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The community of Buayan Village in Sabah, Malaysia

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 Capabilities are defined as opportunities or the abilities one has to pursue being or doing what one values (or has reason to value)

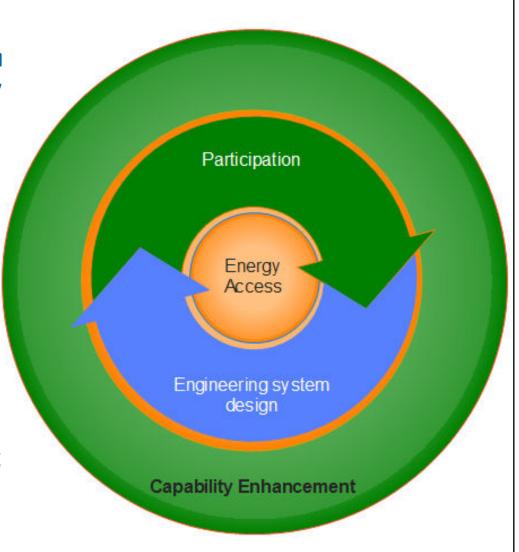
"The purpose of development is to enhance people's capabilities in the present and in the future, in all areas of their life – economic, social, political, and cultural"

This approach focuses on:

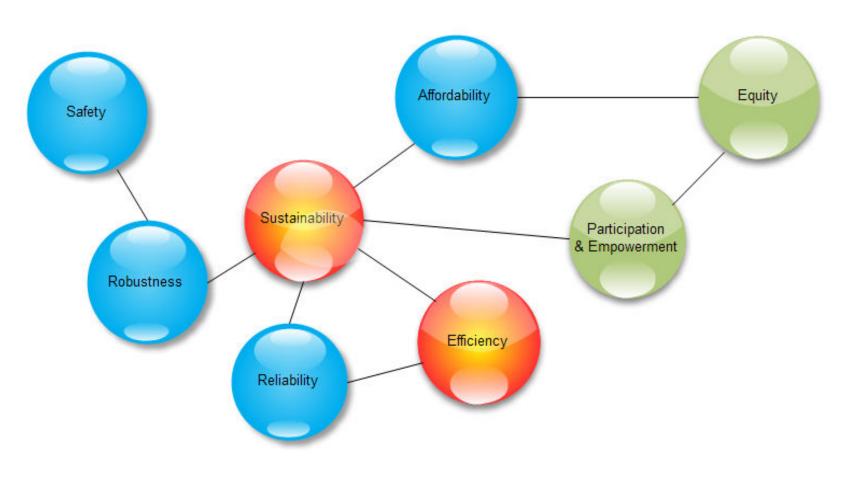
- Expanding and enhancing people's choices
- Creating or ensuring the opportunity to define and practice those choices

Deneulin, Séverine, and Lila Shahani, An Introduction to the Human Development and Capability Approach: Freedom and Agency (Earthscan, 2009)

