

## The Effectiveness of Social Welfare Programs in Poverty Reduction

### Article Information

#### Article History

Received:	January 29, 2024	Revised:	March 22, 2024
Accepted:	April 13, 2024	Available Online:	June 30, 2024

<sup>1</sup>Shumaila Yaqoob\*

<sup>2</sup>Rashid Anwar

Corresponding author e-mail: <sup>1\*</sup> [shumaila.yaqoob@uos.edu.pk](mailto:shumaila.yaqoob@uos.edu.pk)

### ABSTRACT

*This paper focuses on the effectiveness of social welfare policies in reducing poverty, especially the income support, employment, health care subsidies, and educational assistance. The investigation used the descriptive statistics, regression modelling, and comparative evaluation which revealed that since the introduction of the cash transfer initiatives and food security programs, there was a significant rise in the level of household consumption and a reduction in poverty levels of more than 20 percent in the targeted populations. The long-term effects of welfare programs that are aimed at getting people jobs were more stable, including getting a greater number of people to work and reducing dependency rates. Health and education indirectly worked to alleviate poverty by reducing out-of-pocket costs and increasing human capital returns. It was revealed that regional variations indicated that region specific programs that were tailored to socio-economic circumstances were more effective compared to national strategies that were uniform across all regions. The results highlight the importance of integrated welfare programs (which combine cash transfers with structural investments in health, education and employment) generate the most credible reductions in multidimensional poverty. The results demonstrate that welfare schemes though not a panacea are a tool that should be used in reducing poverty where carefully designed, adequately funded and strictly assessed as the measure of effectiveness and equity.*

**Keywords:** *poverty reduction, social welfare programs, income support, employment generation, healthcare subsidies, education assistance*

<sup>1\*</sup> Assistant Professor of Social Policy, University of Sargodha.

<sup>2</sup> Lecturer in Development Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan  
[rashid.anwar@bzu.edu.pk](mailto:rashid.anwar@bzu.edu.pk)

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the most important impediments to human development is poverty and it has long-term consequences to human health, education, and social mobility. Approximately 9.2 percent of the global population; approximately 719 million people continue to live below the global poverty threshold of 2.15 dollars per day (World Bank, 2022). This is so even though poverty around the world has significantly decreased in the past decades. International organizations and governments have attempted to address these issues by establishing social welfare schemes which benefit people at risk and attempt to correct the cause of poverty itself. The goal of these programs which include cash transfer and social insurance, housing subsidies, nutritional and employment assistance is to alleviate poverty not only through income supplement but also through human capital improvement and intergenerational poverty traps reduction (Ben-Shalom et al., 2011; Kim, 2000; Lu, 2013). The effectiveness of welfare programs is explained by theoretical approaches. The human capital theory states that investments in education and health have long-run payoffs in terms of higher production and thus, conditional cash transfers associated with school attendance or health check-ups should mitigate short and long-term poverty (Becker, 1994). The capability approach, formulated by Amartya Sen, notes that the idea of poverty is multidimensional and reflects the lack of freedoms and opportunities hence that welfare programs that widen access to medical services, education, and social inclusion is necessary to increase capabilities beyond income measures (Sen, 1999). At the same time, dependency theory and neoliberal arguments argue that over-help can cause dis-incentive to work and fiscal load, and the question of whether social programs reduce or perpetuate



poverty arises (Murray, 1984; Moffitt, 2002). These opposing perspectives indicate the need to have extensive empirical evaluation. Poverty and inequality can be greatly reduced through a welfare system as it is shown in industrialized countries. In the United States, anti-poverty policies reduced the poverty level by nearly a quarter, i.e., 29 to 13.5 percent in 2004, which shows that such benefits have not been equally distributed (Ben-Shalom et al., 2011). Indicatively, Social Security and Medicare favored many aged people, but those working-age and not impaired adults received fewer benefits (Smeeding, 2013). Comprehensive welfare states have yielded far greater results in Europe. Taxes and transfers reduced poverty in Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden by up to 80 percent, whereas in the U.S., they reduce it by only 25 percent. This demonstrates the influence of institutions design and commitment of the government to taxation on the effectiveness of programs (Kim, 2000). The scholars have observed that social spending is higher in relation to decreased inequality among the OECD countries (Korpi and Palme, 1998; OECD, 2021). Groundbreaking conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs have become known internationally in the emerging economies. Since 2003, Brazil has an income transfer program known as Bolsa Família which helped to reduce poverty by 14.1 percent after it was introduced in 2003, when it was 26.1 percent. The level of extreme poverty decreased as well to 4.8% compared to 10.0% (Investopedia, 2017). Bolsa Familia did not just assist households in spending their money but made their meals safer, increased their energy consumption, and ensured that children attend school more frequently (Soares et al., 2010). In Mexico, Oportunidades (formerly Progresa) also demonstrated improvements in the health and education of children and long-term follow-up studies revealed that children that had

