

Urban Village Inhabitant in Malaysia: A Reassessment of the Quality of Life Theory and the Needs to Combine the Capability and Urban Ecosystem Approaches

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Abstract

This study intends to elaborate on the urban population's capability to achieve a good quality of life (QoL) in an urban environment that is frequently changing and increasingly becoming complex. In order to achieve this objective, a literature reviews was initiated for examining the debate on several theories related to assessing the QoL such as the Homeostatic Assessment, Urbanism and Social Judgement Theory. This study had discussed the need for combining the capability and urban ecosystem approaches to determine the actual ability of the UV population to achieve an appreciable QoL through self and social readiness as well as environmental adaptation. The three indicators play a very important role in exposing the lifestyle experienced by the urban village (UV) population so that it remains that way in the urban development context, which is becoming more complex and ever changing.

Keywords: Quality Of Life, Urbanisation; Urban Village, Urban Ecosystem, Capability Approach, Social Theory

Introduction

There are several quality of life assessment theories frequently used when elaborating on the urban population's quality of life. The Theory of Homeostatic Assessment, Theory of Urbanisation and the Social Judgement Theory are among the social theories frequently used to assess the urban population's quality of life. Quality of life is a concept regarding achieving objectives that lead to the improvement as well as upgrading the sector or certain aspects that involve the individual, community and overall society. The quality of life assessment concept is a long, continuous and elastic process, which contains pertinent objective and subjective elements that need appropriate consideration to achieve a mission. This consideration exists after examining the results of the investigation, identification, research, measurement and evaluation of all aspects of life or the human environment. The quality of

life index was developed after going through a process in the quality of life evaluation. The quality of life indicator is an important element that acts as a reference for society when determining the quality of life. This quality of life is part of the standard level of output culminating from the process of evaluating the quality of life and the score obtained from the quality of life indicator index that was developed (Cummins et al., 2000). Meanwhile, the quality of life assessment theories such as the Homeostatic Control Theory, the Urbanization Theory and the Social Judgement Theory complement the explanation on how the quality of life concept and its indicator play a role in various levels of assessing the population's quality of life. Hence, this study had examined and discussed all three theories. Based on the assessment and discussion of the three theories as well as the combination of the capability and urban ecosystem approaches, it was found that these elements had contributed towards the improvement and expansion of the quality of life assessment theories.

The Homeostatic Control Theory

The Homeostatic Control Theory, introduced by Cummins (1996), was chosen for discussion in order to determine urban influence on the tenacity of self and social readiness as well as environmental adaptation, which would lead to the elaboration on the urban village population's capability to achieve a particular quality of life. This theory was built to assess the level of satisfaction with life and the subjective wellbeing of an individual who lives in a variety of physical, social and economic environments. He argued that all these different environments have their own mark on the individual when trying to maintain a level of quality of life and the existing environment as well as building the individual's ability to determine the level of quality of life (Cummins, 2000).

In this discussion, the study had argued that the strength of self and social readiness of the population as well as environmental adaptation is a part of strong homeostatic controls held by the urban village population to achieve a desired quality of life. This is in line with the arguments put forth by Cummins (2005) and Ruta et al. (2007), which stated that humans were capable of maintaining a high quality of life by using existing resources (human relations, employment, income, health and safety) available in their environment but fully depend on the individual's basic ability to achieve and maintain it. Ruta et al. (2007) had also stated that the aim of achieving a good quality of life is related to the population's expected capability and actual capability.

Thus, this study found that it was unfair to place the assessment of the quality of life in a particular scale by only assessing the indicators that might not be suitable for a certain area, such as the urban village. This situation gives a misleading picture of the actual ability and status of the urban village population's quality of life as the population has lived around the city for a long time..

Therefore, although the homeostatic control theory emphasises the individual's ability and the quality of life, it is able to offer a clear understanding about human relations with the physical, social and economic environments as well as its application at the societal level. This is because the theory could be used as an intermediary between a wider social and cultural environment in order to choose important functions and roles, predict the capability and stability of the generation as well as the instability of the variable that manifests itself in every individual.

