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# Legal intervention of problems from the dialogue with youth and adolescents in the District of Santa Marta Colombia

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## Abstract

This research article was developed with a mixed design, with the use of a descriptive and interpretative approach, during the period 2021-2023, carried out by the Legal Clinic and Conciliation Center of the Cooperative University of Colombia, in the city of “Santa Marta”. The research used participant observation to propose legal interventions, addressing emerging and persistent problems in the community of the “Once de Noviembre” neighborhood and developing scientific integrity protocols for data collection, with the use of the exploratory survey technique with forty young adolescents from a public educational institution. The general objective of the research was to identify the words and codes that made the legal intervention possible. It was concluded that, from the students’ responses about problems in their communities, a complex web of challenges emerges, ranging from drug addiction to violence to lack of employment, and these concerns reveal a striking variability, with each community facing a unique set of challenges.

**Keywords:** social problems; urban population; legal systems; sociology of change; legal intervention.

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## Intervención legal de problemas desde el dialogo con jóvenes y adolescentes en el Distrito de Santa Marta Colombia

### Resumen

Este artículo de investigación fue desarrollado con un diseño mixto, con el empleo de un enfoque descriptivo y he interpretativo, durante el período 2021-2023, llevado a cabo por el Consultorio Jurídico y Centro de Conciliación de la Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia, en la ciudad de “Santa Marta”. En la investigación se utilizó la observación participante para proponer intervenciones legales, abordando problemas emergentes y persistentes en la comunidad del Barrio “Once de Noviembre” y desarrollando protocolos de integridad científica para la recolección de datos, con el empleo de la técnica de encuesta exploratoria con cuarenta jóvenes adolescentes de una institución educativa pública. El objetivo general de la investigación fue identificar las palabras y códigos que posibilitaron la intervención legal. Se concluyo que, a partir de las respuestas de los estudiantes sobre los problemas de sus comunidades, surge una compleja red de retos que van desde la drogadicción a la violencia y la falta de empleo, y estas preocupaciones revelan una sorprendente variabilidad, en la que cada comunidad se enfrenta a un conjunto único de retos.

**Palabras clave:** problemas sociales; población urbana; sistemas jurídicos; sociología del cambio; intervención legal.

### Introduction

This article presents the findings, results, recommendations, and conclusions of an investigation that was carried out in the “Once de Noviembre” neighborhood, located in Locality 1 of the Tourist, Cultural and Historical District of “Santa Marta” (Asamblea Nacional Constituyente, 1991, Art. 356), in the Department of “Magdalena”, in the northern region of Colombia (Congreso Colombia, 1993), known as the Colombian Caribbean (Congress Colombia, 1997). As note in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Detail of the Geographic Location of the District of “Santa Marta” in the department of “Magdalena” in the north of the Republic.



Note: The Figure presents the political geographic map of the Department of “Magdalena” which is located on the northern coast of Colombia, and in the upper part of the same map you can see the location of the district of “Santa Marta”, which at the same time It is the Capital city of the same Colombian Department. The Figure was adjusted from the production made by the “Agustín Codazzi” Geographic Institute, of the administrative geographical division (Instituto Geográfico “Agustín Codazzi” IGAC, 2024).

With the figure presented above the reader will be able to orient himself, to recognize the yellow portion at the top, where this represents the geographical location of the city where the research was carried out, since this is the capital city of the Department. and are made up of three locations. Hence, in the present case the entire investigation was concentrated and limited to the “Once de Noviembre” neighborhood, which is located within Locality 1 of the same city.

**Figure 2:** Detail of the Physical of the Capital City of the Department of “Magdalena” and its Constitution in Three Locations.



Note: The Figure presented shows the organization of the Tourist, Cultural and Historical District of “Santa Marta”, with three locations distributed. The first Locality is the “Cultural Tayrona – San Pedro Alejandrino”, which houses a population of 147,611 inhabitants, including old communes and the townships of Bonda and Guachaca. The second town is “Historical - Rodrigo de Bastidas”, with 209,017 inhabitants from old communities and the town of Taganga. The third town, known as “Pearl of the Caribbean”, has 112,438 inhabitants of former communities and the town of Minca. Together, four rural townships, such as “Bonda”, “Guachaca”, “Taganga” and “Minca”, which are located a few kilometers from the city of “Santa Marta”, offering a dynamic fusion between urban and rural. It is relevant that demographic densities vary, with locality 1 being the one with the largest population. The map in the image presented in Figure 2 was adapted from the 2020 Management Report of the Mayor’s Office of “Santa Marta” (Alcaldía Santa Marta, 2014; 2015; 2020).

In addition to what has been said, this same study focused on a population of forty-one students, young adolescents from two school grades from a Campus within a State School, belonging to a District Education Institution in the city of “Santa Marta”. Through the application of the proposal of Navarro, P (1981) for the application of participant observation carried out in the year 2021, with the application of ethical and scientific integrity protocols in the year 2022, and carrying out data collection through an exploratory survey in the year 2023, to the aforementioned delimited group of students in the Eighth and Ninth grades of high school, within normal secondary education in Colombia, which is legally regulated (Congreso Colombia, 1994).

During the year 2022, activities were carried out to disseminate the purpose of the research in the population under study and during the

year 2023, three specific objectives were completed, which allowed the identification of twenty-two keywords and twenty-two codes related to persistent problems and emerging in the population community that was studied.

Therefore, with the application of the mixed approach - qualitative and quantitative - in this research, a deep understanding of the complex phenomena that affect young adolescent students who constitute them as a vulnerable population was obtained (Cazzato y Vargas, 2021), providing recommendations significant for the institutions and laying the foundations for a second stage of the project. With this, the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods that Hernández-Sampieri (2018) has already described in this research provided a holistic and combined vision of the reality studied, challenging academic conventions, and offering results applicable not only in the legal field, but also in the social sciences when considering the current global interconnection and its culture of information flows (Castells, 1997).

But at the same time, they positioned several emerging categories that redefined research, transcending the limitations of traditional guides and opened new possibilities for the exploration and understanding of the complexity of social problems in specific contexts of new and old problems, which affect the young adolescent inhabitants who are studying secondary education in the Colombian Caribbean (Alcaldía Santa Marta, 2014; 2015), and in particular the difficulties that young adolescents experience in the District of Santa Marta (DNP, 2022).

