



Universidad del Azuay

Faculty of Legal Sciences

International Studies Career

**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE
MIGRATION POLICIES OF MEXICO 2021 ON
THE DECISION OF INHABITANTS IN
RICAURTE PARISH TO MIGRATE TO THE
U.S.A**

Authors:

Lucia Vazquez

Professor:

Gabriela Bonilla Chumbi

Cuenca – Ecuador 2023

DEDICATION

I dedicate this article to my parents and siblings who have been my support and motivation throughout my life.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank God for his blessing, my parents for their support, and lastly my tutor for her guidance in the preparation of this article, and for their unconditional support.

INDEX OF CONTENTS

Abstract	VI
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Objectives	2
1.2 Theoretical framework.....	2
2. Literature review	3
3. Methods	5
4. Results	6
5. Discussion	8
6. Conclusion	11
7. References	11
8. Annexes	14

INDEX OF FIGURES, TABLES AND ANNEXES

Index of figures

Figure 1: The four phases of method GQM.....	6
Figure 2: Intention to migrate to the U.S.A	6
Figure 3: Travel planning through México.....	7
Figure 4: Change of decision due to new requirements.....	8

Index of annexes

Annex 1 Survey 1.....	14
-----------------------	----

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE MIGRATION POLICIES OF MEXICO 2021 ON THE DECISION OF INHABITANTS IN RICAURTE PARISH TO MIGRATE TO THE U.S.A

Abstract

This article is given with the purpose of knowing the impact of the migratory measures of Mexico 2021 in the decision of the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish to migrate to the United States. With the use of a mixed methodology, a bibliographic review of Ecuadorian emigration since the 20th century has been presented, from its origins with the first migrations from the southern zone of Ecuador to the United States and its different migratory waves through time. The migratory policies of Mexico for Ecuadorians in the year 2021 given for the control and reduction of the migratory wave produced by the economic crisis as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic have been studied. The article presents statistical results obtained from surveys carried out on a sample of 53 inhabitants of Ricaurte in Cuenca - Ecuador, which were developed in order to know the effectiveness of these migration policies, concluding that there has been an impact resulting in a decrease in migration. On the other hand, through the discussion statistical results are corroborated. with the study of migratory policies and the stories of the surveyed sample in which the preferential use of Mexico as a transit country to reach the United States stands out.

Keywords: Migration, Politics, Mexico, Ecuador

Reviewed by

M Lourdes Moscoso

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE MIGRATION POLICIES OF MEXICO 2021 ON THE DECISION OF INHABITANTS IN RICAURTE PARISH TO MIGRATE TO THE U.S.A

1. Introduction

Human mobility has been present since the beginning of humanity worldwide and takes a vital importance on both individual and collective life. People practice mobility as an exercise of their right to free movement. Migration is a matter that is controlled by national and international regulations, countries depending on their situation will take the necessary measures to protect their population, territory, economy and stability.

The sending countries of migrants will take measures to prevent the departure of their citizens, those that are recipients of migrants will take measures to avoid excessive waves of foreigners who migrate with the aim of settling in a new territory, and there are those that without being sending or receivers are also involved in this migration process as they are considered as transit countries, this is the case of Mexico, a territory through which millions of migrants from South and Central America cross with the aim of reaching their final destination, which is the United States, these countries “Calls of passage” also take measures to avoid this massive human mobility and also to help receiving migrants for different countries to control and, as far as possible, avoid the great waves of immigrants in their territories.

In 2020, a pandemic occurred that not only affected the health of people worldwide, but also economic stability due to the temporary or permanent closure of many companies and institutions that represented sources of economic income for many families. Given this context, many people globally, among those many Ecuadorians decided to emigrate in pursuit of a better economic income that allows them to cover their essential expenses. Most Ecuadorians migrated to the United States during 2021 as a result of the harsh economic situations that have arisen worldwide due to Covid-19; due to this situation, most people struggle every day and seek alternatives such as migration when the situation in their native countries is not adequate.

Potential countries such as Spain and the United States have been the common focus of migration throughout history, but given the seriousness of this problem, restrictions are becoming stronger to maintain a point of balance in international migration, for example, transit countries such as Mexico are affected by the great illegal migratory wave that crosses the border areas. It is here where governments create agreements and regulations to stabilize the situation, as is the case of Mexico with respect of Ecuador by changing its migratory policy that was based mainly on the requirement of the Mexican visa, the same one that was in force during the period from September 4, 2021 to March 4, 2022 because of this reason, it is important to analyze the impact of Mexico's 2021 migration policies in Ecuador with a case of study such as the citizens of the Ricaurte parish in the city of Cuenca, this parish has been chosen for the analysis because a high percentage of their population has migrated to the United States.

In addition, this research aims the migration study from the perspective of migration policies and it is impacting on the population, knowing this reality. It will be possible to establish national plans that, with the help of strategic alliances, contribute to ending poverty and achieving well-being of the population through the creation of decent work and economic growth.

1.1 Objectives

Main goal

- To analyze the impact of the migratory policies of Mexico in the year 2021 with respect of the decision of the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish to migrate to the United States of North America.

Specific objectives

- To make a historical account of Ecuadorian emigration.
- To study the immigration policies of Mexico for Ecuadorians in the year 2021.
- To analyze the statistics of the surveys carried out on the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish regarding their decision to migrate to the United States with the new Mexican immigration policy measures.

