

Poverty incidence in the Province of Santa Elena: poverty opinion in Julio Moreno

OLIVES- Juan, CARCELÉN- Francisca, BENAVIDES- Arturo, ALEJANDRO- Carola

Universidad Estatal Península de Santa Elena, La Libertad, Ecuador.

Received November 21, 2012; Accepted March 22, 2013

This paper presents a comparative analysis of the development variables involving poverty reduction, with the statistical information is to identify relevant aspects of spatial inequality within the province of Santa Elena for the different trends and conditions set poverty experienced some peninsular parishes regarding the cantonal capitals and nearby parishes to these urban spaces.

Poverty, NBI, Ecuador, Humand Development

Citation: Olives J, Carcelén F, Benavides A, Alejandro C. Poverty incidence in the Province of Santa Elena: poverty opinion in Julio Moreno. ECORFAN Journal-Mexico 2014, 5-12: 961-972

† Researcher contributing first author.

Introduction

The process of change of the Ecuadorian State generates a favorable situation to understand the impact of social policies. It has been expanded the Access to databases, especially the public nature data with processed statistics of primary sources and, also with access to data from different census and socioeconomic surveys, conducted periodically in the country. This process joins the priority to generate knowledge in the state policy.

Despite the National progress, significant gaps remain in the availability of local processed information (provincial, cantonal, parish), which is certainly a barrier in the evaluation and diagnostication of improvements in the institutional actuating and execution of policies in the territory.

One of the relevant aspects of this study is the ability to articulate the interdisciplinary capacities in the Organization and Development Community (Faculty of Social Sciences and Health) of the Universidad Estatal Península de Santa Elena, to review the variables that influence the development conditions of the Province of Santa Elena.

Considering the great efforts in the country to eradicate poverty, this paper reviews the behavior of this variable in Ecuador in recent decades, with the information from the National Census of Population and Housing of 1990.

At the same time, is set a comparative analysis of the behavior of this variable with the data from the Province of Santa Elena, making a review of intercensal level periods and series of time from the last years, relating these behaviors with some relevant historical aspects on the mainland.

Statistics show that in Latin America there has been a significant reduction in poverty, although it remains one of the most unequal regions in the world. According to ECLAC the major inequalities are territorial, between groups and several dimensions of human development. Despite the progress in the HDI (ANNEX), these gaps may hide significant difficulties in terms of the achievement of human development. (ECLAC 2010).

Ecuador shows encouraging results and is presented as a country that reduced poverty and inequality (measured by the Gini index variation); however despite these advances, the Ecuadorian society is still far from achieving the ideal situation of justice and social equity.

The study also attempts to identify relevant aspects of territorial inequality inside the province of Santa Elena, expressed in different development and poverty experienced that are living some peninsular parishes respect to the county seats and parishes near these urban spaces.

This study starts with a review of general literature to conceptualize poverty and inequality. Poverty is analyzed in terms of incomes and unsatisfied basic needs, from data provided by the census of Population and Housing since 1990. In the case of Santa Elena, both analysis and census data have been reinforced with the Land management plan of the Province 2012-2021, a document with an important economic, political and social diagnosis.

Historical and theoretical context

References related to poverty are diverse () and they have been adapted over time from diverse ideological currents, taking into account other aspects that affect the people and dynamic societies, becoming a multidimensional concept and a permanent construction.

Both the concept and the measurement of poverty have significantly evolved ();povertysituations in developing countries have raised demands of conceptualization, proposals that exceed the theoretical frameworks, leading to obtain ambiguous results. However, the concept still has a descriptive meaning of a social situation and for that reason it should be studied within the framework of a theory of income distribution and social inequalities in general (Altimir 1979).

Traditionally poverty has been regarded as the absence or lack of wellbeing expressed in a structural situation that prevents people satisfy their basic needs, by excluding them from the minimum threshold to expand their human potential. Poverty is the lack and denial of the prerequisites for human development (Larrea, 2006).

The emphasis on meeting basic needs (NB) is present in the methodological orientation of studies sponsored by international organizations such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which conceives poverty as the situation affecting households that fail, relatively stable, the necessary resources to satisfy the basic needs of its members.

