

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

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This is an interesting paper. It relates to a topical and important theme, of relevance to growing businesses today. It also focuses on a given context, which would interest readers wanting to learn more about the area and industry there.

However, I have some points which I make below:

- The abstract is not clear on the focus and main aim of the paper. Many themes are alluded to, but the discussion concerns methodologies? What is the focus, concerning digitisation and SMEs within the country, that this paper discusses and analyses?
- General sources, and reporting, are regularly cited in the introduction. More academic, empirical investigation sources should be referred to.
- The objectives section appears to have only one objective. This section could simply be referred to as the research aim.
- Also, the aim is general and does not specify what aspect of digitisation, or SMEs, is being investigated.
- Again, the questions are general and are also not justified against ongoing literature and research. The paper would have more focus if, for example, a certain aspect of SMEs are investigated concerning digitisation. Or, if a particular sector is appreciated, or role such as manager or entrepreneur etc.
- The literature review appears to lack consistent reference to sources and therefore is limited in its criticality and appreciation of central issues and challenges for SMEs. The headings are interesting, but multiple arguments and assertions are missing.
- Crucially, the paper should include dedicated sections focusing on the Malaysian context and the SME landscape.
- The paper moves somewhat abruptly to discussion and conclusion, from the literature. The figure introduced beforehand is not discussed clearly within the context of the paper. Is this based on data? Or a review of the literature? The construction of the model could be clearer and developed from critical discussion.
- I believe that such a model may be produced after the discussion of themes are realised, from the literature and more contemporary understandings. This may be from a systematic literature review approach, or via empirical data collection.
- The implications section includes statements that, to strengthen the closing arguments made, should refer to sources.

