

**Evaluation of SocialSport**  
UBC Sustainability Initiative  
Executive Summary

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## **Executive Summary**

This report explains the activities of the “Evaluation of the SocialSport.” SocialSport is an organization that connects the newcomer families to sport and leisure programs for their children. The purpose of this UBC Sustainability Scholars Program project was to develop an evaluation framework for SocialSport. There were three phases to this project. The first phase involved conducting a literature review of the evaluation tools that were used in measuring integration for immigrants and refugees. The second phase involved conducting the literature review of the impact of participation in sports on the inclusion and integration of immigrants and refugees. The first and second phases of the project were conducted in the summer of 2017. The third phase of the project takes place in the fall of 2017.

The literature review as part of the first phase of the project, found a number of evaluation tools used for studying inclusion and integration of refugees and immigrants. These included art expression, storytelling, interviews, focus groups, meetings, program records and archives, and surveys. The indicators that were used in these studies included demographics information, language, identity perspectives, attitude toward diversity, community participation, intercultural communication, school experiences for the children, cultural adaptation, the experience of immigration, acculturation, cultural values, psychological wellbeing, self-confidence, motivation, skill development, connection and networking, and other economical, political and socio-cultural factors.

The literature review as part of the second phase of the project, had a number of findings with regard to the impact of participation of immigrants and refugees in sports and leisure activities. The benefits of participation in sports included increased socializing, making friends, enhancing language proficiency, becoming familiar with the new culture, having purpose in life, developing skills, and being part of a safe and supportive environment. Some of the negative aspects of participation were: being excluded by peers, costs of participation (membership fee, equipment expenses), transport, and (lack of) knowledge of the rules of the games. This literature found that ethnic minorities in general were less engaged in sports and that women, among all, were more restricted to participate, and that there was a need for creating inclusive spaces for participation in sports. Most of the literature in this area drew attention to the concept of social inclusion and the mechanisms that may lead to inclusion and exclusion of refugees and immigrants.

The third phase, that will be conducted in fall 2017, includes conducting an evaluation of the activities of SocialSport. SocialSport is a volunteer-led community-based initiative that connects the refugee families, particularly the children and youth, to sport and leisure activities run by the sport clubs or the community centres. The purpose of this phase of the project is twofold: first, to evaluate the impact of participation in sports on the wellbeing and inclusion of the refugee families; and second, to evaluate the impact of SocialSport activities as a point of access between refugee families and the sport and leisure programs. The interview guide for the evaluation is provided in Appendix A. SocialSport is expanding its services for the newcomer families, and recently it received a charity status.

Below is a list of deliverables for the Evaluation of SocialSport project and their completion status.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Status</b>
Search databases	Completed
Meet with SocialSport team	Completed
BREB application	Cancelled
Literature review	Completed
Creating evaluation tool (interview)	Completed
Pilot evaluation tool	Due fall 2017

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## Appendix A

### Interview Protocol for SocialSport Evaluation

First, the interview purpose, that is to enhance the practices of SocialSport, will be explained. Second, the procedure of the study, the confidentiality, anonymity and the right to withdraw will be explained.

The interview begins with some demographic questions so that the interviewer has an idea about the participant and his/her familiarity with Canada, English, etc. Then the interviewer asks an open question about any need that the participant felt had soon after they entered Canada and their needs at the time of the interview- hoping to link these later with SocialSport outcomes. We then ask questions about the sports in which they participate, their peers and their coaches. Then we ask some questions about how the participants got to know SocialSport team and their reasons for joining. We also ask about their expectations and the link between SocialSport and the sport program(s) and how it helped the participants in different ways, e.g., skills, language, culture, sports, etc. Toward the end, we ask how they would do things differently in SocialSport if they did it themselves.

### Interview Questions

#### Demographics

1. Tell me a little bit about you.
  - a. How old are you?
  - b. What grade are you at?
  - c. Where are you from? What's your ethnicity (which part of the country?)
  - d. What languages do you speak at home?
  