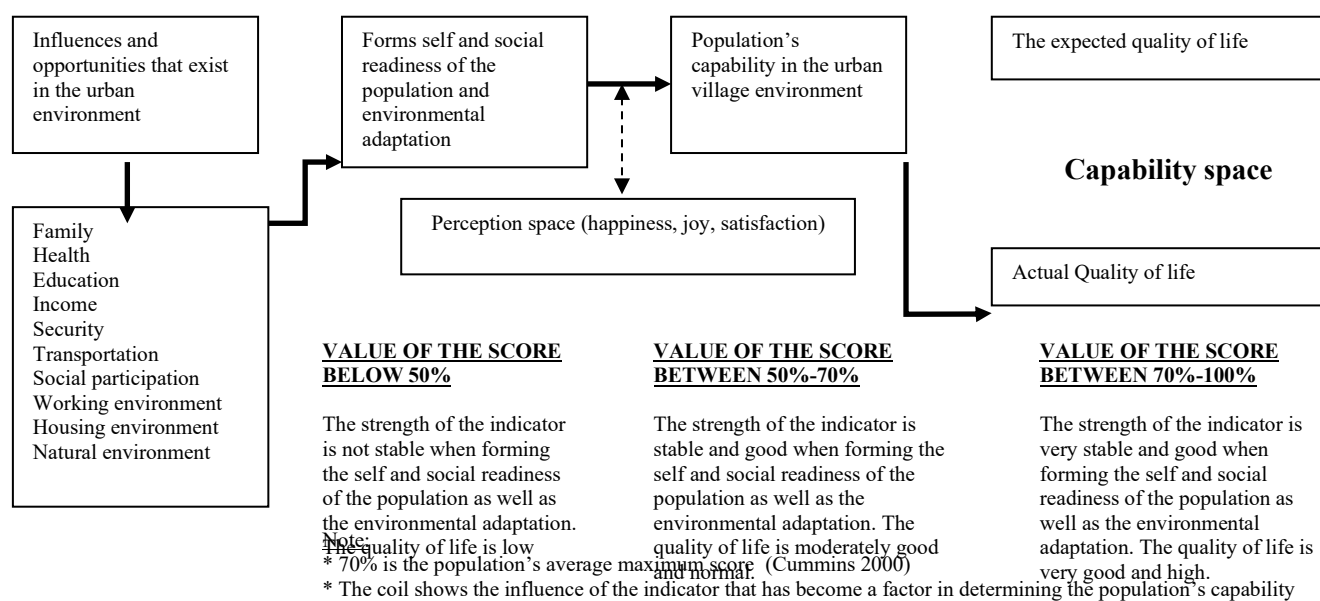


Figure 1 Measurement of the ability and quality of life of the urban village population

Theory of Urbanism

Source: Adapted from Cummins (2000), Sen (1985; 2002) and Ruta et al. (2007)

Wirth (1938), a sociologist who had immensely contributed to urban sociology, is generally known to have developed the Theory of Urbanism. He was the driving force in formulating the social theory, especially in reference to the city, through his classical article entitled "Urbanism as a Way of Life" published by the American Journal of Sociology in 1938. Initially, the focus of his argument was related to social change experienced by Jewish immigrants in several cities in America, which had eventually led to urban life.

Following that, arguments set forth by Wirth (1938) had opened avenues for debate in order to find solutions to social life in cities, cultures in cities and community relations in cities. He had emphasised in his arguments that urbanism had formed social organizations that could endanger people's cultural values such as the existence of special relations based on an individual's status or position, weakness in familial relations, decline in neighbourliness and weakening of the traditional basis of social solidarity. He also stated that *urbanization* changes the forte of familial solidarity, which eventually has an effect on birth rates in cities. This study argues that the main argument in the theory of urbanism should be expanded to the context of influence and opportunities that the urban environment affords to the native community living there, which constitutes the urban village population.

Wirth also found the city to be a special placement with characteristics such as a large concentrated population that is not uniform, homogenous or permanent in placement besides having different lifestyles. His arguments had introduced a new approach in defining a city, which was not only limited to physical definitions such as the size and density of the population. Abdul Rahman Embong (2011) agreed with this argument by stating that the definition of a city has to be more precise and not bound solely by physical boundaries. Hence, the focus of the theory must still be developed based on the present city community, which refers to the urban village population, to determine the ability of this population to remain in

the changing urban environment as a means or an end in facing the problems of life in the city.

Social Judgement Theory

The social judgement theory is one of the social theories frequently considered in studies related to assessment of the quality of life. This theory reacts to the message received through changes in the urban environment that has a direct effect on the ability of the urban village population to achieve a desired quality of life. Three psychologists, namely Carl Hovland (1912-1961), Muzafer Sherif (1906-1988) and Carolyn Sherif (1922-1982), who was the wife of Muzafer Sherif, had jointly developed the social judgement theory. The key issue raised in this theory was the change in attitude from a psychological aspect through messages that were received (Kyle, Graefe, Manning & Bacon, 2004).

Griffin (2009), Kyle et al. (2004) and Darity (2008) mentioned that the population is able to judge its overall life for itself and this could guaranty its wellbeing due to a changing environment (Kyle et al., 2004). The people's judgement portrays the assessment of their entire life. The social judgement theory involves the categorization process, whereby respondents assess the influence of the drive or determination that refers to a preferred attitude. The preferred attitude could be presumed to be the preferred personality that indicates the assessment of the influencing determination or situation (Kyle et al., 2004; Darity, 2008). This study argues that individual strength must be a priority in substantiating the population's ability in various surroundings in order to achieve a good quality of life or the contrary.

The Social Judgement Theory was formed based on aims and aspirations as well as acceptance or adaptations regarding people's lives. Social situations comprise three components of judgement, namely (1) congestion or overcrowding (2) conflict between social surroundings and other environments and (3) a decline in environmental behaviour that involves other consumers. Meanwhile, the natural surrounding comprises judgemental components such as (1) explanation of the ecological effects that arise from human consumption (2) explanations about development, and (3) explanation about human aggression or intrusion (Alberti, 2005; Kyle et al., 2004; Darity, 2008).

Darity (2008) and Abdul Hadi Harman Shah (2004) have frequently insisted that interested parties or planners should not directly isolate or neglect aspects such as historical, spiritual, social, organizational, material, emotional, intellectual, political elements and creative aspects such as learning, sharing, delivering, assessing and practices implemented by targeted community members all this while as a way of life. This theory needs to be developed in an effort to portray the community as an urban village population, which is part of the urban population lifestyle and occupies areas around the city.

