

# Day Care Services and Programs for Farming Families in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Philippines

フィリピン農村地帯でも公的保育・幼児教育サービスのニーズが高まっている。45施設、500人弱の幼児の実地調査から、その現状と課題を探る。

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## Abstract

The first six years of birth is the most crucial stage in the lives of children. It is during this stage that physical, mental and emotional developments take place. Thus, it is important for children to be provided with a stimulating environment to ensure their proper total development. Child rearing at this sensitive part in their lives should never be undermined.

Child rearing should be the sole responsibility of parents. However, due to the needs of the times, most parents in the Cordillera need to farm or look for piece work for a living oftentimes leaving their children in the care of substitute caregivers such as day care workers. Under the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act (R.A. No. 8980, s. 2002), the Local Government Unit (LGU) s are mandated to provide the early education and development services, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other stakeholders, thereby responding to the children's needs in a holistic way and achieve greater or sustainable impact. On the part of the LGUs, they give financial support to the children's programs.

This study analyzed the socio demographic profile of 489 day care children enrolled in the 45 selected day care centers in CAR for the school year 2014 – 2015. The result showed that most beneficiaries of the day care service programs are males. Most of them entered school at 4 years old. Majority of the parents are young adults in their 30's, high school graduates with farming as their means of livelihood. With this kind of situation, the day care program of the government is the solution through the support and caring hands of the day care workers. The day care workers considered the program very helpful and satisfying.

**Keywords** day care children, day care services, farming families, socio economic condition, day care workers

## Introduction

### *Background of the Study*

The first six years of birth is the most crucial stage in the lives of children. It is during this stage that physical, mental and emotional development take place. Thus, it is important that children are provided with a stimulating environment to ensure their proper total development. Child rearing at this sensitive part

in their lives should never be undermined.

Child rearing should be the sole responsibility of parents. However, due to the needs of the times, most parents in the Cordillera need to farm or look for piece work for a living oftentimes leaving their children in the care of substitute caregivers such as day care workers.

Our day care workers are indeed a big help to

working parents. I commend their support and caring hands for parents taking active role in providing supplemental parental care to young children. (Soliman, C.J. 2002).

As embodied under this law, ECCD today attempts to integrate interventions in health, nutrition and early education so as to achieve greater impact and respond to children's needs in a holistic way. The day care worker monitors the child's immunization, growth and nutritional status.

Prior to the devolution, DSWD was the main government agency involved in psycho-social development efforts through early education through its Day Care Service and the Parent Effectiveness Program.

Since devolution, the local government units have been mandated to provide the early education services previously provided by DSWD. DSWD's role is now more in policy development, coordination, monitoring, training, technical assistance and accreditation. At the Central Office, DSWD's activities for children are divided among three Bureaus: the Bureau of Child and Youth Welfare which supports the Day Care Service Program; the Bureau of Family and Community which supports the Parent Effectiveness Service (PES); the Bureau of Emergency Assistance, which supports the nutrition service for malnourished children.

As of March 1994, there are 20,211 Day Care Center (DCC)s established all over the country, covering 17,211 barangays or 41% of all 42,144 barangays. These DCCs served 1,051,362 preschool children. Out of the 20,211 DCCs, 16,558 or 81.92% were accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

In terms of training, 16,770 day care workers and 2,592 day care worker trainers and 17 supervisors; 2,517 PES volunteers/trainers; 3,000 direct service parents on proper child rearing principles and techniques and practices have been trained as of March 1994.

While efforts have generated positive results towards addressing children's basic learning needs, programs coverage remains limited. In 1991, out of the total 11.56 million 0-6 population, only 30.6%

or 3.537M were reached by the various early childhood care and development services.

The department has strengthened its advocacy for the implementation of RA 6972—an Act establishing DCCs in every barangay and municipality resulting in the increased number of day care centers after devolution. The quality of the program and its curriculum needs to be upgraded, along with the quality of training of day care workers. We have recently included in our curriculum early detection of disability and child abuse as well as children's right education as part of our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Further, the establishment of other forms of day care like home based/family day care, child minding and supervised neighborhood play, to expand the implementation of ECCD and the use of innovative methods to reach more children and their parents needs to be pursued.

