

Civic Engagement of Selected Beneficiaries of the Social Development Strategy ‘*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*’ (4Ps) of the Philippine Government

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Abstract

The ‘Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program’ (4Ps) is the Philippine’s version of the conditional cash transfer which was established in 2007. It is a social development strategy of the national government that provides cash grants to extremely poor households to improve their health and education particularly of children aged 0-14. Several studies focused on the impact of the program in health and education, but the civic engagement of beneficiaries has not been well examined. This study assessed the civic engagement of the 4Ps beneficiaries in four selected barangays of Tangub City, Philippines. The descriptive research design and survey method were employed. A survey questionnaire was distributed to 314 beneficiaries in two urban and rural areas through random sampling. The overall findings showed that one rural barangay (Matugnao) has a high civic engagement while the other three barangays (Bocato, Uno, and Maquilao) are somewhat engaged. The information gathered in this study can be utilized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to further develop activities that will enhance the civic engagement of the beneficiaries. Conducting a similar study in other areas of the Philippines would also be beneficial.

Keywords: cash, conditional, education, rural, welfare

Introduction

Poverty in the Philippines is still rampant and remains an overarching issue. The country had been regarded as the poverty basket case of the Southeast Asian Nations (Rivera et al., 2013). The poverty incidence in the country is about 21.6% of the total population (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016). According to the Asian Development Bank (2009), the main causes of poverty in the country are the high levels of population growth, low job opportunities, and great inequality across income brackets, regions, and sectors. Usui (2011) notes that poorly targeted and fragmented social protection programs result in high errors of inclusion, and exclusion adds to these causes.

Addressing this perennial problem of poverty has been the goal of the past administrations, and post-Martial Law governments have made poverty alleviation as their center piece program. Orbeta (2002) emphasizes that poverty alleviation efforts have been modest due to the uneven economic growth performance of the country. The economy continuously experiences slow growth and inability to sustain employment (Tabuga & Reyes, 2012) and anti-poverty programs have been viewed as the catalyst for this poverty reduction due to its focus on the improvement of human capital.

Among these anti-poverty programs, the Conditional Cash Transfer program locally known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or (4Ps) significantly sustained global attention due to its focus on eradicating the intergenerational cycle of poverty (Curry et al., 2013). This was inspired by the successes of similar programs in Latin America such as *Bolsa Familia* in Brazil, *Familias en Accion* in Colombia, and *Oportunidades* in Mexico (Senate of the Philippines, 2010). Conditional cash transfer programs have a dual objective: immediate poverty reduction through transfers and long-term poverty reduction through investment in human capital (De Janvry & Sadoulet, 2006). The *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or 4Ps is a development program designed to promote investment in human capital among poor families with 0-18 year-old children. It provides cash grants to poor families to help them meet immediate needs. Through this, the

cash disbursement may contribute to minimizing the prevalence of intergenerational poverty (Tabuga & Reyes, 2012). It specifically gives priority to education and health of children, accelerate social progress as well as promote total human liberation and development.

The program was successfully implemented throughout the archipelago in the year 2008. This was undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as a component of its National Social Welfare and Development Reform Program. It addresses the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is aligned with the DSWD's goal of reducing poverty and empowering the poor (DSWD, 2017).

Since its genesis, assessments have been made which focused on its direct effects in terms of education and health care among pregnant women and children. The related studies found that *Pantawid Pamilya* has a strong impact in school enrollment and attendance of the young children (Tabuga & Reyes, 2012; Acosta & Velarde, 2015; Montilla et al., 2015). Subsequently, the program also is largely achieving its objective of guaranteeing basic health services for poor mothers, with poor pregnant women in barangays covered by the 4Ps undertaking the conditionalities by attending antenatal and postnatal care (Renin, 2011; Chaudhury et al., 2013; Acosta & Velarde, 2015).

Attached to provided cash grants for the beneficiaries are the co-responsibilities or conditionalities such as the regular check-up for pregnant women, children, and parents. An attendance of at least 85% per month of the children are included as the program's conditions. Parents' participation in Family Development Sessions (FDS) is also greatly encouraged. Through FDS, meetings, and lectures, beneficiaries are given an opportunity to interact with their fellow recipients. Those living in the rural areas have the chance to get out of their houses and interact with other people. These activities have been claimed to improve trust and strengthen social relations within the community (Attanasio et al., 2009). Such gatherings may in turn boost the civic engagement of the beneficiaries.

Adler and Goggin (2005), limited the meaning of civic engagement to community service, collective action, and political

involvement. It also refers to the individual volunteerism, organizational involvement or commitment, and political participation of an individual (Chan et al., 2014; California University, 2016; American Psychological Association, 2017). Furthermore, individual volunteerism is emphasized as an individual's voluntary work and willingness to extend help and resources to his neighbors and to the community. It is the application of the individual's time and skills in community locations where there is an identified need (California University, 2016).

Organizational involvement or commitment means getting involved in an established group or organization, understanding its mission as it relates to one's interests. It is the state of being committed to assist in the achievement of the organization's goals, and it involves the member's levels of identification, involvement, and loyalty (Caught & Shadur, 2000).

Political participation on the other hand is defined by Lamprianou (2013) as a set of activities aiming to influence political authority. In the same way Huntington and Nelson (1976) defined political participation as an activity by private citizens designed to influence government decision-making whereas Verba et al. (1995) characterized it as an activity that has the intent or effect of influencing government action – either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policy or indirectly by influencing the selection of people who make those policies. These are activities which strengthen the democratic process by clarifying issues and consequences of certain policies or even simply working to register voters and promote electoral participation locally and nationally (California University, 2016).

