



State responsibility in the control of organisms in charge of the eradication of Child labor

Responsabilidad estatal en el control de organismos encargados de la erradicación del trabajo Infantil

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ABSTRACT

The Ecuadorian government prioritizes the rights of vulnerable groups, seeking to eradicate child exploitation. Governments and organizations act to mitigate abuse, promoting education and integral development. The article focused on identifying the state entities that operated in accordance with the legal framework, addressing the challenges in the eradication of child labor. To this end, a qualitative approach was adopted using analytical-synthetic and historical-logical methods. The study highlighted the crucial state intervention in the fight against child labor, emphasizing the synergy between institutions, international support and the State-family-society triangle to guarantee children's rights and welfare.

RESUMEN

El Estado ecuatoriano prioriza derechos de grupos vulnerables, buscando erradicar la explotación infantil. Gobiernos y organizaciones actúan para mitigar abuso, promoviendo educación y desarrollo

integral. El artículo se centró en identificar los entes estatales que operaron conforme al marco legal, abordando los retos en la erradicación del trabajo infantil. Para ello, se adoptó un enfoque cualitativo mediante métodos analítico-sintéticos e histórico-lógicos. El estudio resaltó la crucial intervención estatal en la lucha contra el trabajo infantil, enfatizando la sinergia entre instituciones, apoyo internacional y el triángulo Estado-familia-sociedad para garantizar derechos y bienestar infantil.

Keywords / Palabras clave

erradicación de trabajo infantil, Estado, familia, organismos de control, Responsabilidad estatal, sociedad

child labor eradication, State, family, control agencies, State responsibility, society

Introduction

In Ecuador it has become common to see children on the streets, many of them forced to beg against their will, others can be seen working in hostile environments in order to bring a livelihood home. In daily life we all coincide with this reality and the lack of interest is evident in society and why not say in the State itself.

The economic crisis of the country and the lack of opportunities in many homes has resulted in a dramatic scenario specifically in children and adolescents, unable to access education and deprived of many rights that by law the State recognizes them, such as the principle of best interests and rights that prevail over those of others, as stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador in 2008 states:

The state, society and the family will promote as a priority the integral development of children and adolescents, and will ensure the full exercise of their rights; the principle of their best interest will be taken into account and their rights will prevail over those of other persons.

Children and adolescents shall have the right to their integral development, understood as a process of growth, maturation and unfolding of their intellect, capacities, potential and aspirations, in a family, school, social and community environment of affection and security. This environment will allow the satisfaction of their social, affective-emotional and cultural needs, with the support of national

and local intersectoral policies. (art. 44 Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador).

This leads to debate and questioning by the Ecuadorian population who often observe the reality in the streets and also by the academia who will be observers of the work that the state executes in conjunction with national and international organizations to control the eradication of child labor, with the aim of improving the quality of life of children and adolescents, and thus with dignity be part of society.

Child labor should be a matter of legal analysis, determining whether the age at which the child can be the breadwinner of a household and the type of work that can be done approved by a representative and under the conditions that the law requires, as established in Article 134 of the Labor Code which states: "Prohibit all kinds of work for others, for children and adolescents under fifteen years of age. On the other hand, the same labor code refers to work prohibited for minors under 18 years of age and states the following:

It is prohibited to employ women and boys under eighteen years of age in industries or tasks that are considered dangerous and unhealthy, which will be specified in a special regulation to be prepared by the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence, in coordination with the National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor-CONEPTI, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Childhood and Adolescence and international conventions ratified by the country. (art.138)

Article 81 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code stipulates that "Children and adolescents have the right to be protected by the State, society and the family against labor and economic exploitation and any form of slavery, servitude, forced labor or labor that is harmful to their health", and Article 83 is clear in referring to child labor. 83 is clear when referring to the eradication of child labor, within the section there are mitigation programs to regulate labor activities in children under fifteen years of age, so in theory there is a work regulated by the State so that children are protected and eliminate their presence in the streets.

On the other hand, there are organizations whose mission is to eradicate abuse and child labor in the streets, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), in its action plan supports an international program for the progressive elimination of child labor through the identification of the worst forms of work to which children and

adolescents are exposed, its action is decisive in promoting new policies so that they can be rescued and rehabilitated.

Child labor is a social and humanitarian issue that has prevailed throughout history. Despite advances in legislation and public awareness, millions of children around the world continue to be exploited for labor.

