

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

Amit Dubey<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## General comments to the author

The manuscript titled **"The Future of Malaysian SMEs in the Digital Economy"** is an intriguing topic in Malaysian context. The study illustrates the significance of digital economy for SMEs of Malaysia. The survival of SMEs' enterprises is considered as being highly dependent on their capacity to ride the digital wave of change, and this article stressed the significance of SMEs being able to capitalize on the digital economic environment in order to harness the positive benefits that stems from it. It covers the characteristics that SMEs should have in their businesses and the key areas on which they should concentrate in order to seize the competitive advantages available. Furthermore, the manuscript has been drafted utilizing a four-year span of secondary data from government publications, announcements made to the general public, and assessments of technological innovations that reflect the setting of Malaysian SMEs.

## Major comments

Following a critical review of your manuscript on **"The Future of Malaysian SMEs in the Digital Economy"**, it was assessed that there were a number of points that may use additional clarification and elaboration in order to improve the work's coherence, clarity, and academic contribution as a whole.

- A crucial aspect of the aforementioned study's backdrop is that the current level of digital technology use among Malaysian SMEs seems to be underrepresented. More precise information about these SMEs' digital transformation journeys would be helpful. This will help the authors to create a strong foundation for the study and, as the title suggests, contextualize it within the Malaysian environment.
- Under section 3, third para notes that *the digital economy runs on vast and sophisticated knowledge, where SMEs must have the needed intellectual capital to fuel themselves to compete in the race*. Author(s) are recommended to incorporate more detailed information about the intellectual capital which could foster innovation and development of SMEs of the country.
- The majority of the content of this manuscript is not devoted to research investigations and thorough literature reviews. The paper focuses on the policy context, current government initiatives, and the state of the digital economy and digitalization in Malaysia. In other words, the article's contents do not accurately match the title. Clarity and direction of your study will be much improved by modifying the research questions and purpose to more closely match the stated emphasis.

- The literature review is presented instead of a section on methodology. Given that this study is a review, it should describe the review procedures used to identify, choose, categorise, and assess the data and information sources used in the research.
- The article contains a gap in connecting the motive behind the relation between the SMEs and the digital economy. It seems like the focus only converged by detailing the digitalization and its prospects. Detailing on the gap might form a bridge to better link the prospects of SMEs along with acquainting with the digital technologies that can be helpful for the author to pen down and relate with the title of the manuscript.
- Brief information about the present general scenario of Malaysian SMEs can be an informative framework to understand the nation's SMEs network and a comparative status between the global SMEs and Malaysia's SMEs in terms of the adaption of digital technologies. This can be an insight to the readers and others related to planning the work strategy accordingly.
- Expected challenges and constraints for the Malaysian SMEs to cop up with the digital economy, for better understanding the scope of revision for the SMEs to have more prosperous and sustainable future. Highlighting the challenges might be torchlight for resulting into a better performance for SMEs.
- Authors are recommended to use evidence and statistical data to back up your statements in the text to increase its credibility, and properly cite it. This backs up your assertions and helps guide the reader through your reasoning.
- While the manuscript (under section 2.1), discusses about the importance of adoption of digital economy and IoT by SMEs, it could be strengthened by providing some insights about the factors affecting e-commerce adoption and firm performance which could further benefit the government and SMEs in strategizing e-commerce adoption and development, especially in the era of Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) and the post-COVID-19 pandemic.
- If the author(s) wants to take a more scholarly approach with this publication, they can consider including the current status and practices of the IoT (internet of things) in relevance with Industrial revolution 4.0.

## Conclusion

The manuscript describes the role played by the SMEs of Malaysia in economic boost. The background of the article is vital as the description and detailed information revolve around the idea of adaptation of the digital advancements by the SMEs to contribute to the country's economy as a digital economy. The timely presentation of the information is good, and the flow and the concept are very well framed. Some recommendations are suggested to make the manuscript more impactful and expected in the manuscript to be considered for acceptance. The strategic recommendations are carefully jotted down for making the article more insightful which can be served as a state of advancement in the adaption of digitalization for the growth of the economy contributed by the Malaysian SMEs.