The activities which comprise civic engagement are diverse and manifold in nature. Putnam (2000) identifies a set of criteria for what constitutes civic engagement such as reading newspapers, political participation, interpersonal trust, to associational involvement. For Delli Carpini (2000), it covers activities from voluntary work and organizational involvement to electoral participation.

The level of civic engagement of an individual can be justified using three theoretical perspectives identified by Pattie et al., (2003). These theories are rational choice theory, social capital theory, and civic

voluntarism. According to the rational choice theory, civic engagement occurs where the costs of involvement are low and the benefits of successful action are high (Pattie et al., 2003). Individuals are more likely to volunteer, join organizations or participate in political and non-political activities if he or she has something to gain from it such as personal privileges. The individual will also participate to reciprocate the good quality of services he or she received (Hargreaves, 2017).

In social capital theory, the level of engagement is positively correlated to levels of both trust and voluntary activity (Åberg & Sandberg, 2017). It suggests that an individual who trusts the public officials tend to engage more in civic activities. Active participation in civic activities also prompts people if they feel that the political system and public officials are responsive and helpful to their needs (Bourgon, 2007). The social activity of the individual is central in this theory such as involvement in wide-ranging organizations and informal network of friends or acquaintances. Pattie et al. (2003) notes that participation in voluntary organizations and in informal networks are both highly significant correlates of civic activism. People also are more likely to participate in some form of civic action if they live at their current address.

Civic voluntarism theory on the other hand requires a measure of political efficacy (Strömblad & Bengtsson, 2017). Efficacy here rests on the generalized perceptions of the chances of having an impact in politics and in the government. It also stresses the importance of the resources available to people. These resources do not necessarily mean money but time (Luengo Kanacri et al., 2016). This theory emphasizes the free time of an individual whether it is used on personal activities or used in civic activities. Another important element of civic voluntarism identified by Pattie et al. (2003) is mobilization. It advocates that people are more likely to be active in civic activities if they are interested in the issue.

Civic engagement in 4Ps is associated to various factors that exist in a community. Some critics considered the program as mere dole-out and is susceptible to corruption and unwise spending (Orbeta & Paqueo , 2016) where beneficiaries became dependent on the

cash grants (Business Week Mindanao, 2013). However, DSWD asserts that beneficiaries are in fact exerting efforts towards improving their lives (ANC, 2013).

Assessments conducted on the program's impact have been targeting only the improvement of the health and education of the recipients (Conchada & Tiongco, 2014; Frufonga, 2015). However, there is still no study that focused on the assessment of the level of civic engagement of the 4Ps beneficiaries specifically in rural and urban areas. Thus, the researchers find it worthwhile to assess the level of civic engagement among the 4Ps recipients who are household heads in the selected rural and urban barangays of Tangub City, Philippines. The study was conducted in Tangub City because there was no piece of information available regarding the civic engagement of 4Ps recipients in the area. Specifically, this study determined the organizational involvement or commitment of the 4Ps beneficiaries, assessed their political participation, and evaluated their voluntary actions in their community. Assessing the level of civic engagement of the 4Ps beneficiaries could be a catalyst for the deepening and widening of the scope of the 4Ps. It may provide an idea to the government agency, specifically DSWD, about the degree of community and political engagement of their beneficiaries.

Materials and Methods

Research setting

This study was conducted in the selected rural and urban barangays of Tangub City in Misamis Occidental. Tangub City is one of the cities which have benefited from the 4Ps. It is composed of 55 barangays with 66,408 residents (Tangub City BHW Survey, 2015). Out of these figures, 4,372 households are active beneficiaries of the 4Ps. The barangays were selected on the basis of the most number and least number of beneficiaries. These barangays were Maquilao and Barangay Uno with the former having the most number of beneficiaries and the latter with least number of beneficiaries in the urban area, and Bocator and Matugnao in the rural area.

Research design and respondents

This study used the descriptive research design through sample survey method. The 4Ps grantee household heads who personally receive cash payments from DSWD and participate in the meetings and lectures of the program were identified as respondents using random sampling method. A total of 313 respondents participated in the study, 165 beneficiaries from Maquilao, 117 beneficiaries from Bocator, 24 beneficiaries from Matugnao, and 7 beneficiaries from Barangay Uno (Figure 1). The sample sizes were calculated using the online Raosoft calculator with a 5% margin of error.

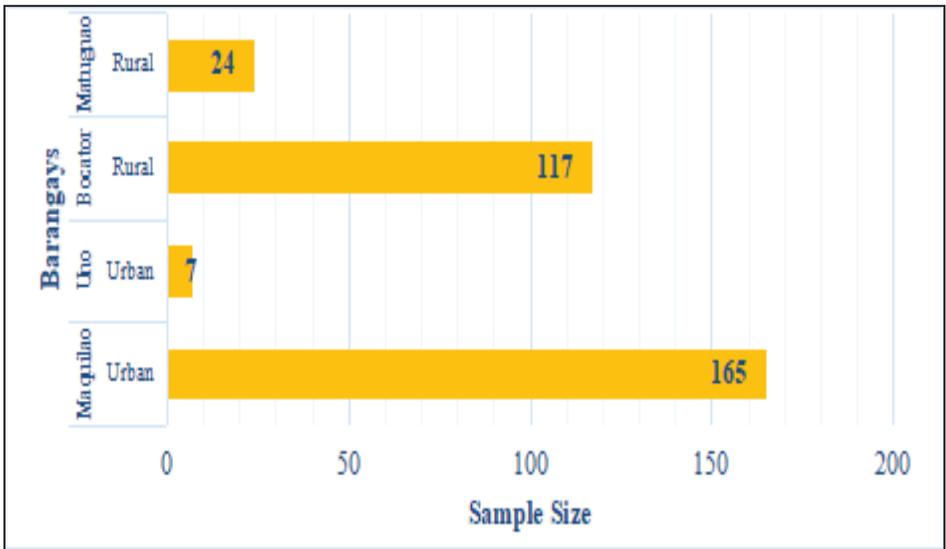


Figure 1. Distribution of 4Ps beneficiaries in the selected rural and urban barangays in Tangub City, Philippines.