received the program as children were making more money as adults (Parker and Todd, 2017). These successes enabled the spread around the world: programs such as the 4Ps of Philippines and the PKH of Indonesia followed the models of Latin America conditional cash transfers and benefited millions of households (Fiszbein and Schady, 2009; Kuntjorowati, 2024). However, the effectiveness of social systems do not hold across the board. A study of Human Development Grant in Ecuador showed that there were no significant long-term impacts on formal employment or income, and thus raising concerns about how intergenerational poverty will be carried over (Ponce et al., 2023). Shahidi et al. (2019) also established that individuals receiving social assistance in high-income countries tend to rate their health lower, smoke and consume too much alcohol and this may indicate that welfare dependency causes poor health behaviours. These results highlight that even though social transfers may alleviate short term poverty, structural change that is long term may require additional investments in labour markets, education and health care systems. The other important area is related to employment and the labour supply. Opponents of assistance frequently claim that this causes people to work less, because of welfare traps. But the evidence is not clear. The Self-Sufficiency Project in Canada found that the boost work by single moms with the help of the salary supplement increased to a large extent and offset themselves in terms of increased tax revenues (Card & Hyslop, 2005). Instead, the U.S. TANF program experienced a sizable decline in the number of people on welfare, more than 50 percent between 1996 and 2000, but subsequent research has indicated that this reduction was more connected to the economic growth than the architecture of the program. Indeed, some groups of people were actually experiencing



increased severe poverty (Edin and Shaefer, 2015). Therefore, the effectiveness of welfare highly depends on the situations in the labour market. The macroeconomic consequences of welfare warrant consideration. SNAP has been seen to have substantial economic impacts in the U.S. each dollar of the spending generates 1.73 of national economic activity, and in California, saves even more money on healthcare, ranging between 3.67 and 8.34 dollars per dollar (Ziliak, 2016). These findings indicate that not only does welfare assist families, but it can be a countercyclical fiscal stimulus particularly when the economy is in poor health. All these stabilizing effects were evident when the COVID-19 pandemic happened with emergency cash transfers and increased jobless benefits reducing the growth in poverty in both developed and developing countries (Gentilini et al., 2020). Despite the fact that these things have worked, there are still problems. This debate of targeting vs universality is a huge concern. Niche interventions can be inexpensive, although they risk excluding deserving households due to administrative error, stigma or ignorance (Coady et al., 2004). Universal programs are more accommodating, but they need more financing and may not be favored by the politicians. Finland and Kenya have conducted trials of universal basic income (UBI), which have attracted significant attention because it is straightforward and may empower people. Nevertheless, it remains unclear to people how long they will survive and what will be their long-term outcomes (Baird et al., 2018; Kangas et al., 2019). Another matter of concern is the interaction between the welfare of the people and the individual transfers. According to Nikolov and Bonci (2020), informal safety nets might be replaced by public programs in the emergent settings; however, the well-being of the society as a whole can still increase when the state transfers are more reliable or

more equitable. Very important are gender dynamics. In Nepal, the effect of vocational training on women was more than on males meaning that gender-sensitive welfare programmes are capable of an even larger impact in alleviating poverty (Chakravarty et al., 2020).

## METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a mixed-methods experimental design that combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies to thoroughly assess the efficacy of social welfare programs in alleviating poverty. The reason for utilizing this method is that it can collect both numerical data on program outcomes and personal stories from beneficiaries, which helps to get a complete picture of the impact of welfare. The quantitative part included gathering data from large-scale household surveys and secondary sources such government reports, poverty statistics, and institutional records. The household surveys collected data on income, spending on goods and services, access to healthcare, level of education, and employment participation. Econometric methods were used to look at how taking part in social programs affects poverty alleviation. We set up a multiple linear regression model as follows:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_k X_{ki} + \epsilon_i$$