1.2 Theoretical framework

Globalization is a point of interconnection in all areas of life worldwide, this process has experienced strong accelerations during the last three decades within the global economic crisis and has represented economic, social, cultural and political changes (Bonilla Morán, 2021); all this with the help of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) that have helped to cross borders. As globalization advances, world differences take less intensity. Consequently, migration is a phenomenon that is within globalization since. Speaking of the transfer of knowledge, technology, customs and trends, it also refers to human mobility as part of human rights by having the freedom to cross borders (Gonzales, 2019). Human mobility is part of the history of humanity and is still considered a new term that refers to the processes that people experience to be able to live in a short or long term in a place other than their place of birth. (Ombudsman, 2016). Above all, the mobilization of people from one place to another represents the full exercise of their right to free movement, which is a complex process, motivated by numerous reasons such as economic, labor, student, volunteer, political and derived from structural violence or specific, which is done with the intention of staying in the place of destination for short or long periods, or even to develop circular mobility. (IOM, 2012)

Migration is a phenomenon that involves the movement of people, according to ECLAC it is the change of residence that implies the transfer of some duly defined administrative geographical limit. If said limit is of an international nature, when crossing the border zones from one country to another it is called "international migration" and if the limit that it crosses is recognized within a country, it is the demographic movements produced within the same national zone (Gutiérrez Silva et al., 2020) such as a rural or urban area, is considered an "internal migration".

This phenomenon is generated by the search for security, although its process implies new types of insecurity. Migration is part of the demographic processes that, together with the birth rate and mortality, produce changes in the organization of the population. (G. D. Romero & Coromoto, 2019). This phenomenon has been present in the world since ancient times after the need to seek food, clothing, housing and in the current reality for different needs such as improving quality of life, fleeing due to war, natural or environmental disasters, health, student goals or better job opportunities (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2018).

Migration is considered a potential reality that transcends people's lives by crossing geographical boundaries and is determined by social and economic factors which respond to these structures. There are several reasons to migrate and

different factors influence the decision to migrate, among the most common throughout history is the search for a better quality of life, optimal working conditions, student progress, maintenance of physical well-being and mental, which are influenced in one way or another by economic, social, political and environmental factors (Gutiérrez Silva et al., 2020). To all this, the work of the human being cannot be ignored in the search for the satisfaction of their physiological, security, social, recognition and self-improvement needs for progress before society as established by the Maslow pyramid (López Rodríguez and Anteliz, 2019). Migratory policies emerge as norms for the correct control and functioning of human mobility, each country has a migratory policy for the entry of foreigners to its territory. Within these policies, not only does it ensure the maintenance control of the migratory balance of a country, but it also ensures respect for and compliance with human rights and duties and constantly works to improve the system, this work is reflected in the objectives of Sustainable Development, since its goal is to facilitate “Orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the application of planned and well-managed migration policies” (ONU, 2016). Migratory controls are based on the regularization of the documents and requirements necessary to enter the foreign territory, within the migratory controls we find the visa requirement which the International Organization for Migration affirms the following.

The visa is a document that contains the authorization for foreigners to remain in Ecuador for a period of time or permanently in accordance with the established conditions by law. According to the Organic Law of Human Mobility, foreigners could apply for a type of visa: temporary resident, temporary exception, permanent resident, diplomatic, humanitarian or tourist, special tourism and agreement. (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2018)

2. Literature review

According to Jacques Ramírez’s research work, international migration in Ecuador was studied since the 20th century. For a long time, Ecuador was more concerned about internal migration and did not take into account Ecuadorians' departure. The important factors in the history of migration in Ecuador are the multiple economic, social, political, environmental, and health crises that the country has experienced throughout its history.

It is important to analyze that these crises, apart from being seen as negative consequences of governments’ political mistakes, are rather contexts in which actors develop the search and creation of strategies, initiatives, and tendencies to act on them. According to Ramírez, the first migrations from Guayaquil took place in the middle of the 20th century when the idea of the "Great American Dream" began to be popular among the people, and the main destination was New York in the United States. The author points out as an important fact that one of the first consular offices of the United States in the entire Western Hemisphere was opened in Guayaquil and the opening of the Legation of Ecuador in the United States took place on August 18, 1936.

The first migratory wave was in the 1950s when the crisis of toquilla straw hats occurred. There were connections between the Austro and New York, and there was a strong economic crisis due to the decrease in the export of toquilla straw hats, known as “Panama Hat” crisis in which the Azuayos, and Cañarejos emigrated to Chicago and New York. According to the United States Census Bureau, in 1960 there were 7,670 Ecuadorians; and a decade later, this number increased to 36,633. This increase was produced both, by the consolidation of migratory networks that refer to the interpersonal relationships that exist between emigrants and people residing in local communities, which leads to a reproduction of migratory processes, and by the approval of the Law of 1965 of the United States that allowed Hispanics labor certification. This brought a significant increase of Hispanic immigrants in cities like New York and many of them were Ecuadorians (Keely, 1971).

Later, in the eighties, the adjustment measures, inflation, and crisis from 1982, there was an increase in emigration from the Austro. In these years, neoliberal policies began to be implemented, and the country experienced internal rural-urban migration. In the southern zone, there was an increase in emigration flows of the population locally known as the "cholos", who belonged to upper-class families. To this group we must also add people from rural and urban areas near Cuenca and Cañar, peasants, and workers. Also, it is observed how migration increased in the mid-eighties, reaching its highest peak in 1988 with 27,000 migratory movements of people that did not return. According to the United States Census, by 1980 there were already 86,128 Ecuadorians residing legally. Entering the last decade of the 20th century, according to the 1990 United States Census, there were 143,000 regular Ecuadorians in that country. A survey carried out at the University of Cuenca by the IDIS Population Center, at the beginning of 1990, indicated that

in the Province of Azuay, 33.8% of families had a member abroad. Although the data raises suspicions given the high percentage, it could be assumed that it refers to extended families, that is, families with children born in the country to which they migrated. However, beyond the figure for the 1990s in this southern region of the country, migratory families consolidated, that is, those who have relatives who live abroad and depend on them for subsistence.