The Need to Combine the Capability and Urban Ecosystem Approaches

Combining the capability and urban ecosystem approaches plays a huge role in paving the way to understand arguments in the theories discussed earlier. These approaches are actually interrelated and guaranty a desired quality of life (Alberti, 2010; Sen, 2002; Polishchuck & Rauschmayer, 2012). Quality of life is a concept with a definition or meaning that is beyond human capability when determining the level of wellbeing because humans have the

opportunity to make choices (Sen 1985; 1993; 2002). Meanwhile, the urban ecosystem refers to a network of interactions between the population and urban surroundings (Alberti, 2010). The capability and urban ecosystem approaches have shown how urban development or the urban belt is built (Alberti, 2010; Lawrence, 2009; Meier, 1977; Sen, 2002). Here, the urban area is portrayed as part of a wide ecological system.

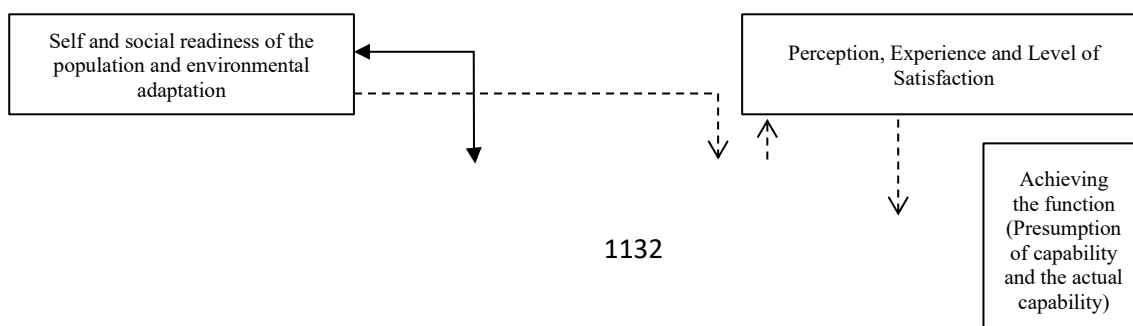
The combination of the capability and urban ecosystem approaches has been discussed and debated by several researchers (Costanza et al., 1997). The present discussion elaborates and debates the need for the capability and ecosystem concepts when focusing on the overall achievement of wellbeing and quality of life (Gomez-Baggethun, De Groot, Lomas & Montes, 2010).

The Capability and Quality of Life Concepts in Relation to the Urban Village Population

The quality of life is the expansion of a concept that has a definition or meaning that far transcends the human capability to determine the level of wellbeing because humans have the privilege of choice (Sen, 1985; 1993; 2002). Humans are free to achieve something in order to fulfil all their needs and wants in life. Sen (1985) is an economics philosopher who had developed the capability approach in the 1980s. He had criticised the interpretation of economic welfare and the utilitarian approach by assuming that only economic development is the best approach to solve development problems (Sen, 1993; 2002).

Each human is capable of assessing the surrounding space based on the elements that contribute to a better life. Humans have a relationship relative to culture, status and other interpretations (Sen, 1993, 2002, 2005). Thus, from the quality of life aspect, the theoretical solution is contrary to the practical solution in reality because humans would endeavour to the best of their ability for a life as well as adapt to the environment (Sen & Robeyns, 2005; Polishchuck & Rauschmayer, 2012). The capability approach is aimed at elements that involve the capability to form roles and functions that offer freedom in achieving human needs and wants (Bellanca, Biggeria & Marchettab, 2011; Nussbaum, 2005; Paul & Martin, 2006). The basics of the capability approach is that humans are capable of doing something based on their inherent capability besides depending on their mental and physical strength to achieve it.

The sense of capability can open the function domain or role of humans. However, capability still depends on the difference between function and time. A human's quality of life can be assessed through their achievements obtained personally or as a social function (Ruta et al., 2007; Nicolo et al., 2011; Sen, 2002; 2005). The function domain refers to activities and sometimes to things done by humans, statement of intend and achievements (Paul & Martin., 2006; Sen 1993; 2005). The capability approach also explains the flow of the function assessment related to achievements secured by individuals, society or the population, in an overall manner. Figure 2 shows the basic concept in the capability approach related to the quality of life assessment process.



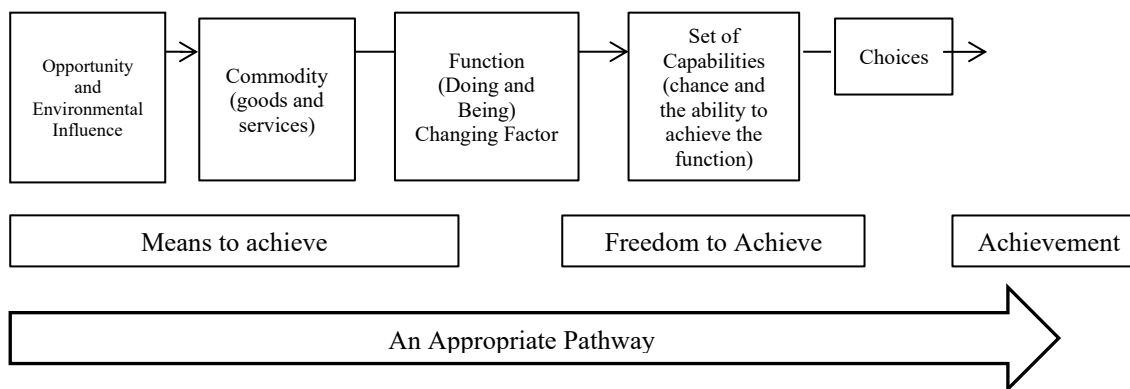


Figure 2 Quality of Life and the Capability of the Urban Village Population

Source: Adapted from Robeyns (2005), Ruta et al. (2007), Polishchuck & Rauschmayer (2012)

Goods and Services

Economic progress, including the goods and services sector, is strongly needed for human development. Thus, when evaluating and considering the quality of life concept, one important element that should be emphasised is what people are capable of achieving (Sen, 2005). Sen had noticed that humans form different societies, especially when determining their capacity to change the commodity towards a meaningful achievement. Goods and services are also presumed to be commodities that represent an important indicator when assessing the society's quality of life and its achievements (Sen 1985; 1993; 2002).