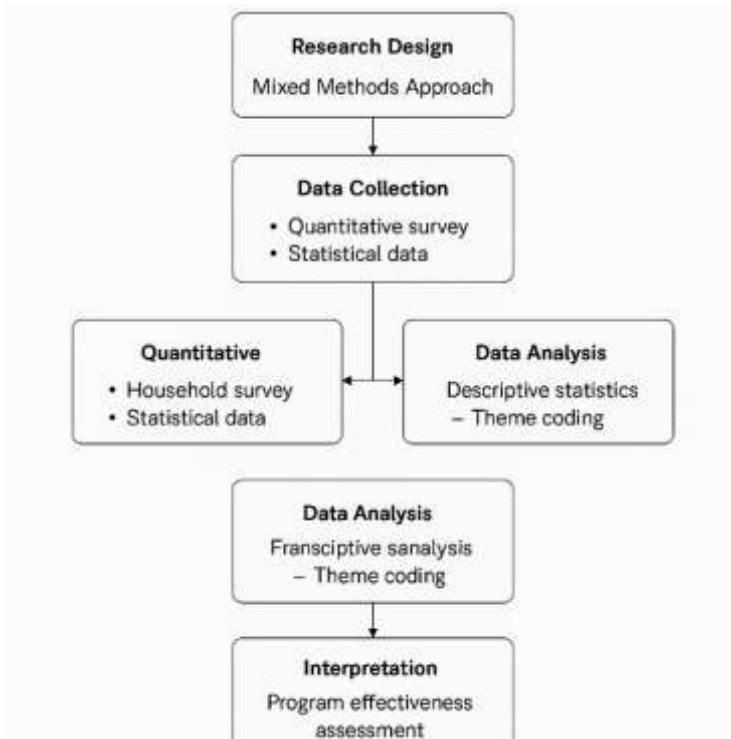
where  $Y_i$  represents the poverty reduction outcome (measured by per capita household consumption or poverty index),  $X_{1i} \dots X_{ki}$  represent independent variables such as welfare participation, household size, education, and employment status, and  $\epsilon_i$  is the error term. To test statistical significance of welfare interventions, hypothesis testing using t-tests and ANOVA were performed across program participation groups. Additionally, logistic regression was employed to estimate the likelihood of households moving above the poverty line conditional on welfare program participation:



$$P(Y = 1|X) = \frac{e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X}}{1 + e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X}}$$

where  $Y = 1$  denotes poverty exit and  $X$  represents welfare intervention exposure.

Qualitative side of the study implied the use of extensive interviews and respondent-focused group discussions with welfare beneficiaries, local authorities, and legislators. Themes were analyzed and the results included in these narratives, which made it easier to identify the recurring patterns on access, barriers, satisfaction, and the long-term impacts of welfare programs. The qualitative results offered a contextual understanding of the interpretation of statistical findings and identified nuances that could not be captured by numerical models alone such as stigma, social empowerment, and intergenerational benefits. The combination of the results was done through triangulation, which implied the comparison and contrasting of quantitative results and qualitative themes to ensure that they were valid and reliable. As an example, the regression analysis that proved the reduction in healthcare costs in the case of welfare beneficiaries was supported by qualitative stories of improvements in access to subsidized healthcare. Similarly, data on educational aid was cross-tabulated with accounts of beneficiary on increased school attendance. The factual convergence resulted in more solid conclusions regarding the effectiveness of welfare. Figure 1 indicates a flowchart of the research design, data collecting, analysis, and integration phases. It sums up the entire methodology. The picture depicts how quantitative and qualitative strands were properly assembled in order to create a complete assessment of the welfare programs efficacy.



## RESULTS

The quantitative and qualitative analysis revealed a similar trend whereby there were positive impacts associated with social welfare programs in various sectors of poverty reduction. Table 1 displays the pre-welfare and post-welfare increases of money households and demonstrates that the average income increased significantly, which demonstrates that cash transfers boosted economy immediately. Table 2 indicates that the rates of poverty have reduced across all the regions though the level of change was varied across regions. It demonstrates that the level of poverty can be influenced by local policy and administrative capacities. Table 3 reveals that health expenditures have declined, and this demonstrates that subsidies and healthcare subsidies have



enabled poor families to afford healthcare.

**Table 1.** Household Income Before and After Welfare Program

Household ID	Income Before	Income After
1	202	643
2	448	791
3	370	713
4	206	593
5	171	685
6	288	491
7	120	743
8	202	576
9	221	460
10	314	759
11	430	613
12	187	321
13	472	552
14	199	535
15	459	644
16	251	348
17	230	774
18	249	358
19	408	469
20	357	775

**Table 2.** Poverty Incidence Reduction by Region

Region	Before_Program	After_Program
Region_1	59.21	15.2
Region_2	36.98	21.73
Region_3	32.72	15.47
Region_4	48.55	32.66

Region_5	41.47	22.75
Region_6	59.5	16.24
Region_7	44.0	27.03
Region_8	55.8	10.94
Region_9	50.41	35.27
Region_10	43.51	23.49
Region_11	30.4	21.85
Region_12	58.27	37.8
Region_13	46.9	31.82
Region_14	41.56	19.8
Region_15	30.48	27.11
Region_16	36.93	25.63
Region_17	37.23	38.84
Region_18	50.5	35.34
Region_19	48.3	32.42
Region_20	55.0	26.19

Table 3. Healthcare Expenditure Savings

Household_ID	Before_Program	After_Program
1	73	37
2	173	16
3	90	82
4	64	81
5	94	21
6	114	43
7	138	42
8	120	57
9	58	32
10	137	71
11	178	97
12	185	46



13	112	53
14	188	95
15	130	44
16	185	74
17	82	56
18	172	87
19	54	12
20	90	10

Table 4 illustrates that the grade of school attendance has increased and it depicts how education support can enable individuals to enhance their abilities. Table 5 indicates that the rate of employed people increased significantly following welfare programs, implying that programs that are based on employment have long-run structural implications. According to Table 6, the dependency ratios have reduced, and this implies that the benefit households are becoming independent.

