

Factors Affecting the Performance of the Pakistan National Cricket Team (2015–2025)

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Abstract

This study aims at understanding the critical factors that affect the performance of Pakistan National Cricket Team for the time span (2015-2025). In all the three formats of the game – Test cricket, One Day International (ODI) cricket and Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket, the team has shown a mixed pattern of performances, despite its world-class talent and cricketing legacy. The study will be on internal and external factors which are contributing to the team performance. The internal factors are the change in leadership, the selection practices, the makeup of the team, the fitness of the players, and management. Competition, scheduling and cricket dynamics are external factors. The research method used is quantitative, and the qualitative data includes the results of expert opinions and media analysis. The data collection is in a structured questionnaire, where primary data is collected from the players and the secondary data is collected from match statistics, ICC ranking and past performance trend. The study is designed to look for the relationship between management and performance on field, player development and fitness and governance structures. It is hoped that the findings will offer actionable suggestions and implications for enhancing team consistency, facilitating successful transfer of players from domestic to international levels, and boosting Pakistan's international competitiveness. The findings of this study help to improve the understanding of sports management and performance optimisation in international cricket.

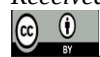
Keywords: Pakistan National Cricket Team; Team Performance; Sports Management; Player Fitness; Player Selection

Introduction

Cricket in Pakistan is a special phenomenon and draws millions of cricket lovers in Pakistan and it is a source of pride for Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Team has brought out the world-class players who have gained recognition worldwide and motivated generations.

The team, however, has been inconsistent in the last couple of years as far as performance in the different formats such as Tests, ODIs and T20s are concerned. This drop has been triggered by issues such as frequent change of management, poor selection policies, lack of transition from domestic to international level of players and over reliance on few players. The researchers will explore these internal and external factors including strategic decision, coaching strategies, team make-up and governance and make a recommendation which will be used to bring back Pakistan's glory in cricket on the international front.

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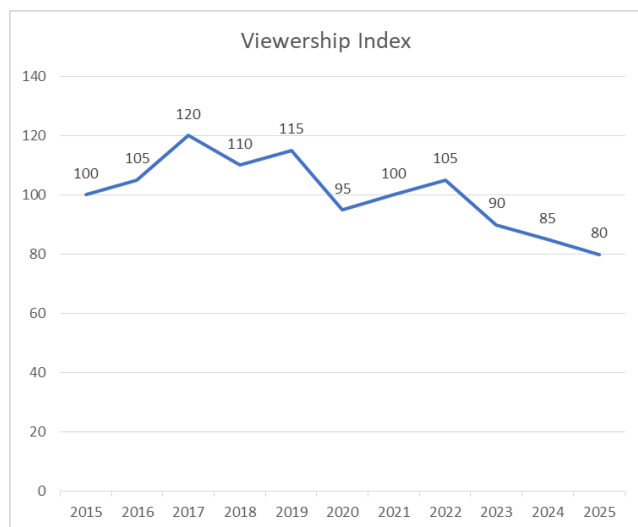
Background

The history of the Pakistan Cricket Team dates back to 1952 and the team has won several major tournaments, including the ICC Cricket World Cup in 1992, the ICC T20 world cup in 2009, and the ICC champions trophy in 2017. Pakistan has had legendary cricketing heroes such as Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, and Shoaib Akhtar among others who have shaped the cricketing legacy of the nation.

Nevertheless, the team has been on a downward spiral over the past 10 years as is evidenced by unstable ICC rankings, premature exits of major tournaments and surprising defeats at the hands of inferior teams.



The current instability of leadership, bench and fitness issues have exacerbated the problem. The people of Pakistan, however, have high expectations of the team, and the need for strategic interventions to achieve consistent success at the international level is evident. Moreover, the interested people are also declining each day as there are performance issues and management uncertainty after 2022.

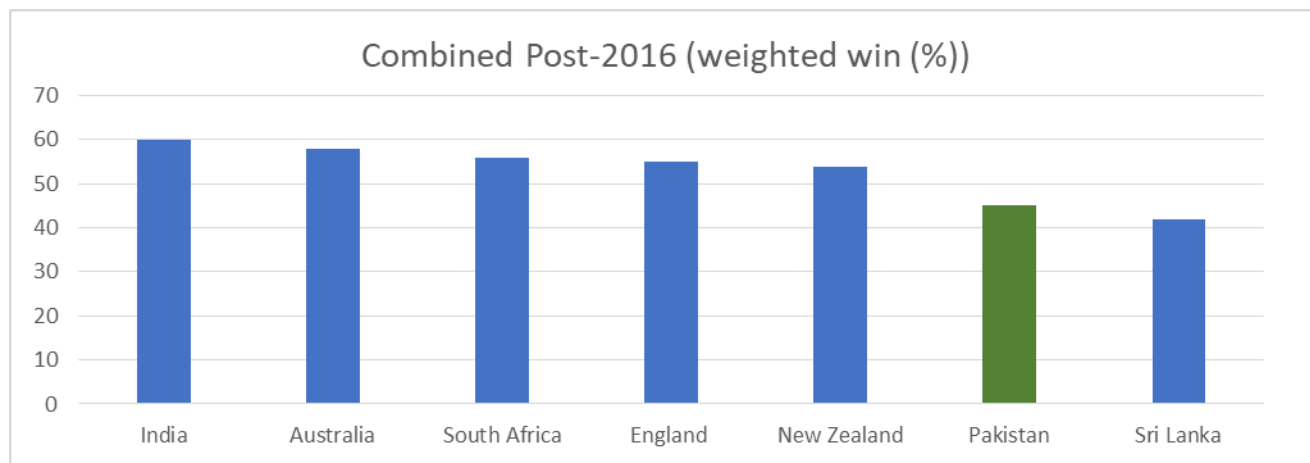


Problem Statement

In the last ten years, there has been an observable drop in performance by the Pakistan Cricket Team in all the formats, which include Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. The team has access to world class talent, world class facilities and has a strong fan base but, it has been struggling with the problem of inconsistent performance, a lot of managerial and coaching changes, inconsistent selection and poor transitioning from local to international players.

It is being seen in the different ICC rankings, premature exit from major tournaments and even in the shocking defeats by lesser ranked teams. The problem has been further increased by lack of stability in leadership, poor bench strength, fitness problems as well as overdependence on a few star players. The fact that there is a gap between potential and performance of the team is one of the aspects which shows the need to identify the internal and external factors which are responsible for the failure of cricketing in Pakistan.

Without a systematic understanding of these issues, these interventions are ineffective in re-establishing consistency, competitiveness and global status. This study is an attempt to bridge this knowledge gap, which is of critical importance, by identifying the factors which are responsible for the degradation of the team and, at the same time, to provide practical recommendations on how the same can be improved in the long run.



Research Gap

Although a considerable amount of literature is available on cricket performance in the dominant cricketing countries, the available research is very limited and empirical on the multidimensional aspects of the performance of Pakistan cricket in the different formats. There is a need for existing research studies to combine the elements of governance, selection policy, player development, and coaching strategy into a single analysis in a context specific to Pakistan. This study aims to plug that gap.

Objectives

- To determine and assess the key variables that led to poor performance of Pakistani cricket since 2016 until 2025.
- To test the correlation between management actions, change of leadership and on-field performance.
- To interpret statistical data to comprehend the tendencies in batting, bowling and fielding performance in the period.
- To determine the influence of player fitness, workload and mental preparedness on the match results.
- To make evidence-based suggestions on the way to enhance team structure, management, and long-term performance stability.

Research Questions:

- 1 What are the main reasons that have led to the deterioration in the performance of the Pakistan Cricket Team in the last three years?
- 2 What impact has leadership instability (change of captains, coaches, and management) on the overall team performance and morale?
- 3 How have the selection policies and national cricket structures contributed to the consistency of the national team?

- 4 What is the contribution of player fitness, workload management and motivation to the recent decline?
- 5 What are some strategic or governance changes that would bring Pakistan back to its cricketing glory and competitiveness in the world?

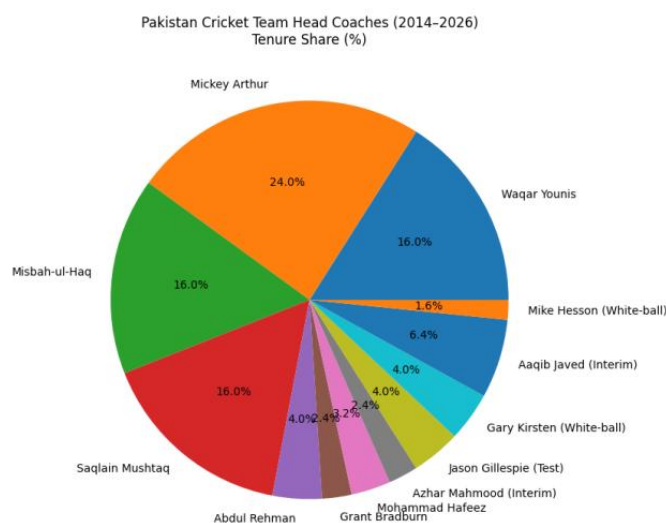
Significance of the Study

The study aims at examining the performance of the Pakistan Cricket Team in all the three categories of international matches i.e. Tests, One Day International (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) during the past 10 years (2016-2025). The paper focuses on internal variables, including the composition of a team, leadership, coaching approaches, selection policies, player fitness, and domestic-to-international transition, and external variables, which are strength of competition, tournament timing, and fan expectations.

It is mainly a quantitative study, where the match results, ICC rankings, and statistical performance indicators were used, supported by qualitative data provided by expert analyses, media coverage, and academic sources. The study also takes into account the trend of the past and management of organizations in order to comprehend the performance trends over a long period.

It is restricted to the international matches of Pakistan Cricket Team; junior level cricket, domestic league matches and informal matches are not covered. The research is also based on quantifiable performance results and tangible management and structural conditions, instead of individual or subjective views of individual players or fans.

The findings will be used to make strategic suggestions to the policy makers, the team managers as well as the selectors in order to increase team consistency, domestic to international talent development and the competitive advantage of Pakistan in the international cricketing arena.



