




International Journal of Sport Studies for Health

Journal Homepage



Identification and Analysis of Factors Influencing the Development of Sports in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Using Foresight Methodology (Focusing on Health and Lifestyle)

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase "sports provide an appropriate platform for executive participants and athletes to engage in other social political and economic arenas" could be clarified by providing specific examples or references to studies that support this claim. This will enhance the reader's understanding of the multifaceted impact of sports.

When discussing the classification of predictive components of success into macro, meso, and micro-level variables, it would be beneficial to include definitions or examples of each level. This will aid in comprehending the distinctions and relevance of each variable level.

The description of the STEEP-V method and MICMAC software could be expanded to briefly explain what these tools are and how they contribute to the research. This will make the methodology section more accessible to readers.

Clarify the criteria used for selecting the 15 participants in the study. More detail on the purposive snowball sampling method and why it was chosen would strengthen the rigor of the research design.

The macro trends (drivers) affecting sports development are well-categorized, but it would be helpful to provide a brief explanation or example for each trend listed in the table. This will enhance the reader's understanding of the listed factors.

The table showing the indirect influence and impact of macro drivers based on MICMAC software output should include a legend or explanation of the impact and influence values. This will ensure the table is interpretable without prior knowledge of the software's output metrics.

When discussing the need for sports development in the Iranian army, including comparative examples from other countries could provide a more global perspective and underscore the importance of the study.

The section discussing the advantages of foresight methodology should include a brief comparison with other methodologies to highlight why foresight is particularly suitable for this study. This will justify the methodological choice more robustly.

The statement "No human prediction can be considered absolute; therefore, the resulting scenarios should be periodically reviewed and reassessed" could be enhanced by suggesting specific intervals or conditions for these reviews. This will make the recommendation more actionable.

The recommendation to consider all identified macro trends and their interrelationships could be supported by suggesting practical steps or frameworks for policymakers to integrate these trends into their planning processes.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement "Evidence and study results indicate that engaging in physical activities as part of a healthy lifestyle is the most effective and sustainable way to prevent the rise of non-communicable diseases" should be backed up with specific studies or data. This will add credibility to the assertion.

The reference to the study by Agostinelli et al. (2024) could be more effectively integrated by explaining the relevance of anthropometric measures to the overall objectives of the paper. This will provide context for readers unfamiliar with the study.

The abstract mentions the identification and analysis of 30 drivers in six categories, but does not provide enough context on why these specific categories were chosen. Including a brief rationale would make the abstract more informative.

The use of both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods is a strength. However, the integration process of these methods during the interpretation phase could be described in more detail to clarify how the data were synthesized.

The section detailing the development of four alternative future scenarios would benefit from visual aids, such as flowcharts or diagrams, to illustrate the scenario development process. This will enhance the clarity and impact of the findings.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.