Function

The function element is an important element in the capability approach. The function element exists due to human reactions and achievements. Besides that, the relationship between commodities (goods and services) and function is important in determining an achievement. This is because it also involves the combination of the society function, which determines anything that is done or produced through the quality of life in order to assess the capability to achieve a particular function value (Kotan, 2010; Robeyns, 2005; Sen 1985; 1993).

The influence and opportunity that exist in the urban surrounding is presumed to create good income opportunities, good education, a high level of health, close family relations, guaranteed security, transportation facilities, active social involvement as well as housing, working and natural environments that are of quality (Robeyns, 2005). The chance and urban surrounding area opens room for the population to determine the form of function or role needed to achieve a good quality of life and the ability to continue to exist in the urban village surroundings (Refer to Figure 2).

According to Clark (2008), Robeyns (2005) and Polishchuck & Rauschmayer (2012), the relationship between commodity (goods and services) and the function of an achievement, which is initiated and produced, is influenced by three factors that change the personal, social and environmental characteristics. Personal characteristics basically involve gender, knowledge skills, age and physical conditions that determine how some individuals change the commodity into a capability function based on the individual's own capability.

The capability of the urban village population to achieve a quality of life is also influenced by the relationship between the commodity and function that includes indicators such as income, education, health, family, housing, natural surroundings, working environment, transportation, security and social participation. All these indicators have formed a particular function that had helped in enhancing the urban village population's capability to continue living in the urban village surrounding and achieve a quality of life.

The study argued that self-readiness had portrayed the individual's capability and strength in determining the urban village population's readiness through indicators such as income, education, health and family, which then gives them the capability to continue living in the urban village surroundings. The population's social readiness indicates that the urban village population's overall assessment of social readiness and delivery.

Set of Capabilities

A set of capabilities means a set that could fulfil the function or the population's level of achievement. The capability value includes the potential achievements as well as explains the set of functions needed for the achievement (Polishchuck & Rauschmayer, 2012). A person could possibly choose a commodity that has a different role and use when exploring opportunities for individual's capability to achieve its function. Besides that, Sen (1993) also emphasised that the capability set reflects the person's actual opportunity or the freedom to make choices, which is influenced by the individual and society's lifestyle.

Expected Capabilities

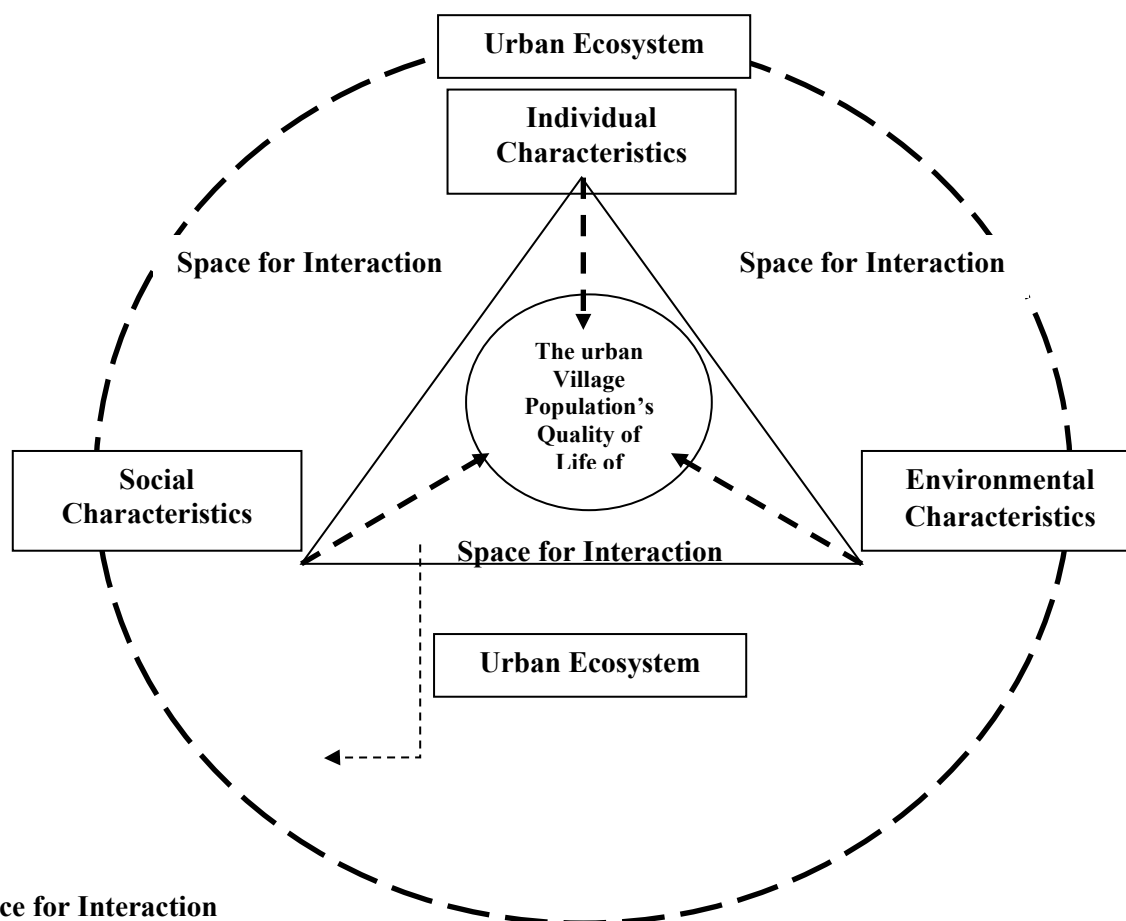
Quality of life is seen as a space between expected and actual capabilities (Ruta et al., 2007). The expected and actual capabilities of society depend on the perception, experience and the society's level of satisfaction towards influences and opportunities that exist in its environment (make choices). Society has the freedom and ability to determine its actual living status (Gasper & Staveren, 2003).

