

## **Leveraging intra and extra regional networks for maximum impact: evidence from a study of research collaboration in South Asia**

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The advent of the Internet and mobile devices means that it's now easier than ever to communicate across long distances. Research collaboration has benefited from such technological advances, facilitating the global exchange of ideas and transfer of knowledge, for instance through research collaboration.

In research management circles, it has long been known that international collaboration increases the visibility and outreach of research. There is a substantial and growing body of bibliometrics literature documenting the correlation between internationally collaborated publications and their high citation impact. Several research teams have also looked at the influence of distance among co-authors on citation impact, with varying outcomes. It appears that there are variations among international collaboration types.

In an upcoming analysis of research collaboration in South Asia, we analyse international collaboration using the proxy of scholarly publications with co-authors located in two or more countries. We compare intraregional collaboration (publications with authors in at least two South Asian countries, and all authors in South Asian countries) to extraregional collaboration (publications with at least one author in a South Asian country and at least one author in a country outside of South Asia).

Our analysis reveals distinctive characteristics of each collaboration type:

- In South Asia, international collaboration represents 1/5 of publications, and intraregional collaborations represent less than 1% of international collaborations.
- Extraregional research collaborations yield a much higher citation impact than intraregional collaborations.
- Extraregional research collaborations tackle both global and local issues, while intraregional collaborations tend to focus on regional matters.