2. When did you come to Canada?
  - a. Who did you come with? (parents, grandparents, siblings, alone...)
  - b. Did you come directly to BC?
    - i. Probe
  
3. How was it like in the first few days/weeks/months in Canada?
  - a. Probe
  - b. Tell me more about X? Y? What happened? How was that addressed?
  - c. How did you feel?
  - d. What surprised you/not expect when you got here?
  - e. What is it like now? Compared to what you told me, how do you feel now? (Go back to X, Y ...)
  
4. How's your life here? How do you describe it?
  - a. Probe

#### Participation in Sports

5. Tell me a bit about the sport(s) that you took part here in Canada?

- a. What sport was it? Did you choose it?
  - b. Was there something you learned?
  - c. How well do you feel you are doing it? How confident do you feel in participating in this sport?
  - d. What is your goal? Why did you choose to participate in it?
  - e. How was the experience for you?
    - i. How did you feel after participating?
    - ii. Probe
  - f. What was your experience of sports prior coming to Canada?
    - i. What was different about them? What was the same?
6. How would you compare the sporting experience here versus where you came from?
- a. what do you liked/not like about where you are now and where you were?
  - b. what is it like for you having sports introduced as a norm?
7. How about your experience with the coaches?
- ii. Probe
8. How about your experience with the peers?
- iii. Who are your peers? (friends, family members, sibling, cousin; probe according to what they say)
  - iv. Where are they from?
  - v. What language did you speak?
  - vi. How do you communicate? Tell me more
  - vii. Did you make friends with them?
  - viii. Probe
9. Did you feel belonged? Cared for?
- ix. How? Probe
  - x. Is there anything that made you feel unwelcomed/didn't belong? (probe according to what they say; e.g., discrimination, kept out; ask: how was it like, how did you respond)
10. Did you learn more about other cultures?
- a. Learned about Canada?
  - b. Learned language?
  - c. Learned about cultural practices?
  - d. Learned about sport culture in Canada?
11. What other skills did you learn?
- a. Probe ...
12. What were the challenges for you in participating in the sports?
- a. Expensive equipment, e.g., clothing
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Personal challenges
    - i. School work
    - ii. Having to be with family/taking care of siblings

13. (if this did not come up in question about peers) Do your siblings participate in sports too?

- a. Probe?

### **SocialSport**

14. Let's talk about SocialSport. How did you learn about it? How about the SocialSport team?

15. Why did you decide to participate in SocialSport activities?

- a. Probe
- b. Which SoSp activity did you participate in? (e.g., skating, ...)

16. How do you feel that SocialSport communicated with you about programs?

17. what was your impression of SoSP volunteers work with you?

- a. Probe
- b. Cultural connection with people of similar background
- c. Others?

18. Do you feel like the people you spoke with from SocialSport understood your needs?

- a. what did they understand? What did they not understand?
- b. (parents) What has social sport give your child? (confidence, acceptance, comfort etc.)
- c. probe

19. Do you think that SocialSport met your expectations/what you were looking for?

- a. How?
- b. Probe...

20. Did you have expectations that were not met by SocialSport?

- a. How about x?
- b. How about y?
- c. How can SocialSport address that? What do you think
- d. What strategies did SocialSport use that you felt were beneficial in meeting your expectations when your needs were not being met?

21. Let's refer to SocialSport and its relationship with the sport that you took part in,

- a. How did you find SocialSport's role in relation to sport x?
- b. How did it help facilitate your participation in sport x?
- c. How did you find the regular phone check-ins?
- d. Other thoughts?

22. If you think about SocialSport or the sport program that you take part in, do you consider these as community to which you belong?

- a. How?
- b. Do you consider them your friends?

- c. Would you want to continue using their services? Would you refer other friends that are new to Canada?
- d. What do you see as your future involvement in SocialSport?

23. Let's assume that you had a leading role in SocialSport, how would you do things differently?

- a. Why?
- b. How?
- c. probe

24. For the next round of the sport activities, what do you like to see changed?

- a. Probe

25. Do you have any comment about our conversation today? Any thoughts?

26. Is there any question that you think that I could ask you- that i didn't?

Thank you