Poverty and economic inequality are issues that every State must have on its agenda, combat their consequences and thus safeguard the integrity of minors. "Poverty remains the main catalyst for child labor in developing countries, where families are forced to resort to child labor to subsist." (UNICEF, 2019)

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Limited access to quality education, generates inequality in learning. The lack of educational opportunities and the low quality of education in certain regions perpetuate the cycle of child labor, as poor schooling does not provide viable alternatives for children's futures." (Save the children, 2015)

The American Convention on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, among other treaties, also prohibit child labor and recognize the right to protection and access to education for children. (OAS, 2019). This phenomenon deprives children of their fundamental right to education and the full development of their capacities, condemning them to a cycle of poverty and exploitation. The worst forms of child labor, such as trafficking for labor or sexual purposes, exploitation in mines and agriculture, are particularly alarming and must receive urgent attention from the international community.

The causes of child labor are complex and multifactorial. Poverty is one of the main factors that push families to allow their children to work instead of receiving an education. In addition, the lack of access to basic services, such as health care and adequate housing, exacerbates the situation. In some cases, armed conflicts and natural disasters force children to work in order to survive. Also, the lack of effective implementation of laws and policies to protect children from child labor is a common problem in many regions. Child labor has devastating consequences for the children involved. In addition to depriving them of their childhood, their physical and emotional health is affected by long working hours and hazardous conditions. Lack of access to quality education perpetuates the cycle of poverty and damages their future opportunities. These children are also exposed to

violence, abuse and trafficking, which severely affects their well-being and psychological development (ILO, 2023).

Eradicating child labor is a shared responsibility of governments, international organizations and society as a whole. Coordinated and sustained action is required to address the root causes of this problem and ensure that children are protected and have access to the education and welfare they deserve. It is necessary to promote income transfer programs to support vulnerable families, as well as to improve the implementation and enforcement of laws prohibiting child labor. It is also essential to raise awareness among the population to ensure that employment opportunities for minors are responsible and ethical, and to avoid supporting industries that employ child labor in high-risk activities. Only through comprehensive action and collective commitment can we aspire to a future where all children can fully enjoy their childhood without the burden of forced labor (ILO, 2023).

Many authors committed to children's issues establish that there is a violation of children's rights, but undoubtedly they all agree on a single objective: to mitigate child labor, especially when there is an imminent risk to their health, physical and psychological integrity. It is proposed to identify the positions of the main actors that fight to prevail and defend the rights of the most vulnerable, in this case children and adolescents. Thus, the International Labor Organization (ILO) defines child labor as "all work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and psychological development" (ILO, 2023). (ILO, 2023).

UNICEF defines child labor as the deprivation of children and adolescents to have a childhood and adequate development, causing psychological and physical harm. Both the ILO and UNICEF have similar visions that seek the elimination of child labor in any of its manifestations, but it is important to emphasize that both organizations delimit the type of work or activity and recognize the worst forms of child labor as stipulated in ILO Convention 182, which they would focus on mitigating. For its part, ILO Convention 138 proposes that states must identify the minimum age at which a minor may engage in any type of labor activity, thus limiting the development of children and adolescents.

Thus, we can identify different organizations that define child labor from each of their perspectives, using variables that are related to the worldview of the place where they can identify the present problem.

On the other hand, the International Labor Office in its interest in the elimination of child labor mentions that children under 18 years of age who are involved in economic activities and/or perform tasks that are not appropriate for their age, are interfering in their education and physical and psychological development (ILO, 2017).

In this sense UNICEF defines child labor by mentioning the following; it refers to any form of employment or work that deprives children of their childhood, potential and dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development." (UNICEF, 2019). The health and integrity of the minor in any of the positions established by the aforementioned international institutions requires comprehensive implementation in the application of the legal framework, competent officials should monitor and establish short, medium and long term goals. Based on the reports and results, evaluate the performance of the agencies in charge of eradicating child labor, as it states: "It consists of the participation of boys and girls in paid or unpaid activities, which prevent or interfere in their process of integral formation and adequate development, and which places them in situations of vulnerability and risk" (Alarcón, W. & Alarcón, W. & Alarcón, W. & Alarcón, W. & Alarcón, W.). (Alarcón, W. & Rodríguez, L., 2009).

