

South African Educational Research Association (SAERA)



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Focus of presentation:

1. Outline the aims SAERA
2. Challenges of Mentoring young scholars and researchers
3. How SAERA addresses the challenges
4. Key strengths



Aims of the SAERA Constitution

To contribute to the development and enhancement of education as a research field in South Africa by enhancing the capacity of South Africa's education scholars to do appropriate education research in various areas related to the country's educational development and progress.

AIMS



**Aim 1:
Become the
leading
institution in
the next 5
years**

**To mentor
and grow
research
leaders in
South Africa**

**Aim 2:
To support
capacity
development
of Education
researchers
within South
Africa**



Challenges noted by SAERA on developing young scholars and researchers

Uneven mentoring at institutional level

Limited access to established and influential scholars (e.g. A-rated scholars)

Very little scope for emerging scholars to interact, learn and share experiences

At the margins of research innovations

Limited access to national and international collaborations

SAERA as a national research association has made great strides in addressing some of these challenges

KEY PILLARS OF SAERA

CONFERENCE

Annual
Conference

PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT & NETWORKING

Membership

People Development
and Leadership

Communication &
Networking

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship growth
through participation

Recognition through
scholarship

Journal of Education

SAERA as a national research association has been influential in addressing some of these challenges to develop young researchers

**PEOPLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Membership

Annual Conference

CONFERENCE

People Development
and Leadership

saera

African Education Research Association

Recognition through
scholarship

Journal of
Education

Communication &
Networking

Scholarship growth
through participation

**CUTTING-EDGE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Annual Conference

Strategic objectives

Annual conference
To organize and host a world class annual conference

Limited access to national and international collaborations

Uneven mentoring at institutional level

Strategic priorities

Develop conference planning guidelines for LoC

Hosting higher education institution every 3 years

Target themes that draw currency and interest

Encourage inclusivity

People Development

Strategic objectives

**Membership, Leadership,
Networking**

Very little scope for emerging
scholars to interact, learn and
share experiences

Early career
researchers –
support, grow,
expose and mentor

SIG
Special Interest
Groups

Strategic priorities

Engage with
policy

Connect with relevant
national and
international bodies

Grow memberships
across other
disciplinary research

Actively seek capable
leadership positions
for the Exec

Cutting-Edge Scholarship

Strategic objectives

**Membership, Leadership,
Networking**

At the margins of research
innovations

Limited access to established and influential
scholars (e.g. A-rated scholars)

Strategic priorities

Nelson Mandela
Legacy Lecture

ECR

Recognition Awards

Honours
Research Recognition
Doctoral

SAERN

Journal of
Education

SIGS

FINAL POINTS

- SAERA as a substantive research association and a research voice within South Africa
- Solid reputation to attract researchers and provide an influential research platform
- Early Career Researchers (ECR) as a strategic part of the executive and conference
- ECR has a voice in the growth and direction of the organisation
- Voice for ECRs develop networks with other emerging and established researchers and access to research opportunities through development and collaborations
- SAERA mentoring support is ongoing and is a space for quality mentoring with members having easy access to opportunities and platforms across all portfolio's

FINAL POINTS

- Many well-established researchers offer support
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) give an opportunity for access to experts and activities in niche areas
- SAERA conference give access to cutting-edge scholarship, presentations with feedback in field of interest, access to innovations in research
- Selected funding available for early career researchers
- A publication platform through the established and accredited Journal of Education

TAKE HOME

- SAERA is a safe space for people (research) development where young researchers can be mentored and grow
- SAERA hosts an annual conference to encourage young researchers to network and collaborate
- SAERA gives opportunities for exposure to cutting-edge research and recognition

THANK YOU

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