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Voices of Ecuadorian Migrants Affected by the
Migration Policies Established by the Administration
of the United States of America in 2025

**Project prior to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in
International Studies**

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I dedicate this thesis to my fellow countrymen who have decided to leave everything behind and bravely start anew in a different place, giving meaning to this research and leaving a lasting impression on my memory.

To God, the source of strength that guides me to never give up despite adversity.

To Gabriel, who has made it possible for me to be where I am today, encouraging me to always take one more step.

To Yolanda and Marcelo, who taught me the values that have made me the woman I am today.

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze how Ecuadorian migrants in the United States perceive the impacts of U.S. immigration policies implemented during 2025. A qualitative, cross-sectional, and descriptive approach was used. Source triangulation was employed, combining the opinions of five experts in the field of migration, the testimonies of seven Ecuadorian migrants, and bibliographic information. The results of this triangulation reflect a growing and persistent fear within the migrant community, accompanied by stricter immigration policies, self-restrictive behaviors to mitigate risks, and greater difficulties in the migration process. This has directly impacted various areas of migrants' lives, including the economic and labor sphere, characterized by precarious and unstable conditions; the family sphere, marked by separations and constant worry for family members; and limitations in access to basic rights such as health, education, and, above all, stable employment, due to the lack of legal status in the country. Similarly, it is observed that migrants develop strategies that allow them to continue their lives despite this vulnerable situation, relying on support networks and adapting to life in the host country. Therefore, it can be concluded that, although migration policies aim to regulate human mobility, they can ultimately affect the daily lives of individuals.

Keywords: immigration, migration policy, social impact, perceptions, United States, Ecuador

Voces de los Migrantes Ecuatorianos Afectados por las Políticas de Migración Establecidas por la Administración de los Estados Unidos de América en el 2025

RESUMEN

La presente investigación busca analizar como perciben los migrantes ecuatorianos que se encuentran en los Estados Unidos, el impacto que han tenido las políticas migratorias establecidas en este país durante el 2025. Se ha utilizado un enfoque cualitativo, transversal y descriptivo. Se ha empleado la triangulación de fuentes entre la opinión de 5 expertos en el ámbito migratorio, los testimonios de 7 migrantes ecuatorianos y la información bibliográfica obtenida. Los resultados de esta triangulación reflejan que se observa, como principal consecuencia, el miedo creciente y permanente de la comunidad migrante, acompañado de políticas migratorias más estrictas, conductas de autorrestricción para mitigar riesgos y mayores dificultades en procesos migratorios, lo cual ha impactado directamente en diversas áreas de la vida los migrantes, en las que se pueden mencionar el ámbito económico, social y laboral, presentando condiciones de precarización e inestabilidad; el ámbito familiar, caracterizado por separaciones y preocupación constante por el núcleo familiar; limitaciones en el acceso a derechos básicos como salud, educación, pero sobre todo, trabajo estable, por la falta de un estatus legal dentro del país. Así también, se observa que los migrantes desarrollan estrategias que permiten que puedan continuar con su vida a pesar de esta situación de vulnerabilidad, utilizando redes de apoyo y adaptación al contexto del país. Con esto, se puede concluir que, aunque las políticas migratorias buscan regularizar la movilidad humana, pueden llegar a condicionar el diario vivir de los migrantes.

Palabras clave: Inmigración, política migratoria, impacto social, percepciones, Estados Unidos, Ecuador.

1. Introduction

Internal problems, such as crises and restrictive policies in various regions, have triggered a phenomenon known as international migration. Migrants in the United States live in a state of constant anxiety, uncertainty, and vulnerability due to the immigration policies established by the Donald Trump administration in 2025, as these policies have jeopardized their ability to enjoy their fundamental rights and have affected the daily lives of migrants (Lee et al., 2024). Many families have been separated; the financial stability of some families who have worked long and hard to achieve it has been undermined; there is uncertainty about what the future holds—whether they will be able to stay with their families, find work, or even face detention or deportation, losing everything they have built up during their time in the country (United Nations Human Rights Office Unidas, 2018). That is why it is considered necessary to examine the testimonies, experiences, and perceptions of those Ecuadorian migrants who are directly experiencing the consequences of these policies.

This research is conducted in recognition of the need to shed light on migrants' perceptions regarding the social and emotional repercussions resulting from the implementation of policies that negatively affect them; in this case, more specifically, Ecuadorians. The U.S. government's attempts to control migration flows in 2025 have made immigrants without a defined legal status the most concerned about their future (Macías Ponce et al., 2024).

In this context, the aim of this study is to answer the following question: How do Ecuadorian migrants living in the United States perceive the consequences of the immigration policies implemented by the U.S. government in 2025?

The overall objective of this research is to analyze how Ecuadorian migrants living in the United States perceive the consequences of the immigration policies implemented by the U.S. government in 2025. The specific objectives are divided into four parts: first, to identify the relevant concepts and theories regarding Ecuadorian migration and the most significant immigration policies implemented by the U.S. government in 2025. The second objective is to collect testimonies from Ecuadorian migrants affected by immigration policies. The third objective is to understand the perspectives of attorneys and/or legal assistants specializing in immigration who have handled immigration cases involving the Ecuadorian population. Fourth, to analyze the impact of immigration policies on the Ecuadorian population residing in the United States.

These objectives aim to provide an empirical perspective, as well as the experiences and opinions of the Ecuadorian population residing in the United States who are directly experiencing these situations of political restriction.

2. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

Migration refers to the movement of people, whether voluntary or forced, from one place to another for the purpose of residing there temporarily or permanently; people who travel for tourism or as visitors are excluded from the category of migrants (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2017). This migration phenomenon should not be viewed merely as a movement of people, but rather as a process that encompasses economic, political, social, and human rights dimensions; in fact, over the past 30 years, developed countries such as the United States have become multiethnic societies thanks to the number of migrants they have welcomed and the diversity of nationalities within those migrant groups (Massey et al., 2008).

In the context of human mobility and migration, two categories are distinguished: emigration and immigration. The first refers to the departure of people from their place of origin to a different one; that is, the emigrant leaves their usual place of residence to settle in another; while the second refers to the arrival of foreigners in a place other than their place of origin; that is, the immigrant arrives in a new territory to establish their residence (National Council for Human Mobility, 2023; International Organization for Migration, 2020; Silva et al., 2020).

2.1. Theories of International Migration

In the context of human mobility and migration, two categories are distinguished: emigration and immigration. The first refers to the departure of people from their place of origin to a different one; that is, the emigrant leaves their usual place of residence to settle in another; while the second refers to the arrival of foreigners in a place other than their place of origin; that is, the immigrant arrives in a new territory to establish their residence (Arango, 2003). On the other hand, there is a theory that aligns with neoclassical theory, according to which migration is a family strategy for diversifying household income (Stark, 1991).

Michael Piore's (1979) dual-market theory examines the economy from the perspective of

more developed countries; he argues that more developed economies attract foreign labor because it is cheaper and, consequently, offer jobs that involve great sacrifices, low pay, and precarious conditions, which is related to world-system theory, which posits that migration is a consequence of inequalities between rich and poor countries (Massey et al., 2008).

Just as there are theories that focus on economic factors, there are also others that take political and social factors into account. The theory of migration networks argues that social, community, and family networks reduce the potential risks and costs associated with migration, thereby facilitating both the decision to migrate and migration flows, even in contexts of restrictive policies (Massey et al., 2008). The transnational approach theory holds that migrants are individuals who maintain ties to both their country of origin and their country of destination, which explains why a country's immigration policies affect not only the migrant but also their family and society beyond the country of residence (Portes et al., 1999).

From a political perspective, Bigo (2002) argues, drawing on the theory of the securitization of migration, that states have viewed migration as a threat to national security, which has led to stricter border controls, an increase in detentions and deportations, and has fostered fear, uncertainty, and vulnerability among migrants

2.2. Human Rights in Migration

One cannot discuss migration without addressing an issue as important as human rights, which is why international organizations and certain standards have established the fundamental principles and rights of migrants.

When discussing international cooperation on migration, there are international agreements—such as the Global Compact for Migration—that aim to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. The compact recognizes that migration can entail risks and various challenges when it occurs in an irregular manner; therefore, it promotes cooperation among United Nations member states to establish measures designed to protect people (United Nations, 2018).

Similarly, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has established a set of fundamental principles and rights that all people should enjoy, regardless

of their immigration status; these include access to justice, education, health care, non-discrimination, and work, as well as data protection, among others; therefore, migration should not be viewed solely as a security issue, but must be addressed from the perspective of dignity and human rights (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d.). For its part, the International Organization for Migration maintains that migration should be recognized as a human process and not be limited solely to the establishment of border protection policies (International Organization for Migration, 2023).

With regard to the rights of migrants in Ecuador, the Organic Law on Human Mobility of Ecuador establishes that individuals in a migratory situation enjoy certain rights, must not be subject to discrimination or criminalization on the basis of their status as migrants, and are guaranteed family unity and protection against expulsion, as well as dignity and equality, regardless of their nationality (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2017).

2.3 Migration Control Agencies

In the United States, agencies have been established to ensure compliance with immigration laws and policies, the most important of which is the U.S. Congress, which, in addition to its other responsibilities, is responsible for immigration (Greenawalt, 2021).

In addition to Congress mentioned above, there are agencies that focus specifically on migration issues, including the Department of Homeland Security, whose mission is to prevent terrorist attacks on U.S. soil and ensure the integrity of the nation by protecting the borders from people who may pose a threat (Department of Homeland Security, 2025).

Within the DHS, there are other agencies with their own respective responsibilities, such as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which is responsible for granting citizenship, processing family reunification applications, and issuing work permits (Department of Homeland Security, 2020); U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), whose mission is to protect the nation's borders and economy, with a particular focus on terrorism, transnational crime, illegal trade, and illegal travel (United States Custom and Border Protection, 2025); the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) which is responsible for strengthening border security and preventing the illegal migration of people, goods and funds (United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, s/f); and the Office of Labor Certification for Foreigners (OFLC) in charge of issuing certifications and work

permits that allow the hiring of a foreign person to be legal and that employers can hire external labor without any risk of penalty (Office of Foreign Labor Certification, 2016).