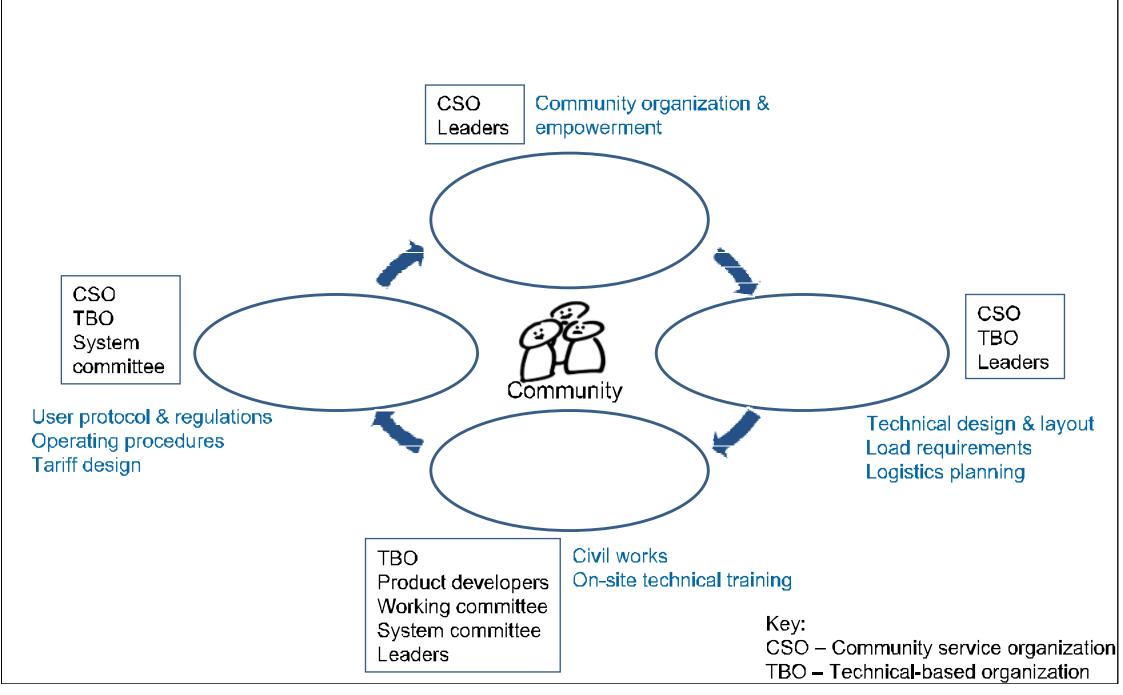
- Enhance capabilities of community through design, planning and implementing electricity access
- Ensure participation of community in their energy access system and this participation needs to be incorporated into the early stages of design
- Main motivations:
 - A better understanding of end user requirements
 - Participation as an instrument to achieve high-level goals of capability enhancement



Expand engineering system properties (illities) to include human capability-related properties

