

Bicamerality as an Impact on Citizen Representation: A Comparative Analysis of Efficiency and Equity

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ABSTRACT

Bicamerality has had a significant impact on the representation of the citizen throughout history since it was born in England in the 13th century to provide representation in the upper house (Lords-privileged) and lower house (commons-citizen in general), which balanced the representation. The objective of the study was to analyze the impact of bicameralism on citizen representation. The methodology was a systematic study and review of scientific production in journals indexed in Scopus, in addition, authors of 30 text articles were involved, of which 13 articles were selected. On the other hand, the results of bicameralism in citizen representation are variable, depending on the political and social context of each country. In some cases, the existence of two chambers helped stop hasty decisions and encouraged a deeper debate. In others, legislative blockages and ineffectiveness in responding to the needs of the population. And, it was concluded that bicameralism offers a more balanced and representative system, but it also introduces complexities that must be improved with consensus, laws that satisfy the needs of the common interest, and thus, avoid the replacement of democracy with undemocratic systems.

KEYWORDS: Bicamerality, Impact, Citizen Representation

I. INTRODUCTION

Bicamerality in citizen representation is an important topic of debate in political theory and constitutional design, which is why research on this topic was considered necessary because it is related to the quality and effectiveness of legislation, improves the representation of citizens' interests, and cases where bicamerality has led to a better consideration of different perspectives and more deliberation before the approval of laws can be analyzed. Even the representation is more diverse of regional, social, economic or ethnic interests involving the voices of different groups within a participating society. Thus, research on bicamerality in citizen representation was

crucial to assess its impact on democratic governance, legislative efficiency, and the effective representation of citizens' interests in different political and cultural contexts.

At the international level (Abizadeh, 2021) he argues that bicameralism is a second legislative chamber whose task is legislative review in order to improve the quality of laws, in turn it grants a balance of concentrated power, protecting minorities, in terms of their election the first chamber is elected and the second selected by lot; the lottery is a practical means to provide equality and impartiality, that places political theory within the context of randomly selecting the Senate. Likewise, (Lane, 2019) examines the theory that bicameral systems, by having two chambers that must approve legislation, generate greater complexity and bureaucracy, which could facilitate abuses due to the difficulty of controlling and regulating the decisions made by the different legislative bodies. On the other hand, unicameral systems, in theory, have a more transparent and efficient decision-making process, which reduces the likelihood of abuses. Also, (Makse, 2022) outlines bicameral, revealing significant variation between federal states and a geographic pattern, with a greater bicameral distinction in the eastern United States.

Likewise, (Emrich, 2024) alleges that U.S. legislators prefer bicamerality because it is characterized as "conventional wisdom", and through formal negotiations of the Conference Committee known as the "third chamber of Congress" they resolve differences between the two legislative chambers, maximize the probability of success of a bill for the benefit of citizens, they face significant legislative blockages that prevent the approval of laws or when they seek to consolidate positions to ensure the final approval of proposals that maximize benefits for those represented. (Mura, 2023) provides a detailed critique of the Italian Senate's reforms and suggests that the measures adopted between 1948 and 1963 were not effective in streamlining the bicameral system, leaving the Senate with persistent problems that affected legislative efficiency in trying to simplify and streamline the legislative process, however, the Senate continued to be a body with significant powers that complicated decision-making and the legislature, generating greater confusion and duplication of functions between the two chambers.

On the other hand, (Bullard, 2019) specifies that in Peru, congressmen are directly elected by citizens in defined electoral districts. Voters elect an individual candidate to represent them in the relevant chamber (either the lower or upper house of parliament), seats are allocated proportionally to the votes received by each party or coalition in the country as a whole or in larger regions, there may even be indirect election in certain systems, such as in some presidential systems, through other bodies or institutions, such as regional legislatures or local assemblies, by graduates of universities with experience in education, commerce or public administration. On the other hand, the Peruvian bicamerality was in force until 1992 and its return was rejected via direct democracy of the referendum with 79%, during the presidential period of Vizcarra who opposed its return, after leaving the presidency the unicameral Congress, approved it with Law No. 31988 published in *El Peruano* on March 20, 2024. Then, the upper house will be elected in the 2026 general elections and its composition is 60 senators, one representative is elected for each electoral district (27), the remaining (33) are elected by single national electoral district, and it is required to

be Peruvian by birth, to have reached 45 years of age or to have been a congressman or deputy, and to enjoy the right to vote.