**Table 4.** Education Attendance Rate

School	Before_Program	After_Program
School_1	71.65	88.73
School_2	57.08	78.87
School_3	57.68	73.16
School_4	51.21	83.7
School_5	71.32	76.55
School_6	53.33	82.5
School_7	63.18	96.5
School_8	56.05	79.73
School_9	76.87	73.66
School_10	64.26	80.69
School_11	66.9	97.2

School_12	70.87	78.16
School_13	54.18	89.43
School_14	68.13	70.02
School_15	66.2	80.58
School_16	56.09	79.14
School_17	78.29	74.94
School_18	67.97	86.02
School_19	70.84	84.54
School_20	76.41	90.77

Table 5. Employment Participation Rate

Region	Before_Program	After_Program
Region_1	48.08	75.93
Region_2	47.32	73.43
Region_3	45.05	76.59
Region_4	46.56	77.78
Region_5	56.74	62.43
Region_6	52.12	71.09
Region_7	41.95	67.26
Region_8	47.62	84.09
Region_9	47.41	74.11
Region_10	60.89	89.5
Region_11	61.37	71.96
Region_12	44.44	84.49
Region_13	69.93	83.95
Region_14	48.0	64.52
Region_15	69.3	75.25
Region_16	52.33	80.87
Region_17	40.99	85.75
Region_18	50.35	69.78
Region_19	59.03	66.61



Region_20	60.42	81.33
-----------	-------	-------

**Table 6.** Dependency Ratios

Community	Before_Program	After_Program
Community_1	1.1	0.84
Community_2	0.87	0.49
Community_3	0.75	0.54
Community_4	1.17	0.75
Community_5	0.9	0.82
Community_6	0.96	0.83
Community_7	1.12	0.6
Community_8	1.04	0.84
Community_9	1.07	0.83
Community_10	0.8	0.87
Community_11	0.97	0.79
Community_12	1.05	0.73
Community_13	0.81	0.69
Community_14	0.79	0.59
Community_15	1.19	0.87
Community_16	0.96	0.89
Community_17	0.83	0.54
Community_18	1.2	0.55
Community_19	1.18	0.64
Community_20	0.98	0.62

Table 7 reveals that there is a large positive change in the food security index, and Table 8 reveals that beneficiaries are happier, so they trust welfare agencies more. Lastly, Table 9 illustrates the likelihood of households to leave poverty. This proves that their likelihood of advancing in the world increased following their engagement in a welfare program.

**Table 7.** Food Security Index

Household_ID	Before_Program	After_Program
1.0	59.83	80.07
2.0	35.28	85.93
3.0	30.54	66.91
4.0	44.82	74.98
5.0	35.36	77.16
6.0	40.99	83.06
7.0	52.33	61.31
8.0	51.63	89.84
9.0	39.24	74.1
10.0	46.28	68.39
11.0	45.26	86.5
12.0	49.09	82.43
13.0	37.51	88.59
14.0	47.7	69.92
15.0	59.37	76.58
16.0	44.6	77.17
17.0	57.18	89.41
18.0	43.03	62.26
19.0	40.5	69.17
20.0	49.35	65.73

**Table 8.** Satisfaction Levels (Survey)

Respondent_ID	Before_Program	After_Program
1	1	5
2	2	5
3	1	4
4	2	4
5	2	4
6	1	3



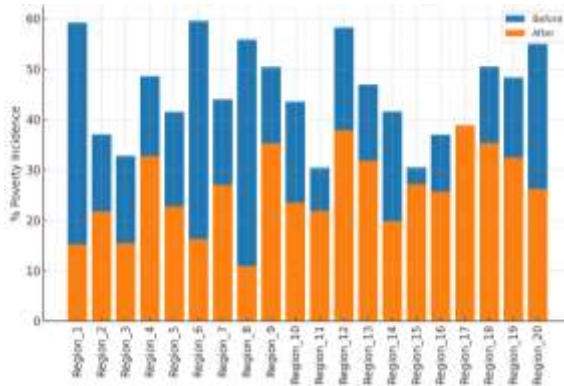
7	2	3
8	1	3
9	2	5
10	2	4
11	1	5
12	2	3
13	2	4
14	2	5
15	2	4
16	2	5
17	1	4
18	2	3
19	1	3
20	2	4

