MIT Emerging Talent Program

Understanding Immigrant Integration in Germany

Capstone Project (CDSP)

A Mixed-Methods Study

MIT Emerging Talent Program

By: Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

To: Evan Cole

December 16, 2025

1. Project Context & Motivation

- ➢ Germany is a major destination country
- ➢ Integration policies focus on language
- ➢ Structural and social barriers persist
- ➢ Integration often framed as individual responsibility

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

2. Research Objectives

- ➢ Identify integration barriers
- ➢ Examine interaction of key dimensions
- ➢ Compare immigrant and expert perspectives
- ➢ Provide policy-relevant insights

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

3. Research Questions

➢ RQ1: Key integration challenges
➢ RQ2: Effects of integration dimensions
➢ RQ3: Comparison with expert views

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

4. Conceptual Framework

➤ Integration as a multidimensional process

➤ (Language, bureaucracy, housing, employment,

➤ social ties, mental well-being)

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
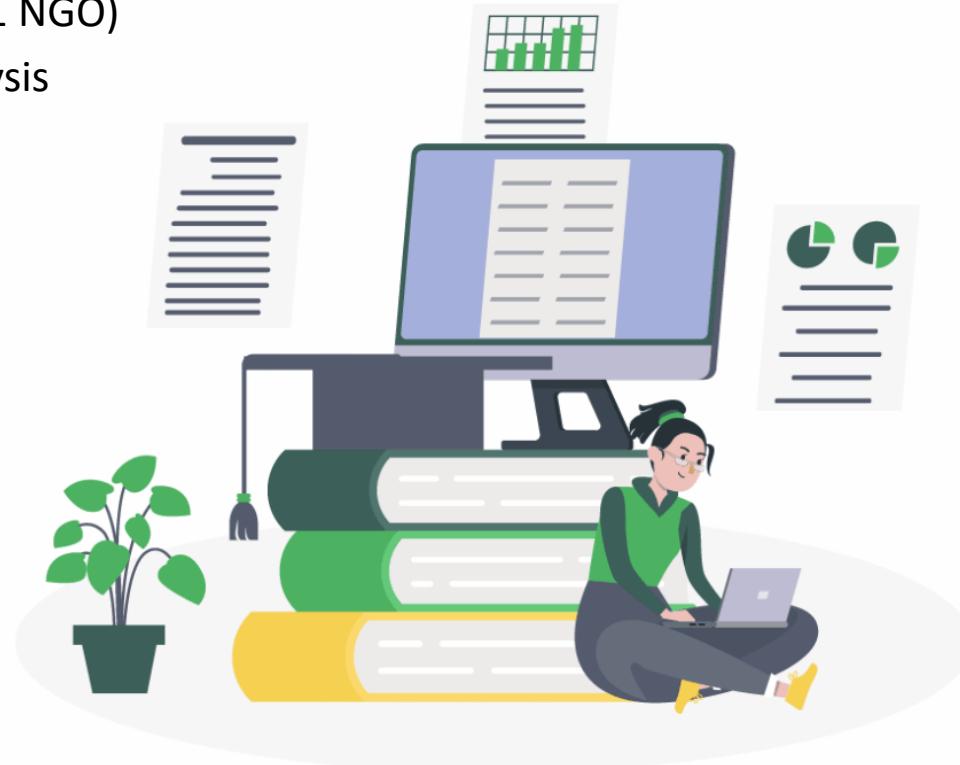
5. Methodology Overview

➤ Survey (n=49)

➤ Expert interviews (2 teachers, 1 NGO)