Apart from this, this study highlighted the balance of powers, since bicamerality serves as a mechanism to balance the legislative power, through two chambers with different compositions and election methods, excessive concentration of power in a single branch of government is avoided. This ensures that a wide range of opinions and concerns are considered in the legislative process; which contributes to political and social stability, by acting as a brake against rapid or impulsive legislative changes, on the contrary, building consensus between both chambers to promote a more deliberate and sustainable policy in the long term.

On the other hand, the research was also guided by Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) entitled "Partnerships to achieve the goals", which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development of the other SDGs, as it promotes cooperation between governments, the private sector, civil society and other relevant actors at the global level. regional, national and local, as is the case with bicamerality, which by working together the two legislative chambers maximize their impact on the representation of citizens, ensuring that legislative decisions and policies are aligned with the needs of those represented and consistent with the global objectives of sustainable development.

It was even formulated as a general problem: What is the impact of bicamerality on the representation of the citizen? The specific problems were: How does bicamerality impact the representation of the citizen? How to improve the representation of the citizen in the bicamerality? On the other hand, its theoretical justification was based on the theory of representation of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, which seeks to strengthen the democratic process and guarantee an equitable and effective representation of citizens, with bicamerality to avoid the change of the system of representative democracy by ideologies or anti-democratic systems (communism) that distort the aforementioned theory; which promotes the broadest consensus for the approval of inclusive laws, respectful of human rights, and that the needs of citizens are solved in legislative decisions. Its social justification focused on the promotion of equitable, deliberative and effective representation as a democratic system, in this aspect it is justified because it provides a system of checks and balances, in order to mitigate the risks of abuse of power and promote legislation that better reflects the interests and needs of society as a whole that enjoys legitimacy and social acceptance. since, in many political systems, bicamerality is seen as a reflection of the complexity and diversity of society, in order to increase the legitimacy of legislative decisions by ensuring that they are the result of a deliberative and representative process that considers multiple perspectives and interests. reducing polarization and promoting more inclusive and lasting policies for the benefit of the general interest. Finally, its practical justification is based on Montesquieu who divided the government into: legislative, executive and judicial, but bicamerality further divides the legislative power, and in practice it is useful because it avoids poorly drafted laws or with self-interests. It is hoped that the research will achieve the solidity of representative democracy, in order to avoid the change of this system by ideologies or anti-democratic systems, thus ensuring the participation of the best candidates for senators and deputies, being especially useful in countries with geographically different regions

or with different social and economic contexts. It even offers the additional opportunity to review and refine legislation, as the first chamber acts as an initial filter, while the second chamber carries out a deeper and more exhaustive analysis, thus reducing the possibility of hasty, poorly drafted laws or special interest laws to the detriment of the general interest of citizens.

This article developed bicamerality as a more balanced legislative system of representation, which generally performs a more exhaustive and detailed review, acting as an additional filter that can correct, modify or reject proposals that have not been sufficiently debated or analyzed in the first chamber; and its general objective of the study was: To analyze the impact of bicamerality on the representation of the citizen. Specific objectives were also set such as: To describe the impact of bicamerality on citizen representation and to characterize the improvement in citizen representation in bicamerality.

II. METHODOLOGY

In the methodology, research was used for its basic purpose called pure or theoretical, for its level of scope it was descriptive in that the properties and characteristics of the object of study were specified, in terms of its approach it was determined in the qualitative with which subjective realities were analyzed, contextualized and interpreted, likewise, the research design was cross-sectional or cross-sectional in that the data collection was done at a single time and in a single time with which its incidence was described and analyzed at a given time, in addition, the documentary analysis technique was used in its modality of study and systematic review of scientific production contained in scientific articles related to the subject, and as an instrument, the review guide of journals indexed in Scopus was applied, from which the authors, year, title, database, type of study, results and conclusions were obtained. Consequently, studies on bicamerality that impacted on citizen representation were reviewed, excluding literature that lacks similarity with the topic investigated, in order to analyze current knowledge regarding the impact of bicamerality on citizen representation, legislative quality, political stability, and efficiency of the legislative process in bicameral systems.

