

# Conceptual Framework of Modelling for Malaysian Household Electrical Energy Consumption using Artificial Neural Network based on Techno-Socio Economic Approach

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## ABSTRACT

The residential sector was one of the contributors to the increase in the world energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emission due to the increase population, economic development, and improved living standard. Developing a reliable model of electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic factors was challenging since many assumptions need to be considered. Over the past decade, bottom-up approaches such as multi-linear regression, artificial neural network (ANN), and conditional demand analysis were used for developing mathematical models to investigate interrelated characteristics among techno-socio economic factors. However, the existing models mostly were focused on countries that had different socio-economic level and cultures from the developing countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Similar studies in that tropical region were very scarce and only limited for linear modelling under the conditions of techno-socio economic factors. In this study, we proposed ANN for developing a model of electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic factors for a tropical region, Malaysia. In order to develop the model, quantitative measurement and qualitative assessment were required. The quantitative measurement was based on the monitoring of total electrical energy consumption with a one-minute interval. In contrast, the qualitative assessment utilized a questionnaire survey to assess household characteristics based on techno-socio economic parameters. The objective of this paper was to propose a conceptual framework of the estimation model for household electrical energy consumption with the consideration of techno-socio economic factors using ANN.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The advanced emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) due to energy consumption is the major cause of environmental impacts such as the ozone layer depletion, global warming and climate change. In fact, the global emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> escalated by 28.2% from 2000 until 2014 [1]. The most significant emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are emanated from fossil fuel combustion for power generation in industrial, building and transport sectors [2]. The building sector consists of commercial and residential contribute to approximately 40% and 30% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, respectively [3]. The global average of energy consumption in the residential sector

accounts for 20% in developed countries and more than 35% in developing countries [4]. These trends are expected to increase significantly in the future due to the rapid growths of economic, population and living standard in the world. Under these circumstances, the balance system between energy supply and demand needs to be ensured. Therefore, understanding the characteristics of electrical energy consumption in the residential sector is important for energy measures and on-site power generation.

Most of the previous studies [5]-[8] used top-down and bottom-up approaches for estimating electrical energy consumption in the residential sector. The top-down approach determines the energy consumption of residential sector as a whole like econometric and technological models. The econometric model correlates the energy use with macro-economic variables such as income, fuel price and gross domestic product. The technological model attributes energy consumption for the entire residential sector based on appliance ownership trends and saturation effects of technology development [7]. Zhou and Teng [9] used 11960 samples for urban household survey data from Sichuan Province in China to develop an econometric model for estimating the income and price elasticities of household electricity consumption. They considered the effects of lifestyle variables such as socio-demographic (e.g. family size and education background), residential size, and appliance ownership. Wiesmann et al. [10] developed an econometric model based on data from Cencus in Portuguese mainland for 275 municipalities. They investigated the influence of socio-demographic (e.g. household income and number of occupants), residential characteristic, climatic condition, and geography on electricity energy consumption. Szekeres and Jeswiet [11] developed dynamic models for adoption of heat pump technology to estimate annual energy saving and green house gases emission reduction for the residential sector in Canada.

The bottom-up approach accounts for electrical energy consumption based on occupant behaviour, appliance usage, and indoor and outdoor temperatures [8]. Buratti et al. [12] conducted field measurement on a residential in Perugia to develop building envelopes and thermal model for estimating energy consumption and indoor air temperature in the residential using Transient System Simulation Tool software. Huebner et al. [13] developed four multi-linear regression (MLR) models based on 845 households to investigate contributing factors on annual electrical energy consumption. The model examined socio-demographic factors (e.g. number of occupant, age, employment, and household income), building characteristics, appliance characteristics, and occupant behaviour (e.g. environmental awareness, willingness to conduct energy saving behaviour). Matsumoto [14] used survey data from 59374 household of Japan to investigate the contributing factors in the residential electricity consumption and appliance usage based on conditional demand analysis (CDA) models. The models considered appliance ownership (ownership of air conditioning, television, tumble dryers, etc), socio-economic factors (source of income such as labor and non-labor income), and household income (i.e. husband, wife or both).