2.4 U.S. Immigration Policies in the Trump Administration (2025)

The policies implemented in 2025 form the backbone of this research; during that year, the U.S. administration made various decisions that influenced the experiences of Ecuadorian migrants, foremost among which was the declaration of a state of emergency along the country's southern border on January 20, 2025 as part of the presidential measures during President Donald Trump's term; justifying this proclamation by asserting that the country's southern border with Mexico had become a crossing point for illegal immigrants, human trafficking, drugs, etc. (The White House, 2025). On that same date, the president repealed Executive Order 13993, issued on January 20, 2021, by the Biden administration, which aimed to review policies and priorities regarding civilian immigration enforcement, promoting approaches focused on national security, public safety, and respect for human rights (White House, 2025a).

The Restriction on the Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers Proclamation states that businesses and employers have misused H1-B nonimmigrant visas, which allow foreign nationals to enter the United States to work, and it is therefore considered necessary to increase the price of this visa to prevent abuse of this visa and to maintain job opportunities for the U.S. population (White House, 2025d).

On April 15, 2025, President Donald Trump establishes a memorandum ordering that Social Security benefits be granted only to immigrants with legal authorization to work within the United States and to U.S. citizens (White House, 2025c). Beginning July 22, 2025, a \$550 work authorization application fee will be charged (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2025b).

On January 23, 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law the Laken Riley Act, which establishes the detention and deportation of migrants with a tainted criminal record, even with very minor incidents such as running a red light or speeding (Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, 2025).

On the other hand, the acceptance of refugee status to migrants under the United States

Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is eliminated, while the selection criteria were reanalyzed and it is decided that in the future this asylum status cannot be granted unless it is guaranteed that the people admitted for this benefit do not represent an economic burden and are correctly integrated into the political, religious, and cultural spheres of the United States (White House, 2025b). In June 2025, the automatic granting of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and work permits for SIJ applicants is eliminated, under the justification that SIJ applicants are not eligible for these benefits due to lack of compliance with requirements (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2025a).

2.5 Causes of Ecuadorian Migration

There are factors that have developed in Ecuadorians the need to migrate to find a better quality of life and economic, social and political opportunities (Silva et al., 2020). Demographic factors indicate that the majority of the migrant population is focused on young male individuals, guided by the need for insertion into the productive labor field, contrary to the reality of the female gender, which has been influenced by the possibility of exercising in labor fields that have historically been linked to this gender, such as domestic employment. cleaning or cooking; and among the ethnic factors that influence migration, it is considered that the indigenous population would be a social group less likely to migrate due to the sense of belonging and the need for union, preservation of communities and love for their territory and culture (Rodríguez & Busso, 2009).

In the census portrait of Ecuador in 2022, it is confirmed that migration is mostly focused on young men and that the proportion of migrants is influenced by both age and sex (Cabezas et al., 2025). According to the study of Calva et al. (2024) about Ecuadorian migration to the United States in the years 1999 to 2023, in the period from 2022 to 2023, 72.2% of the migrants interviewed were men and 27.8% women.

Rodríguez & Busso (2009) they establish that those people who tend to migrate share certain psychological factors such as the perception of risk that can increase or reduce migration; Thus, those who are more adventurous and risky, with greater aspirations, have a greater probability of migrating, even influences such as the media and experiences of other migrants can also persuade people to make the decision to migrate.

Salgado (2022), in his study on the motivations for migrating, explains that in Ecuador, the connections and experiences of people who have already migrated influence the decision of those who have not yet done so. Ecuadorian migration due to political factors occurs due to internal policies, administrations, and governments that force individuals to migrate in order to seek greater freedom and transparency (Silva et al., 2020).

In Ecuador, 68% of the migrant population is guided by the search for better job opportunities in the country of destination (Cabezas et al., 2025), and the lack of employment and inflation in their country of origin (Macías Ponce et al., 2024). Economic crises, such as the one in the 1990s or the banking freeze of 1999, which triggered a massive wave of migration, support and reinforce the idea that this is the factor that most influences the decision to migrate (Menendez, 2025).

Consequently, it is necessary to study or analyze the causes of migration at the individual and social level; These include insecurity within places of origin, constant threats, exposure to gender-based violence, human exploitation by traffickers, increased internal violence or wars, which are undoubtedly growing factors that increase migration (International Organization for Migration, 2024a). From 2020 to the present, a significant portion of the Ecuadorian population has left the country due to rising crime, extortion, violence, and the risk of being killed (Gachet & Torres, 2025).

3. State of the Art

In contemporary times, international migration is made up of complex processes that are often conditioned by the regime of national migration policies, so that the decision to migrate irregularly for a significant and growing group of people has become the only viable option for mobility due to the existing restrictions and in turn this behavior occurs as a consequence of factors such as violence, persecution, insecurity, economic imbalance typically suffered by individuals who decide to migrate (McAuliffe & Adhiambo, 2024).

Today, international human mobility is viewed as a phenomenon linked to structural and relational factors, stemming from various policy decisions, the establishment of regulations, and social practices in both countries of origin and destination, which demonstrates that purely economic approaches are insufficient to define this phenomenon (Castles et al., 2014; Herrera, 2022). Thus, migration is shaped by different border control regimes, national

security measures, and domestic policies that can determine who migrates and who does not, the conditions faced by migrants, and the legal protection the state is willing to provide them (Musalo, 2022).

Immigration has become a common feature of virtually all industrialized nations. However, according to McDonnell & Merton (2019) in traditional theories of migration, this phenomenon is viewed solely from an economic perspective, which is insufficient to explain it. They also argue that this migratory behavior is driven by various factors that lead people to make this decision and that are increasingly constrained by more restrictive policies, fueled by discrimination and xenophobia on the part of destination countries, specifically the United States.

As far as the United States is concerned, recent studies confirm that the progressive tightening of migration policies has influenced the experiences of migrants, forcing them to migrate irregularly, reducing access to rights and increasing the vulnerability of the migrant population (American Immigration Council, 2025a; International Organization for Migration, 2024a).

Several studies indicate that these policies not only affect migration patterns, but also affect the daily lives of migrants, as they may not have job stability, cause constant fear and increase the possible risks for irregular migrants (Johnson et al., 2024). Along these lines, migration to the United States from Ecuador is related to the regional migratory dynamics that are characterized by the constant restriction of regulated mobility alternatives, greater border control, and stricter law enforcement (Herrera, 2022). The analysis of the experiences of Ecuadorian migrants under these constant changes allows us to understand the impacts that these policies have on their daily lives (Calva et al., 2024).

When speaking at a global level, it is said that irregular migration is not simply a problem, but is a direct consequence of restrictions on legal and safe mobility (Castles et al., 2014; International Organization for Migration, 2024a). These restrictions on the use of legal channels and the intensification of controls for migration, lead to an increase in the movement of migrants to more dangerous routes, increasing human trafficking and the lives claimed in this mobility process (International Organization for Migration, 2024a; United Nations Network on Migration, 2025). Following this line, it was found that these restrictive

actions do not eliminate migration, but, on the contrary, make it necessarily more risky, unsafe and unequal (International Organization for Migration, 2024b).

More specifically, speaking of Ecuador, various studies argue that, in the last decade, there has been a sustained growth in migration precisely to the United States; this is due to internal factors that have affected stability in the country of origin, such as insecurity, crime, lack of job and economic opportunities, and changes in regional migration policies (Herrera, 2022). Other reports highlight that since 2021, when forced to apply for visas in transit countries, it has been necessary to establish new irregular transit routes or reconfigure them, so there is a lot more migrant population using dangerous routes such as the air route to Nicaragua or the land route through the Darien jungle (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, 2023).

In the last 5 years, as a result of the increase in threatening factors in the territory, Ecuador has positioned itself as the second country with the most migrants crossing the dangerous Darien jungle in 2022, and in 2023, Ecuador represents the third country, after Venezuela and Haiti, with the presence of citizens in irregular transit through this area. Thus, for example, in 2022, it is estimated that 29,256 people crossed this area (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, 2023), and with a cut-off in 2021, around eight hundred and thirty thousand Ecuadorian migrants residing within the United States are reported (Moslimani et al., 2023).

Recent qualitative research has prioritized the analysis of migrants' experiences in the transit process from departure from their country of origin to arrival in the country of destination, highlighting how existing restrictive policies influence families' decision-making, risk exposure, strategies to use to survive, and financial decisions (Calva et al., 2024). It has been shown that, in order to carry out the migration process, people in a situation of human mobility migrate under a context of debts, use of irregular routes and continuous exposure to uncertainty and vulnerability, which has its direct consequences on the life projects and subjectivity of migrants (Calva et al., 2024).

Johnson et al. (2024) develop the concept of the “threat of deportation” to explain the social and psychological effects of U.S. immigration policies. Certain empirical studies have also been conducted, demonstrating that intensified law enforcement—often due to the severity

and public awareness of the risk of deportation—may be associated with higher levels of anxiety, depression, and stress among undocumented individuals, those with legal status, and even citizens, due to family separation, racialization, and widespread fear (Johnson et al., 2024).

Friedman & Venkataramani (2021) study access to services, where it is evident that migrants are limited in many aspects because they avoid crowded places such as hospitals or health institutions, schools or educational institutions, workplaces or public social services due to fear and risk of detention and deportation; these self-restraining actions are called "Chilling Effects". In addition, research on education indicates that the establishment and tightening of restrictive immigration policies are associated with lower attendance of the Latino population at schools, colleges and universities, which shows that the impacts of these policies not only affect a specific age group, but are intergenerational (Bellows, 2021; Son & Özek, 2025).

From a legal and human rights point of view, the United States, despite having assumed various international obligations, has demonstrated a large gap between the fulfillment of these commitments and daily migration practice, especially with regard to the migrant process, dignity, and access to migrant protection (Musalo, 2022). Among these international obligations can be named the lack of compliance with the fundamental principles and rights for the migrant population, established by the United Nations (United Nations Human Rights Office, 2018). Other recent official reports maintain that the intensification of border and migration control, together with the criminalization of the migrant population, cause an environment of fear, distrust and social and family fragmentation, directly affecting the daily life of Latin American individuals (American Immigration Council, 2025b).