## 1. Methodological Design

The methodological design of the research was based on a mixed approach (Ñaupas *et al.*, 2018) that amalgamated qualitative and quantitative elements (Elías-Caro y De la Hoz, 2018), challenging academic conventions, and reducing the limitations of the traditional separation between the two, with the objective of achieving a more complete understanding of social reality (Hammersley y Atkinson, 1994; Greene, 2007) investigated in an urban environment.

By integrating these approaches, emerging and persistent problems in the studied population could be more effectively addressed, enabling a deep exploration of the social phenomena (Maxwell, 2019; Malinowski, 1982) experienced directly by a segment of the Caribbean adolescent population. Colombian. This methodological framework considered various limits, such as time, geographic space, conceptual and theoretical, within an established legal framework. Adopting a descriptive approach from an interpretive paradigm, techniques such as participant observation were

applied to intervene legally, focusing on the problems of young adolescent students in a specific neighborhood of Santa Marta.

Data collection was conducted through exploratory surveys with a specific group of young students, allowing for a deeper understanding of the social and legal issues identified in the community. The results of this legal intervention revealed significant problems such as juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, cyberbullying, discrimination and corruption (MinInterior, 2022; Del Río, 2010), among others, identifying priority areas of intervention and generating relevant recommendations to address these challenges.

During data collection, ethical protocols were applied to guarantee the reliability and validity of the results, including the informed consent of the participants, the confidentiality of the information, and impartiality in the interpretation of the data. Respect for the dignity and rights of the participants was prioritized, ensuring that their participation was voluntary and free of coercion, which ensured validity and ethics in the data collection process.

## **2. Applied Legal Framework**

The applicable legal framework was based on the parameters given by Restrepo, O (2006), of the set of norms that govern social interactions and establish the legal parameters for human behavior in a given context. This framework encompasses laws, regulations and jurisprudence that guide behavior and ensure justice and public order.

In the case of the Political Constitution of Colombia, it establishes the fundamental principles and basic rights, such as human dignity and equality, which inform the legal framework of the country (National Constituent Assembly, 1991). Likewise, various national laws, such as Law 115 (Congreso Colombia, 1994), which structures the educational system, and Law 30, which addresses the status of narcotic drugs, influence daily life and legal interventions. Law 1098 (Congreso Colombia, 2006), known as the Code of Children and Adolescents, guarantees the rights of minors and guides actions to protect their well-being.

Regulations such as Law 375 (Congreso Colombia, 1997a) and Law 1361 (Congress Colombia, 2009) address specific issues, such as youth and family protection, respectively. Likewise, the local context, such as Legislative Act 3 (Congreso Colombia, 1989), grants certain regions, such as Santa Marta, a special status that requires specific legal attention. The revised laws also address issues of discrimination, school coexistence and corruption, reflecting the diversity and complexity of legal and social challenges in Colombia.

### **3. Issues Addressed and Solution Proposal**

The reader must allow us to limit the distinction and the uses of locating persistent and emerging problems, since these two concepts represent two crucial facets of contemporary social dynamics, and their understanding implies a deep exploration of their inherent characteristics and their impact on the society. Initially, the notion of an emerging problem, according to the perspective that has been developed in intervention bioethics in Brazil (Garrafa, 2005; Garrafa and Dora, 2005). On the one hand, it conceives the problem as a dynamic phenomenon that arises unexpectedly, challenging established structures and generating a series of consequences that reverberate in various aspects of social, economic, legal and political reality, in a specific context and place.

Making this occurrence appear as a contemporary challenge, revealing cracks in the societal framework in which it manifests itself. On the other hand, the concept of persistent problem, outlined by Garrafa, and Porto (2005), is presented as a constant phenomenon in that fabric of reality, rooted in the inherent resistance to substantial changes, which has endured in the time, challenging attempts at solutions due to their embeddedness in the structural and cultural complexities of the interconnected system. With this, persistence, far from being static, adapts to changing circumstances, revealing its resistance to linear and superficial solutions. Thus, persistence becomes a continuous challenge that challenges the effectiveness of conventional responses, manifesting itself as the palpable expression of deep-rooted structural and cultural dynamics.

For the same reason, the latent vitality of these problems demands immediate and adaptive responses, moving beyond static predictability and challenging disciplinary boundaries with their interconnected nature. Infallibly, the fundamental difference between emerging and persistent problems lies in the temporality of their manifestation. While persistent problems are rooted in the solidity of time, tenaciously defying attempts at resolution, emerging problems unexpectedly burst onto the scene, defying expectations and triggering the need for immediate responses.

Persistent problems act as monuments in the landscape of social challenges, while emerging problems stand out for their dynamism and ability to disrupt the positive status quo. Despite these differences, both problems share the quality of being difficult, demanding flexible strategies, interdisciplinary approaches and adaptive measures to address the changing challenges of contemporary reality. Resulting in understanding and action against these problems represent an invitation to reflect on human complexity and the need for innovative solutions in a constantly evolving world.



That said, the research problem addressed in the study carried out by the Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia focused on the identification and analysis of persistent and emerging problems that affect the population of young adolescent high school students in the Colombian Caribbean (UCC, 2018), specifically in the “Once de Noviembre” neighborhood of Locality 1 of “Santa Marta”, which can be specified with the following question:

What is the problem of greatest attention from the perspective of the experiential reality of the young adolescent students of secondary education in eighth and ninth grade, of the Public Schools run by the Colombian State in the low-income localities of the District of “Santa Marta” in Colombia? (UCC, 2018, p. 06)

Certainly, the combined study benefited from the idea that the fusion of different approaches offers a more complete understanding of the reality investigated and this approach challenges academic conventions by embracing methodological diversity and answering questions more broadly, the results obtained that are not only relevant to legal sciences, but other disciplines are also applicable. For this, a rereading of Greene’s work (2007) was carried out, which led to the conclusion that the mixed approach is not only a methodological option, but an emerging paradigm that redefines research and challenges researchers to explore new forms of inquiry, since that it was crucial to apply participant observation (Navarro, 1981) rooted in ethnography to understand the intrinsic dynamics of the population studied, composed of adolescent students.

