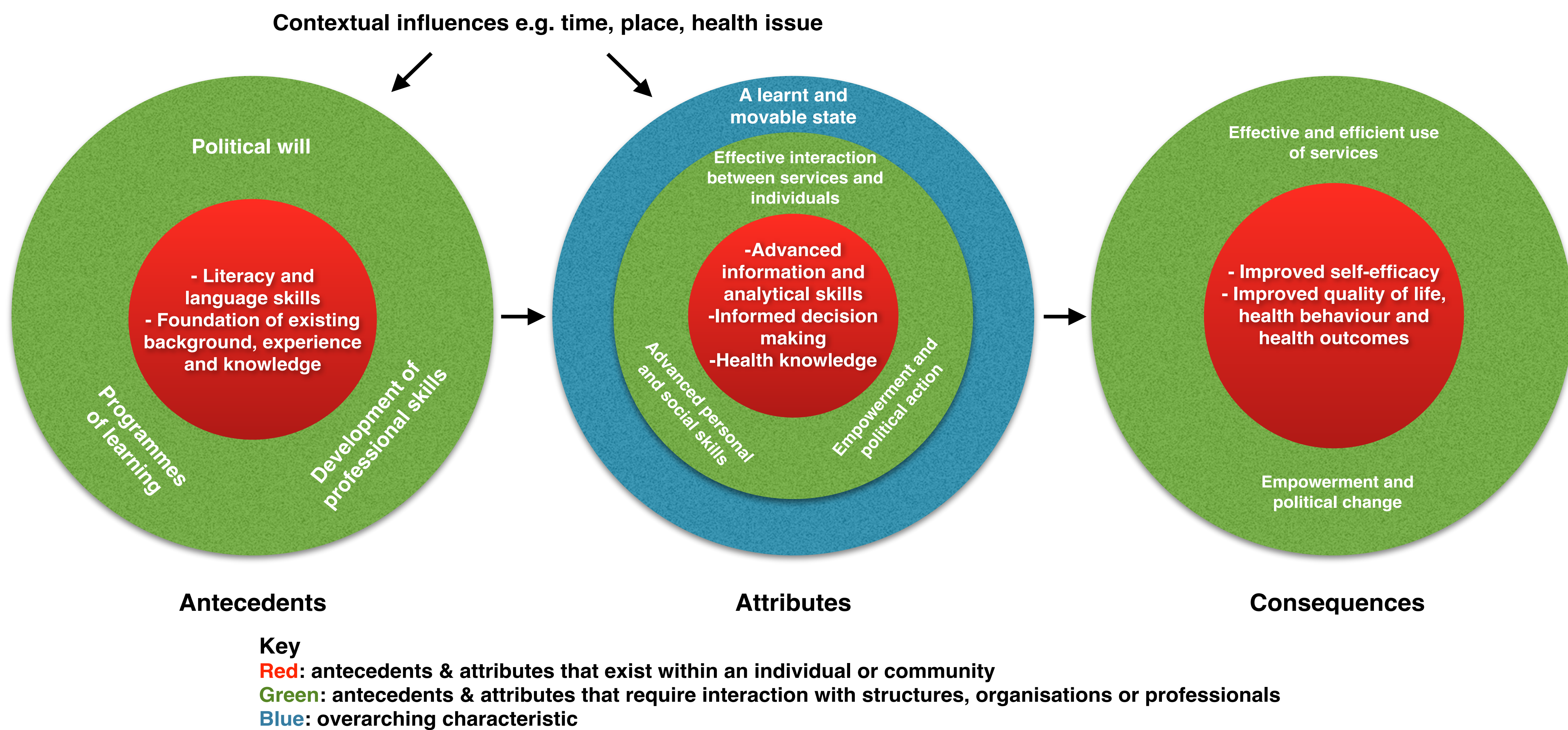




Background:

Critical health literacy is a domain of health literacy that has been presented as existing at both individual and community level with a potential to contribute to improved health outcomes and reduced inequalities. However, it remains the least well explored and researched domain of health literacy and there are few examples of initiatives designed specifically to build critical health literacy. This study explores how community development processes can be used to develop the key attributes of critical health literacy.