Literature Review / Industry Overview

Profile of the Organization

The cricket government in Pakistan is the **Pakistan Cricket Board** that manages the activity of cricket in Pakistan. It manages both domestic and international cricket activities, player development schemes, and teams of the country.

The board also hosts domestic tournaments and also represents Pakistan in international cricket via the **International Cricket Council**.

Core Operations

The Pakistan Cricket Board has the following major roles:

- The management of the Pakistan national cricket team.
- Arranging domestic cricketing events.
- Creating youthful cricketing talent.
- Representing Pakistan in international cricket relations.
- Advancing the growth of cricket in Pakistan.

The board also holds the Pakistan Super League which makes significant contribution in the development of new talent and popularizing cricket on a global scale.

Context or Strategic Challenges

The Pakistani cricket has encountered various strategic issues over the last decade. These include:

1. The team leadership and management are frequently changed.
2. Absence of long-term strategic planning.
3. Selection controversies
4. Unequal domestic cricket systems.
5. Fitness and discipline problems of players.

Also, the introduction of competitive franchise league around the world has altered the international cricket dynamics.

The players in the leagues like Indian Premier League and Pakistan Super League have to work under the pressure of more work and a tight schedule.

Relevance of the Study

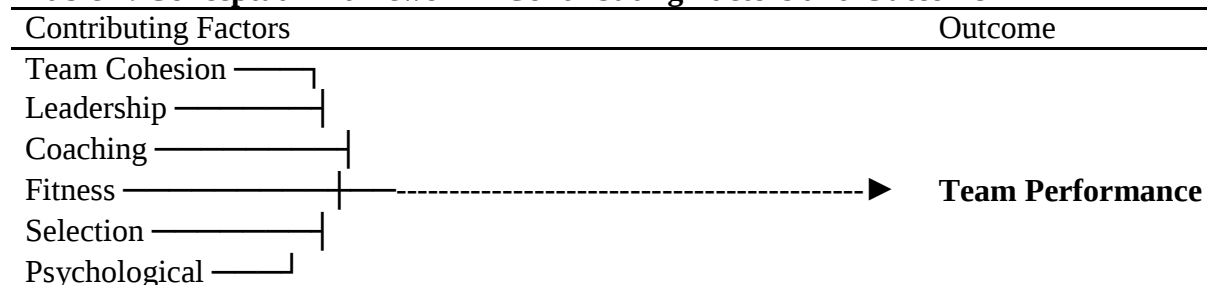
Knowledge of the operational framework and the problems of the **Pakistan Cricket Board** would be significant in evaluating the performance of the national cricket team.

This paper shall discuss the role played by the structure of governance, administrative choices and player management policies in team performance.

Conceptual Framework

This study assumes that internal organizational factors and external environment factors influence the performance of Pakistan National Cricket Team. The conceptual framework includes four main independent variables, namely, Leadership and Management Stability; Selection Policies and Team Composition; Player Fitness and Workload Management; and PCB Governance and Administrative Structure, and how these factors impact on the dependent variable – Team Performance (measured by match results, ICC rankings, and consistency in major ICC tournaments).

Table 1: Conceptual Framework – Contributing Factors and Outcome



Literature Review

The Indian Journal of Science and Technology published a study that looked at the possibility of predicting the performance of a cricket team with the help of machine learning. The study was conducted on the Pakistan cricket team and it was concluded that although patterns could be detected through the use of statistical model, the uncertainty in the performance of the team can be attributed to external factors like match situation, psychological state of the players, and opposition strength. The overall conclusion of the study is that cricket is a complex sport and that data alone is not a sufficient indicator of the results. Another research from ScienceDirect discussed how using neural networks it is possible to predict the performance of an athlete such as team selection in cricket. The results indicate that AI can help in making better decisions based on player statistics, fitness, and previous performance. The study also notes, however, that human judgement plays an important part in the final selection decisions. Studies on competitive balance in men's international cricket show that the disparity between the weaker and stronger teams have varied over the course of time. Dominance of few is shown in the study. The influence of teams can affect the competition and the viewers' interest. It also recommends structural and governance reforms to keep a level playing field and competition alive. A detailed examination published in the Journal of the Operational Research Society looked at the performance patterns in One Day International (ODI) cricket. The study revealed substantial variations in the tactics, scoring frequency and dynamics of the game over time. It stated that, in the world of football, the ability to adjust to the changing times is crucial for long-term team success.

Table 2: Key Literature Sources

Paper Title	Journal / Source	Link
Is the performance of a cricket team really unpredictable? A case study on Pakistan team using machine learning [1]	Indian Journal of Science and Technology	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-kgkKoCfEPQ93HM9vBMwdEy-

Prediction of athletes performance using neural networks: An application in cricket team selection [2]	ScienceDirect	tFxPSnPp/view?usp=drivesd k https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S095741740800420X
The evolution of competitive balance in men's international cricket [3]	MSL	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qmZuzSd6kKd13Oih3zXqDrMhYrxa0w9t/view?usp=drive_link
Evolution of team performance in One Day International cricket: An in-depth study of changing trends and effect sizes [4]	Journal of the Operational Research Society	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KfmQoSZZpB4OjiQVUeUMqLGTyXoSYz7B/view?usp=drive_link
Performance assessment for field sports [5]	Book	https://drive.google.com/file/d/11GAMmh6KVT4VXUir1YpawO1jos3X3D61/view?usp=drive_link
Decline in Running Performance in Highest-Level Soccer: Analysis of the UEFA Champions League Matches [6]	MDPI / Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology	https://www.mdpi.com/2079-7737/11/10/1441https://drive.google.com/file/d/132kfIfdOO_5WRZ-xsqBfFRMS8l26kAgg/view?usp=drive_link

Research Methodology

Data Collection Methods

Primary Data

The primary data were gathered via a structured self-administered questionnaire from the stakeholders and cricket followers of Pakistan. A questionnaire that included a five-point Likert scale was developed to collect the respondents' perception of the five independent constructs and the dependent variable (Player Performance).

In addition, an open-ended question was also added that asked the respondents to rank the top three problems being faced by the Pakistan cricket as perceived by them from a list of nine predefined problems. 508 valid responses were obtained and used in this analysis.

Secondary Data

Secondary data was obtained from various available sources to provide context to and triangulate the primary data. These encompassed ICC match data and team rankings from 2015 to 2025, publicly available expert insights through media interviews and TV analyses, cricket performance and sports management research literature, and official PCB statements and regulatory documents. Fourteen prominent former cricketers and analysts such as Mohammad

Amir, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Basit Ali, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Salman Butt and Ahmad Shahzad, and so on, were interviewed in 15 media interviews to gain secondary qualitative data.

Research Design

For the quantitative phase, Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) was used with the application of SmartPLS 4 following the method of Hair et al. (2019) which is a two-step process. An instrument consisting of 45 items was made into a questionnaire with a Likert scale and was given to the respondents ($n = 250$) for measurement of 6 reflective constructs.

Table 3: Sample Profile (N = 250)

Variable	Category	n	%
Age	20–32	95	38%
	33–44	82	32.8%
	45 or above	73	29.2%
Gender	Male	168	67.2%
	Female	82	32.8%
Education	Intermediate or less	58	23.2%
	Graduate	104	41.6%
	Master or above	88	35.2%

Six constructs were specified: five exogenous (predictor) constructs and one endogenous (outcome) construct.

- CS — Captaincy Stability
- CO — Coaching Stability & Authority
- SEL — Selection Policy
- PDP — Player Development & Performance Factors
- ADM — PCB Administration & Governance
- IP — International Performance (outcome)

Table 4: Internal Consistency Reliability and Convergent Validity

Construct	Cronbach's α	rho_a	rho_c (CR)
ADM	0.704	0.698	0.788
CO	0.711	0.717	0.805
CS	0.62	0.621	0.778
IP	0.747	0.752	0.819
PDP	0.726	0.73	0.807
SEL	0.695	0.704	0.794

Table 5: Bootstrapped Significance of Composite Reliability

Construct	Original (O)	Mean (M)	STDEV	p
ADM	0.788	0.781	0.027	< .001
CO	0.805	0.801	0.019	< .001
CS	0.778	0.76	0.05	< .001
IP	0.819	0.817	0.016	< .001
PDP	0.807	0.806	0.018	< .001
SEL	0.794	0.791	0.019	< .001

All construct reliabilities are highly significant ($p < .001$), confirming the rho_c estimates are not pieces of sampling variation.

Table 6: Discriminant Validity — Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)

Construct Pair	HTMT	95% CI
CO <-> ADM	0.683	0.540 – 0.827
CS <-> ADM	0.555	0.381 – 0.762
CS <-> CO	0.52	0.378 – 0.688
IP <-> ADM	0.529	0.423 – 0.692
IP <-> CO	0.585	0.455 – 0.724
IP <-> CS	0.333	0.246 – 0.535
PDP <-> ADM	0.495	0.377 – 0.687
PDP <-> CO	0.735	0.593 – 0.872
PDP <-> CS	0.55	0.390 – 0.745
PDP <-> IP	0.902	0.798 – 1.002
SEL <-> ADM	0.669	0.551 – 0.823
SEL <-> CO	0.602	0.472 – 0.755
SEL <-> CS	0.657	0.476 – 0.840
SEL <-> IP	0.68	0.535 – 0.829
SEL <-> PDP	0.665	0.520 – 0.822

Structural Model — Explained Variance

R^2 for IP (International Performance) remained at about 0.526 for the last few iterations of the measurement model, suggesting that the five predictor constructs account for about 53% of the variance in perceived international performance, which is a reasonable amount of variance explained in a perception-based organizational survey.

Qualitative Findings (Thematic Analysis)

Fifteen media interviews (broadcast between 2023–2026) with eighteen former players, captains and analysts were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The coding was conducted deductively corresponding with the six already existing PLS-SEM constructs, with an open mind for emergent themes inductively.