As a result these people or groups do not reach an adequate physical and psychological development and therefore do not have access to the diverse economic, social and cultural possibilities of modern society (ECLAC, 1997)

Likewise, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) notes that "poverty refers to the provisions of those in households to satisfy their basic needs" but also related to the "absence of certain individual and collective capabilities" (1997). It is incorporated other elements and is associated to "the deprivation of the most fundamental opportunities and choices of human development: live a healthy, creative and long life to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, self-respect and others "(SIISE, 2001)

The World Bank definition also associated the poverty to the lack of resources needed to ensure the wellbeing material but highlighting issues such as the access to food, housing, land and other assets "Poverty entails a lack of resources which leads to hunger and physical deprivation "(University of Guayaquil, 2002).

Another approach, which emphasizes consumption as an appearance, is part of the methodology of the Integrated System of Social Indicators of Ecuador (SIISE), which considered as poor "those who belong to households whose per capita consumption in a given period is below to the poverty line, which is understood as the monetary equivalent of the cost of a basic basket of goods and services per person per period of time (usually fortnightly or monthly) "(SIISE, 2001).

The cited references are the multidimensional nature of poverty, the variety of factors that can determine it and extensive network of institutional actors who analyze it.

This obviously gives rise to a variety of ways to measure it, between estimations based on income, consumption, unmet basic needs, high levels of inequality, low levels of education, low level of institutionalization, low productivity of the economy, among others.

In Latin America the predominant forms to estimate the incidence of poverty is based on the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) whose definition, described in studies of the Andean Community of Nations and SIISE, considers with poverty level to households which may have one of the following conditions (Mideros 2012).

- Housing with inadequate physical characteristics.
- Housing with inadequate services (offline to aqueducts or pipes, or without health connected to sewage or septic tank).
- Home with high economic dependence (with more than 3 members per person and the boss of the house had approved more than two years of primary education).
- Home where there are children who are not attending school.
- Home in a state of critical overcrowding.

In Ecuador the estimate based on household income, closely related to the consumption dimension has become more important in recent years. In this context, is defined as "poor", people who belong to households whose per capita income in a given period is below the poverty line, which is the monetary equivalent of the cost of a basic basket of goods and services (SIISE 2001).

Application of the case study

The study assumes as a valorative framework, that the poverty is a situation in which there is absolute or relative deprivation of the satisfaction of a set of central human needs, both psychological and political material (Hammarskjold Report, 1975; Ghai, 1977). However, given the availability of information and technical legal, instances that handle the policy management in our country, this first analysis of poverty from the two most common methods of measurement¹: one based on the levels of income (Y) and the other based on the unsatisfied basic needs (NBI), identifying the main changes and their potential impact on diverse stages .

The information related to income poverty, was obtained from the National Information System, which is supplied with the official data² obtained from the survey of living conditions (poverty line and extreme poverty by consumption) and the income information of the survey of employment, unemployment and underemployment. For the analysis of poverty by NBI (households), the information generated was used from the results of the last 3 population and housing censuses in the country in 1990, 2001 and 2010, which was obtained the national, provincial and cantonal poverty data.

¹ Called DIRECT METHOD (NBI-Based on census data) and INDIRECT METHOD (For Income-incidence measured relative to a defined poverty line)

² Information obtained by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, INEC.

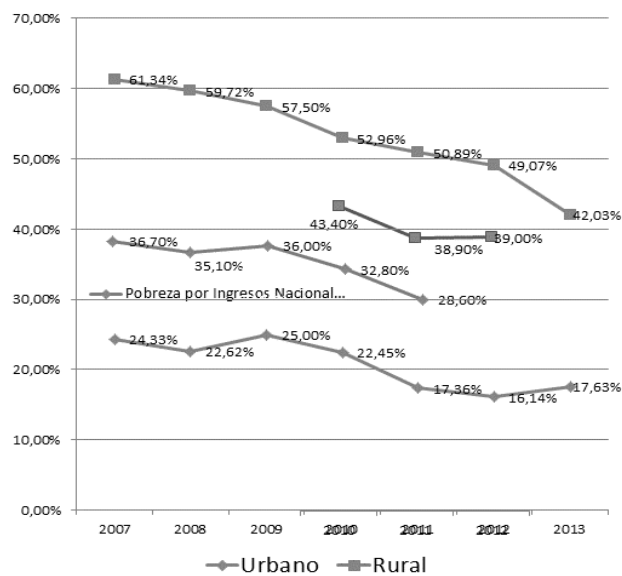
Evolution on the incidence of poverty by incomes

This first appearance with the premise that one of the most important variables when poverty is measured is incomes, which are considered a safe vehicle to access to essential goods and services.