Stoecklein et al. [15] classified electricity consumption data that collected from 40 residential in New Zealand for 239 days using Kohonen probabilistic artificial neural network (ANN) based on the source of income (worker or pensioner), load profile shape and absolute power demand. Aydinalp [16] modelled appliance, lighting and space cooling, domestic hot water and space heating using ANN from 8767 households in Canada to estimating the annual average of electricity consumption. These models were developed based on building characteristics (e.g. residential type and tenure type), socio-demographic factors (e.g. number of children and adult, income), appliance characteristics, indoor and outdoor temperatures. Roque [17] developed ANN models from 136 households in multi-unit residential in Toronto, Canada. The model was employed for investigating the impact of socio-demographic factors (gender, age, household income, previous residence, occupancy duration), building orientation and number of hours spent on monthly electrical energy consumption. Szűts and Kromer [18] created an ANN model from 1000 households in Hungary based on socio-demographic factors (family composition, education, and household income) and building characteristics (size and type of residential) to estimate the annual total electricity consumption.

Recently, similar studies in developing countries such as those in a tropical region had been reported [19]-[23]. For example, Wijaya [19] had modelled techno-socio economic factors using MLR from 200 respondents in Bandung and Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The model considered household income, family size, education level, daily activity, floor area, and appliances with respect to the monthly electricity consumption. Azlina et al. [20] assessed factors influencing electricity consumption of residential for 1561 respondents in Terengganu, Malaysia using CDA models. This study investigates the effects of socio-economic factors (age, gender and occupation background), household characteristics (type of residential, total floor area), attitudinal factors (willingness to conduct energy saving behaviour, values, belief, environmental awareness), and appliance ownership in accordance with electricity energy consumption. Zaki et al. [21] developed model for generating air conditioning operation schedules from 38 residential in Kuala Lumpur based on period of usage time, start and end times, and frequency of air conditioning events. Ranjbar et al. [22] conducted short-term measurement on electrical energy consumption under hot season weather conditions for ten residents in apartment located at Kuala Lumpur. The study showed that air

conditioning consumption consumed from 19.4% to 52.3% of total electrical energy consumption. Furthermore, Ranjbar et al. [23] investigated energy usage behaviour that showed dissimilar pattern of electrical energy consumption among different residential. The effect of outdoor temperature was more clearly observed in the night due to hot condition in daytime.

Based on the literature review, most of previous studies for developing energy model based on techno-socio economic approach were conducted in developed countries. Energy model in developed countries might not suitable for developing countries due to different socio-economic level, cultures, and climates condition. Previous studies only focus on estimating average annual or monthly electricity consumption and modeling which are only limited to techno-socio economic factors. There have been no studies that model real time estimation of the total electrical energy consumption in the residential sector based on more comprehensive techno-socio economic factors in the tropical region. The aim of this paper is to propose the bottom-up approach of conceptual framework of ANN that estimates the real time estimation of the total electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic factors in Malaysia. All related techno-socio economic factors that affect the total electricity energy consumption are explained in this paper. The proposed conceptual framework integrates the basic model of ANN with techno-socio economic factors as the input of model and short-term real time estimation of total electricity energy consumption as the main output of the model.

## 2. ANN MODEL

ANN models are created based on mimicking the biological nerve networks of the human [24]. It can attribute quantitative real time and qualitative database due in analyzing non-linear and complex causal relationships of input and output with different types of datasets. In addition, the models are not developed based on specific information of the residential system and inner logic of model or so-called black box approach [17]. This approach is suitable to estimate the output of short real time electrical energy consumption based on the inputs of techno-socio economic factors. Figure 1 shows the biological nerve network of human and the basic model of ANN.