The collection of the articles was carried out according to the objective of the study, the bibliographic references were chosen from the last five years of articles from journals indexed in Scopus for subsequent review, considering that it is a key process for academic research, since it guarantees studies of high quality and relevance. For this reason, the systematic re-examination of text articles was initiated from the titles and summaries of citations found with selective search expertise, obtaining a population of 30 results. In the second, advance, the full text of the previously selected research was read and thus, it was possible to ratify its eligibility of the literature to put it in context in the results and discussion, resulting in a total of 13 articles as a sample. Table 1 then explains the selected articles, according to their importance:

III. RESULTS

Table 1: Authors of text and indexed scientific journals

Authors/year /title	Data base	Type of study	Meth ods	Results	Conclusions
Arena, A. I. (2020). Italian bicameralism : an anomaly? (A very brief answer.)	Scopus 1	Qualitative study	Descriptive	Consensus to preserve representative democracy, with a Parliament in which one of the two Chambers is composed of men with more experience.	The Italian Senate bases its justification on the form of an aristocratic state, preserving its nature as a Chamber of the Wise.
Brown, Adam R; Garlick, Alex, (2023). Bicameralism Hinges on Legislative Professionalism	Scopus 2	Qualitative study	Descriptive	Bicameralism is an almost universal feature of U.S. legislatures.	Bicameralism would produce better results than unicameralism, since it adds a deliberative element that prevents the passage of defective laws.
Bullard González, A., Iñiguez Ortiz, E., & López Montreuil, U. (2019). More of the same? The return to bicameral congress	Scopus 3	I am a student qualitative	Descriptive	The bicameral system influences the quality of legislation and political representation.	The return to the bicameral system in Congress represents an opportunity to introduce significant changes in the political structure.
Butković Hrvoje. (2024). Rethinking representative democracy in Croatia	Scopus 4	Qualitative study	Document review	Croatia had a bicameral parliament, until 2001, then it was unicameral. At the same time, the semi-presidential system was replaced by a parliamentary one.	Direct democracy impacts the functioning of representative democracy in Croatia by positively complementing it.
Couto Lucas, and Albala Adrián. (2023). Coalescence Revisited: The	Scopus 5	Quantitative approach	Calculation methodology	It is shown that the upper houses are participants in the coalescence of the presidential cabinets.	The bicameral is important, two chambers implies the existence of two loci of discussion and ignoring one of the chambers generates frustration in

Presidential Calculus in Bicameralism					the formulation of policies of interest to governments
Lawrence, Evans C. (2024). Trump's Senate: A Bicameral Perspective	Scopus 6	Qualitative study	Descriptive	Poor distribution of Senate seats favored Republicans and shifted legislation toward rural interests	Bipartisanship in voting is common in the Senate, and bills emerging from the Senate and House of Representatives often diverge over partisan inconsistencies.
Lawrence Ezrow; Michele, Fenzl; Hellwig, Timothy. (2022). Bicameralism and the capacity of policies to respond to public opinion.	Scopus 7	Approach qualitative	Non-experimental	The responsiveness of policies to public opinion is greater in unicameral systems than in two-chamber systems.	In bicameral systems, the more symmetrical (similar powers) the balance of power between the chambers, the weaker the ability to respond to public opinion.
Gerzso, Thalia. (2024). A Two-Headed Creature: Bicameralism in African Autocracies.	Scopus 8	Qualitative study	Descriptive	Since 1990, seventeen African states have added a second chamber to their legislatures.	Upper houses usually aim to improve democratic representation.
Gómez Perpinyà, P. (2023). The Senate: Renewed scenario for political contest. Appearances, debates and reform	Scopus 9	Qualitative study	Descriptive	Spanish bicameralism stresses its asymmetry and imperfection as an expression of the political primacy of Congress.	In a bicameral system, it must contemplate the possibility of the main political actors occupying representative positions in any of the Chambers in which popular sovereignty is expressed.