Collaboration and coordination among government and non-government organizations as well as the private sector at the local level is imperative if we are to reach more preschoolers particularly in remote areas and depressed barangays. (Balanon, L. 1994)

### ***Statement of the Problem***

This study aims to present the implementation of the day care services and programs for farming families in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)—Philippines. It specifically seeks to answer the following problems/questions:

1. What are the levels of attainment of objectives of the day care services program relative to the socio demographic profile of day care parent's beneficiaries in CAR - Philippines?
2. Are there differences in the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies used in the day care services program if the extent of attainment of the objectives is considered?
3. Are there differences in the degree of seriousness of problems encountered and solution employed if the level of effectiveness of implementation strategies used is considered?

### ***Objectives of the Study***

The study had the following objectives:

1. Describe the socio demographic profile of parent beneficiaries of the day care service program to their children attending.
2. Determine the extent of attainment of the objectives of the day care services and programs in CAR–Philippines.
3. Analyze the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care services program.
4. Determine the relationship between the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care services program and extent of attainment of objectives.
5. To evaluate the degree of seriousness of problems encountered by the implementers and identify solutions of the day care services program.

### ***Importance of the Study***

The results of the study can greatly contribute to the government agencies such as the LGU’s and Non Government Organizations (NGO’s). These agencies will benefit through the research by having knowledge on the implementation of the day care services program.

According to Republic Act No. 6972 which was begun and held in Manila in 1990, there is an act establishing a day care center in every barangay, instituting therein a total development and protection of children program appropriating funds therefore and for other purposes. In relation to the research, day care personnel will gain knowledge on how services can be provided according to the needs of the children.

The results of the study can be used in finding solutions to problems that may arise in handling a day care center and its personnel through the variables that will be studied.

From the response of the day care workers, parents and guardians of day care enrolled children whether it be positive or negative reaction shall serve as a basis for possible suggestions and recommendations on how to further improve and how to

effectively implement the day care services program and also draw possible measures in order to increase employee participation in this program.

This study can be used by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). They will have the necessary information and ideas on how to improve further the implementation of the day care services program. With respect to the government officials and local government units (i.e. city, province, municipal, barangay) they would be able to appreciate the importance of the day care services program in the physical, social, intellectual, psychological, and spiritual development of preschoolers such that it would be possible for them to assist the implementation of the day care services program. Also legislative support would add subsidies which would amount to the improvement and upgrading of the day care services as a whole.

Researchers and students interested in similar or related topics and areas of interest will directly be benefited by referring this research proposal in situations where it can be used as a reference.

### ***Scope and Delimitation of the Study***

This paper is confined to a study on the implementation of day care services and programs for farming families in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)—Philippines for the school year 2014 -2015. The substantive content of this research includes



**Fig.1 Day care children with day care worker**

the socio demographic profile of the beneficiaries of the day care services program; the programs and services and the extent of implementation; the level of effectiveness and techniques and approaches used in the implementation; the problems encountered by the implementers and the beneficiaries and lastly the solutions and recommendations as suggested by the implementers and beneficiaries.

**Conceptual Framework**

“The kind and quality of care given to a child during the first six years of life determine what he will be as a youth and as an adult.” (Steele, 1973)

The parents are the primary persons who are to take full responsibility of realizing this aspect in a person’s total growth and development. It is at this stage when parents should be around to mold the physical, intellectual, emotional and psychological development of the child. As the child grows, the parents are there to see that his needs are met, his sense of right and wrong guided, his physical growth monitored, and his learning adequate.

