

## **Level of Implementation of Reproductive Health Law as Perceived by Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Beneficiaries in Anda, Pangasinan**

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This research primarily aimed to assess the extent of implementation of the Reproductive Health Law as perceived by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries in the municipality of Anda, Pangasinan. The findings of the study are expected to aid the government and program implementers in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of the Reproductive Health Law in the local context of Anda, Pangasinan.

The study utilized a quantitative research design, focusing on collecting measurable data from a representative group of 4Ps beneficiaries. The goal was to determine and analyze the perceived level of implementation of the Reproductive Health Law based on the experiences and observations of the selected respondents. The respondents of the study consisted of 271 4Ps beneficiaries from Anda, Pangasinan. In addition, the Municipal Health Office (MHO) of Anda participated to identify the common problems and challenges they encountered in the enforcement of the law. To obtain the desired sample, the researchers applied systematic sampling, which Kalton (2017) defines as a reliable and efficient technique for selecting a probability sample from a defined population.

According to the most recent data from the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Anda, Pangasinan, there were 2,323 registered 4Ps beneficiaries as of 2022. Applying Slovin's formula, the researchers computed a sample size of 271 respondents distributed across five identified barangays.

To collect the necessary data, the researchers developed two sets of structured survey questionnaires as the main research instrument. These were designed to measure the level of implementation of the Reproductive Health Law as perceived by both the 4Ps beneficiaries and the MHO. Guided by the study's objectives, the questionnaire consisted of four main parts: (1) The profile of the 4Ps beneficiaries and the Municipal Health Office of Anda, Pangasinan; (2) The perceived level of implementation of the Reproductive Health Law; (3) The problems encountered by the 4Ps beneficiaries in the implementation of the law; and (4) The challenges faced by the Municipal Health Office in enforcing the provisions of the law.

The first set of questionnaires addressed the first three objectives and was administered to the 4Ps beneficiaries, while the second set focused on the fourth objective and was answered by the MHO. Both instruments underwent content validation by experts — two from the academe and two practitioners in the field. The validators' feedback and suggestions were carefully reviewed and integrated to refine and finalize the instrument prior to data collection.

Before data gathering, the researchers sought formal approval from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Office in San Fernando, La Union, and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Anda, Pangasinan. Through these offices, permission was granted to access the list of 4Ps beneficiaries in the five selected barangays. The validated questionnaires were then distributed following the systematic sampling procedure determined using Slovin's formula.

The researchers addressed the study's objectives by distributing two separate sets of questionnaires. For the 4Ps beneficiaries, the questionnaires were distributed through a door-to-door approach, allowing respondents to answer immediately and return the forms within the same day. For the Municipal Health Office, the questionnaires were provided separately and collected after a few days to allow sufficient time for completion. The entire data collection process lasted ten (10) days. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, and ranking were used to analyze and interpret the gathered data.

The findings revealed that most respondents were mothers, with 5–10 family members, beneficiaries for over four years, monthly income below ₱5,000, and primarily housewives. Regarding the services availed within the past 12 months, the most common were family planning seminars, counseling and symposiums, child immunization services, and medical missions for youth.

For the Municipal Health Office, results showed that they had 41 or more health workers, facilities including clinics, birthing centers, rural health units, and outpatient care centers, and offered all essential health services mandated under the Reproductive Health Law. The study further found that the implementation level of the Reproductive Health Law in Anda, Pangasinan was rated as very highly implemented.

However, the study also identified several challenges: limited access to health services due to geographic barriers, low participation among male and female family members in reproductive health-related activities, insufficient medical equipment and services, and health facilities vulnerable to natural disasters.

Based on the findings, the researchers recommend the conduct of comprehensive information and awareness campaigns on reproductive health, expanded seminars and training programs for the youth, and the enhancement of accessibility of healthcare services to all sectors of the community.