

# Review of: "A Review of Transformation and Digital Literacy for the Sustainable Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion – Working Paper"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Interesting paper, relevant topic. The abstract gives an overview of the central themes and objectives, as well as the potential contribution of the paper. However, as a working paper, the exploration of the topics in the paper, while interesting, lacks depth, namely the discourse on sustainable development, and particularly the context of the Mekong River.

The title mentions transformation, digital literacy, and sustainable development, but the article falls short of the suggestion. In other words, the topic itself is very interesting, but the article is still very "raw" and lacks a didactic approach to help readers understand what the author is trying to say. The title mentions the "Greater Mekong sub-region," but this is only covered to a limited extent, while digital literacy is explored much more; the title also mentions "review," and so one would expect the methodology to be a systematic review, but this is not the case. In other words, the literature review left a little to be desired based on what was mentioned in the abstract. When carrying out a review, it is necessary to cover the systemic process of gathering work in the area, such as the search terms used and the selection process. This review is interesting because it considers different models, but does not present many new developments in the field. It is important to present the results and trends of the specific research carried out and to have references that support the points made in the conclusion, and it is also important to include a more abundant list of references related to the topic, which allows the text to be defended academically and in order to support what is being said in the statements made and the conclusions reached.

The content on digital transformation and digital literacy in the world and then specifically in the RMG, for example, needs more review and in-depth study. Perhaps it would be better to present a literature review on each of these themes and how they interrelate, introducing each theme, the relationships between them, and making it clear what the article is about. Some of these themes are explained and exemplified in the conclusion, and this, apart from being unusual, does not seem to me to be a good presentation structure.

Some statements in the text, such as "Digital intelligence has recently emerged as a key demographic factor influencing socio-economic activities in the Greater Mekong sub-region", are not accompanied by concrete data or evidence to support the claims. This makes it sound like an unsubstantiated claim. The document could benefit from a more in-depth analysis of the environmental, social, and economic challenges present in the Mekong River region, thus elucidating the

critical nature of this issue, and could provide sharper theoretical conclusions on sustainable development issues, especially if they are linked to the 17 goals of the SDGs which focus on point 14 for ocean or aquatic ecosystems, for example.

The article has a good theme and could - after the adjustments and corrections pointed out - become a promising article.