Resulting in this technique, which led to the active participation of researchers in the studied environment, allows a deeper understanding of cultural practices and reveals meanings that would not otherwise be evident. From the perspective of Geertz (1973), participant observation is an interpretive act where the researcher seeks to understand the native concepts that give meaning to actions and meanings in the cultural context, however the application of this technique allowed an intimate connection with the object of study and provided a contextualized perspective of the social complexity of the Santa Marta District.

#### **4. Target Population of Study**

The selection of the sample was carried out after participant observation (Navarro, 1981) that covered a continuous period of twelve months, from February 2022 until the development of the test protocols with free, autonomous, and informed consent. (Del Río, 2010). Applying an exploratory survey (2010), as an instrument, it was applied in the third quarter of 2023, covering forty-one adolescent students, of which twenty-three were women and eighteen men, all residents of the “Once de

Noviembre” neighborhood in Santa Martha, Colombia. Identifying diverse family structures, from nuclear families to single-parent and reconstituted families, reflecting the structural diversity present in contemporary society (García y Lengua, 2018).

At the same time, parental occupations vary from traditional jobs such as bricklaying and commerce to more atypical occupations such as social media influencer. Then, the attribution of the sociohistorical context was established, evidenced in testimonies that refer to the internal armed conflict and its impacts on families (Arias, 2001). Where individual experiences, such as the loss of a parent due to urban violence or the presence of parents working in unconventional jobs, highlight the complex social realities these young people face. With the variety of maternal occupations, from teachers to sex workers, it reflects the diversity of roles and responsibilities within family and work dynamics. Taken together, these findings reveal significant sociocultural.

No	Names	Nacionality	Socioeconomic level	Gender with which you identify	Age	Ethnicity	Degree	Family group composition
1	Student 1	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	White	Eighth	Nuclear
2	Student 2	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	Other	Eighth	Single parent family
3	Student 3	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	13 years	Other	Eighth	Extended family
4	Student 4	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	13 years	Other	Eighth	Nuclear
5	Student 5	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Half blood	Eighth	Extended family
6	Student 6	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	White	Eighth	Extended family
7	Student 7	Other nationality	Stratum 1	Female	15 years	Half blood	Eighth	Single parent family
8	Student 8	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	13 years	Half blood	Eighth	Nuclear
9	Student 9	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	White	Eighth	Nuclear
10	Student 10	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	13 years	Half blood	Eighth	Nuclear
11	Student 11	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Eighth	Nuclear
12	Student 12	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	13 years	White	Eighth	Nuclear
13	Student 13	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	13 years	Afro	Eighth	Nuclear

14	Student 14	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	12 years	White	Eighth	Nuclear
15	Student 15	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	13 years	White	Eighth	Extended family
16	Student 16	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	12 years	Half blood	Eighth	Extended family
17	Student 17	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	13 years	Half blood	Eighth	Nuclear
18	Student 18	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Eighth	Nuclear
19	Student 19	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	15 years	Half blood	Eighth	Single parent family
20	Student 20	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	White	Eighth	Single parent family
21	Student 21	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	Other	Eighth	Extended family
22	Student 22	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	White	Eighth	Nuclear

Diversity and complexity in the representative sample of forty-one students, highlighting the need to understand the multiple dimensions that influence the lives of adolescents, as expressed by Rodríguez-Vega (2012) in their analyzes of family and work structures in contemporary contexts.

No	Names	Nacionality	Socioeconomic level	Gender with which you identify	Age	Ethnicity	Degree	Family group composition
23	Student 23	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	Afro	Nineth	Single parent family
24	Student 24	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Eighth	Extended family
25	Student 25	Colombian	Stratum 3	Female	15 years	Afro	Nineth	Single parent family
26	Student 26	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	15 years	Afro	Nineth	Single parent family
27	Student 27	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	16 years	Afro	Nineth	Nuclear
28	Student 28	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Nineth	Extended family
29	Student 29	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Half blood	Nineth	Nuclear

30	Student 30	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	16 years	Half blood	Nineth	Single parent family
31	Student 31	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Nineth	Nuclear
32	Student 32	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	15 years	White	Nineth	Nuclear
33	Student 33	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Other	Nineth	Nuclear
34	Student 34	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	15 years	Afro	Nineth	Single parent family
35	Student 35	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	Other	Nineth	Nuclear
36	Student 36	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	Other	Nineth	Nuclear
37	Student 37	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	15 years	White	Nineth	Extended family
38	Student 38	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	Afro	Nineth	Extended family
39	Student 39	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	14 years	White	Nineth	Nuclear
40	Student 40	Colombian	Stratum 1	Female	16 years	Half blood	Nineth	Reconstituted family
41	Student 41	Colombian	Stratum 1	Male	14 years	White	Nineth	Nuclear

**Table No. 01: Relationship of Young Adolescents as a Study Subject Population**

**Note:** This Table wishes to present in nine columns the details and general affiliations of the forty-one young adolescent students interviewed as the subject population of the study, where the first column shows the numerical assignment of the participant, the second column shows their identification where their names and surnames have been preserved, the third column presents the nationality of each individual, the fourth shows their Colombian socioeconomic “stratum”, the fifth column shows the sexual identification, the sixth column shows the age, the seventh column shows the ethnicity with which are recognized, the eighth column presents the school grade they attend, the ninth column shows the type of family composition. The table shows the general detail of the total number of young adolescent students who participated in the research. It was prepared according to bioethical criteria of privacy and confidentiality, in application of Article 9 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (Unesco, 2005)

## 5. Results and Findings Obtained

Categorically, the use of tools and their validation and analysis through active participation in observation showed that all young Colombian adolescents, belonging to the student body of the District Educational Institution undergoing research in the district of “Santa Marta”, maintain the belief that the main problem facing Colombia as a Nation-State today lies in juvenile delinquency and crimes perpetrated by young people in the capitals. At the regional level, concern over drug and narcotic consumption

in cities stands out, with drug addiction and the use of hallucinogens identified as the preeminent problem from the perspective and voices of students. Given the above, it is necessary to address two variables in this study: emerging problems and persistent problems.