Table 7: Thematic Coding Frame (Frequency = number of interviews mentioning theme, out of 15)

#	Speaker(s)	Platform	Year	Primary Focus
1	Mohammad Amir	YouTube (Independent)	2025	Leadership, PSL reliance, India comparison
2	Basit Ali (Sports Tak)	YouTube panel	2024	Team unity, selection, domestic system
3	Ahmad Shahzad	Reaction video	2026	Selection 'settings', captaincy tactics
4	Shoaib Akhtar	ARY News	2026	Mindset/fear, fitness, infrastructure gap
5	Wasim Akram	YouTube reaction	2024	Leadership instability, situational awareness
6	Uroj M. Khan & Shahnawaz Rana	SAMAA TV	2024	Game awareness, team culture
7	Shahid Afridi & M. Wasim	SAMAA TV	2024	Captaincy switches, selection process
8	Sikandar Bakht & A.M. Bhatti	Geo News	2024	Domestic calendar, fitness testing, spin crisis
9	Salman Butt	ARY News	2024	Long-term mismanagement, captaincy continuity
10	Shehzad, Latif & Bhatti	Geo News	2025	Tactical/selection errors, fielding standards
11	Tanveer Ahmed	BOL News	2024	Player fitness, spin attack, team chaos
12	24 News HD panel	24 News HD	2024	Central contracts, performance criteria
13	Kamran Akmal	ARY News	2024	Favoritism, domestic structure, captaincy stability
14	Basit Ali, Akmal & Hashmi	ARY News	2025	Coaching accountability, game awareness
15	Shahid Afridi & Mushtaq Ahmed	YouTube panel	2023	Captaincy, spin crisis, grassroots reform

Thematic Coding Framework

Table 8: Thematic Coding Frame Mapped to PLS-SEM Constructs

Theme	PLS Code	Frequency	Representative Content
Leadership & Captaincy	LC	13/15	Frequent captain/chairman/coach changes; rapid switching between Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi; absence of long-term leadership planning.
Coaching Authority	CA	9/15	Foreign coaches unable to correct basic tactical errors; local staff based abroad; resistance to expert advice from leadership.
Team Selection	TS	14/15	Reliance on PSL form over first-class/domestic performance; alleged 'settings' and favoritism; inconsistent selection criteria; guaranteed spots

Strategic Planning	SP	11/15	despite poor form. Rushed injury rehabilitation; lack of formal fitness testing; weak youth-to-international pathway; academies replaced by commercial 'tuition centers'.
Player Performance	PP	11/15	Declining pace/skill in key players; poor situational awareness; inconsistent individual form.
Administration & Development	AD	12/15	Institutional instability (3 chairmen/3 coaches in one year); domestic calendar mismatched to international needs; lack of transparent governance.
Team Culture / Unity (emergent)	—	8/15	'Grouping,' internal cliques, fractured dressing-room spirit; loss of hunger attributed to wealth and fame; protection of favored players.
India Comparison (emergent)	—	5/15	Repeated benchmarking against India's domestic scale (40–42 teams), squad rotation strategy, and coaching/leadership continuity.
Mental Pressure Mindset (emergent)	—	4/15	Players described as 'scared'; 'denial bubble' around senior stars; lack of proactive, pressure-resistant mindset.

Note. Frequency = number of interviews (out of 15) in which the theme was raised at least once. Blue rows indicate emergent themes not captured in the original PLS-SEM survey instrument.

Key Qualitative Findings by Theme

Leadership & Captaincy (13/15 interviews)

One of the two most prevalent themes throughout the data set was leadership instability. A constant change in captains, chairmen and coaching staff was also cited as a main reason for sporadic performances.

Wasim Akram: "Pakistan has gone through three chairmen and three coaches in one year and the players think that they can do no wrong while the management is disposable."

"Often changed captaincy from Babar to Shaheen and back again, affected the spiritedness of the team and Shaheen Afridi's mental state and performance. — Mohammad Wasim, Interview 7

Team Selection (14/15 interviews — highest frequency)

The most common theme across the entire data was team selection, with the exception of a single interview. The general impression of too much emphasis on PSL performance as a selection criterion received overwhelming criticism.

"Players such as Shadab Khan are inducted into the team on the basis of 'setting' within the team with the coaches and the selectors and not on the basis of their domestic performance." — Ahmad Shahzad, Interview 3

Interview 13, Kamran Akmal, says that “For the past 6–10 years, management more cares about protecting some of the players' places than winning.”

Administration & Development (12/15 interviews)

"Pakistan cricket's fall is not new, but it's due to long mismanagement... appointment of non-specialists in key decision making posts" — Salman Butt, Interview 9

“No one can prepare a Test team or pick a player on the basis of limited-overs form, the PCB arranges One-Day tournaments just before a crucial Test series.” — Abdul Majid Bhatti, Interview 8

Strategic Planning & Player Development (11/15 interviews)

“Overloaded injuries and returning too early to the Pakistan squad, without completing proper 8 months rehabilitation as in case of Shaheen Afridi is responsible for his loss of pace.” — Mohammad Amir, Interview 1

Emergent Theme: Team Culture and Unity (8/15 interviews)

“Players have gained a lot of money and fame that they might not be playing for the country with full hearts and the team has no ‘gel’ or unity.” — Shahnawaz Rana, Interview 6

Emergent Theme: Mental Pressure and Mindset (4/15 interviews)

“If the current players are scared guys, then they are unable to cope up with the pressure of big games.” — Shoaib Akhtar, Interview 4.

Sentiment Analysis

Table 9: Sentiment Analysis — Available Scores (n = 5 interviews)

Speaker	Overall Tone	Polarity	Subjectivity	Segment Split	Note
Mohammad Amir	Slightly Positive	+0.05	0.34	4P / 2N / 4Neu	—
Basit Ali	Slightly Positive	+0.07	0.33	3P / 2N / 5Neu	—
Ahmad Shahzad	Negative	-0.08	0.38	4P / 4N / 2Neu	—
Shoaib Akhtar	Negative	-0.07	0.46	3P / 6N / 0Neu	Most emotionally charged
Wasim Akram	Neutral	+0.01	0.34	4P / 4N / 2Neu	Most balanced

Note. Polarity range: -1 (fully negative) to +1 (fully positive). Subjectivity range: 0 (fully objective) to 1 (fully subjective). Five interviews with available computational sentiment scores only.

Forced-Ranking Findings

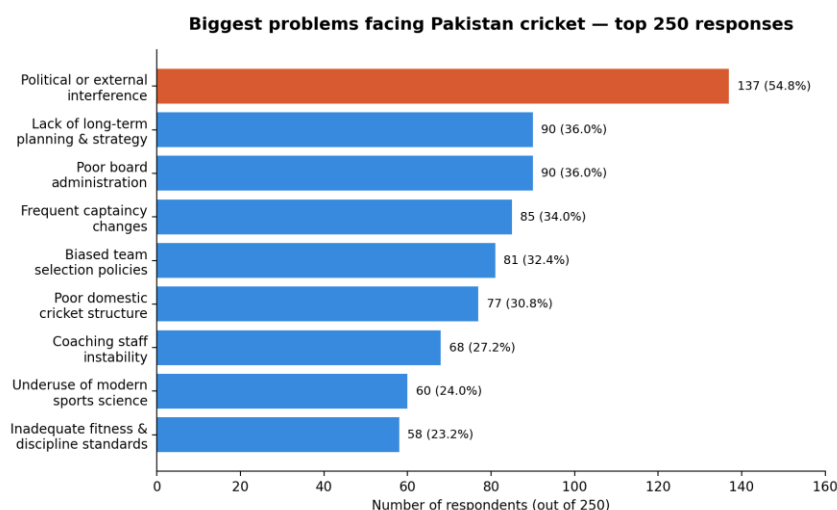
The respondents (n = 250) were asked to select and rank their top three major issue(s) in Pakistan cricket from 9 problems formulated by the authors. Three indicators are provided: Total Mentions (breadth of concern), % Ranked #1 (peak severity), and Conviction Rate — percentage of mentions which were specifically ranked #1, which shows how strongly an issue is considered as the #1 cause in the eyes of its mentioners.

Number of times each problem occurs

Table and chart below indicate the number of the 250 respondents who ranked each issue in their top three.

Table 10: Issues Ranked in Top Three by Respondents

Rank	Issue	Mentions	% of respondents
1	Political or external interference in decision-making	137	54.8%
2	Lack of long-term planning and strategy	90	36.0%
2	Poor administration and governance in the cricket board	90	36.0%
4	Frequent changes in captaincy and leadership	85	34.0%
5	Inconsistent and biased team selection policies	81	32.4%
6	Poor domestic cricket structure and talent development	77	30.8%
7	Instability in coaching staff and management	68	27.2%
8	Underutilization of modern training and sports science	60	24.0%
9	Inadequate fitness standards and discipline issues	58	23.2%



Key findings

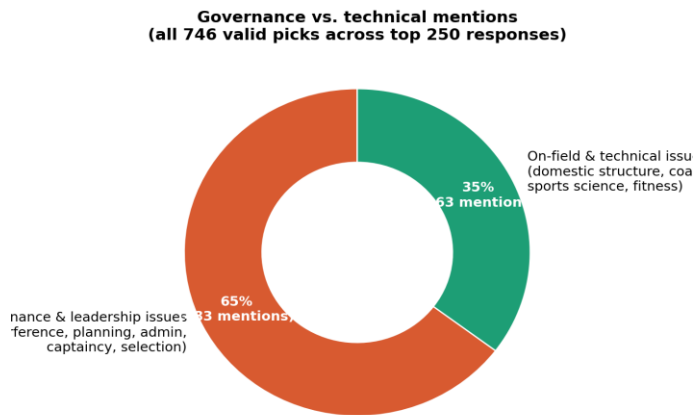
Political or outside interference tops the list, mentioned by 54.8% of the respondents, followed by 18.8 points by the next most-cited concern.

The middle cluster (32-36%) is quite compact, consisting of long-term planning, board administration, captaincy changes, and biased selection, indicating that these are perceived as similar governance issues, and not distinct problems in their own right.

On-field and technical factors (sports science underuse and fitness/discipline standards) are the least important (23–24%), suggesting that the issue is not so much one of player-development as of leadership and administration.

Governance vs. technical issues

If you split the nine choices into two main categories – governance & leadership issues; and on-field & technical issues – then the perception becomes quite one-sided.