Research instrument

A researcher-made questionnaire was utilized based on the insights gained from previous studies on civic engagement (Meyer & Allen, 1991; Pattie et al., 2003; Ekman & Amna, 2012). The questionnaire is comprised of two sections.

Part 1 covers the profile of the beneficiaries according to their age, gender, civil status, religion, number of family members in the household, mode of labor force participation, highest educational attainment, ethnic group, number of organizations the recipient is a member of, years in the current address, and number of free time during weekdays.

Part 2 contains items that measure the level of civic engagement of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries focusing on organizational involvement or commitment of the beneficiaries, individual volunteerism, and political participation. The responses adopted a 5-point Likert scale with responses 5 (Strongly agree – All the Time), 4 (Moderately agree – Most of the Time), 3 (Agree – Regularly), 2 (Moderately disagree – Rarely), and 1 (Strongly disagree – Never). The questionnaire's reliability was validated using Cronbach's Alpha test.

Sampling

The researchers secured a prior informed consent from the City links assigned to the different barangays. The consent of the respondents was also obtained after the researchers discussed with them the scope of the study, the anonymity, and the confidentiality of their responses. All respondents gave their consent to participate in the study. The questionnaires were personally retrieved and follow-up discussions were conducted for some clarifications. The data were collected over a one-month period from August to September 2017.

Data analysis

Frequencies, means, Spearman correlation coefficient, and one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were utilized in this study to descriptively analyze the responses. The weighted mean was computed and the responses were interpreted using the scale: 4.20- 5.00 (Fully engaged); 3.40-4.19 (Somewhat engaged); 2.60-3.39 (Neutral); 1.80 – 2.59 (Somewhat unengaged); 1.00-1.79 (Fully unengaged).

The civic engagement of the beneficiaries was then ranked according to the highest level of engagement. One-way ANOVA was used for determining the significant difference in the level of civic engagement among the 4Ps beneficiaries as to the type of barangay, rural and urban, and as to the number of beneficiaries, from the highest and lowest numbers while the Spearman correlation was used to analyze the correlation of the civic engagement of 4Ps beneficiaries when grouped by educational attainment and number of free hours during weekdays.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, civil status, religion, number of family members in a household, labor force participation, highest educational attainment, ethnic group, number of organizations a respondent is currently a member of, years of stay at the current address, and the number of free time as to hours.

Majority of the beneficiaries from the four select 4Ps barangays are from ages 34 to 44 years old. Respondents are mostly women, predominantly Roman Catholics. The households are composed mostly of five to seven family members. Majority are self-employed and are involved mostly with one to four types of organizations with only 0.61% who are involved with five to eight and nine and above types of organizations.

Table 1. Profile of 4Ps beneficiaries in different barangays.

Profile	Category	Rural Barangay		Urban Barangay	
		Matugnao n=24 Frequency (%)	Bocator n=117 Frequency (%)	Uno n=7 Frequency (%)	Maquilao n=165 Frequency (%)
Age	18-24y/o	1 (4.17%)	2 (1.71%)	1 (14.29%)	7 (4.24%)
	25-34y/o	4 (16.67%)	20 (17.09%)	2 (28.57%)	28 (16.97%)
	35-44y/o	9 (37.50%)	52 (44.44%)	3 (42.86%)	58 (35.15%)
	45-54y/o	5 (20.83%)	33 (28.21%)	1 (14.29%)	47 (28.49%)
	55 & above	5 (20.83%)	10 (8.55%)	0 (0.00%)	25 (15.15%)
Gender	Male	4 (16.67%)	15 (12.82%)	1 (14.29%)	16 (9.70%)
	Female	20 (83.33%)	102 (87.18%)	6 (85.71%)	149 (90.30%)
Civil status	Single	0 (0.00%)	5 (4.27%)	0 (0.00%)	8 (4.85%)
	Married	18 (75.00%)	102 (87.18%)	6 (85.71%)	134 (81.21%)
	Separated	2 (8.33%)	1 (0.86%)	1 (14.29%)	6 (3.66%)
	Widowed	4 (16.67%)	9 (7.69%)	0 (0.00%)	17 (10.30%)
Religion	Catholic	20 (83.33%)	86 (73.50%)	5 (71.43%)	134 (81.21%)
	INC	0 (0.00%)	3 (2.56%)	1 (14.29%)	2 (1.21%)
	SDA	1 (4.17%)	3 (2.56%)	0 (0.00%)	5 (3.03%)
	Born Again	1 (4.17%)	15 (12.82%)	1 (14.29%)	12 (7.27%)
	UCCP	2 (8.33%)	1 (0.86%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	Baptist	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.61%)
	Jehovah's	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.86%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.61%)
	Islam	0 (0.00%)	2 (1.71%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
	Others	0 (0.00%)	6 (5.13%)	0 (0.00%)	10 (6.06%)
	No. of household members	4 or less	6 (25.00%)	37 (31.62%)	0 (0.00%)
5 to 7		12 (50.00%)	52 (44.44%)	4 (57.14%)	83 (50.30%)
8 to 10		5 (20.83%)	23 (19.66%)	2 (28.57%)	40 (24.24%)
10>		1 (4.17%)	5 (4.27%)	1 (14.29%)	11 (6.67%)
Labor force participation	Employed	4 (16.67%)	4 (3.41%)	1 (14.29%)	15 (9.09%)
	Unemployed	8 (33.33%)	56 (47.86%)	1 (14.29%)	61 (36.97%)
	Self-employed	12 (50.00%)	57 (48.72%)	5 (71.43%)	89 (53.94%)

Continued: Table 1. Profile of 4Ps beneficiaries in different barangays.

