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# Pregnant women and the ignorance of their rights as a priority attention group

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#### **Abstract**

Ecuador currently has a so-called "priority attention group" defined by article #35 of the constitution of the Republic of Ecuador as a select group of people who receive priority attention, within this group of people women can be highlighted. pregnant women, who are unaware of their rights as a priority attention group, which limits them in labor, educational and social spheres.

### **Key words**

Priority care, pregnant women, equality.

#### Introduccion

Usually the concept of "priority attention groups" tends to be related to words such as poverty, exclusion, marginalization, vulnerability, inequality and dependence, terms used to describe the living situation or daily life of people belonging to underdeveloped or third world countries. In the case of pregnant women, they are unaware that they belong to this priority care group, placing them in a situation of vulnerability.

This vulnerability manifests itself in the abuse and neglect of a group of pregnant women who do not realize that they too are a high-risk group for such abuse. Today, these cases are considered serious social problems.

Pregnant women are considered a priority attention group, yet many are unaware of their rights. According to Flores et al. (2022), Ecuador has a high rate of adolescent pregnancy, which is associated with factors such as lack of education, poverty, and inadequate access to healthcare. Bonifaz Díaz et al. (2020) also emphasize the need for prioritization of risk factors in teenage pregnancy sets. Furthermore, Escobar Suárez et al. (2020) highlight the complications that can arise from hypothyroidism during pregnancy. These studies demonstrate the importance of addressing the needs of pregnant women and providing them with adequate information about their rights to ensure their health and well-being.

Thus, pregnant women are unaware of their belonging to priority care groups and this is accompanied by ignorance of the mechanisms that these priority care groups provide to guarantee material equality within society in order to realize the free exercise of rights.

Pregnant women often face challenges in accessing their rights and receiving adequate care during pregnancy. This is particularly true when it comes to proper nutrition during pregnancy, which can have a significant impact on the health of both the fetus and the newborn. Research conducted by Chachalo Sandoval et al. (2023) and Puetate Paucar et al. (2022) using neutrosophic methods highlight the importance of education about nutrition during pregnancy. Unfortunately, many pregnant women are not aware of this important information, as pointed out by Iglesias Quintana et al. (2022) who conducted a neutrosophic analysis of the violation of the rights of pregnant working women. This underscores the need for greater education and advocacy to ensure that pregnant women are aware of their rights and the importance of proper nutrition during pregnancy.

Unjustly and sadly, many pregnant girls in this group are ostracized and forgotten by the government, leaving them alive alone and perhaps without hope of helping their families. On the other hand, people belonging to this group are more susceptible to chronic diseases and disabilities. In recent years there has been an increase in cases of physical and emotional violence, so it is considered the most vulnerable group, which is an important part of today's society, and will increase in the coming years with the increase in violence.

Within Ecuador, pregnancy in girls and adolescents is a very common problem, while at least 12% of girls and adolescents between 10 and 19 years of age have been pregnant, being a very common cause the lack of knowledge of contraceptive methods. (Data obtained from the Rapid Analysis of Gender Ecuador 2021).

It is estimated that 12% of girls and adolescents between 10-19 years old have been pregnant at least once and Ecuador recognizes that 80% of teenage pregnancies are the result of sexual abuse. Ecuador has become one of the Latin American countries with the highest rate of child pregnancies: 111 per 1,000 girls and adolescents between 15-19 years of age become pregnant in Ecuador. (Rapid Analysis of Gender Ecuador, CARE. 2021).

The job opportunity that women who are mothers have is also linked to the age at which they conceived their child, because women who were mothers at an early age have fewer job opportunities, since the conception of a child means a break in the individual rights of women. So they must prepare for the birth of their child, meaning in many cases until the abandonment of their studies which in turn takes away opportunities in life.

With regard to participation in the labor market, according to the United Nations Population Fund, women who became mothers in adolescence have a specific rate of labor inactivity of 37.5%, while women who were mothers of adult age have a specific rate of labor inactivity of 34.8%. These data show that the gap in participation in the labor market between women who became mothers in adolescence and who had their first child in adulthood is 3.5%. In this way, those who were mothers in adolescence participate 10.26% less in the labor market than those who were mothers in adulthood. As stated in multiple studies, non-participation in paid activities is related to the performance of unpaid work within the home such as care and maintenance tasks of the home. (Unfpa., 2020).

#### Materials and methods

For the development of the research work that seeks to design a training model that is applied to the community describing the social problems of pregnant women regarding the knowledge of their rights as a vulnerable group, the qualitative methodology is applied, with a positivist approach (Palella & Martins, 2015). A non-experimental model is developed since no variable was manipulated to respond to the research problem posed.

The non-experimental design demanded that the research be; First, a field study, in order to collect primary data on the facts or phenomena directly from the reality where they occur. Second, at the exploratory level, since the purpose is to have an approximate vision of the knowledge that pregnant women have about their rights as a priority attention group in the selected sample and the impact of ignorance in the selected sample. It is also a cross-sectional investigation because the data collected correspond to a single moment (Palella & Martins, 2015).