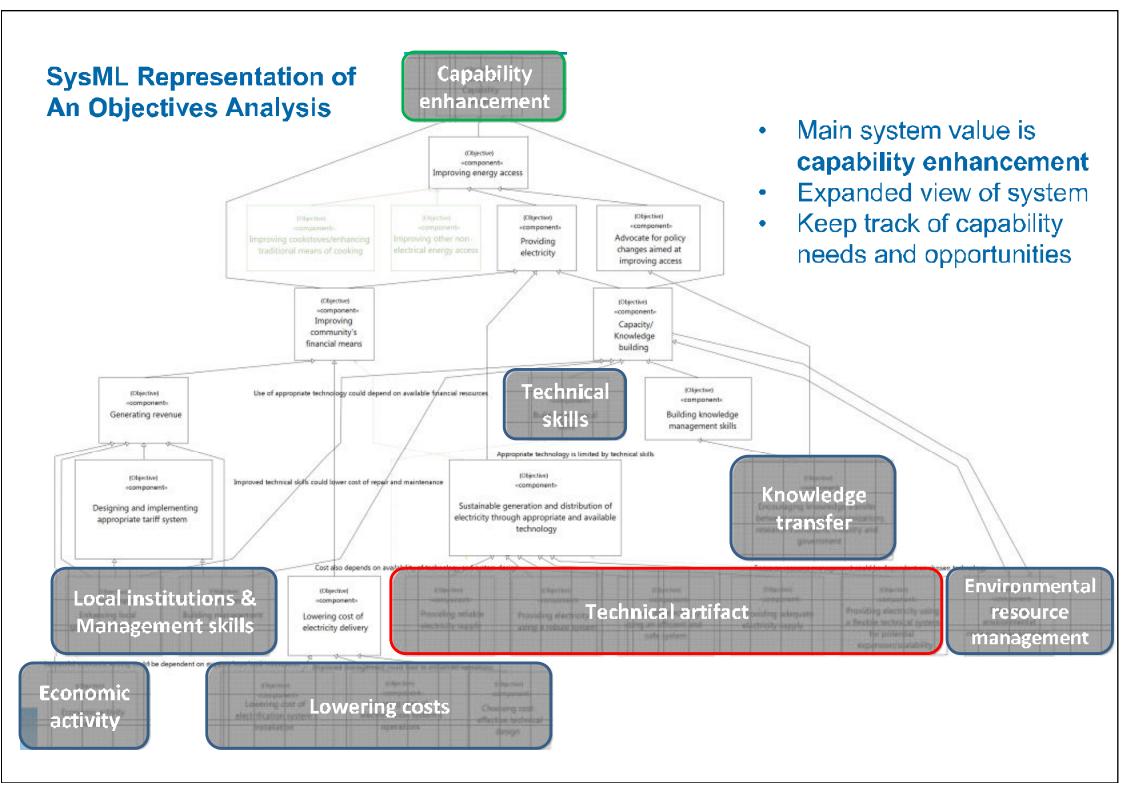


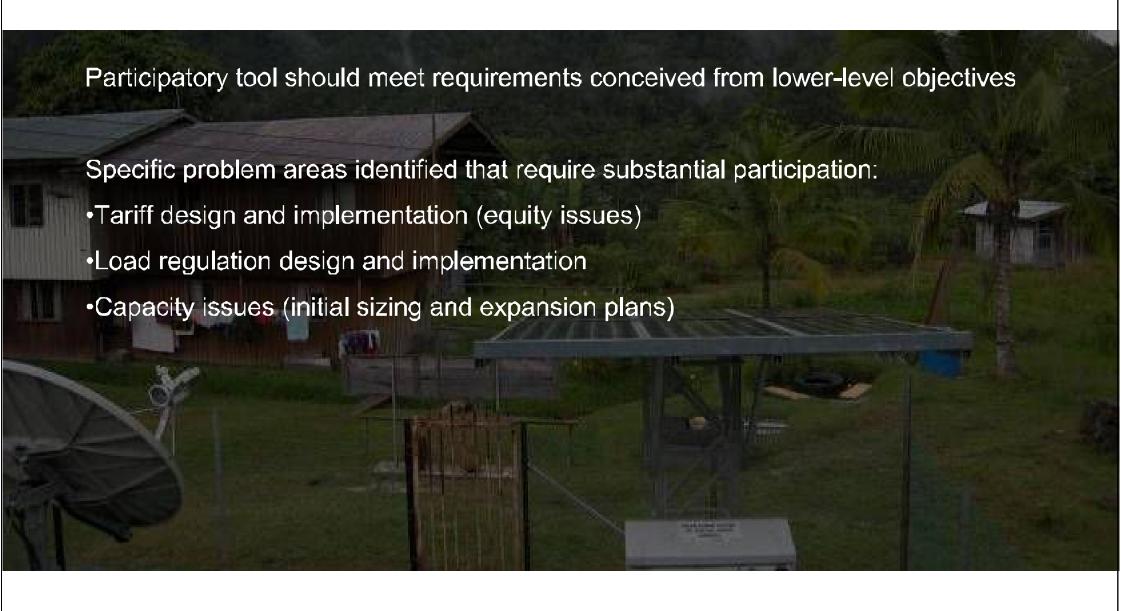




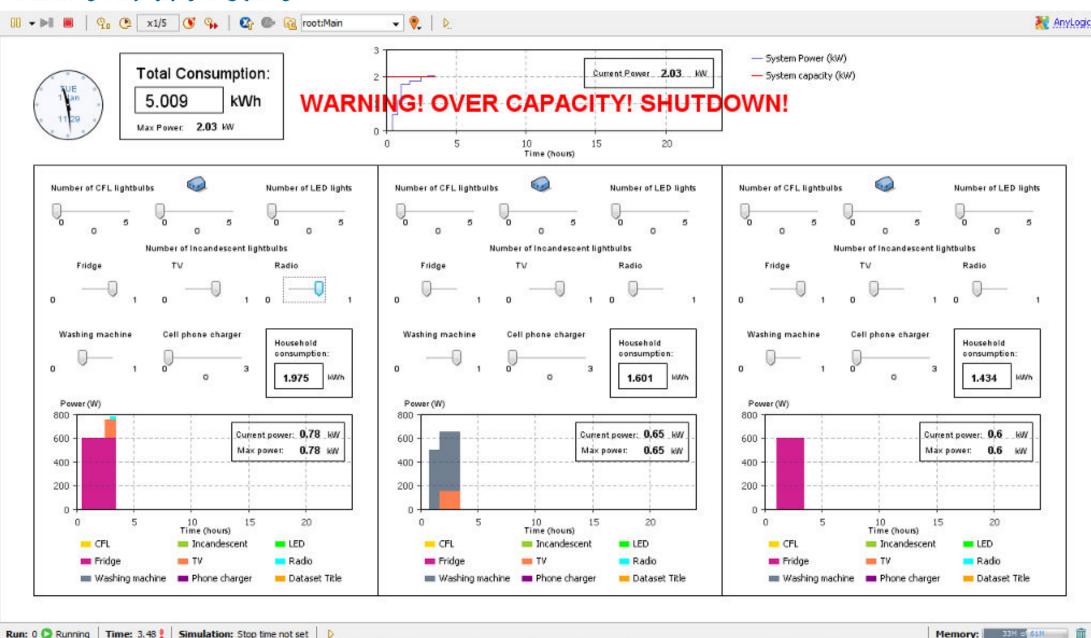
- Fieldwork conducted to understand rural, community-based, renewable energy micro-grid
- Used a systems engineering objectives analysis² to merge human development theory with engineering design process
 - 1. Objectives analysis begins with Capability Enhancement as the highest-level system objective
 - 2. System objectives are decomposed into lower-level objectives
 - 3. Decomposition stops once verifiable objectives have been revealed. Any further decomposition begins to restrict optimal design options