A new crisis occurred, this time a socio-environmental one, which occurred between March and May 1993 as a result of a displacement of land that clogged several rivers, between the geographical points of Azogues and Cuenca. It devastated everything that was in its way. This period of 'national crisis' that has been little explored in relation to migration, was the prelude to the period of greatest political and economic instability in the country and that gave way to the largest migration of Ecuadorians in history.

Until the mid-1990s, although migration was consolidated in the Austro with migrant communities, it expanded throughout the mountains and the southern coast. It continued to be a migration, especially among young people, both single and married who had a job before migrating. At this time, the first migratory networks appear in Spain, caused by the economic crisis that arose in the government of Fabián Alarcón and Jaime Mahuad, in the context of the dollarization of the Ecuadorian economy in 2000. This great wave of emigration occurs as a consequence of the deterioration of the purchasing power, especially of the middle and lower layers of the population in the midst of the strongest inflationary process of the decade and the dollarization of the economy. In this context, the migratory decision is consolidated as an individual and collective strategy in the scenario of loss of socio-economic opportunities and precariousness of citizen rights.

Due to this, some changes appeared in relation to the previous migratory processes that shaped a new migratory pattern. In the first place, new destinations arise, unlike in the past when Ecuadorian migration was directed mainly to the United States, a bifurcation occurs, with Spain being the preferred place of arrival. According to the 2001 census, 49.4% of the population went to this country, followed by the United States (26.7%) and Italy (9.9%). The fact that 86% of migration is concentrated in just three countries confirms the previous existence of solid migratory networks that operate specifically between towns and cities belonging to those countries. However, with the imposition of the Schengen visa in August 2003, the United States is back in the first place. According to the 2000 United States Census, there were 260,559 Ecuadorians in that country.

Second, there was a literature called a feminization of migration, understood not only as the increase in migration flows of women but also in how they became the heads of family migratory chains and also as self-employed migrant workers. At that time, data from the Ecuadorian census recorded that 53% of migrants were men and 47% women. However, in cities like Guayaquil, 60% were women, and in destinations like Italy, more women (23,280) arrived than men (14,081). The third characteristic has to do with territorial expansion in the migratory sphere, both in rural and urban areas. Yet, this was not 'multi-class', that is, migration of only certain social classes as occurred in previous years of the beginning of migration when those from high society migrated.

At the end of the first decade of the new century, a significant decline in the Ecuadorian migratory dynamics is observed: for the first time in history, since there are records of migratory balances, these are negative. In other words, for the first time, the number of Ecuadorian departures was less than the number of entries.

The last six-year term radically changed the country and the migratory landscape, due to catastrophic events such as the earthquake in 2016 of 7.8 magnitudes, which affected the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí. Although the government took aid actions such as the implementation of a reception bonus, which was a three-month subsidy for those families that received those affected, many people chose to leave the country to look for an economic income that would help them recover, reaching almost one hundred thousand Ecuadorians who emigrated between 2016 and 2017. A year after the earthquake, Ecuador began to face a complex situation due to a strong wave of immigrants from Venezuela. This situation has been attributed to the increase in crime and unemployment at the national level, which has consequently caused an increase in Ecuadorian emigration to the United States.

At the beginning of 2020, the economy was seriously affected by the SARS-CoV-2, known worldwide as Covid-19, which in a matter of months, became a pandemic. Indeed, the pandemic caused many borders to be closed worldwide in 2020, leaving many migrants, travelers and tourists stranded and causing a decrease in the migratory balance that was negative that year since there was no possibility for Ecuadorians to migrate to foreign countries. Under these conditions, migratory flows were reactivated once again, and as a consequence, the borders were reopened and the

fear of the virus diminished. Once again, thousands of Ecuadorians saw emigration as the way out of the crisis. From 2021 until the month of November, the migratory balance is around one hundred thousand Ecuadorians who left and did not return. Once again, the provinces of Central and South Sierra, such as Azuay, Cañar, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, and Tungurahua, are the places from which most people left, and the United States was their final destination. As in the past, to fulfill the "Great American Dream", Mexico became a place of transit. The fact of not requiring a visa for Ecuadorian citizens to enter that country (since November 2018) facilitated the transfer until September 4, 2021, the date on which a visa began to be required given the increased migratory flows.

Data from the Customs and Border Protection office report that, from January to September 2021, of every 28 people, 8 were Ecuadorians. At the end of the fiscal year, Ecuadorians constitute the fifth nationality worldwide with the highest apprehensions of illegal migrants in the United States, behind Mexico and the three countries of the Central American northern triangle. It was also the first group in relation to South Americans and Caribbeans. In the past, men traveled first, but now, women's migration has increased. Indeed, according to the same source, 37.61% of the Ecuadorians apprehended were traveling in a family group. This demonstrates migrants and "smugglers" knowledge about the changes in Biden's policy in relation to Trump, who at the beginning of his administration stopped expelling unaccompanied children, as well as decreased the expulsion of migrants who came in family units. Mexico proposed a reform in migratory policies, which was based mainly on the visa requirement for Ecuadorians during the period September 4, 2021, to March 4, 2022. This was due to the great migratory wave from South American countries, including Ecuador, passing through Mexico on their way to the United States, and it was also a result of Mexico demands to control this wave of immigrants.

Before the imposition of the visa by Mexico, people known as "coyotes" helped to cross the border areas, and it was necessary to be informed and have a stratified migration plan to finalize the trip. Until the beginning of December, 4,613 Ecuadorians were deported from the United States; however, it is expected that the same number of people will try to migrate again, this time through longer and more dangerous routes. Indeed, since the end of 2021, after the imposition of the visa to Mexico and Guatemala, more Ecuadorians are traveling via Nicaragua or El Salvador (González, 2021).