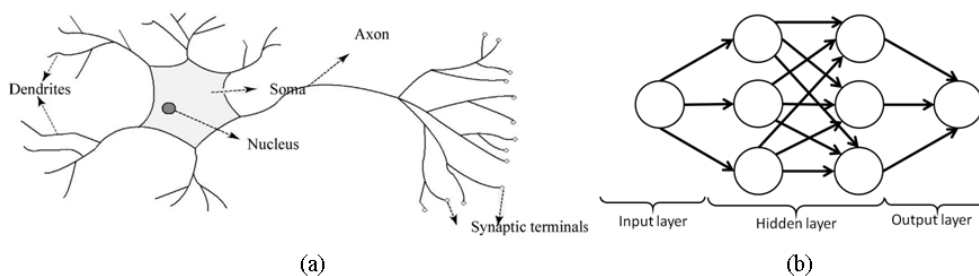


Figure 1. Concept of ANN (a) biological nerve of human, (b) basic model of ANN [24]

The model development of ANN is divided into some processes which are determining the input and output from datasets, selecting the number of datasets for training, validating and testing, choosing activation function and scaling intervals, and assigning network architecture. The model development of ANN is divided into some processes which are determining the input and output from datasets, selecting the number of datasets for training, validating and testing, choosing activation function and scaling intervals, and assigning network architecture. Input and output are determined based on the objective of model. Determination of the number of datasets for training, validating and testing is required to distinguish datasets based on functions in ANN models. Data training are a group of matched input and output data employed for training the ANN model by modifying the weight function and bias parameter constant. Data validating is utilized to examine the general characteristic of network and to discontinue the process of training after ANN model achieve optimum characteristic. Data testing is employed to verify the ANN models with the input untrained data [17].

Determination of activation function and scaling intervals is applied to select the activation function and scaling intervals. Scaling intervals are needed to keep each data value in the range of the amplitude of the chosen activation function and to avoid the simulated neurons from pushing too far to saturation level [16]. Determination of network architecture can be decided through repeating simulation until the best performances of ANN models are achieved. The basic equation of ANN model can be developed from

simple ANN model for one neuron. Biswas et al. [25] explained equation of one neuron ANN model as shown in Equation (1) where input (x), weight function (w), bias function (θ) and output model (y).

$$y = f(xw + \theta) \tag{1}$$

f ( ) is an activation function which determines the output of neuron. Some common activation functions are identity function (y=x), threshold function ,and sigmoid function as shown in Equations (2) and (3), respectively [26] where a is the constant threshold.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x \geq a) \\ 0 & \text{if } (x \leq a) \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \tag{3}$$

Figure 2 shows the example of ANN model for two inputs (x<sub>1</sub> and x<sub>2</sub>), one output (y) and one hidden layer. Some equations can be defined based on the example of ANN model as shown in Equations (4), (5), and (6) where w<sub>i,j</sub> is the weight of input neuron, θ<sub>i</sub> is bias function and a,b, c is output function of hidden layer.

$$a = f(a) = f(x_1w_{1,1} + x_2w_{1,2} + \theta_1) \tag{4}$$

$$b = f(b) = f(x_1w_{2,1} + x_2w_{2,2} + \theta_2) \tag{5}$$

$$c = f(c) = f(x_1w_{3,1} + x_2w_{3,2} + \theta_3) \tag{6}$$

The output of ANN model (y) as shown in Equation (7) is defined as total output from hidden layer function (a, b, and c) and bias function (θ<sub>4</sub>) where w<sub>i</sub> is the weight of output neuron.

$$y = f(d) = f(aw_1 + bw_2 + cw_3 + \theta_4) \tag{7}$$

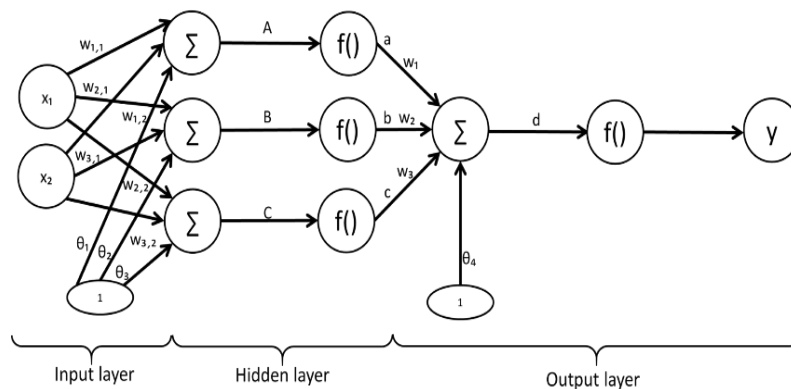


Figure 2. Example of three layers in ANN model [25]