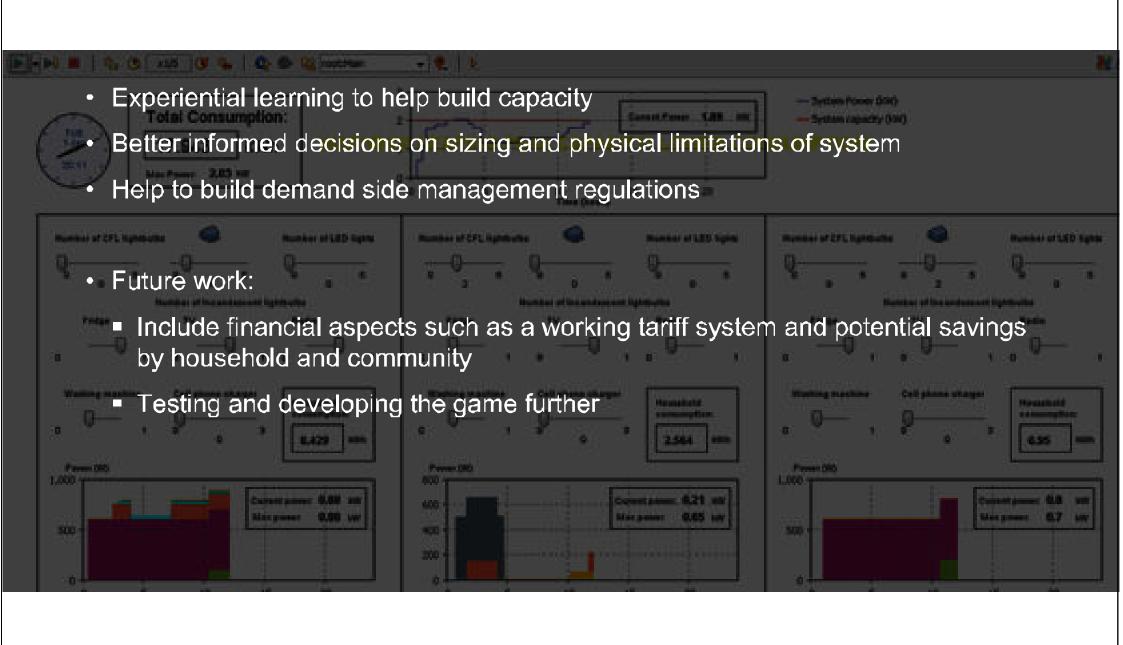
² Buede, Dennis M., *The Engineering Design of Systems: Models and Methods*, Systems Engineering and Management, 2nd edn (John Wiley & Sons, 2009)





ABM Simulation Game





- There is a need to incorporate social science perspectives into engineering system approaches. The Capability Approach provides one framework
- The process of planning and delivering energy can also be used as an enabler in delivering human development impacts
- An explicit objectives analysis is useful in providing a representation of an expanded view of a rural electrification system
- Community participation as a means and an ends to capability enhancement