3. Methods

This article is focused on an exploratory type of research, in order to know the impact of the change in Mexico's migration policy in the period September 2021 - March 2022 towards Ecuadorians in the decision of the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish to migrate from Ecuador to the United States of North America. This research was based on the author H. Koziolk's Method that includes planning, definition, data collection and interpretation. To address this research, a mixed qualitative and quantitative research was used. The qualitative type was used to learn about the history of Ecuadorian migration to the United States and the evolution of Mexico's migration policy directed towards Ecuadorians. The quantitative type was used to interpret the data resulting from the surveys carried out in a stratified manner to the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish (people aged 18 to 40) about their decision to migrate to the United States. The percentage of the population surveyed was calculated in relation to the total population of the Ricaurte parish that met the established age variable, the population data of 4006 inhabitants were obtained from the INEC. (INEC, 2001)

Figure 1: The four phases of method GQM

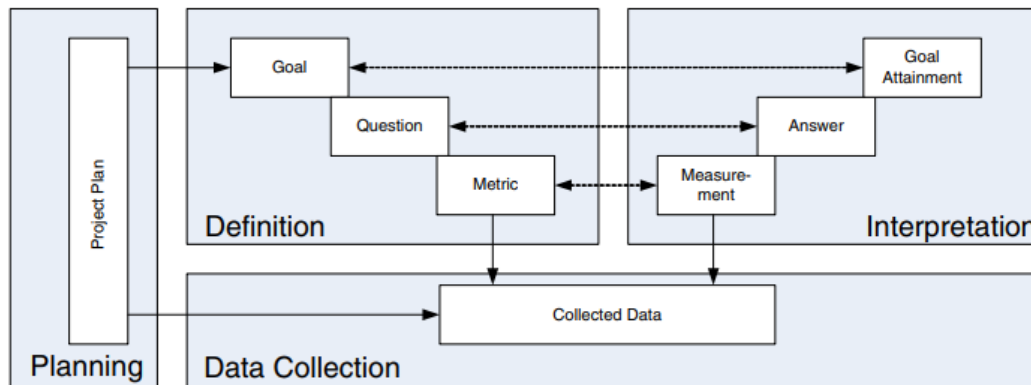


Fig. 1. The 4 phases of the GQM-method [481]

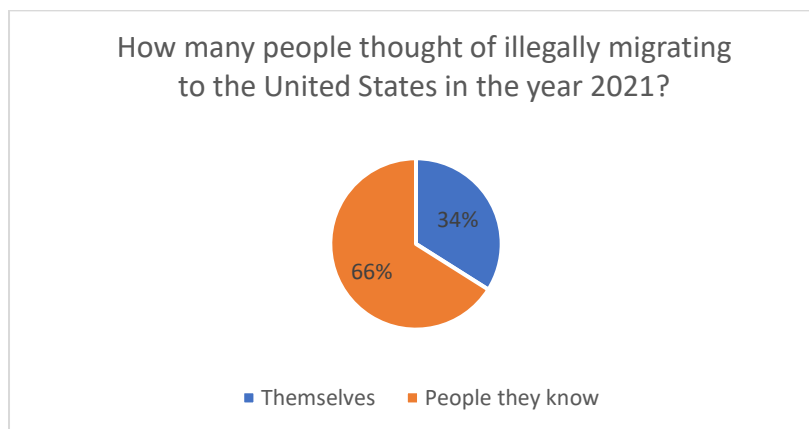
Note: Extracted from chapter 6 of the book Dependability Metrics: Advanced Lectures

Source: Koziolk, 2008.

4. Results

According to the statistical results of the surveys carried out on a sample of 53 inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish, it has been possible to identify that 66% of their own cases have the intention of migrating to the United States and 34% of the people surveyed know people who have had the intention of migrating to the United States, as can be seen in Figure No. 2, we can identify that the vast majority of the Ricaurte population is familiar with migratory cases to the United States. In the second question of the surveys we can identify that 88.68% of the 53 people surveyed choose as their preferred route to go through Mexico to reach the United States and 11.32% of them opt for different routes in stopovers with other countries which is evidenced in the figure No. 2, the third question of the survey shows as results that the change of Mexican immigration policy towards Ecuadorians with respect to the visa requirement to enter Mexico, did represent a barrier that affected their decision to migrate to the United States. The 47 people 68.09% of the respondents decided to wait or not to migrate to the United States and 39.91% did not change their decision and risked the attempt to migrate.

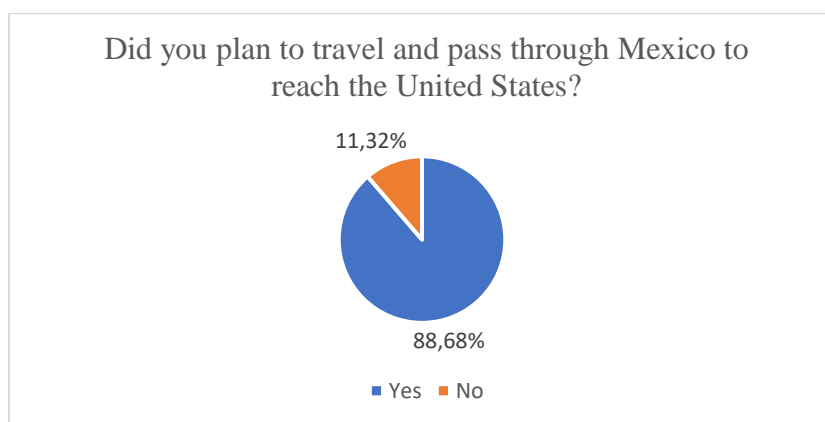
Figure 2: Intention to migrate to the U.S.A



Note: Statistical results of the survey.

