



# Article The ISM Method to Analyze the Relationship between Blockchain Adoption Criteria in University: An Indonesian Case

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Abstract: Referring to the widespread problem of diploma forgery in Indonesian educational institutions as the impetus for UNTIRTA's latest vision as an "Integrated, Smart, and Green University," UNTIRTA intends to use blockchain technology to prevent diploma forgery and overcome issues related to existing platforms at UNTIRTA, such as frequent connection interruptions when accessed by a large number of users simultaneously. Before using blockchain technology, UNTIRTA must evaluate several readiness issues. This study presented the interpretative structural modeling (ISM) method to assess the primary preparedness elements for adopting blockchain technology in universities and sought to provide pertinent strategy ideas for UNTIRTA's blockchain technology application. The results reveal sixteen major parameters that influence the adoption readiness of blockchain technology at UNTIRTA. The primary variables impacting the adoption and deployment of blockchain technology at UNTIRTA are management and employee support and a grasp of the technology. To realize UNTIRTA's mission as an "Integrated, Smart, and Green University", the proposed method entails determining an initial agreement in which all stakeholders have a shared understanding and commitment to Blockchain technology implementation at UNTIRTA. The objective of the tactical proposal is to establish each unit's mission in the blockchain implementation program. The objective of the technical proposal is to construct a planning document that will serve as a coordination tool between the chairman and members, as well as all parties interested in the adoption of Blockchain technology at UNTIRTA.

Keywords: technology adoption; blockchain; smart university; ISM method

**MSC:** 97M10

# 1. Introduction

The field of education is constantly evolving and adopting new technologies to improve the learning experience for students [1,2]. One technology that has gained significant attention in recent years is blockchain. The use of blockchain technology in education has the potential to revolutionize the way educational institutions manage and distribute information [3]. By using blockchain, educational institutions can securely store and share student records, verify the authenticity of educational degrees, and enable institutions to decide with which other higher education institutions to share data, preventing the forgery or falsification of legitimate credentials (diplomas or certificates) [4]. This technology can help improve the efficiency and transparency of the education system and make it easier



Citation: Yu, V.F.; Bahauddin, A.; Ferdinant, P.F.; Fatmawati, A.; Lin, S.-W. The ISM Method to Analyze the Relationship between Blockchain Adoption Criteria in University: An Indonesian Case. *Mathematics* **2023**, *11*, 239. https://doi.org/10.3390/ math11010239

Academic Editor: Andrea Scozzari

Received: 10 November 2022 Revised: 10 December 2022 Accepted: 26 December 2022 Published: 3 January 2023



**Copyright:** © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). for students to access and manage their own educational records. Additionally, the use of blockchain in education can help reduce the potential for fraud and other forms of corruption, as all transactions on the blockchain are transparent and secure. Overall, the use of blockchain in education has the potential to greatly enhance the quality and accessibility of educational opportunities for learners around the world [5].

Education in Indonesia still thrives on keeping pace with the industrial revolution, though there are various problems, such as diploma falsification [6]. Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University (UNTIRTA) is a public university in the province of Banten, Indonesia. Its latest vision is the realization of UNTIRTA as an Integrated Smart and Green University with Superior Character and Competitiveness in the ASEAN Region by 2030. The industrial revolution 4.0 at the university has various academic platforms that sometimes experience problems, such as connection timed-out when simultaneously accessed by many users. This is because the system is managed centrally, implying the need to fix the problematic platform at the control center. UNTIRTA plans to utilize blockchain as a digital-based technological development to avoid diploma entry and overcome platform-related problems. This is to prevent diploma falsification in educational institutions and is also a driving factor for the vision of UNTIRTA as an Integrated, Smart, and Green University. Blockchain technology is a decentralized distributed ledger that verifies the ownership of digital assets [7]. It is one of the current technologies with many benefits, though its acceptance is still invisible in Indonesian education, especially in UNTIRTA. Therefore, for its adoption, factors such as security, privacy, cost, scalability, and availability of infrastructure and human resources should be considered [8]. However, it is difficult for educational institutions to implement new technologies because they need to consider readiness factors. According to Steiu [9], preparation for adopting blockchain in the education system comprises legal issues, scalability, data privacy, and security. Based on these problems, this study aimed to examine the factors of readiness to adopt blockchain technology and the dependency relationship between readiness. This study also proposes relevant strategies for implementing blockchain technology in the future education system at Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University.

This study formulates problems regarding the main readiness factors in blockchain adoption and develops a strategic framework for implementing the technology in the education system at UNTIRTA. Therefore, it aims to examine the main readiness factors for blockchain adoption and develop a strategic framework for applying this technology in the education system at UNTIRTA. The results could be useful in the development of science and technology and considerations in policymaking.

The remaining article is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews the blockchain technology adoption models and the proposed method. Section 3 presents the implementation of the proposed approach to identify the key criteria for blockchain technology adoption in universities. In Sections 4 and 5, the results are analyzed and discussed. Section 6 proposes strategies to successfully adopt blockchain technology in universities. Finally, the conclusions are presented in Section 7.