A Model of Critical Health Literacy



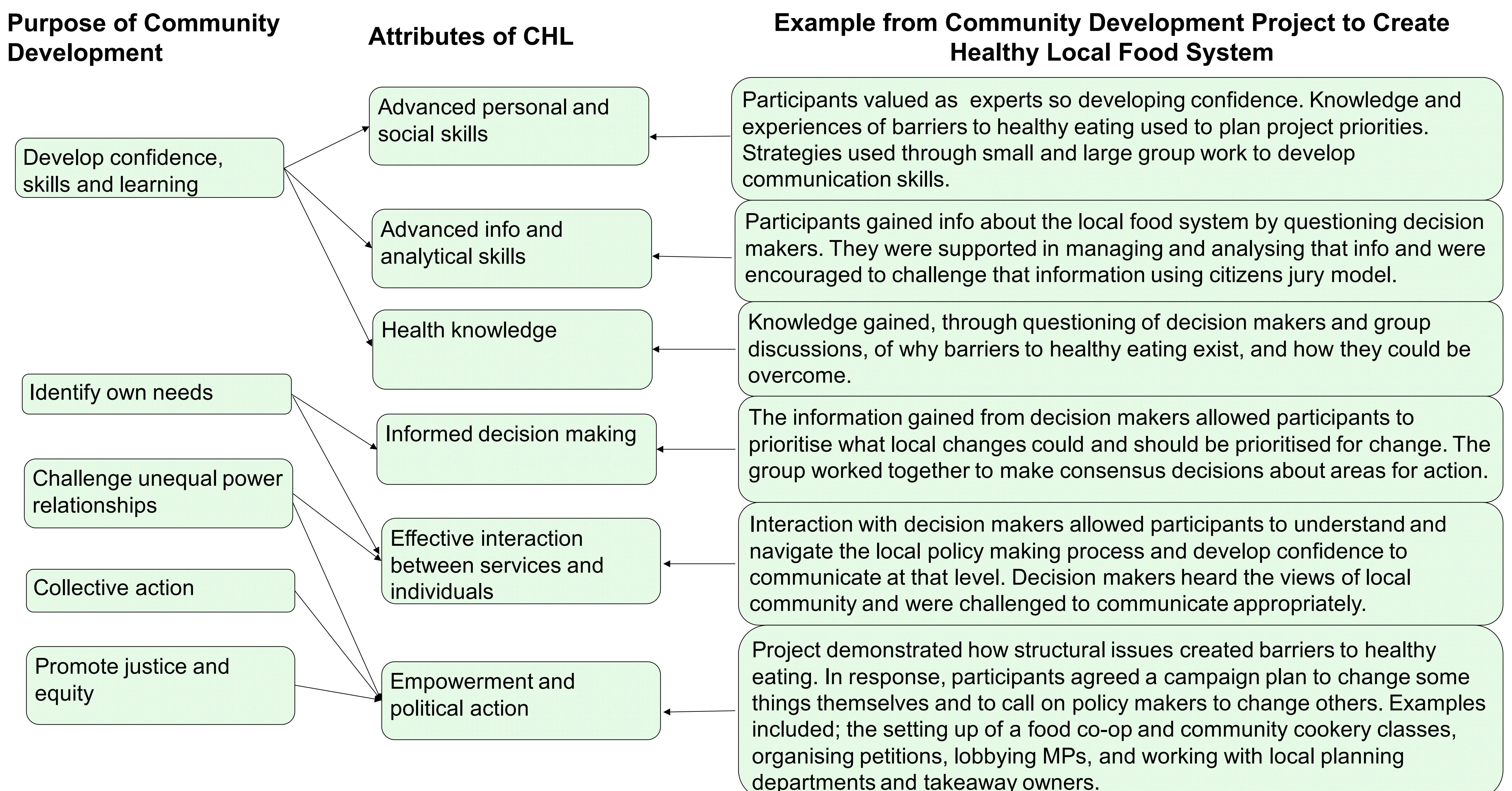
Methods:

This research used a case study methodology to explore how projects based upon the principles of community development work to build critical health literacy. The projects were examined to identify whether and how the attributes of critical health literacy, as illustrated above, were developed.

Findings:

From the data collected a relationship between the purpose of community development and the attributes of critical health literacy was identified as illustrated in the diagram below. Processes were observed within the case study that build each of the attributes of critical health literacy

The Relationship Between Community Development and Critical Health Literacy



What this helps us with:

This case study shows us that building the attributes of critical health literacy is consistent with the principles and purposes of community development. It also demonstrates how the participatory community led processes used within community development are suitable for building critical health literacy amongst communities. If this domain of health literacy is to be effectively operationalised and its potential more fully understood, there is a need to work more closely with the field of community development.