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The Impact of Media Representation on Female Athlete Identity and Self-Perception

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction effectively sets the stage but should include more recent references. For instance, the most recent citation is from 2022, yet the field has seen significant updates since then. Including more recent studies would strengthen the literature review.

The "Methods and Materials" section mentions using NVivo software but lacks detail on the specific coding processes and criteria for theme development. Please elaborate on the coding process to enhance transparency and reproducibility.

The sampling strategy is mentioned briefly. However, more detail is needed on the purposive sampling method, including criteria for participant selection. Why were these specific sports chosen, and how might this choice impact the generalizability of the findings?

“The representation of female athletes in media has long been a topic of significant scholarly interest...”

This sentence could benefit from a specific reference to seminal works that have historically addressed this topic to ground the reader in the foundational literature.

“The study participants were selected using purposive sampling...”

Please clarify the specific inclusion and exclusion criteria for participant selection to provide more context on the sample representativeness.

“The analysis followed these steps: Familiarization with Data, Generating Initial Codes...”

Please provide more details on how inter-coder reliability was ensured during the coding process.

“Participants noted that they receive less prime-time presence and fewer feature stories than their male counterparts...”

Adding specific data or percentages related to media coverage disparities would strengthen this point.

The table effectively summarizes the qualitative findings, but including example quotes under each concept would enhance reader understanding and engagement.

“Media representation impacts athletes’ personal identities influencing their self-confidence...”

This section would benefit from a deeper exploration of the psychological theories that explain how media representation affects identity construction.

“Media representation significantly affects athletes’ self-esteem including their self-worth confidence levels...”

Discussing potential interventions or strategies to mitigate these negative effects would add a practical dimension to the findings.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

“When female athletes are featured, they are often portrayed in ways that emphasize their physical appearance...”

Consider providing specific examples or case studies to illustrate this point more vividly.

“Data were collected through semi-structured interviews designed to allow in-depth exploration...”

It would be helpful to include the interview guide as an appendix or describe key questions to illustrate the scope of the interviews.

“An athlete shared, ‘We train just as hard but our achievements are barely highlighted on major platforms.’”

This quote is compelling; more direct quotes like this throughout the paper would enrich the narrative and provide personal insights.

“Having a supportive coach who believes in me makes a huge difference.”

This is an important point; expanding on how coaching practices can support athletes in dealing with media pressures would be beneficial.

“Participants consistently reported experiencing stereotypical portrayals in the media...”

Integrating a comparative analysis with other cultural contexts could provide a broader understanding of this phenomenon.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.