The majority of all picks (64.8%) come in the governance – leadership territory, which itself reinforces the fact that nearly all the respondents believe that the problems of Pakistan cricket are in the governance and leadership and not in the training of the players.

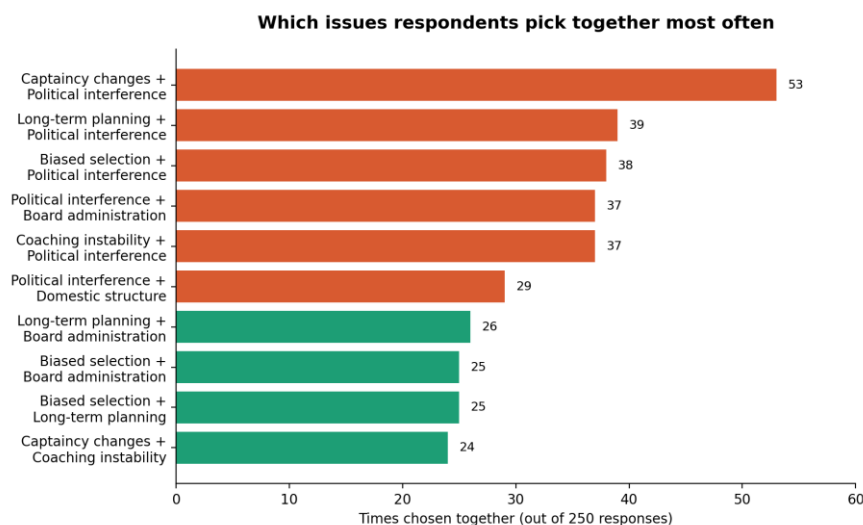
Together what problems are selected

When examining which issues respondents are likely to mention together in the same response – co-occurrence – the common thread to most top combinations is political interference.

Table 11: Issue Pairs Chosen Together

Rank	Issue pair	Times chosen together
1	Frequent captaincy changes + Political interference	53
2	Lack of long-term planning + Political interference	39
3	Biased team selection + Political interference	38
4	Political interference + Poor board administration	37
4	Coaching staff instability + Political interference	37
6	Political interference + Poor domestic structure	29
7	Lack of long-term planning + Poor board administration	26

8	Biased team selection + Poor board administration	25
8	Biased team selection + Lack of long-term planning	25
10	Frequent captaincy changes + Coaching staff instability	24



Interpretation

Political interference seems to be related to the most common combinations of issues: biased team selection (38), lack of long-term planning (39) and frequent captaincy changes (53). This pattern indicates that political interference was not a stand-alone complaint by respondents, but was perceived as a symptom that leads to the others — too much captaining, inadequate planning and selection bias.

In the eyes of anyone looking toward these results to prioritize reform, the data suggest that fix the governance independence and fix the decision-making structures are the highest leverage interventions – both because they are the most-cited standalone issues, and because they are the issues most entangled with everything else.

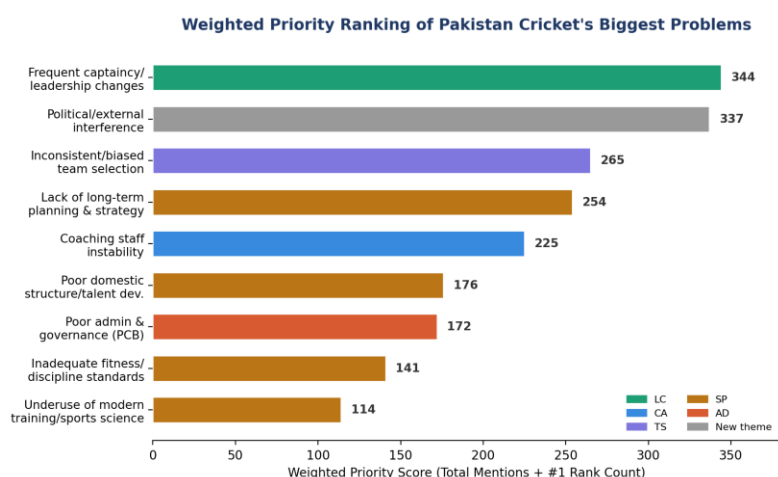


Figure 7: Weighted Priority Ranking of Pakistan Cricket's Biggest Problems

Frequent Changes in Captaincy & Leadership had a 100% conviction rate – with all respondents referring to it as their #1 concern – the ONLY concern in the data set to achieve this. This is what gives it the first place in the weighted ranking, even though it ranked lower in terms of raw frequency (33.9%) than Political/External Interference (54.8%) which was the most mentioned problem, but was specifically ranked #1 by a lower proportion of those who mentioned it (52.5% conviction).

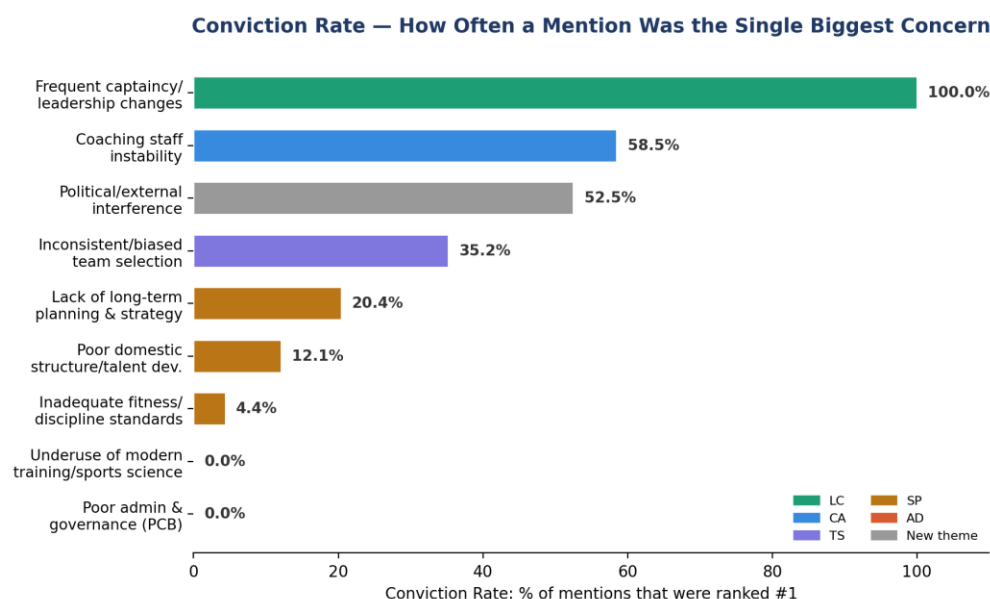


Figure 8: Conviction Rate by Problem

Results (Integrated Mixed Method Discussion)

The results from the three research strands (forced-ranking survey with a sample of 250 respondents, thematic analysis of 15 expert interview transcripts, and a PLS-SEM structural model of the same 250 respondents) converge to the same three top reasons for the decline in performance of Pakistan national cricket team: governance and political interference, captaincy and leadership instability, and biased selection policy. The convergence among three methodologically different strands is the evidence of the study's triangulation.

What this survey doesn't agree with are the factors that are important to the strands, and a few of the interview subjects use the lack of domestic structure and pipeline decay as a cause, not an effect. The borderline HTMT value of the PLS-SEM model between Player Development & Performance and International Performance (0.902) statistically reflects this same blurring of the boundaries between “how players are developed” and “how the team performs.”

Convergence — where all three methods meet

The table below aligns the metric used by each method for the three issues that are prominent in each strand.

Table 12: Convergence Across the Three Methods

Issue	Survey (N=250)	Interviews (N=15)	PLS-SEM (N=250)
Governance political interference	& #1 — 54.8% of respondents	Root-cause framing; "full systemic surgery" called for	ADM construct: CR = 0.788, sig. p<.001
Captaincy leadership instability	& #4 — 34.0% of respondents	#1 theme — 11 of 15 interviews	CS construct: CR = 0.778, sig. p<.001
Selection policy bias	#5 — 32.4% of respondents	Recurring critique — "liking and disliking" (Akmal)	SEL construct: HTMT-IP link = 0.680 (2nd strongest)

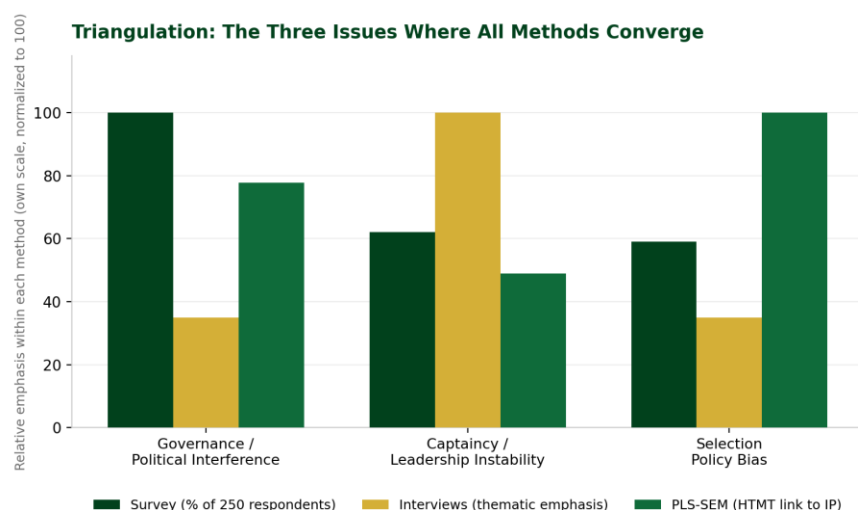


Figure 9: Relative emphasis placed on the three convergent issues by each method (each series normalized to its own scale; interview values for governance and selection reflect qualitative/indirect support rather than a directly counted theme).

Method One— Survey Results (N = 250)

Respondents picked exactly three issues from a fixed list of nine, producing 746 valid picks after excluding four joke entries. Political or external interference dominates, named by 54.8% of respondents — more than 18 points ahead of the next issue.