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean from its point of view makes known that, "It is characterized by the participation of boys and girls in economic and production activities, in conditions that negatively affect their health, education, development and welfare, thus perpetuating inequality and poverty" (ECLAC, 2014). The authors' positions comprise an address to the economy of each family in conditions of poverty that influences child labor as it states below. "The occupation of children in economic activities that force them to abandon their formal education and perform tasks that do not correspond to their stage of development, violating their rights and limiting their future opportunities." (International Journal of Child, 2018)

Child labor is not a new issue in society, since ancient times children were used for forced labor such as agriculture, livestock and domestic activities. In continents such as Africa they were traded and treated as slaves, currently that continent has the largest number of children working, according to data provided by the ILO there are about 41 million economically active children mostly performing agricultural activities.(Borja, 2012)

Historical information on the child population is limited, until the industrial revolution is where relevant data begins to be recorded, as mentioned by (Borja, 2012), in the undergraduate research with the theme "child labor from the industrial revolution to the present", the author states that children from an early age were forced to work from the age of four and often in activities of high risk to health. Some children submerged in poverty due to the abandonment and death of their parents resorted to looking for work with salaries below 10 to 20% of what an adult normally earned at the time. Many activities had to do with the cotton industry in a situation of extreme vulnerability, so that many times they lost their hands and part of their limbs.

Due to this problem, some governments in Europe had already taken action to promote the first laws in favor of workers and to improve labor circumstances, which included the exploitation of children and adolescents. In 1802, an attempt was made to establish legal restrictions that would allow for the abatement of abuse, but no encouraging results were achieved. Another unsuccessful attempt was the reduction of working hours or age as a basis for employment. An English physician named Thomas Percival was responsible for proposing the first bill called the "Apprentices' Health and Morals Act". Children considered apprentices could count on legal aspects and a labor contract.

In Ecuador, the attention in terms of labor risk in adolescents between 15 and 17 years old is latent, apparently there is concern among political and social actors. It must be recognized that until 2021 progress has been made in projects to eradicate child labor, therefore the legal and constitutional route has been necessary to achieve important achievements as recorded in the National Development Plan, with proposals such as technical assistance to 56 GAD's, having seventy-seven tables for the eradication of child labor, as well as a significant number of people trained and sensitized and the creation of the Network of companies with links in the campaign "for an Ecuador free of child labor". Ministry of Labor (2017).

Child labor in Ecuador has been a recurring issue throughout its history. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) in 2020, it is estimated that more than 400,000 children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years old were found working in various economic activities. This situation negatively impacts their education, health and emotional well-being (INEC, 2018).

There are social and state organizations that are responsible for the eradication of child labor. For example, the State through the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) has made a call to combat child labor from social spheres, government authorities and the family itself to take action to prevent the normalization of child labor and raise awareness of the importance of eradicating the exploitation of children and adolescents.

The eradication of child labor has been used by political actors on many occasions for populist purposes, marking as the axis of government to combat poverty, in this sense to create a link of support between society and the State to eradicate child labor as detailed in the Code of Children and Adolescents in art. 83 states the following:

The State and society must elaborate and execute policies, plans, programs and protection measures tending to eradicate the work of boys, girls and adolescents who have not reached the age of fifteen. The family must contribute to the achievement of this objective" (CONA, 2023).

It will be the challenge of every government and the family nucleus to enforce public policies. Pacheco as quoted Molina,2014 states "Public Policies are the actions of the State that dynamize economic structures and processes in accordance with certain strategies with the objective of supporting economic, social and political development."

Materials and Methods

The Ecuadorian State is responsible for protecting the family and also for guaranteeing the most vulnerable the necessary support to ensure a stable job, education, health and a dignified life. The Constitution of Ecuador in art. 3 numeral 5 mentions the following: "Plan national development, eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development and equitable redistribution of resources and wealth, to access the good life". In this sense, social, political and economic responsibility is the formula to combat poverty in households, so that children can have access to a good education and a childhood away from the streets.

On the other hand, the State under the Magna Carta will be responsible for adopting the following measures so that children and adolescents can enjoy legal security, as detailed in the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador:

1. Attention to children under six years of age, which guarantees their nutrition, health, education and daily care in a framework of comprehensive protection of their rights.
2. Special protection against any type of labor or economic exploitation. The work of minors under fifteen years of age is prohibited, and policies for the progressive eradication of child labor shall be implemented. The work of adolescents shall be exceptional, and shall not violate their right to education or be carried out in situations that are harmful or dangerous to their health or personal development. Their work and other activities shall be respected, recognized and supported as long as they do not harm their education and integral development.
3. Preferential attention for the full social integration of those with disabilities. The State shall guarantee their incorporation into the regular education system and into society.
4. Protection and attention against all types of violence, mistreatment, sexual exploitation or of any other kind, or against negligence that causes such situations (art.46) Constituent Assembly of Montecristi (2008).