The second question was developed in order to know if the people surveyed intended to go through Mexico directly to reach the United States. The results show that 88.68% of people who had the intention of migrating to the United States or their acquaintances who had this intention, chose to go through Mexico to reach their final destination. The people surveyed, 88.68% choose as their preferred route to go through Mexico to reach the United States. While only 11.32% did not choose to go through Mexico to reach their final destination. These data are shown in Figure No. 3. For example, in some cases, people opted for the triangulated strategy that consisted of making a stopover through other countries to finally reach the United States, with the aim of making their trip appear as tourism and not as illegal migration with a final destination in the United States. In other cases, people decided to wait to get a tourist visa for the United States, even if it took longer.

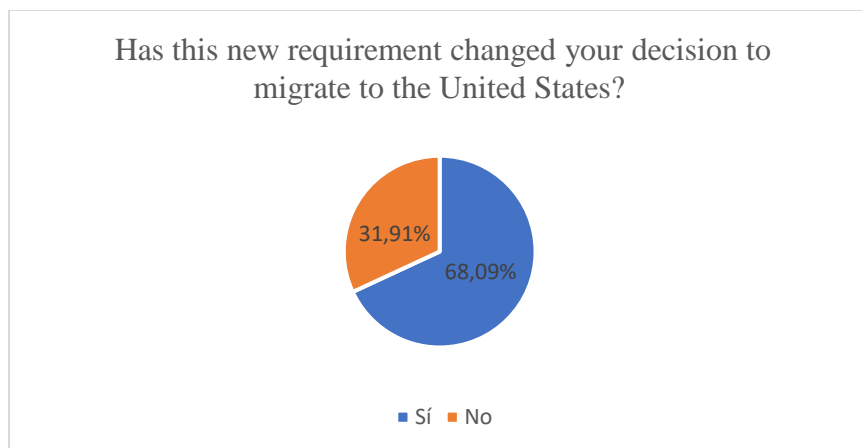
Figure 3: Travel planning through México



Note: Statistical results of the survey.

The third question was developed with the objective of knowing if the new requirement of Mexico when starting to apply for a visa for Ecuadorians in the period from September 2021 to March 2022 influenced or not the decision of people to migrate to the United States. , where the results show that it did represent a barrier that affected their decision to migrate to the United States, since of the 53 people surveyed, 47 responses indicated that they intended to go through Mexico to reach the United States; 68.09% decided to wait or not to migrate to the United States and 39.91% correspond to those whose decision to migrate to the United States did not change and rather decided to look for alternatives to meet their goal of reaching the United States .

Figure 4: Change of decision due to new requirements



Note: Statistical results of the survey.

5. Discussion

Since the 20th century, migration has been present in Ecuador as a phenomenon that presents both positive aspects such as the inflow of capital through remittances, which represent the money that migrants send to their families in their native countries, and negative aspects such as separation. Family that produces, the violation of human rights of migrants and the labor exploitation to which they are subjected, this is mainly due to economic issues, when in the beginning migrations began with the United States as their main destination due to the economic crisis of the famous 'Panama hats'. After this, there are strong migratory waves such as the one caused by the 1982 crisis or among the strongest and most well-known the 1999 crisis and currently the present migratory wave mostly destined for the United States as a result of the economic crisis left by the pandemic of COVID-19. In this sense, Rojas Wiesner and Basok (2020) consider that illegal migration is when people from one country move to another without the necessary permits, violating its laws and considering themselves illegal in the country of arrival.

In Ecuador over time, illegal migration has always meant a significant phenomenon (Villalón, 2019), which is strengthened mainly by economic crises in certain periods of time. In recent years, illegal migration occurs initially by traveling by plane to Mexico, and later, with another flight, migrants go to Tuxtla Gutiérrez, capital of the state of Chiapas. Later, by bus, people are transported to San Cristóbal de las Casas and reach Tapachula, a small city that is not only an almost mandatory step for Ecuadorian migrants but also from all of Latin America. From there, the crossing usually takes place by means of land transport, mainly until reaching the northern border of Tamaulipas and from there crossing the Rio Grande (Gómez, 2021). For their part, Ramírez Gallegos and Álvarez Velasco (2009) point out that the route from Ecuador to the United States reaches 5,000 km² and throughout the entire trajectory, migrants are subject to constant risks of hunger, disease, fear, waiting, permanent hiding, subhuman conditions, different types of violence, among others. However, despite all the risks that may arise during the journey and due to the poor socioeconomic situation, that Ecuador is going through, to this day people continue to migrate to North America in order to improve their quality of life, risking their own integrity in order to obtain more job opportunities with higher salaries compared to Ecuador. In this sense, Andrade Herrera (2022) points out that, in several regions of Ecuador, especially in the south, migration constitutes a prestige in certain rural communities, for which it is more frequent to have relatives outside the country, even becoming in a tradition, where the descendants will carry out the same migratory movement as their relatives.

It should also be identified why the emigration of Ecuadorians to the US is mostly carried out through illegal means. Although it is known that, to travel to the United States from Ecuador, as well as the rest of Latin American

countries, it is necessary to obtain a visa, a mandatory document to transit in the American territory. However, according to the US Embassy and Consulate in Ecuador (2022), there are a series of requirements that must be met from determining the type of visa, filling out forms to reaching an interview if you meet with the previous requirements, which makes it difficult to obtain this document, and it is also worth mentioning that most of the cases where this document is approved are of the tourist type, that people are allowed to stay for a while limited, since in case of exceeding said time and "if the visitor was illegal for more than 180 consecutive days (six months), that is, at one time, when he leaves the US he will not be able to return for three years " (The Universe, 2022, par. 15). In addition, it is necessary to mention that carrying out work activities in the United States with a tourist visa constitutes an illegal activity, which means that in the event that the authorities in charge of immigration find such cases, said visa is first canceled and the person who committed the crime can have a sanction of up to 10 years of not being able to enter American's territory (Torres, 2021). From what has been observed, it can be evidenced great difficulties that people have to migrate to North America legally, since there are a series of obstacles and obstacles that do nothing more than encourage illegal migratory movements.