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodologies are divided into three parts which are quantitative measurement, qualitative assessment and model development using ANN. The quantitative measurement is based on monitoring of total electrical energy consumption for 20 residential with a minute interval. The qualitative assessment uses a questionnaire survey to assess determinant factors of the electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic factors for approximately 400 residents. The results from quantitative measurement and qualitative assessment are used to develop the ANN model.

The performances of ANN model are attained by detracting the error between the target or actual data and the predicted data. The optimization performance of ANN model can be distinguished into three different types which are the sum of square error (SSE), the mean squared error (MSE) and  $R^2$  (Coefficient of correlation). SSE is the average squared difference between set of predicted values and set of real data values. Regression  $R^2$  values mean the correlation between set of predicted values and set of real data values. MES is the average squared difference between predicted and real data divided by a number of data points. The process of checking for the ANN model performance is repeated until the model achieve the standard value of SSE, MSE and  $R^2$  [25]. Figure 3 shows the research methodology of electrical energy consumption modeling using ANN based on techno-socio economic approach.

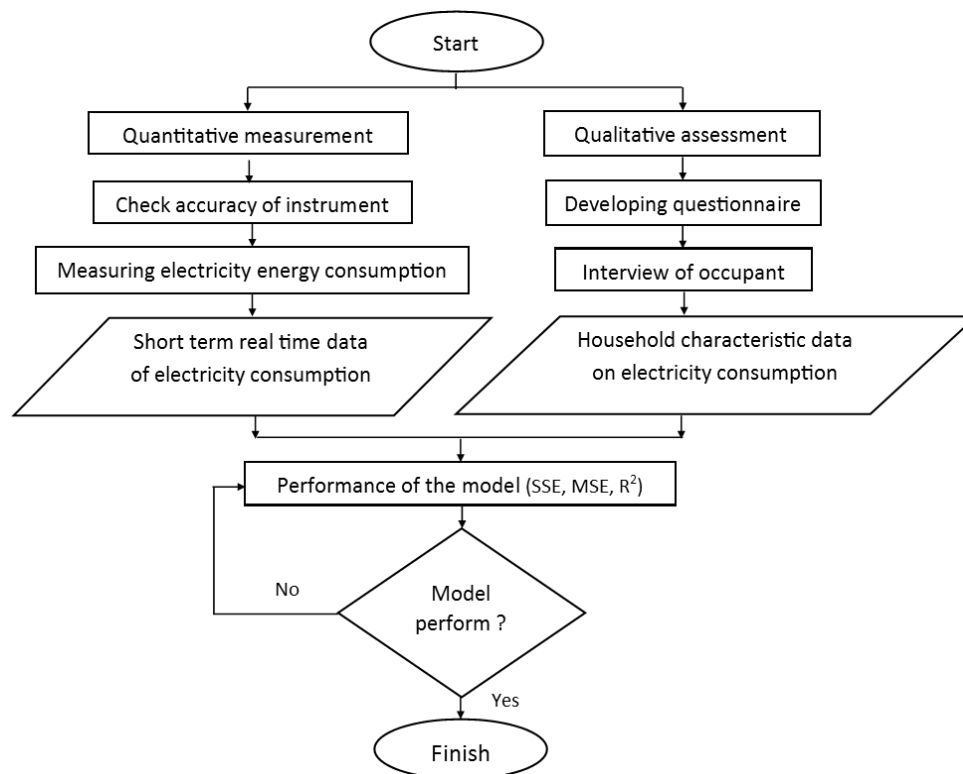


Figure 3. Research methodology of modelling for household electrical energy consumption using ANN based on techno-socio economic approach

