

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Authors,

Upon reviewing your paper on the digital economy and Malaysian SMEs, several areas were identified which could benefit from further elaboration and refinement to enhance the clarity, cohesion, and overall scholarly contribution of your work.

The current state of digital technology adoption among Malaysian SMEs, a key component of your study's context, appears to be inadequately represented. It would be beneficial to provide more specific details about the digital transformation journey of these SMEs. This will aid in establishing a solid baseline and grounding your research in the Malaysian context, as suggested in the title.

It was also observed that there is a disconnect between the title of your paper and its content. The overarching purpose of your study seems ambiguous, and the research questions are broad without specifically focusing on Malaysian SMEs. Refining the research questions and purpose to better align with the stated focus will significantly enhance the clarity and direction of your study.

Several key terms integral to your study, such as 'digital economy,' 'digital transformation,' and 'digital skills' need clearer definitions. Moreover, the term "intelligent of the SMEs" is unclear and may require a more concise explanation.

In terms of language and tone, it would be beneficial to shift from the use of casual phrases and adjectives like 'tremendous' to more scholarly and precise language. This shift will contribute to the academic rigour of your study.

Your paper could be strengthened by incorporating more data-backed insights and citations, particularly in the introduction. When you state that "certain technologies in the digital economy provide businesses with several significant advantages," more concrete examples and sources are needed to validate this claim.

The absence of a methodology section is another critical gap in your study. Explaining the criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of documents in the literature review would contribute significantly to the transparency and credibility of your research.

The discussion and conclusion sections would benefit from being separate to offer a clear distinction between the interpretation of findings and the closing remarks.

The literature review section could be improved by updating older references, such as the one from 1999, to ensure that your study is grounded in the most recent research.

Lastly, enhancing the quality and clarity of the figures used would increase the visual appeal and comprehension of your work. You can summarize the suggestions as follows:

Clarify the Research Purpose and Questions: Your study would benefit from a clear, concise statement of the research purpose and specific research questions. This will guide the structure of the paper and ensure all components contribute coherently towards answering these questions.

Contextualize the Study: Incorporate more detailed information about the current state of digital technology adoption among Malaysian SMEs. Make sure every part of the paper relates back to this context.

Define Key Terms: Provide clear definitions for key terms like 'digital economy,' 'digital transformation,' 'digital skills,' and 'intelligent of the SMEs.' This will ensure readers understand your specific use of these terms.

Use Scholarly Language: Replace casual or vague phrases with precise, academic language. Avoid broad or subjective adjectives like 'tremendous' and instead, use objective, quantifiable descriptors.

Support Statements with Data and Citations: Validate your claims with data and reference them properly. This strengthens your arguments and helps guide your reader through your thought process.

Include a Methodology Section: Elaborate on the methodology used for the study. This should include the criteria for selecting literature, the process of analyzing the data, and the rationale behind these decisions.

Separate Discussion from Conclusion: Distinguish between your interpretation of the findings (discussion) and your final thoughts or implications of the study (conclusion). This will make it easier for readers to follow your reasoning and understand the implications of your work.

Update Literature Review: Use more recent literature in your review to ensure your study is grounded in the latest research. This will also help demonstrate the relevance of your study.

Enhance Visual Representation: Improve the quality of figures or diagrams in the paper. Use high-resolution images and ensure any text within them is clear and legible.

Ensure Consistency: Make sure that the tone, writing style, formatting, and citation style are consistent throughout the paper. Inconsistencies can disrupt the flow and make the paper harder to follow.

I hope these suggestions will be useful in refining your paper and making a more substantial contribution to the knowledge domain of digital economy and SMEs.



Greetings,

Leonardo Talero