

GOOD PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION

“Goodbye Stamping Pad”

Good Practice on Basic Literacy among Pantawid Pamilya Beneficiaries
in Calbayog City, Samar, Philippines



CONTEXT

Time will tell that literacy is the path from slavery to freedom. According to Kofi Annan, a human rights advocate, “Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right.... Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

Meanwhile, the Family Development Session (FDS) is considered to be the very heart of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). Different lessons on financial education, Livelihood Seminars, Spiritual Enhancement, Moral Recovery, Disaster Preparedness, Health and Wellness, Responsible Parenting and many others are discussed. Grantee’s can comprehend and understand what they are being taught but some felt the dilemma because they cannot take notes on the important points given because some of our parents literally cannot read and write.

During the monthly sessions, the 4Ps staff encounter the same situations. Hearts are broken seeing some of the parent grantees find it hard to write their names on the attendance sheet, some seems afraid to hold a pen and even feel shiver when writing their names. For those who really can't write, stamping pad is their best friend.

Merlita M. Caber, 47 years old, a parent leader from Brgy. Bayo, Oquendo District, Calbayog City knew the feeling of having scarce knowledge and education. She only finished Grade 3 because of hardships in life. Being an elementary undergraduate caused her to experience the difficulty of finding a job that can sustain the needs of their family, since her husband was also not able to finish his studies. She then realized that opportunities are rare and seems so far away from those who lack education.

Merlita is experienced the times when her children asked help regarding their homework, but she can't give help since she do not know the topic and even can't understand well the given assignment. She felt miserable and wished she will be given the chance to study again.

These circumstances made a turning point on thinking and going out of the box from the usual FDS topics.

The birth of Basic Literacy during Family Development Session arose. Barangay Canhumadac in Calbayog City belongs to the Upper Happy Valley Villages; they are the first recipients of the Basic Literacy topic that was given during FDS which made a very good turning point on the lives of the grantee's in that Barangay. The good effect on these was replicated to all our Non-formal education parents in Pantawid, Calbayog city.

A legacy that cannot be stolen from them for the rest of their lives.



Actual photos taken: Basic Literacy lesson given during Family Development Sessions.



IMPLEMENTATION

Pre-implementation

It took a long process until this good practice was realized. It started during a Calbayog City Interagency Committee Meeting wherein the results of the 5th wave Social Welfare and Development Indicator Assessment administered to Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program household beneficiaries was presented by the Pantawid Pamilya staff and the former's level of education was discussed. These showed the low rate in educational attainment and how such factor affects the totality of status or level of well-being.

Indeed, literacy connotes poverty. It was as if stated in the modality in the environment and community, that the higher a person's educational degree is, the more chance of finding a regular and sustainable source of income or better employment, which leads to a more satisfying life. This has been one of the reasons of why 4Ps staff aimed to promote literacy in the community.

Implementation

The program which started in year 2017 is through the partnership with the Department of Education- Alternative Learning System (ALS) of Calbayog City, Samar, who served around 61 4Ps Parent Leaders willing to be trained about the module of ALS-Basic Literacy by their ALS-mobile teachers and coordinators in order to equip them with techniques and knowledge which they could share with other individuals willing to learn and complete basic literacy modules in their respective barangays.



After the lectures carried out were grand demonstrations of Parent Leaders for them to be assessed if they can already serve as volunteers in teaching those other interested individuals, especially 4Ps beneficiaries, who are willing to learn basic literacy such as writing, counting and reading from their respective barangays.

Post-implementation

After the trainings conducted to all 4Ps Parent Leaders, they are all equipped with the knowledge, techniques and come up with the strategies in saturating beneficiaries with no completed grade level or those who were interested to attend their proposed teaching service in their areas.

Merlita, one of the beneficiaries who underwent the said literacy training shared that she feels valued and wants to share her leanings with other beneficiaries.

Also she expressed, “An pinakaimportante na ak nahibaruan an pakipag-kapwa ngan pakihalubilo. Ngan dapat mag-aram. Bisan kun may edad na diri dapat ikaawod nga nag aaram kapa.”

After series of classes and demonstration conducted, the graduation rites for Parent Leaders were set. All the parent leaders who completed the modules received a certificate of appreciation in honor for their valuable effort exerted to make one’s vision successfully and able to serve their fellow beneficiaries.

Eventually, after listing down their respective target beneficiaries for the mentoring and teaching, they were able to start the regular classes set respectively per district with corresponding venues. This time, around 40 Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries were served.

The activity has been through a lot of obstacles before it lead to more concrete designs of practice-Basic Literacy Program which is an activity initiated to answer one of the low points in the level of well-being of the beneficiaries and that is Literacy.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program supported the ALS Basic Literacy Program which is intended to promote literacy among people who have had very little in schooling, regardless of age, status and highest level of educational attainment; if interested and willing to participate; all were welcome-and the goal is to achieve basic literacy.

RESULTS / IMPACT

The program activity results were very impressive that many of the parent leaders are now asking for the 2nd batch of the ALS – BLP activities. Aside from the very productive outcome were parent with non-education were able to write and read now, they also are expressing their interests in sharing the knowledge they gained from the program and their experiences to their co-pantawid beneficiaries.

Attaining great impact like these doesn’t come without hardships and huge trials. To mention with are the venue’s for every sessions, the financial matter (fare, snacks, meals, supplies and likes), the weather, and the man power; because ALS facilitators and mobile teachers have their limitations also juggling their regular hours between their classrooms and with ALS-BLP participants but it does not become hindrances to attain the goal of the activity. Having the heart to serve, nothing is impossible.