From the exploration directed at the forty-one young adolescent students, as detailed in Table 2 below, the reader will be able to observe that twenty-one of them highlight the concern about juvenile delinquency and crimes in the capitals as the main challenge they face. Colombia today. In contrast, eight of those surveyed consider that discrimination and stigmatization towards people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population constitute the most pressing problem at the national level, being directly linked to constitutional article 43 (1991), Decree 1444 (MinInterior, 2022) and Public Policy for Women (DNP, 2022).

From a different perspective, six teenage students highlighted corruption and social decline as the main issues that concern them in the country, in relation to Law 2195 (Congreso Colombia, 2022) and Law 2281 (Congreso Colombia, 2023). Likewise, three of them expressed concern about the problem of drug addiction and drug use, while two identified bullying, conflicts in schools and cyberbullying as prominent issues. For his part, a single student mentioned that teenage pregnancy is the main concern at the national level, linked to Law 30 (Congreso Colombia, 1986), Law 1620 (Congreso Colombia, 2013) and article 60 of Law 1098 (Congreso Colombia, 2006).

For this reason, Table 2 shows the students' perception of the predominant problems in the Caribbean Region and the city of Santa Marta. Ten of them identified drug and narcotic abuse as the main concern, while another eight students pointed out the lack of respect and protection of human rights as an evident problem in the region. Thus, seven students expressed concern about juvenile delinquency and crime among minors in the Caribbean Region and Santa Marta, in line with Law 74 (Congreso Colombia, 1968) and Decree 1844 (Presidencia Colombia, 2018).

In the same context, four students emphasized discrimination and stigmatization towards people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ community as a relevant problem. On the other hand, four other young people mentioned cyberbullying and social media harassment as urgent challenges. Three students pointed out poverty and extreme poverty as prominent problems, while another three highlighted the lack of communication in families. These concerns are supported by constitutional principles and Law 1482 (Congreso Colombia, 2011).

In a dissimilar representation, one student identified teenage pregnancy as a critical issue, while another highlighted corruption and lack of employment in the Caribbean Region and Santa Marta, in line with

Colombian Laws 375 (1997), 1361 (2009) and 1622 (2013). Regarding the student's discernment about the problems in Locality 1 of the Santa Marta District, fourteen mentioned drug addiction as the main problem, while nine expressed concerns about cyberbullying. Six students highlighted violence as a relevant problem. Five students were concerned about unemployment and lack of formal employment, and three identified corruption and influence peddling as a local problem, while two pointed out the lack of guarantees in public services.

As explained by a student who mentioned stigmatization and discrimination, while another considered child malnutrition as a problem in her community. From these results, a diversity of concerns is evident among young students, highlighting the need to address not only problems at the national, regional, and local level, but also the different facets of each identified challenge. This is because the variety of perspectives highlights the complexity of the social reality faced by these young people, indicating the importance of holistic approaches and specific measures to address each problem effectively. Based on this, the voice of the studied population reveals a penetrating perspective on the problems that affect Colombia, the Caribbean Region, the city of Santa Marta and their own communities, evidencing a complex network of social concerns and highlighting the diversity of perspectives. and challenges in the contemporary panorama.

At the national level, juvenile delinquency and crime in capital cities stands out as a preeminent concern, identified by twenty-one students as the main problem. At this point of convergence, a shared sensitivity towards public safety is manifested, but the urgency of addressing the roots of juvenile delinquency in the urban environment of Locality 1, in the district of "Santa Marta" is also highlighted. Given that, when exploring regional concerns, drug and narcotic consumption emerges as a focus of attention, pointed out by ten young people. This trend highlights the intersection of public health and citizen security in the Caribbean and "Santa Marta" Region.

However, persistent human rights violations and juvenile delinquency also feature prominently in regional perceptions, underscoring the complexity of the problems in this geographic area. The emergence of social problems such as discrimination, cyberbullying and poverty indicates that concerns transcend physical dimensions to address psychosocial and economic challenges in the Caribbean Region. Whereas, by exploring the challenges in their communities, students reveal a variety of problems ranging from drug addiction to violence and lack of work.

This highlights the diversity of local concerns, with each community facing unique challenges. Still, corruption and unreliability in public services reinforce the idea that local problems are often related to structural and governance deficiencies. Furthermore, attention to cyberbullying and

discrimination highlights the growing importance of challenges in the virtual world and the need to address issues of inclusion and respect in the digital age.

From a theoretical figure, the students' responses coincide with the ideas of thinkers who have explored the intersectionality of social problems, as demonstrated by the attention to discrimination and stigmatization, which reflects the work of Crenshaw, K on the concept of intersectionality (1991). This highlights how different forms of oppression are interconnected and cannot be understood in isolation. As the manifestation of problems such as violence, drug addiction and juvenile delinquency can also be related to Durkheim's theories on anomie and social dysfunction (Durkheim, 1987), suggesting that these phenomena can arise when social norms and values are weakened.

In this way, the variety of points of view on problems at the national, regional, and local levels highlights the need to employ comprehensive approaches to address the complexity of contemporary challenges, which, according to what was mentioned, young adolescents not only identify obvious problems, such as crime, but also point out underlying issues such as discrimination and lack of access to job opportunities. Resulting recognition of the root causes and visible manifestations of problems indicates a critical awareness of the need for diverse and sustainable interventions.

But, not only this, but the inclusion of emerging social issues, such as cyberbullying and discrimination, was proposed, reflecting the growing importance of digital platforms in the lives of young people, guiding a relevant approach to examine the ideas of Castells, M (1997) on the network society, since they highlight the importance of networks and digital communication in shaping social experiences. In response, it is suggested that to fully understand current challenges, it is essential to consider both online and offline social dynamics.

Everything gathered during the focus group of the total sample of Students highlighted and confirmed two persistent problems that were categorized as follows: i) Discrimination and stigmatization of people due to certain situations or conditions is a significant issue and that requires necessary attention (Presidencia Colombia, 2022); and ii) Segregation, exclusion, harassment and violence based on gender (UN, 1979) and disability is a relevant problem that currently demands attention (UN, 2007; MinSalud, 2014). Noting that only two teenagers did not agree with these statements.