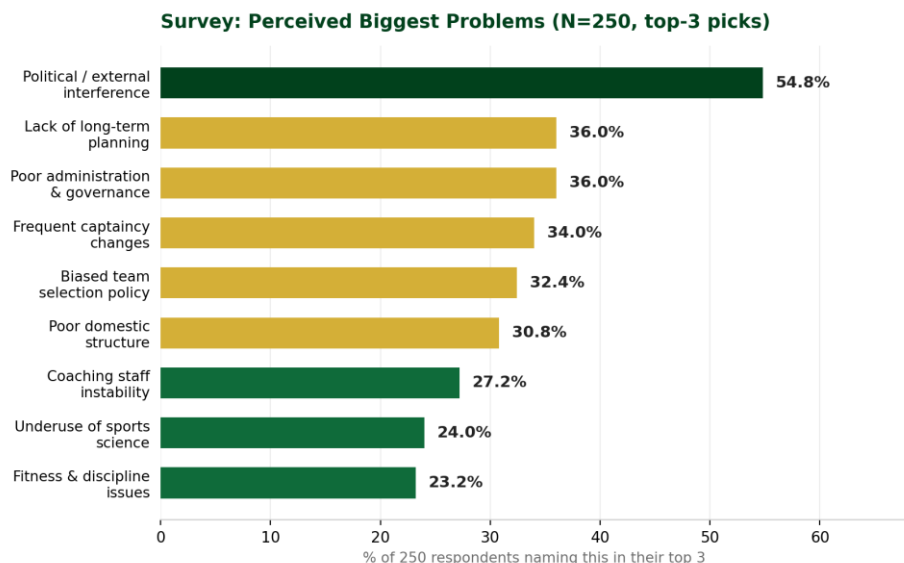


Figure 10: Percentage of the 250 respondents who included each issue among their top three.

Key patterns

Political interference stands alone at the top; a tight governance cluster (32–36%) follows — long-term planning, board administration, captaincy changes, and biased selection.

Political interference co-occurs with captaincy changes 53 times, long-term planning 39 times, and biased selection 38 times — the strongest pairings in the dataset.

Technical/on-field factors (sports science, fitness/discipline) rank lowest (23–24%), indicating respondents frame this primarily as a leadership and administration crisis.

Method Two— Expert Interview Thematic Analysis (N = 15)

Fifteen YouTube transcripts featuring former players, coaches, and analysts were thematically coded across ten recurring themes; a subset of five also carries a quantified sentiment score.

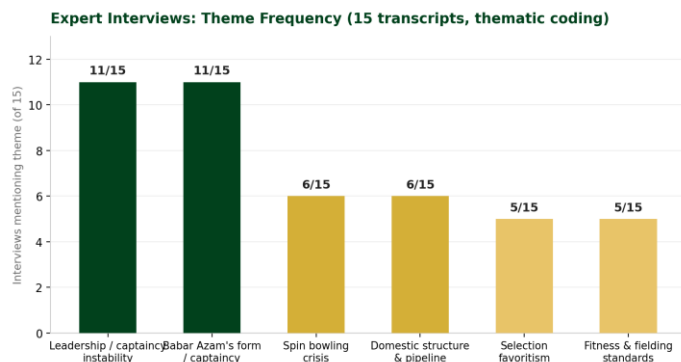


Figure 13: Number of the 15 interviews mentioning each theme (top six shown).

Key patterns

Leadership/captaincy instability and Babar Azam's form/captaincy are each mentioned in 11 of 15 interviews; three chairmen and three coaches in one year is the one single complaint.

The "gutted domestic pipeline ("academies replaced by tuition centers" — Basit Ali) is once again blamed for the lack of player readiness.

There is a structural criticism of liking and disliking (as Kamran Akmal puts it) that is separate from problems of unity on the field.

There are various solutions coming from different angles: full systemic "surgery" (Akhtar, Akram, Uroj Mumtaz), adopting Indian scale (Basit Ali) and merit-based selection (Akhtar, Akmal, Central Contracts panel).

Method Three— PLS-Structural Model (N = 250)

Six constructs were identified – five predictors (Captaincy Stability, Coaching Stability & Authority, Selection Policy, Player Development & Performance, Administration & Governance) and one outcome (International Performance). All construct reliabilities are significant ($p < .001$) and the model accounts for approximately 53% of the variance in perceived international performance ($R^2 = 0.526$).

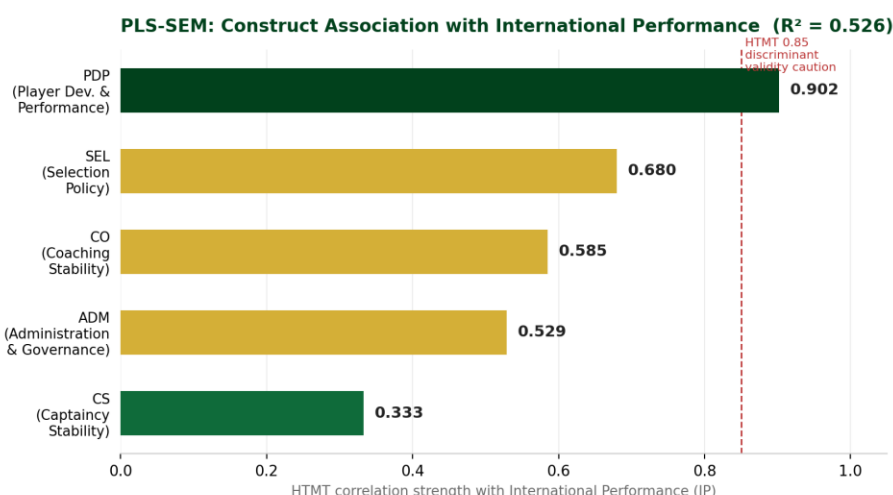


Figure 14: HTMT correlation of each predictor construct with International Performance (IP), sorted by strength.

Key patterns

Player Development & Performance has the highest correlation with International Performance (HTMT = 0.902), which is in the range of discriminant-validity caution (two constructs overlap more than would be desirable), but not cause for concern.

Selection Policy (0.680) and **Coaching Stability** (0.585) are the next strongest associations with performance outcomes.

Captaincy Stability is the least reliable of the six constructs ($\alpha = 0.62$) despite its being still significant — the poorest measured construct of the model.

Procedure-Mixed Methods Design

Not all the strands agree and it is better to expose this disagreement in the discussion chapter rather than gloss over it:

The least important factors reported by survey participants are technical/development factors, while interview participants consider the decay of the domestic structure a fundamental cause, not a minor secondary problem.

The near-boundary HTMT (0.902) of the PLS-SEM model indicates that player development and performance may not be as conceptually different as is assumed by the survey instrument.

When it comes to the top interview themes, Captaincy instability is ranked #1, but #4 in the survey, meaning experts view it as more important than the overall respondent pool.

The section discusses the Mixed Methods Design with its procedure.

The three strands of this were collected and analysed separately, but were then interpreted together, not in a sequential order.

Table 13: Mixed Methods Design — Procedure by Strand

Strand	What it measures	Sample / instrument
Quantitative descriptive	— What problems people perceive as biggest (frequency & co-occurrence)	Forced-ranking survey, top-3 picks from 9 options, N=250 of 508
Qualitative thematic	— Why experts believe these problems persist, in their own words	15 YouTube expert interview transcripts, thematically coded, 5 with sentiment scores
Quantitative explanatory (PLS-SEM)	— Strength & validity of relationships between governance/leadership/selection factors and performance	SmartPLS 4 structural model, 6 constructs, same 250-respondent sample

First, the labels were constructed as they differed slightly between the underlying working files (CS/CO/SEL/PDP/ADM/IP here refer to the same latent constructs tracked earlier as Captaincy Stability, Coaching Authority, Selection Policy, Player Performance, Administration & Development). The highest ranking factors of each of the methods were then aligned with each other; those that were ranked highest in all three methods were used as triangulation evidence; those that were ranked highest in one or two methods were used as evidence but were marked as a limitation.

Conclusion

The data presented in this thesis was the most consistent in pinpointing three factors that were found to be the most significant contributors to the failure of Pakistan cricket team: governance

and political interference, captaincy and leadership instability, and selection policy bias, all of which were supported both by the perception of the respondents and by the expert discourse and by structural modelling. Domestic structure and coaching stability are secondary but persistent; fitness and sports science are the weakest signal of the three strands and should be expressed accordingly in the discussion and recommendations.

Methodological Design

The results above need to be interpreted in the context of the design constraints. Some of these restrictions were identified during the procedure and are summarised here.

Methodological / design

Convergent design is an expression of agreement, not cause. The analysis of the three strands was undertaken separately and the strands were brought together at the interpretation phase, which is a sign of convergence rather than causation. It does not prove that the three are the causes of the performance drop, but the data indicates they are the same three issues that occur across methods.

Single time-window snapshot. All three strands were measured at one point in time, not over the 10 years the study spans (2015 to 2025), so the report is a snapshot of the perceived trend over the last 10 years, not the actual trend.

Perception-based, not outcome-based, data. The survey and SEM model measure perceived performance and perceived drivers, not actual match outcome, ranking or statistics — the difference between the perceived and actual performance is not tested.

Survey strand

Forced-choice, fixed-list design. Respondents were instructed to select a maximum of three issues from a predetermined list of nine items, thus excluding other issues that might not have been included in the list and that may be perceived as peripheral or related.

Sampling. The sample of the 250 respondents is non-probability, no method of ascertainment is mentioned, and representativeness of fans, across fan demographics, regions, and fan expertise has not been verified.

Manual exclusion. The four entries that were considered “jokes” were omitted before analysis, which is a valid and reasonable filtering decision, but still subjective.

Interview strand

Small, non-random sample. Thematic frequency counts based on only 15 transcripts (5 of which have quantifiable sentiment) could overestimate the relevance of whichever story is most palatable to the media.

Self-selected commentators. Interview subjects are self-selected media figures; where there is agreement between the two strands it is seen as different lenses on the same period, rather than replication of one finding.

SEM strand

Weak construct reliability. Captaincy Stability is the least reliable of the six constructs measured ($\alpha = 0.62$) and the conclusions about captaincy's role are based on the least reliable measure.