➤ Quantitative + qualitative analysis

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
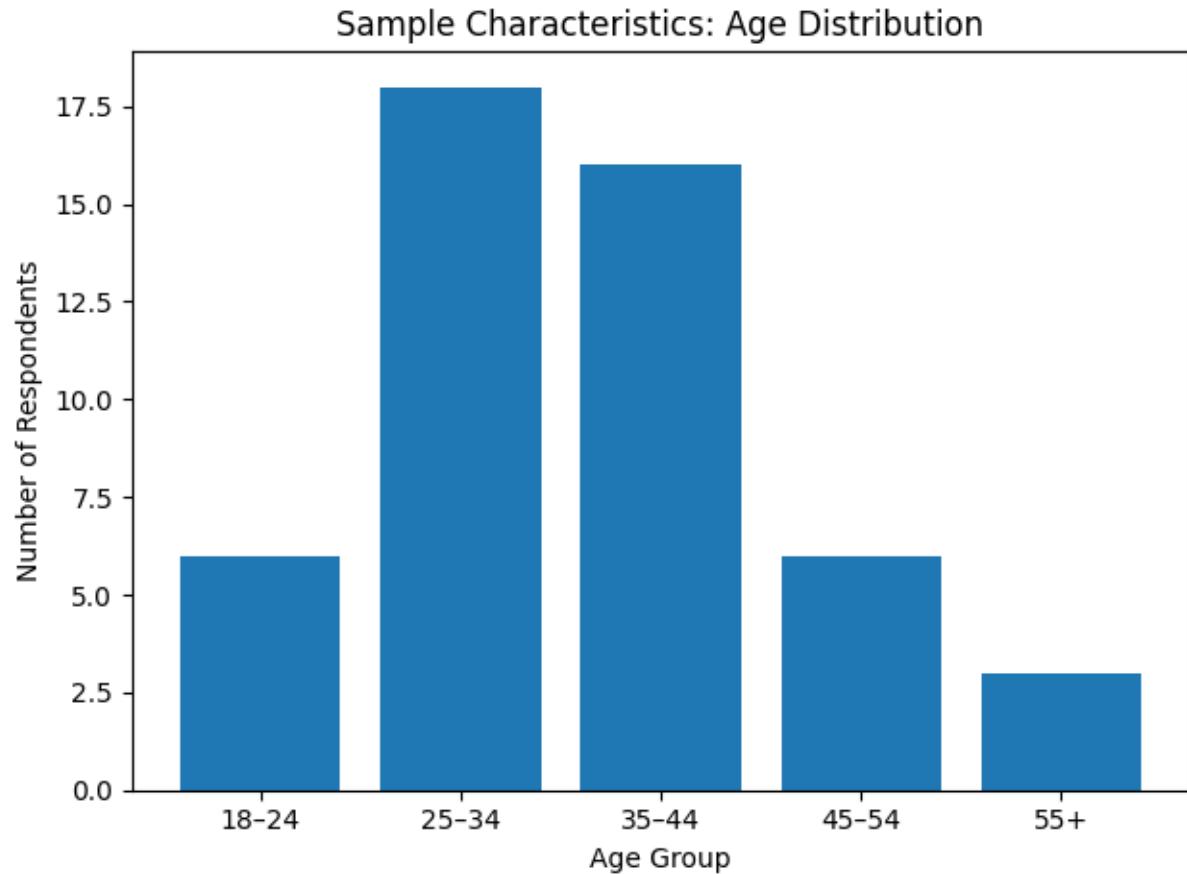
## 6. Diverse migrant statuses

