

Review of: "The Future of Malaysian SMEs in the Digital Economy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

- What do the author mean or imply by the term "*methodologies*"? Does it mean approaches ?
- The main problem lies in defining the objective of the paper, which to me remains not perhaps as clear as it should be.
- The paper notes that it is not aimed at *acknowledging digitalization* but to *enhance their practicality while immediately resolving the issues* . That is an ambiguous statement that is bound to confuse readers. What contribution does "*acknowledge digitalization*" make to the performance of an organization without the organization taking steps to adopt and deploy the digitalization in its processes and business model for instance?
- The subsection on paper objective does not clarify the problem either.
- Based on what I read, my view is open to correction, there is an undercurrent of trying to identify the advantages of adopting digitalization by SMEs and the challenges the process faces and what can be done to change the situation. If that is the objective, it should be clarified in the subsection on objectives.
- The sub section points to what the objective of the paper should be. Nonetheless, there is need to define the meaning of terms including digital economy, digital transformation, economic transformation, digitalization and digitization. Digitization is not digitalization but is a process that precedes, hence a pre requisite to it. Do the author investigate digital economy transformation (perhaps assumes that the economy is already achieved digitalized, and the task is to change it fundamentally to another advanced level) or instead the focus is on how the current economy can be transformed using digitalization in an effort to push it toward a digital economy?
- The paper is very general in its approach but specific in the title given. In other words the title does not reflect the contents of the article.
- The paper needs an overhaul in its structure. The methods section is absent, but is instead placed as part of the literature review (see the first paragraph of the literature review). This paper is a review research hence should present what review techniques it used in identifying, determining, categorizing or classifying and interpreting data and information sources that were used during the research process
- It is difficult to determine the contribution that results of the paper makes to current state of knowledge, which is a key for a quality academic paper.
- The paper presents a conclusion that combines discussion of results with findings of the paper.
- Paper should have a discussion section that is separate from the presentation of results section, and conclusion
- Streamlining the main message that the paper wants to deliver, the methodology used to deliver it, conclusions that are drawn from the results and limitations that influence interpretation of results should go a long way to improve paper



quality.