Discriminant-validity concern. The HTMT of 0.902 between the two factors: Player Development & Performance and International Performance is at the discriminant-validity caution level, which indicates that the model could be capturing two aspects of the same phenomenon, or two separate effects.

Unexplained variance. $R^2 = 0.526$ means that about 47% of the variance in perceived international performance is not accounted for by the five predictors.

Binary item scaling. The underlying 45-item instrument for this study was scaled dichotomously with Yes/No responses, which are coarser than the Likert-type scaling used by most instruments and are likely responsible for the reliability and discriminant-validity problems mentioned above.

Future Recommendations

Include a longitudinal or archival element. Match the perception data with actual team performance data (W/L, rankings, player data) for the period of 2015 – 2025 to validate if the perception data correlates to actual data for the period.

Use survey items that are presented as Likert scale. Future data collection should shift survey items to a Likert-type scale to reduce the strain of the AVE/reliability and HTMT that was observed in the SEM strand, and to more precisely capture Captaincy Stability.

Expand the sample of possible interview questions. Add current players, board officials and domestic-circuit coaches to balance out the media-figure skew and see if the domestic-pipeline theme is valid outside of expert punditry.

Differentiate between PD and Performance. Based on the current HTMT of 0.902, use a targeted follow up study or a tweaked item set to establish whether Player Development & Performance is truly a separate construct from International Performance.

Try out other item sets in a survey. Include an open-ended or two-stage (open-response → coded) method to uncover issues not included in the fixed nine item.

Conduct a follow-up causal/panel study. Here, use the three triangulated factors as a hypothesis set for a future panel or causal study that will specifically examine the directionality of the relationship between the factors, e.g., whether captaincy instability leads to lower performance or the other way around.

Cross validate the SEM model. Re-test the SEM model on the independent sample to replicate and confirm R^2 and construct reliabilities outside this sample.

Expert Interviews

The Downfall of Pakistan Cricket

Analysis based on an interview with Mohammad Amir | YouTube

Leadership and Accountability

Amir points out that there is a lack of accountability and poor leadership as a major reason for the decline. He points out that the team has had multiple changes in the chairmen, captains and selectors since 2019, which has hurt the stability of the team [03:01].

Comparisons with India

Vikrant and Amir talk about how the system in India continues to function well despite changes in the personnel. The "cricket" stays the same even if the leadership or administration change [05:29].

Player Insights

Amir: Babar was too young to be a captain, and that captaining affected his level of play. He feels Babar should have just concentrated on his hitting [08:40].

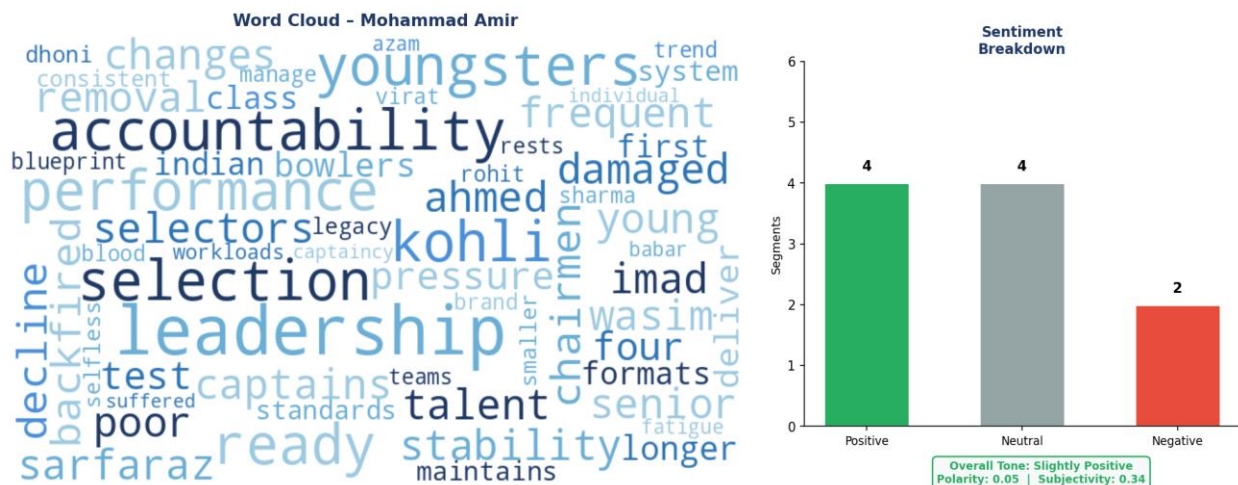
Looking Ahead

Champions Trophy: Amir says he has two "hot favourites" for the final - India and New Zealand, with the former having experience of the Dubai conditions and the latter enjoying a "full strength" squad. [17:44]

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRBjCTSrkwI>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.05 | Subjectivity: 0.34 | Positive segments: 4 | Negative: 2 | Neutral: 4



The 2024 T20 World Cup – Basit Ali’s Analysis

Analysis based on an interview with Basit Ali on Sports Tak | YouTube

The Crisis in Pakistan Cricket

A Team in Tatters: Basit Ali calls the Pakistan team 'house divided' and says the team is not united at the moment but in groups [13:31]. The “one-team” mentality that was there even when we were losing games has been destroyed,” he says.

Selection and Structural Failures

Poor Selection Criteria: He claims that the team has too many “unripe” (raw) players selected merely on the basis of their PSL performances, like Usman Khan and Azam Khan, and lacks solid (pukka) players who have played their cricket well in first-class cricket [17:12].

Critiques from players and management

Babar Azam vs. The Greats: He suggests that Babar is far from being a “great” player yet, and that he needed to perform consistently against the likes of India to be considered one of the greats like Gavaskar, Tendulkar and Kohli [18:34].

Mohammad Rizwan: He says that Rizwan is a smart player and is a leader of the team, which means that in the future he could be more of a unifying force for the team as captain [26:04].

Proposed Solutions

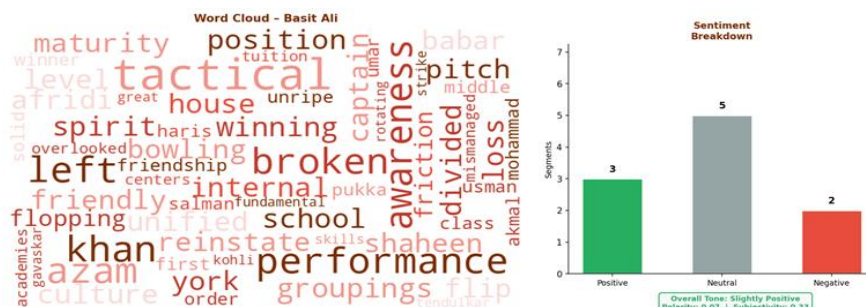
The “India Model”: He proposes that Pakistan should move towards an “expansive” Indian model, which has 40–42 teams, instead of the current one which has seen many players move to the USA or Dubai [30:25].

Strong Leadership at the Top: He praises PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi for being the strongest administrator the game has seen in years and says he is going to “straighten out” the players and the system post World Cup [22:14].

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1ePYVkhYr4>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.07 | Subjectivity: 0.33 | Positive segments: 3 | Negative: 2 | Neutral: 5



Pakistan vs India, February 2026 – Shoaib Akhtar’s Reaction

Exclusive interview with Shoaib Akhtar on ARY News | YouTube

Analysis of the Loss to India

Incompetence vs. Fear: Shoaib says that the team appears like “dwarfs” in comparison to the Indian side, who were physically and mentally fit [00:14, 01:02]. He thinks that the present players are “scared children” who can’t take the responsibility of big matches [02:38, 06:44].

Systemic Issues and Management

He points out the “India Gap” of cricket development, where while India moves forward, Pakistan still operates on the old infrastructure and sensationalist selection process [02:07].

Suggested changes and solutions:

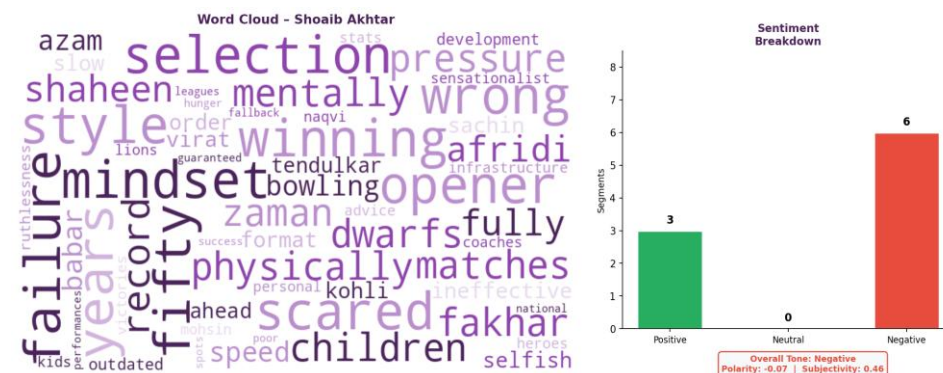
New Mindset: Shoaib would have a mindset if he was in charge, he would have a “ruthlessness” mindset and “match-winning performances” [06:01]. He stresses making “lions” and not “scared kids” [10:30].

Accountability: He asks himself why the players who guarantee their place in the team when they are not performing well exist in abundance of leagues, and that they have a fallback option that makes them not hungry for a national success [07:42, 07:59].

Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJqeyponw_8

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Negative | Polarity: -0.07 | Subjectivity: 0.46 | Positive segments: 3 | Negative: 6 | Neutral: 0



2024 T20 World Cup – Wasim Akram’s Reaction

Wasim Akram reacts to Pakistan’s loss to India in the 2024 T20 World Cup | YouTube

Analysis of the Loss and Player Conduct

Lack of Situation Awareness: Wasim is appalled that experienced players like Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman (8–10 years) still do not know the situation in the match. He points out that Rizwan should have played for a single against India’s main bowler (Bumrah) rather than trying a risky shot [00:44, 04:11].

Structural and Management Issues

Instability at the Top: He says there have been three chairmen and three coaches in one year in Pakistan and players have come to believe that they are untouchables while management is expendable [02:12].