➢ Mostly working-age adults

➢ Majority B1–B2 language level

Sample Characteristics: Age Distribution

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
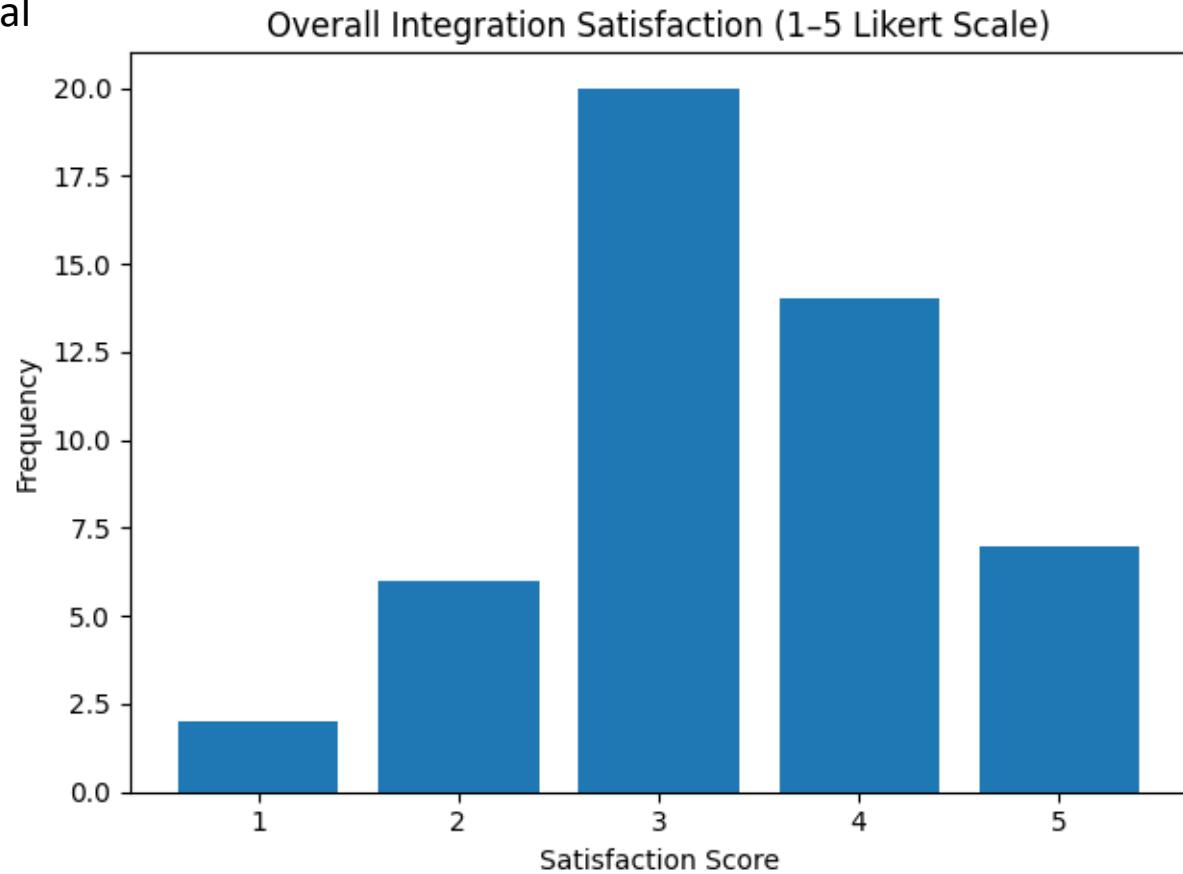
7. Descriptive Results

➢ Moderate integration levels

➢ Highest variation in social well-being

Overall Integration Satisfaction (1–5 Likert Scale)

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
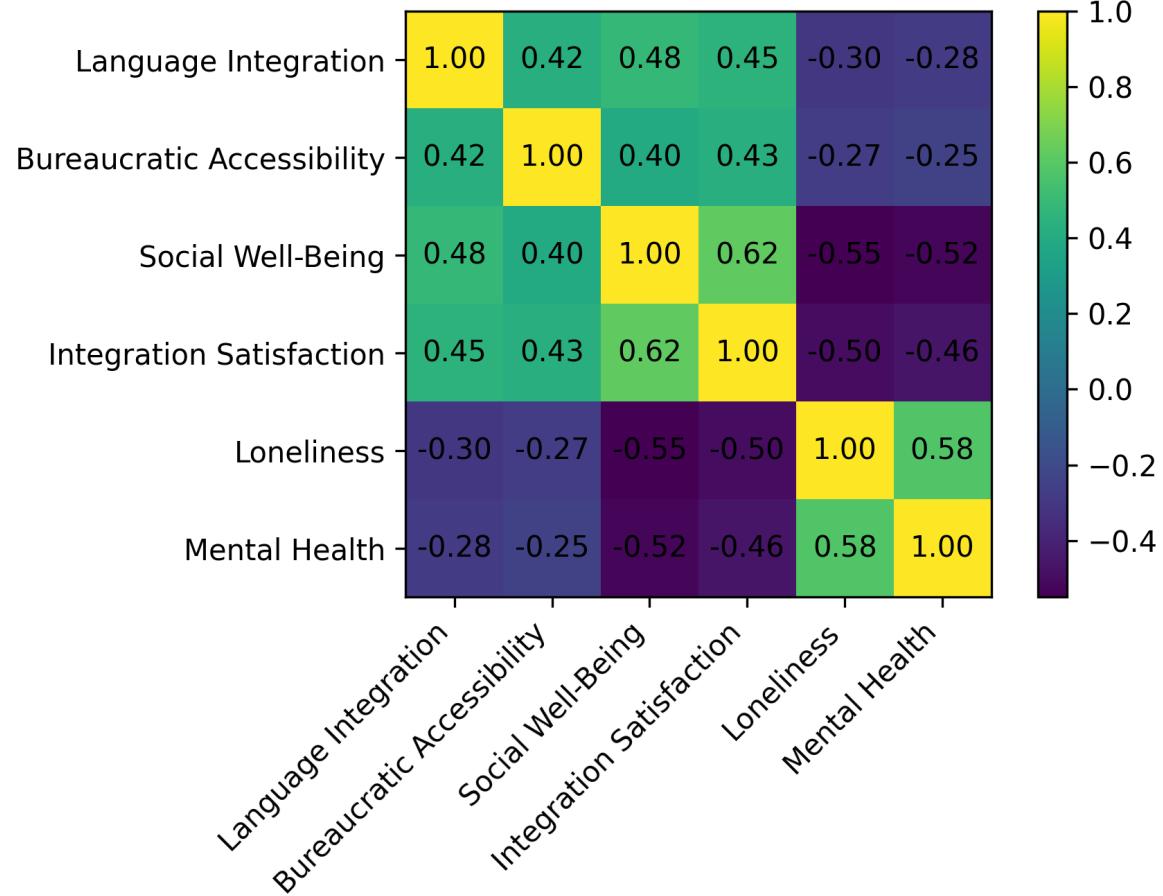
8. Correlation Results