But with the many changes happening especially on parenting and the role of the mother in the home, it is not possible that parents are always there to monitor a child’s growth and development. One very important change is the role of the mother. In the past, as always, she took the role of housewife, mother, housekeeper all at the same time. At present, she not only is a wife, a mother, and a housekeeper, but also an income earner, that is, she also works to help out in the daily household expenses. Since both parents are working, the child’s growth and development is not closely monitored on a full time basis anymore. When parents are not there, the child is left to the care of close relatives, the maid, or the neighbors. This being the case, the kind of caring parents want for the child is amiss. So even in their absence, parents wants an alternative entity or person to more or less fill up the “vacuum of caring” resulting from their absence. For they know that these years, the first six years of life, are very crucial in a child’s growth and development

One alternative is the provision of day care service program through establishing a day care center in every barangay in order to cater to the needs of children. It is because a day care service is the provision of supplemental parental care to 0–6 year old child who may be neglected, potentially neglected during part of the day when parents cannot attend to his needs. (Steele, 1973) A day care center provides the following objectives: 1) physical development 2) development of personal abilities 3) ability to handle human relations 4) development of creative and analytical ability, 5) development of spiritual and social values and 6) provision of comfort and safety.

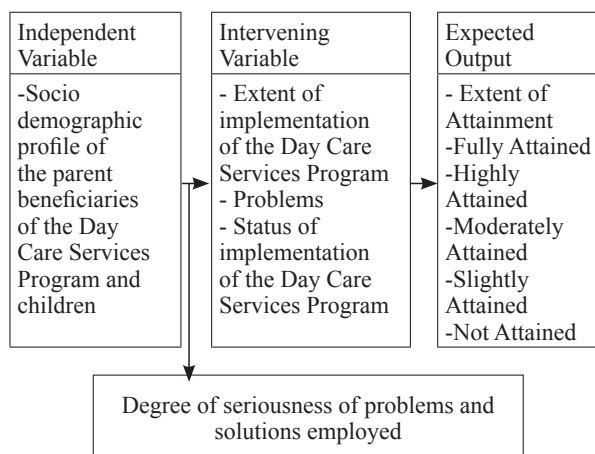
With all of the above objectives and provisions of day care services, parents feel comforted and safe that in their absence and in their temporary inability to physically provide immediate care to their children, they have the day care center to turn to.

The conceptual paradigm of the study is shown in Table 1.

The independent variable is the factor which is measured, observed and selected by the researcher to see its effects to an observed phenomena. (Steele, 1973)

The independent variables of the study are the Socio Demographic Profile of the parent beneficiaries of the day care services program.

Dependent variable is the factor which is manip-



**Table 1 Conceptual Paradigm showing the relationships of variables included in the study**



ulated and observed to determine the effect of the independent variable to the observed phenomena. (Steele, 1973)

For this research study, the dependent variable is the extent of attainment whether fully attained, highly attained, moderately attained, slightly attained and not attained.

Intervening variable is the variable which theoretically affects the observed phenomena, but cannot be seen, its effects can only be inferred from the effects of the independent variable to the observed phenomena. (Steele, 1973)

The intervening variable for this research is the extent of effectiveness of implementation of the day care services program, problems and the status of implementation of the day care services program.

### ***Objectives of the Day Care Services Program***

- Comfort and Safety
- Inculcation of Spiritual/Social values
- Physical Development
- Human Relations
- Personal Abilities

### ***Programs and Services***

#### **1. Day Care Service Program**

It refers to the services that promote the conditions of care, socialization and education in the home or community that enhance a child's total development. It also includes the provision of health, nutrition, early



**Fig. 2 Day care children listen to a day care worker**

education, psycho-social and other services that provide for the holistic needs of day care children.

#### **2. Parent Effectiveness Service (PES)**

This is the provision of expansion of knowledge and skills of parents and caregivers on parenting to be able to respond to parental duties and responsibilities on the areas of early childhood development, behavior management of younger and older children, husband-wife relationships, prevention of child abuse, healthcare and other challenges of parenting.



**Fig. 3 Day care parents undergo training on effective parenting**

#### **3. Supplementary Feeding Program**

It is the provision of food, supplement and energy and other nutrients missing from the diet of those



**Fig. 4 Supplementary Feeding for Day Care children prepared and cooked by parents**

who have special nutritional requirements to prevent malnutrition through the reduction of the nutrient gap between an individual's actual consumption in his or her requirement (WHO, 1997).