Although there are studies on routes, risks and return, research on the consequences of U.S. immigration policies on the mental health, job stability and family relationships of the Ecuadorian population is limited (Calva et al., 2024; Menéndez, 2025). Likewise, a gap is identified in the collection and analysis of testimonies of migrants about their first-person perspectives, which limits the voices of migrants, exposed to rudimentary political decisions, from being understood (Herrera, 2022).

The evolution of research in this field shows the study of areas ranging from approaches and

statistics to models of analysis of migration that see it as a process that includes policies, discourses and practices of migration control that may generate significant social and psychological consequences (Castles et al., 2014). In this context, current Ecuadorian analyses, studies, and research provide a basis for new routes and greater risks, but it is considered that it should be complemented with a study on the experiences, voices, and testimonies of Ecuadorian migrants from a first-hand perspective, more specifically, on the migration policies implemented in the United States during 2025. At the same time, recent Ecuadorian literature provides solid empirical foundations on the reconfiguration of routes and risks, but it needs to be complemented with studies focused on the voices and lived experiences of migrants in the specific context of U.S. policies in 2025 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, 2023).

4. Methods

4.1 Methodological Approach and Research Design

This research employed a qualitative methodology, with the aim of giving voice to the perceptions, experiences, and testimonies of Ecuadorian migrants through their own accounts and stories (Quecedo & Castaño, 2002), highlighting the consequences of the immigration policies implemented by the current U.S. administration. It followed a cross-sectional approach since the reality of a given period of time was studied (Thomas, 2020). In this case, the reality of the people who were affected by the immigration policies that were implemented in 2025 during the administration of Donald Trump was studied. A descriptive design was contemplated, since this research did not seek to establish any change in existing policies, only to evidence their reality (Stewart, n.d.).

4.2 First Stage: Bibliographic Review

In the first stage of this research, information was collected through a bibliographic review (Sheppard, 2020) to identify the theory and concepts of migration, immigration, emigration, migration regulatory agencies, migration policies established during the government period, and the existing context of the migratory situation.

4.2.1 Sources of Information and Documentary Materials

To carry out this bibliographic review, web resources were used, such as the presidential actions of the Donald Trump government, which are reflected on the White House website; international agreements of the United Nations, websites of migration control organizations;

as well as articles, books, magazines and official reports that reflect both the theory and the state of research on the subject matter.

4.3 Second Stage: Information Collection through Interviews

In the second stage of this research, the collection of perspectives has been carried out from both Ecuadorian migrants and professionals who handle this type of case. For the selection of migrants, a non-probabilistic convenience sampling has been carried out, in which migrants met specific inclusion criteria (Hernández, 2020).

4.4 Inclusion Criteria for Migrants

These inclusion criteria were established with the purpose of being able to analyze the reality of Ecuadorians living in the United States. In order to analyze a true impact, it has been considered that the people who are interviewed have been handling an immigration case during the year 2025, because through the process, they can experience changes in immigration policies.

The legal cases that migrants should be handling were decided based on the information collected during the literature review, taking into account which immigration cases may have been affected by these policies.

- Migrant in the United States
- Ecuadorian
- Over 18 years old
- Handling an immigration case:
 - Asylum
 - Special Immigrant Youth Status
 - Request
 - Work permit

4.4.1 Sampling Strategy and Access to Participants

Contact with Ecuadorian migrants living within the United States was made using a snowball technique, in which the first interviewees allowed contact with other migrants, to whom the analysis of compliance with the inclusion criteria was carried out and then the interview was conducted. This information collection was carried out with a total of 10 migrants.

4.5 Criteria for the Selection of Professionals in the Field of Migration

Following this line, the professional opinion of 5 professionals has been gathered, who have been interviewed once they met the criteria:

- Professional in the field of migration.
- Working on cases of Ecuadorian migrants.
- Exercising their work during 2025.

4.6 Data Collection Technique

To collect the qualitative information, semi-structured interviews were used in virtual mode that touched on topics such as experiences, perspectives, consequences and testimonies of both Ecuadorian migrants and professionals in the migration area on the way in which policies have impacted their clients, opinions on the government's position vis-à-vis the migrant community and topics that allow the opinions of the two groups to be contrasted interviewees.

4.7 Categories of Analysis

The categories of analysis presented below were obtained from the information obtained in the literature review previously carried out.

Table 1

Analysis Categories

Category	Definition	Subcategory	Indicators
Migration	Migration is the movement of people, either voluntarily or forced, from one place to another for the purpose of residing temporarily or permanently; Persons whose objective is tourism or who are visitors are excluded from the category of migrant.	Migration policies	Perception of recent changes Difficulties with paperwork or permits Perceived Legal Restrictions Knowledge about the migration policies existing at the time of migration.
		Threat of deportation	Constant fear of deportation Family separation Job loss Self-restraining behaviors
		Exclusion	Areas where they perceive exclusion (labor, social, institutional) Personal perception of discrimination or unequal treatment
		Impact	Mental health impact Labor and economic impact Affectation in family relationships Limitations on access to fundamental rights
		Coping Strategies	Support networks Resilience Adaptation to adverse conditions
		Life project	Motivation to migrate Changes in future plans Uncertainty about permanence or return

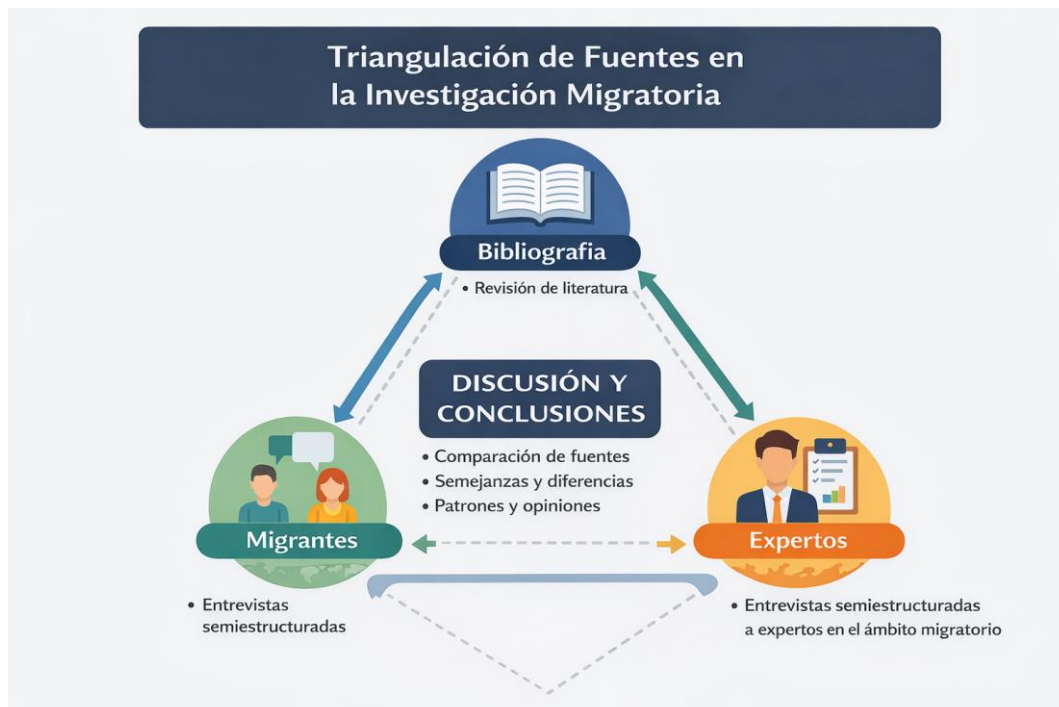
4.8 Third Stage

In the third stage of this research, the information obtained from the different sources previously proposed was triangulated.

First, bibliographic information is obtained from the bibliographic review carried out in the first stage, then qualitative information is obtained thanks to the semi-structured interviews with migrants, which is the second source of information that will enter the triangulation. Finally, qualitative information is obtained from semi-structured interviews with experts in the field of migration.

The three sources mentioned above were compared to identify similarities and differences, patterns and opinions based on the testimonies and the literature obtained. Once this comparison has been made, the discussion and conclusions will be obtained, providing the analysis of the experiences of migrants who have been affected by the migration policies established in the United States during the year 2025.

Figure 1
Triangulation



Elaboration: Chat GPT
Source: Information provided by the author

5. Results

Table 2

Profile of the Migrants Interviewed

Participant	Age	Gender	City of origin	Year of migration	Method of entry	Immigration status	Immigration Case
Participant 1	21	Male	Azogues	2022	Irregular	In process	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ)
Participant 2	21	Male	Azogues	2022	Irregular	In process	Asylum
Participant 3	19	Male	Azogues	2022	Irregular	In process	Asylum
Participant 4	29	Female	Cariamanga	2017	Regular	In process	Marriage-based petition
Participant 5	48	Female	Manabí	2024	Irregular	In process	Asylum and Marriage Petition
Participant 6	37	Male	Ambato	2024	Irregular	In process	Asylum and work permit
Participant 7	65	Male	Cuenca	1989	Irregular	Regular	Labor petition

Table 2 shows the profile of the Ecuadorian migrants interviewed. It is evident that there is a predominance of male gender, with an age between 19 and 65 years, with a visible majority of young participants. The participants are from various cities in Ecuador such as Azogues, Cuenca, Manabí, Cariamanga and Ambato. Most of them, except for one, entered the United States irregularly and are currently processing an immigration case including Juvenile Status, Asylum, Family and Labor Petitions.

Table 3

Profile of the Interviewed Professionals

Professional	Profession	Current Position	Years of experience	Workspace
Professional 1	Immigration Paralegal	Immigration Firm Office Manager in New York	4 years	Processing of legal immigration cases
Professional 2	Immigration Paralegal	Immigration Firm Office Manager in New Jersey	5 years	Processing of legal immigration cases
Professional 3	Immigration Paralegal	Legal Assistant at Immigration Firm in New York	7 years	Processing of legal immigration cases
Professional 4	Immigration Paralegal	Legal Assistant at Immigration Firm in New York	5 years	Processing of legal immigration cases
Professional 5	Clinical Psychologist	Founder of a company specialized in psychological reports for immigration processes.	1 year and 4 months	Psychological-clinical-legal reports in the migratory context.

