MOTOR COORDINATION IN PERUVIAN CHILDREN: INFLUENCE OF AGE, SEX AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS.
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Introduction and objectives: It is known that the motor development of the children depends on the growth and biological maturation, as well as of the motor coordination (MoC). The MoC has been studied in industrialized nations, as well as in developing countries, where the implications of the socio-economic status can compromise an adequate coordination development. The purpose of this study was to analyze the MoC in function of the age, sex and socio-economic status (SES) in Peruvian children.

Method: 4007 children from 6 to the 11 years of age (n=1889 females; n=2118 males) from several schools of the metropolitan area of Lima, Peru was assessed on MoC with KTK (Corporal Coordination for Children, Kiphard and Schilling, 1974) test battery, that include 4 tests: balancing backward (BB), hopping on one leg one leg jumps (HO), jumping sideways (JS) and shifting platforms (SP). SES was evaluated according to the physical localization of each school (type of neighborhood). The exploratory, descriptive and inferential statistical analyses (ANOVA III) were done in SPSS 15.

Results: MoC reveled significant differences in function of the age and sex (p <0,05). Boys from the low SES showed significantly better MoC (p <0,001). In terms of main effects, the 3 factors have a significant effect in the all values of the KTK (p <0,001), but significant interaction was observed only between sex and SES (p <0,006) and age and SES (p <0,001). Conclusions: (1) as expected, MoC increases significantly with age; (2) boys are more coordinated than girls; (3) boys from low SES reveled better MoC than another groups (4) age, sex and SES has significant effect in all MoC’s components.

Keywords: Primary School, Children, Coordination