- Positive correlations across dimensions
- Social well-being strongest association
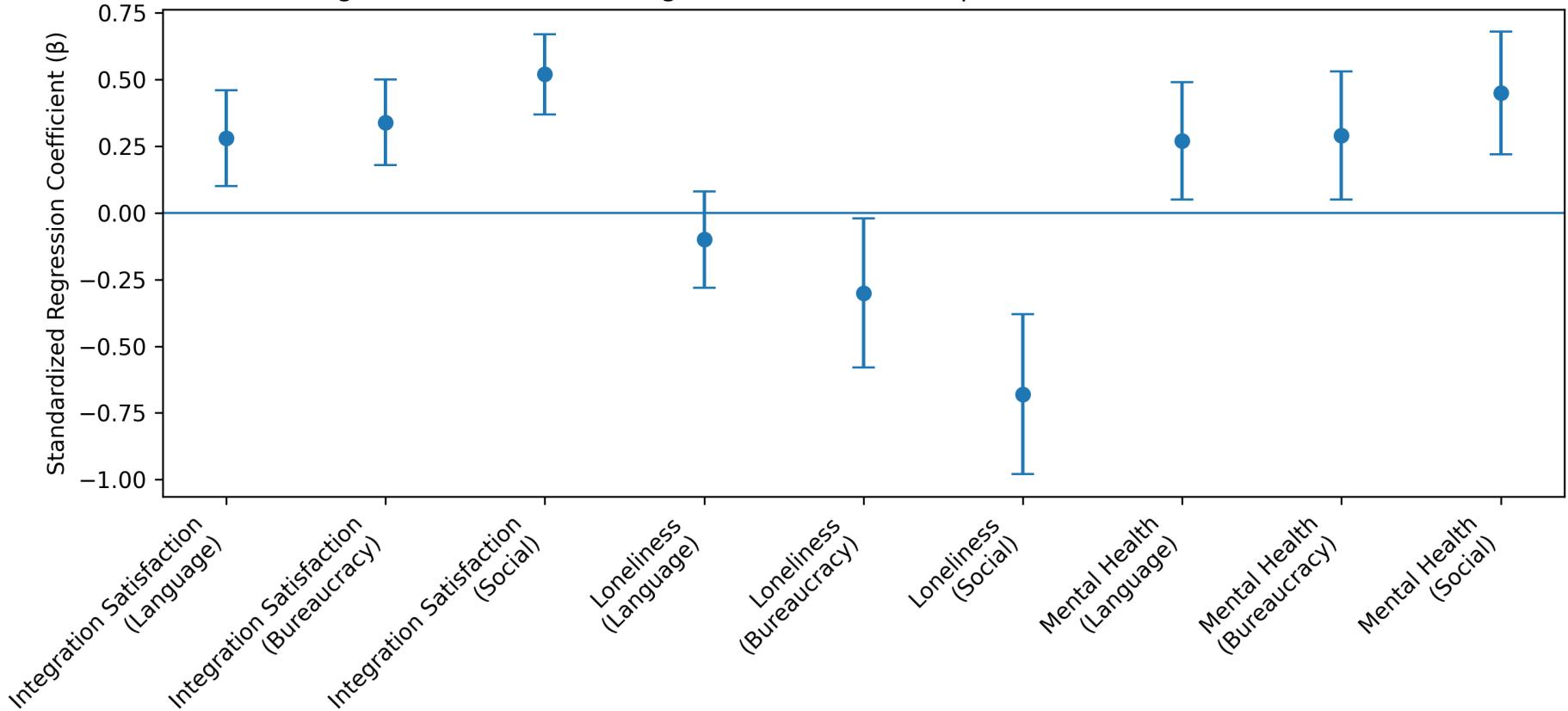
Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

