

Managerial Diplomacy: The Role of Strategic Leadership in Reconstructing Afghanistan's Economic and Political Engagement with the Global Community

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Abstract

This study employs a longitudinal mixed-methods approach to analyze managerial diplomacy through comprehensive examination of 25 Afghan governance stakeholders across two data collection waves. The research integrates initial survey data (321 individual responses, 8,097 words) with follow-up in-depth interviews from the same stakeholders, totaling 50 respondent engagements. Professional distribution includes NGO professionals (40.0%), policy analysts (24.0%), former government officials (20.0%), and international diplomats (16.0%). Comparative thematic analysis reveals corruption as the most persistent concern (Survey 1: 70 occurrences, 12.8%; Survey 2: 65 occurrences, 13.2%), followed by leadership (Survey 1: 95 occurrences, 17.4%; Survey 2: 78 occurrences, 15.9%). Sentiment analysis shows evolving perspectives with mean polarity shifting from 0.074 (Survey 1) to -0.032 (Survey 2), indicating increased critical reflection. Cluster analysis identifies three respondent segments: institutional reform advocates (36%), traditional system protectors (32%), and international coordination experts (32%). Longitudinal analysis demonstrates increasing specificity in corruption examples and greater emphasis on practical recommendations in follow-up responses. The findings establish that effective managerial diplomacy requires navigating hybrid governance systems while preserving strategic sovereignty amid international assistance dependency.

Keywords: Managerial Diplomacy, Strategic Leadership, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Afghanistan, Governance Challenges, Longitudinal Analysis, Institutional Hybridity, Corruption, Aid Dependency

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