#### 2. Blockchain Technology, Blockchain Adoption Models and the Proposed Method

Many studies have established evaluation models to analyze the criteria for the adoption of blockchain technology in many areas. This section discusses blockchain technology, blockchain adoption models and the proposed method to determine readiness factors for blockchain technology adoption in higher education institutions.

#### 2.1. Blockchain Technology

Over the course of more than a decade, the technology known as the blockchain has been developed as a system in which a decentralized database keeps track of all the transactions that have ever taken place inside the network. It is considered a paradigm of distributed computing that successfully overcomes problems associated with relying on a single administrator or organization. Due to its distinctive qualities, such as decentralization, reliability, and security, this technology has recently been used in education. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab developed Blockcerts, an open standard for generating, issuing, examining, and validating certificates based on the blockchain. These digital records are registered on a distributed ledger, cryptographically signed, tamper-resistant, and shareable [10]. Cheng et al. [11] developed a system for issuing and validating certificates using blockchain and smart contracts based on Ethereum to solve diploma fraud issues through the use of blockchain. Taufiq et al. [12] proposed a crypto-governance model for processing student documents and diplomas involving several actors using a private blockchain network.

There are three types of blockchains based on the characteristics of the peers who participate in them. Public or permissionless blockchains impose no limits on joining, leaving, or gaining access to the data stored (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum, etc.). In private or permissioned blockchains, on the other hand, members may only participate if invited; thus, they are closed systems managed within institutions (e.g., Hyperledger Fabric, Iroha, Quorum, etc.). All information is kept confidential among approved members. Lastly, consortium blockchains are a hybrid of the two preceding categories and are run by a group of institutions with a common aim. In this manner, authorized parties can join or leave the blockchain upon request [13].

#### 2.2. Blockchain Adoption Models

Blockchain technologies have piqued the interest of both academia and businesses because of their unique characteristics, such as data protection, distribution, security, decentralization, and reliability. However, their adoption rate is still low and is thus one of the main reasons for conducting research on user satisfaction and adoption of these technologies. Determining the influencing factors for the use and acceptance of blockchain technology can help to handle their adoption difficulties more effectively [14].

Blockchain adoption studies use a variety of approaches. Based on 902 shortlisted papers and 30 empirical studies that satisfied the qualifying requirements and were comprehensively evaluated, the findings from [14] revealed that the technology-organization-environment and the technology acceptance model were the most common for evaluating blockchain adoption. Other methodologies have also been suggested, such as the maturity model [15] and the machine learning-based model [16].

#### 2.3. Proposed Method

#### 2.3.1. Design

This was a prospective study that used the observation method to collect data on blockchain technology that has not yet been implemented. It is expected to help plan future blockchain implementations in the education system at UNTIRTA. Additionally, this cross-sectional study was conducted only once by providing questionnaires to previously determined respondents. The study is not carried out in the long term to assess changes in subjective opinion.

The determination of the adoption readiness factors in this study is referred to the Blockchain Organizational E-Readiness (BOER) and Blockchain External E-Readiness (BEER) framework models based on Broni [17]. The interpretive structural modeling (ISM) method is used to determine the main readiness factor for blockchain adoption in universities. Also, data were analyzed descriptively and qualitatively through MICMAC analysis to determine the main readiness factors for adoption.

#### 2.3.2. Data Collection Technique

The data were collected through literature studies, questionnaires, and interviews.

1. Literature Study

Data were collected using the BOER and BEER framework models based on studies on blockchain adoption readiness factors.

2. Interviews

The interviews were conducted to confirm the blockchain adoption readiness factors from the earlier published studies. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling based on the study objectives.

3. Questionnaire

Data were also collected by distributing ISM questionnaires to the respondents. In this technique, respondents provide answers using symbols V, A, X, and O to determine the main readiness factors compared to the others.

# 2.3.3. The Problem-Solving Flow

Figure 1 shows the ISM method and MICMAC analysis to determine the main readiness factors for blockchain adoption in a university.



**Figure 1.** Proposed method to determine the main readiness factors for blockchain adoption in a university.

The idea behind ISM is to create a hierarchical relational modeling approach based on complex element relationships. A directed graph is drawn after the relational structure model has been examined utilizing experts' specialized understanding of the contextual connections between elements. ISM uses diagrams and words in a well-crafted pattern to identify and analyze the correlations between particular variables representing an issue, topic, system, or field of study. A structural self-interaction matrix (SSIM) is generated following a pairwise comparison of the variables; it is then transformed into a reachability matrix whose transitivity is examined. A matrix model is created following the completion of the transitivity embedding. Below is a list of the ISM method's steps [18].