### ***CAR Situationer***

- Based on the 2005 Regional Situationer of Social Welfare and Development of DSWD-CAR, Baguio City, there are 34,901 or 84% enrolled in the different Day Care Centers in the different municipalities/city in CAR while 16% or 6,591 by public and private pre-schools. Out of the 1,176 barangays in CAR, there are 1,676 established day care centers be it permanent or temporary with 1,446 day care workers. As per record out of the 1,446 DCWs, there are 1,030 DCW's accredited by DSWD.



**Fig. 5 Map of Cordillera Administrative Region**

### ***Benguet Situationer***

- In the Provincial Local Development Plan for Children (2005–2025) of Benguet Province, it appears that for the school year 2002–2003, all the barangays in the thirteen (13) municipalities of Benguet have at least one or more day care centers in every barangay. Comparing the number of day care centers with the number of barangays, Itogon have the most with at least 5 in every barangay followed by Kibungan (4) and Mankayan, La Trinidad, Kapangan, which have at least 3 DCCs in each barangay. The rest of the municipalities have two each, except Buguias, Kabayan and Sablan which have only 1 day care center in each barangay.
- The province of Benguet has a total of three hundred sixty eight (368) day care centers excluding the inactive centers as of the school year 2002–2003. These day care centers are either permanent or temporary in nature. Permanent structures are exclusively for day care centers. These were constructed either through special projects, Local Government Unit (LGU)'s initiatives and/or through Non Government Organizations or in most cases; these structures are built from national funds with counterpart of the LGU and parents concerned. On the other hand, temporary day care centers can be found in schools, barangay halls, clinics, churches or any available private houses.

### ***Kapangan Situationer***

- In the municipality of Kapangan, Benguet for the school year 2014–2015, there are 45 day care worker (DCW)s, out of the 45 DCW's, 43 DCW's are accredited by DSWD. There are 30 permanent day care centers established while the 15 DCCs are being conducted in schools, multipurpose hall and others. There were 489 day care children enrolled.

## Methodology

The study was conducted in the 15 barangays of Kapangan, Benguet namely barangays: Balakbak, Beleng-Belis, Boklaoan, Cayapes, Central, Cuba, Datakan, Gadang, Gaswiling, Labueg, Paykek, Pongayan, Pudong, Sagubo and Taba-ao. The municipality of Kapangan has 45 day care centers with 489 enrolled day care children for the school year 2014–2015.

The respondents of this study are the 45 day care workers assigned in the 15 barangays of Kapangan, Benguet and the 489 parents of day care children enrolled in the 45 day care centers for the school year 2014 -2015.

A descriptive normative type of research questionnaire was used to gather data. The questionnaire made use of the open-ended and closed type of question. The copies of the questionnaire were distributed by the researcher personally after obtaining permission from the concerned authorities.

The 5–point Likert scale was used to describe the objectives of the day care service program.

Assigned Value	Descriptive Value	Description
5	4.50 and above	Fully Attained
4	3.50–4.49	Highly Attained
3	2.50–3.49	Moderately Attained
2	1.50–2.49	Slightly Attained
1	1.49 and below	Not Attained

The 5-point Likert scale was also used to describe the implementing strategies in the day care service program.

Assigned Value	Descriptive Value	Description
5	4.50 and above	Very Much Effective
4	3.50–4.49	Much Effective
3	2.50–3.49	Moderately Effective
2	1.50–2.49	Slightly Effective
1	1.49 and below	Not Effective

The 5-point Likert scale was also used to describe list of problems in the implementation of the day care service program.

Assigned Value	Descriptive Value	Description
5	4.50 and above	Very Much Serious
4	3.50–4.49	Much Serious
3	2.50–3.49	Moderately Serious
2	1.50–2.49	Slightly Serious
1	1.49 and below	Not Serious



Fig. 6 Map of Kapangan, Benguet

## Statement of the Problems

1. What are the levels of attainment of objectives of the day care services program relative to the socio demographic profile of day care parent beneficiaries in the Cordillera Administrative Region?
2. Are there differences in the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies used in the day care services program if the extent of attainment of the objectives are considered?
3. Are there differences in the degree of seriousness of problems encountered and solution employed if the level of effectiveness of implementation strategies used are considered?