Table 3 shows the profile of the interviewed Professionals in the Migration Field, with experience between 1 and 7 years, with professions of immigration paralegals who handle immigration legal cases of Ecuadorian migrants and a clinical psychologist specialized in

immigration reports for cases such as asylum, VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), u visas, etc.

All these professionals are practicing their profession at the time this research is carried out and were practicing during the year 2025, which is the year being studied; therefore, the information collected from these interviews will be taken from a direct perspective of the experiences of the professionals.

Table 4
Perceptions about Migration Policies

Participant	Perception of the change in migration policies	Impact on migratory processes	Impact on daily life	Prior knowledge of migration policies
Participant 1	He has perceived a change in policies	Process delays	Fear of going out, being arrested, or working	I had no knowledge
Participant 2	Perception of stricter policies from 2025 onwards	There are no complications in the process	Fear of detention and deportation	I had no knowledge
Participant 3	Perception of stricter policies with the change of mandate	There are no complications in the process	He has not perceived effects on his daily life	I had no knowledge
Participant 4	Perception of policy changes in recent years	Process delays	Emotional impact, concern for family members.	He knew that he could only stay 90 days with his Spanish citizenship and that he would later have an illegal status within the country.
Participant 5	Increased cost of immigration cases due to policies, increased number of deportations	There are no complications in the process	Before she had more freedom to leave. After of this she must restrict herself and leave only out of necessity due to the possibility of being arrested	Knowledge about the future change of administration and the risks that this would imply for migrants. Deportation Campaigns to remove migrants from the country.
Participant 6	Previously, there was the possibility of applying for asylum and work permits, as well as the elimination of assistance for the migrant population, such as food programs. There was also an increase in detentions and deportations, restrictions on driver's licenses for undocumented migrants.	Delays in your work permit	Fear of going out to work or performing daily activities because of their illegal status within the country.	Own experience of persecution by migratory agencies. Follow the country's rules to avoid inconveniences.
Participant 7	Perception of stricter policies. At the time he migrated, there were no such strict imports. Anti-immigrant policies.	There are no complications because she carried out her immigration process before the tightening of policies.	They have had no influence on his life, only on his concern for his migrant employees.	There was no knowledge due to the time in which he migrated.

Table 4 reflects the migrants' prior knowledge of migration policies before arriving in the United States and analyzes migrants' perceptions of the change in migration policies in 2025, the impact they have had on the legal processes, and on the daily lives of Ecuadorian migrants.

The results reflect that participants had limited awareness of the policies in place at the time the migrants entered the United States, regardless of the administration in force at that time, there was only the knowledge that there would soon be elections and that one of the candidates was Donald Trump, expressing that "I knew that the elections of the current president were approaching, so it was perfectly known that if he won, one ran the risk of being deported" (Participant 5), in addition to the loss of legal status or visa with which one of the participants arrived, but there was not enough information.

All participants perceived that immigration laws had become significantly stricter in 2025. Among the perceived changes are; the increase in the cost of immigration cases or the restriction of access to benefits and immigration cases such as asylums or work permits and a greater number of detentions and deportations.

Regarding ongoing migration cases, delays in cases are mentioned and regarding the impact on daily life, migrants indicate constant worry, fear of being detained or deported, as well as restriction of going out to public places where they could be at risk, fear of going out to work.

Table 5
Expert Perceptions on Migration Policy.

Expert	Knowledge of Migration Policies	Immigration Policy Changes	Impact on migratory processes	Impact on daily life
Professional 1	The migrants arrive in the country unknowingly. They let themselves be carried away by other testimonies. They think that by turning themselves in to immigration agencies they can have an easy regulation process.	The policies that existed long before have begun to be put into practice and are much stricter.	Changes in permits and requests. Previously, it was believed that you could come to the country, get married and get legal status. These individuals are currently placed in removal proceedings.	People who do not have immigration status are afraid to leave their homes. Psychological impact. Financial impact. Family Impact.
Professional2	Migrants arrive in the country without any knowledge of the subject.	Many deportations. Tightening and changes in laws.	Delays in processes. Requirement of more evidence.	These are not positive changes. Many more deportations and detentions.
Professional 3	Most are not aware of the worsening policies. They think that the aid that existed previously continues to work in the same way.	Increased visa denials. Changes in laws and use of stricter laws.	A larger margin of denials in asylums and visas. Delays in work permits. Previously, it used to take 3 months and now it can last even a year.	Asylum applications for extortion are denied. Immigration agencies think that if asylum is requested for extortion it is because the person has money.
Professional 4	Migrants arrive without the necessary information, because in Ecuador there are no necessary sources of information. Within the United States, there is a lot of information for migrants.	Some of the immigration laws and policies already existed and have been tightened, however, new policies have also been established.	Immigration case processing times are longer, judges are no longer flexible, and deportation orders are issued much faster.	Increased arrests regardless of the person's condition. Migrants are treated as criminals. Detention of children, pregnant women and separation of father and children.
Professional 5	Migrants do not arrive with sufficient knowledge about the existing immigration policies in the United States.	If there is a tightening in the application of immigration laws.	Stricter procedures and longer response times.	Increased uncertainty, stress and instability in the lives of migrants.

Table 5 reflects the experts' perception of the migrant community's existing knowledge about existing immigration policies within the United States and gathers information on changes in these policies during 2025. The interviewees agree that new immigration policies have been established but that there have also been policies and laws that have been made stricter, and that existed before the year studied. Regarding the impact of policies on immigration processes, there has been evidence of a longer delay in case decisions, a greater margin for denials, and a requirement for stronger cases for approval.

Experts agree that migrants arrive without sufficient information about existing policies or remain with knowledge about previously existing policies and benefits. A repetitive perspective is related to "I think they get carried away a lot sometimes by what others say... they arrive and what they always say is like I turned myself in to immigration and I can already have papers" (Professional 1).

It is observed that the impact on the daily lives of migrants can be perceived in the psychological, financial, and family spheres, causing greater fear in migrants and affecting decisions regarding immigration legal cases.

Table 6
Fear of Deportation

Participant	Fear of arrest	Impact of fear on everyday life	Impact of fear in the workplace and family
Participant 1	He has not had a near-deportation experience that makes him palpably afraid.	Diminished freedom within the country due to constant danger.	Fear that immigration agencies will come to your workplace and you won't have the opportunity to avoid deportation. There has been no influence in the family environment.
Participant 2	He or she is afraid of detention and deportation.	Changes in your daily routine.	Among their closest circle, there have been cases of job loss due to fear of leaving home and being arrested. Within families, deportations have led to family separations.
Participant 3	Constant thoughts of the possibility of being stopped at work.	Restriction of departures due to danger.	He has not perceived influence in his work environment. In the family sphere, there is a constant concern that their relatives will be arrested when they are carrying out their daily tasks outside the home. She has not had family separations.
Participant 4	Peace of mind for having the support of a legal process.	It does not express any impact on their daily lives.	He is not working. In the family sphere, she has not had family separations but the fear that a family member will be arrested is constant.
Participant 5	Fear of being in public places. Avoid going to dangerous places where there are constant raids.	Changes in daily routine to avoid unsafe spaces for migrants.	I have not perceived influence in the workplace because it is surrounded by legal people. It does not have an impact on his family, however, he has witnessed deportations to close friends.
Participant 6	Every day he goes out to carry out his work in fear.	Changes in routine, even in simple activities such as going to the grocery store or laundry or going out for recreational activities.	Loss of work due to staying home and avoiding risks. She believes that family separation begins when she leaves the country and leaves her loved ones behind, and that her family in Ecuador also suffers from the uncertainty of what might happen.
Participant 7	He is not afraid due to his legal status within the country. He talks about what he has seen in his employees. Fear that grows due to the possibility of being arrested.	He has not made any changes in his daily life.	It does not have any family or work impacts. Its employees are more cautious to avoid being arrested.

Table 6 analyzes migrants' fear of detention and deportation and how this fear has affected migrants' daily lives, work and family lives. Although not all participants have directly experienced a detention or deportation process, the fear due to the possibility that this could happen is present in all migrants who are in an immigration process at this time, which becomes a determinant of their daily lives.

The testimonies show that, due to fear, migrants restrict daily activities, which is reflected in the testimony: "one has to go from home to work and from work to home" (Participant 1) and routine such as outings to public places and trips to public places in the country; this is because fear can significantly shape everyday activities.

In the family and work environment, these policies can affect the stability of migrants, leading to the loss of job and employment opportunities due to "the fear that they may arrive at work and we will not have the opportunity to do anything and be deported" (Participant 1) and the constant concern about the possibility of family separation "In the fear that they can separate us from our family... there is always a constant fear" (Participant 2). Some of the participants report experiencing family separations due to detention and deportation.

Table 7
Expert Perceptions of Fear of Deportation

Expert	Fear of Arrest	Impact of fear in the family and work environment
Professional 1	A lot of fear and lack of information. Out of fear, migrants stop appearing in their courts and enter deportation proceedings. Being undocumented migrants, they have less freedom due to fear.	Children born in the United States have been separated from their migrant parents. If you do not have a work permit, there is no possibility of acceptance in practically all jobs. Less cash flow, fewer jobs.
Professional 2	100% increase in fear of detention and deportation.	People who do not want to go out to work because they do not have legal status. Family separations due to detentions of family members.
Professional 3	An even greater fear. Parents are applying for immigration status for their children because they fear being deported.	There used to be more competition in the job market for Latinos. Nowadays, you need licenses and permits for any kind of work. Deported individuals who leave their children behind. Families separated to avoid deportation who decide to return to the country. Families are trying to stay closer together.
Professional 4	Greater sensitivity in the migrant community. Migratory processes no longer provide a guarantee of any kind to migrants.	Job loss, scams by fake lawyers in the pursuit of fixing their status and loss of money. Longer delay in work permits or no renewal of permits. Family separations between spouses, children and parents, etc.
Professional 5	Anxiety attacks and constant worry are much more recurrent.	Instability and labor exploitation. Constant anxiety and fear of family separation.