Gaps were also addressed during CIAC meetings and it is with thankful heart that the city government of Calbayog is very responsive on these issues. City-Inter Agency Committee members all together work for the progress of this program. Suggestions, donations (from the local government office, Lion’s and giving a more effective strategy are only few of the team effort exerted just to materialize the said program and that the intervention provided will be successful.

Last May 24, 2019, the 61 ALS – BLP completers were given their recognition for giving such noble act in serving their fellow Pantawid members including our ALS implementers and mobile teachers. It was a day full of inspirations and aspirations hearing all the messages coming from Ms. Betty Jane V. Arnejo (CSWD Officer) in lieu of Mayor Ronaldo P. Aquino (who have equally important activity to attend), Mr. Fernando P. Medrano in lieu of Dr. Gorgonio G. Diaz, Jr. from DepEd Division of Calbayog, and Ms. Manneth C. Lagaras (Provincial Link, Pantawid Samar).

Glimpse during the completion rites:



LESSONS LEARNED

ALS – BLP played a great part in the lives of our Pantawid beneficiaries in attaining their dreams of continuing their education. Though it went through many hardships in the implementation phase, it was with pride that they are now more confident communicating and collaborating with other people. Some of them were more than encourage enrolling in ALS

(Elementary level and Secondary level) aiming for more. Aside from it, they became more active in every activity called for them; they volunteered and serve fellow Pantawid beneficiaries. They became more productive in their day to day activities, instead of spending it in less important things; they are now inside their classrooms or doing their assignments or practicing their handwriting skills.

In summary, they are now giving importance on the following areas:

1. Education (both for them and their children); it has no age.
2. Self-care
3. Time
4. And Service to community and others.

And more importantly, these parents are now able to inspire and support their children in giving value to education and investing in the future.

IMPLICATION FOR REPLICATION

This pilot program born during CIAC and with crucial brainstorming amongst 4Ps staff and partner stakeholders is good for replication since it just don't promote good rapport with partner –implementers but also give big impact on the level of well-being of Pantawid beneficiaries as an intervention on the 5th wave SWDI results on Educational aspect. This also serves as a venue to be of service to their fellow Pantawid beneficiaries. Confidence, service, and love for one another are also contributing factors for continuing this good and very productive practice.

REFERENCES

NAME	AFFILIATION	CONTACT NUMBER
Ms. Leah G. Arnejo	EPSA – II, ALS (DepEd, Division of Calbayog)	0905-7579597
Ms. Marie Belle Amacna	PDO – II, Calbayog City	0917-1100161
Ms. Kareen Tingzon	PDO – II, Calbayog City	0947-1971408
Ms. Elena Diaz	PDO – II, Calbayog City	0945-9853362
Ms. Julie Ann M. Mijares	Education Cluster – Team leader	0905-1570238

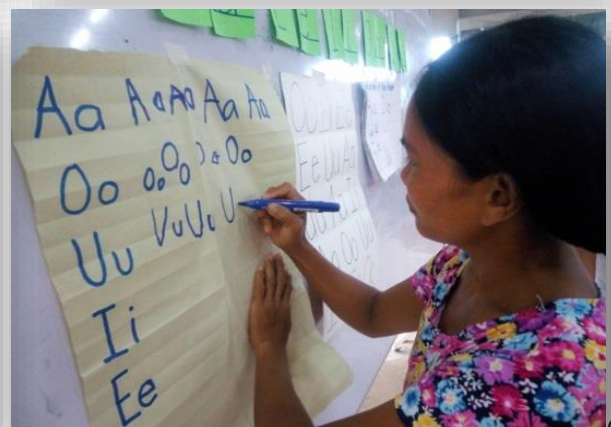
ANNEX

I. Basic Literacy Module

Date	District	Module/Session Title	Venue
June 2, 2017	District 1-5, Tinambacan, & Oquendo District	Module 1 (Recognizing, Reading, Writing VOWELS) & Module 2 (Recognizing, Reading, Writing CONSONANTS)	Socio-Cultural Center, NWSSU main campus
July 14, 2017	District 1-5, Tinambacan, & Oquendo District	Module 3 (Recognizing, Reading, Writing SPECIAL CONSONANTS) & Module 4 (Reading Forming and Writing Syllables and Words Using the consonants B,K,D,G,H and	Socio-Cultural Center, NWSSU main campus

Aug. 24, 2017	District 1-5, Tinambacan, & Oquendo District	Vowels) Module 5 (Reading, Forming and Writing Syllables and Words Using the Consonants L.M, N, NG, P, and the Vowels)	Rawis Covered Court
(date Vary depending on the preferred schedule per Distirct)	Module's 6, 7, & 8	Module 6 (Reading, Forming, and Writing Syllables and Words Using the Consonants R, S, T, W, Y, and the vowels) Module 7 (Counting Numbers 1-100 (Numeracy) (Module8) Return Demonstration	*Per District to conserve fare and effort of the Parent Leaders

II. Photo documentations





III. Calbayog City Interagency Committee Minutes of Meeting (attached)

IV. Attendance Sheets/ Profile of 4Ps Beneficiaries (attached)

Prepared by:

JULIE ANN M. MIJARES, City Link
JEAN A. REÑOLA, City Link
ELENA S. DIAZ, City Link
KAREEN B. TINGZON, City Link
EDILBERTO P. RAMOS, City Link
4Ps Calbayog staff

MYLA ANN M. JOMADIAO
Samar Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

MANNETH CATINA-LAGARAS
Samar Provincial Link

Reviewed and edited by:

MICHELLE J. CALZADO
Social Marketing Officer

Noted by:

VINA P. AQUINO
Regional Information Officer

PAULA B. UNAY
Regional Program Coordinator