The element that involves society and well-being as well as achievement and freedom has formed four assessment categories in the intrapersonal and comparative interpersonal fields (society's achievements, society's freedom, achieving well-being and freedom of well-being) (Ruta et al., 2007, Kotan, 2010 and Sen, 1993). Well-being assessment forms achievement and freedom as well as being closely related to problems in judging basic standards of living. Assessment of the space or gap of the society's capability to attain achievement involves choices made by them (Kotan, 2010). Society would initially assess objective matters when determining the subjective level of their well-being. Through the capability approach, the expected and actual capabilities are the achievement of the function, which is the final achievement that determines the individual and society's actual capability in their environment.

The Ecosystem Approach in Assessing the Urban Village Population's Quality of Life

The ecosystem is defined as a network of interactions between the organism and its environment. The urban ecosystem is a branch of the urban ecology system, which actually refers to urban development or the urban belt built by humans (Richard, 1977 & Roderick, 2009). The urban area is pictured as part of a wide ecological system. Figure 3 shows the concept of the urban ecosystem approach applied in this study's conceptual framework (Diagram 2.9). The definition of 'urban' differs according to each country's perspective

(Katiman, 2001; Lawrence, 2009). Some researchers have looked at the suitability of the urban ecosystem approach because this approach prefers to apply a systematic interpretation and reject the causal-statistics interpretation (Alberti, 2010; Gaston, 2010; Lawrence, 2009 & Meier, 1977). The population development and supporting infrastructure factors that have been developed has been found to affect the urban environment and areas around the urban centre. This includes environments such as semi-urban, ‘urban-like’, suburbs as well as agricultural and natural landscapes (Alberti, 2010).



Space for Interaction between:

- Nature
- Built-up Environment
- Socio-economic
- Environment

Figure 3 Urban Ecosystem and the Urban Village Population’s Quality of Life

Source: Adapted from Alberti (2010), Azahan Awang et al. (2008), Kowarik (2011) and Lawrence (2009)

Researchers agree that the urban area acts as a population centre that provides goods and services to fulfil the needs and wants of the population (Abdul Rahman Embong, 2011; Azahan Awang, 2004; Alberti, 2010 & Katiman, Rostam, 2001). According to Lawrence (2009), Alberti (2010) and Pickett et al. (2011), the urban ecosystem cannot be presumed to be an

entity separate from the environment because the urban ecosystem has an immediate and wide direct and indirect effect on the environment. This then has an effect on the community that lives in the urban surroundings, which eventually has an impact on the quality of life (Abdul Rahman Embong, 2011 & Ekblad, 1993).

This study shows that humans are a part of the urban ecosystem and make the urban setting their habitat. (Lawrence, 2009). The urban environment does not only portray a social group or entity but social differences that might invite social isolation or discrimination instead of unity. Through the urban ecosystem approach, this study had identified the relationship between cultural dimensions and how different groups define these dimensions so much so that it influences the urban village population's overall quality of life.

The urban ecosystem was found to contain three forms of big environments, namely the natural environment, a built-up environment and a socio-economic environment (Alberti et al., 2003; Alberti, 2005; Ingo, 2011; Savard et al., 2000 and Yan et al., 2006).

Understanding the urban ecosystem is important because it assists as well as opens up a wider perspective on issues such as a conducive urban planning, a better urban community management and a systematic urban management by understanding urban environmental threats on human living (Bolund & Hunhamarm, 1996).

According to Lawrence (2009), an elaboration on the urban ecosystem concept must look into the following elements. Firstly, it is important to differentiate between building an urban ecosystem as a product and building an urban ecosystem as a process (by referring to various sets of processes that occur in a city, between cities and in the interior region). He suggested that both these elements must be used simultaneously in order to overcome the complexity of the urban environment.