Step 1 List the elements relevant to the system;

- Step 2 Develop the contextual relationship between the elements identified in Step 1;
- Step 3 Perform pairwise comparisons between the elements to develop an SSIM;
- Step 4 Generate a reachability matrix based on the SSIM and check the transitivity of the matrix;
- Step 5 Divide the matrix into different levels;
- Step 6 Draw a relational graph according to the reachability matrix in Step 3 and remove the transitive links;
- Step 7 Replace transitive nodes with statements to convert the directed graph obtained in Step 6 into an ISM model;
- Step 8 Check the conceptual inconsistency of the ISM model and modify the model if necessary.

#### 3. Implementation of the Proposed Approach

This section provides an example of how the model was applied to a higher education institution to validate the suggested methodology for examining problems with blockchain adoption in higher education. Our understanding of creating a readiness factor for implementing blockchain technology in higher education institutions is improved as a result of this approach. The analysis of the preparedness factors and methodology steps are presented below.

#### 3.1. Step 1: Collecting and Defining the Criteria of Blockchain Technology Adoption Factors

The first step in integrating blockchain technology in a university is to gather and create evaluation criteria. Our team consulted five university employees and subject-matter specialists to know their thoughts on the challenges of implementing blockchain technology. This was done through in-person meetings and emails. We also looked at the collection of papers from reputable journals like Springer, Elsevier, and Emerald. Finally, with the aid of industry experts and earlier studies, we pinpointed crucial problems with implementing blockchain technology in a university based on the BOER and BEER framework models [17]. Table 1 lists the blockchain technology adoption readiness factors at UNTIRTA.

#### 3.2. Step 2: Questionnaire Development Based on the Evaluation Criteria

A questionnaire was created and distributed to university and educational professionals to determine the impact and importance of different variables. E-inquiries and meetings were used for all university and educational relations. We gathered the most important elements influencing the adoption of blockchain technology in a university and started comparing them based on the responses we received.

**Table 1.** Blockchain Technology Adoption Readiness Factors at Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University(UNTIRTA).

Symbol	Factor
A1	Availability of technical components
A2	Affordability of IT resources
A3	Availability of IT resources

Symbol	Factor
A4	Accessibility of IT resources
A5	Technology efficiency
A6	Usage rate
A7	Management and staff support
A8	Technology understanding
A9	Knowledge of how to use technology
A10	Availability of skilled workers
A11	Risk and capital
A12	Availability of learning platform
A13	Accessibility to relevant learning resources
A14	Strategy and business processes
A15	Policies and regulations
A16	Government initiatives in technology

Table 1. Cont.

3.3. Step 3: Analyzing the Blockchain Adoption Criteria Using the Interpretive Structural Modeling Approach

The implementation steps of the ISM are as follows:

1. Development of the structural self-interaction matrix

ISM is a collaborative learning process with numerous closely connected components. The model has the ability to describe a complex problem's structure explicitly. The initial stage of the ISM method establishes the contextual relationship between all components through the use of expert opinions. The relationships between the criteria were denoted by the letters V, A, X, and O. We can generate the following evaluations using i and j as the standards:

A: Criterion j causes criterion i;

V: Criterion i causes criterion j;

X: Criterion i causes criterion j, and criterion j causes criterion i;

O: Criteria i and j are not related.

One component "causes" another means that one factor causes the other. Expert assessments of the link between two parameters provide the foundation of an SSIM. The experts vouch for the inclusion of important agile components by focusing on their interdependence and describing their purpose. The process is complete once all of the experts have given their approval to the specified relationships. In this study, pairwise comparisons were made by the experts. We created the SSIM once the pairwise comparisons were created, as indicated in Table 2.

	A16	A15	A14	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1
A1	V	А	V	V	V	Х	Х	Х	Х	А	V	V	Х	V	V	-
A2	Х	А	Х	V	V	Х	Х	А	А	А	V	Α	Х	А	-	
A3	Х	Х	Х	V	V	Х	V	V	Х	А	V	Х	А	-		
A4	А	А	Х	V	V	Х	Х	Х	Х	А	Х	А	-			
A5	Х	А	V	V	V	А	Х	А	А	А	Х	-				
A6	А	V	Х	Х	Х	Х	А	А	А	А	-					
A7	А	V	Х	V	V	V	V	V	V	-						
A8	Х	V	V	Х	V	V	Х	V	-							
A9	Х	V	V	Х	Х	Х	Х	-								
A10	V	V	V	V	V	Х	-									
A11	Х	Х	Α	Х	V	-										
A12	А	А	А	Х	-											
A13	А	А	А	-												

Table 2. Structural self-interaction matrix.

				Table	<b>2.</b> Cont.											
	A16	A15	A14	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1
A14	Х	Х	-													
A15	Х	-														
A16	-															

Table 2 shows the assessment of the relationship between criteria or elements so that the assessment can represent the respondent's perception of the relationship between the criteria in question. There are symbols used, namely, the symbol V, which means that the row of criteria affects the column of criteria; the symbol A, which means that the row of criteria affects the column of criteria; the symbol X, which means that the row and column affect each other; and the symbol O, which means that there is no influence at all on the row and column of criteria. The relationship obtained between criteria is then represented in the form of a Structural Self Interaction Matrix (SSIM).