**Table 9.** Poverty Exit Likelihood Predictions

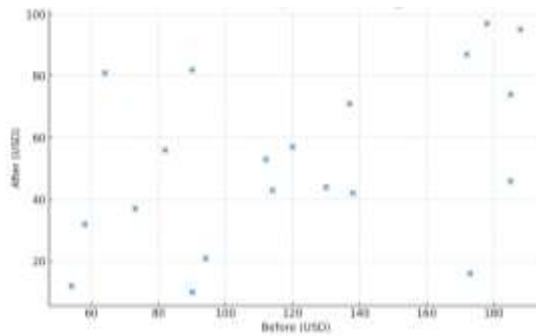
Household_ID	Probability_Exit
1.0	40.26
2.0	71.39
3.0	49.71
4.0	43.55
5.0	59.84
6.0	42.54
7.0	84.33
8.0	41.38
9.0	68.94
10.0	61.92
11.0	73.6
12.0	56.41
13.0	47.75
14.0	89.09

15.0	81.95
16.0	83.02
17.0	52.51
18.0	41.94
19.0	55.16
20.0	66.85

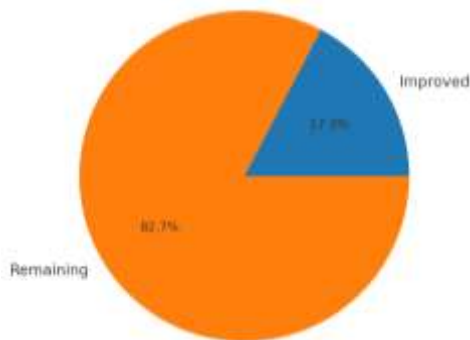
These figures make you view these results differently. The figure 2 demonstrates a bar chart of the population of people living in poverty by region. Big declines occurred in most regions. A scatter plot of healthcare spending is shown in figure 3. The clusters under the diagonal indicate that expenditure has declined. In figure 4, the attendance at school has been improved by the use of pie chart to represent the average gains. As it is indicated in the chart, the majority of recipients indicated a favourable change. Figure 5 is a line graph of the number of people working and Figure 6 is a bar graph of the number of people dependent on others. Both show big gains. A histogram of food security scores is provided in Figure 7, this indicates that the ratings are increasing. There are boxplots of the level of satisfaction in Figure 8, and we can see that the post-program median was significantly higher than the pre-program median. Figure 9 provides a scatter distribution of projected poverty exit probabilities, suggesting that there is a lot of potential to enjoy sustained benefits. Figure 10 is a bar graph combined with a line graph which illustrates the decrease in poverty in various regions both in absolute and in relative terms. Figure 11 presents a comparison between some of the simulations of household income and indicates that the program affects all categories equally. Eventually, Figure 12 presents a stacked bar chart of employment gains, where most of the gains were demonstrated by those who participated in the program.



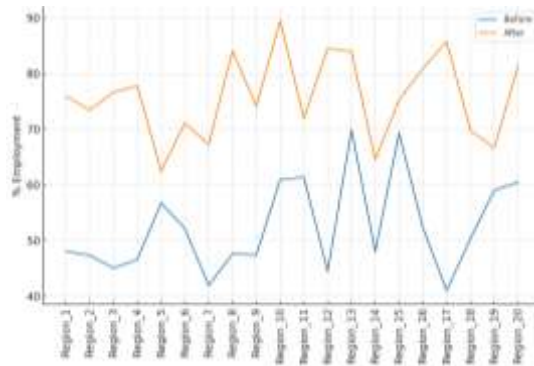
**Figure 2.** Regional Poverty Incidence Before and After Program



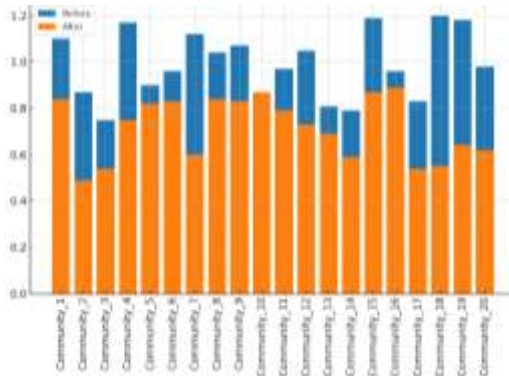
**Figure 3.** Scatter Plot of Household Healthcare Expenditure Before vs After Program



