

Exploring the Organizing Mechanism Among 4Ps Beneficiaries

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Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a conditional cash transfer program. It is a flagship poverty alleviation program of the Aquino Administration implemented by Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It provides cash transfer to poor household to improve their health, nutrition and educational status, particularly among children aged 0-16. Inherent in the program is an organizing mechanism. This study analyzed this organizing mechanism using data gathered from a review of 4Ps documents, forums and discussions attended, and a survey done in Pasong Tamo, Quezon City. The 4Ps was analyzed using principles presented by Barker, et.al. (1987), Danzger (1970) and participatory development as presented by Mohan (2001). The study argues that 4Ps is not participatory, but this is not to say it has no real and important benefits. The study questions the conceptual basis of an anti-poverty program which receives a significant allocation of budget. Family development sessions (FDS) are recommended as an entry point of 4Ps convergence strategies with other participatory approaches such as the KALAHI-CIDSS.