### 2. The Reachability matrix

By changing V, A, X, and O in the SSIM to 1 and 0 correspondingly, a binary matrix known as the initial reachability matrix is created. Table 3 lists the guidelines for converting 1 s and 0 s. Table 4 presents the generated initial reachability matrix. The final reachability matrix is generated by Equations (1) and (2).

$$M = S + I \tag{1}$$

$$M_R = M^k = M^{k+1}, k > 1 (2)$$

where *I* is the identity matrix, *k* is the power matrix,  $M_R$  is the reachability matrix, and  $M^k$  is the stable or final reachability matrix. The reachability matrix is computed using the addition law and Boolean multiplication (that is,  $1 \times 1 = 1$ ,  $1 \times 0 = 0 \times 1 = 0$ , 1 + 1 = 1, 1 + 0 = 0 + 1 = 1, and 0 + 0 = 0). The final reachability matrix shown in Table 5 is the result of the transitivity checks from the ISM approach's criteria.

Table 4 is the initial reachability matrix used to turn the symbols on SSIM into numbers or initial numbers on the reachability matrix by substituting four symbols (V, A, X, or O) with 1 or 0. If the relationship between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  on SSIM is V, then the elements  $E_{ij}$  and  $E_{ji}$  in the reachability matrix are 1 and 0. If the relationship between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  on SSIM equals X, then  $E_{ij} = 1$  and  $E_{ji} = 1$ . If the relationship between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  on SSIM equals X, then  $E_{ij} = 1$  and  $E_{ji} = 1$ . If the relationship between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  on SSIM equals X, then  $E_{ij} = 1$  and  $E_{ji} = 1$ . If the relationship between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  on SSIM is O, then  $E_{ij}$  and  $E_{ji}$  both equal 0 in the reachability matrix.

Table 5 represents the concluding reachability matrix. The initial reachability matrix (Table 4) was examined for transitivity to generate the final reachability matrix. Transitivity is a fundamental assumption, indicating that if A is associated with B and B is associated with C, then A is specifically related to C. From the final reachability matrix, the driving and dependence powers of each criterion were deduced.

The calculation results showed that the highest driving power value was 15 and was located on A7 (Management and staff support) and A8 (Technology understanding).

	Entry in the Reachability Matrix						
Entry in SSIM (1,j) —	(i,j)	(j,i)					
V	1	0					
А	0	1					
Х	1	1					
О	0	0					

**Table 3.** The transforming rules for the substitution.

i/j	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
5	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
7	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
14	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Table 4. Initial Reachability Matrix.

Table 5. Final Reachability Matrix.

i/j	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	<b>Driving Power</b>
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	14
2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
4	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	12
5	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	10
6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	8
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	15
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
9	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
10	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	13
12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
14	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
15	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
16	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
Dependence Power	8	13	10	13	11	15	3	8	11	10	14	16	16	13	10	11	

#### 3. Level partitions

A partition of the reachability matrix was formed by continually assessing the reachability and prior sets for each criterion. The attainable requirements were part of the reachability set. The criteria and other factors that might help them be achieved were part of the antecedent set. For all criteria, the intersection of these sets was produced. If the criteria migrated in the same direction toward the reachability set and intersection set, they were classified in the first level of the ISM hierarchy. However, the criteria cannot be used to judge other criteria below their level. The same procedure was used to find the criteria for the next level. The criteria, their levels, intersection set, antecedent set, and reachability set are listed in Table 6.