## Objectives

1. Describe the socio demographic profile of parent beneficiaries of the day care service program to their children attending.
2. Determine the extent of attainment of the objectives of the day care service program in CAR.
3. Analyze the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care service program.
4. Determine the relationship between the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care service program and extent of attainment of objectives.
5. To evaluate the degree of seriousness of problems encountered by the implementers and identify solutions of the day care service program.

## Importance of the Study

1. Contribution to the Government agencies and NGO's .
2. Result of the study can be used in finding solutions to problems that may arise in handling day care service program.
3. From the responses of the day care workers and parents whether it be positive or negative reaction shall serve as a basis for possible suggestions and recommendations on how to further improve and how to effectively implement the day care services program.
4. Researchers and students interested in similar or related topics in areas of interest will directly be benefited by referring this research proposal in situations where it can be used as a reference.

## Results And Discussions

The results show that most of the beneficiaries of the day care service program are males and most of them entered the day care service program at the age of 4 years old. Almost of the day care children who entered the day care service program are right handed. While for the number of siblings, it was found out that an average of 4 siblings per family



**Fig. 7 Day Care Children enrolled in the Day Care Center**

and as to the nutritional status, most of the day care children are nutritionally fit.

For the parents of the day care children, majority of the fathers are in their mid thirty's or 35 years old while for the mother with more or less than 35 years old. While for the parent's educational background, majority of the fathers of the day care children were elementary graduates while their mothers were high school graduates. The parents occupation, majority of the father's are engaged in farming while the mothers are simply housewife and most of them are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Comfort and safety, one of the objectives of the day care service program was perceived by the respondents as the main reason why parents enrolled



**Fig. 8 Parents of Day Care Children attending meeting**





**Fig. 9 Day Care Children playing with the guidance of the Day Care Worker**

their children in the day care service program. In terms of relationship between the objectives of day care service program and the effectiveness of the implementing strategies, objective comfort and safety and the implementing strategy of the organization of day care service group and other activities related to the welfare of the day care children is very much significant.

Attending meetings and seminars hosted by the MSWDO were perceived by the respondents to be very much effective. Financial constraints seems to be the most pressing problem in the day care service program which coincides as to the remedial measures for the improvement of the day care service program is to increase the honorarium of the day care workers.



**Fig. 10 Day Care Workers attending meeting facilitated by the MSWDO**



**Fig. 11 Day Care Parents attending seminar on Effective Parenting**

The level of effectiveness markedly relates to the extent of attainment of the objectives and the organization of day care parents service group. The other activities related to the welfare of children greatly relate to the objective on comfort and safety.

Financial constraint is the most pressing problem in the Day Care Service Program. The low honorarium and the lack of funds suggest that the Day Care Workers are much unhappy of the situation.



**Fig. 12 Day Care Center at Catiaoan, Gaswiling, Kapangan, Benguet funded by DSWD-CIDSS with labor counterpart by day care parents**

## Summary, Conclusions And Recommendations

### Summary

The day care services program in CAR takes into consideration the following intentions: 1) to describe the socio demographic profile of parent beneficiaries of the day care services program in CAR; 2) to

determine the extent of attainment of the objectives of the day care services program in CAR; 3) Analyze the level of effectiveness of implementation of the day care services program; 4) To determine the relationship between the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care service program and extent of attainment of objectives; 5) To evaluate the degree of seriousness of problems encountered by the implementers and identify solutions of the day care services program.

The 586 parents of day care children and 45 day care workers from the 15 barangays of Kapangan, Benguet are involved in the conduct of this study.

The descriptive survey method of research was used and the questionnaire was the main instrument used.