Official poverty statistics calculated for the period of analysis, show a significant decline in the country, a trend that could be influenced by the increase of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the impact of social policies implemented in the country since 2007. During the same period we can see that the opposite trend in the real GDP and social investment in the country (estimated as a percentage of GDP), have increased significantly, highlighting areas as expenses in direct transfers and subsidies, the elimination of access barriers to education and health and improving the distribution and access to productive factors.

Although the trend is decreasing, disaggregating this variable by areas, it is interesting to observe that the decline in poverty by income in rural areas has declined much faster than in urban areas and that the decrease of the latter begins to decelerate since 2011 giving a change in this trend between 2012 and 2013. Despite the difference in reduction rates, it is estimated that in 2013 the incidence of poverty by incomes in rural areas is still higher than compared to urban (42.03% vs 17.63%), which shows a large territorial inequality gaps that have existed and still exist in our country.

Evolution in poverty by incomes



Graphic 1

Source: INEC 2013 Database

Drawn up by: Authors

Another necessary aspect to emphasize is that although poverty in a national and provincial level drops, are significant the distances between the two series. Added to this is that the decline in the Province of Santa Elena is getting slower, although in the same period the state investment in the province has had a significant rebound not only for the creation of the institutional infrastructure, but also the direct public investment in the agricultural sector (PIDASE project), education (schools of the millennium), infrastructure (storage terminal for liquefied gas, Spondylus Trail, San Vicente Dam). In the case of Santa Elena, this fact is very important since most of its territory is rural³, and even more in the canton with the same name (provincial capital) where the majority of its population is in the rural area.

³ The conditions of urban-rural inequality are present for example in the average years of schooling for people with 24 years and over, 7.7 in the rural area vs. 9.6 in the urban area.

Evolution of the incidence of poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs

The review of poverty by NBI is done with the premise that this indicator is a necessary to design public policies, especially at the local level, since the provision of basic services influence the access to other key aspects for the welfare of people, especially those related to health. For example, in our country, the prevalence of child malnutrition (36% concentrated in quintile 1) is more important than in the high quintiles, especially in the chronic type of malnutrition (SENPLADES, 2013).

Poverty figures for NBI also have been declining in Ecuador. In the last two intercensal periods (1990-2001 and 2001-2010), shows that in 1990, three out of four Ecuadorians are living in poverty by NBI (76%); this figure decreased slightly from 2001 (71%) and slightly faster in 2010 (56%).

However, disaggregating by areas, it is observed that this trend is similar only in the urban area from 61% of poor people by NBI in 1990 to 42% in 2010 (always below to the national average). In rural areas, the figures show a different reality; not only with a slower decline, but also remains high (96% in 1990 and 82% in 2010), higher levels than the country had over 20 years ago.

Checking with a further disaggregation, it is observed that poverty indicators by NBI in the cantons that form the Santa Elena Province (before Guayas Province) have been superior to the country data. Salinas in 2010 equals the national average and its decline curve is different from the provincial capital with 2010 data (79%) higher than Ecuador in 1990 (slightly less than the poverty rural data excepted by NBI)

It is noteworthy that in 1990 the cantons of the new province (La Libertad was still part of Salinas) had an average of about 100% of incidence of poverty by NBI (ANNEX).

In the case of Santa Elena Province, the factors that influence this high poverty rate by NBI is the geographic dispersion in the rural context and the rapid and uncontrolled growth of the population in the major population centers, especially La Libertad and the county seats of Salinas and Santa Elena, which would explain the high deficit in the coverage of basic services.