Kosasih, A., M, S., Fauzan, F., & Kusmidi, H. (2024). Strengthening the Indonesian Bicameral Parliament.	Scopus 10	Qualitative study	Descriptive	The strengthening of the bicameral parliament must be carried out through constitutional politics	The Indonesian parliamentary system operates on the dual control system and the check-and-balance paradigm to maintain democracy and regional autonomy.
Štrus, D., & Brezovnik, B. (2023). Bicameralism in Slovenia through a three-dimensional approach.	Scopus 11	Qualitative study	Descriptive	The National Council is a weak upper house, not only because of its asymmetry (simile) of powers with the National Assembly but also because of its congruence in the vision of the National Assembly.	The legitimacy of the members of the upper house improves not by changing the method of election, but by changing that they cannot be revoked by their electoral base.
Nephew, Giorgio. (2022). State-Region cooperation and possible changes in bicameralism following the reduction in the number of parliamentarians	Scopus 12	Qualitative study	Descriptive	They modified the Constitution leading to a reduction in the number of parliamentarians.	The constitutionalization of the Conferences is the only way to guarantee the connection between the State and the territorial autonomies
Vermassen, D., & Caluwaerts, D. (2023). The substantive representation of future generations in bicameral parliaments: a comparison between the	Scopus 13	Qualitative study	Exploratory	The interests of future generations are taken more into account in the upper chambers, because of the mandate to reflect on the long-term impact of policies.	The institutional status of the parliamentary assembly is not related to the propensity to make claims in the name of posterity.

Belgian House of Representatives and Senate (2010- 2014)

The first article presented by (Arena, 2020), analyzes the bicameral system in Italy and questions whether this model is an anomaly compared to other legislative systems, characterized in the form of an aristocratic State, retaining its nature as a Chamber of the Wise by having functions and powers to guarantee a better quality of legislation, it is not an anomaly in the sense that it remains a valid form of legislative organization, Rather than being a flaw or an excess, the Italian bicameral system reflects an institutional choice based on the country's history and political needs. It concludes, although it presents challenges, the Italian bicameral system is a legitimate manifestation of how legislative powers can be structured in a representative democracy.

In the second article published by (Brown & Garlick, 2023), the authors researched in the United States on the effectiveness and quality of the legislative process in two-chamber systems that depend largely on the level of professionalism of their legislators. The study explores how the professionalization of legislators, which includes aspects such as experience, full-time dedication, and specialization in legislative issues, benefits the chambers' ability to collaborate and resolve conflicts. The article highlights that professionalization is key to the effective functioning of bicameral systems, as it allows for more efficient interaction between the two chambers, facilitating better deliberation and decision-making for more robust and well-considered legislation.

In the third article authored by (Bullard, Iñiguez, & López, 2019) they argued in favor of bicameralism focusing on the need for greater representation and deliberation in the legislative process. However, the authors warned that the simple return to bicameralism in Peru does not guarantee an improvement in the quality of democracy, since there is a risk of repeating the same vices and problems that characterized the previous system that was dissolved by Congress on April 5, 1992, by former President Fujimori. However, with the constitutional reform through Law 31988 of March 20, 2024, bicamerality is a tool to consolidate political power and promote true balance and control between the different branches of government, it is also an opportunity to adopt additional measures to strengthen representative or liberal democracy and stop being gloomy by complementing participatory democracy when considering future solutions.

In the fourth article developed by (Butković, 2024), addresses a re-evaluation of the representative democratic system in Croatia, the author examines the shortcomings of the current system, which include the disconnect between representatives and citizens, due to the excessive fragmentation of parliament by coalitions between large and small political parties, however, direct democracy complements representative democracy, In turn, citizen assemblies, which are other forms of direct democracy, also contribute to restoring confidence in politics through transparency in decision-making and

implications of these problems for citizens for the legitimacy and effectiveness of the government.