The Complex Urban Ecosystem

Here, the city is presumed to be a complex ecosystem that connects the interaction between natural surroundings, economy and society. Hence, the complex urban ecosystem theory tries to emphasise the element of integration and dependence as well as the fragility that exists in the city, as a special character in the urban ecosystem. This is because the urban environment very easily experiences change and is capable of changing the natural surroundings, which eventually puts the urban environment in a crisis (Gaston, 2010; Lawrence, 2009; Song & Qi, 1999 & Yan et al., 2006)

Integration and Dependence

According to Lawrence (2009) and Gaston (2010), a complex ecosystem includes the urban and suburban socioeconomic subsystems. The urban ecosystem builds humans because natural surroundings do not form cities and domestic areas. Building a city is closely related to the interpretation of collective decisions, lifestyles and the reaction by individuals and groups when coping with local situations, environment, habitat, existing resources and knowledge.

Integration and dependence on the urban socioeconomic subsystem refers to the space in the city and vice versa. Thus, each section in the urban ecosystem is inseparable

(Costanza et al., 1997 & Yan et al., 2006). The equilibrium of the urban ecosystem would be influenced if any component in the ecosystem changes, which would then cause the ecosystem to change the present equilibrium in order to achieve a new equilibrium (Yan et al., 2006).

Fragility

The urban ecosystem is exposed to fragility, which actually refers to the exposure to destruction and threats. Fragility exists when total number of consumers is greater than the production resources (Alberti, 2010). Humans are the main consumers in an urban ecosystem and the actual producer has changed from using green plants so that humans could be involved in the production economy.

Carrying Capacity of the Urban Ecosystem

After the complex urban ecosystem theory was introduced, the debate by scholars regarding the actual urban ecosystem concept became more focused. Following this, there emerged another theory on the urban ecosystem, which was the theory on the carrying capacity of the urban ecosystem. This theory argued that the carrying capacity of the urban ecosystem was closely related to the space and time factors in the urban environment (Carey, 1993; Peng & Linyu, 2010). Most researchers had focused on the capability capacity of the individual. This caused the carrying capacity of the urban ecosystem to be insufficiently addressed as well as neglecting the balance in urban ecosystem (Xu et al., 2003; Yang, Su, Zhang, Zhang & Hua, 2010). Hence, in actual practice, each activity of the urban population works in sync to form the main component in the urban system and goes on to be interrelated to the urban ecosystem.

Urban ecosystem development is actually built on interactions between the environment capacity, resources capacity and socio-economic development capabilities (Yang et al., 2010; Linyu & Xiaodong, 2012). Although there are difficulties in emphasising the characteristics of the system, the interaction between the carrying capacities of the urban ecosystem and resources as well as the socio-economic development capability is important as a combined system in the urban ecosystem. This is because the urban ecosystem is different from the natural ecosystem and the object involved is humans (Xu et al., 2003; Linyu & Xiaodong, 2012).

Discussions and Conclusion

The re-assessment of the quality of life and homeostatic control theories is essential in assessing the urban village population's overall level of capability. This study argues that the urban village population's capability continues to exist in urban surroundings due to self and social readiness as well as environmental adaptation. Empirical studies on the urban village population from different levels of the city were necessary when elaborating on the readiness of the population besides the quality of life assessment and homeostatic control theories. It is presumed that these arguments could be modified and expanded according to the development and changes to the urban environment. This study has opened up avenues for debate on the need to evaluate the combination of the population's capability and the ecosystem, which has a big influence on elements such as the urban society's lifestyle as well as the urban population's attitude and assessment of the urban environment, which eventually fulfils and achieves a preferred quality of life (Refer to Figure 4).

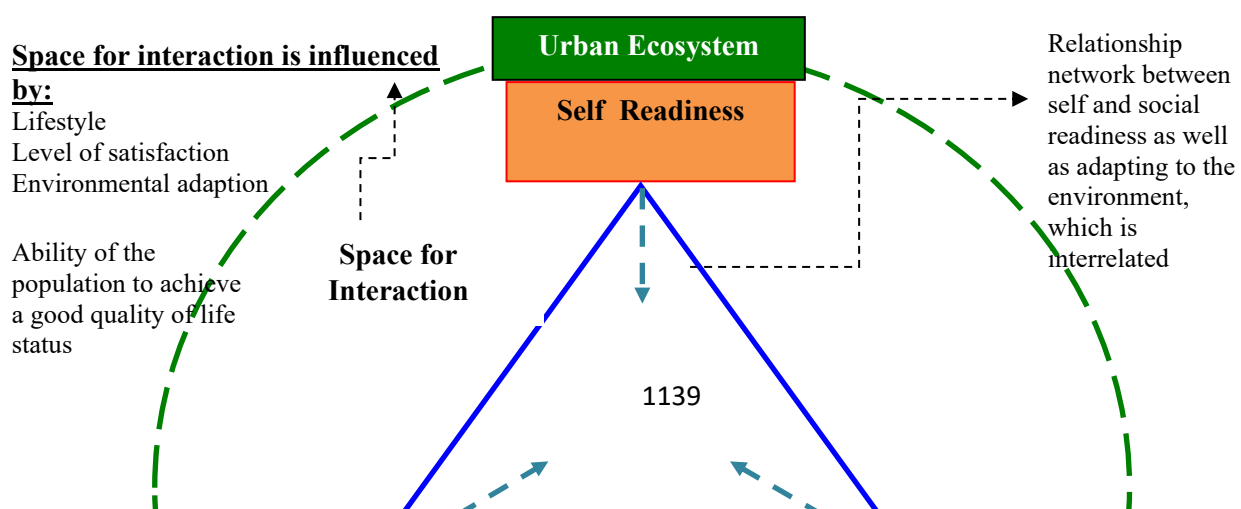
Based on the capability Sen (1985) and urban ecosystem Alberti et al. (2003); Alberti (2005, 2010); Gaston (2010) approaches, the urban village population's capability to adapt to the urban environment, which is dynamic and complex, portrays the urban environment as a suitable habitat for fulfilling the population's needs and wants. The urban environment provides various infrastructure facilities and services needed by the urban population. These facilities and services aim to enhance the population's quality of life and the urban environment. The targeted indicators of the quality of life suitable for fulfilling the needs and wants of the population would be prioritised. The main objective is to ensure that the population enjoys all the facilities and services provided by the city.