It is evident that the regulation corresponds to the interests of the most vulnerable, and the responsibility will fall on the governments in office to assume this social reality that is formalized in the legal framework in order to sanction those who would be promoting practices of mistreatment and labor exploitation. The contribution of legislators is fundamental in proposing drastic laws against child labor. The Ecuadorian Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC, 2018) conducted a research to determine the type of labor activity performed by the child population between 5 to 17 years old, it is worth noting that the purpose of the study comprises and identifies the forms of child labor with the highest risk. Among the results obtained, it was determined that there is 8.56% of child labor, with a higher percentage in children. In addition, the provinces with the highest rate of child labor conditions are shown, led by Cotopaxi with 25.1%, followed by the province of Bolivar with 22.2% and Chimborazo with 21.0%. It is important to highlight the provinces with the lowest rate of child labor, such as the provinces of Oro, Santa Elena and Manabí with less than 5% of child labor. These data are alarming before the public management and the entities that regulate the eradication of child

labor and why not say before the eyes of the population that demands justice and education.

State responsibility is fundamental to ensure the proper functioning and performance of the agencies in charge of eradicating child labor. The State must provide adequate resources so that these institutions can carry out their activities in an efficient and sustainable manner. In addition, the government is expected to implement control and supervision measures to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of their actions.

Results

The eradication of child labor is subject to the support of the State, which is directly responsible for the application of the legal framework and the development of public policies, and it must also work to establish commitments before society in conjunction with the family so that street children have opportunities to study. Training the population on the dangers and consequences of child labor. By valuing education and transmitting this value to children, we give them a chance for a brighter future and reduce the likelihood that they will become involved in child labor. When the family becomes a strong and responsible unit, it can contribute significantly to the protection and well-being of children. We can identify some ways in which the family can help the State reduce child eradication in Ecuador. (Labor Code, 2023)

Parents and those closest within the family have the primary responsibility to care for and protect children. This involves ensuring that children receive adequate nutrition, medical care, education and a safe and loving environment.

The family can promote children's education by ensuring that they go to school and supporting their learning at home. Education is fundamental to the development of children and adolescents as this can help break the cycle of poverty and child eradication.

The family acts as a role model for children. If parents and caregivers show empathy, respect, responsibility and problem-solving skills, children will also learn and adopt these qualities, which can improve their well-being and personal development.

The family can help prevent child eradication by identifying and addressing situations of abuse or neglect. Fostering a safe and loving

home environment reduces the risk of physical, emotional or psychological harm to children.

Strong family bonds and emotional support are essential for the healthy development of children. The family can provide an environment where children feel loved, valued, and listened to, which contributes to their self-esteem and emotional development.

The family can become involved in social and community programs that are aimed at improving the living conditions of children and adolescents at risk of eradication. These programs may focus on providing financial assistance, medical care, education and emotional support to families in need.

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Families can also be involved in advocating for policies and laws that protect and benefit vulnerable children. The coming together of families can have a significant impact on creating an environment conducive to child well-being.

Thus, the family is a fundamental pillar in the mitigation of child eradication in Ecuador and in any society. By assuming its role of care, protection and emotional support, and by actively participating in social programs and promoting favorable policies, the family can work together with the State to improve the lives of children and reduce the risk of child eradication.

Childhood and Adolescence Code

The rights recognized in the constitution have not been mere coincidence, the application of constitutional mechanisms have allowed to obtain legal tools for the abuse of children and adolescents. For example, the referendum of February 14, 2018, in question number 4, which referred to crimes against minors never prescribe. The child population as of the present referendum is legally protected and it is understood that justice will act in a belligerent manner in defense of the acquired interest.

The Childhood and Adolescence Code (in the third book it mentions about the Decentralized System of Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents) in art. 190 establishes the definition as an articulated and coordinated set of organisms, entities and services, public and private. The present code establishes three levels of the Decentralized National System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents.

1.- Organisms of definition, planning, control and evaluation of policies, which are:

- a. The National Council for Children and Adolescents; and,
 - b. The Cantonal Councils of Childhood and Adolescence;
2. Organizations for the protection, defense and enforcement of rights. They are:
- a. The Cantonal Boards for the Protection of Rights;
 - b. The Administration of Specialized Justice for Children and Adolescents; and,

Other organisms.

3. Policy, plan, program and project execution agencies. They are:

- a. The public entities of care; and,
- b. Private care entities (art.192) (CONA, 2023).

