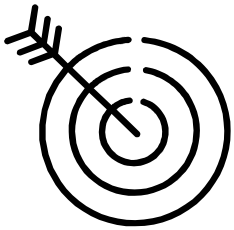
The people leaving in the region where a large dam is planned to be built are rather upset due to the construction of the Dam…

The scenario in brief: The village "Krala" lies besides the banks of the river "King" in the foot of a limestone hill below the ruins of its medieval predecessor, a recognized cultural heritage site. This is the spot proposed by the Government for the construction of the new Large Dam. Of course, the hydro-plant that will be built besides the Dam will provide electricity to the wider area, which up until now was not sufficient. Moreover, the reservoir will supply water to the neighbouring city, which currently covers its needs in water basically from wells and springs. The 500 villagers of "Krala" whose main occupation is small scale animal breeding and farming will have to move to another area, since their village together with the ancient town will be vanished underwater.

Many peopleare supporting Dam's construction, however there are many against it. For this reason a public consultation is organised. This way all those whose rights are involved, and who bear the risks associated with the different options will have the chance to express their views, in order to reach a final resolutionregarding the future of the Dam.



The goal of the Role play: The participants, representing the Groups of all involved stakeholders must come up with a decision regarding the construction of the Dam, after taking into account all competing interests and conflicts and after examining all alternatives.

The facts:

- Krala is a pour village, and the inhabitants are characterised by low income and limited education.
- The villagers of Krala will have to resettle to another settlement. All of them will lose their homes, while most of them will lose their land also.
- Although there is a plan of rehabilitation of the villagers of Krala, it is restricted to the allocation of their new properties, without taking into account other parameters such as jobs, social integration, etc.
- The Dam according to the initial plans will be higher than 15m, classifying it as a "Large Dam".
- The dam and the hydro-power station will provide many jobs, however most of these jobs will require advanced skills.
- The wider area around the dam is rather dry, so the existing farmers currently cultivate on a limited scale, due to the lack of abundant water.
- Many of the wider area's farmers have moved out to other places, since their agricultural occupations did not provide them with sufficient income.
- The region, overall, is characterised by abundant sunlight.
- According to the WDC (*World Commission on Dams*) in dry climates evaporation from reservoirs is estimated to be close to 5% of total withdrawals.
- The neighbouring city which will be wateredafter the dam's construction has 70, 000 inhabitants and is 50 km away from the village "Krala".
- The water supply system of the neighbouring city is rather old and several leakages are observed.
- No survey has been carried out aiming to examine the archaeological impacts of the dam. However, such a survey would imply high cost and would require a long period.
- The incidents of Malaria and other water borne diseases are likely to increase after the construction of the Dam.
- According to WDC (*World Commission on Dams*) existing large dams have resulted to the loss of forests and wildlife habitat, the loss of species populations and the degradation of upstream catchment areas.
- The proposed dam will eventually decrease the amount of water reaching the valley downstream 200 Km away, which is full of water demanding crops and is currently being irrigated by the river King.
- The dam proposed by the Government has passed the preliminary technical and economic feasibility tests.
- All Dams function until an "expiration date" because of the sediment capture and hydraulic erosion that gradually reduce their storage capacity.

Group 1. The villagers of Krala,
which will have to resettle to another settlement or the neighbouring city.

Group 2. The farmers of the wider region
that currently cultivate on a limited scale due to the lack of abundant water. They hope that the dam will provide them enough water to increase their crops, but are rather sceptical regarding the risk of frequent floods in the area.

Group 3. The local Water authorities,
which aim to solve the problem of water supply of the neighbouring city, by building the dam.

Group 4. The local electricity company,
which currently provides power by burning coal. The Dam will allow them to increase energy production that may be then sold to other regions of the country.

Group 5. The NGOs and Human's right associations,
These are very worried regarding the degradation of the environment and the possible loss of the biodiversity of the region due to the construction of the Dam. They tackle also with the issue of population displacement.

Group 6. The historians and archaeologists.
They are worried about the upstream flooding of ancient cultural sites.

Group 7. The Government, which aims, among other, at increasing the agriculture of the area and increase exports of agricultural products.

Group 8. The farmers and fishermen that live downstream and are afraid that after the construction of the dam water reaching them will not be enough to sustain their jobs.

Instructions & Rules of the Role play game:

1. The moderator (teacher) reads out to the participants (class) the Scenario and distributes the cards with the scenario, the facts regarding the Dam construction and the rules of the role play.
2. Participants are assigned their roles (Groups 1-8). This can be done by drawing pots or by preference. If the participants propose another Group of stakeholders this may be included as well.
4. Each Group discusses in depth, analyses their views and decides on its arguments. Depending on their position (in favour/against the Dam) they should think of possible alternatives to Dam construction, or justify why there are no viable alternatives.

   They try to predict the arguments of the other involved stakeholders (Groups) and prepare their answers.
3. Each Group begins by describing to the floor the Group's characteristics. They underline the needs in water of the Group in terms of quality and quantity. They argue why they are in favour/against the building of the Dam.

   They are encouraged to present the *moral justification* of the Group they are representing. However, this should be done in a democratic way and certainly *not by provocative conflicts* with the other Groups.
4. The floor will be open to all participants for them to give input to the discussions. They should *make proposals* on the best potential course of action, regarding Dam. The moderator will guide the discussions, keeping track of time. Although the participants represent a particular Group with specific interests, during the Role play they may change their views, based on prioritising the justifications of all other Groups.
5. During the last part of the role play, the moderator will sum up the various view-points and reach a conclusion with the final decision/s. In case the participants cannot consent on the decision, there is the option for voting.

In general it is preferable to come up with a clear, positive and as much as possible, realistic decision, taking into account every Group's interests. The result should lead to hope; otherwise the role play leads to disappointment.