An additional lecture related to territorial inequality factors, shows that there are parishes where poverty has not changed by NBI, being the most extreme case Simón Bolívar⁴ where poverty declined less than 1% by NBI (100% in 1990 and 99.68% in 2010). A close case is Chanduy where the decrease in the same period was less than 5%. In other words, although exist high levels, there was a more rapid decline in rural parishes near to the county seats (Ancon, José Luis Tamayo⁵ and Anconcito) and slightly slower decline in parishes located in areas with agricultural and tourist influence (Manglaralto and Colonche)⁶.

⁴ Commonly named Julio Moreno, identified as one of the country's poorest areas.

⁵ Better known as Muey; although it is identified as rural parish is equipped with a Self-Government Decentralization Parish, Jose Luis Tamayo form part of the conurbation made up of the county seats of Santa Elena, La Libertad and Salinas. It is estimated that a few years Anconcito and Ancon will be in a similar situation.

⁶ The presence of beaches and services near to the Spondylus Routes and the greater availability of water for production are characteristics of this area.

Significant qualitative aspects of the Province of Santa Elena

The Santa Elena Peninsula is an area located in the central coastal area of Ecuador. It has a variety of climatic zones and soil types: coastal areas, mountain areas (rainforest drizzle) and flat areas with small elevations (dry forest), which determine the possibility of numerous types of productive activities especially fishing, agriculture, mining and tourism. However, their diversity makes it an important area of contrasts and characteristics that undoubtedly have an influence in their current level of development:

- In 2007, this micro-region gained a Province administrative policy category, when was separated from the Province of Guayas, being conformed administratively by three counties and 8 rural parishes (ANNEX MAP). This led to the creation of a significant number of provincial departments of public institutions, in addition the creation of the Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government (GAD).
- The population of the province in 2010 was approximately 308,000 inhabitants (2.1% of the national population), a figure influenced by the migration of people from numerous places along the coast and mountains of Ecuador. By 2014 the population projection is over 350 thousand inhabitants while in 2020 would reach 400 thousand.
- According to the 2010 census, 5.9% to the population lived in another province, five years before; this percentage could be increased by the effects of tourism and commercial development, the opening of spaces in the public service (from the creation of a new province) and migration of Colombians to our country. Santa Elena is the province with the highest growth rate of population (3.00% in the period 2001 - 2010).
- Most of the 3000 km² in the province is formed by rural areas; of which over the 90% are under the jurisdiction of the canton of St. Helena, which is one of the largest (in area) and lower population density, which contrast demographically with La Libertad (neighboring town) which is the smallest and the most densely populated urban country.
- The differences between urban and rural areas are more pronounced than the differences between cantons. Three of the existing rural parishes (Ancon, and José Luis Tamayo Anconcito), are almost integrated to the urban area formed by three county seats. In urban areas, basic services have good coverage but not in popular sectors and in rural areas where deficiencies are multiplied by the distance of sites of provision of basic social services.

- The main weakness of the province is given by the lack of sources of water for human consumption and irrigation. The public drinking water is supplied by a system that takes water from the Duale Peripa reservoir through several interconnected dams, representing a high cost of driving and a permanent risk of disruption by external factors.
- In a rural community levels the set of systems that are fed from underground sources that throughout time, have been affected by the effects of deforestation in the upper watershed areas where they are located.
- Despite the difficulties with water resources, according to statistics from the INEC, Santa Elena is the second province with the highest water consumption (more than 38 m³, above the average where the national consumption is approximately 27 m³). Also is not available a treatment collection and reuse strategy of rainwater or wastewater.

There is a diversity of conditions, determined by characteristics related to natural resource endowment and road connectivity; towards the north (especially Manglaralto) is counted with a better road infrastructure (Spondylus road) and a large tourism development around the beach. In the intermediate mountain zone of Chongón-Colonche, Parishes and Simon Bolivar Colonche (Julio Moreno), prolonged droughts have affected the production and hence the employment conditions of the population. To this is added the deficiencies of t secondary access routes and basic and social services that influence the migration of young people to the cities, leaving many adults and seniors in communities.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Poverty has been declining in the recent years in our country, similar to Latin America; however, the current figures are still high, showing that this is one of the outstanding development tasks: getting millions of people to overcome this condition and therefore the inequality factors that contribute to it.
- In general there are great differences in the behavior of the reduction of poverty by area (urban and rural). This is more significant in rural areas where income poverty has a greater decrease by NBI whose changes are barely visible making that the existing conditions remain above the average of the country for more than two decades ago.
- But also there is decreasing trend of poverty indicators of the cantons that form the Province of Santa Elena (before Guayas Province). Disaggregating the figures it is shown that the differences between urban and rural areas (including one county) are greater than the mean differences between cantons.
- In the same direction the necessity of evaluating the impact of productive development programs (including agricultural, artisanal fishing and tourism) in the improving of income levels of the rural areas of the province, appears to be identifying aspects that can be replicated, strengthened or corrected, and especially be complemented by investment in satisfying their basic needs.