Profile	Category	Rural Barangay		Urban Barangay	
		Matugnao n=24 Frequency (%)	Bocator n=117 Frequency (%)	Uno n=7 Frequency (%)	Maquilao n=165 Frequency (%)
Highest educational attainment	No grade	0 (0.00%)	4 (3.41%)	0 (0.00%)	2 (1.21%)
	Elem. Grad.	1 (4.17%)	25 (21.37%)	0 (0.00%)	39 (23.64%)
	Elem. Grad. HS	9 (37.50%)	23 (19.66%)	0 (0.00%)	22 (13.33%)
	Undergrad	7 (29.17%)	21 (17.95%)		0 (0.00%)
	HS grad	5 (20.83%)	27 (23.08%)		1 (14.29%)
	College Undergrad.	1 (4.17%)	9 (7.69%)		4 (57.14%)
	College Grad.	1 (4.17%)	8 (6.84%)		2 (28.57%)
	Ethnic group	Cebuano	23 (95.83%)	107 (91.45%)	
	Subanen	1 (4.17%)	1 (0.86%)		0 (0.00%)
	Tausug	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.86%)		0 (0.00%)
	Ilonggo	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.86%)		0 (0.00%)
	Ilocano	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		0 (0.00%)
	Maranao	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		0 (0.00%)
	Others	0 (0.00%)	7 (5.98%)		0 (0.00%)
No. of orgs. currently member of	Not a member	0 (0.00%)	31 (26.50%)		0 (0.00%)
	1 to 4 orgs	24 (100%)	86 (73.50%)		7 (100%)
	5 to 8 orgs	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		0 (0.00%)
	9 and above	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)		0 (0.00%)
Years of stay at current address	less than 6mo.	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.86%)		0 (0.00%)
	1 to 3 yrs	1 (4.17%)	1 (0.86%)		1 (14.29%)
	4 to 8 yrs	2 (8.33%)	2 (1.71%)		0 (0.00%)
	9 to 12 yrs	21 (87.50%)	11 (9.40%)		0 (0.00%)
	more than 12	0 (0.00%)	102 (87.18%)		6 (85.71%)
No. of free hours	no free time	3 (12.50%)	17 (14.53)		0 (0.00%)
	1hr/day	13 (54.17%)	42 (35.90%)		0 (0.00%)
	2 to 4hrs/day	4 (16.67%)	46 (39.32%)		4 (57.14%)
	5 to 8 hrs/day	1 (4.17%)	9 (7.70%)		0 (0.00%)
	more than 8hrs/day	3 (12.50%)	3 (2.56%)		3 (42.86%)

The respondents slightly vary in terms of the years at current address and the number of free hours in a day. Respondents of Barangay Matugnao and Maquilao have stayed in their respective barangays for nine to 12 years whereas in Barangay Uno and Bocator, the respondents have stayed for more than 12 years already. The average number of free time among the respondents from Matugano and Maquilao is one hour per day while those from Uno and Bocator have two to four hours per day.

Respondents greatly vary in terms of their highest educational attainment. Barangay Matugnao has the highest rate of elementary graduates while Bocator has the highest rate of high school graduates. Barangay Uno has the highest rate of college undergraduates while Maquilao has the highest rate of high school undergraduates.

Figure 2 ascertains the different types of organizations the beneficiaries where involved in. The respondents have the highest level of involvement in women's organization and are least involved in political organization. This can be attributed to the fact that majority of the respondents from the four barangays are women. According to Nikkon Anib, the City Action Team Leader in Tangub City, the DSWD has been encouraging 4Ps women to join in the Women's Organization because this is one avenue wherein women empowerment will be developed and foster gender equality. It is the goal of this organization to bring together the women who are unemployed and come up with income generating projects or programs for them to spend their free time at the same time make a living. In this way, they can contribute to the source of their family income and not only rely on their husband. This would also be one way of breaking the stereotype that women are disposed to do domestic works and should stay at home.