Proposed Solutions

Wasim has mostly two options in mind for the team – Complete Overhaul. He feels that “enough is enough” and the current group of players should look to the mirror and perhaps step away in some way as well [03:26, 04:39].

Individual Player Feedback

Wasim tells Fakhar that he is a game-changer but, he needs to learn situational awareness [06:53].

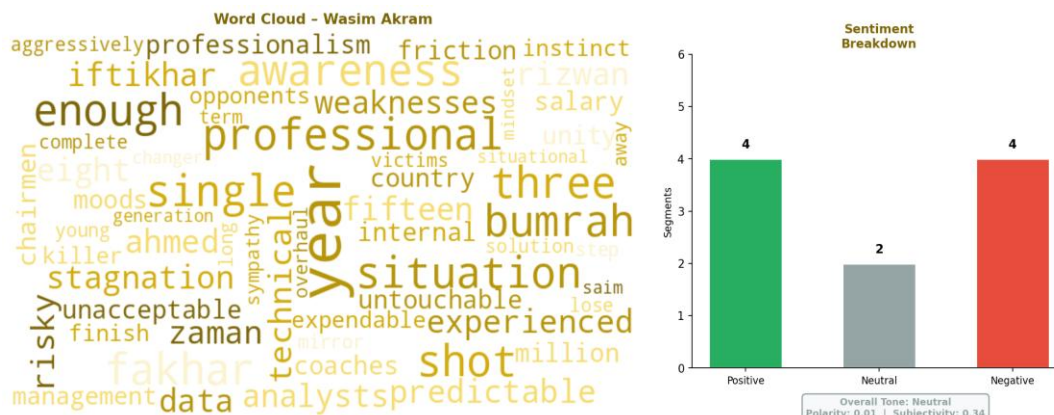
Saim Ayub: Wasim says even though he was not good, it makes sense to retain the youngster as he is a talented player and needs a constant playing time to develop. [07:33]

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJNg23jMFjc>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

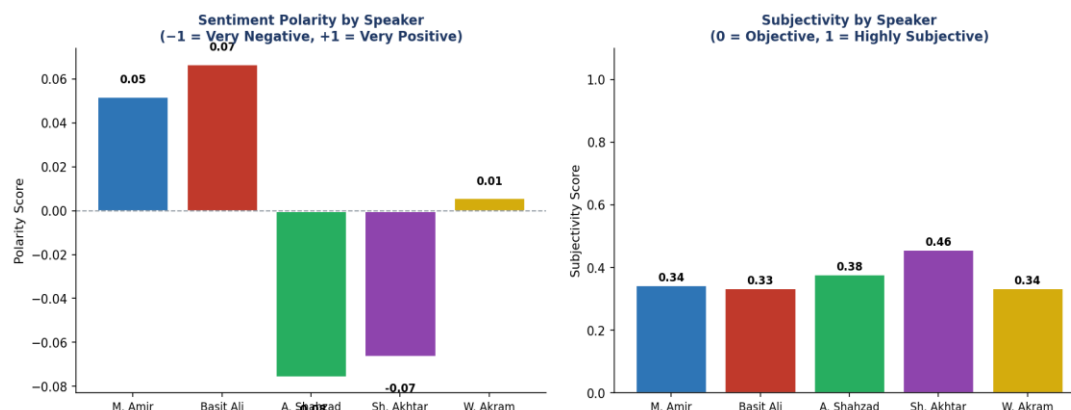
Overall Tone: Neutral | Polarity: +0.01 | Subjectivity: 0.34 | Positive segments: 4 | Negative: 4 | Neutral: 2

Most measured and balanced tone among all five speakers.



Cross-Speaker Sentiment Comparison

Shoaib Akhtar had the highest subjectivity (0.46) and the most negative polarity (-0.07) and was hence the most emotionally charged speaker. Mohammad Amir and Basit Ali were marginally positive their constructive



Pakistani Players Don't Have Cricket Awareness

Analysis based on SAMAA TV discussion | Urooj Mumtaz Khan & Shahnawaz Rana | YouTube

Match Awareness and Performance Standards

Match Awareness and Player Performance

Urooj talks about the importance of "match awareness" or "game awareness. Though the Pakistani team has a lot of experienced players who have huge playing time, they're not as aware of the situation as newer players such as Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana of Bangladesh [00:14].

The analysts say the players don't have their heads on to find out what they are doing wrong. The players don't accept their shortcomings and fans put them on a pedestal, making it difficult for them to recognize that they are not the "best in the world" [01:04].

Some examples of poor awareness are as follows:

Poor awareness cited were Rizwan attempting to hit Jasprit Bumrah for a six on the first ball of the World Cup and Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim failing to put the ball away in crucial overs despite their expertise [02:59].

Team Culture and Discipline

Players have earned so much money and fame that they might have lost the zest to play with full heart for the country, says Shahnawaz Rana. He talks about how he felt the team was lacking in "gel" or togetherness [04:44].

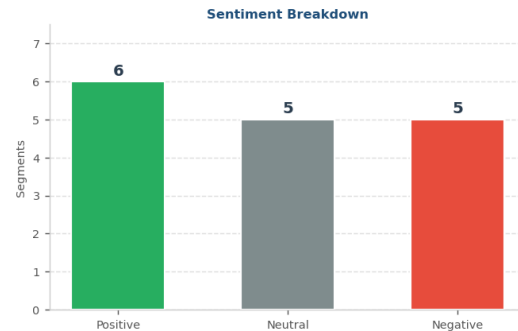
A comparison is drawn with India where Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya reportedly had differences but came together to lift the World Cup [05:40].

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXuBSSGPJ9g>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.08 | Subjectivity: 0.35 | Positive segments: 6 | Negative: 5 | Neutral: 5



Overall Tone: Slightly Positive
Polarity: +0.08 | Subjectivity: 0.35

Shahid Afridi Bashes Pakistan Team On Poor Performance

Analysis based on SAMAA TV discussion | Shahid Afridi & Mohammad Wasim | T20 World Cup 2024 | YouTube

Shahid Afridi's Critique

USA's Performance: Afridi commends the body language and attitude of the USA team, saying they were playing like “Australia” whereas Pakistan was without any momentum [00:47].

Captaincy Blunders: He has pointed out Babar Azam's inability to learn from his mistakes over the last few years and how he has made "blunder after blunder", notably in the match against the USA [01:12].

Structural and Management Issues — Mohammad Wasim

Wasim says the selection process has hurt the unity of the team, and that's because PSL games are taken more seriously than international cricket, which has led to “restlessness” among the players [07:22].

Technical Observations

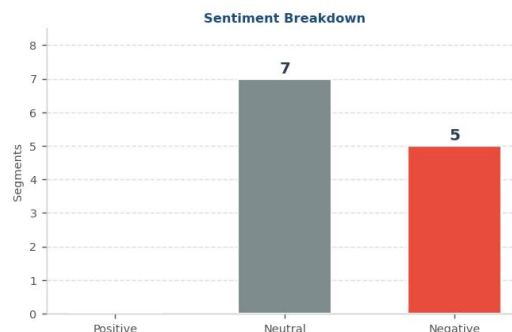
Spinners: Afridi wonders why mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed has not been used and takes a jibe at the spin-minded tactic of releasing Shadab Khan late on the batsmen [04:46].

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iuk1Who1ugY>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Negative | Polarity: -0.23 | Subjectivity: 0.47 | Positive segments: 0 | Negative: 5 | Neutral: 7



Overall Tone: Negative
Polarity: -0.23 | Subjectivity: 0.47

Pakistan vs Bangladesh — 2nd Test Match Analysis

Analysis based on Geo News discussion | Sikandar Bakht & Abdul Majid Bhatti | YouTube

Performance and Strategy

Bangladesh's Dominance: The analysts point out that Bangladesh has a very comfortable start after winning the first Test and is on the brink of making history by winning a series in Pakistan [01:23].

Discipline and Team Culture

Star Power vs. Authority: Bakht has an anecdote about Shaheen Afridi's heated outburst with legend Mohammad Yousuf for calling a no-ball during practice. The players themselves are very hard to coach or discipline, because of their stardom [13:12].

Coaching and Management

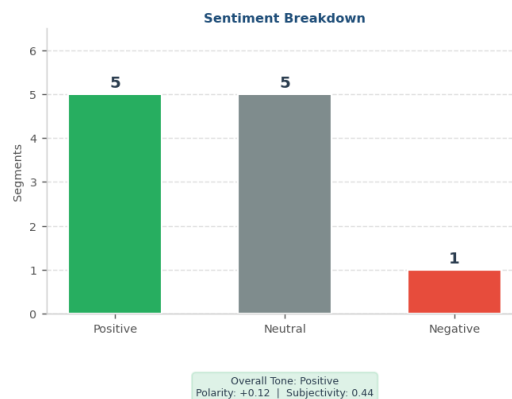
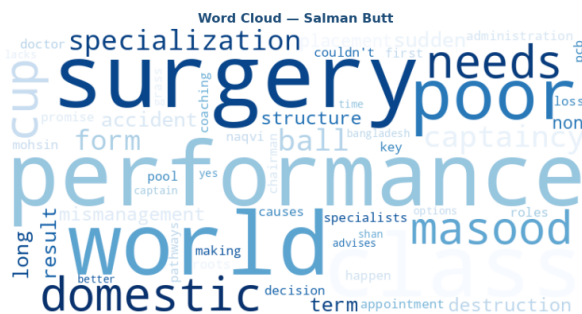
Foreign coaches vs local coaches: There is talk about coaches from overseas such as Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie. Even local personnel such as Azhar Mahmood lives outside the country and comes back only for a series, which is not conducive to a long-term development, says Bhatti [07:42].

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX7c9BXpTbA>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Positive | Polarity: +0.12 | Subjectivity: 0.44 | Positive segments: 5 | Negative: 1 | Neutral: 5



Pakistan vs Australia — 1st T20 at The Gabba

Analysis based on Geo News discussion | Ahmed Shehzad, Rashid Latif & Abdul Majid Bhatti | YouTube

Tactical and Selection Errors

According to Ahmed Shehzad another big problem in Pakistan's T20 strategy is to field three 'Anchor' Players -- Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha -- in the middle order. In modern day T20 cricket, you can't face teams like Australia which have a lot of non power hitters [03:32].