The fifth article authored by (Couto & Albala, 2023) who carried out their research in Brazil, in turn, affirms that presidents make strategic decisions in bicameral systems under the medium of "coalescence", that is, the need to form political alliances to achieve the approval of laws in a system with two legislative chambers, that through presidential calculation in these systems not only depends on the composition and dynamics of each chamber, but also on how the president can negotiate and form effective coalitions to secure the necessary support for his legislative proposals, based on the bicameral structure and the balance of power between the chambers, being a crucial process to understand the political dynamics in such systems.

In the sixth article by (Lawrence, 2024), the author examines the role of the U.S. Senate during Donald Trump's presidency from a bicameral perspective, where the Senate, as one of the two houses of Congress, interacted with Trump's presidency and how these dynamics affected governance and the legislative process. So the Senate, dominated by the Republican Party for much of his presidency, played a crucial role in passing policies, acting not only as a counterweight to the presidency but also as a strategic player in legislative policy, with its own priorities and calculations. This analysis offers a detailed look at how the relationship between the Senate and the presidency can shape the course of policy and legislation in a bicameral system.

In Lawrence's seventh article, (Michele, & Hellwig, 2022), they did their research in Italy, the study focused on the impact of having two legislative chambers on how public policies adapt to citizens' demands and preferences, arguing that bicameralism can have mixed effects on the representation of public opinion. On the one hand, the existence of two chambers offers more opportunities for deliberation and adjustment of policies in response to citizens' demands. By contrast, the more complex legislative process and the possibility of disagreement between the two chambers slows down the government's ability to act quickly in the face of changes in public opinion. The authors conclude that while bicameralism can complicate politics and decision-making, it also allows for a more nuanced representation of public opinion if the two chambers act in complementary rather than conflictual ways.

In the eighth article of (Gerzso, 2024) executed in Africa, he warns that despite the lack of real democracy in these regimes, bicameralism is used as a strategic tool by autocratic leaders, since bicameral systems do not function simply as a form of democratic representation, but are manipulated to reinforce the control of the regime by African rulers. created a second chamber to weaken the legislature as a whole and the opposition in particular and manage dissent within the party, with a façade of legitimacy and political plurality while consolidating their power. This is achieved through the strategic distribution of power and resources between the two chambers, and the manipulation of their functions and competencies to support the decisions of the central regime. However, as a system, bicameralism is a tool of control and legitimation, so that institutional structures adapt in these contexts to manage internal tensions and co-opt various factions within the regime, providing a framework for political negotiation and maintaining the status quo.

In the ninth article prepared by (Gómez, 2023), whose research was carried out in Spain, focusing on its function as a renewed space for political dispute and legislative debate. He stressed that the appearances and debates in this legislative chamber have intensified, reflecting a greater dynamism and prominence in the legislative process, with room for more detailed deliberation and political confrontation between different actors and parties, with the capacity to act as an effective counterweight in the political system. In this way, the Senate has evolved towards a more active and relevant scenario in contemporary politics, with a renewed role in the political contest and the formation of public policies framed in the representative principle and political pluralism to avoid the annulment of the representative democratic mandate itself.

In the tenth article of (Kosasih, Fauzan, & Kusmidi, 2024), the authors examined the reform and strengthening of the bicameral parliament in Indonesia from the perspective of the *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, a theory of Islamic constitutional politics, to improve its effectiveness and representativeness, based on Islamic principles on governance, constitution, and participation. The study focused on constitutional reforms to optimize the functioning of the bicameral parliament in Indonesia, so that they become more efficient and representative bodies, with the allocation of powers, the deliberative capacity and the relationship between the chambers and the executive branch, even with the strong position of the Council of Regional Representatives DPD impacted on the democratic process of the parliament by improving the system of dual control and the safeguarding of the rights of the judiciary. interests of the autonomous regions at the central level.

In the eleventh article of (Strus & Brezovnik, 2023), explored Slovenia's bicameral system through a three-dimensional approach, the authors analyzed how bicameralism is implemented in the country's legislative structure, considering not only the composition and functions of the two chambers, but also the political and social context in which they operate. The study covered the historical evolution of the Slovenian legislative system, assessed its current functioning, and discussed the challenges and benefits associated with this bicameral model. So, the research provided a detailed look at how the interaction between the two chambers influences the legislative process and national policy in general.