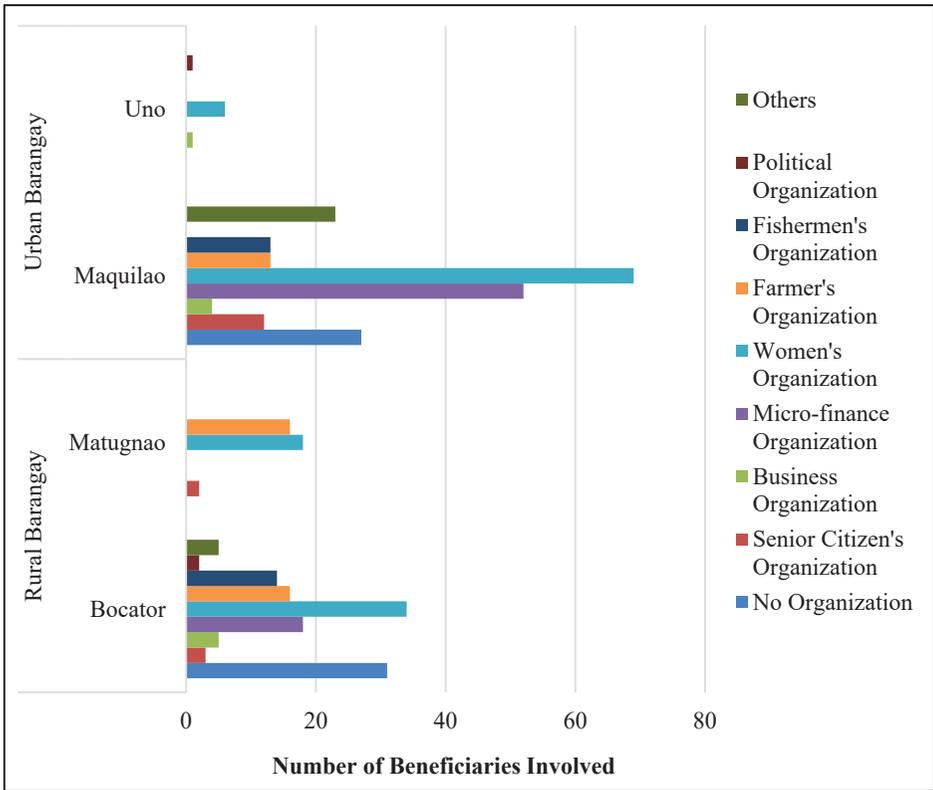


Figure 2. Type of organizations the 4Ps beneficiaries are involved with.

Least involvement in a political organization may be caused by the negative impression of people towards politics. When people hear politics the initial things that would come up into their minds are trouble, violence, manipulation, and lies (Heywood, 2013). In this light, most of the people would tend to avoid activities which involve politics such as joining political organizations. The respondents held the same perception which explains their least involvement in political organizations.

Barangay Maquilao has the highest level of involvement in Senior Citizen’s Organization. This situation is likely to exist because most of the respondents are 55 years old and older and are members of

the senior citizen organization. Consistent with the responsibility of the government to take good care of its citizens especially the elderly and is stressed in the Philippine Constitution, the organization for the senior citizens was founded under Republic Act No. 7432 otherwise known as The Senior Citizen Act. This act has been helping the elderly in terms of health and monthly pensions.

Moreover, Barangay Bocator has the highest number of respondents who are involved in organizations such as fishermen's and livelihood organizations. The area is near the seaside so that the primary source of income of most of the households is fishing. The husbands are the ones who go to the sea and fish while the wives market the fish. These organizations have been helping the residents of Bocator develop a harmonious relationship with each other so that there was not much reported incidence of unhealthy competition.

Both Barangays Bocator and Matugnao have the most rate of involvement in farmer's organizations. Aside from fishing, Bocator is also a barangay fit for growing crops. The barangay is divided into two, *baybay* Bocator for the portion near the sea, *imabaw* Bocator for the area near the mountain. In addition, Matugnao is a mountainous area which has cold climate and experiences most rains compared to the three respondent barangays so that agriculture is the main source of income of this barangay.

On the other hand, Maquilao has the highest rate of involvement in microfinance organizations. Micro-finance services range from loans, saving facilities, insurance, transfer payments, and micro-pensions among others. Countless micro-finance clients attested that it has helped the poor improve their lives (Littlefield et al., 2003). This is very much evident as most of the time the respondents from this barangay are discussing the status of their respective co-operatives and their accounts as well. It also has the highest rate of involvement in other organizations like death associations such as the Maquilao Death Association.

The type of organizations which the beneficiaries are currently involved in are organizations which provide them benefits. The rational choice theory of Pattie et al. (2003) notes that people are more likely to

be involved in organizations and participate more in community activities when the costs are low but the benefits are high. Since these organizations provide more benefits to the citizens, they are actively taking part on being a member of these groups.

Table 2 shows the organizational involvement of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries from barangay Matugnao and Uno are fully engaged in terms of organizational involvement while barangay Bocator and Maquilao are only somewhat engaged.

Respondents of Barangay Matugnao mainly utilizes their free time joining and undertaking activities for their respective organizations. Majority only have one hour of free time in a day. This suggests that the small range of free time did not deter the respondents of Matugano from involving and participating in organization-related activities. According to the civic voluntarism theory, resources are crucial factor why people engage in general. It specifically puts emphasis on free time (Pattie et al., 2003). The more free time a person has the more chances that he will involve in organizations.

The respondents of Barangay Uno are found to have been putting a great deal of extra effort in helping their organizations become successful. It follows then that they have high level of 'subjective confidence'. The civic voluntarism theory forwards that the sense of efficacy does not necessarily mean the belief of an individual to have a definite effect in an activity that inspire them to participate. Rather, the sense of efficacy also implies confidence of a person that somehow his or her participation will contribute to the success of the organization even though the result is not certain yet (Parry et al., 1992).

Both beneficiaries from Barangay Bocator and Maquilao are involved in organizations because these organizations benefit them and their family. This can be attributed to the rational choice theory of civic engagement which supports the claim of Monroe and Maher (1995) that one motivation behind an individual's organizational behavior is based on the idea that humans are generally rational actors. A person would participate more in activities which would benefit him/her and his/her family (selective benefits) over those activities that would help the community as a whole (collective benefits).

Table 2. 4Ps Beneficiaries' civic engagement in terms of organizational involvement.