➢ Social well-being strongest predictor

➢ Bureaucracy and language significant

Figure 6. Standardized Regression Coefficients (β) With 95% Confidence Intervals

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
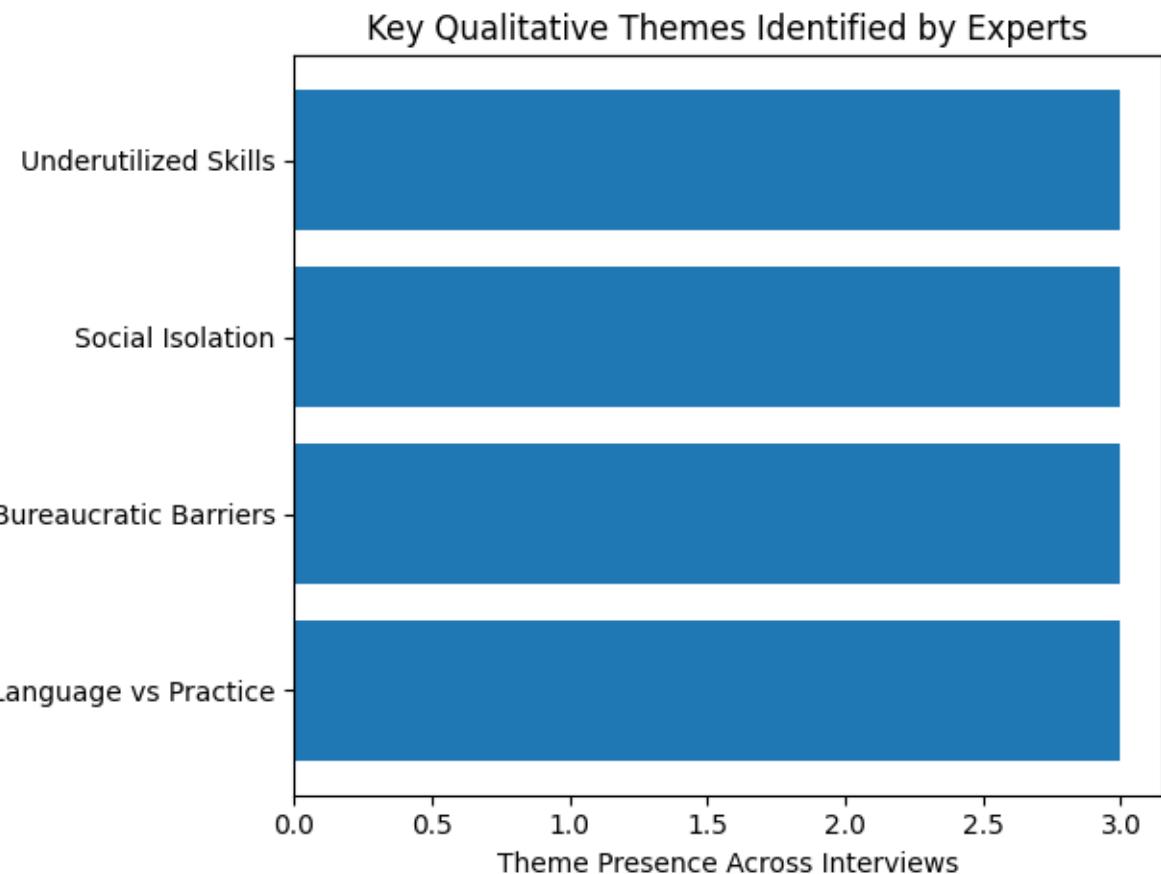
10. Qualitative Findings