The status of natural resources is a central issue for the Province, and from which they can look public policies focused on poverty reduction, since we have the access and the control. In this way, for example, water has the main source of supply outside the territory which involves high costs and risk of transfer, compromising the sustainability and development of this region.

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Statistical Annex

América Latina (4 países): personas en situación de pobreza y de indigencia alrededor de 2005, de 2011 y 2012 (En porcentajes)									
País	Alrededor de 2005			Alrededor de 2011			2012		
	Año	Pobreza	Indigencia	Año	Pobreza	Indigencia	Año	Pobreza	Indigencia
Perú	2003	52,5	21,4	2011	27,8	6,3	2012	25,8	6
Chile	2006	13,7	3,2	2011	11	3,1	-	-	-
Colombia	2005	45,2	13,9	2011	34,2	10,7	2012	32,9	10,4
Ecuador	2005	48,3	21,2	2011	35,3	13,8	2012	32,2	12,9

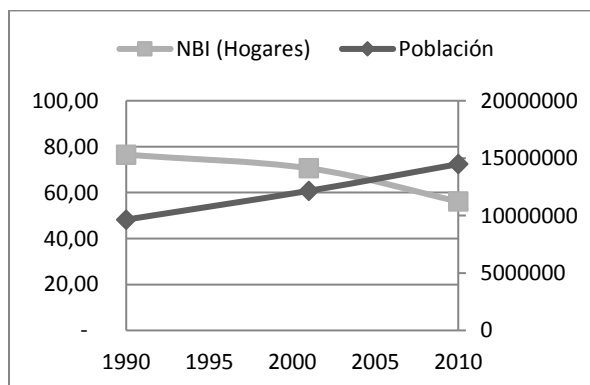
Source: Panorama Office in Latin America and the Caribbean 2014, ECLAC
Produced by: Authors

Variación de IDH por países						
Posición Mundial IDH 2007	País	IDH 1990	IDH 2000	IDH 2007	Crecimiento 1990-2000 (%)	Crecimiento 2000-2007 (%)
78	Perú	0,708	0,771	0,806	8,9	4,5
80	Ecuador	0,744		0,806	n.a.	n.a.
101	Paraguay	0,711	0,737	0,761	3,7	3,3
113	Bolivia	0,629	0,699	0,729	11,1	4,3

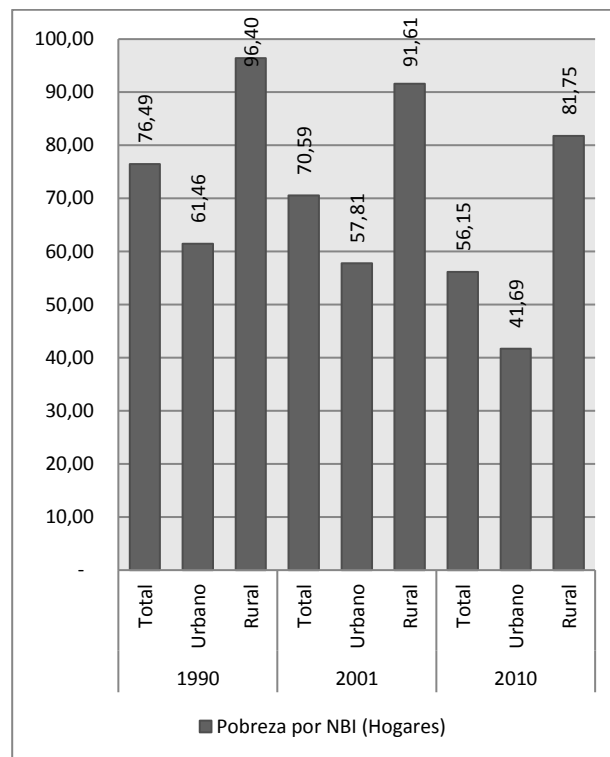
Source: Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean 2010, ECLAC
Produced by: Authors