Likewise, in the same focus group, thirty-four young people mentioned that rejection, exclusion, persecution, and violence towards people with disabilities, women and LGBTIQ+ people constitute an important problem today. Only seven adolescents commented that they did not consider this

topic as a problem of interest. Definitely, it was decisive that thirty-eight young participants specifically expressed that bullying (school bullying) and cyberbullying (bullying through technological means) are emerging problems that must receive attention today, since they directly affect young people, however three Adolescents did not agree with this statement.

**Figure 4: General Detail of Persistent and Emerging Problems Determined from Saturation.**

Problems Mentioned by Young Adolescents	Amount
<b>Mention of Colombia's Biggest Problem by Respondents</b>	
Juvenile delinquency and juvenile crime in capital cities	21
Discrimination and stigmatization of people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population	8
Corruption and social decomposition	6
Drug addiction and narcotic consumption	3
School bullying, school conflicts Cyberbullying or virtual bullying that is done through ICTs	3
Pregnancy in adolescent women	2
<b>Mention of the Biggest Problem in the Caribe Region by Respondents</b>	
Dispensing of drugs and narcotics	10
No respect and no protection of Human Rights	8
Delinquency in youth and crime in minors	7
Discriminatory treatment and stigmatization of people with disabilities, women and the	4
Cyberbullying and harassment on social networks	4
Situations of poverty and extreme poverty	3
Lack of communication in families	3
Presence of corruption and lack of employment	1
<b>Mention of the Biggest Problem in the Community of Respondents</b>	
Drug addiction and the use of hallucinogens	14
Cyberbullying or Cyberharassment	9
Violence in society	6
Unemployment and lack of access to formal work	5
Corruption and influence peddling	3
Lack of guarantee in public and home services	2
Stigmatization and discrimination of people with disabilities, women and the population	1
Cases of child malnutrition	1

Note: This Table presents three columns with the intention of revealing to the reader the validation obtained by all the young adolescent students, of the problems and problems that they themselves perceive in their own reality, classified into three types as: the biggest



problem In the Colombian context, the biggest problem is the Caribbean region, and the biggest community problem. The quantity column represents the number of respondents who mentioned that as the biggest problem, and the problematic column shows each of the problems that were coded according to the responses generated. Here the table shows in three columns the general detail of the persistent and emerging problems determined from the saturation generated in the final development. The elaboration was based on the data collected in the application of instruments in the population participating in the research.

In Figure 4 seen above, it is evident that when consulting forty-one young students about the main challenge that Colombia currently faces, twenty-one highlighted concern about juvenile delinquency and crime in the capital cities, disagreeing with that eight of those surveyed mentioned that discrimination and stigmatization towards people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population constitute the most pressing problem at the national level, directly related to article 43 of the Constitution (1991), Decree 1444 (MinInterior, 2022), and the Public Policy for Women (DNP, 2022). That, in another representation, six other Students identified corruption and social decomposition as the main concern in the country, which is related to Law 2195 (Congreso Colombia, 2022) and Law 2281 (Congreso Colombia, 2023). Adding that three expressed concerns about drug addiction and drug use, while two pointed out school bullying, school conflicts and cyberbullying as preeminent problems.

It is relevant that one student only considered that pregnancy in adolescent women represents the main concern at the national level, linking with Law 30 (Congreso Colombia, 1986), Law 1620 (Congreso Colombia, 2013) and article 60 of Law 1098 (Congreso Colombia, 2006), respectively.

Because when examining Figure 4, the perception of the students regarding the predominant problems in the Caribbean Region and the city of “Santa Marta” is revealed. In this context, ten students emphasized the problem of drug and narcotic consumption as the main concern. In addition, eight students emphasized the lack of respect and protection of human rights as an evident problem in the region, in line with Law 74 (Congreso Colombia, 1968) and Decree 1844 (Presidencia Colombia, 2018). Given that, four Students highlighted discrimination and stigmatization towards people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population as a significant problem. In contrast, four other young people indicated that cyberbullying and harassment through social networks are challenges that demand urgent attention.

In a similar sense, three students pointed out the situations of poverty and extreme poverty in a part of the population as a prominent problem. Agreeing with three others, they highlighted the lack of communication in families, in accordance with the Colombian constitutional precepts of articles 1, 2, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20 (1991) and Law 1482 (Congreso Colombia,

2011a). In addition to this, one student emphasized that pregnancy in young people and adolescents represents a significant challenge, while another student highlighted corruption and lack of job opportunities as important concerns in the Caribbean and Santa Marta Region, in line with the Law 375 (Congreso Colombia, 1997), Law 1361 (Congreso Colombia, 2009), and Law 1622 (Congreso Colombia, 2013).

Regarding the students' discernment about the problems in their own communities in Locality 1 of the "Santa Marta" District, fourteen identified drug addiction and drug use as the main concern, adding that nine young adolescents pointed out cyberbullying or cyberbullying. as a common concern in their communities. Likewise, six students highlighted violence as a relevant problem in local society.

Understanding why five students expressed their concern about unemployment and the lack of job opportunities in their town. Three students identified corruption and influence peddling as a problem in their community, while two students mentioned the lack of guarantees in public and home services. And at the same time, one student mentioned stigmatization and discrimination towards people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population as a local concern, while another student highlighted cases of child malnutrition as a problem present in his community and locality.

These findings reveal a wide range of concerns among young adolescent students, underlining the need to address not only problems at the national, regional, and local levels, but also the various facets of each identified challenge, which is due to the variety of perspectives highlights the complexity of the social reality faced by these young people, emphasizing the importance of adopting comprehensive approaches and specific measures to confront each problem effectively. Based on this, from the own voice of the population under study, a penetrating perspective is revealed on the problems that impact Colombia, the Caribbean Region, the city of Santa Marta and their own communities. It reveals a complex network of social concerns, highlighting the diversity of perspectives and challenges in the contemporary landscape.

Nationally, youth delinquency and crime in capital cities stands out as a prominent concern, with twenty-one students identifying it as the main problem. At this point of convergence, a shared sensitivity towards public safety is evident, but it also underlines the urgency of addressing the roots of youth crime in the urban environment of Locality 1, in the District of Santa Marta. Given that, when exploring regional concerns, the problem of drug and narcotic consumption, identified by ten young adolescents, stands out, highlighting the convergence between public health and citizen security in the Caribbean Region and Santa Marta. On the other hand, the persistent violation of human rights and juvenile delinquency are also

relevant aspects in the regional perception, which underlines the complexity of the challenges in this geographical area. The presence of social problems such as discrimination, cyberbullying and poverty indicates that concerns encompass dimensions beyond the physical, addressing psychosocial and economic challenges in the Caribbean Region.