The method implemented within the research work was the hypothetical deductive method thatdeals with the method that starts from a hypothesis or initial explanation, and then obtain particular conclusions from it, which will then be in turn tested experimentally. That is, it comprises an initial step of empirical inferences (observation, for example) that allow to deduce an initial hypothesis that is then subjected to experimentation. (Etecé Publishing House, 2021)

Regarding the population sample under study, it was taken in a non-probabilistic and intentional manner, according to the criteria defined by the researchers In this sense that they were pregnant women of medium and low economic resources of the Mocache canton.

To do the fieldwork and collect the research data, the survey technique was used, defined by Palella & Martins (2015), as "a technique applicable to broad

sectors of the universe, to obtain data from people whose opinions interest the researcher. To do this, a questionnaire is used to be answered in writing.

# **Results**

In accordance with the approach of this project (mixed) another of the applied research techniques was the qualitative interview, which will help with the research process, contributing with the collection of fresh and truthful qualitative data.

The qualitative interview conventionally involves the following characteristics: a face-to-face realization that occurs in the place where the interviewee is, lives, works or attends; It develops from a verbal exchange mediated by your consent according to a pattern of interrogation.(Retamal, 2021)

# Interview questions to the MGS. Tanya Torres responsible for the promotion and equality in health and nutrition of district 12D03

- 1. What role do you hold?
- 2. Because of this question, MGS. Tanya Crespo was able to state that she is responsible for the promotion and equality in health and nutrition of district 12D03 that covers the cantons: Quevedo- Mocache- Buena Fe- Valencia-Health.
- 3. What functions and duties do you perform within your job?
- 4. Because of this question, MGS. Tanya Crespo was able to state that she is responsible for developing personal health skills, developing favorable environments for health and promoting and promoting healthy public policies. The interviewee was able to express that when referring to this, she means that she is responsible for training public servants in charge of health so that they have the necessary skills to provide a quality service.
- 5. Likewise, the development of favorable environments for health entails the constant evaluation of public health centers, in order to verify that they have the necessary conditions and supplies to provide quality and inclusive care.
- 6. Do you know what priority attention groups are? Did you know that pregnant women belong to these groups?
- Because of this question, MGS. Tanya Crespo was able to express that if she has knowledge about the priority attention groups, she alleges that their definition is found in article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador of 2008.
- 8. How many pregnant women go to public health centers in Mocache every day?
- 9. Because of this question, MGS Tanya Crespo was able to state that 10 pregnant women are usually treated daily at the public health center in Mocache.
- 10. Do you think these women are aware of their rights to free health care and their rights as a priority care group?

- 11. Because of this question, MGS. Tanya Crespo was able to express that public health centers have promotion and impulse policies, but that even so it is difficult to reach all the people who come to it, it is common to observe that the informative brochures do not attract attention, and the ignorance that pregnant women have in terms of their rights either as pregnant women or as a priority attention group is a palpable problem.
- 12. Legal research plays a critical role in addressing the issue of pregnant women's rights in Ecuador, especially in the context of post-pandemic social problems. According to Estupiñán Ricardo, Leyva Vázquez, and Hernández (2022), legal research can contribute significantly to developing policies and interventions that prioritize pregnant women's needs and rights as a priority attention group. Fernández, Gómez, and Ricardo (2021) further emphasize the importance of scientific research in higher education, which can help educate students and professionals about the legal frameworks and regulations that protect pregnant women's rights. Moreover, the study by Estupiñán Ricardo, Leyva Vázquez, Peñafiel Palacios, and El Assafiri Ojeda (2021) highlights the significance of intellectual property rights and artificial intelligence in promoting the protection of pregnant women's rights. By leveraging legal research and related fields, it is possible to improve pregnant women's access to legal information, raise awareness about their rights, and address the ignorance of their rights as a priority attention group.

# **Conclusions**

- 1. Article 35 of Ecuador of Ecuador in the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador of 2008 determines the priority attention groups, thus categorizing pregnant women as a subject belonging to these priority attention groups, providing them with more rights that protect and safeguard their interests as humans and as future mothers. in order to make Ecuador an egalitarian country where discrimination is not a reality or perhaps a less obvious social problem.
- 2. Ecuadorian legislation provides for pregnant women within Ecuadorian territory to be placed in a situation of equality, where the State protects their rights free of charge and promotes their inclusion so that pregnant women are not discriminated against and have the same opportunities as the rest of the population.
- 3. The project designs and presents a model of training by levels that will allow quality training attached to the Deming cycle seeking the continuous improvement of these, which in turn will serve to combat social phenomena that take place in society and affect certain groups in particular.
- 4. Pregnant women belong to the priority attention group, which places them in a situation of positive discrimination, so that this particular group feels comfortable with their lives and the enjoyment of their rights is effective.

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