Children and adolescents have rights under the Code of Children and Adolescents, which guarantees comprehensive protection by the state, the family and society. These legal resources are exercised from conception to 18 years of age, guaranteeing rights before the competent authorities (CONA, 2023).

State agencies should support mandatory efforts to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents and thus apply the best interests of the child principle in all cases in which they are violated, as established in the Code of Children and Adolescents:

The best interest of the child is a principle that is aimed at satisfying the effective exercise of all the rights of children and adolescents; and imposes on all administrative and judicial authorities and public and private institutions, the duty to adjust their decisions and actions for their compliance. (art 11, CONA).

The norm is clear and exercises on the child population a mechanism of legal protection, and must be executed by the State and approved by all public or private instances. Therefore, this is due to the fact that the governmental actors execute and make their plans and projects a reality, thinking about education, good nutrition and a full childhood.

International organizations such as the ILO show interest and concern in the worst forms of child labor such as prostitution, child trafficking and slavery, among others. Art. 87 of the CONA establishes prohibitions for adolescent labor that endangers their health, education and physical and psychological integrity.

In Ecuador, current legislation provides the essential legal framework to protect the rights of minors working on the streets. It is imperative that enforcement agencies act in accordance with this code in any context in which they operate. But every day we see many minors selling on state roads, often risking their lives to bring food home. Thus, there are organizations and alliances with the Ecuadorian State, created to work on this problem that affects not only Ecuador, but worldwide, the eradication of child labor has motivated a scenario of continuous struggle to fight through plans and projects based on a legal order so that children and adolescents have the opportunity to study and have an adequate development in society.

Other international organizations and alliances

Ecuadorian legislation on child labor is based on international treaties, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO). These regulations impose the legal framework for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents and the prohibition of child labor in its most dangerous forms.

Among the specific laws and regulations that address child labor in Ecuador are:

ILO Conventions ratified by Ecuador, such as Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor.

Within the framework of international cooperation, several organizations have focused their efforts on addressing child labor in Ecuador. One of the most relevant actors is the International Labor Organization (ILO). The ILO has worked closely with the Ecuadorian government to implement programs and policies aimed at eradicating child labor and promoting decent work for adults (ILO, 2023).

The fight against child labor has also been addressed through international partnerships. UNICEF is a prominent example of an agency that has formed partnerships with the government and other non-governmental organizations in Ecuador. Its approach is based on

prevention and protection of children's rights, seeking to raise awareness in society about the dangers of child labor and to promote access to education and basic services for vulnerable children and adolescents (UNICEF, 2019).

Collaboration between international agencies and the Ecuadorian government has yielded some significant achievements in the fight against child labor. Child protection policies have been implemented, and progress has been made in identifying and eradicating the worst forms of child labor. In addition, monitoring and data collection systems have been strengthened to measure the magnitude of the problem and assess the impact of the results.(UNICEF, 2019)

However, significant challenges remain. Poverty and lack of opportunities continue to be factors that push children and adolescents into early labor. The lack of coordination between different actors and government levels hinders the effective implementation of policies and programs. Also, informal practices and labor exploitation.

Agency control

In order to address this serious problem, the Ecuadorian government has created specialized agencies responsible for formulating policies, implementing programs and supervising actions aimed at eradicating child labor. These institutions seek to coordinate efforts both at the governmental level and with civil society organizations to ensure a comprehensive and effective response.

Ecuador has established various regulatory bodies responsible for monitoring and combating child labor in the country. These institutions play a fundamental role in protecting the rights of children and adolescents and in promoting a safe and healthy environment for their development.

Ecuador's Ministry of Labor is one of the main regulatory bodies responsible for enforcing labor laws, including those related to child labor. The Ministry is responsible for establishing and implementing policies and programs to prevent and eliminate child labor, as well as monitoring working conditions and ensuring compliance with children's labor rights.

According to the report of the Ministry of Labor when referring to child labor in 2021, various strategies have been implemented to combat this issue, including labor work, awareness raising and training for employers and workers, as well as the promotion of alliances with organizations and civil society to address child labor in a comprehensive manner (Ministry of Labor, 2021).

National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC): INEC is the agency responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information in Ecuador. Its work is fundamental to understanding the magnitude and characteristics of child labor in the country. Through surveys and censuses, INEC collects data that allow it to monitor the incidence and trends of child labor in Ecuador.

The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES): The MIES is the agency responsible for formulating, coordinating and evaluating public policies related to the protection and promotion of the rights of children and adolescents in Ecuador. Through its programs and actions, the MIES seeks to guarantee access to education, health, food and other basic services for children in situations of child labor.

