POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT’S PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2013 AND 2015 DATA

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Background:
Ps is a human development program that invests in the health and education of poor households particularly of children aged 0-18 years old. Since it was launched in 2008, its implementation grows covering more household-beneficiaries including additional services. Recognizing the value of investment to implement the program, research to provide empirical basis of the program’s impact to outcomes on beneficiaries should be provided.

Objective:
The study aimed to assess the potential impact of 4Ps to the household's nutritional outcome (as indicated by the absence or presence of at least one undernourished household member) and food security status.

Materials and Methods:
Secondary data from the 2013 National Nutrition Survey and 2015 Updating of the Nutritional Status of Filipino Children and Other Population Group Survey of the Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST- FNRI) were used in the study. Descriptive statistics and difference-in-difference estimate (DID) were utilized for the data analysis using Stata version 15.0. The DID is used to estimate the effect of an enactment of a large-scale program implementation, like the 4 Ps implementation, by comparing the changes in outcomes over time between a population that is enrolled in a program and the population that is not.

Results and Findings:
The proportion of 4Ps household-beneficiaries increased by 3 percentage-points in 2015 from the 16.6% in 2013. Rural areas and households with head whose occupation belonged to agricultural sectors had higher proportion of 4Ps beneficiaries for both survey years. The nutritional status of 4Ps household-beneficiaries was noted to slightly improve from 2013 to 2015 with the proportion of households with at least one malnourished member dropping from 74% to 72%. Food insecurity was mostly found among households with more than 5 members, had more than two vulnerable members, had agricultural-related jobs as primary source of income, and belonged to indigenous groups. DID analysis showed that implementation of 4Ps from 2013 to 2015 had potentially increased the proportion of food secure households by 3.6 percentage-points and improved nutritional status by decreasing proportion of households with undernourished household member by 4 percentage-points.

Conclusions & Recommendations:
Findings of the study showed positive effect of 4Ps on food security and nutritional status of households. However, this is not conclusive as other existing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs may also contribute to the observed improvement. Strict monitoring of its implementation and review of its existing implementing rules should be strengthened to maximize its benefit for the improvement of nutritional status of the population.