Thus, by examining problems in their own communities, students reveal a variety of challenges, from drug addiction to violence and unemployment, highlighting the diversity of local concerns, with each community facing a unique set of challenges. The corruption and lack of guarantees in public services reinforce the perception that local concerns are often related to structural and governance deficiencies. Likewise, attention to cyberbullying and discrimination highlights the growing importance of challenges in the virtual realm and the need to address issues of inclusion and respect in the digital age.

In this context, the diversity of perspectives on national, regional, and local issues emphasizes the importance of adopting holistic approaches to address the complexity of contemporary challenges. As noted, young adolescents not only identify obvious problems, such as crime, but also point to underlying problems, such as discrimination and lack of access to job opportunities. Not only that, but recognition of the root causes and visible manifestations of problems indicates a critical awareness of the need for multifaceted and sustainable interventions, such as the inclusion of rising social issues such as cyberbullying and discrimination, reflects the growing importance of digital platforms in the lives of young people.

Precisely, during the development of the focus group with the entire sample, thirty-nine young adolescent students mentioned and confirmed two persistent problems that were coded as follows: i) Discrimination and stigmatization of people due to certain situations or conditions is a problem of great relevance and that requires immediate attention (Presidencia Colombia, 2022); and, ii) Segregation, exclusion, harassment and violence based on gender (UN, 1979) and disability is a significant problem that needs immediate attention today (UN, 2007; MinSalud, 2014). Only two of the young adolescents disagreed with these statements. From the same focus group, thirty-four young people mentioned that rejection, exclusion, persecution, and violence directed at people with disabilities, women and LGBTIQ+ people are a significant issue today. Only seven young adolescents indicated that they did not consider this issue as a relevant concern.

So, it was notable that thirty-eight young participants emphasized that bullying (school bullying) and cyberbullying (bullying through technological means) are emerging problems that require attention today, since it directly affects them.

## 6. Examination and Analysis

Returning to what has been said up to this point, the given considerations, moving on to calculate the mode, we must remember that Vásquez has elucidated that the measure of central tendency that represents the most frequent code in the responses of young adolescent students on the most important problem, where the mode is simply the value that occurs “most frequently” (1987, pp. 68, 70). In our case, the code with the highest frequency will be the mode, and in this research the mode was: “Delinquency and youth crime in capital cities” (Figure 4) with twenty-one repetitions of the conglomerate of the forty-one participants.

Consistently, according to the data collected, youth delinquency and crime in the capital cities is the problem that young adolescent students mentioned most frequently as the most relevant, the same result that is consistent with what was said previously. At the same time, the mean and median, which, as Vásquez (1987) indicates, are measures that will provide us with a more complete view of the distribution of the responses of young adolescent students on the most important problem. So, since we have an ordered set of data with forty-one observations, the median will be the central value, and in this case, since the amount of data is odd, the median will be the value in the central position. Since the code in the central position is that of response 6, “No respect and no protection of human rights,” (Figure 4) since there are 8 responses before and 8 responses after this position.

From there, when calculating the average of the mean, we took all the frequencies and divided by the total number of observations, which as indicated were forty-one. Generating the following calculation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total, sum of frequencies} &= 21 + 14 + 10 + 9 + 8 + 8 + 7 + 6 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 3 \\ &+ 3 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 130 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Mean (average)} = 130 / 41 \approx 3.17 \text{ (approximated to two decimal places)}$$

That is, the median was “No respect and no protection of human rights”, and the mean was approximately 3.17, which were taken as additional measures of central tendency that offer different perspectives on the distribution of young students’ responses. teenagers. Perhaps, these data allowed us to carry out content analysis to identify and analyze key words or recurring themes in the answers given by young adolescent students. With this content analysis, it reveals the concerns and key themes expressed by the students, given that the keywords highlight the social, economic, and cultural problems, which the students consider to be of greatest relevance in their communities and environment, as shown in the Table 3 on record.

**Figure 5: Generation of Keywords Determined from the Interpretive Analysis of Student Responses.**

Keywords Generated from the Interpretive Analysis	Most important to least important
Juvenile delinquency, juvenile crime, capital cities.	1
Drug addiction, consumption, hallucinogens.	2
Waste, drugs, narcotics.	3
Cyberbullying, Cyberbullying.	4
No respect, no protection, human rights.	5
Discrimination, stigmatization, disability, women, LGBTQI+.	6
Delinquency in youth, crime in minors.	7
Violence, society.	8
Corruption, social decomposition.	9
Unemployment, lack of access, formal work.	10
Discriminatory treatment, stigmatization, disability, women, LGBTQI+.	11
Cyberbullying, harassment, social networks.	12
Drug addiction, consumption, narcotics.	13
Corruption, influence peddling.	14
Poverty, extreme poverty.	15
Lack of communication, families.	16
School bullying, school conflicts, Cyberbullying, virtual bullying, Tics.	17
Lack of warranty, public services, home services.	18
Pregnancy, adolescent women.	19
Stigmatization, discrimination, disability, women, LGBTQI+.	20
Child malnutrition.	21
Presence of corruption, lack of employment.	22

Note: List of twenty-one keywords determined from the interpretive analysis of the responses of the Young Adolescent Students who participated in the research between 2022 and 2023. With own elaboration based on the data collected from the application of instruments and the matrix of data.

## 7. Recommendations and Opportunities

From the exhaustive collection of data through exploratory surveys directed at forty-one adolescent students, carried out by researchers from the Cooperative University of Colombia, an insightful vision emerges about the most pressing concerns that affect this demographic in the country, the Caribbean Region, its community, and the city of “Santa Marta”.

The hierarchical analysis of the responses, organized into twenty-two codes, reveals recurring patterns and themes that require attention to improve conditions and promote the well-being of both students and society in general. Facing the reality of 51% of students who identified juvenile delinquency and crime in capital cities as the most relevant problem, the need to manage close collaboration with the authorities of Locality 1 and the district of “Santa Marta” is highlighted.