➢ Language vs real-world use

➢ Bureaucratic barriers

➢ Social isolation

➢ Underutilized skills

Key Qualitative Themes Identified by Experts

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad
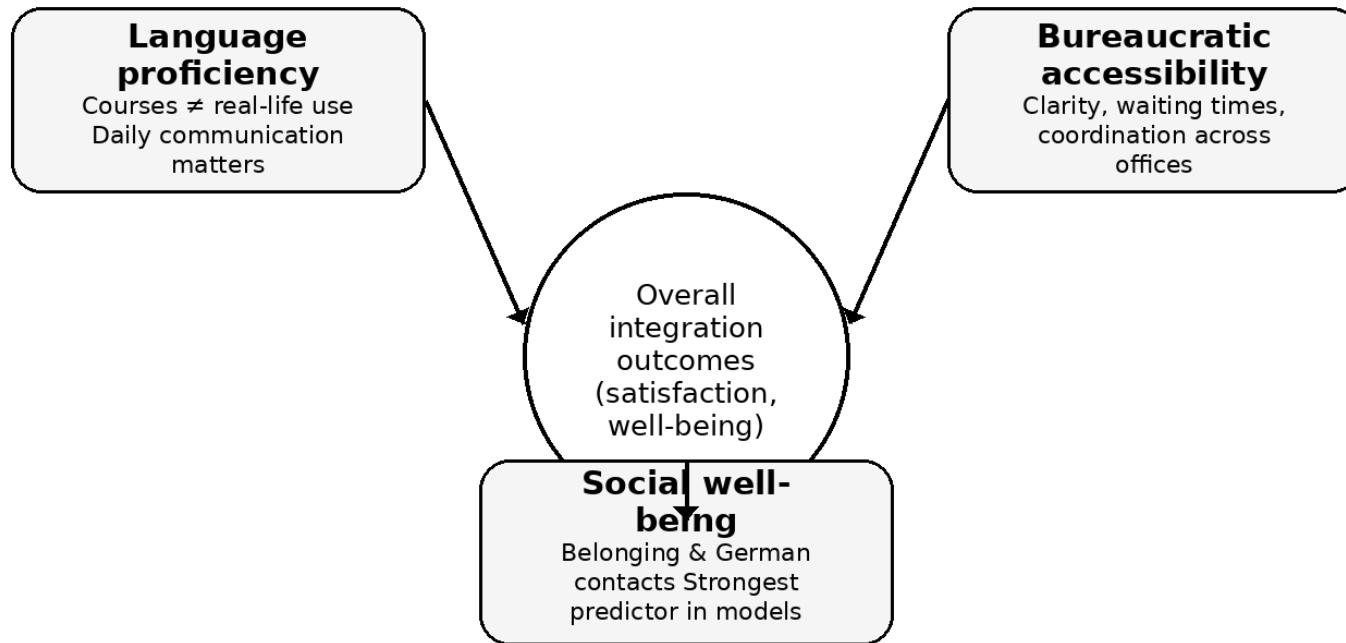
➤ Integration is multidimensional

11. Discussion & Interpretation

Integration is systemic and multidimensional

Mixed-methods evidence: survey (n=49) + expert interviews (2 teachers, 1 NGO case worker).

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

➢ Simplify bureaucracy

➢ Strengthen social inclusion

12. Policy Implications

1) Practical language use
- Shift from test-heavy instruction to communication practice.
- Use real documents (letters/forms) & job scenarios.
- Support learning outside class (tandems, clubs).

2) Simplify bureaucracy
- Reduce waiting times and improve coordination.
- Plain-language letters & multilingual help points.
- Clear pathways for housing, training, work.

3) Strengthen social inclusion
- Create local programs that build contact with Germans.
- Community spaces, volunteering, mentorship.
- Target loneliness & mental-health support access.

These actions address language, institutional access, and social well-being together (system approach).

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

13. Study Limitations

Sample

- Small (n=49) and non-random; results are exploratory.

Measurement

- Self-reported survey responses may include bias.

Design

- Cross-sectional; cannot infer causality.

Qualitative scope

- Three expert interviews; more institutional perspectives would strengthen generalizability.

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

14. Conclusion

➤ Integration requires structural and social solutions

Integration outcomes depend on language + institutions + social inclusion.

1. Language is necessary, but practical use and real-life exposure matter.
2. Bureaucratic complexity delays access to work, training, and housing— even for competent speakers.
3. Social well-being (belonging and contact) is central for satisfaction and mental health.

Implication: person-centered, system-level policies are needed for sustainable integration.

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad

15. Questions & Discussion

Thank you

Questions?

Ahmad Hamed Dehzad