Statements	Rural Barangay						Urban Barangay					
	Matugnao			Bocator			Uno			Maquila		
	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R
1. I involve myself in organizations because it will benefit me and my family.	4.75	FE	5	4.07	SE	1	4.14	SE	8	4.33	FE	1
2. I consider the problems of our organizations as my own problem.	4.63	FE	8	3.39	N	9	3.57	SE	10	3.85	SE	10
3. I take pleasure in being involved with the organizations.	4.88	FE	3	3.85	SE	3	4.43	FE	2	4.21	FE	3
4. I involve myself in organizations because I believe in the goals and visions it promotes.	4.54	FE	10	3.71	SE	5	4.29	FE	6	4.17	SE	4
5. I find that my values and the organization's values are very similar.	4.67	FE	7	3.52	SE	8	4.29	FE	6	4.03	SE	8
6. I feel a sense of pride in working for the organization.	4.58	FE	9	3.24	N	10	3.86	SE	9	4.13	SE	5
7. I utilize my free time joining and undertaking activities for the organization.	5.00	FE	1	3.62	SE	6	4.43	FE	2	3.99	SE	9
8. I always put in a great deal of extra effort to help the organization become successful.	4.83	FE	4	3.75	SE	4	4.57	FE	1	4.05	SE	6
9. I enjoy discussing my organization with people outside it.	4.75	FE	5	3.62	SE	6	4.43	FE	2	4.05	SE	6
10. I believe that loyalty to the organization is important and therefore I feel a sense of moral obligation to remain.	4.96	FE	2	3.89	SE	2	4.43	FE	2	4.24	FE	2
Composite Mean	4.76	FE		3.66	SE		4.24	FE		4.10	SE	

Legend: WM – Weighted mean; VI – Verbal interpretation; R – Rank; FE – Fully engaged; SE – Somewhat engaged; N – Neutral. Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Fully engaged); 3.40-4.19 (Somewhat engaged); 2.60-3.39 (Neutral); 1.80-2.59 (Somewhat unengaged); 1.00-1.79 (Fully unengaged).

Beneficiaries from Barangay Bocator and Maquilao have low level of trust on the goals and visions that their organization promotes. There is a low level of pride among the respondents from Barangay Bocator and Maquilao in working for their organizations. Also, majority of the respondents from Barangay Uno and Maquilao do not consider the problems of their organizations as their own problems.

Table 3 shows the level of individual volunteerism of the beneficiaries. Results revealed that the beneficiaries from barangays Matugnao, Bocator and Maquilao actively volunteer in the community because they consider it as a pleasurable act, while the beneficiaries in barangay Uno individually volunteer in the community because of the length of time that they have been living in the area. On the contrary, the barangays Matugnao, Bocator and Maquilao find volunteering in collecting financial and non-financial resources for the fund-raising activity during their extra time as the least activity that they undertake in volunteering while the urban barangay Uno considers it less agreeable to volunteer for a reason that they consider the problem of their community and its members as their own. Turcotte (2005) emphasized that residents of urban areas are more likely to be socially isolated thus giving less regard on the problems of their community members. This tends to support the findings about the individual volunteerism of the beneficiaries in Barangay Uno.

The rational choice theory emphasizes that in general the more people feel that citizens should participate for the good of society, the more likely they are to be active (Pattie et al., 2013). The beneficiaries of barangays Matugnao, Bocator and Maquilao highlight their social embeddedness in the local community and is measured by how long they have lived at their current address. Beneficiaries have lived in their respective addresses for as long as nine to more than 12 years. Since they have been living there for quite a long time they feel a strong commitment to help their community and make it progressive.

Table 3. 4Ps Beneficiaries' civic engagement in terms of individual volunteerism.

Statements	Rural Barangay						Urban Barangay					
	Matugnao			Bocator			Uno			Maquiao		
	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R
1. I find helping my community pleasurable.	4.96	FE	1	4.18	SE	1	4.14	SE	10	4.48	FE	1
2. I volunteer because I consider the problems of our community and of the fellow community members as my own.	4.54	FE	7	3.76	SE	6	4.00	SE	11	4.20	FE	4
3. I believe volunteering in the community will not take my time away from my family	4.54	FE	7	3.60	SE	9	4.29	FE	8	4.02	SE	9
4. I believe volunteering in my community is not a tiring activity.	4.75	FE	6	3.69	SE	8	4.43	FE	3	4.18	SE	5
5. I volunteer in helping my community because I want it to be progressive.	4.92	FE	2	3.92	SE	3	4.43	FE	3	4.39	FE	2
6. I volunteer in my community because I have been living here for a long time.	4.83	FE	4	4.07	SE	2	4.71	FE	1	4.36	FE	3
7. I help my fellow community members who are in need even though I do not have extra time and resources because it is gratifying to help despite the limited time and resources I have.	4.13	SE	10	3.84	SE	5	4.57	FE	2	4.13	SE	7
8. I volunteer in collecting financial and non-financial resources for the fund-raising activity of the community because I have extra time.	3.00	N	11	3.17	N	11	4.43	FE	3	3.66	SE	11
9. I support the environmental programs of our community because I am very much aware of environmental issues.	4.42	FE	9	3.71	SE	7	4.43	FE	3	4.16	SE	6
10. I share my ideas to our community because I believe it will influence the decision-making about community concerns.	4.83	FE	4	3.46	SE	10	4.43	FE	3	3.86	SE	10
11. I volunteer work in the local community during my free time.	4.88	FE	3	3.85	SE	4	4.29	FE	8	4.09	SE	8
Composite Mean	4.53	FE		3.75	SE		4.38	FE		4.14	SE	

Legend: WM – Weighted mean; VI – Verbal interpretation; R – Rank; FE – Fully engaged; SE – Somewhat engaged; N – Neutral. Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Fully engaged); 3.40-4.19 (Somewhat engaged); 2.60-3.39 (Neutral); 1.80-2.59 (Somewhat unengaged); 1.00-1.79 (Fully unengaged).

Table 4 shows that the respondents in the four barangays are active voters during national and local elections because they believe that even a single vote could make a change, while barangay Matugnao engages in influencing their friends and family to register and vote during elections.