Table 7 reflects the opinion of the experts regarding the fear that migrants experience due to possible deportation or detention and how this fear has impacted the family and work environment. Experts agree that fear or dread of detention has been a factor that has increased significantly in recent years, especially in the migrant community that does not have legal immigration status, which can influence their decision-making and behavior.

Fear in migrants limits mobility and, therefore, immigration legal processes, because people are afraid to attend their hearings or abandon their procedures, so they automatically enter deportation proceedings. Experts point out that one factor that can influence these decisions is a lack of information.

The impact that this fear has had on the family and work environment is observed in the constant family separations, within which, experts express: "100% family separations. We've even had many cases at our firm... have been detained, either the husband, the son, or the wife" (Professional 2), job losses and economic instability due to lack of work permits. Migrant parents have great concern for their children, since, if they were born in the United States, there is a possibility that the children will be retained in the country; while, if they are illegal, parents are in charge of carrying out the paperwork procedures for their children in order to guarantee their stay and well-being in the country if they are deported.

Table 8. *Perceptions of Exclusion*

Participant	Experiences of exclusion	Spaces where exclusion is perceived
Participant 1	It has not experienced exclusion.	Not applicable.
Participant 2	Experiences of exclusion.	Shops
Participant 3	It has not experienced exclusion.	Not applicable.
Participant 4	It has not experienced exclusion.	Not applicable.
Participant 5	Experiences of exclusion.	He says that the same migrants who have already regularized themselves have attitudes of rejection towards illegal people.
Participant 6	Experiences of exclusion.	Feeling of constant rejection from the U.S. government. U.S. citizens have not expressed any kind of rejection.
Participant 7	Experiences of exclusion.	Exclusion in the workplace by their Ecuadorian compatriots.

Table 8 reflects the experiences of exclusion that Ecuadorian migrants living in the United States have gone through. Most of the participants express that they have experienced this type of experience in places such as stores or workspaces and that many times, exclusion comes directly from compatriot migrants with legal immigration status within the United

States, expressing that "it was even among the countrymen themselves. He was an Ecuadorian who discriminated against me so much because I knew more than him, so it made me a lot of trouble" (Participant 7); likewise, the interviewees express that they experience a feeling of constant exclusion on the part of the United States government, because they are migrant foreigners, expressing that "they are very anti-immigrant" (Participant 7).

Table 9
Experts' Perception of Situations of Exclusion

Expert	Exclusion cases	Exclusion spaces
Professional 1	He has seen cases, however, he has not seen them so closely.	Labor exploitation of migrants occurs because they are undocumented.
Professional 2	He has not witnessed cases, but he has heard testimonies.	According to testimonies, discrimination at work occurs because of their language.
Professional 3	It is not a determining factor. He only mentions that people go through this at the time of asking for a job.	Labor exploitation of migrants.
Professional 4	The government excludes migrants. In social spaces, people who speak Spanish are frowned upon by English speakers. In the workplace, work is conditioned by immigration status and work permits.	Work, social and governmental spaces.
Professional 5	If there are situations of exclusion and discrimination.	Work, institutional and social spaces.

Table 9 shows the perception of migration experts on the situations of exclusion experienced by Ecuadorians in the United States. The professionals mention that this factor is not decisive in the impact of the daily life of migrants or that they have not seen in their clients cases of exclusion that have influenced their lives, however, the cases that have been seen have been in work spaces, because employers take advantage of the fact that people do not have a work permit or legal status to remunerate them with very high salaries. low. There is also discrimination due to the Spanish language spoken by Ecuadorians. The government contributes to the situation of discrimination by implementing restrictive laws and policies for migrants.

Table 100
Perception of the Impact of Migration Policies

Participant	Impact on mental health	Economic and employment impact	Family Relationships	Access to basic right services
Participant 1	Stress and anxiety	It has not experienced economic or employment impact.	He has not experienced any impact on his family relationships.	It has not experienced an impact on access to basic services and rights.
Participant 2	He has not experienced any impact on his mental health.	It has not experienced economic or employment impact. Despite the fear, he has not stopped working.	Constant family pressure due to the possibility of being detained in the immigration courts.	It has not experienced an impact on access to basic services and rights.
Participant 3	He has not experienced any impact on his mental health.	It has not experienced economic or employment impact.	Constant conversations regarding danger.	It has not experienced an impact on access to basic services and rights.
Participant 4	Stress and worry, especially for her family.	Although he does not work, he has witnessed people who have been economically affected by stopping going to work due to fear.	He has not experienced any impact on his family relationships.	It has not experienced an impact on access to basic services and rights.
Participant 5	Stress, anxiety, and constant worry about the future.	It has not experienced economic or employment impact.	He has not experienced any impact on his family relationships. He says that he has no family in the country.	It has not experienced any impact on health. He has restricted himself from asking for any kind of government support to avoid being a burden on the state.
Participant 6	Worry and stress about instability, debts.	Loss of work due to not exposing oneself to the risk of detention.	He says that he has no family in the country.	By not having legal documentation, she does not have access to health and medication.
Participant 7	He has not experienced any impact on his mental health because he is currently a U.S. citizen.	He has not experienced economic or employment impact.	He has not experienced any impact on his family relationships. His entire family is currently naturalized.	As a U.S. citizen, you have no problem accessing services or rights in the country.

Table 10 reflects the direct impact that the immigration policies established in the United States during the year 2025 have had, from the point of view of migrants who have experienced these policies firsthand.

The effects that have been found cover several dimensions such as mental, economic and labor, family and access to basic rights and services of human beings.

In terms of mental health, it can be said that all participants who are in an illegal migratory situation have expressed greater stress, anxiety, worry, uncertainty and instability, related to the constant risk of being detained or deported and the migratory context; signs that are

reflected with testimonies "especially because one has that uncertainty, emotionally it still affects you" (Participant 4).

In the economic and labor sphere, some participants report job losses due to fear of deportation and restrictions due to the lack of work permits, as this "makes people stop going to work for fear of being caught by migration" (Participant 2). In terms of the family, there is constant concern due to concerns about the safety of undocumented loved ones or tensions in families due to the possibility of detention.

In the area of access to basic services and rights, some participants expressed that, due to the lack of work permits and, therefore, social security, access to health is very limited or expensive. Self-restrictive behaviors have also been evidenced to avoid being a burden on the U.S. government and the possibility of being detained or deported.

Table 11
Expert Perception of the Impact of Migration Policies

Expert	Impact on mental health	Economic and employment impact	Access to basic services and rights
Professional 1	Fear that generates anxiety to the point of falling into despair and being scammed by people who claim that they can fix their immigration status.	Increased staff turnover after work permits began to be applied for at workplaces.	Difficulty accessing health care because a social security number is needed to get health insurance. People would rather go without health care than pay large sums of money. In schools, there is no problem because education is public. The problem is at the time of trying to enter university.
Professional 2	Fear, worry, stress, and anxiety.	Economic impact of not wanting to go out to work.	Since they do not have social security, they cannot have health insurance either.
Professional 3	In family petitions, the person being petitioned is afraid to go out just like their spouses.	People who apply for or renew their work permits lose work because their documents don't arrive on time.	If migrants do not have an immigration case, they cannot renew their health insurance, so they have to pay. In education there is no influence because it is public.
Professional 4	Confusion, sadness, stress, and loss of hope. Migrants are closed to hearing the truth about their cases, as there is not always good news.	Fewer job opportunities, and job losses due to lack of work permits.	Access to health and education has not been affected. Difficulty in accessing work due to the lack of work permits.
Professional 5	Symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress.	Job losses due to lack of documentation, low payments with arduous working hours.	Limitations on access to rights such as health, formal employment and legal protection.

Table 11 shows the opinions of professionals on how these migration policies have affected the daily lives of Ecuadorian migrants in areas such as mental, economic, and labor health, as well as access to basic human rights and services.

Regarding mental health, experts report a significant impact, expressing that there has been greater fear, anxiety, stress and even despair in the Ecuadorian migrant community due to the condition of illegal migrants and the lack of information for the community.

In the economic and labor sphere, job losses are observed due to fear of detention, which causes migrants to stop going out to work and lose jobs due to the lack of labor documentation. This, in turn, causes higher staff turnover, as employers decide to fire migrants who do not have work permits.

Regarding access to basic services and rights, the professionals mention that the lack of legal documentation can be an impediment for migrants to access this type of service, because if they do not have, at least, a work permit, they cannot access a social security number and healthcare becomes financially inaccessible so "by not having health insurance, because they are not legal in the country, they are affected in all areas" (Professional 2).

Regarding education, it is mentioned that there is no great impact because primary and secondary schools are public, so migrant children have their education guaranteed at least for a while, since there could be limitations when trying to enter the university.

Table 12
Coping Strategies

Participant	Motivations to continue	Coping Strategies	Support networks
Participant 1	To achieve their goals as soon as possible and to be able to return to Ecuador as soon as possible.	Face daily life. He expresses that simply whatever has to happen happens.	He has no knowledge.
Participant 2	The family	Change of routine. Try to go out only for what is necessary.	Migrant community groups to warn when there is danger. U.S. Citizens support in areas dangerous to Latinos.
Participant 3	Have guaranteed economic stability for their future.	Avoid public and dangerous places for Latinos.	Migrant community groups to warn when there is danger.
Participant 4	Your immigration process prevents you from being afraid to continue in the country.	He maintains his usual routine. He has not taken action.	She has heard of support networks, but she does not know how they work.
Participant 5	Her immigration process and her husband who is a U.S. citizen.	Avoid places where raids may occur.	She has heard of support networks, but she has not gone because she knows that nothing can be done about the arrests.
Participant 6	He knows that Ecuador is not a place where you can prosper economically.	Respect the rules of the country to avoid problems. Pay taxes.	Churches support migrants. American citizens who support with food and clothing.
Participant 7	He has his life formed in the United States	Being a citizen, he does not need to perform this type of action. It is recommended that migrants act in accordance with the law, learn English and try to fix their immigration situation.	Where there is a Hispanic concentration, there is economic aid for migrants in immigration cases.