The facilities provided by the urban environment ensure that the environment continues to expand rapidly. This rapid expansion is caused by the flow of investment, influx of migrants as well as a widening development zone, which then leads to a more complex expansion. The city dwellers, especially the urban village population, face rapid environmental changes. This expansion offers the opportunity to explore solutions related to social life, cultures and societal relations in cities. Even though Wirth (1938) had mentioned that urbanism had formed a social organization that could encroach on people's culture such as the existence of preferred relations based on status, weak or deteriorating familial relations, loss of neighbourliness and weakening of traditional social unity. Hence, the urban village population must be seen as an active agent capable of consolidating social organizations and relations around the urban village environment in order to fulfil the aim of social life guided by previously held religious values, culture and tradition. These efforts had formed the urban village community that would continue to be relevant in the urban environment until today.

The study found that for the urban village population, the domicile area has a great impact on the overall life of the population. The hope held by this population indicates that it is always positive about itself and the overall life of the population. This situation is one of achieving the capabilities of the urban village population so that it continues to exist in the urban environment. In line with Cummin's (1996, 2000) argument, the level of satisfactory living and subjective wellbeing of the individual would actually be enough for the individual to live in various types of environments, be it physical, social or economic. All these environments pose their own meaning to the individual and society in sustaining their own quality of life and surroundings while building the individual's capability to continue determining their own quality of life (Cummins, 2000). What Cummins was talking about was actually homeostatic control. It is a kind of evolutionary survival mechanism that enables humans to remain positive about themselves and their lives in order to adapt to the environment, face physical hazards as well as confront the effects of psychological stress such as anxiety and depression.

This study lent criticism to the debate highlighted in the urbanization theory, which says that urban development affects the changes and lifestyle of the urban population without considering the aspects of influence and opportunity posed by urban surroundings on the original community that lives in the urban surroundings, mainly the urban village population. The influence and opportunities that exist in urban surroundings also help to consolidate the urban village population's individual, social and environmental character in order to achieve a desirable quality of life.

According to Wirth (1938), urban surrounding development also exposes the population to a particular lifestyle or better known as a city lifestyle. City lifestyle is frequently seen as a threat to the population’s cultural aspect. However, the arguments adduced by Louis Wirth are rather restricted. Although confronted by a changing urban surrounding, the urban village population’s lifestyle is still protected from the influence of extreme urban surroundings (Li & Li, 2011). The population still lends priority to family and neighbourhood relations. Moreover, close social relations provide fortitude to the population to continue living in the surrounding urban village area. The population is active in carrying out joint activities as well as having an organizational system that plays an important role in ensuring the smooth flow of the overall life of the urban village population (Yan & Zenou, 2011). The capability of the urban village population to adapt to the urban surroundings without changing or being influenced by the urban lifestyle is a means to enable the population to continue to exist in the urban village surroundings. Eventually it would enable the urban village population to handle problems in the city through strong self and social readiness as well as by environmental adaptation (Refer to Figure 4).