Competencies, Monitoring and Follow-up

The National Council for Intergenerational Equality conducted a monitoring report on public policies in 2018 for the eradication of child labor, based on the observance plan, the same that is responsible for monitoring compliance with public policies, starting from threats and violations of rights the same that has interference in the institutionality of the State responsible for guaranteeing the principle of equality and non-discrimination for girls, boys as adolescents, young people and older adults (CNII, 2018).

THE National Council for Intergenerational Equality is a body approved by the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador with the purpose of ensuring the protection of the vulnerable population in Ecuador, created through constitutional and international agreements in defense of human rights.

The observance for the compliance of public policies consists of four axes, the first is the collection of information, carrying out work teams, analyzing the subject, then identifying the regulatory framework, making a diagnosis of child labor and public policies. The second phase

consists of the analysis of the information, identifying national and international regulations as well as the progress in public policies and defining achievements and challenges. The third phase is the elaboration and validation through the main actors of the study through detailed feedback in a report and the last phase of the process is dissemination, which is responsible for socializing the results in both public and private institutions (CNII, 2018).

According to the data obtained in the report of the National Council for Intergenerational Equality it was possible to identify that 8% of the total population of children and adolescents between 5 to 17 years old work in Ecuador, the largest number come from rural areas with 17.42% and a smaller number in urban areas with 2.57% (CNII, 2018).

It is demonstrated that child labor in Ecuador has much to do with the economic conditions that the country is going through and also the Ecuadorian society, it depends a lot to be able to raise the statistics that reflect the impact of policies and programs in the reduction of child labor and exploitation. Thus, INEC in its study from 2007 to 2013 made a comparison of extreme poverty and child labor, showing encouraging data with a reduction from 8.0% to 2.6%, thanks to improved economic conditions in that period. From 2013 to 2018, the margin grew again to 5.4%, which means that the economic conditions in the country were reduced, which directly affected the child population (CNII, 2018).

Therefore, it is worth noting the importance of reducing the gaps between extreme poverty and child labor is so it is necessary to define public policies framed in the current legal regulations as well as suggesting a referendum to reform the constitution in laws that guarantee the rights of the most vulnerable in this case of minors who work in extreme conditions with irrigation activities, as well as minors who are exploited.

Discussion of results

The eradication of child labor is the struggle to preserve the integral care and health of children and adolescents in the face of the economic needs that they may face in their families. Poverty is a key factor in this problem and if we ask ourselves who is responsible for it, perhaps the responsibility will fall on the Ecuadorian state, as well as on the performance of the officials responsible for executing the norms and also in the application of the plans and programs established to eradicate child labor.

Non-governmental organizations and civil society play a key role in raising awareness, promoting children's rights, and implementing programs to support families in vulnerable situations. Preventing child labor also depends on educating and empowering families and communities to recognize children's rights and the negative consequences of child labor on their development. Children and youth themselves also have an important role to play in eliminating child labor by knowing their rights, reporting abuses, and seeking educational opportunities.

Legal regulations can include significant sanctions and penalties for companies and employers that violate labor regulations related to child labor. These sanctions can be a deterrent and help ensure compliance with laws.

Conclusions

State responsibility in the control of agencies responsible for the eradication of child labor is necessary to effectively address this problem. Governments must make a clear commitment to guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, establish sound policies and provide the necessary resources to enable the agencies to carry out their important work. Only through cooperation and joint efforts can we move towards a world free of child labor and ensure a decent future for generations to come.

The competence for the design and promotion of state policies to eradicate child labor is an articulated work between the state through inter-institutional agreements through the (MIES) Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and the (MT) Ministry of Labor, it is also important the international support of the (ILO) International Labor Organization and UNICEF, agencies that provide technical advice to the state with the design of standards that benefit children and adolescents through the (CONEPTI) National Committee for the Progressive Eradication of Child Labor. The results of the exercise of the state agencies are quantified and evaluated by INEC through data collection that allows for a real diagnosis of the impact of policies, and thus be able to design laws that aim to completely eradicate child labor.

The State, the family and society are responsible for stopping the increase of children on the streets and adolescents in precarious working conditions. The State, as the main responsible, is in charge of applying the laws established in the constitution to guarantee the

health, protection and integral wellbeing of minors; the family is in charge of supporting education, health and providing a dignified life in the family environment; and finally, society is responsible for ensuring that the rights of children are fulfilled and, if they are violated, that the law is applied in each hierarchical order.

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