Batting and Shot Selection

Panel slams Pakistan's batting for the 'haphazard approach'. None of the batsmen played smart cricket in a short game but they opted for big hits on the leg side (mid-wicket) and nine wickets went in 42 balls [01:49].

Fielding, Captaincy and Coaching

Standard of Fielding: Rashid Latif points out a major decline in fielding standards than the previous ODI series and dropped catches in the death overs which proved costly for Pakistan [06:41].

Rizwan's Leadership: Shehzad has doubts on whether the new skipper can lead the team and develop young players, as Pakistan have been operating in a 'grouping' culture for a long time [08:57].

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rJkK6Cj8kc

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.08 | Subjectivity: 0.50 | Positive segments: 5 | Negative: 3 | Neutral: 4



Overall Tone: Slightly Positive
Polarity: +0.08 | Subjectivity: 0.50

Khel Ka Junoon — Pakistan vs USA, T20 World Cup 2024

Batting Performance

Babar Azam's Approach: Tanveer describes Babar Azam's slow but sensible knock (44 off 43 balls) as he had to bat sensibly as early wickets had been picked up, citing David Warner's similar performance for Australia against Oman [03:30].

Bowling and Fielding

Lack of Aggression: Tanveer reports the Pakistan bowlers (Shaheen, Amir, Rauf and Naseem) have not been aggressive or swinging as much as the USA bowlers. He asks how they didn't break the USA batting order sooner [02:44].

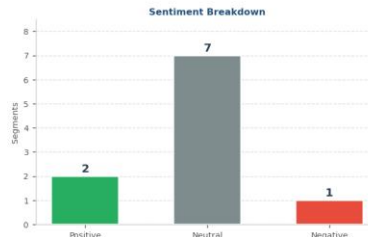
Spin Attack Crisis: He says Pakistan has effectively ruined their spin attack by include Shadab Khan in the XI but not Abrar Ahmed and Usama Mir [21:51].

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0wKjTQTfms>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.04 | Subjectivity: 0.45 | Positive segments: 2 | Negative: 1 | Neutral: 7



Overall Tone: Slightly Positive
Polarity: +0.04 | Subjectivity: 0.45

Analysis based on 24 News HD discussion | Post-T20 World Cup | YouTube

Rumors of Contract Downgrades

Selective Targeting: The panel discusses rumours regarding the possibility of dropping Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan from the "A" category contracts, asking why the two players are singled out for being moved out since the entire team had suffered a poor performance [01:22].

Performance-Based Criteria

Impact over Statistics: The guest analyst has a problem with stats; it's about impact. He recalls an incident when one player had a lot of wickets on his name but got no 'Man of the Match' awards in a whole year which means that his performances were not really turning a game in favour of the team.

Management, Discipline and Conclusion

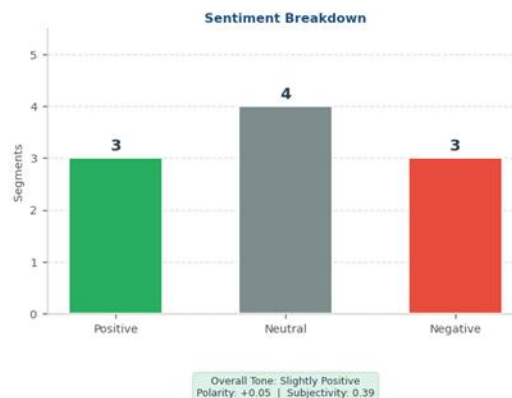
Role Definition: The panel emphasizes the need for each participant to have a well-defined role. When a player is brought in as an off-spinner but fails to take wickets (even if he does score a century), he has failed to do his main job and should be called up on it [05:44].

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVLgrr9pZVQ>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.05 | Subjectivity: 0.39 | Positive segments: 3 | Negative: 3 | Neutral: 4



Kamran Akmal Reacts to Pakistan's Bangladesh Whitewash

Analysis based on ARY News interview | Kamran Akmal | YouTube

Decline of Pakistan Cricket

Historic Lows: Pakistan hasn't won a home Test match in more than 1300 days, Akmal reminds. He says the series defeat to Bangladesh is a call for introspection as there are other teams getting better, while his country's graph is dipping sharply [00:25].

Selection and Internal Politics

Liking and Disliking: Akmal strongly condemns the current management and selection committee for giving preference to "liking and disliking" (nepotism/favoritism) over merit. The selection is flawed, and they ignore good domestic players and opt for a certain group [00:52].

In Shan Masood's leadership

Akmal admits that Masood was lauded for his leadership in Australia but says his captaincy of the Bangladesh game was "disappointing" and highlights some of the mistakes in the lineup such as the absence of a spinner and the presence of four pacers on a bowling-friendly surface [03:03].

Team Culture

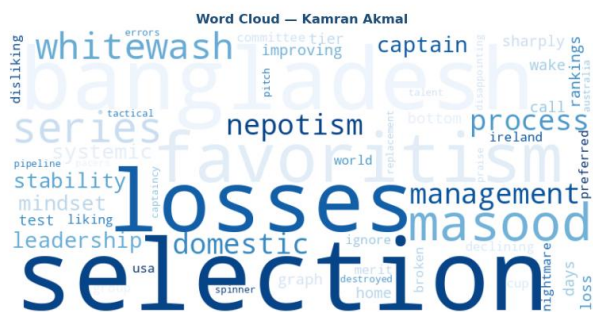
A lack of unity is not the cause of the loss, Akmal says, when asked about Unity vs. Process. That's not the issue of "unity" among the 11 players, that's the issue of the process for which the players are selected. But for the past 6-10 years, management is more focused on keeping certain players and more focused on keeping their jobs than they are on winning.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX7c9BXpTbA>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Negative | Polarity: -0.10 | Subjectivity: 0.47 | Positive segments: 1 | Negative: 3 | Neutral: 9



Asia Cup Special — Pakistan Super Four Analysis

Analysis based on ARY News discussion | Basit Ali, Kamran Akmal & Shahid Hashmi | YouTube

Unconvincing Performance

Struggling to Win: The panel says that Pakistan's wins over the UAE and Oman were "unconvincing" and this is how it qualified for the Super Four. Pakistan's bowling has always picked the timing of the Pakistani batters especially in the heavy defeat by India [02:12].

Tactical and Leadership Critiques

Babar Azam's Captaincy: Afridi is disappointed with Babar Azam's captaincy. Babar has been in the job for 3-4 years, and he should have displayed more "out-of-the-box" thinking. He lists specific tactical mistakes (such as not fielding aggressive players like slips) at the right time, particularly in the Afghanistan game [03:38].

Avoiding Systemic and Technical Issues

Mushtaq Ahmed points out the concerns about Pakistan spin bowlers in the middle order. While Pakistan could count only on their fast bowlers [06:13] every other successful team in the tournament had spinners to give them the breakthroughs.

Conclusion

“Champions on paper” rank was meaningless for Pakistan without the mental fortitude and tactical adaptability it took to play a World Cup, both experts agree. They demand investments for the long haul in the youngsters and a change in team's approach to cricket [05:40].

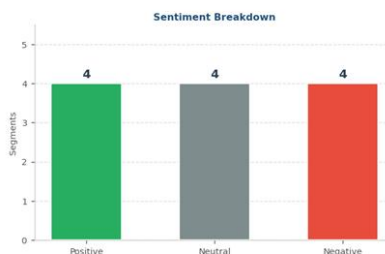
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wdoU0Mw4p4>

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Research Schedule

Word Cloud & Sentiment Analysis

Overall Tone: Slightly Positive | Polarity: +0.02 | Subjectivity: 0.42 | Positive segments: 4 | Negative: 4 | Neutral: 4



Overall Tone: Slightly Positive
Polarity: +0.02 | Subjectivity: 0.42

Research Schedule Gantt Chart (Feb - Jun 2026)

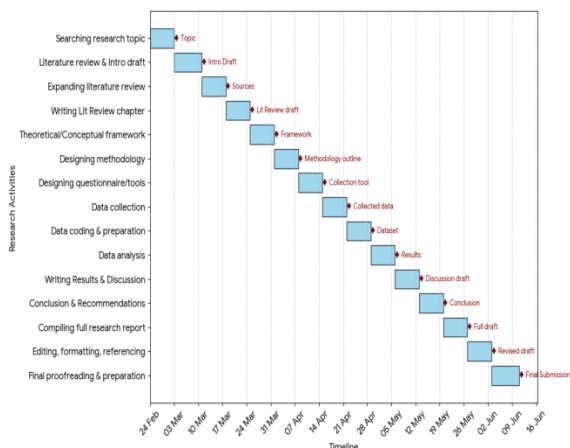


Table 14: Research Schedule

Week	Date	Activities	Submissions
1	24 Feb – 2 Mar	Searching research topic and conducting initial literature search	Topic
2	3 – 10 Mar	Literature review and writing the Introduction chapter	Draft of Introduction
3	11 – 17 Mar	Expanding literature review and identifying key studies	Literature Sources
4	18 – 24 Mar	Writing the Literature Review chapter	Literature Review Draft
5	25 – 31 Mar	Developing theoretical/conceptual framework	Conceptual Framework
6	1 – 7 Apr	Designing research methodology	Methodology Outline
7	8 – 14 Apr	Designing questionnaire/data collection tool	Data Collection Tool
8	15 – 21 Apr	Data collection	Collected Data
9	22 – 28 Apr	Data coding and preparation	Organized Dataset
10	29 Apr – 5 May	Data analysis	Statistical Results
11	6 – 12 May	Writing Results and Discussion	Discussion Draft
12	13 – 19 May	Writing Conclusion and Recommendations	Conclusion
13	20 – 26 May	Compiling the full research report	First Full Draft
14	27 May – 2 Jun	Editing, formatting, and referencing	Revised Draft
15	3 – 10 Jun	Final proofreading and preparation for submission	Final Report

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