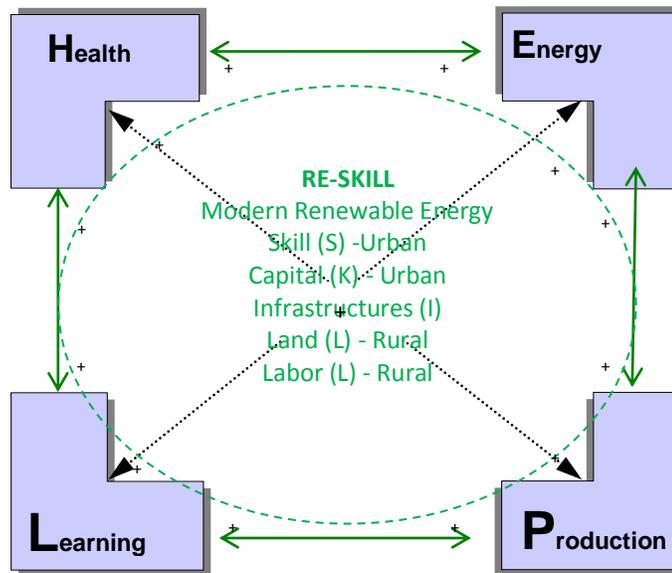


RE-SKILL-HELP Model



HELP services together drive demand for other input factors, such as more skill, capital, land, and labor. Increased factor incomes will in turn create demand for HELP services in developing rural areas. The important difference between the RE-SKILL and the conventional development process is that the former retains the current traditional societies in their own habitats. It brings in essential skill, capital, and infrastructure using modern wireless information, communication, edutainment, and energy efficient network such as off-grid solar energy, cellular phone, internet, tele-services and electric vehicles. The model, however, retains the current healthy lifestyle of using bicycles, walking short distances, and using muscle power for productive activities.

The conventional development paradigm is very intrusive and expensive. It involves large scale physical movement of labor to cities, it breaks down families, it requires the acquisition of land and resources for urbanization, and it needs an expensive transport network. In the conventional development paradigm, as in the cities, the labor force and resources migrate to where only fossil energy, not renewable energy can be extracted or used optimally. Urban skill and capital take decades to accumulate, and they are not able to flow to rural areas as engineers, doctors, architects, and capitalists prefer to live in cities. RE-SKILL turns this paradigm upside down with surprisingly interesting results. There is small scale efficient optimization instead of large scale economies of the dominant fossil-grid systems. However, urban areas will eventually also need to unlearn the skills needed for the fossil grid systems (which we call DE-SKILL) and RE-SKILL to the new paradigm. We will recommend for removing fossil fuel subsidies and taxing fossil fuels enough to reflect their true costs is appropriate in the urban setting as well. Correct pricing should hasten the day when renewable energy resources are used more in both rural and an urban setting.

The development literature should be informed by these experiences of paradigm shift with the positive spillover effects of small scale environmentally sound systems that empower the rural poor, women, and socially backward rural communities.

Such rural transformation and skill building from primitive renewable energy to modern renewable energy requires more thorough research and development with deployment of these small scale production systems in one village at a time. Many of the renewable based capital and skills are emerging rapidly and are even gradually

being adopted by industrial nations to satisfy their increasing distaste for fossil-grid energy. The rural interest of sustainable development can also be well integrated with such emerging urban RE technologies such LED lighting and display, SPVs, smart phones, e-readers, rechargeable batteries, electric vehicles, and green manufacturing.