#### 4. TECHNO-SOCIO ECONOMIC FACTORS

Techno-socio economic factors such as socio-demographic, house characteristic, occupant behaviour in purchasing and using appliance, and appliance characteristic are explained in this section. The reviewed and discussed of the influencing factors on electricity energy consumption in the residential such as socio-economic, residential and appliance characteristics has been reported by Jones et al. [27]. It was found that only a few previous studies which assessed the effect of appliance characteristics such as ownership of appliance, usage behaviour of appliance, and power demand appliance on electrical energy consumption. Occupant behaviour in purchasing and using appliance has significant effects on electricity energy consumption as reported by [28], [19], [29], respectively. Occupant behaviour in purchasing energy saving appliance can reduce electrical energy consumption. Furthermore, occupant behaviour in using appliance can increase or reduce electrical energy consumption in residential. The correlation between household income and electrical energy consumption had been explained well by [30]. Occupants who have higher income tend to consume more electrical energy consumption than those who have lower income. Appliance characteristic such as number of appliance ownership and type of appliance can affect electrical energy consumption in residential [13], [31].

##### 4.1. Socio-demographic

Socio-demographic factors which consist of a number of occupants, family composition, age, education level, household income and employment status have significant contribution to increasing

electricity consumption in residential [27]. The number of occupant affects electricity consumption that means the more people living in the residential, the more electrical energy consumption in residential will be [9]. Family compositions with adults and children have higher electricity consumption than family living without children or with other adults. Age of occupant has a direct and indirect effect on electricity energy consumption. The middle age of householder has higher electrical energy consumption due to the presence of children [32]. Meanwhile, older people consume less electricity consumption because they rarely use appliances [33]. The higher education level in a family, the higher also the electricity consumption will be. Higher education is correlated with the wealth of family in residential size and number of ownership appliance [30]. Household income affects electrical energy consumption. The higher household income, the electricity consumption will be higher also [34]. Similar findings from Batih et al. [30] show that higher electricity consumption is found in family with a higher income. This is because the higher income family tends to have more appliances than lower income family. Employment status has indirect effects on electricity energy consumption as reported by Wijaya [19]. A higher education not only leads to a better job with a higher income, it also makes people to spend less time at home. Therefore, the electricity consumption of working people will be less than people who have more time to stay at home.

#### **4.2. Residential characteristic**

Residential characteristics can be divided into type, the material of wall, the material of roof, residential age, tenure type, total floor area, type of room, orientation, type of glazing, type of shading devices, and glazing ratio. The residential type of semi-detached, terraced and apartment use less weekly electricity compared to detached residential due to the residential size and ownership of high electricity consume appliance [35]. Type of wall, roof and glazing windows can cause significant variance on electrical energy consumption as reported by [13]. Residential age can affect electricity consumption due to the improvement of material building. Brounen et al. [33] found that the thermal building had been improved for new residential. The older residential consumed more electricity than newer ones. Tenure type has effects on electricity consumption in relation with the wealth condition of family. The private owner of the residential consumes more electricity than rented residential [34]. Total floor area has significant effects on electricity consumption in residential [29]. The more total floor area, the more electricity consumption will be used for cooling in summer and heating in winter [9].

#### **4.3. Occupant behavior in purchasing and using appliance**

Occupant behaviour in purchasing energy-efficient appliances has an effect on electrical energy consumption. Mizobuchi and Takeuchi [28] found that household which purchased energy-efficient air conditioner saved more electricity. Wijaya [19] explained the factors affecting occupant behaviour in purchasing appliances based on product perspectives which are price, brand, energy saving, warranty, user friendliness, technology, safety, model and country of origin. Occupant behavior in using appliance has a significant effect on electrical energy consumption. Huebner et al. [13] found that the use of a heating system can increase electricity consumption. Behaviour in the usage of appliances such as cooling device, cooking device, entertainment and information device can affect electricity consumption in a residential [19]. Bedir et al. [36] examined that the operating time of appliance caused significant variance in electrical energy consumption in residential.