Table 12 shows the ways in which people face the day-to-day in their daily lives despite existing immigration policies, the factors that make them want to continue within the United States, and what have been the support networks for migrants within the situation they are going through.

Among the motivations expressed by migrants to continue with their lives within such a restrictive scenario is their family that is in the country and the life they have built, the need to improve their economic situation, the migratory processes they undergo, which can guarantee them some kind of stability within the United States. Even the situation in their country of origin means that the migrant community has no desire to return.

The coping situations mentioned by individual migrants to try to mitigate the effects of immigration policies are: avoiding public places that may be dangerous for Latinos where there may be continuous raids; respect the rules of the country, since being foreigners they cannot impose their customs and behavior in a foreign place; Other participants express that

they have no other option than to continue with their daily lives, because they have needs that do not disappear despite the situation.

Migrants mention that they have found communities of support within groups on social networks that warn about places where there are raids. American citizens support the immigrant community in different procedures that may involve risks, churches provide help and there is economic support for the Latino community.

Table 13
Expert Insights on Coping Strategies

Expert	Coping Strategies	Support networks
Professional 1	Continuous support networks among migrant networks.	Social networks to warn of danger. American citizens who are against the policies support migrants.
Professional 2	Everyone is at risk, so they have no choice but to go out to work.	Foundations that help low-income people. Support in immigration procedures.
Professional 3	People try not to let fear get the better of them. They make an effort to work so that, when the time comes—unfortunately—for them to be deported, they will have something to fall back on in Ecuador.	The mayor of New York supports the migrant community. Information on how to mitigate coping situations with ICE.
Professional 4	They assign daily tasks to family members with legal immigration status. Constant use of support networks and available information. Increased time inside their homes to avoid public places.	Groups on social networks issue warnings to warn of danger to the migrant community.
Professional 5	Community support, individual resilience and adaptation to the new conditions of the migratory reality.	Community support networks. Warnings among migrants. Support from documented people for undocumented people.

Table 13 shows the experts' perception of the strategies that migrants have to deal with this situation and the support networks available to the community.

In terms of coping strategies, continuous support networks within the migrant community itself are mentioned; Likewise, people try not to be carried away by fear and to continue working in spite of everything, to have some kind of guarantee at the time when they may be deported.

Among the support networks mentioned are the social networks used to warn of dangers, the help of American citizens who come to be against the immigration policies of the administration. Foundations that support low-income people and help in immigration processes and authorities such as the mayor of New York, who are in favor of migrants.

Table 14
Life Project

Participant	Motivations for migrating	Expectations about your immigration future	Changes in objectives
Participant 1	Improve the economic situation and influence of their circle of friends.	Return to Ecuador as soon as possible unless you can regularize your immigration status.	They have had to change due to the possibility of arrest and not being able to achieve the objectives originally proposed.
Participant 2	Search for a better future that he could not have in Ecuador. In the place where he lived they are dedicated to agriculture and it is something that the participant does not like.	Remain in the United States unless you are detained.	He has had no changes in his objectives.
Participant 3	To have a better future. His family decided to go to the United States when he was a minor.	He plans to remain in the United States.	He has had no changes in his objectives.
Participant 4	At first on vacation and subsequent decision to stay in the country for economic and family reasons	He plans to continue living in the United States and only visit Ecuador.	He has had no changes in his objectives.
Participant 5	Crime, corruption and threats within Ecuador	He plans to stay in the United States. He would return to Ecuador only if the security situation improves.	He has had no changes in his objectives.
Participant 6	Improve the economic situation of both themselves and their family. Migration for the second time	He wishes to stay in the United States until he achieves his goals and then return to Ecuador.	He has had no changes in his objectives.
Participant 7	Little influence of the economy. She migrated to avoid family separation.	He has sensed in his environment the intention to stay in the United States.	The interviewee does not intend to change his or her goals because of his or her legal immigration status.

Table 14 shows the motivations of migrants to leave Ecuador and the impact that these policies have had on the migrants' life projects.

The majority of participants have expressed that the reasons for migrating are economic, saying that "my motivation to leave Ecuador is to get out of poverty and because there are not many opportunities in the country" (Participant 6); however, reasons of insecurity within Ecuador are also mentioned, family influences by not having the capacity to decide because they are minors at the time of leaving the country, and the search for better job opportunities, which reflects that in Ecuador there are not enough economic and labor opportunities.

Regarding the impact of the policies on the life project of migrants, it is mentioned that the participants seek to stay in the United States as long as possible in order to fulfill their objectives, expressing that they want to "achieve my purpose in this country faster and be able to return to my country with my family" (Participant 1) and have guaranteed economic

stability at the time they are forced to return to Ecuador, as well as the desire to stay in the country due to the presence of their families.

The objectives set by migrants have changed significantly due to migratory restrictions and the possibility of being detained; however, most of the participants indicate that their objectives remain the same as when they arrived in the country, as they maintain their motivations and needs.

Table 155*Experts' Perception of Changes in the Life Project of Migrants*

Expert	Motivations for migrating	Expectations for the Future of Migration	Objective Changes	Expectations
Professional 1	Improvement and a better future. Economic and family reasons. In general, migrants are parents and young people between the ages of 15 and 18 who make the decision to migrate. Increase in departures from the country due to insecurity within Ecuador.	People's goals can be put on hold. People start investing back in the country to have something guaranteed when they have to return. Professional migrants try to educate themselves more to guarantee their future in Ecuador.	Limitations in all areas.	Migrants arrive in the country with optimistic expectations and find notable differences such as climate and culture. They think they can impose their culture on a foreign country.
Professional 2	Mainly because of the insecurity in the country and because of the economy. Increase in departures from the country due to the economy and insecurity as of 2021.	People have begun to return voluntarily to Ecuador to avoid being detained. You don't see the same amount of migration anymore.	Limitations on legal, economic, and emotional issues.	People who have been in the country for a short time have a very different mindset from people who have already lived a considerable time.
Professional 3	Most of the migrants say that it is because of the economy and security, as they suffer from extortion and death threats. Previously, there were more cases related to the economy and currently insecurity has a greater influence.	People still have hope, however, they have the thought of returning to their country in the event that the situation becomes much stricter.	People who thought about having a good life now think only about going out to work and returning home.	Most migrants think that they are going to arrive and get a job because they have relatives, but the reality is different.
Professional 4	Violence, insecurity, search for better opportunities and fear. Approximately 4 years ago there has been a change in motivations, since before they were mostly economic reasons and currently migration is motivated by the fear of insecurity in Ecuador.	There has been evidence of willingness to return in certain migrants due to the risk in the country; however, other migrants do not want to return to Ecuador due to the situation in the country and decide to continue facing the risk in exchange for having a better income and being able to help their family.	The assets and assets that migrants have gained for a long time can be lost to deportations, putting people in a situation of instability, therefore, they avoid continuing to acquire the assets for which they have worked.	Testimonies of migrants influence the expectations of new migrants who think that with the money they earn they will be able to live well, without considering that the price of living in the United States is much more expensive.
Professional 5	Search for better economic opportunities, family reunification and the need to flee from contexts of violence in Ecuador. Currently, there is an increase in motivations linked to fear, uncertainty and the deterioration of the quality of life in Ecuador.	Migrants maintain expectations of long-term stability, however, uncertainty is present. Greater intention to return to the country of origin.	Immigration policies affect personal, family and professional planning.	Unrealistic expectations in the timing of the processes and the risks that exist within the country.

Finally, Table 15 reflects the opinion of the experts on the motivations that migrants have to leave the country and the changes they have perceived in terms of their expectations for the future and their objectives.

Experts say that the main motivations for migrating today have to do with the economic and labor environment, family influences and current insecurity. Regarding the changes in motivations for migrating, it is repeatedly mentioned that currently a determining factor of migration is insecurity in recent years.

Regarding expectations before migrating, it is mentioned that migrants arrive in the United States with an optimistic vision about their near future, their job opportunities and the possibility of improving their quality of life; however, they expressed that these expectations are often compared to complex realities where migrants must adapt their culture to a completely new one, limitations in access to employment because they are migrants and various adverse conditions.

As for future expectations, it is mentioned that migrants have begun to invest again in Ecuador to have a guarantee at the time of return, they have begun to educate themselves more in order to have a job opportunity within Ecuador. There has also been a greater intention to return voluntarily and a decrease in immigration from Ecuador due to the restrictions. Despite this, other migrants decide to move forward despite the risk in exchange for better economic stability.

Regarding life projects, different limitations have been observed in various areas of daily life, such as the legal, migratory and economic spheres. People who thought they would have a better quality of life in the United States must now simply go to work to get money and return home to stay safe. Many migrants seeking to obtain assets within the United States have decided to stop investing in the United States to avoid future losses.

6. Discussion

In this section, the results obtained in the research are discussed through a process of triangulation, taking into account the information from the bibliographic review, the interviews conducted with professionals in the field of migration and the experiences of Ecuadorian migrants. This approach allows us to evidence, from different perspectives and

in an empirical way, the consequences that the migration policies, established in the United States during 2025, have had on the lives of migrants.

Following this line, the first factor that allows us to understand the current migratory experience are the motivations that guide migrants to leave their country, the same ones that have changed significantly in contemporary times. An important part of the literature indicates that migration has traditionally been considered as a strategy for seeking better economic opportunities (Arango, 2003). The opinions of migrants and professionals coincide when they say that, although economic reasons are the most common within the decision to migrate, there are other emerging factors such as insecurity and violence, expressing that "my thing was not because of the economic, but because of crime" (Participant 5). The professionals express that "before migration was more for economic reasons, now it is for security" (Professional 3), which is reflected in the testimonies of migrants such as "I left Ecuador because I was threatened, I did not have a future there" (Participant 5). From this convergence of information, it can be interpreted that the current migratory reality is not a simple search for greater economic stability, but is seen as a dynamic of survival and protection, which is aligned, at the same time, with the search for social theories that seek to understand the migratory phenomenon from other perspectives (McAuliffe & Adhiambo, 2024).