On the other hand, one of the main results of the various crises in the world is the displacement of large numbers of people from unstable and unsafe places to places that are expected to present better opportunities (Fernández y Moretti, 2020). Countries like the US are historically recipients of the majority of migratory waves in the world, this is something that, according to Parra Caro (2020), has caused a series of problems for the country, such as the increased rates of violence, terrorism the increase in illegal sales and consumption of drugs, among others.

It is for these and more reasons that countries establish immigration policies, which are considered measures that seek to control the entry of immigrants into a territory. One of the measures used by countries to curb immigration is the visa requirement to enter their territories, which, according to the studies reviewed, constitutes a document that presents great difficulty in obtaining it, due to the series of requirements and procedures that people must comply with which a large part of the population that wishes to migrate does so through illegal methods, paying third parties who send them through poorly controlled border areas to fulfill their objective. For this reason, the US has been seeking support from several countries to increase measures that reduce illegal migration processes, as was the case in Mexico, since according to Imbaquingo (2021) since September 4 of the same year, he said the country has been requiring a visa for people from Ecuador so that they can enter its territory, which has increased the difficulty of those who plan to migrate to North America.

This information is verified by the accounts of several people who initially planned to travel to countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, thus entering and crossing illegally through Mexico. However, the majority of people who normally seek to avoid stopovers since this implies greater travel time, expenditure of resources and there is an increased risk due to the precarious situations they face, such as crime, abuse by 'coyotes' to men and women, in fact, if the route is direct from Ecuador to Mexico, the only crossing that would present all these risks would be the border area between Mexico and the United States.

According to Riaño (2021), the year 2021 is considered "the year of the largest wave of migration to the United States" of people who come mainly from Mexico, which is also used as a transit country to the United States. United States for people from Latin American countries.

In this sense, although COVID-19 was one of the factors that increased the numbers of illegal migration to the United States, another important variable lies in the fact that families want to reunite in North American, a reason that is even found above elements such as poverty, lack of employment, crime, among others (Nuestra Tele Noticias 24, 2018).

Therefore, United States authorities, headed by President Biden, have proposed a reform in relation to the issue and have already encountered the exodus of South American minors in transit from the United States through Central America, an issue that is included on Joe Biden's immigration reform. Since the beginning of February 2021, it was common to see children walking unaccompanied by their families across the US border, the number of migrant minors arriving alone in the United States has increased, approximately 11,000 unaccompanied children were in custody under the Department of health and human rights, most were adolescents but a large number are under 12

years old and in this sense, Biden stated that he would not expel minors who migrated alone, so the objective was to connect children with their families, while the children await a response on US territory at the “Carrizo Springs Texas” Processing Center (Barros, 2021).

Migration is a sign of desperation of families to seek a better future for their children, and a clear example of how some take advantage of this through the business in illegal migration than the business of smugglers who carry a dangerous journey. Although the sanctions and increased requirements to migrate to the United States increase, migration is a phenomenon that bypasses immigration regulations, laws and policies. The United States, in an attempt to control these waves of immigration, asks for collaboration from the countries that are being used. By the way, this was the case of Mexico and its decision to apply a visa to Ecuadorians.

The important thing to know is if this collaboration of other countries has been effective. The results of the surveys carried out in this research work show us that the visa requirement for Ecuadorians to travel to the United States, since it is shown that this decision did indeed have an impact on the decision of Ecuadorians to migrate to the USA. This impact is due to important reasons such as the fact of having to wait a long period of time in which it is estimated from 1 to 2 years for the amount of time to obtain a shift to obtain a Mexican visa. Additionally, the percentage of denied visa applications has been high, so many saw even the attempt as a wasted effort. All these situations were presented as obstacles for those Ecuadorians who planned to migrate to the US, using Mexico as a transit country, it is for this reason that, as the results of the surveys show that a 68.09% gave up the idea of migrate to the US, demonstrating with this that this type of migratory policies taken by third countries do contribute to the expected result, which is to stop immigration in a specific territory.

The surveys carried out have revealed the different realities that can arise in the different cases of migration, within them there was a case of a person who prepared his trip to Mexico with a final destination to the United States, but faced with an inconvenience this person was forced to stay in Mexico for two weeks, in the course of that time the opportunity arose to stay in Mexico studying through a student scholarship to which this person agreed, cases like this are minimal but possible. However, in most cases, migrants focus on reaching the United States, but many of them have stopped at the barrier of obtaining a visa to Mexico, since most people believe that it is the most feasible route to reach Mexico with a final destination in the United States.

Migratory transit countries such as Mexico are constantly at the forefront of migratory changes in the world, such as migratory waves caused by crises of different kinds. Mexico, being a country that shares borders with one of the main recipients of migrants such as the United States, has been forced many times to establish new migration policies, which are intended to contribute to the migration control that the US government in turn establishes. Modifying immigration policies with the aim of cooperating with another country also brings with it several disadvantages for the country that is establishing them, in the case of Mexico, requesting a visa from Ecuadorians also causes a decrease in tourists, businessmen, Ecuadorian investors who planned to travel to your country for reasons other than migrating to the US. However, it is known that throughout its history, Mexico has been forced to make decisions that benefit the United States on many occasions. There are several cases in which the power that the United States exercises over Mexico is evident, for example, the threats made by President Donald Trump to impose punitive tariffs on all imported Mexican goods if Mexico does not accept to reinforce the application of immigration law and allow the expansion of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) in the border area between Mexico and the United States (Mendez, 2019).

