

**ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING
AN NREN CONSORTIUM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST
ASIA: SRI LANKAN PERSPECTIVE**

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

The absence of a dedicated National Research and Education Network (NREN) consortium in South and Southeast Asia limits the region's potential for collaborative advancements in education and research. From a Sri Lankan perspective, this research aims to evaluate the project's feasibility and propose a framework for establishing an NREN consortium tailored to the unique needs of South and Southeast Asia. This study addresses the critical need for regional collaboration to overcome challenges such as technological infrastructure, economic disparities and limited funding opportunity gaps. By examining successful NREN consortium models globally and collecting primary data through a survey distributed to LEARN service users, this research aims to identify key factors for successful consortium formation.

The analysis reveals that clear membership criteria, inclusive governance structures, Financing mechanisms, positive attitude towards collaboration and stable geopolitical dynamics are essential for establishing an effective NREN consortium. The findings also underscore the importance of robust leadership, sustainable funding mechanisms, and effective change management strategies. The results indicate that a tailored NREN consortium in South and Southeast Asia could significantly enhance regional cooperation in education and research, providing a strategic framework to address common challenges and improve service delivery. These insights offer valuable guidance for policymakers and NREN leaders in the region, paving the way for future collaborative initiatives.

Keywords: NREN consortium, South and Southeast Asia, Regional collaboration, Feasibility, Framework

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
COPYRIGHT STATEMENT	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Motivation	2
1.3 Research Scope	3
1.4 Problem Statement	3
1.5 Objectives of the Research	4
1.6 Research Significance	4
1.7 Thesis Outline	4
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Introduction to NRENs	6
2.2 Global NREN Collaborations	7
2.3 Status of regional collaborations in the South and Southeast Asian region	8
2.4 Key Factors in NREN Consortium Formation	12
2.4.1 Membership Criteria	13
2.4.2 Governance Structure	14
2.4.3 Financing Mechanism	14
2.4.4 Attitude Toward Collaboration	14
2.4.5 Geopolitical Dynamics	15
3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	16
3.1 Research Problem	16
3.2 Research Method	16
3.2.1 Independent and Dependent Variables	16

3.2.2 Conceptual Framework	17
3.2.3 Hypothesis of Study	18
3.2.4 Operationalization of Variables for Consortium Formation Feasibility ...	20
3.3 Population and Sample Selection	21
3.3.1 Sample Size	23
3.4 Data Collection.....	23
3.4.1 Secondary Data Collection.....	23
3.4.2 Primary Data Collection.....	24
3.5 Process of Data Collection	24
3.5.1 Questionnaire	24
3.5.2 Questionnaire Distribution	25
4 DATA ANALYSIS	26
4.1 Secondary Data Analysis	26
4.1.1 Membership Criteria Analysis	27
4.1.2 Governance Structure Analysis.....	27
4.1.3 Financing Mechanism Analysis	28
4.1.4 Regional Context Analysis.....	28
4.2 Primary Data Collection and Analysis.....	28
4.2.1 Data Preparation.....	29
4.3 Reliability and Validity Test	29
4.3.1 Reliability test	29
4.3.2 Validity Test.....	30
4.4 Demographic Analysis	30
4.5 Hypothesis Analysis.....	36
4.5.1 Hypothesis Testing.....	36
4.6 Descriptive Analysis	40
4.6.1 Membership Model	40
4.6.2 Governance Structure.....	41
4.6.3 Finance Mechanism	42
4.7 Evaluating Key Factors and Challenges in Forming an NREN Consortium in South and Southeast Asia.....	43
4.8 Responses to the open-ended question.....	47
4.8.1 Leadership and Governance.....	47
4.8.2 Human Resources.....	47
4.8.3 Political and Economic Challengers	47
4.8.4 Awareness and Attitudes.....	48
4.8.5 Other Challenges	48
4.9 Feedback from NREN Experts.....	48
4.10 Discussion of the Study.....	51
5 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.....	53

5.1 Recommendations	53
5.2 Limitations	54
5.3 Future research	55
5.4 Conclusion.....	55
5.5 Concluding remarks	55
REFERENCES.....	57
APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE STUDY.....	62
APPENDIX B: SECONDARY DATA SUMMARY TABLES.....	68
APPENDIX C: FACTOR ANALYSIS.....	79

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Network Readiness Index Diagram	10
Figure 3.1: Conceptual framework of study	18
Figure 4.1: Global Connectivity Map of GÉANT	27
Figure 4.2: Gender of respondents	31
Figure 4.3: Age distribution of respondents.....	31
Figure 4.4: Education level of respondents.....	32
Figure 4.5: Job role of the respondents	33
Figure 4.6: Experience working in the R&E sector	34
Figure 4.7: Number of years using LEARN services	35
Figure 4.8: Stakeholders' perception of the membership model	41
Figure 4.9: Stakeholders' perception of the suitable governance structure	42
Figure 4.10: Stakeholders' view on the suitable financing mechanism.....	43
Figure 4.11: Graphical representation of ranks - Factors affecting successful NREN collaboration.....	44
Figure 4.12: Graphical representation of ranks – socio-economic factors that shape the collaborative effort	45
Figure 4.13: Graphical representation of ranks - challenges in establishing an NREN consortium in South and Southeast Asian region	46

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Networked Readiness Index ranking 2023 for South and Southeast countries	11
Table 3.1: Dependent variable	16
Table 3.2: Independent variables	16
Table 3.3: Operationalize of the variables selected for the study	20
Table 3.4: Population count for the study	22
Table 4.1: Result of Cronbach's alpha test	30
Table 4.2: Results of Chi-Squared tests for clear membership criteria.....	36
Table 4.3: Results of Chi-Squared tests for inclusive governance structure.....	37
Table 4.4: Results of Chi-Squared tests for financing mechanism	38
Table 4.5: Results of Chi-Squared Tests for positive attitude towards collaboration	39
Table 4.6: Results of Chi-Squared tests for stable geopolitical condition	39
Table 4.7: Results of ranking factors affecting successful NREN collaboration.....	44
Table 4.8: Results of ranking socio-economic factors that shape the collaborative effort.....	45
Table 4.9: Results of ranking challenges in establishing an NREN consortium	46
Table B.1: Summary of regional NREN consortiums available worldwide.....	68
Table B.2: Summary of membership categories	69
Table B.3: Summary of Government Structures.....	71
Table B.4: Summary of Financing Mechanisms.....	72
Table B.5: Summary of Regional Context	73
Table B.6: Summary of Asian Region Context	76
Table C.1 Factor Analysis of Clear Membership Criteria	79
Table C.2 Factor Analysis of Inclusive Governance Structure.....	79
Table C.3 Factor Analysis of Financing Mechanism.....	79
Table C.4 Factor Analysis of Positive Attitude Towards Collaboration	80
Table C.5 Factor Analysis of Stable Geopolitical Dynamics	80

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAU - Association of African Universities
ADB – Asian Development Bank
AfNOG - Africa Network Operation Group
APAN – Asia Pacific Advanced Network
BdREN – Bangladesh Research and Education Network
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
CTO – Chief Technology Officer
CFA - Confirmatory Factor Analysis
CIO – Chief Information Officer
EU – European Union
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
IT – Information Technology
LEARN – Lanka Education and Research Network
N/A – Not Available
NREN - National Research and Education Network
NFP - Not-for-Profit
R&E - Research and Education
R&D – Research and Development