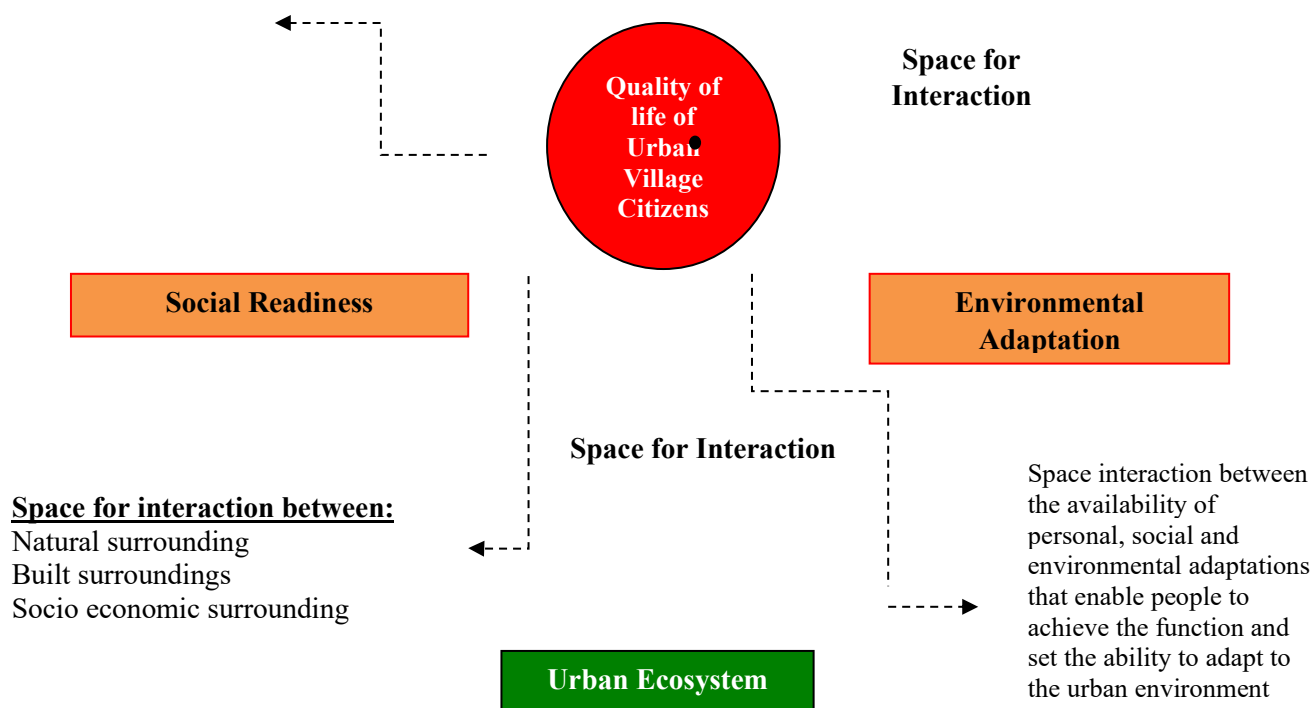


Figure 4 The urban ecosystem and the ability of the urban village citizens to achieve a quality of life

Wirth (1938) did not deny that the urban landscape was the product of growth and development in the course of history and it did not emerge suddenly. He also saw urbanization from a positive perspective, whereby its inhabitants managed to improve their lives towards a more modern, orderly, systematic and principled lifestyle. Urbanization prepares infrastructure facilities that are helpful and able to be enjoyed by everybody in the surroundings. Urbanization opens up avenues and opportunities for the urban population to evaluate their lives, which would eventually help them improve. Hence, this study argued that the control of homeostasis that exist in the urban village population had given them the capability to form or improve all the three characters mentioned earlier in order to fulfil the conditions of urban life in a stable urban ecosystem.

This study tried to focus on aspects such as self and social readiness as well as environmental adaptation of the urban village population as a part of the population's homeostatic control aimed at achieving a desired quality of life. The assessment and measurement of the population's self and social readiness is able to transform the population's actual capability to aid in adapting and merging itself with the environment. The strength of the self and social readiness as well as environmental adaptation is able to sustain a high level of quality of life in relation to the resources (human relations, employment, income, health and security) that exist in the urban village population's environment for a length of time. Hence, the capability still fully depends on the individual's basic capability needed to achieve and maintain it.

The urban village population's capability to assimilate urban development changes that occur around the urban village shows that the population's basic capability is greatly influenced by the strength of self-readiness (income, education, health and family); social readiness (transport, security and social involvement); as well as environmental adaptation (housing, environmental and employment surroundings). Changes in urban surroundings are another important message that has a direct effect on the urban village population's capability to achieve the anticipated quality of life. Currently, this population is deemed to have succeeded in responding to the message through achievements, while consolidating the basic strengths related to self and social readiness, urban excess as well as urban environmental adaptation.

The social judgement theory frequently tries to explain how attitude is expressed, assessed and modified through reactions towards messages. The message refers to environmental changes and its direct effect on each entity (individual, community and society) in a particular environment, to either withstand the condition or adapt to the environment. The theory's viewpoint is still not comprehensive or touches on core matters related to the population's capability through homeostatic control. This study does not expect judgement through environmental changes that the population is forced to face, which would eventually allow the population to make a better judgement individually or jointly. The capability of the attitude itself is inadequate to reflect the success of the population in terms of achieving the desired quality of life. The urban village population itself could measure the quality of life. The fortitude formed through the three characters must be made a priority so that the actual picture about the population's capability to achieve a quality of life fulfils the want and needs.

This study is of the opinion that the Social Judgement Theory is exposed to changes according to space and time, individual expectations and social comparisons besides being influenced by the environment. The changes referred to in this study comprise the urban village population's capability to adapt to congestion that exists in the urban environment (congestion perception); the capability to adapt to other environments such as economic and physical environments (conflict in grabbing opportunities); and the decline in the capability of the population to deal with urban surroundings (diminishing behaviour). The homeostatic control of changes to urban surroundings that determine the population's capability would enable them to compromise with the surroundings. (e.g., ecological changes that arise due to urban development (consumer effect), changes that decide development (vision of development) and exposing human trespass in cities (human trespassing). All these components of judgement have an influence on individual and social characters as well as the urban village population's surroundings.

This study also supports the argument adduced by Alberti (2005); Kyle et al. (2004) and Darity (2008) regarding the understanding of the community member's world. A community member's world ought to become the target of development based on the community members themselves instead of the views of other people such as agents of development, government authorities, corporate or business members as well as individual's with interests. This action would create injustice to the community involved although it might seem appropriate for the community. Each suggested effort should take into consideration

the voice and priority of the community members and promise to make the community members more intrepid through the process of ownership and participation.

This study had looked into the re-assessment of the quality of life assessment theory and homeostatic control theory that could help expand these theories in efforts to show that the urban village population is part of the urban population that lives and occupies the urban surroundings. Interaction between the urban village population and local culture is the main element that forms the social model for the population. This element must contain characteristics such as being holistic, subjective and experiential. This would help the urban village population to obtain control of its social live through the population's strong self and social readiness as well as its environmental adaptation.

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