

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall, the article provides a good overview of the importance of the digital economy for Malaysian SMEs and highlights the benefits and challenges associated with digital transformation. However, there are several areas where the article can be improved further;

Introduction and objectives:

- The introduction should provide a brief overview of the digital economy and its relevance to SMEs globally, not just in Malaysia.
- Additionally, the objectives should be more specific and clearly state what the paper aims to achieve.

Literature review:

- The literature review section could be expanded to include more recent and relevant sources.
- While the article mentions scholarly publications from the previous four years, it does not provide specific references or citations. Including specific studies, reports, or articles that support the arguments made in the article would enhance its credibility.
- *According to Liu et al. (2020), China's manufacturing industry's digital technology level index grew from 0.286 in 2001 to 0.359 in 2014.* Good to present the current status.
- "Creative and Innovative" double capture in page 6/13.
- Spell out - INSKEN, MARA (page 7/13)

Key concepts and definitions:

- The article introduces key concepts such as the digital economy, digital transformation, and Industry Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0), but it would benefit from providing clear definitions and explanations of these terms. This would help readers who may not be familiar with these concepts to better understand the content.

Data and statistics:

The article could benefit from including more data and statistics to support the claims and statements made. For example, when discussing the digital economy's impact on SMEs, providing data on the percentage of SMEs in Malaysia that have adopted digital technologies or the growth rate of digital economy-related industries would add more depth to the analysis.

Practical examples:

Including practical examples of Malaysian SMEs that have successfully leveraged the digital economy would make the article more engaging and relatable to readers. These examples can illustrate the benefits and challenges discussed in the article and provide inspiration for other SMEs.

Conclusion and Discussion:

- The conclusion should provide a concise summary of the main points discussed in the article and reiterate the importance of digital transformation for Malaysian SMEs.
- Page 9/13: “SME SMEs”
- 4th para – The article should also touch on some focused initiative by the government to solve SMEs technical problems and implementing digitalization (eg; Public Private Research Network (PPRN) initiative).

Referencing:

- Need to have proper in-text citations, some references in the reference list is not available in the text.
- Reference: Not quoted in the text

1. Yumboris @Umbaris, Y. @ M., Gisip, I.A. and Ambad, N.A. (2020). Strategic Orientation and Performance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Sabah, Malaysia. *Journal of Social Transformation and Regional Development*, 2(1).
2. Md Jani, N., Zakaria, M.H., Maksom, Z. and M. Haniff, Md.S. (2020). Measuring Customer Engagement in Social Media: The Uncovered Practice of SMEs in Malaysia. *Journal of Advanced Computing Technology and Application (JACTA)*, 2(2), pp.10–16.