent of participants sell their catch in local markets, while 40 percent practice small-scale fishing, indicating varied yet primary dependence on fishing as a livelihood. Despite these economic constraints, many households continue to support their children's education, as evidenced by the presence of school-aged children and some college graduates within the participant pool.

The study's findings across all four outcome variables consistently registered high levels, providing a comprehensive picture of the program's contributions to beneficiary households. The high level of social empowerment among 4Ps beneficiary fishing households in Capiz reflects active community engagement rather than passive dependency on program support. Beneficiaries demonstrate consistent participation in community activities, meaningful involvement in household decision-making, and strong access to social networks. Their ability to make informed decisions and utilize available resources reflects increased confidence, autonomy, and social awareness, indicating that the program's Family Development Sessions have contributed meaningfully to building the agency of fisherfolk families. Similarly, the high level of educational outcomes points to consistent school attendance, strong retention rates, and positive academic aspirations among beneficiaries. Parents play an active and committed role in ensuring that their children remain in school despite livelihood challenges, and their continuous encouragement reflects the high value they place on education as a pathway out of poverty. The sustained parental involvement observed among participants underscores the importance of household support in reinforcing the program's educational conditionalities and promoting long-term family development.

In terms of economic resilience, the high level recorded among fishing households demonstrates a strong capacity to withstand and adapt to financial challenges. This is evident in beneficiaries' ability to diversify income sources, practice financial discipline, and employ effective coping strategies during periods of economic difficulty. Despite the unpredictable nature of fishing livelihoods, households have shown they can sustain their daily needs through adaptability, savings practices, and access to support systems such as the 4Ps program. Their confidence in recovering from financial setbacks reflects both stability and optimism in managing household finances, suggesting that the program has contributed to building a resilience orientation among its beneficiaries. Regarding family welfare, the high level recorded indicates that fishing households generally experience adequate well-being, as reflected in their ability to meet basic needs in health, nutrition, and living conditions most of the time. Beneficiaries report reasonable access to healthcare services, maintenance of proper hygiene, and capacity to provide regular meals and basic necessities for their families. However, financial limitations continue to affect full access to medical care and optimal nutrition, pointing to areas where welfare gains remain partial and context-dependent.

A notable finding of the study is the absence of a significant relationship among social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare. This implies that improvements in one area do not automatically result in changes in the others, and that each dimension operates with a degree of independence. Rather than diminishing the importance of any individual domain, this finding suggests that each variable contributes to overall well-being in distinct ways and may therefore require targeted rather than generalized interventions. The lack of significant interrelationships further highlights the complexity of welfare outcomes in fishing communities, where multiple factors including seasonal income, environmental vulnerability, and limited access to social services may moderate the connections among these dimensions in ways not fully captured by quantitative measures alone.

Based on these conclusions, the study advances a comprehensive set of recommendations directed at multiple stakeholders. The 4Ps beneficiaries themselves are encouraged to sustain their high levels across all four domains by continuing to participate in community organizations, barangay assemblies, and local governance activities, by maintaining strong parental involvement in their children's schooling, by practicing sound financial management including budgeting and saving, and by actively engaging in livelihood enhancement and skills training programs relevant to fisheries management and entrepreneurship. Fisherfolk households are likewise advised to prioritize income diversification, establish emergency funds, and engage in cooperative or microfinance-based ventures to further consolidate their economic resilience over time.

For schools and educational institutions, the study recommends strengthening partnerships with fisherfolk families through parent involvement programs, community-based learning activities, and flexible support systems such as mentoring and remedial instruction. Teachers are encouraged to maintain regular communication with parents to monitor learners' progress and provide practical guidance on supporting children's academic development at home. Schools may further integrate financial literacy, livelihood awareness, and practical life skills into both school-based and community learning programs, thereby reinforcing the connections between household stability and educational success.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is encouraged to expand sustainable livelihood and capacity-building programs tailored to fisherfolk communities, intensify partnerships with local government units and fisheries-related agencies, and strengthen financial literacy training for beneficiaries. Given the absence of significant relationships among the study's variables, the agency is also advised to reassess program implementation strategies to ensure that each component produces meaningful and, where possible, mutually reinforcing outcomes. More cohesive program designs that link social empowerment, education, livelihood, and family welfare initiatives in an integrated manner are recommended to address the distinct developmental needs of coastal communities more effectively.

Local Government Units are encouraged to continue and expand livelihood support programs, scholarship assistance, skills training, and community-based educational campaigns, while also improving access to credit facilities and health services for fishing households. Separate and targeted programs for each dimension of social empowerment, education, economic resilience, and family welfare should be strengthened to ensure direct and measurable impact on the distinct needs of fisherfolk beneficiaries. Finally, future researchers are encouraged to conduct longitudinal and qualitative studies that more deeply explore the factors sustaining or influencing social empowerment, educational outcomes, economic resilience, and family welfare among fisherfolk households. Additional variables such as psychological well-being, cultural factors, climate change impacts, income inequality, market accessibility, and governance support are recommended for investigation, as these may offer a more comprehensive understanding of welfare outcomes in vulnerable coastal communities and the long-term effectiveness of conditional cash transfer programs such as the 4Ps.

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