#### **4.4. Appliance characteristic**

Appliance characteristic had a statistically significant effect on electricity consumption in the residential [13]. The more appliance ownership, the more electricity consumption will be. Bedir et al. [36] explained that the total number of appliances cause variance in electricity consumption. Appliance ownership can affect electricity consumption in residential. Huebner et al. [13] stated that the ownership of the tumble dryer and separate freezer have significant effects on electricity consumption. Wahlström [31] found that the usage of heat pumps could reduce electricity consumption than that which only relies on heating or cooling system. The ownerships of air conditioning, washing machine, personal computer and television have significant effects on electricity consumption in the residential [37]. McLoughlin et al. [32] confirmed that the entertainment appliances (computer, television and game console), washing appliances (tumble dryer and dishwasher) and electric water heater have significant effect on electricity consumption. A household with a refrigerator has higher electricity consumption than that which does not have one refrigerator [9].

### **5. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY**

Development of household electrical energy consumption model using ANN based on techno-socio economic approach can be used to propose recommendation of energy efficiency strategy. Figure 4 shows

conceptual framework of energy efficiency strategy that consists of field survey, electrical energy consumption modelling, characteristic of electrical energy consumption and recommendation of energy efficiency strategy. Energy efficiency strategy can be proposed based on classification of short-term real time of electrical energy consumption and determinant factors of electrical energy consumption. Some examples of energy efficiency strategy that can be proposed are electricity price policy based on peak demand of electrical energy consumption, classification of peak demand of electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic factors, development of smart household appliance based on real time pattern of electrical energy consumption, and on-site power generation (photovoltaic, wind energy, and micro hydro). However, the scope of this research only covers for three aspects of the conceptual framework of energy efficiency strategy that consist of field survey, electrical energy consumption modelling and characteristic of electrical energy consumption. Energy efficiency strategy is a potential future research in this field of study.

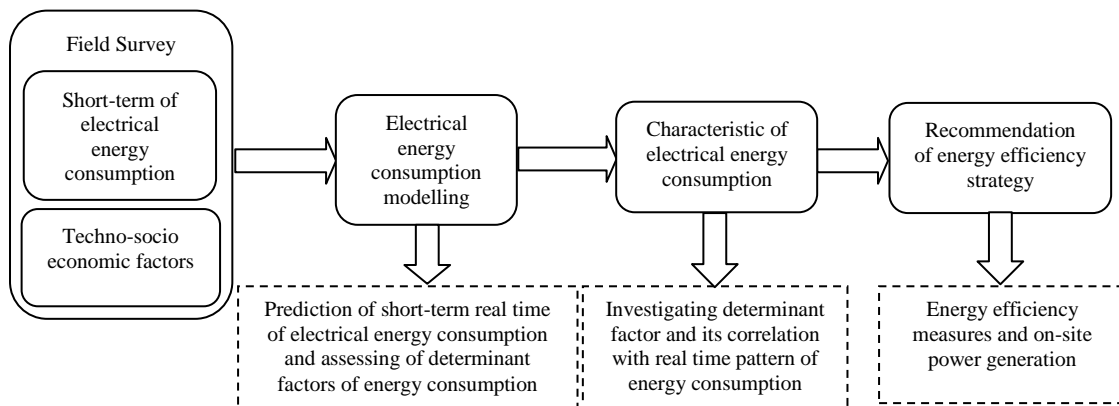


Figure 4. Conceptual framework of energy efficiency strategy

## 6. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF MODELING FOR MALAYSIAN HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION USING ANN BASED ON TECHNO-SOCIO ECONOMIC APPROACH