This collaboration is essential to develop comprehensive prevention and rehabilitation strategies, incorporating educational programs and extracurricular activities focused on crime prevention, and with this same approach we not only sought to change perception, but also provide constructive alternatives for young people, thus establishing a positive impact on the community.

At the same time, 34% of the students indicated concern about drug addiction and the use of hallucinogens. Here, the need to review and implement improvements in drug awareness and education programs is highlighted, as well as offering counseling and support services to those who may be facing addiction problems. The implementation of educational and preventive programs in collaboration with local authorities, together with the creation of safe spaces and community participation, can contribute significantly to improving security in “Santa Marta”.

In a scenario where 24% of students expressed concern about the sale of drugs and narcotics, the importance of informing and explaining to District Authorities their crucial role in advocating for stricter policies and collaborating with authorities to combat trafficking is highlighted. of drugs in local communities. Analogously, the community, in turn, can play an active role in reporting suspicious activities and promoting awareness about the dangers of drug trafficking, especially among youth, with a context where the State District Educational Institution that is addressed, can play a crucial role in providing education about the risks associated with drug use and establishing support and counseling services.

In our opinion, cyberbullying - mentioned by 22% of the students surveyed - emerges as a prominent problem, because both the University Institution led by the research and the participating Educational Institution can play a fundamental role in promoting awareness about cyberbullying. This involves fostering a safe online environment and providing resources for emotional support and prevention. Implementing awareness campaigns in schools and communities, along with creating resources to support those who have experienced online bullying, is positioned as an effective strategy to address this evolving issue.

From the broader perspective of concerns expressed, 20% of students expressed concern about the lack of respect and protection of human

rights. In this context, the two educational institutions can partner to lead educational initiatives that promote understanding and respect for human rights, generating a culture of inclusion and tolerance. Due to the need to strengthen educational programs that promote a culture of respect and tolerance, it is reinforced through collaboration with organizations that defend human rights, pointing out the importance of reviewing the Coexistence Manual of the Educational Institution, to adequately incorporate issues related to human rights and mutual respect.

In a broader scope, discrimination, and stigmatization of people with disabilities, women and the LGBTIQ+ population, identified by 20% of respondents, emerge as critical areas to address, with educational institutions can implement inclusive policies, awareness programs and training to ensure a respectful and welcoming environment for all. From this, the promotion of diversity and the implementation of anti-discrimination policies emerge as essential tools to build a more equitable society, with the possibility for the participating Educational Institution to lead initiatives that promote inclusion and respect, creating an environment where everyone feels accepted.

Implicitly, with 15% of students mentioning violence in society and corruption as concerns, the need to collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations is highlighted. Attention to these structural problems can be addressed through awareness programs and community service projects, with a call for active community participation in anti-corruption initiatives. The implementation of educational programs that promote a culture of non-violence and ethics emerges as a key strategy, urging the training of educational personnel to effectively address these problems.

Peremptorily, in the reality that 12% of the students highlighted unemployment and lack of access to formal jobs, the need arises for a concerted collaboration with the Cooperative University of Colombia, in coordination with its faculties of Law, Psychology and Health Sciences, can strengthen professional guidance programs. Additionally, establishing ties with local businesses and encouraging internship programs could improve job opportunities for high school graduates. The collaboration of local authorities with companies and organizations, together with the strengthening of career guidance programs by educational institutions, can be a crucial step to address the persistent problem of unemployment and lack of access to formal jobs.

## Conclusions

This analysis of the concerns and challenges faced by adolescent students in Santa Marta and more broadly in the Caribbean Region highlights the need for coordinated and multifaceted action, with the recommendations emerging as fundamental guides to address these problems in a comprehensive and effective manner. Collaboration between educational institutions, local authorities, civil society organizations and the community in general is presented as a key element in the successful implementation of these recommendations. The synergy between these actors can generate a significant impact on the lives of young people and the construction of a more just and safe society.

From which we deduce the importance of education as a tool for change and prevention stands out in all the recommendations, because educational programs, extracurricular activities and awareness campaigns are positioned as fundamental pillars to address the problems identified, since education not only provides knowledge, but also promotes positive values, attitudes and behaviors that can contribute to social transformation.

In accordance with, it is crucial that educational institutions assume an active role in promoting prevention and awareness, for the strengthening of curricular programs, the training of educational personnel and the creation of safe and welcoming spaces are essential elements to guarantee the success of these initiatives.

It is the case that community participation and commitment are fundamental aspects for the success of any program or initiative, resulting in the creation of strategic alliances between different social actors can generate a multiplier impact and ensure the sustainability of the actions undertaken. Resolutely, the recommendations and opportunities identified from the analysis of the concerns of adolescent students in “Santa Marta” and the Caribbean Region point towards the need for a comprehensive and coordinated response, but collaboration between educational institutions, local authorities, civil society and the community in general, together with an approach focused on education, prevention and awareness, is presented as the path towards building a more just, safe and inclusive society for future generations.

And this process of continuous improvement is not only limited to addressing the immediate concerns identified in the surveys, but also promotes the construction of an educational and social environment that promotes resilience, inclusion, and the comprehensive development of young people. As corroborated by the attention to juvenile crime, drug addiction, cyberbullying, discrimination, and other challenges, it not only translates into the mitigation of specific problems, but also contributes to the formation of conscious, ethical, and committed citizens. Needing



flexibility and adaptability of the proposed strategies are essential, since social dynamics and challenges constantly evolve, since educational and preventive programs must be able to adjust to the changing realities and needs of young people, thus guaranteeing their relevance and effectiveness over time.

In the comprehensive compendium, the promotion of active participation of students in the design and implementation of initiatives is presented as a key element, with the voice and perspective of the young people surveyed, must be incorporated in all stages of the process, from the identification of problems to the impact evaluation. This not only strengthens the students' sense of belonging and responsibility, but also enriches the quality and authenticity of the interventions.