Beneficiaries from Barangay Matugnao have been found to have greatly influenced their family to register and vote during elections. However, they are found to be passive and do not actively participate in any decision-making process about local policies through assemblies and other gatherings which was the same observation with the respondents from Barangay Bocator. However, the beneficiaries in Barangay Uno are more passive than the beneficiaries in these two barangays. This could be attributed to their level of sense of efficacy. According to the civic voluntarism theory, the higher a person's confidence that his/her action would possibly have an impact the more likely he/she is to participate (Pattie et al., 2003). In the case of this barangay, there is a low level of sense of efficacy among its respondents. Contrary to Matugnao, the level of sense of efficacy among the respondents from Barangay Maquilao are overwhelmingly high.

Barangays Bocator and Uno do not mainly join or support political activities because they do not consider their participation beneficial to them and their family. This initial finding shows support to the idea of selective benefits under the rational theory which stated that people are more motivated because it will benefit them and their family (Pattie et al., 2003).

The respondents from Barangay Maquilao do not usually contact their public officials about certain issues in their community because they have low level of confidence on the capacity of their public officials to address such issues. Trust is a crucial factor of civic engagement as stated by the social capital theory. The more trusting the people are to their public officials and or the institutions the more they are likely to participate. Moreover, trust could only be meaningful if there is mutual action wherein the people trust the officials while the officials are doing their responsibilities well (Pattie et al., 2003).

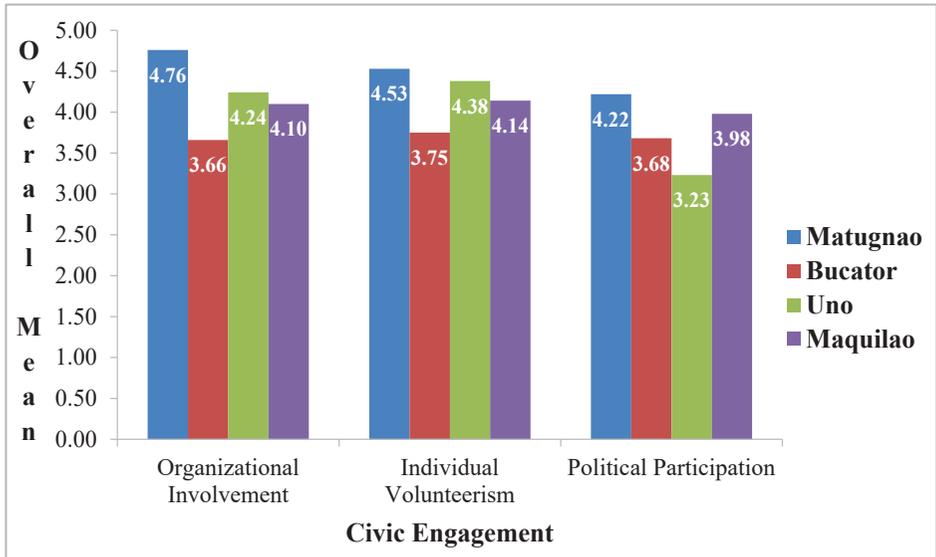
Table 4. 4Ps Beneficiaries' civic engagement in terms of political participation.

Statements	Rural Barangay						Urban Barangay					
	Matugnao			Bocator			Uno			Maquialao		
	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R	WM	VI	R
1. I join or support political activities because it benefits me and my family.	3.75	SE	9	3.35	N	10	2.57	N	9	3.73	SE	9
2. I support the policies and programs created by public officials because I trust them.	4.08	SE	7	3.56	SE	5	3.29	N	4	3.96	SE	4
3. I contact public officials about certain issues in the locality because they are the best people and the authority to address the issue.	4.25	FE	5	3.45	SE	7	2.71	N	8	3.67	SE	10
4. I contact the police and peace and order volunteers because they are helpful and willing to lend a hand.	4.46	FE	3	3.70	SE	3	4.00	SE	3	3.90	SE	5
5. I always vote in the national and local elections because I believe that even a single vote can make a change.	4.58	FE	2	4.65	FE	1	4.29	FE	1	4.55	FE	1
6. I talk/discuss with my neighbors and friends about politics and current issues when it is interesting.	4.21	FE	6	3.41	SE	9	2.86	N	6	3.89	SE	6
7. I voice out my opinions to public officials about policies and programs in the local and national setting because I believe that people like me have a say in what the government does.	4.46	FE	3	3.45	SE	7	2.86	N	6	3.87	SE	7
8. I join campaigns to increase voter's registration and promote electoral participation (i.e., voting).	3.96	FE	8	3.52	SE	6	3.00	N	5	3.80	SE	8
9. I influence my friends and family to register and vote during elections.	4.75	FE	1	4.02	SE	2	4.14	SE	2	4.27	FE	2
10. I actively participate in any decision-making process about local policies through assemblies and other gatherings.	3.71	SE	10	3.69	SE	4	2.57	N	9	4.21	FE	3
Composite Mean	4.22	FE		3.68	SE		3.23	N		3.98	SE	

Legend: WM – Weighted mean; VI – Verbal interpretation; R – Rank; FE – Fully engaged; SE – Somewhat engaged; N – Neutral.
 Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Fully engaged); 3.40-4.19 (Somewhat engaged); 2.60-3.39 (Neutral); 1.80-2.59 (Somewhat unengaged); 1.00-1.79 (Fully unengaged).

Figure 3 shows the overall mean of the 4Ps beneficiaries’ civic engagement. Based on the result, Barangay Matugnao, classified as a rural barangay with the lowest number of beneficiaries, ranked first in terms of engagement. Barangay Maquilao which has the highest number of beneficiaries in the urban area came in second. Subsequently, the urban barangay Uno with the lowest number of beneficiaries ranked number three, while the barangay that ranked last in the level of civic engagement is barangay Bucator with the highest number of beneficiaries in the rural area.

