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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59486

Title: Les Barrieres Sportives, Sociales et Economiques Liees aux Courses de Demi-Fond: Cas du 1500 m Feminin.

Recommendation:Major revision required

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		Good		
Techn. Quality			Fair	
Clarity			Fair	
Significance		Good		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-212

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript examines the sporting, social and economic barriers affecting the development of the women's 1500 metres in Senegal. The topic is relevant to the sociology of sport, gender studies and African sport policy, and the qualitative approach is appropriate for exploring the lived experience and institutional perceptions behind the underperformance of Senegalese female middle-distance runners. However, the manuscript requires substantial revision in language, methodology reporting and presentation.

Strengths

The research question is clear and socially significant. The paper addresses an under-researched area in Senegalese and West African sport scholarship.

The theoretical framing is well grounded, drawing on Terret 2006, Dantu 1997, Costill 1987, Loum 2011 and Ndongo 2021 to situate women's athletics within historical, physiological and socio-cultural debates.

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The use of semi-structured interviews with athletes and technical staff provides rich qualitative material. The verbatim quotations from Max, Alex, Abdou, Paul, Mouhamed and Assy are vivid and analytically useful.

The thematic analysis is broadly consistent with Bardin's approach to content analysis, and the three-stage coding process is described.

The discussion of the tension between religious norms and women's sport participation is handled with appropriate nuance, particularly in Abdou's observation that religion frames rather than forbids practice.

Major Weaknesses

Language and proofreading. The manuscript contains numerous accent and typographical errors, including "Grece Antique," "athletisme," "epreuve," "medailles," "emerveiller," "entraineurs," "morphotype senegalais," "trainent," "Maitrise," "INSEPS." The English abstract also contains an error, "progressing and/for performing well," which should read "progressing and/or performing well." A thorough linguistic revision by a francophone specialist is essential.

Inconsistency between abstract and results. The abstract states that two athletes and six technical staff were interviewed, giving a total of eight participants. The conclusion repeats the figure of eight but describes them as two athletes, three from the technical direction and three regional technical advisers. This discrepancy between the abstract and conclusion must be resolved.

Methodological weaknesses. The sample is very small, with only two athletes interviewed. This limits the strength of the conclusions, particularly regarding the athletes' perspective. The sampling strategy is not clearly explained. It is not stated how participants were selected, what their competitive level was, or over what period the interviews were conducted.

Insufficient methodological detail. The interview guide is said to cover four themes, but the themes are described in an undifferentiated list that mixes personal circumstances, motivation, representations, profile, practice conditions, financial support, social and cultural difficulties, and technical policy. These should be clearly separated and numbered.

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Analysis is largely descriptive. The results section presents extensive verbatim material but limited analytical interpretation. Thematic categories are identified but not systematically developed, and no coding framework or frequency of themes is provided. The reader is left with the impression of a collection of opinions rather than a structured qualitative analysis.

Missing literature integration. The discussion does not return to the theoretical framework to interpret the findings. Key concepts such as gender socialisation, institutional barriers, resource dependency and the political economy of Senegalese sport are not developed, even though the data clearly speak to them.

Unsupported claims. The manuscript states that the 1500 m "correspond au morphotype senegalais" without providing any evidence or citation. Similarly, the claim that Senegal has the infrastructure but lacks specialised coaching is asserted rather than demonstrated.

Typographical and formatting issues. The bibliography is incomplete for some entries. The Costill reference is dated 1987, but the journal article by Jones and Whipp is 2002. The Deville-Dantu reference is cited in the text as Dantu 1997, which may cause confusion. The bibliography also lacks a clear alphabetical order and consistent formatting.

Recommendation

Major revision required. This manuscript addresses an important topic and contains valuable empirical material, but it requires substantial revision before publication. The authors should first undertake a thorough linguistic revision by a francophone specialist, correcting all accent, spelling and typographical errors in the French text and the English abstract. Second, they should resolve the inconsistency in the number and composition of participants between the abstract and conclusion. Third, they should provide a clearer account of the sampling strategy, participant profiles and interview conditions. Fourth, they should restructure the interview guide so that the four themes are clearly delineated. Fifth, they should strengthen the analytical treatment of the qualitative data, developing a systematic coding framework and integrating the findings with the theoretical literature. Sixth, they should remove or substantiate unsupported claims regarding morphotype and infrastructure. Seventh, they should standardise the bibliography and

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correct all citation inconsistencies. With these revisions, the study can make a meaningful contribution to the literature on gender and sport in Senegal.