

Research Highlights

- **Longitudinal Analysis:** Comprehensive examination of 25 Afghan governance stakeholders across two data collection waves, integrating initial surveys with follow-up interviews for temporal perspective tracking.
- **Thematic Persistence:** Corruption emerged as the most persistent governance concern across both waves (12.8% in Survey 1, 13.2% in Survey 2), providing actionable insights for policy interventions.
- **Stakeholder Segmentation:** Identification of three distinct respondent clusters: institutional reform advocates (36%), traditional system protectors (32%), and international coordination experts (32%).
- **Sentiment Evolution:** Observed shift in mean sentiment polarity from slightly positive (0.074) in initial responses to slightly negative (-0.032) in follow-up interviews, reflecting growing critical reflection among stakeholders.
- **Strategic Sovereignty Framework:** Formulated a framework to preserve local decision-making capacity while navigating international assistance dependency in post-conflict reconstruction contexts.
- **Comparative Thematic Analysis:** High thematic consistency across waves (correlation $r = 0.843$), with increased specificity in corruption cases and enhanced practical recommendations for governance improvement.
- **Methodological Contribution:** First study employing a longitudinal mixed-methods design combined with computational text analysis to track stakeholder perspective evolution in Afghanistan's post-2001 reconstruction context.