


Chapter 2

From Industrial to Digital Economy: The Role of Digital Transformation in Building a Resilient Qatari Economic Future

Ahmed Badran

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9346-1927>

Qatar University, Qatar

ABSTRACT

this chapter addresses the issue of the digital economy from a public policy perspective by focusing on the strategies applied in the State of Qatar to emphasize the importance of the knowledge and innovation. In this context, information technology is a key in achieving comprehensive, sustainable and resilient economic development. The chapter starts from a main research question: To what extent do the current strategies of the State of Qatar contribute to the successful transition towards the digital economy? To answer this question, the chapter relies on the idea of methodological integration by combining the use of the descriptive analytical approach and the case study approach. The aim is to provide a critical analytical reading of previous literature in addition to determining the effectiveness of the strategies applied by the Qatari government to transform from traditional to digital economy.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-8357-5.ch002

1. INTRODUCTION: STATEMENT OF PROBLEM AND RESEARCH QUESTION

The global economy is witnessing a radical shift from industrial to digital models driven by rapid developments in information and communications technology, the spread of big data and the integration of artificial intelligence. This transformation, known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, emphasizes the critical importance of digital transformation as a tool to enhance economic resilience, stimulate innovation and ensure sustainable growth globally. Countries are exploiting digital technologies to diversify their economies, increase productivity and reduce the challenges resulting from external shocks. For resource-rich countries such as Qatar, which have historically relied on hydrocarbons, the shift towards a digital economy represents an opportunity and a challenge to redefine their economic path and build a resilient and sustainable economy.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of digital transformation, current literature often focuses on its effects in advanced economies with limited attention to its role in emerging markets, especially in countries that rely on natural resources. In this context, many current studies address the technical and infrastructural aspects of digital transformation, but they lack a comprehensive definition of its strategic role in achieving economic resilience. In addition, despite the significant progress achieved by Qatar in its digital agenda as part of its National Vision 2023, the relationship between digital transformation and economic resilience in the Qatari context has not received sufficient research. This chapter seeks to bridge these gaps by examining how digital transformation contributes to driving Qatar's transformation from an industrial economy to a digital economy while simultaneously building a resilient economy. Focusing on the unique social, economic and political context of the State of Qatar, this research aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with this transformation in this context. The research is guided by the following question: How can digital transformation contribute to building a resilient and sustainable economic future in the State of Qatar as it transitions from an industrial economy to a digital economy? The research problem revolves around the tension between Qatar's dependence on hydrocarbon revenues and its ambition to diversify and modernize its economy. While digital transformation provides a path to economic diversification and resilience, its successful implementation requires addressing structural challenges such as developing a skilled workforce, enhancing digital infrastructure, and fostering innovation environments. These challenges are exacerbated by global economic uncertainty, rapid technological change, and the need to align with sustainable development goals.

30 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/from-industrial-to-digital-economy/366572

Related Content

The Role of Proximity in Inter-Organizational Network Evolution: An Application of Actor-Oriented Modeling for Longitudinal Network Analysis

Pier Paolo Angelini (2016). *Relational Methodologies and Epistemology in Economics and Management Sciences* (pp. 232-256).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-role-of-proximity-in-inter-organizational-network-evolution/143996

Consumer Social Responsibility (CnSR) in the Circular Economy of Global Value Chains: What Does It Mean, and Why Does It Matter?

Guli-Sanam Karimova and Stephen Arthur LeMay (2022). *International Journal of Circular Economy and Waste Management* (pp. 1-19).

www.irma-international.org/article/consumer-social-responsibility-cnsr-in-the-circular-economy-of-global-value-chains/302207

Credit-Market Imperfection and Monetary Policy Within DSGE Models

Salha Ben Salem, Nadia Mansour and Moez Labidi (2023). *Research Anthology on Macroeconomics and the Achievement of Global Stability* (pp. 370-391).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/credit-market-imperfection-and-monetary-policy-within-dsge-models/310843

Transition to the Circular Economy: Implications to Program Management

Ron Schipper and Gilbert Silvius (2021). *International Journal of Circular Economy and Waste Management* (pp. 33-53).

www.irma-international.org/article/transition-to-the-circular-economy/271259

Forecasting Practices in Textile and Apparel Export Industry: A Systematic Review

Adeel Shah, Rizwan Matloob Ellahi, Urooj Nazir and Musawir Ali Soomro (2022). *International Journal of Circular Economy and Waste Management* (pp. 1-17).

www.irma-international.org/article/forecasting-practices-in-textile-and-apparel-export-industry/288501