Table 5 shows the significant difference of the civic engagement of 4Ps beneficiaries in selected rural and urban barangays when grouped by type of barangay and number of beneficiaries. Results revealed that there is both a significant difference in the organizational involvement and individual volunteerism of the 4Ps beneficiaries when grouped by type of barangay and number of recipients but no significant difference in their political participation.



Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Fully engaged); 3.40-4.19 (Somewhat engaged); 2.60-3.39 (Neutral); 1.80-2.59 (Somewhat unengaged); 1.00-1.79 (Fully unengaged).

Figure 3. Overall mean of civic engagement among 4Ps beneficiaries in selected rural and urban barangays in Tangub City, Philippines.

Table 5. One-way ANOVA of the civic engagement among 4Ps beneficiaries in selected rural and urban barangays when grouped by type of barangay and number of beneficiaries.

Civic engagement	P value	
	Type of barangay	Number of beneficiaries
Organizational Involvement	.002**	.000**
Individual Volunteerism	.000**	.000**
Political Participation	.061	.389

** .Significant at p value <0.05 level

Involvement in various types of organizations has been said to be higher in rural places (Putnam, 2000). Barangay Matugnao, a rural barangay ranks number one in the overall mean computation in organizational involvement. It has been observed during the conduct of the research that the beneficiaries in the rural area are friendlier and welcoming to guests than its urban counterpart. Additionally, they address their co-beneficiaries on a first name basis compared to the urban barangay recipients.

Table 6 shows the correlation between the educational attainment of the beneficiaries and number of free time during weekdays and their civic engagement in terms of organizational involvement, individual volunteerism, and political participation. Based on the results, there is a relationship between the civic engagement and educational attainment of 4Ps beneficiaries in the selected rural and urban barangays.

Most of the recipients of this study varied in their level of education. Education plays an important role in the participation of the citizens in the community. An educated citizen is attentive, knowledgeable, and participatory while the uneducated citizen is not (Campbell, 2006). The civic voluntarism model remarks that the more educated a person is, the more likely he is to engage in the community and political activities (Pattie et al., 2003). Almond and Verba (2015) also mentioned that an uneducated man or a man with limited education acts differently from the man who has achieved a higher level of education.

Table 6. Spearman rho correlation of the civic engagement of 4Ps beneficiaries in selected rural and urban barangays when grouped by educational attainment and number of free hours during weekdays.

Civic engagement	Correlations	
	Educational attainment	Number of free time during weekdays
Organizational Involvement	.012**	.064
Individual Volunteerism	.003**	.018**
Political Participation	.006**	.018**

**Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

It can be noted that Barangay Matugnao which ranked as number one in the overall level of civic engagement in the selected rural and urban barangays has the highest rate of elementary graduates, while Barangay Bocator which ranked fourth in the level of civic engagement has the highest rate in high school undergraduates. It goes to show that regardless of the limited educational attainment of the beneficiaries of Barangay Matugnao, they are still highly engaged than the beneficiaries in Barangay Bocator which has beneficiaries who have higher level of education. This finding contradicts the notion of Campbell (2006). Foreign assertions may not apply to the Philippine context. Above all, the education of a person greatly impacts their participation and civic engagement.

Moreover, results reveal that there is also a relationship that exists between the number of free time the beneficiaries have during weekdays and their civic engagement in terms of individual volunteerism and political participation. However there is no relationship with the abovementioned variable on the organizational involvement. The variable was coded on a 5 point scale ranging from 1 (no free time), 2 (up to an hour of free time), 3 (an average of two to four hours), 4 (five to eight hours), and 5 (more than eight hours during the day).

The resources available to people, specifically their time, are important in the civic voluntarism model. Some people are so busy that they do not have the time to engage in civic activities (Pattie et al., 2003). The average number of free time among the respondents from Matugano and Maquilao is one hour per day while those from Uno and Bocator have two to four hours per day. As observed during the conduct of the gathering of data in these selected rural and urban barangays, beneficiaries stress that they engage themselves in community and activities relating to politics only when they have free time. As noted a large portion of the beneficiaries are self-employed and having five to seven members in the household making them busy to complete their commitments.

However, there is no relationship between the number of free time of the beneficiary and their organizational involvement. Free time does not affect the organizational involvement of the recipients. A large proportion of beneficiaries involve themselves in organizations that best fit their interests and provide them benefits such as women's organizations and micro-financial organizations. Pattie et al. (2003) backs up these reasons with the rational choice theory which states that civic engagement occurs where the costs of involvement are low and the benefits of successful action are high. The free time of the beneficiaries does not necessarily affect its organizational involvement.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The above findings suggest that the type of geographical area greatly affects the level of civic engagement among the 4Ps beneficiaries. Those who are living in the upland rural area are the most inclined to cooperate in civic related activities in their areas. This can be attributed to the fact that the this area is relatively isolated and there are only few fellow community members so that the residents here are more closely knit and, given the lesser opportunities they face, are living interdependently with each other. On the other hand, those who are living in lowland rural areas are least participative in this kind of activity

because they are closer to the city or municipality so that they are living with less interdependence with each other. Moreover, those who are living in the urban areas typically participate although not in the same degree with those in upland rural areas because they are not that attached with each other but felt otherwise obligated to cooperate since they are living near the local government.

The 4Ps has encouraged civic engagement in terms of organizational involvement, individual volunteerism, and political participation among its beneficiaries, however, there is still a need to increase the level of civic participation. The information gathered by the researchers then can be utilized by the government especially by the DSWD to further develop activities that will enhance the civic engagement of the recipients. A similar study in other areas of the Philippines would greatly help in the betterment of the implementation of this anti-poverty program.

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