

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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A Never-Ending Cycle of Hopelessness and Despair? Absolutely Not!

A baby girl was born in the village of Liguiqui recently. Her three-year-old cousin, a boy, lives across the street. Besides being related to each other, what do they have in common? What do they share? Unless there is a significant change, they will have the same life as their parents and grandparents. Truncated education, lack of employment, early parenthood, and poor health are just some of the things they will have in common. Just like the generations before them. It is an endless cycle of poverty.



Today's generation of young people is very large. According to Statista, 24% of the population in Latin America are less than 15 years old. How well they navigate their childhood and adolescence will determine not only the course of their own lives but also that of their community and country. Yet, too many Ecuadorian children are unable to participate fully in society. In the rural village of Liguiqui, about 25% of children between the ages of 9 and 12 can't read or write. Much of that problem lies at the foot of poverty both in the village and the country. Before Covid, there was no internet in the village and while the government installed a connection to support online educational content (which came about six months after the country shut down), many families did not have devices or were not able to afford Wi-Fi. At the present time, fewer than half of girls finish high school and only 59% of boys receive a high school diploma. Their future dilemma will be the choice between living in poverty or participating in the drug crime that is very prevalent in Ecuador.

In the past 76 years, international organizations and institutions have poured billions into developing countries in a futile attempt to eradicate poverty. While there have been hopeful signs, especially pre-Covid, nothing much has changed. The reasons are economically, socially and environmentally complex. New methodologies are required to examine, identify and act on the problem.

**HELP THE CHILDREN OF
LIGUIQUI**

DONATE HERE

Currently, Dos Corrientes is researching and considering its education component once again with a view to including a youth leadership development program.

This has the potential to have a ground-breaking effect. Youth are the potential and future of developing countries and, indeed, the world. The construction of a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable community depends on youth engagement. A leadership program would help children accomplish by:

- Realizing the importance of education and how it underpins everything that they do.
- Understanding that their choices have a lifelong impact.
- Being aware of the significance of climate change and their role in asking for and affecting change.
- Knowing that pollution affects both their ocean and their land environment.
- Realizing that good health begins with food choices.
- Understanding that economic and social development for their community begins recognition of local youth being the voice of change.
- Participating in addressing global issues and helping be a local guiding force in accelerating the realization of the UN 2030 SDGs.



The vision of Dos Corrientes is to create a transferable community development model to alleviate poverty and encourage self-sufficiency. Foundational aspects of the model address food sovereignty, education, sustainability, and employment.

Dos Corrientes has implemented an innovative “Boots on the Ground” project. Our support is local and thus far, the project has produced positive outcomes in the lives of participants.

The interference of governments and corporate policies.

Truncated education, lack of employment, early parenthood and poor health have created an endless cycle of poverty. Research shows the most effective method of change is experimental education.

To effect this change, the project will provide an educational program in Leadership Development for impoverished youth in Ecuador that provides training in English, a Junior Farmer Program, Environmental Awareness and Money Matters. This will result in incentives for youth to stay in school, lead others by example and facilitate opportunities for self-employment and community growth.



Repair the School Project

A Success in the Making

In last month's Dos Corrientes Journal, a request was made for help in painting and repairing the two-room elementary school. Thank you to all who made a financial contribution. Slightly over \$5,000 CDN was raised. Work has commenced and here are a few "before and after" pictures.

BEFORE

DURING

AFTER

Bathrooms



Classroom 1



Outside

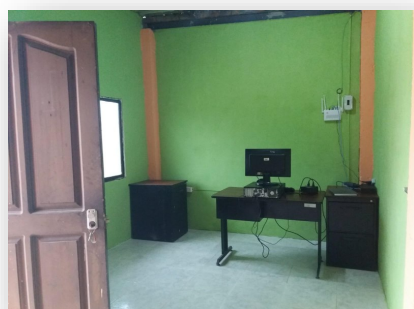


Playground



Teacher's Office

BEFORE



AFTER

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world"

-Nelson Mandela