And likewise, the incorporation of technology and innovation in educational and prevention programs can significantly enhance their reach and effectiveness. Therefore, the creation of digital platforms, mobile applications and other technological resources can facilitate access to information, participation and monitoring of programs, especially in a context where technology plays an increasingly central role in the lives of people youths. For all this, it is essential to recognize that the successful implementation of these recommendations implies a long-term commitment and a comprehensive vision, since the construction of a safer and more equitable society does not happen overnight, but each step taken in the Right direction contributes to sustainable progress.

**Figure 6: Sample of Keywords Determined from the Interpretive Analysis of Student Responses**

Keyword	
1.	Juvenile delinquency, juvenile crime, capital cities.
2.	Drug addiction, consumption, hallucinogens.
3.	Waste, drugs, narcotics.
4.	Cyberbullying, Cyberbullying.
5.	No respect, no protection, human rights.
6.	Discrimination, stigmatization, disability, women, LGBTIQ+.
7.	Delinquency in youth, crime in minors.
8.	Violence, society.
9.	Corruption, social decomposition.
10.	Unemployment, lack of access, formal work.
11.	Discriminatory treatment, stigmatization, disability, women, LGBTIQ+.
12.	Cyberbullying, harassment, social networks.
13.	Drug addiction, consumption, narcotics.
14.	Corruption, influence peddling.
15.	Poverty, extreme poverty.
16.	Lack of communication, families.
17.	School bullying, school conflicts, Cyberbullying, virtual bullying, Tics.
18.	Lack of guarantee, public and home services.
19.	Pregnancy, adolescent women.

*Note:* List of twenty-one keywords determined from the interpretive analysis of the responses of the Young Adolescent Students who participated in the research between 2022 and 2023. With own elaboration based on the data collected from the application of instruments and the matrix of data.

With and from the students' responses about the problems in their communities, a complex web of challenges emerges that ranges from drug addiction to violence and lack of employment and these concerns reveal a surprising variability, where each community faces a unique set of challenges. With epilogue the focus shifts to corruption and lack of safeguards in public services, suggesting that local concerns are often rooted in structural and governance deficiencies.

Agree that attention towards cyberbullying and discrimination highlights the growing importance of challenges in the virtual space, underscoring the need to address issues of inclusion and respect in the digital age. With a theoretical perspective, the students' responses are related to the ideas of thinkers such as Crenshaw, K, who has explored the intersectionality of social problems (2008), highlighting how various forms of oppression are interconnected.

Likewise, Durkheim's theories on anomie and social dysfunction are echoed (1987), suggesting that phenomena such as violence and drug addiction can arise when social norms are weakened. Surely the diversity of perspectives highlights the importance of adopting holistic approaches to address the complexity of contemporary challenges, with young people not only identifying obvious problems such as crime, but also pointing out underlying issues such as discrimination and lack of access to opportunities labor issues, and this critical awareness underscores the need for multifaceted and sustainable interventions.

Today, the inclusion of emerging problems, such as cyberbullying, reflects the growing relevance of digital platforms in the lives of young people, making it valuable to address Castells' (1997) ideas about the network society, which gain importance by highlighting the influence of networks. and digital communication in social experiences. Fully understanding current challenges involves considering both online and offline dynamics. As in the quantitative analysis, the mode of the responses reveals that juvenile delinquency and crime in capital cities are perceived as the most relevant problem by 51% of the students.

However, the media highlights "No respect and no protection of human rights," suggesting a diversity of concerns. Averaging the mean, approximately 3.17, provides additional insight into the distribution of responses. Content analysis identifies keywords that highlight the most relevant social, economic and cultural problems. Juvenile crime, drug addiction, discrimination and cyberbullying are recurring themes that deserve attention. The detailed breakdown of these keywords provides a more complete view of the concerns expressed by students.

It is seen that the recommendations focus on collaborative and multifaceted strategies, as is the case of addressing juvenile delinquency,

where close collaboration with local authorities and educational programs focused on prevention is proposed, or drug addiction requires improving awareness and services. of support, therefore, the fight against drug trafficking involves collaboration between authorities and the community. Whether cyberbullying requires awareness programs and safe online environments, lack of respect for human rights highlights the importance of educational initiatives and inclusive policies, or discrimination and stigmatization requires anti-discriminatory policies and awareness programs. Violence and corruption need community service projects and public awareness.

But the relationship between unemployment and lack of access to formal jobs can still be addressed through career guidance programs and collaboration with local businesses, with inter-institutional collaboration, including authorities, educational institutions and community organizations, being essential to successfully implement these recommendations. This dynamism of social problems and their roots in contemporary reality is a phenomenon that awakens intellectual curiosity and the need to understand their origins and manifestations.

From Garrafa, V (2005), the emerging problem is defined as an unforeseen flash that challenges established structures, triggering repercussions that reverberate in all areas of society, and this dynamic phenomenon, in its unpredictable essence, reveals fissures in the societal fabric, demanding agile and adaptive responses to challenges that transcend disciplines and borders, being the emergency, impregnated with latent vitality, inscribed in the narrative of the unforeseeable, interweaving converging factors in a complex network of interactions. For its part, the persistent problem, as outlined by Garrafa, V and Porto, D (2005), shows the need to glimpse the social fabric, challenging attempts at solutions due to its roots in structures and resistance inherent to change.

From everything expressed, the conclusion is that the study carried out among adolescent students in Colombia sheds light on the diversity and complexity of the problems faced by contemporary society, starting with juvenile delinquency and discrimination to corruption and drug addiction, young people identify concerns that range from the local to the national, underscoring the need for holistic and specific approaches to each challenge.

Based on the students' perception, it reveals a deep understanding of the social realities that surround them, highlighting the intersection of social, cultural, and economic factors in the configuration of emerging and persistent problems. Opposition that, at the regional level, such as drug consumption and the violation of human rights occupy prominent places, evidencing the complexity of the challenges faced by the Caribbean Region and the city of "Santa Marta", with social problems, such as Discriminatory treatment and poverty transcend physical dimensions to

address psychosocial and economic challenges, underscoring the need for integrated approaches and context-specific measures.

Finally, the correlation between emerging and persistent problems reveals the complexity and dynamism of contemporary social reality, finding that through the eyes of young adolescent students, the intersection of social, cultural, and economic factors that shape the problems they face can be seen. society, highlighting the importance of holistic and adaptive approaches to address the changing challenges of our reality.

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