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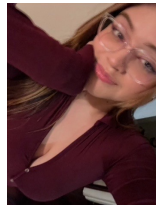
REVISTA

JUVENTUD Y CIENCIA SOLIDARIA:

En el camino de la investigación

THE TRUE REASON FOR IMMIGRATION

Carla Mariela Santacruz Muñoz



My name is **Carla Mariela Santacruz Muñoz**. I am sixteen years old. I'm currently studying in my last year of high school at East Side High School. I like going to the beach, seeing sunsets, hearing music, passing time with my family and friends, and playing with my cat. I want to study Forensic Psychology and criminal justice at Montclair State University.

Abstract

In this article, I'm going to talk about immigration and add my point of view. I wanted to inform the reader a bit more about what really is immigration, the main reason for this action, how dangerous it is, and if it is worth it. I wanted to add my point of view because I have experienced immigration about 6 years ago. I want to explain this because immigration is an action that has been increasing in the last few years. I think that if people read and analyze the true story behind this they can have more empathy with people that are trying to emigrate.

Key words: Ecuador, economy, country, immigration, and people

Explanation of the topic

Immigration and my personal experience

Immigration is an action that has been present from 1820-1860 into now. It's the reality for a lot of people. Due to many reasons like the economy, and bad education that the districts may offer, sometimes the country is very dangerous or violence is always present, and even for reasons beyond their control, they have to leave their native country. For most people, this is a scary decision because they don't have a clue about what they could find in a new country. Language, different cultures, having no close family, and starting from zero can become a trauma later on.

People come to do the hard work that native people don't want to do. Looking for opportunities that cannot be found in their home countries.

I am from Ecuador and immigration is related to my personal experience. My family and I immigrated to the United States when I was 9 years old. My father was a heavy material transporter and my mother was a housewife. Due to the lack of work and the bad economic situation of my parents, they made the decision to emigrate to another country. When my family moved to the United States it was a difficult situation. We had to start from zero. In the beginning, my parents needed to find an apartment, the necessary basics for the apartment, and food. My mom was surprised by the price difference compared to Ecuador. Little by little everything began to happen in our new lives. Then they had to find jobs for them and schools for me and my brother. As a result of my academic abilities, I was a school year ahead.

Adjusting to a new education and a different life, in general, has not been an abrupt change. Having the support of the bilingual program in New Jersey helped me a lot with the language barrier. Since my first year attending the new district, I still maintained my average Ecuador grades. Receiving many diplomas, medals, and awards shows me that I am capable of being the same quality student that I was in my country. Now, I am in my last year of school, four months away from my graduation. Where I will not only earn my high school diploma, but also a two-year associate's degree from Essex County College and a bilingual translator certificate.

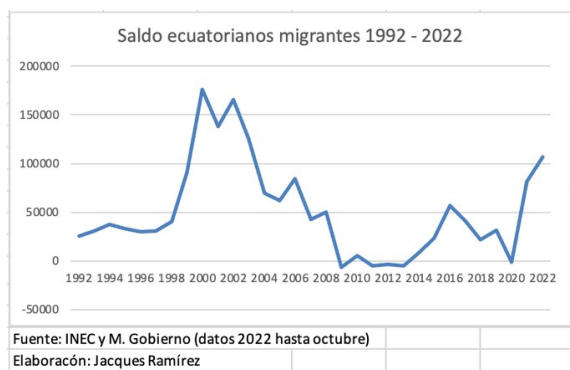


Figura 1. Middle school graduation
Fuente: [1]

Why do people immigrate?

Doing some research and looking back at my own personal experience. I can say that the main and most important reason why people immigrate is the bad economic situation that the country has. The lack of work, and parents looking for a better future. Not only in Ecuador but in the whole world the economy is one of the strongest reasons for making people take the decision of immigrating. Looking back on the main event that Ecuador went through in 2016, the big earthquake, hurt a lot the economy. That took 3% of the PIB. This put the country in a stagnant economy. Almost 60,000 people have immigrated from Ecuador during this year. Losing parts of the country made the economy enter into a really bad situation.