	Reachability Set	Antecedent Set	Intersection Set	Level
A1	{1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,9,10,11,14,15,16}	
A2	{2,4,5,6,11,12,13}	{1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{2,4,5,11}	
A3	{1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A4	{2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,14}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{2,3,4,5,11,14}	
A5	{2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,14}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{2,3,4,5,11,14}	
A6	{6,12}	{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{6,12}	Ι
A7	{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{7,8,10}	{7,8,10}	
A8	{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{7,8,9,10}	{7,8,9,10}	
A9	{1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{1,8,9,10,16}	
A10	{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	
A11	{1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,2,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A12	{6,12,13}	{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{6,12,13}	Ι
A13	{6,12,13}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{12,13}	
A14	{1,2,3,4,5,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A15	{1,2,3,4,5,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,11,14,15,16}	
A16	{1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,9,10,11,14,15,16}	
	(1 2 2 4 5 0 10 11 12 14 15 16)	(1 2 7 8 0 10 11 14 15 16)	(1 2 0 10 11 14 15 16)	
A1 A2	(1,2,3,4,3,9,10,11,13,14,13,10)	$\{1, 3, 7, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 10\}$	$\{1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 14, 13, 10\}$	
A2	$\{2, \pm, 3, 11, 13\}$	(1,2,3,4,3,7,10,11,14,15,10)	$\{2, \pm, 3, 11\}$	
AS A4	$\{1,2,3,4,3,11,13,14,13,10\}$	$\{1, 5, 4, 5, 7, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 10\}$	$\{1,3,4,3,11,14,13,10\}$	
A4	$\{2, 5, 4, 5, 11, 15, 14\}$	$\{1,2,3,4,3,7,6,9,10,11,14,15,10\}$	$\{2,3,4,3,11,14\}$	
A5	$\{2, 5, 4, 5, 11, 15, 14\}$ (1 2 2 4 5 7 8 0 10 11 12 14 15 16)	{1,2,3,4,3,7,6,9,10,11,14,13,10}	$\{2,3,4,3,11,14\}$	
A7	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 0, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 13, 10\}$	{7,0,10}	$\{7,0,10\}$	
Að	$\{1,2,3,4,3,7,6,9,10,11,13,14,13,10\}$	{7,6,9,10} (1,7,8,0,10,16)	{7,6,9,10}	
A9	$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16\}$	$\{1,7,6,9,10,16\}$	$\{1, 0, 9, 10, 10\}$	
Alu	{1,2,3,4,3,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,13,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	
A11	{1,2,3,4,5,11,13,14,15,16}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,2,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A13	{13}	{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16}	{13}	II
A14	{1,2,3,4,5,11,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A15	{1,2,3,4,5,11,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,11,14,15,16}	
A16	{1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11,13,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,9,10,11,14,15,16}	
A1	{1.2.3.4.5.9.10.11.14.15.16}	{1.3.7.8.9.10.11.14.15.16}	{1.3.9.10.11.14.15.16}	
A2	{2.4.5.11}	$\{1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	{2.4.5.11}	Ш
A3	{1.2.3.4.5.11.14.15.16}	$\{1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	$\{1,3,4,5,11,14,15,16\}$	
A4	{2.3.4.5.11.14}	$\{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	{2.3.4.5.11.14}	III
A5	$\{2,3,4,5,11,14\}$	$\{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	$\{2.3.4.5.11.14\}$	III
A7	$\{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	{7.8.10}	{7.8.10}	
A8	$\{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	{7.8.9.10}	{7.8.9.10}	
A9	$\{1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	{1.7.8.9.10.16}	{1.8.9.10.16}	
A10	$\{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16\}$	$\{1.7.8.9.10.16\}$	{1.7.8.9.10.16}	
A11	{1.2.3.4.5.11.14.15.16}	{1.2.3.4.5.7.8.9.10.11.14.15.16}	{1,2,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	III
A14	{1,2,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,4,5,11,14,15,16}	
A15	{1.2.3.4.5.11.14.15.16}	{1.3.7.8.9.10.11.14.15.16}	{1.3.11.14.15.16}	
A16	{1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,3,9,10,11,14,15,16}	
A 1			(1 2 0 1 0 1 4 1 5 1 ()	117
AI A2	$\{1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 13, 10\}$	$\{1, 3, 7, 6, 9, 10, 14, 13, 10\}$	$\{1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 13, 10\}$	
A3 17	{1,3,14,13,10} {1 3 7 8 0 10 1/ 15 14}	{1,0,7,10,74,10,10} {7 & 10}	{1,3,14,13,10} {7 & 10}	1 V
A/	{1,3,7,0,7,10,14,13,10} {1 2 7 8 0 10 14 15 14}	{/,0,10} (7,8,0,10)	{7,9,10} (7,9,0,10)	
A0 A0	{1,3,7,0,7,10,14,13,10} {1 2 8 0 10 14 15 16}	{/,0,7,1U} {1 7 8 0 10 16}	{1 8 0 10 16)	
A9 A 10	{1,3,0,7,10,14,13,10} {1 2 7 8 0 10 14 15 14}	{1,7,0,7,10,10} {1,7,8,0,10,16}	{1,0,7,10,10} {1 7 8 0 10 16}	
A10 A14	(1,0,7,10,14,13,10) (1 2 1/ 15 14)	ر 1,1,2,7,10,10) (1 3 4 5 7 8 0 10 11 14 15 14)	\1,2,17,10,10} ∫1,2,17,15,16}	117
A14 A15	(1,0,14,10,10) (1 2 1/ 15 14)	ر 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,	1 2 1/ 15 14)	1 V T\7
A13 A14	{1,0,14,10,10} {1 2 0 10 14 15 14}	{1,3,7,6,7,10,11,14,13,10} {1 3 7 8 0 10 17 15 14)	{1,3,14,13,10} ∫1 2 0 10 14 15 14)	1 V
A10	(1,0,7,10,1 <del>1</del> ,10,10)	(1,0,1,0,7,10,1 <del>4</del> ,10,10)	{U1,U,I,I,U,I,I,U,IU}	

# Table 6. Level Partitioning.

	Reachability Set	Antecedent Set	Intersection Set	Level
A1	{1,9,10,15,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,15,16}	{1,9,10,15,16}	V
A7	{1,7,8,9,10,15,16}	{7,8,10}	{7,8,10}	
A8	{1,7,8,9,10,15,16}	{7,8,9,10}	{7,8,9,10}	
A9	{1,8,9,10,15,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{1,8,9,10,16}	
A10	{1,7,8,9,10,15,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	
A15	{1,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,15,16}	{1,15,16}	V
A16	{1,9,10,15,16}	{1,3,7,8,9,10,14,15,16}	{1,9,10,15,16}	V
A7	{7,8,9,10}	{7,8,10}	{7,8,10}	
A8	{7,8,9,10}	{7,8,9,10}	{7,8,9,10}	VI
A9	{8,9,10}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{8,9,10}	VI
A10	{7,8,9,10}	{1,7,8,9,10,16}	{7,8,9,10}	VI
A7	{7,8}	{7,8}	{7,8}	VII
A8	{7,8}	{7,8}	{7,8}	VII

Table 6. Cont.