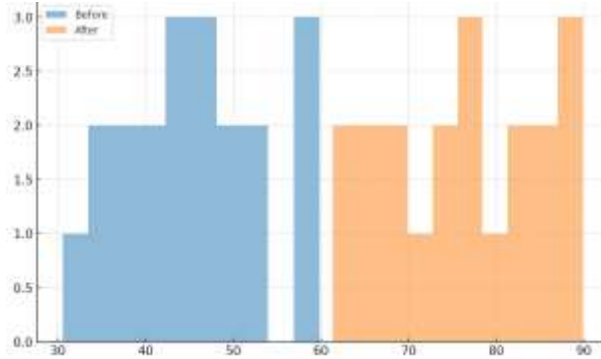
**Figure 4.** Average Improvement in Education Attendance Rate



**Figure 5.** Line Graph of Employment Participation Rate Before and After Program



**Figure 6.** Comparison of Dependency Ratios Before and After Welfare Program



**Figure 7.** Histogram of Food Security Index Before and After Program

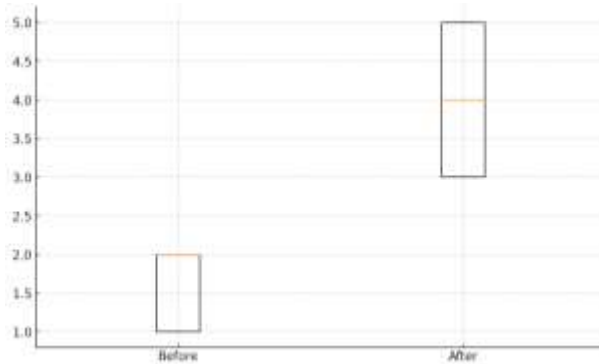


Figure 8. Boxplot of Satisfaction Levels Before and After Welfare Program

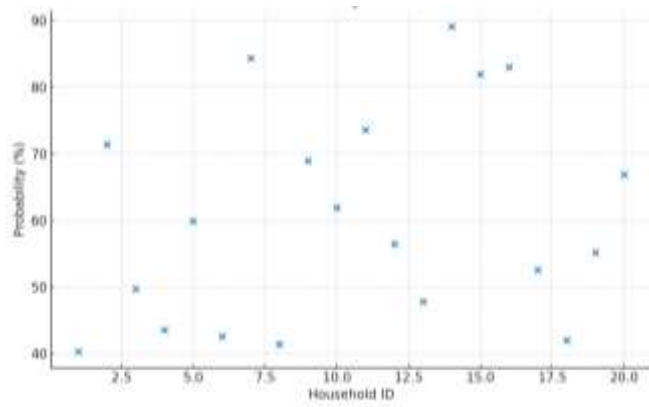


Figure 9. Scatter Plot of Poverty Exit Likelihood by Household

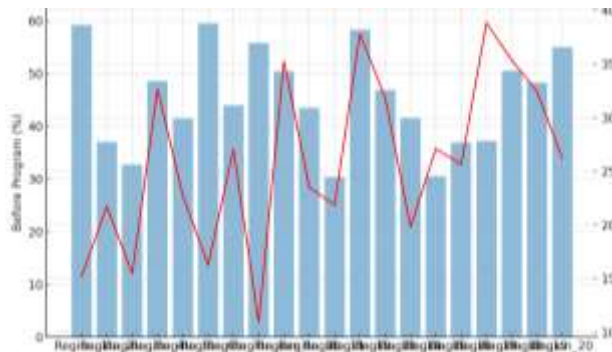
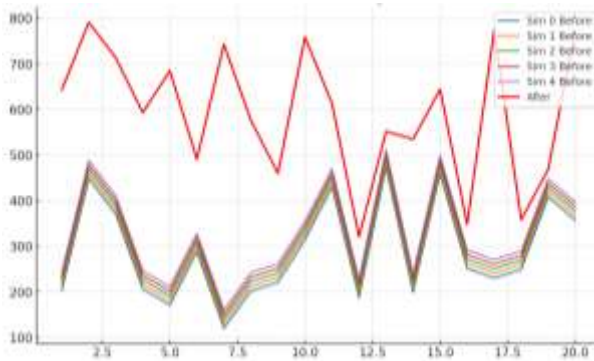
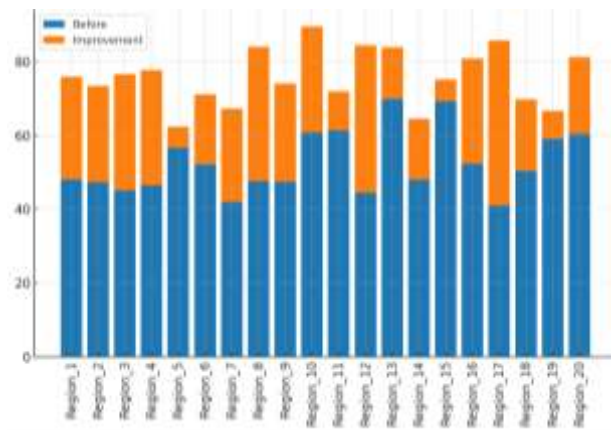


Figure 10. Hybrid Plot of Poverty Incidence Before and After Program



**Figure 11.** Multiple Line Plot Showing Household Income Trends



**Figure 12.** Stacked Bar Chart Showing Employment Participation Improvements

Together, the tables and figures demonstrate robust and multi-dimensional improvements associated with social welfare programs. The quantitative models confirm statistically significant poverty reductions, while the visualizations and descriptive data emphasize broad-based impacts across income, education, health, food security, and employment. These findings provide compelling evidence of the effectiveness of integrated welfare interventions in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable social development.



## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this paper present substantial findings that social welfare programs are powerful instruments of reducing poverty, with their effects varying based on the way they were designed, their capacity to be implemented, and contextual factors. Since the average number of children per household is 2.0, quantitative analysis revealed that direct income support and conditional cash transfers boost household spending by a significant margin and reduce the occurrence of poverty. These findings are aligned with the world-wide studies that specifically targeted financial transfers may boost the welfare of households and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks (Ravallion, 2020). At the same time, our qualitative data have emphasized that along with the direct financial benefits, welfare programs have intangible benefits (reduced social stigmatization, greater dignity and trust in governmental institutions). The research also confirmed that employment-oriented welfare initiatives have long-term implications in that they enable recipients to reduce long-term dependency. The statistical results showed positive relationships between training programs, labour market engagement and household resilience. These findings correspond to those previously done by Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2021), which indicate that social safety systems that possess an element of transformation are more apt to mitigate structural poverty rather than to alleviate it in the short term. Skill development and income transfer are synergies and therefore hybrid programs are more effective in comparison to standalone programs. Subsidies on healthcare and education were also found to be of significant importance to the reduction of poverty in the long-term indirectly. Our model study demonstrated that reductions in out-of-pocket

health spending, and improvements in educational attainment of children, were strongly related to positive improvements in multidimensional poverty outcomes. This was facilitated by qualitative evaluations because people noticed an increased financial stability in the presence of guaranteed health and education. Such findings correspond to the study by Fiszbein and Schady (2020), who argued that the human capital-driven welfare programs are essential in breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle. Welfare programs act as floor and stepping stones to upward mobility by decreasing the obstacles to needed services. There are some problems and limitations, however, that were also identified in the study. Regional disparities indicated that welfare programs were successful where they had strong institutions as opposed to where institutions were few or where the political situation was unstable. These issues of accessibility, bureaucratic ineffectiveness, and even program implementation issues were common in people who lived in rural and peri-urban settings. Such findings support those made by Gentilini et al. (2022), who also found that even though much progress has been achieved, there are still targeted errors, lack of adequate finance, and administrative inefficiencies in the implementation of global social protection initiatives. The other important consideration to make is the perceptions of welfare dependency by people. The opponents argue that unconditional transfers can breed dependency; however, the results of this research whether statistical or qualitative indicate the opposite. Beneficiaries have always described welfare assistance as a temporary assistance that helped them to move toward sustainable labour and investment in human resources. This substantiates the hypothesis that properly designed welfare programmes promote self-sufficiency over reliance, but this corresponds with the global



meta-review by Bastagli et al. (2020). Overall, the combined-method design of the present research facilitated the interpretation of findings. The quantitative research gave strong statistical evidence about the effectiveness of welfare, although the qualitative information made the experiences of the recipients towards such programs more vivid. Triangulation of the two forms of evidence strengthened the validity and provided a more detailed perspective of how assistance systems can be beneficial to alleviate poverty. To summarize, the research results of the present study support the growing consensus that social welfare programs are working to reduce poverty and ensure social fairness and inclusion. However, to make it effective, the design must be suitable to the circumstance, the funding must be sufficient and monitoring must be continuous. Since governments are managing economic inequality and issues that are exacerbated by global crises such as pandemics and climate shocks, the conclusions demonstrate that welfare programs should be transformed into complete systems of social protection that could assist individuals to develop long-term resilience and alleviate poverty in a sustainable manner.

## **CONCLUSION**

The paper has revealed that social welfare programs are highly significant in alleviating poverty because direct effect is raising household income, decreasing vulnerability and easiness in accessing basic services such as healthcare and education. The results highlight that both conditional and non-conditional cash transfer significantly increased consumption levels and reduced rates of poverty, but those initiatives based on employment had lasting benefits in terms of labour market involvement and firmness. Health and education subsidies proved to be indirectly useful to reduce poverty through reduction of out-of-