The followings are the salient findings:

- 1) For the socio demographic profile of the beneficiaries of the day care services program with regards to the distribution of day care children according to gender, it was found out that more than fifty percent of the day care children are male.
- 2) As to the distribution of day care children according to age, it was found out that most day care children entered day care service at the age of 4 years old.
- 3) Distribution of day care children according to child's handedness, it was found out that about 90% of the day care children are right handed.
- 4) While for the number of siblings, it was revealed in the study conducted that an average of about 4 siblings per family.
- 5) Distribution of day care children according to their nutritional status, about 98% of the day care children are nutritionally fit.
- 6) For the parent age distribution, majority of the fathers are in their mid-thirties or 34.5 years old, while the mothers are in more or less 35 years old.
- 7) For the parent's educational background, majority of the fathers of the day care children were elementary graduate while their mothers were high school graduate and were beneficiaries of the 4P's program.

- 8) The parents occupation of day care children revealed that majority of the fathers were engaged in farming while the mothers are simply housewives
- 9) For the objectives of the day care service program, comfort and safety were perceived to be fully attained; while the inculcation of spiritual/social values, physical development, human relations and personal abilities were perceived to be only highly attained by the day care workers in CAR.
- 10) In the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies in the day care services program, the meetings and seminars hosted by the MSWDO and meetings hosted by the barangay and municipal officials were very much attended by the day care workers and parents hence these strategies are perceived by the respondents to very much effective.
- 11) In the relationship between the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care service program and the extent of attainment of the objectives, the organization of day care parents service group and other activities related to the welfare of children is very much significant to the objective comfort and safety. While other implementing strategies and other objectives of the day care service program are not significant.
- 12) The problems in the implementation of day care service program revealed that financial constraints seem to be the most pressing problem in the day care service program. The average rating of low honorarium and lack of funds suggest that the day care workers are much seriously unhappy of the situation.

### **Conclusions**

- 1) The respondents range in age from 18 years old to above 60 years. Majority of the male children enter the day care services program with mostly age 4 years old. Majority of the day care children are right handed. As to the number of siblings,

from 1 to more than 13 siblings with an average of 4 siblings per family. Almost 98% of the day care children are nutritionally fit. On the day care parents age particularly the father, majority are in their mid-thirties (34.5), while the mother is more or less 35 years old. Majority of the fathers of the day care children were elementary graduate and mostly their occupation is farming while their mother's were high school graduate with their occupation as simply housewives.

- 2) In the objectives of the day care service program, comfort and safety were perceived to be fully attained.
- 3) For the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies in the day care services program, the attendance to meetings and seminars hosted by the MSWDO and meetings hosted by the barangay and municipal officials were very much attended by the parents of day care children and day care workers.
- 4) For the relationship between the level of effectiveness of the implementing strategies of the day care service program and the extent of attainment of the objectives, the organization of day care parents service group and other activities related to the welfare of children is very much significant to the objective comfort and safety.
- 5) In the level of seriousness of problems in the implementation of the day care service program, the low honorarium for day care workers and lack of funds were the very serious problems identified by the day care workers.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) In order for the objectives of the day care service program to be fully attained, there should be continuous IEC on the day care service to the parents of children ages 3–5 in order for them to support and let their children enroll in the day care center. This is done through the collaborative efforts of the barangay officials, day care workers and the MSWD personnel.

- 2) In the implementing strategies in the day care service program, the involvement of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) headed by the Barangay Chairman and consisted of the barangay kagawad, DCW, BNS, Dep-Ed Principal, Rural Health Midwife, President of the Parents of Day Care should formulate action plan and meets regularly in order to solve issues and problems on child welfare. Likewise, the Municipal Council for the Welfare of Children (MCWC) will do regular continuous monitoring and evaluation to the day care centers.
- 3) Advocacy and social marketing on day care service program on the part of the day care workers to lobby more funds for the increase of honorarium and provide budget for the day care centers to the barangay and municipal officials concerned. Likewise, the day care parents through their organization should help the day care worker such as payment of monthly parents counterpart, making resolutions and project proposals related to the improvement of the day care service program to be endorsed by the barangay and municipal officials and to be forwarded to the concerned agencies for funding and conducting fund raising with the aim/purpose of providing the needs in the day care center.

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