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Impact of Immigration Laws on Family Reunification: Narratives from Affected Families

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The methodology section could benefit from a more detailed explanation of the snowball sampling process. It is essential to discuss any potential biases this sampling method might introduce, given its reliance on networks that may not be representative of the wider immigrant population.

Clarify the criteria used for determining theoretical saturation in your qualitative analysis. Providing specific examples of redundancy in data that led to the conclusion of saturation would strengthen this section.

While semi-structured interviews are suitable for this kind of research, the paper should include an appendix with the interview guide or at least a summary of the key questions. This would enhance the reproducibility of the study.

Expand on the thematic analysis process using NVivo. Detail how codes were derived, combined, and refined throughout the analysis to provide a clearer picture of the data structuring process.

The discussion on emotional impacts could be deepened by comparing findings with existing theories or models of emotional distress and coping in migration literature. This would contextualize your results within broader psychological research.

The economic consequences discussed are significant; however, the paper would benefit from a more detailed analysis of the systemic and policy-driven factors that exacerbate these economic challenges for immigrants.

Provide more in-depth examples or case studies that illustrate the complexities and inconsistencies of the legal processes as experienced by the participants. This would help to vividly paint the challenges faced in navigating the immigration system.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Integrate more theoretical frameworks relating to immigration and family studies, such as theories on transnationalism or the stress of acculturation. This will provide a deeper theoretical grounding for your findings.

The paper would benefit from a comparative analysis with other regions or countries. This could highlight unique or common challenges faced by immigrants in different legal contexts.

Deepen the analysis of how gender dynamics affect the immigration process. Discuss how roles and expectations differ for men and women in the context of immigration and family reunification.

Elaborate on the psychological impact of immigration laws on children within the families studied. Integrating findings from developmental psychology could enrich this discussion.

The conclusion could be strengthened by offering more concrete policy recommendations based on the findings. Suggest specific changes to immigration policies that could mitigate the negative impacts identified in the study.

Propose a longitudinal study as future research to track changes over time in the lives of immigrants who are navigating family reunification. This would provide valuable insights into the long-term effects of current immigration policies.

Consider incorporating quantitative elements into your study to complement the qualitative data, such as statistical analysis of demographic data or outcomes related to economic stability and legal challenges.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.