In the twelfth article of (Sobrinho, 2022), he examined in Italy the cooperation between the State and the regions and the changes in bicameralism after the reduction in the number of parliamentarians. Sobrinho analyzed how the decrease in the number of representatives in parliament affects the dynamics between the central government and regional entities, and the study explored possible adjustments in the bicameral system to adapt to this reduction, considering the implications for regional representation and the balance of powers. Rather, the research offered an assessment of how these changes influence the efficiency of the legislative process and the relationship between the state and the regions in the context of parliamentary reform.

In the thirteenth article of (Vermassen and Caluwaerts, 2023), addressed the substantive representation of future generations in Belgian bicameral parliaments, the authors investigated how both legislative bodies addressed the interests and needs of future generations, assessing the effectiveness of each chamber in representing these interests through their decisions and policies. Thus, the study revealed differences in

the way the House of Representatives and the Senate dealt with issues related to future generations of citizens, providing a detailed view of the dynamics of representation in the Belgian legislative system. Similarly, (Bullard, Iñiguez, & López, 2019) state that the return to the bicameral system in the Peruvian Congress represents an opportunity to introduce significant changes in the political structure, including influencing the quality of legislation and the representation of Peru's citizens. Therefore, the return to bicameralism in 2026 is not a simple restoration with the 60 senators, on the contrary, it is an opportunity to improve the legislative process in its efficiency and equity.

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Bicamerality, by dividing the legislative branch into two chambers, has a notable impact on the representation of the citizen. First, this system allows for broader representation, combining direct representation of citizens with that of regions or states, which balances local and national interests. In addition, the existence of two chambers encourages a more deliberative and thoughtful legislative process, as bills are considered from different perspectives. However, this system also makes the legislative process slower and more complex. As (Štrus and Brezovnik, 2023) announce that conflicts between the chambers lead to the paralysis of legislative progress and vision. Likewise, (Sobrino, 2022) recognizes that, in some constitutionalized systems, unequal representation in one of the chambers creates disparities in the influence of citizens. Despite these challenges, bicamerality contributes to greater cooperation between different levels of government and strengthens cohesion between different regions of the country.

Meanwhile, the diversification of the broader representation of different interests and regions is achieved with bicamerality, as he argues (Gerzso, 2024), upper houses usually aim to improve democratic representation, usually, one chamber can be designed to represent citizens directly (by the Chamber of Deputies) and the other to represent regions or states (The Senate). Likewise, (Gómez, 2023) argues that bicamerality helps balance local and regional interests with national interests, ensuring that both the most populated and the least populated areas have a voice in the legislative process. Bicameralism therefore promotes broader and more diversified representation, by allowing different interests and perspectives to be heard and integrated into public policy-making. According to Bullard, Iñiguez, & López, 2019, the Peruvian bicameral system represents an opportunity to introduce significant changes in the political structure, even insisting that it influences the quality of legislation and the representation of Peru's citizens. Therefore, the return to bicameralism in 2026 is not a simple restoration with the 60 senators, nor a cost for the country, on the contrary, it is an investment that in the short term impacts the representation of the citizen and improves the legislative process in its efficiency and equity.

In terms of review and control, bicamerality allows for greater review and control of proposed laws and policies. Both chambers must pass the legislation, which can lead to a more detailed and thorough process. This improves the quality of the laws and ensures that different perspectives are considered before important decisions are made that negatively impact those represented. As well as, (Arena, 2020), it argues that the

double review ensures that laws are subjected to a more rigorous debate process, since each chamber provides its unique perspective and specific evaluation criteria. For example, while one chamber may focus on the national and global aspects of a law, the other may focus on its regional or local implications. This collaboration and contrast of opinions contribute to a more balanced and complete evaluation. In addition, (Brown & Garlick, 2023), he argues that the fact that both chambers must coincide to pass a law also introduces an additional level of control. While this can slow down the legislative process, it also minimizes the risk of rushed or poorly crafted laws being passed. In this way, it seeks to ensure that legislative decisions are well-founded and adequately respond to the needs of the citizens represented.