Poverty and population growth

Pobreza y crecimiento poblacional		
Periodo intercensal	Población	NBI (Hogares)
1990	9648189	76,49
2001	12156608	70,59
2010	14483499	56,15



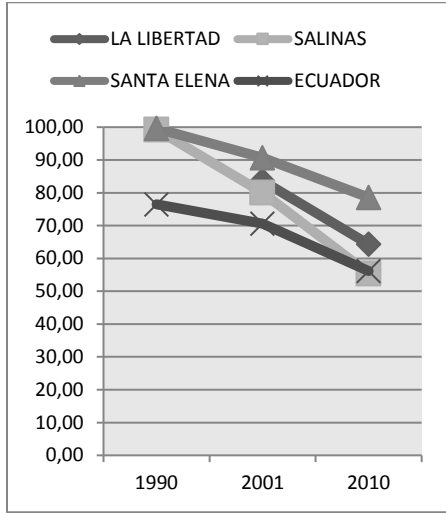
Source: Population and Housing Census INEC 1990, 2001, 2010
Produced by: Authors

Poverty in Ecuador by NBI intercensal

Pobreza por NBI Intercensal		
Año	Indicadores de pobreza	Pobreza por NBI (Hogares)
1990	Total	76,49
	Urbano	61,46
	Rural	96,4
2001	Total	70,59
	Urbano	57,81
	Rural	91,61
2010	Total	56,15
	Urbano	41,69
	Rural	81,75

Source: Population and Housing Census INEC 1990, 2001, 2010
Produced by: Authors

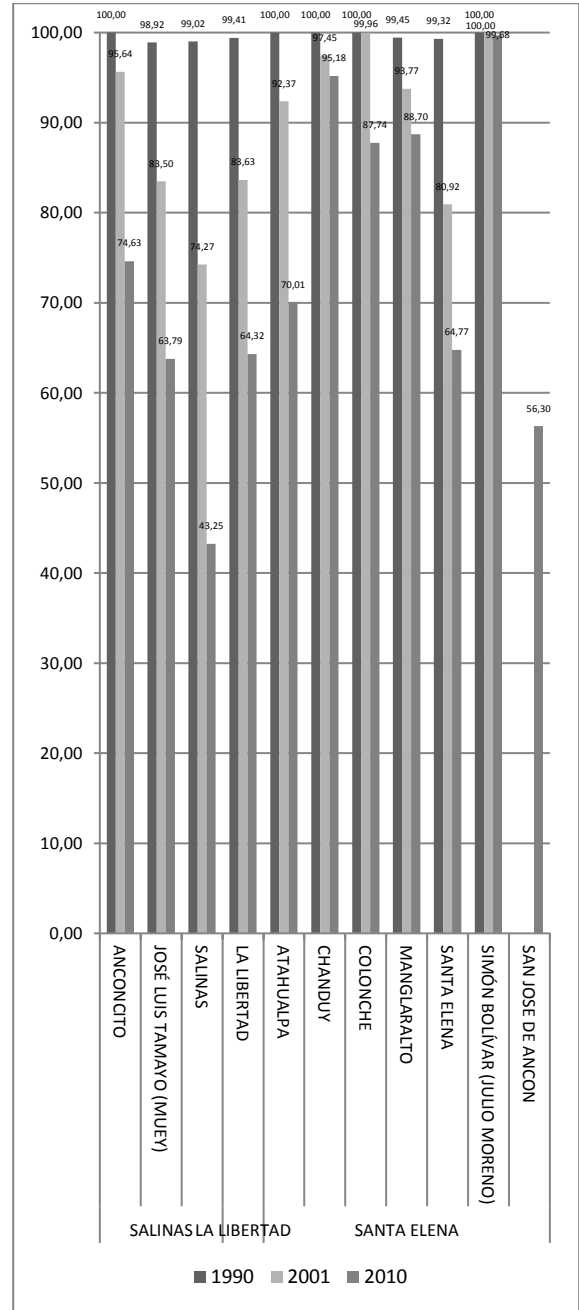
**National Comparison - Santa Elena
 (Intercensal)**



