

The Awajún and Wampís peoples, living in the Department of Amazonas, have endured constant discrimination, insofar as the enjoyment of economic and social rights is concerned

The Jíbaro family, to which the Awajún and Wampís peoples belong, constitutes the second largest native culture in Peru. The latest information from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) corresponding to February 2009 indicates that the Awajún people constitute 16.6% of the indigenous population from the Amazon Region, second to the Asháninkas representing 26%. The Jíbaro population (Awajún, Wampís, Achuar, Shapra) represents a total of 24% of the indigenous population from the Amazon Region.

The Department of Amazonas, where a significant portion of the Awajún and Wampís peoples live, is the poorest department in Peru, according to current poverty growth rates. The INEI recently reported that poverty in Peru decreased from 39.3% in 2007 to 36.2% in 2008; however, it also indicated that poverty rose from 55% (2007) to 59.7% in the Department of Amazonas. Poverty has reduced in eighteen departments of Peru, but has increased in six. The Department of Amazonas leads with an increase in poverty amounting to 4.7%. While poverty decreases in Peru, it increases in the Department of Amazonas¹ **(see Exhibit 3)**.

Insofar as Human Development is concerned, the Department of Amazonas ranks 19th out of the twenty-four departments in Peru. Its inhabitants live fewer years; they have a lower educational level and fewer educational achievements; their per capita family income is 25% less than the national average. In the matter of unsatisfied basic needs, figures are also quite elevated with respect to malnutrition, illiteracy and the lack of water, sewerage and electricity. Another distinctive characteristic is as follows: while Peru is increasingly more urban (74%), the Department of Amazonas is mostly rural (59.4%). Now we know that the centre of poverty and the lack of development policies intensify in the rural areas of the country.

Nevertheless, the poorest districts of the Department of Amazonas are specifically located in the Province of Condorcanqui, where the Awajún and Wampís indigenous peoples of El Cenepa live and thrive. The latest information, corresponding to 2007, on poverty by districts and provinces published by the INEI in February 2009, places emphasis on the following poverty indicators:

- Condorcanqui 76.3% (**El Cenepa 84.3%**, Río Santiago 80.7% and Nieva 70.7%)
- Bagua 53.8% (Imaza 78.1%)
- Utcubamba 49,7%

¹ "Technical Dossier: Poverty Situation in 2008". National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). At: http://censos.inei.gob.pe/DocumentosPublicos/Pobreza/2008/Informe_Tecnico.pdf (consulted on July 29, 2009).

If we analyze the water supply to the houses and homes of inhabitants living in the Province of Condorcanqui, 87.4% use water originating from a river, irrigation ditch or spring; 4.8% obtain water from wells; 2.1% use water from a public fountain; and only 1.1% of the population in the District of Nieva receive water in their homes, as they are connected to a public water system.

Another important element to consider is the bathrooms in homes. The data corresponding to the District of Condorcanqui shows that 52.4% of all houses have latrines; 45.7% do not have bathrooms; 1.1% use irrigation ditches or channels and only 0.7% of all houses are connected to a public sewerage system, in other words, thirty-seven homes, which are located in the capital of the province. No houses or homes in the rural area have plumbing. They use water from rivers or ravines and relieve themselves in open fields. The absence of these services increases the risk of diseases and diarrhea, especially with children. Piped water supply systems exist in some inhabited areas or native communities.

The Province of Condorcanqui reports the highest illiteracy rate for all age groups: 16% for the 15 - 19 age group; 33.1% for both the 30 - 39 and 40 - 64 age groups. The group consisting of persons 65 years and older exhibits an illiteracy rate of 78.6%. All these figures are relatively greater in comparison with the rest of the provinces in the Department of Amazonas. 67% of all citizens of the El Cenepa Basin know how to read and write, while 33% do not possess these skills.

In the three districts of the Province of Condorcanqui, the number of health personnel working at the three health centres and the forty-nine health posts in 2000 was as follows: four doctors, three nurses, five non-medical personnel and fifty-nine health technicians. We can deduce that the indigenous population had one physician for every 9,807 inhabitants; 1 nurse for every 13,077 inhabitants; and one technician to tend to every 665 inhabitants. This illustrates a serious lack of health professionals for this province. With regard to infrastructure and equipment, health centres consist of unsuitable premises with few rooms. They have water, electricity and community telephone services, as well as basic surgical equipment. Meanwhile, these problems are accentuated at the health posts: they consist of only one room, and there is no electricity or water, with only limited equipment for basic services. It is worth noting that this problem is most common in native communities.

The death rate per 1,000 inhabitants in 2000 was 2.5, the main causes of which were pneumonia (10.6%), suicide (8.6%), perinatal conditions (8.3%) and surgical abdominal pathologies (7.1%). The maternal death rate is high: 1.8 per 1,000 live births. The infant death rate is also quite elevated: 14.33 per 1,000 children under one year old.

These economic and social indicators illustrate ongoing social discrimination and exclusion towards the indigenous communities of this area and, thus, an evident violation of the Convention.