The canonical matrix shown in Table 7 was used to determine levels based on level partitioning. In this case, readiness sub-factors with the same level traverse columns and rows to develop a conical matrix. Table 8 shows the level of each factor based on the canonical matrix.

Table 7. The Canonical Matrix.

i/j	6	12	13	2	4	5	11	3	14	15	16	1	9	10	8	7
6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

 Table 8. Determination of the Factor Level.

Level	Factor
Ι	A6, A12
II	A13
III	A2, A4, A5, A11
IV	A3, A14
V	A1, A15, A16
VI	A9, A10
VII	A8, A7

Determining the level of partition with seven iterations shows that the readiness factor for implementing blockchain in university at Level I comprises the use and availability of learning platforms. Level II represents accessibility to relevant learning resources, while level III consists of the affordability and accessibility of IT resources, technological efficiency, and risk and capital. Level IV comprises knowledge of technology use, strategies, and business processes. Level V consists of policies and regulations, government initiatives in technology, and the availability of technical components. Similarly, level VI represents knowledge of technology use and the availability of a skilled workforce, while level VII involves understanding the technology, management, and staff support.

4. Formation of the ISM Model using a directed graph

A model of the importance of various criteria in the blockchain technology adoption process of the higher education institution in Indonesia was prepared using the data listed in Table 8 (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Interpretive structural modeling-based influence diagram for the blockchain adoption criteria in university.

## 4. MICMAC Analysis

The MICMAC analysis is shown by the MICMAC diagram, which is categorized into four different clusters, including autonomous, independent, linkage, and dependent. The MICMAC diagram is prepared based on the final reachability matrix with the transitivity rules, where the driving power and dependence values are the y and x-axes, respectively. The readiness factor for blockchain implementation at universities, especially UNTIRTA, is divided into independent, linkage, and dependent sectors. The independent sector has high driving power but low dependence, comprising management and staff support (A7),

technology understanding (A8), knowledge of technology use (A9), and skilled workers' availability (A10). In contrast, the dependent sector has low driving power but high dependence and comprises resource affordability (A2), level of use (A6), availability of learning platforms (A12), and accessibility to relevant learning resources (A13). The linkage sector has high driving power and dependence; it comprises the availability of technical components (A1), government initiatives in technology (A16), IT resources availability (A3), strategies and business processes (A14), risk and capital (A11), policies and regulations (A15), accessibility of IT resources (A4), and technology efficiency (A5). However, there are no sub-factors in the autonomous sector owing to its low driving power and dependence. This shows that all sub-factors of readiness to implement blockchain in UNTIRTA should be considered and prepared carefully to realize a Smart and Green University. The MICMAC analysis results are shown in Figure 3.





#### 5. Discussion

The driving power analysis with the highest and smallest dependence value based on the digraph presented in Figure 2 shows that the key success measure of the blockchain implementation at Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University is technological understanding (A8), management, and staff support (A7). The two sub-factors are at Level VII and the most robust driving factors to support the other 14 readiness factors with dependence. This supports Alannita and Suaryana [19], which stated that management participation positively affects individual performance. Therefore, the support given by higher leadership for organization-wide information systems is critical in determining the achievement of all information-related activities [20]. Moreover, one requires investing effort to understand how to implement technology in education, such as promoting the technological literacy movement [21].

Level VI comprises the use of knowledge of technology (A9) and the availability of skilled workers (A10). The two factors have a high driving power with little dependence,

making them important in implementing blockchain at UNTIRTA. This is in line with Alannita and Suaryana [19], which state that the technical ability of technology and information system users positively affects individual performance. The era of the industrial revolution 4.0 requires skilled workers who adapt to existing technological developments, such as an understanding and the ability to use information and communication technology. Moreover, level VI affects other readiness sub-factors at levels V, IV, III, II, and I and is influenced by readiness factors at level VII.

Level V comprises policies and regulations (A15), government initiatives in technology (A16), and the availability of technical components (A1). The three factors are essential because the driving power and dependence are equally strong. The readiness factors are interrelated because the growth of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure significantly affects the implementation of various government tasks in all fields. These tasks include determining various policies and regulations, developing infrastructure and accessibility, using technology productively, disseminating information and research, and developing human resources [22]. Level V affects readiness sub-factors at levels IV, III, II, and I and is influenced by readiness sub-factors at levels VI and VII.

