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Title: Social Integration of Ethiopian and Eritrean Women in Switzerland through informal Sport Setting

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Abstract

Global immigration has intensified the bargaining between the existing and emerging culture. Studies shows that sport may foster social harmony between immigrants and the hosting society, though most lack sensitivity to the difference in the experiences of migrant women. This study explore how informal sports participation can assist in the social integration of Ethiopian and Eritrean women in Swiss society. Ager and Stranger (2004) indicator of integration framework is used to examine social connection in an informal sports setting. Thematic analysis (Braun, Clarke, & Weate, 2016) of semi-structured interviews and focus groups (18-51 years old) showed informal sport helped to establish social network and support within the migrant communities. It is space of unity, and maintaining cultural identity. Gender, cultural expectation, racism, and the high cost of participation are the most common barriers hindering sustainable participation and intensify existing social boundaries.

Keywords: Immigration; Sport; Social Integration; Women; Switzerland