Currently, Peláez et al. (2021) the international community seeks to cooperate in order to find solutions to deal with the phenomenon of strong migratory waves; twenty countries of the American continent: United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Canada, Jamaica and Barbados committed to expand the opportunities that allow legal migration and strengthen regional cooperation to contain the growing arrival of undocumented people at the border of the United States and other countries that have received large numbers of migrants in recent years, such as Colombia, Ecuador or Costa Rica. In this declaration called "Declaration of Los Angeles on Migration and Protection", proposed by the government of Joe Biden, held in the Californian capital on June 10, 2022, Biden

mentioned that "No nation should assume this responsibility alone" and that "their priority is to control the dangerous and illegal ways in which people are migrating" (EFE, 2022). This agreement was signed by twenty countries, including the United States, Mexico and four countries, places of origin of the highest percentage of migrants arriving in the United States Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti. It was also signed by most of the countries of transit and destination of many Venezuelan, Nicaraguan and Haitian migrants who have traveled the continent in recent years: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, Canada, Jamaica and Barbados (EFE, 2022).

6. Conclusion

Concluding, the migratory phenomenon gains strength mainly in the face of the crises that can occur in a territory, and that consequently people begin to migrate in search of better job opportunities or improvements in the quality of life, both theirs and their families. However, the international community is always at the forefront of migration. Such is the case of the United States as a destination and Mexico as a transit country, together with the collaboration of the governments of the countries from which the migrants come, such as Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and other Central and South American countries. Faced with the migratory wave produced after the economic crisis derived from COVID-19, Mexico saw the need to help the United States control the migratory wave with a change in its migratory policy for the year 2021 in the period of September which it was maintained until March 2022 with the primary objective of counteracting excessive migration.

This article focused its research on knowing the impact of Mexico's immigration policies on the decision of the inhabitants of the Ricaurte parish to arrive in the United States, which consisted of the requirement of a Mexican visa in the period of September 2021 to March 2022. Therefore, according to the statistical data of the surveys carried out, it is concluded that this immigration policy reform did manage to have an impact on the decision of people to migrate to the Ricaurte parish and that the immigration policy achieves its objective in the majority of population, however, it is necessary to continue promoting actions in the international community to expand opportunities to migrate legally and strengthen regional cooperation regarding the precariousness that migrants experience during their journey.

7. References


- Agencia EFE. (2021). Veinte países americanos se coordinan para reducir la migración irregular. <https://www.efe.com/efe/usa/inmigracion/veinte-paises-americanos-se-coordinan-para-reducir-la-migracion-irregular/50000098-4829116>
- Andrade Herrera, C. (2022). *PROGRAMA DOCTORAL: DOCTORADO EN CIENCIAS JURÍDICAS Y ECONÓMICAS* [Doctorado, Universidad Camilo José Cela]. <https://repositorio.ucjc.edu/bitstream/handle/20.500.12020/969/Tesis%20Carlos%20Andrade%20Herrera%20Impresio%cc%81n%20%28002%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- Arias, P. (2021). ¿Por qué México solicitará visa a ecuatorianos nuevamente? <https://ecuador.ladevi.info/visa/por-que-mexico-solicitará-visa-ecuatorianos-nuevamente-n33221>
- Barros, A. (2021). La reforma migratoria de Biden, punto por punto. *Voz de América*.
- Bonilla Morán, G. I. (2021). Globalización y movilidad humana: Mejora laboral. *Revista Relaciones Internacionales*, 3, 65-85.