Regarding the balance of powers, the existence of two chambers helps to balance the legislative power, because each chamber must have different powers and responsibilities, to prevent a single chamber from having too much control or influence and this balance makes the representation of the citizen more equitable, since different voices have the opportunity to influence the legislative process. While (Couto & Albala, 2023) assert that, in a bicameral system, the balance of powers is established by distributing legislative authority between two different chambers, this division aims to prevent the excessive concentration of power in a single chamber and promote a more balanced and representative legislative process of fellow citizens. On the other hand, (Kosasih, Fauzan & Kusmidi, 2024) details that the existence of two chambers acts as an internal control mechanism, i.e., each chamber can review and question the decisions of the other, which helps to avoid abuses and errors. Therefore, this system of checks and balances ensures that the legislative process remains fair, utilitarian, and representative of citizens.

Regarding the greater complexity and time, although bicamerality improves representation and legislative quality, it also makes the legislative process more complex and slower. Therefore, there is a latent need for both chambers to reach an agreement to avoid delaying the approval of supranational and national laws and public policies, so as not to affect the speed with which the needs of citizens are met. In fact, (Lawrence, 2024) argues that each bill must be reviewed and debated by both chambers, which implies that the legislative process is longer, unlike a unicameral system, as recognized (Lawrence et al., 2022) "The capacity of policies to respond to public opinion is greater in unicameral systems than in bicameral systems". This two-pronged evaluation process can extend the time needed to reach a final decision. For its part, (Vermassen, & Caluwaerts, 2023) makes the differences in perspectives and priorities between the two chambers that conceive of prolonged negotiations and successive amendments, because each chamber has its own priorities and points of view, which generates extensive debates and the need to find compromises for a proposal to be accepted by both parties. In addition, (Butković, 2024) states that the change of the parliamentary system impacts representative democracy as can be seen in Croatia the exchange from the bicameral to unicameral system, the transition from a parliamentary system has a significant impact on the way in which representative democracy is exercised in a country, which sometimes direct or participatory democracy positively complements with active citizen participation in the decision-making processes. political decisions, when considering future solutions for citizens who delegated their authority to their representatives.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the findings of the systematic review carried out in this work, it is concluded:

Primero. As for the general objective, bicamerality refers to a legislative system divided into two chambers, generally a lower house and an upper house, this model is used in the countries analyzed such as: Italy, the United States, Brazil, Africa, Peru, Spain, Indonesia, Slovenia, and Belgium, except Croatia that left bicameralism in 2001; however, it has several externalities that have a positive impact on the representation of the citizen.

Segundo. Regarding specific objective 1, bicamerality allows for a broader representation of different sectors and groups of society, for example, in some systems, one chamber represents citizens proportionally to the population, while the other represents regions or states equally. Also, having two chambers that must approve legislation prevents laws from being passed in a hurry or without thorough debate. This encourages a more careful and detailed review of legislative proposals. Also, the existence of two chambers impacts greater political stability, since the possibility of a single parliamentary majority imposing drastic changes quickly is reduced, this leads to more balanced and moderate decisions. Finally, each chamber specializes in different areas of legislation or in different aspects of policy, which impacts the efficiency and quality of the legislative process.

Tercero. To specific objective 2, the externalities or negative impacts of bicamerality on the representation of the citizen are previously characterized, firstly, the legislative process becomes more complex and slower due to the need for both bodies to coincide in decisions, this leads to greater bureaucracy and the possibility of legislative stagnation. Secondly, it fosters conflicts between the two chambers, especially if they have different political compositions or functions, even leading to tensions and possible paralysis in decision-making. Third, maintaining two legislative chambers is costly, as it involves duplicating administrative and operational resources. This undoubtedly increases public spending in terms of salaries and other associated costs. However, as an improvement, there is consensus, laws that meet the needs of the national, regional and local common interest, and actively involving citizen participation, where the voices of all citizens are heard and taken into account. In addition, in this way, democracy is strengthened and its replacement by anti-democratic ideologies or political systems (communism) that coerce the representation of citizens is avoided.

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