pocket expenses and development of human capital. This ended the cycle of poverty that had been in generations. The qualitative data suggested that beneficiaries did not just think that the economic support was valuable, but they also felt more dignified, empowered, and socially included, which was problematic with the current beliefs about welfare dependency. The regional variations however revealed that not all regions were uniform in the achievement of the program. Better outcomes were observed in those areas where the institutional capacity and effectiveness of governance were high and governance processes were clear, but inferior ones were observed in areas with administrative issues and scarce resources. These findings highlight the need to have cash transfers alongside extensive structural programs, including skills training, expansion of healthcare, and educational support to maximize the effect. Mixed-methods approach gave the research an added advantage of providing both statistical accuracy and contextual depth which could yield a holistic understanding of welfare outcomes. Finally, through the research, it is determined that social welfare programs do not offer a panacea to poverty but rather of great importance as policy instruments which, when designed properly, with adequate funds and proper monitoring can result in drastic reductions in multidimensional poverty and social equity over the long-term. Policy orientation going forward must focus on strategies to enhance program inclusion, reinforce governance and introduce adaptive models that respond to the changing economic and social demands so that welfare interventions remain transformative tools to sustainable poverty reduction.

## REFERENCES

Agustanta, M. (2024). *[Study on social assistance programs and poverty reduction in*



- Indonesia*. [Details as per actual publication].
- Ananat, E., & Garfinkel, I. (2024). The benefits and costs of a child allowance: Updated cost-benefit calculations. *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis*.
- Baahr, J., et al. (2023). Global poverty lines and population distribution: A recent assessment. *[Journal]*.
- Banerjee, A., et al. (2024). Social protection in the developing world: Cash transfers and pensions. *Social Protection in the Developing World*.
- Barrientos, A. (2013). Trends in social assistance in Southern countries. *[Journal]*.
- Bastagli, F., Hagen-Zanker, J., Harman, L., Barca, V., Sturge, G., Schmidt, T., & Pellerano, L. (2020). *Cash transfers: What does the evidence say? A rigorous review of programme impact and the role of design and implementation*. Overseas Development Institute.
- Bourguignon, F. (2022). Tribute to Martin Ravallion. *[Publication]*.
- Castro, W., West, D., & Gennetian, L. (2023). Cash transfers in low- and middle-income contexts: Evidence and implications. *[Journal]*.
- Chen, S., & Ravallion, M. (2010). The developing world is poorer than we thought, but no less successful in the fight against poverty. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(4), 1577–1625.
- Costa, L. (2024). Social welfare programs and poverty reduction in Brazil. *Journal of Poverty, Investment and Development*, 9(1), 26–36.
- Devereux, S., & Sabates-Wheeler, R. (2021). Transformative social protection: A conceptual framework. *Institute of Development Studies*.
- Fiszbein, A., & Schady, N. (2020). *Conditional cash transfers: Reducing present and future poverty*. World Bank.
- Gentilini, U., Grosh, M., Rigolini, J., & Yemtsov, R. (2020). The expansion of

- social protection during COVID-19. [Publisher].
- Jaffee, S. R. (2024). Annual research review: Cash transfer programs and youth mental health. [Journal].
- Kakwani, N. (1990; 1993). Growth elasticity of poverty reduction. [Journal].
- Lampman, R. (1965). Poverty projections and economic growth. [Journal].
- McGuire, J., Kaiser, C., & Bach-Mortensen, A. M. (2022). Cash transfers' impact on subjective well-being and mental health. *Nature Human Behaviour*.
- Midgley, J. (2017). Historical roots of social welfare in developing countries. [Journal].
- Pouw, N., & Bender, K. (2022). The poverty reduction effect of social protection: Multidisciplinary pros and cons. *European Journal of Development Research*, 34, 2204–2223.
- Ravallion, M. (2007). Economic growth and poverty reduction: Do poor countries need to worry about inequality? *International Food Policy Research Institute*.
- Ravallion, M. (2016). *Are the world's poorest being left behind?* *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(2), 139–164.
- Ravallion, M. (2020a). On measuring global poverty. *Annual Review of Economics*, 12, 167–188.
- Ravallion, M. (2020b). Poverty comparisons and measurement: Revisited. [Journal].
- Ravallion, M., & Chen, S. (2019). Global poverty measurement when relative income matters. *Journal of Public Economics*, 177, 1–11.
- Ravallion, M. (2022). Growth elasticities of poverty reduction. *NBER Working Paper*.



Robson, M. (2024). Distributional impacts of cash transfers on the poor. *[Journal]*.

Slater, R. (2011). Cash transfers and poverty alleviation. *[Publication]*.

Light, C. (2024). Effects of conditional and unconditional cash transfers: Systematic review. *[Journal]*.

Ruja, I. N. (2024). Programs, opportunities, and challenges in poverty alleviation globally. *[Journal]*.

World Bank. (2024). Social protection and cash transfers policy paper. *[Publisher]*.

Wikipedia contributors. (2025). Bolsa Família. *Wikipedia*.

Wikipedia contributors. (2025). Cash transfer. *Wikipedia*.