Migrant detentions at the Mexican Border 2000-2022

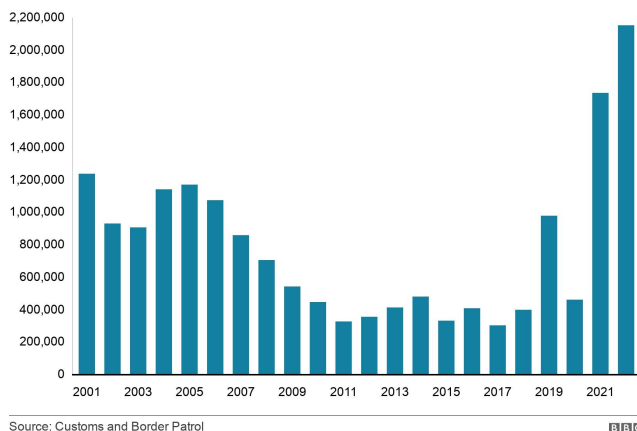


Figura 2. Desierto de ropa en Chile
Fuente: [2]

How dangerous it is to immigrate?

A lot of people think that coming to the US is easy but in reality, can take up to 1 year to get to the dream destination. Like everything in life, depends. Even though in Ecuador people can actually get a travel visa not everyone is lucky. Most of the time people get their visas declined because of different factors like how they answer the questions, their budget, and their economy. Exist two ways of coming to the US. If people come across the border they are exposed to any type of danger like violence, victims of organized crime, losing contact with people, getting captured by the guards at the board, getting lost in the desert, dying of hunger or dehydration, and drowning in the

Bravo River. According to an article from Univision says “between the fiscal years of 1998 and 2021, there have been an average of 359 deaths, about one death per day for 24 years”

Just focusing on the dangerous way, from my point of view, I can say that people really are desperate and worried about what they are going to do in the future for their families. Putting their lives in danger is proof of how badly the country can affect families and their environment. I consider that no one should go through this type of pain or suffer. I think that the government should take all this information and see what they can do to make a better country. Also, the guides that bring them can take advantage of this. The guides usually charge a lot for the whole trip, between 5,000 and 20,000 per person and they don't guarantee that they will get to the US safely or at life [2].

Is immigration worth it?

Knowing that people may die, get robbed, or be killed can fill the weakness of those poor people that just want to have a better life. Besides that, immigration is worth it. From my experience, I can say that it is very worth it in all aspects. Kids can learn another language, have expanded knowledge, and they can create a better future for themselves. For the parents, it's also worth it because they can have a better economy to offer.

From my personal experience, I can say that immigrating is really worth it. Thanks to the fact that I'm a bilingual person, I would have a better education, I can discover more places and learn new cultures, and also thanks to the effort that my parents make every day I have a better economic position here in the US. Hearing that many people agree to say that coming to the US is a good decision supports my way of thinking.

Conclusions

Lastly, I chose to speak about my personal experience because I want to let people know the story behind immigration. Evidently, every family has a different situation and story. The main cause for leaving the country is the economy. Around the world, about 13.6 % of people immigrate just to the US per year. This act is what keeps people with hope for their future. Most parents do this for their kids and vice versa. They want them to be able to have a different type of life. People putting their life in danger by crossing the border, leaving the country, leaving their families, and starting from zero should be an example for people to not give up on easy things. On the other hand, I wanted to highlight the advantage of immigrating like having a better education, a better economy, and learning new languages and cultures.

Thanks

I want to thank to Ana Maria Parra that inviting me to be part of this magazine, thanks to her I can tell a part of my story as an immigrant. Also, thanks to my parents that put me through this because of that now I'm the type of person that I'm right now. And, thanks to God that gives me the capacity to fulfill the expectations that people have about me.

Referencias

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- [2] BBC News, «Title 42: Trump-era border policy creates headache for Biden», *BBC News*, 20 de septiembre de 2022. [En línea]. Disponible en: <https://shorturl.at/inMZ7>