- Defensoría del Pueblo. (2016). EN TIEMPO DE DERECHOS SE TRATÓ EL CONCEPTO DE MOVILIDAD HUMANA. <https://www.dpe.gob.ec/tiempo-derechos-se-trato-concepto-movilidad-humana/>
- El Universo. (2022, febrero 18). Lo que sucede si se queda más tiempo del permitido en Estados Unidos con su visa de turista. El Universo. <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/internacional/lo-que-sucede-si-se-quedas-mas-tiempo-del-permitido-en-estados-unidos-con-su-visa-de-turista-nota/>
- Embajada y Consulado de EE.UU. en Ecuador. (2022). *Visas*. Embajada y Consulado de EE.UU. en Ecuador. <https://ec.usembassy.gov/es/visas-es/>
- Fernández, V. R., & Moretti, L. (2020). Un nuevo sistema mundo desde el Sur Global: Gran convergencia y desplazamiento geográfico acelerado. 2(11), 313-344. <https://doi.org/10.5209/geop.69203>
- Gómez, K. (2021). *La perla se convirtió en muro. Crónica sobre la migración en la frontera sur de México*. Editorial Libros.com.
- González, F. (2019). *Retos ante la crisis*. Fundación Carolina y Siglo XXI.
- Gutiérrez Silva, J. M., Romero Borré, J., Arias Montero, S. R., and Briones Mendoza, X. F. (2020). Migración: Contexto, impacto y desafío. Una reflexión teórica. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, 26(2). <https://doi.org/10.31876/rcs.v26i2.32443>
- Imbaquingo, J. (2021, agosto 20). *Desde el 4 de septiembre del 2021 México pedirá visa a ecuatorianos*. El Comercio. <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/politica/mexico-impone-visa-temporal-ecuatorianos.html>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos [INEC]. (2001). *Población del cantón Cuenca censo 2001*. 6-9.
- Koziolek, H. (2008). Goal, Question, Metric. En I. Eusgeld, F. C. Freiling, & R. Reussner (Eds.), *Dependability Metrics: Advanced Lectures* (pp. 39-42). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-68947-8_6
- López Rodríguez, C. J., Anteliz, G. E., & Fajardo, Y. A. (2019). Estrés percibido y afrontamiento de inmigrantes venezolanos en el centro de migraciones de la Diócesis de Cúcuta misioneros scalabrinianos [Universidad Simón Bolívar]. <https://bonga.unisimon.edu.co/handle/20.500.12442/5687>
- Méndez Urich, L. (2019). *Donald Trump pone fin a la expectativa y suspende indefinidamente los aranceles a las importaciones mexicanas*. France 24. <https://www.france24.com/es/20190608-donald-trump-aranceles-mexico-acuerdo>
- Migrantes - Ola migratoria hacia Estados Unidos: La crisis que desborda la frontera sur*. (2021, marzo 24). France 24. <https://www.france24.com/es/programas/migrantes/20210324-ola-migratoria-crisis-estados-unidos-frontera-sur>
- Nuestra Tele Noticias 24. (2018, junio 27). *¿Cuáles son los factores que motivan la migración ilegal hacia EE. UU.? ¿Cuáles son los factores que motivan la migración ilegal hacia EE. UU.?* <https://www.ntn24.com/internacionales/la-manana/eeuu/cuales-son-los-factores-que-motivan-la-migracion-ilegal-hacia-ee-uu>
- Organización de las Naciones Unidas [ONU]. (2016). *Desafíos Globales: Migración*. <https://www.un.org/es/global-issues/migration>
- Organización Internacional para las Migraciones [OIM]. (2012). *Datos e Investigación*. <https://www.iom.int/es/datos-e-investigacion>
- Organización Internacional para las Migraciones [OIM]. (2018). Informe sobre las migraciones en el mundo. En *Organización de Naciones Unidas-Migración*.

- Parra Caro, F. S. (2020). Muro fronterizo entre Estados Unidos de América y Estados Unidos Mexicanos. *In Vestigium Ire*, 14(1), 92-107.
- Peláez, O. A., Henao, A. M. G., Taborda, L. M. A., & Pérez, J. L. G. (2021). Migración como fenómeno social que afecta la educación, la economía y el bienestar integral. *Revista de ciencias sociales*, 27(4), 149-159.
- Piedra Andrade, X. O., & Zúñiga Logroño, M. A. (2020). Particularidades que recoge la Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana como instrumento para la tutela efectiva de los Derechos de los Migrantes e Inmigrantes en el ámbito del Derecho Internacional Privado [Universidad del Azay]. <http://dspace.uazuay.edu.ec/handle/datos/9649>
- Ramírez Gallegos, J., and Álvarez Velasco, S. (2009). “Cruzando Fronteras”: Una aproximación etnográfica a la migración clandestina ecuatoriana en tránsito hacia Estados Unidos. 1(1), 89-113.
- Rojas Wiesner, M. L., & Basok, T. (2020). “Legalidad ilegal” y precariedad: La perspectiva desde el sur de México. *Sociologías*, 22, 74-103. <https://doi.org/10.1590/15174522-101813>
- Romero, G. D., and Coromoto, J. (2019). Migración: Como fenómeno social vulnerable y salvaguarda de los derechos humanos. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, XXV. <https://doi.org/10.31876/rsc.v25i1.29619>
- Torres, A. (2021, agosto 6). *Tengo visa de turista y sufrí un accidente de trabajo, ¿qué hago?* Abogados de Confianza | NY. <https://www.abogadosdeconfianza.com/tengo-visa-de-turista-y-sufri-un-accidente-de-trabajo-en-nueva-york-que-hago/>
- Troya Rodríguez. (2007). *Las rutas del tráfico ilegal de migrantes hacia Estados Unidos de América. Labor de la marina ecuatoriana*. 7, 225-250.
- Villalón, R. (2019). Una aproximación sociológica crítica activista al estudio de salud y migración: El caso ecuatoriano. *CS*, 29, 103-138. <https://doi.org/10.18046/rece.i29.3481>

8. Annexes

Annex 1 Survey 1


ANÁLISIS DEL IMPACTO DE LAS POLÍTICAS MIGRATORIAS DE MÉXICO 2021 EN LA DECISIÓN DE LOS HABITANTES EN LA PARROQUIA RICAURTE PARA MIGRAR HACIA LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

Nombre: Jimmy Hoja
Edad: 42 años

¿Usted tuvo la intención de migrar a los Estados Unidos durante el año 2021?

Sí No


¿Planeó viajar y pasar por México para llegar a Estados Unidos?


Sí No

"México en septiembre 2021 empezó a pedir visa a los ecuatorianos"

¿Este nuevo requisito cambió su decisión de migrar a los Estados Unidos?

Sí No




ANÁLISIS DEL IMPACTO DE LAS POLÍTICAS MIGRATORIAS DE MÉXICO 2021 EN LA DECISIÓN DE LOS HABITANTES EN LA PARROQUIA RICAURTE PARA MIGRAR HACIA LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

Nombre: Mathew Hoja
Edad:

¿Usted tuvo la intención de migrar a los Estados Unidos durante el año 2021?

Sí No

¿Conoce usted a alguien que tuvo la intención de migrar a los Estados Unidos en el año 2021?

Sí No

¿Sabe usted si esa persona planeó viajar y pasar por México para llegar a Estados Unidos?

Sí No

"México en septiembre 2021 empezó a pedir visa a los ecuatorianos"

¿Este nuevo requisito cambió su decisión de migrar a los Estados Unidos?

Sí No