The conceptual framework of the estimation model of electrical energy consumption is developed from three parts which are techno-socio economic parameters i.e. the input model from qualitative assessment, short term total electrical energy consumption as output model from quantitative measurement and ANN model. Figure 5 shows the conceptual framework of ANN model for estimating electricity energy consumption based on techno-socio economic parameters.  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  mean the neuron created from the input layer to hidden layer.  $W_{i,j}$  mean the weight parameters for each neuron. The bias value ( $\theta_i$ ) gives 1 to multiplication between the input layer and weight parameter then the result is proceeded by activation function in the hidden layer. The number of the hidden neuron ( $n$ ) can be increased or decreased depending on the performance of ANN model. The basic equation for ANN model to estimate short-term of total electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic approach are shown in Equation (8) where  $w_i$  is weight parameter of output neuron,  $\theta_k$  is bias function of output neuron, and  $a, b, c, d, e$  are the output function of hidden layer as shown in Equation (9).

$$y = f \left( (a + b + c + d + e) \sum_{i=1}^n w_i + \sum_{k=6}^n \theta_k \right) \quad (8)$$

$$a = b = c = d = e = f \left( \sum_{i=j=1}^n x_i w_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i \right) \quad (9)$$

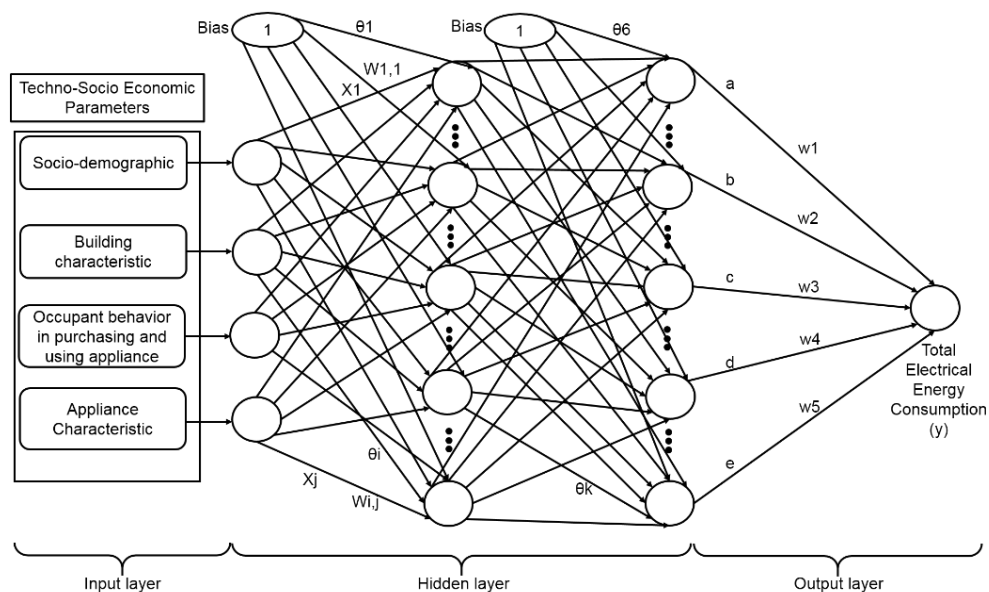


Figure 5. ANN model for estimating short term of total electrical energy consumption based on techno-socio economic approach

## 7. CONCLUSION

Developing of modelling for end-use energy consumption in the residential sector is necessary to ensure the balance system between energy supply and demand under the changes of techno-socio economic factors. Almost none study for estimating the real time of the total electricity energy consumption based on the techno-socio economic approach. The conceptual framework of the estimation model of electrical energy consumption is proposed in this paper in order to contribute to the development of modelling for residential end-use energy consumption in developing countries especially those in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region, particularly, Malaysia. Artificial Neural Network is selected as the estimation model due to its ability to integrate the quantitative real time and qualitative database and its ability to evaluate the non-linear relationship amongst techno-socio economic factors. The input of ANN model is techno-socio economic factors from qualitative assessment and the output of ANN model is a short term of the total electrical energy consumption from the quantitative measurement. Electrical energy consumption modelling based on techno-socio economic approach can be utilized to develop some recommendations for energy efficiency strategy. However, the scope of our studies focus on modelling of electrical energy consumption and analyzing the characteristic of short-term of electrical energy consumption based on different techno-socio economic factors. Energy efficiency strategy is recommended for further research in this field of study.

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