The experiences of migrants and the testimonies of professionals go hand in hand in terms of the risks involved in the migration process. In the bibliographic information collected, there are studies that indicate that the action of migrating can go hand in hand with experiences of vulnerability, theft, violence and exploitation (International Organization for Migration, 2023), which can be confirmed by the testimonies of migrants, who express that before migrating, they were aware that the process could include robberies, kidnappings, extortion or even death. contributing with testimonies such as: "Getting lost in the middle of the desert and even death" (Participant 1). However, the information that migrants have about these risks can be influenced by social networks and testimonies of family members because "they get carried away a lot sometimes by what others say" (Professional 1); this is explained by professionals, who establish that the information available is not always reliable, as it can alter the reality of these situations. This shows that migratory processes not only represent risk within the country, but even at the time when people leave their country of origin.

The immigration policies established in 2025 and the tightening of these policies during the government of Donald Trump have greatly influenced the lives of Ecuadorian migrants, impacting various areas such as their job stability, the constant fear and risks that these individuals may have within the United States as immigrants (Johnson et al., 2024). Following this line, the Experts interviewed express that, during the government of 2025, the migration policies that already existed have been tightened, but that new policies have also been created that affect the daily lives of migrants, being that "the laws have been written for a long time, but they were not applied; currently everything is being applied" (Professional 1). Likewise, the migrants interviewed express that they have perceived greater control and restrictions in their immigration processes, as well as a greater number of deportations and detentions as a result of this, expressing that "judges are no longer so flexible... they are giving deportation orders easier and faster" (Professional 4). Taking into account this information collected from different sources, it is evident that this visible change not only reflects a simple variation in migration policies, but also brings with it various consequences in the stability and vulnerability of migrants, who have expressed "one leaves with fear, one does not know if after a while the police will come and deport you" (Participant 6) in a foreign country that was previously perceived as an opportunity for stable migration.

In this context, a frequent convergence between the sources of information that are triangulated in this research is the emotional impact that these migration policies have caused, mainly due to the constant fear of migrants in the face of detention and deportation. In the bibliographic information, the concept of "threat of deportation" has been identified, which indicates that levels of fear, anxiety, stress and psychological well-being are affected by this fear (Johnson et al., 2024). This concept is confirmed by the testimonies of migrants who point out "every day I go out in fear" (Participant 1). In the same way, the professionals interviewed express that in the last months of 2025, the signs of fear or dread have increased, observing greater anxiety and desperation in the migrant population, indicating that the population is "quite sad, stressed, confused and without much hope" (Professional 4).. The finding of coincidences of this factor in the three sources, both theoretical and empirical, reflects a condition that can come to define the migratory experience of Ecuadorians.

Persistent fear, in turn, influences changes in migrants' behaviors. Friedman & Venkataramani (2021) established the concept of "chilling effects", which refers to people restricting their common activities for fear of being detained or discovered by immigration

agencies. In the results of the interviews with the migrant participants, self-restraining behaviors are found, among which migrants express "one leaves the house to work and from work to home" (Participant 1) or "one only leaves when it is very necessary" (Participant 6); demonstrating changes in their routines to avoid the risks that these policies imply. Experts agree that migrants avoid going out to public spaces or stop carrying out necessary procedures such as appearing at hearings of their legal processes, which can even worsen their immigration situation and expressing that "The mother or father is not going to appear at the immigration court for fear that they will be arrested and their children will be left alone here" (Professional 3). This pattern makes it possible to show not only how long they stay in the country, but also the daily life of immigrants.

In this context, the policies have a direct impact on various areas of migrants' lives, one of the most important of which is the family area, where there is greater tension, separation and constant concern for the family nucleus and the economic stability for which they have worked for a long time (United Nations Human Rights Office, 2018). In the testimonies of the migrants, fear of family separation is observed because these policies "affect a lot... life is supposed to be to live in a family" (Participant 6) and experiences of separation due to deportations, while the professional opinion expresses that family separation is a fairly recurrent phenomenon, especially, it is highlighted, in families in which certain members are legal and others are not, as well as, "The most recurrent family impact is anxiety about possible separation, as well as tensions in the family dynamics" (Professional 5). This finding shows that policies affect far beyond the individual, as they have a direct impact on family dynamics and nuclei, which goes hand in hand with the idea that migration is not only an individual process, but a social phenomenon (Portes et al., 1999).

As a result of these dynamics, there are significant impacts on the economy and employment. The literature indicates that restrictive migration policies prohibit access to employment, increase labor exploitation and generate a pattern of lower wages than they should receive (Lee et al., 2024), which is confirmed by professionals, who mention delays in work permits and greater obstacles to access formal jobs, pointing out that "The procedures are taking only for a work permit, it is taking more than a year" (Professional 3). From the migrant point of view, this impact is shown both in the loss of work and in the voluntary limitation of work activities due to fear, being evident in expressions such as "people stop going to work out of fear" (Participant 2). However, some migrants reduce this impact, which suggests the

existence of adaptive processes in the face of undignified employment conditions, highlighting a difference between the perception of migrants and reality.

In this situation of adversity, migrant individuals develop strategies to confront the reality and obstacles that these policies could mean in their daily lives. In the theory of migratory networks, Massey et al. (2008) established that social networks reduce the impact and risks of migration policies due to community support. Among the strategies that migrants have established is the use of social networks to alert other migrants, with testimonies that express "There are groups where they write to each other and say that they are on such and such a side" (Participant 2) or "They publish things so that people do not go out" (Participant 3). The support of American society, since "There are many American citizens who are supporting" (Professional 1) and the adaptation of their behaviors to the reality of the country to avoid problems and risks. The migrants express that "we warn each other when there is danger or raids" (Participant 2), showing that the migrant community itself is the one that seeks to help each other by creating mechanisms that help their protection and safety. Professionals say that tools such as resilience and adaptation to the context in which they live are essential to face the possible risks they face in their lives as migrants within a foreign country.

With regard to rights and experiences of exclusion, although not all migrants report obvious discrimination, there is segregation related to their migratory status, specifically in access to regularized employment, since "Nowadays, if they do not have a work permit, they cannot be received practically anywhere" (Professional 1) and health, which fits with studies that show limitations in access to fundamental rights in limiting contexts (Musalo, 2022). Some migrants do not access certain services out of fear, which reveals self-restrictive behaviors, with participants expressing that "I have avoided asking for help, the idea is not to be a burden on the state" (Participant 5). Experts add this vision by pointing out that the lack of legal documents complicates access to essential benefits, such as health and education, which shows an indirect marginalization that is manufactured from one's own policies, with participants expressing.

Finally, one of the most outstanding findings fits with the impact of policies on immigrants' life plans. While many remain faithful to their initial ideals, there is a change in the way they are achieved, limited by ignorance and constant risk. The literature highlights that restrictive

policies directly interfere in the future decisions and stability of migrants (Calva et al., 2024), which reaffirms the testimonies, where it is mentioned that "All the dreams and goals we have are put on standby, we do not know if we will be able to fulfill them" (Professional 1) Experts converge that the aspirations of migrants are impeded, paused or must be changed, increasing the desire to return to the country of origin, testifying that "I have observed an increase in the intention to return... especially in the face of current difficulties" (Professional 5). This discovery answers the research question directly, demonstrating that migration policies not only influence daily life but also profoundly alter the expectations, decisions, and aspirations of Ecuadorians in the United States.

The discussion of the information dictates that there is a connection between theory, empirical evidence and professional experience, in which patterns such as terror, self-restriction, job instability, emotional alteration and ignorance of the future are observed. This shows that the migration policies implemented in 2025 have generated an environment in which migrants face barriers in the legal sphere, and also conditions that have a broad impact on their well-being, daily life and their plans, placing their testimonies as a central element to understand the truth of these political decisions.

7. Conclusions

This work allowed to answer the research question on how Ecuadorian migrants perceive the migration policies of the United States implemented during the year 2025. It was observed that these policies are perceived as a factor that significantly impacts the lives of migrants, causing uncertainty and putting them in a vulnerable place, which is not limited to the legal sphere, but extends to the emotional, work, family and future plans, showing that migration policies interfere in the experience of migrants.

As for the general objective, this research managed to effectively analyze the different points of view of Ecuadorian migrants, detecting that one of the most recurrent aspects in their experiences is the fear of being deported. This is the core that modifies their behavior, mobility within the country and infers their psychological health, demonstrating that migration policies are not only structural, they are also subjective. Taking this into account, the experiences of migrants allow us to understand that these laws regulate both their permanence and the way in which they live, relate to each other and decide what to do in their daily lives.

Regarding the first specific objective, it was possible to identify and analyze the main theoretical approaches related to migration and migration policies, showing that, although traditional models have explained migration from economic factors, the results of this research broaden this perspective by demonstrating that, in the current Ecuadorian context, insecurity and violence in the country of origin are determining factors in the decision to migrate. This finding allows us to contribute to the theoretical discussion by showing that migratory motivations respond to more complex dynamics than those proposed in classical approaches.

With respect to the second specific objective, the testimonies of migrants were collected and examined, in which it was directly evident how migration policies affect their daily lives. Through their experiences, patterns such as fear, self-restriction, insecure jobs and doubts about the future were recognized, which reinforces the importance of integrating the points of view of migrants as a fundamental element of the analysis of the migratory phenomenon.

In relation to the third specific objective, the approach of professional staff in the field of migration established a significant similarity with the perceptions of migrants. The experts evidenced the tightening of policies, the increase in detentions and deportations, an increase in negative effects on the psychological and economic health of migrants, increasing the value of research from the triangulation of information.

The fulfillment of the fourth specific objective managed to analyze the impact of policies that negatively affect Ecuadorian migrants. In the psychological field, an increase in the incidence of anxiety, stress and doubt was observed; in the workplace, there is instability and precariousness; in the family, there are tensions and fear of separation; and in the social sphere, there are limitations in access to rights and several experiences of structural exclusion. Concluding that migration policies fully affect the lives of migrants.