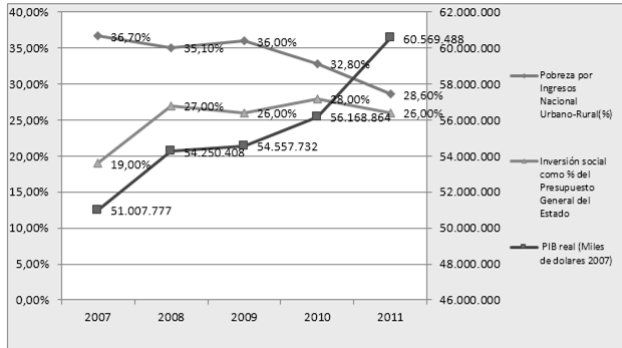
Pobreza por NBI Comparación Nacional - Santa Elena (intercensal)				
Pobreza por NBI (Hogares)	LA LIBERTAD	SALINAS	SANTA ELENA	ECUADOR
1990		99,3	99,63	76,49
2001	83,63	80,07	90,73	70,59
2010	64,32	55,4	78,56	56,15

Source: Population and Housing Census INEC 1990, 2001, 2010
 Produced by: Authors

Comparison of poverty by NBI parishes



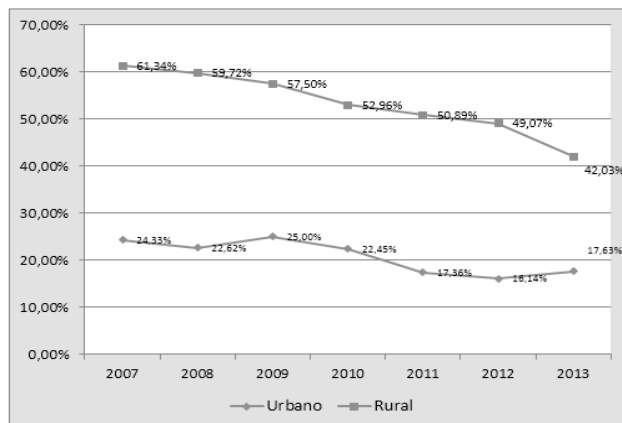
Evolution of the National Poverty by Income



Años	Pobreza por Ingresos Nacional Urbano-Rural (%)	PIB real (Miles de dolares 2007)	Inversión social como % del Presupuesto General del Estado
2007	36.70%	51,007,777	19.00%
2008	35.10%	54,250,408	27.00%
2009	36.00%	54,557,732	26.00%
2010	32.80%	56,168,864	28.00%
2011	28.60%	60,569,488	26.00%
2012	27.30%		

Source: INEC Database 2013
Produced by: Authors

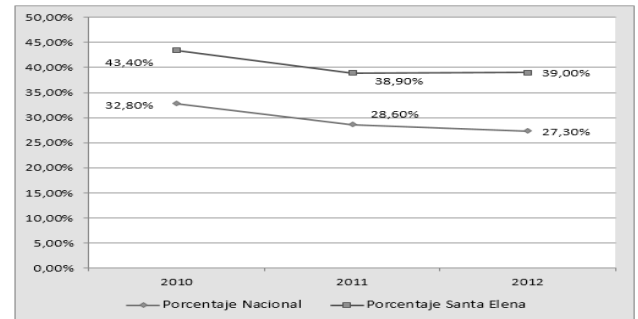
Evolution of the National Poverty by Income



Periodo	Urbano	Rural
2007	24.33%	61.34%
2008	22.62%	59.72%
2009	25.00%	57.50%
2010	22.45%	52.96%
2011	17.36%	50.89%
2012	16.14%	49.07%
2013	17.63%	42.03%

Source: INEC Database 2013
Produced by: Authors

Evolution of the National Poverty by Income



Año	Porcentaje Nacional	Porcentaje Santa Elena
2010	32.80%	43.40%
2011	28.60%	38.90%
2012	27.30%	39.00%

Source: INEC Database 2013
Produced by: Authors

MAPA POLÍTICO DE LA PENÍNSULA DE SANTA ELENA