Level IV comprises the availability of IT resources (A3), business strategies, and processes (A14). These factors are important because the driving power and dependence are equally strong. The two readiness factors are interrelated because strategy formulation promotes appropriate communication in an organization. This affects policy selection to regulate the availability of human resources, budget, technology infrastructure, computer networks, and operators with good skills [23]. Level IV affects readiness sub-factors at levels III, II, and I and is influenced by readiness sub-factors at levels V, VI, and VII.

Level III consists of affordability (A2) and accessibility of IT resources (A4), technology efficiency (A5), and risk and capital (A11). The readiness factors are important because the driving power and dependence are equally robust. The four sub-factors are interrelated due to technology development risk management in an organization. Level III assists in making better decisions and improves the efficiency and effectiveness in allocating human resources, infrastructure, information, applications, security, availability, performance, technical issues, and business risks [24]. Level III also affects the readiness factor at Levels II and I and is influenced by the readiness factor at Levels IV, V, VI, and VII.

Level II represents the accessibility to relevant learning resources (A13), where the readiness factor is less important in developing blockchain at the university due to the weak driving power with high dependence. Nonetheless, it remains yet to be considered by policymakers. Therefore, educators should utilize appropriate and relevant learning resources to equip themselves with abilities and skills and become a success factor in learning. Also, educators need the ability and skills to select the right resources in the technology learning process and, thus, should understand the criteria for selecting learning resources [25]. Accessibility to relevant learning resources affects readiness sub-factors at Level I and is influenced by readiness sub-factors at Levels III, IV, V, VI, and VII.

Level I comprises the level of use (A6) and the availability of a learning platform (A12). At the university, the readiness factor is less important in developing blockchain because of the small driving power and high dependence. Nonetheless, it needs to be considered by policymakers because the implementation of a new system in an institution involving information and communication technology is influenced by user readiness [26]. Applying the right information and communication technology, such as selecting the availability of learning platforms, improves the quality of education and human resources [27]. These two factors are interrelated, and level I is influenced by other factors due to the high dependence value with low driving power.

#### 6. Strategies Proposal to Adopt Blockchain in the University

The study results show that the strongest driving factor for the successful adoption of blockchain technology in UNTIRTA to realize its vision as a smart and green university are management, staff support, and technological understanding. The two sub-factors have

the highest driving power supported by the smallest level of dependence. Furthermore, the proposed strategies that support management and staff support factors are:

(1) Performance agreement preparation

a. Strategic proposal

- 1 Determine the initial agreement where stakeholders build understanding and commitment to the importance of implementing blockchain technology at UNTIRTA to achieve the vision of Smart and Green University.
- 2 Determine the distribution of performance between the chief and members in each unit or community implementing the blockchain development program at UNTIRTA.

b. Tactical proposal

- 1 Determine the mission of each unit, the Technical Implementation Unit (UPT). The Smart Campus Information and Service Data Center and Smart and Green Campus units at the university and faculty level achieve the vision of realizing blockchain development at UNTIRTA.
- 2 Identify performance measures and targets for each chairman and member of the implementing unit of the blockchain development program at UNTIRTA.

c. Technical proposal

- 1 Conducting a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis on each implementing unit of the blockchain development program at UNTIRTA to promote mission effectiveness and efficiency.
- 2 Creating a planning document as a coordination instrument between the chief and members or all parties involved in blockchain development in UNTIRTA.
- (2) Preparing general and specific guidelines for blockchain technology development

a. Strategic proposal

- 1 Determining the long- and short-term goals for each implementing unit for blockchain technology development and implementation at UNTIRTA.
- 2 Determining references, frameworks, guidelines, and benchmarks in blockchain technology development innovations at UNTIRTA. This helps monitor and regulate blockchain operations, Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure, and accessible global resources.

b. Tactical proposal

- 1 Determining performance management and distribution in each implementing unit of the blockchain development program to align the design with field implementation per year.
- 2 Increasing knowledge of the blockchain ecosystem through a clear understanding of the technology, structure, requirements, opportunities, and threats in its application. Also, there is a need to predict the ability and impact of adopting blockchain technology at UNTIRTA.

c. Technical proposal

- 1 Making performance action plans, such as implementing ongoing operations, duties, and responsibilities of each unit of the blockchain development program in line with the previous plan.
- 2 Conducting direct or indirect surveys or investigations of parties that have developed blockchain technology in their systems. This helps obtain data and information regarding infrastructure facilities, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), supporting technology, and the availability of capital and human resources needed.
- (3) Determination of Budget Allocation for Blockchain Development

a. Strategic proposal

Determining the budget sources for blockchain development in UNTIRTA and allocating them according to the target and the goals planned. It is also conducted based on general and specific guidelines previously formulated by parties involved in the blockchain innovation program at UNTIRTA.

b. Tactical proposal

Planning financial management, starting from preparation, analysis, implementation, and control of financial flows tailored to activities in line with the needs of blockchain implementation to minimize the source of budgets to be issued.

c. Technical proposal

Recording every expenditure and income systematically to monitor every financial flow in UNTIRTA and increase accountability and transparency in financial management. This provides information to the management in making the right decisions regarding blockchain implementation at UNTIRTA.

