

LB/TH/47/2025
TH6086

**EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF CHALLENGES OF
DISTRIBUTED SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TEAMS
IN SRI LANKAN CONTEXT**

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Degree of Master of Business Administration in Information Technology

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Sri Lanka

August 2025

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The dissertation was submitted to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Business Administration in Information Technology.

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

The growth of the software industry worldwide has created a phenomenal increase in distributed software development (DSD) teams, as they provide flexibility, cost benefits, and proximity to diversified talent pools. The change to distributed models is accompanied by a unique set of issues that negatively affect team performance and project success. In this study, we try to analyze critically the effects of such issues in the backdrop of Sri Lankan software development organizations.

The research mainly identifies and investigates major problems encountered by distributed teams, such as communication gap, time zone difference, cross-cultural diversity, and extensive use of virtual collaboration tools. Special focus is on the impact of these problems on the vital project parameters like software quality, on-time delivery, and cost-effectiveness.

The study explores the connection of these issues with team performance in a set of hypotheses. It also looks at to what extent the use of agile project management methodologies and the application of contemporary collaboration software can alleviate these adverse effects and enhance productivity.

Data is gathered from a cross-section sample of Sri Lankan software companies working in distributed setups. The analysis gives insight into prevailing strategies, tools, and frameworks employed to combat operational inefficiencies and achieve successful collaboration. Results reflect both the failures and successes of current practices in optimizing trust, transparency, and coordination in remote environments.

According to the findings, the thesis provides practical recommendations specific to the Sri Lankan context. They are the embracing of hybrid collaboration models, developing cross-cultural competency, investing in synchronous and asynchronous communications solutions, and imparting agile practices amenable to distributed teams. The study adds to the body of literature on remote software engineering and provides hands-on guidance for organizations to streamline distributed software development performance amidst special challenges faced in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Distributed software development (DSD) teams, Team performance, Project outcomes, Communication barriers, Time zone differences, Cultural diversity

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Above all, I am extremely grateful to my research supervisor, Dr. Chathuranga Hettiarachchi, for their supervision, continuous encouragement, and constructive criticism throughout this research work. Their helpful suggestions and motivation helped to shape this thesis from the very beginning until completion.

I wish to extend my heartiest gratitude to the academic members of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, whose knowledge and dedication to academic excellence shaped me and laid the groundwork for my research.

A special note of thanks to all the members and professionals from the different software development organizations in Sri Lanka who volunteered to spend their time, experiences, and views. They went a long way in helping to gather real-world inputs that helped to make this research more applicable and enhanced in terms of its quality.

I am deeply indebted to my family for their unflinching love, patience, and support. Their unfailing support has been a pillar of strength and motivation in times of adversity.

To my friends and colleagues, thanks for your encouragement, your provocative discussions, and for being present to provide motivation when I questioned myself and became weary.

Finally, but not least, I thank all those who, directly or indirectly, helped make this research a possibility. Your input, however small or large, is really appreciated and has made this success possible.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DSD - Distributed Software Development

IT - Information Technology