

# Informed Choice or Situational Deterrence in the Immigration of Iranian Elite Athletes: Providing a Framework of Related Factors

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract mentions, "The emigration of elite athletes from Iran has adversely affected the nation's growth and development." It would benefit from specific examples or statistics to provide a more robust foundation for the claim.

The methodology section states, "The sample selection was based on data saturation expertise experience and willingness." Clarify the criteria used to determine "expertise" and "experience" to ensure reproducibility.

Describe the semi-structured interview process in more detail. Include sample questions or an interview guide to illustrate how data was collected.

Table 3 mentions "Lack of welfare and medical coverage" under economic factors. Provide more detail on how these issues specifically impact athletes compared to the general population.

In Table 4, the sub-category "Political restrictions" includes "Managers' self-interest." Elaborate on how this was identified and its specific impact on athletes' decisions to emigrate.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the phrase "Immigration encompasses all types of population movements between territories resulting in a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence (Zarghani & Mousavi 2013)" needs to be expanded to clearly differentiate between immigration and emigration, as the focus of the study is on emigration.

The literature review in the introduction should include more recent studies beyond 2020 to ensure the research is up-to-date. Consider including more recent global studies on athlete migration.

The introduction lacks a detailed theoretical framework. Including theories related to migration, such as push-pull factors or human capital theory, would strengthen the study's foundation.

The data analysis section briefly mentions the Strauss and Corbin method (open coding). Elaborate on how codes were developed and refined, and how reliability and validity were ensured during the coding process.

In Table 1, provide additional demographic details such as socioeconomic status or previous international exposure, which may influence the decision to emigrate.

In Table 2, under "Intrapersonal factors," clarify how "Decreasing spirituality" was identified and measured. Provide examples or quotes from the interviews to illustrate this finding.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.