(4) Preparation of the blockchain development roadmap at UNTIRTA

a. Strategic proposal

Identifying problems through data analysis based on performance and activities conducted. This establishes comparisons according to the performance agreement of the implementing unit of the blockchain innovation program in UNTIRTA, as well as general and specific guidelines with filed facts.

b. Tactical proposal

Review and analysis of field visits, achievements in using budgets, and physical activities, including information and communication technology infrastructure, sophisticated hardware, benefits, impacts, problems, and obstacles faced in blockchain development at UNTIRTA.

c. Technical proposal

Collecting data and information from each performance and activity of each implementing unit adjusted to the targets and goals to help provide the right decisions for further policymaking.

The strategic proposals that support the factors for realizing technological understanding are:

(1) Blockchain Training Program

a. Strategic proposal

UNTIRTA could determine the best-accredited training programs and facilitators in blockchain education, starting from understanding technology theoretically and practically.

b. Tactical proposal

Training academic facilitators and experts at UNTIRTA could design blockchain learning model scenarios theoretically and practically. This would ensure systematic implementation of blockchain technology to produce a conformity evaluation of learning outcomes with the competencies to be achieved.

c. Technical proposal

Conducting analysis on trainers, facilitators, and instructors with appropriate expertise and experience in using blockchain technology.

(2) Blockchain Seminar

a. Strategic proposal

Formulating targets and strategies to be obtained through blockchain education seminars tailored to blockchain development at UNTIRTA.

b. Tactical proposal

Analyze the needs of blockchain seminar instructors and facilitators by considering various aspects, such as the role of the presenter, resource person, language used, use of tools, and software for computer programming languages used for blockchain simulations during seminars.

c. Technical proposal

Training academic facilitators and experts at UNTIRTA could design a blockchain learning model that ensures a systematic conformity evaluation of learning outcomes with the competencies to be achieved.

#### 7. Conclusions

From the study, we know that the readiness factors for blockchain adoption in the education system of UNTIRTA are the availability of technical components (A1), IT resource affordability (A2), IT resource availability (A3), IT resources accessibility (A4), technology efficiency (A5), usage rate (A6), management and staff support (A7), and technology understanding (A8). Other factors are the knowledge of technology use (A9), availability of skilled workers (A10), risk and capital (A11), availability of learning platforms (A12), accessibility to relevant learning resources (A13), business strategies and processes (A14), policies and regulations (A15), and government initiatives in technology (A16). These readiness factors should be considered because they are essential as a whole with different levels of importance. The readiness factors for blockchain applications are not included in the autonomous sector, which requires one or more of the factors to be removed from the system.

Based on the digraph analysis, the strongest driving factors are management and staff support (A7) and technology understanding (A8) in influencing the achievement of the strategic targets of 14 other readiness factors with low dependence on blockchain adoption in the education system of UNTIRTA.

According to the directional graph results, the primary and important readiness factors are management and staff support, as well as technological understanding. Therefore, the strategic target proposals relevant to the management and staff support sub-factors are the preparation of performance agreements, a blockchain development strategic plan, and general and specific guidelines to develop blockchain technology. Other proposals are the preparation of legal documents, public relations and staffing, financial reports, and work evaluation reports. In this case, the planning proposals are categorized as strategic, tactical, and technical. Strategic proposals to support the realization of technology understanding include performing target activities such as training, seminars, and conference programs that educate about blockchain technology. This approach is based on expert comments and may lead to some bias. Furthermore, the numerical validation of the model is yet to be performed. The analytical network process (ANP) could be utilized to evaluate the consistency ratio and index. The hypothetical models might be validated by adopting a linear structural relationship technique, also known as structural equational modeling. As a result, future studies need to focus on validating and improving the framework.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, V.F.Y. and A.B.; methodology, A.B.; software, A.B. and A.F.; validation, V.F.Y., A.B., P.F.F. and S.-W.L.; formal analysis, A.B., P.F.F. and A.F.; investigation, A.B. and A.F.; resources, V.F.Y.; data curation, V.F.Y., A.B. and P.F.F.; writing—original draft preparation, A.B. and A.F.; writing—review and editing, V.F.Y., A.B., P.F.F. and S.-W.L.; visualization, A.B. and A.F.; supervision, V.F.Y. and S.-W.L.; project administration, V.F.Y.; funding acquisition, V.F.Y. and S.-W.L. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** The research of the first author is partially supported by the National Science and Technology Council, Taiwan, under Grant MOST 108-2221-E-011-051-MY3 and the Center for Cyber-Physical System Innovation from the Featured Areas Research Center Program within the framework of the Higher Education Sprout Project by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan. The last author of this study is grateful to the National Science and Technology Council, Taiwan, and the Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital for financially supporting this research under grants NTSC 109-2410-H-182-009-MY3 and BMRPA19, respectively.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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