

## **Pursuing Professional Status in Women's Football: A Qualitative Analysis of Empowerment and Social Independence**

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**Abstract :** Professional status for African male players guarantees them socioeconomic benefits that may not necessarily be the case for female footballers. The study's rationale is to understand how female footballers achieve professional status abroad. That contributes to analyzing how female players from Africa especially, Ghana, manage their professional status to improve their family's social welfare and the community. Relying on football migration and feminization, we identify their migration process and its relevance to their social mobility in society. Analysis through interviews with some female footballers revealed the importance of playing professional abroad that goes to increase their social status and national identity. Findings show that some female footballers with secondary education achieved career empowerment and social independence via their profession. Thus becoming medical doctors and nurses, sports administrators, football coaches and welfare officers for clubs. These achievements of the female footballers can provide useful information and lessons for young female African players aspiring to play professionally abroad.

**Keywords :** empowerment, female footballers, football migration, professional status, social independence

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