On the other hand, research shows that migrants develop resilience capacities that allow them to adapt and continue with their daily lives, reflecting a dynamic in which vulnerability coexists with resilience. This finding is key, as it demonstrates that migrants are not only passive subjects of migration policies but also adapt to them.

Overall, this research extends existing knowledge by showing that migration policies implemented in 2025 transform the experience of Ecuadorian migrants in the United States. The experiences of migrants are the backbone of the study, reflecting how new policies affect the lives of Ecuadorians in the United States, contributing to a broad and sensitive vision of the current migratory phenomenon.

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9. Appendices

Appendix A

Acta de Validación del Instrumento de Entrevista dirigida a Migrantes Ecuatorianos

Yo, (nombre de la persona que valida la entrevista), de nacionalidad (ecuatorian@),

con residencia actual en (**debe estar en los Estados Unidos**),
declaro que he revisado la guía de entrevista titulada: **“Guía de entrevista semiestructurada dirigida a migrantes ecuatorianos en Estados Unidos”**, elaborada en el marco de la investigación: **“Voces de los Migrantes Ecuatorianos afectados bajo las Políticas de Migración establecidas por la Administración de los Estados Unidos durante el 2025”**, realizada por Wendy Valeria Coronel Palacios.

Manifiesto que:

Las preguntas son claras y comprensibles.

El lenguaje utilizado es adecuado.

Las preguntas guardan coherencia con el objetivo de la investigación.

Considero que el instrumento permite recoger adecuadamente las experiencias de los migrantes ecuatorianos.

Observaciones o sugerencias (si las hubiera):

En constancia de lo anterior, firmo el presente documento de validación piloto.

FIRMA

Nombre completo

Fecha

Appendix B

Acta de Validación del Instrumento de Entrevista dirigida a Profesionales en Inmigración

Profesionales en migración

Yo, _____, profesión:

_____, con _____ años de experiencia en el ámbito migratorio,
declaro que he revisado la guía de entrevista titulada:

“Guía de entrevista semiestructurada dirigida a profesionales en migración”, elaborada en el marco de la investigación:

“Voces de los Migrantes Ecuatorianos afectados bajo las Políticas de Migración establecidas por la Administración de los Estados Unidos durante el 2025”, realizada por Wendy Valeria Coronel Palacios.

Tras revisar el instrumento, considero que:

Las preguntas son pertinentes al objeto de estudio.

Existe coherencia entre la pregunta de investigación y el contenido del instrumento.

El instrumento permite obtener información relevante desde la perspectiva profesional.

El lenguaje utilizado es adecuado para el perfil del entrevistado.

Observaciones o recomendaciones:

En constancia de lo anterior, firmo la presente validación del instrumento.

Nombre completo

Profesión

Fecha

Appendix C

Guía para Entrevistas Migrantes

La presente investigación tiene como objetivo analizar cómo perciben los migrantes ecuatorianos que residen en los Estados Unidos las consecuencias de las políticas migratorias implementadas durante el año 2025, particularmente en relación con su estabilidad emocional, laboral, familiar y su proyecto de vida.

La pregunta de investigación que guía este estudio es:

¿Cómo influyen las políticas migratorias implementadas en Estados Unidos durante el 2025 en la vida cotidiana y el proyecto de vida de los migrantes ecuatorianos?

Entre los objetivos de esta entrevista se encuentran:

Identificar las motivaciones que impulsaron la migración.

Analizar el impacto de las políticas migratorias actuales.

Examinar las afectaciones en salud mental, estabilidad laboral y relaciones familiares.

Identificar las estrategias de afrontamiento utilizadas por los migrantes.

La información será utilizada exclusivamente con fines académicos, garantizando confidencialidad y anonimato.

PERFIL DEL ENTREVISTADO

Edad

Género

Ciudad de Origen en Ecuador

Año en el que migró a Estados Unidos

Ingreso de manera regular o irregular

Estado actual de su situación migratoria: (regular, irregular, en proceso)

Caso migratorio que lleva:

¿Actualmente trabaja?

MOTIVACIONES

Cuál fue la principal motivación para salir de Ecuador hacia los Estados Unidos?

¿Cree usted que su decisión de migrar fue guiada por razones económicas, familiares u otras? Detalle cual.

¿Cómo consideraba que sería su vida antes de migrar?

CONOCIMIENTO:

Antes de emigrar, ¿qué sabía sobre las políticas migratorias de los Estados Unidos?

¿Considera que usted tenía conciencia de los riesgos reales que implican migrar?

POLÍTICAS MIGRATORIAS

Desde que usted se encuentra dentro del país, considera que han habido cambios de políticas o que estas se han vuelto más estrictas?

En la administración de Donald Trump, ha experimentado complicaciones en su proceso migratorio?

¿Cree usted que las políticas implementadas por el gobierno de Donald Trump durante el 2025 han influido de una u otra manera en su vida?

AMENAZA DE DEPORTACIÓN

Desde el año 2025, ha experimentado temor de ser detenido o deportado?

Cree que este miedo o riesgo constante ha influido en su vida cotidiana y comportamientos diarios?

Este temor ha influenciado en el ámbito laboral o familiar?

EXCLUSIÓN

Durante el tiempo de endurecimiento de políticas migratorias, ha experimentado algún tipo de rechazo o exclusión por el hecho de ser migrante?

¿Cuáles han sido estos espacios en los que ha experimentado exclusión?

IMPACTO

¿Cree que esta situación de riesgo constante ha afectado en su salud emocional?

Ha experimentado estrés, ansiedad o preocupación constante?

Se han visto afectadas su estabilidad tanto laboral como económica?

Sus relaciones familiares han tenido algún tipo de cambio debido a las políticas migratorias?

Ha experimentado dificultades u obstáculos para el acceso a servicios o derechos básicos como educación, trabajo o salud?

ESTRATEGIAS DE AFRONTAMIENTO

¿Existe algún factor que le ha ayudado a continuar con su vida cotidiana a pesar de los obstáculos migratorios?

¿Qué acciones ha realizado para enfrentar el miedo o la incertidumbre?

Cree que la comunidad migrante tiene alguna red de apoyo en la que apoyarse en estos tiempos de inestabilidad?

PROYECTO DE VIDA

¿Cómo ve su futuro próximo? ¿Piensa continuar en los Estados Unidos o regresar pronto a Ecuador o tiene algún nuevo destino en mente?

¿Cree que alguno de sus objetivos iniciales al momento de migrar han cambiado con el establecimiento de nuevas políticas restrictivas para los migrantes?

Cierre de entrevista

¿Las preguntas fueron claras y comprensibles?

¿Considera que la entrevista permitió expresar adecuadamente su experiencia?

¿Sugiere modificar o agregar alguna pregunta?

Observaciones:

Appendix D

Guía para Entrevistas a Profesionales en Inmigración

La presente investigación busca analizar las percepciones de los migrantes ecuatorianos sobre las políticas migratorias implementadas en Estados Unidos durante el 2025 y contrastarlas con la experiencia profesional de especialistas en migración que llevan sus casos.

La pregunta de investigación es:

¿Cómo influyen las políticas migratorias implementadas en Estados Unidos durante el 2025 en la vida de los migrantes ecuatorianos?

Entre los objetivos de esta entrevista se encuentra conocer la perspectiva técnica y práctica de profesionales que intervienen en procesos migratorios.

La información será utilizada exclusivamente con fines académicos.

PERFIL PROFESIONAL

Profesión:

Cargo actual:

Años de experiencia en el área migratoria:

Tipo de casos que maneja (asilo, deportación, ajuste de estatus, VAWA, SIJ, etc.):

Motivación migratoria (perspectiva profesional)

Desde su experiencia, ¿cuáles son las principales motivaciones que observa en los migrantes ecuatorianos para salir del país?

¿Predominan razones económicas, familiares, de seguridad u otras?

¿Ha notado cambios en las motivaciones en los últimos años?

Conocimiento y preparación del migrante

¿Considera que los migrantes ecuatorianos llegan con conocimiento suficiente sobre las políticas migratorias actuales?

¿Qué fuentes de información suelen influir en sus decisiones (redes sociales, otros migrantes, medios)?

¿Observa desinformación o expectativas poco realistas en los casos que atiende?

Políticas migratorias actuales

Desde su experiencia profesional, ¿cómo han impactado las políticas migratorias implementadas en 2025 en los migrantes ecuatorianos?

¿Ha observado mayor dificultad en trámites, permisos o procesos legales?

¿Considera que existe un endurecimiento en la aplicación de la ley migratoria?

Amenaza de deportación

¿Ha percibido un aumento en el miedo a la deportación entre sus clientes?

¿Cómo afecta este temor el comportamiento o decisiones de los migrantes?

¿Ha observado consecuencias laborales o familiares asociadas a la amenaza de deportación?

Exclusión y racialización

Desde su experiencia, ¿los migrantes ecuatorianos enfrentan situaciones de exclusión o discriminación?

¿En qué ámbitos observa más frecuentemente estas situaciones (laboral, institucional, social)?

¿Cree que la racialización influye en el trato hacia los migrantes latinoamericanos?

Impacto en la vida del migrante

¿Ha identificado afectaciones en la salud mental de los migrantes que atiende?

¿Observa inestabilidad laboral vinculada a la situación migratoria?

¿Qué tipo de impacto familiar es más recurrente en los casos que maneja?

¿Ha identificado limitaciones en el acceso a derechos fundamentales?

Estrategias de afrontamiento

¿Qué estrategias observa que utilizan los migrantes para enfrentar la incertidumbre?

¿Las redes de apoyo cumplen un rol importante en los casos que maneja?

¿Ha identificado conductas de autorrestricción por miedo a controles migratorios?

Proyecto de vida

Desde su experiencia, ¿cómo perciben los migrantes ecuatorianos su futuro en Estados Unidos?

¿Ha observado un aumento en la intención de retorno o migración a terceros países?

¿Considera que el contexto actual limita los proyectos de vida de los migrantes?

Retroalimentación

¿Considera que las preguntas fueron claras?

¿Cree que cumplen con el objetivo de la investigación?

¿Sugiere modificaciones?

Observaciones:
