

# Wellbeing through Entrepreneurship: Analysis by Using Capability Approach

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**Abstract:-** The core claim of the capability approach is that assessments of the well-being or quality of life of a person, and judgements about justice, or the level of development of a country, on the basis of effective opportunities that people have to lead the lives they have reason to value. Entrepreneurship Development Model for Poverty Alleviation is focused program on pro-poor marginalized community of Nepal. This paper focused on finding of research conducted on different nine indicator of achieved functioning as an impact assessment tool. Capabilities Approach (CA) argued wellbeing is enhanced by expanding the range of things a person could be or do. Secondary data are used from the office of Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City and primary data are collected through structured ordinal questionnaire survey to the sample group of 123 persons representing the population of 409. Descriptive assessment is used to analyse the impact of program on peoples' wellbeing. Individuals reported improved levels of wellbeing. High impact is shown in subjective wellbeing which is measured by overall life satisfaction, moderate impact on health, ability to be oneself, income sufficiency, friendship and decreasing feeling of loneliness and least impact on decreasing discrimination, trust on people and spending for own. The research findings show program has a positive impact on wellbeing, and it is suggested that the capabilities of beneficiaries expanded after joining the MEDEP/MEDPA program.

**Keywords:-** *Entrepreneurship Development, Well-being, Capability Approach, Functioning,*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In the last decade, the capability approach (CA) has become increasingly prominent in academia and policy making (Robeyns, 2006). The core claim of the CA is that assessments of the well-being or quality of life of a person, and judgements about equality or justice, or the level of development of a community or country, should not primarily focus on resources, or on people's mental states, but on the effective opportunities that people have to lead the lives they have reason to value (Sen, 1980, 1985, 1999 & Nussbaum 2000, 2006). The core concepts in the CA are a person's

functionings, which are her beings and doings (for example, being well-fed or literate), and her capabilities (the genuine opportunities or freedoms to realize these functionings). In academia, the approach is now part of the standard curriculum in courses on welfare economics, development studies and political philosophy, and it is regularly taught as part of courses in education, disability studies, public health, and gender studies, among others. Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has annually published the Human Development Report, which is in part based on the capability approach. Some governments are interested in the Capability Approach for national policy making. In Germany, the second national report on poverty and wealth took inspiration from the capability approach to analyse poverty and social exclusion (Robeyns, 2006).

The Microenterprise Development Model is based on a pro-poor and inclusive entrepreneur selection and entry process and a stepwise enterprise development process. The six components represent a generalization of the support requirements of micro-entrepreneurs, and the ultimate aim is to make the entrepreneurs self-sustaining (UNDP, 2018).

- Social mobilization for enterprise development
- Entrepreneurship development through capacity development
- Technical skills development
- Assess to Finance
- Appropriate Technology Testing and Transfer
- Marketing Linkage and Business Counselling

Many developing countries have adapted Micro Enterprise Development strategy to fight against poverty (Thapa, 2013). Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDEP) started in 1998 jointly by the Government of Nepal and UNDP, has targeted those living under the poverty line and marginalized, at least 70 percent women, to help them come out of poverty through micro-enterprise development (UNDP, 2010). This program is totally internalized and adapted with federal system up to Local Governments since 2018 by the GoN as it supposedly supports also the broader SDGs of gender equality (goal 5) by focusing on women entrepreneurs, decent work and economic growth (goal 8) through the various interventions targeting social change along with poverty reduction (goal 1). Microenterprises

Development Program for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) is being implemented in many Local Government units by Entrepreneurship Development Facilitators (EDF) and participant selection via GESIMIS survey software with systematic record keeping.

### B. Statement of the Problems

After the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal in 2015, and its firmer grounds for political stability as well as guarantees of fundamental rights and empowerment, the national agenda has been to usher in a new era of prosperity and human well-being. Nepal's 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan (B.S. 2076/77- 2080/81), calls for a country to move out of the Least Developed Countries category and becoming an upper middle-income country by 2030 AD. A long-term vision of a 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali' centres on human development, integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in policies and programs.

Agriculture is still the main source of livelihoods as 50.4 percent people are engaged in it, but its contribution to GDP is decreasing. Unprecedented rise in the external trade deficit, which, so far, has largely been funded by remittances inflows as a result of huge outflow of youths even we are in demographic dividend with youth population 61.96% with 15-59 age group. As a further concern, Nepal is highly prone to multiple natural disasters and ecological and environmental vulnerabilities. All these issues have significant implications for human development and sustainable economic development.

Nepal continued to loss of over 25 percent in human development due to inequalities across gender, caste, geographic region and other categories. In 2021 AD, HDI value for women was 0.584 in contrast with 0.621 for male, resulting Gender Disparity Index (GDI) value of 0.942 (UNDP, 2022). Micro enterprise development is mostly focused on women but in census 2021 ownership of fixed property of female is 23.8 which is only rise of 1.1 percent point compared to that in 2011 (CBS, 2023).

Development should be just and equitable and impact of development activities could be analysed by the capabilities and functionings. This study answered following questions:

- What is the status of personal well-being before and after the involvement of entrepreneurship development program in research area?
- What is the effect of entrepreneurship development program on personal well-being in research area?
- Is there any gender difference on level of well-being?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Functioning, capabilities and agency are main constituents of Capability Approach, which all reflect important insight into a person's freedom to live the life they value and have reason to value. Alkire has also linked the concept of empowerment to these measures on autonomy (Alkire, 2005) and Multidimensional Poverty Index. Capabilities are different combinations of functioning that a person can achieve; it also reflects his/her freedom to choose, to be the equivalent of a person's opportunity set.

The paper (Sen, 2006) highlighted that Development as Freedom proceeds from the basic recognition that freedom is both (i) the primary objective and (ii) the principle means of development. Prof. Sen (2006) classifies diverse freedoms into five different categories, namely economic empowerment, political freedoms, social opportunities, protective security and transparency guarantees. These freedoms are important individually and are also interlinked as they can assist as well as complement each other. The role of democracy and the issue of Freedom, Rights and Public discussion is analysed then in the paper. Prof. Sen argues that the commonly made generalisation that democracy slows economic growth is incorrect as empirical evidence shows otherwise (Robyens, 2006).

In his (Sen, 1985 pp. 62-85) first set of empirical illustrations of how he envisioned the capability approach in practice, Sen examined gender discrimination in India. He found that females have worse achievements than males for a number of functionings, including age-specific mortality rates, malnutrition and morbidity. In later work, he calculated that if female foetuses and daughters were treated like male foetuses and sons, there would be an additional 100 million women in the world.

Alkire (2002) developed a capability analysis as an alternative for standard cost-benefit analyses of three poverty reduction projects in Pakistan: goat rearing, female literacy classes, and rose garland production. She assessed these projects in terms of how capability-enhancing they were, and compared her evaluations with standard monetary evaluations. The goat rearing activity is a sound economic investment, although the internal rate of return depends substantially on the choice of women's shadow wages. In addition, there were a number of largely non-quantifiable effects, like the acquisition of useful knowledge and the cultivation of friendships. Whereas for the goat rearing project the evaluation of the economic and intangible social effects go in the same direction, the female literacy project is a prime example of a project that would no longer be funded if it were evaluated only on a traditional cost-benefit basis.

Because markets for female employment are effectively missing in the area of the literacy project, it had hardly any effect on women’s earnings. However, according to Alkire “it had a fundamental and transformative impact on the women students,” (Alkire, 2002 p. 256) which a purely economic analysis that only takes the quantifiable dimensions into account would miss. Through literacy the women were able to solve their own problems. They also experienced great satisfaction at being able to study. A similar relation between a negative internal rate of return on the one hand, and a number of important non-economic benefits on the other, holds for the rose cultivation project. In pure economic terms, a comparison of these three projects would clearly conclude that the goat-rearing project is superior to the other projects. However, the literacy classes had the strongest impact on knowledge and empowerment. Thus, from a capability perspective no project is clearly better than the others. As a consequence, “the choice cannot be made on technical grounds but rather is a morally significant choice.”(Alkire, 2002 p. 286) The capabilities evaluation is less precise, because it includes those dimensions that are very hard to quantify. Nevertheless, these effects are important and including them in the analysis can lead to different judgments from those drawn in standard economic evaluations.

The thesis (Duff, 2022) has provided important insight on the impact of Social Enterprises on peoples’ wellbeing. Social organisations were shown to often have a positive impact on the wellbeing of their employees. The main purpose

of the study (Bhusal, 2021) is to determine the relationship between the capability approach of Amartya Sen and the state of senior citizens in Nepal. Information used in this comparative study is secondary and obtained from various scholarly assets. Their contribution to the national economy helps directly to employment growth by developing a suitable work environment for senior citizens and giving them training for active aging.

The studies conducted by UNDP (2018, 2020) regarding the income-based poverty reduction as the impact of MEDEP/MEDPA program but there is not any research that can show the impact on wellbeing of entrepreneurs. A study (Bhandari, 2014) on women empowerment through income generation program was conducted which had included empowerment conceptual framework.

**III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study is descriptive and explanatory research using basically quantitative data and some amount of qualitative data. A longitudinal study but surveyed at once with the same question recalling the life before some years and current status. Comparison of before and after status of capabilities as achieved functioning and well-being assuming that there is significant influence of entrepreneurship development program on the expansion of capabilities. Central capabilities as laid out by Nussbaum (2000, 2011) a list of 10 that were vital for all human has been taken for analysis.

Table 1 Selection of Capabilities to Make Questionnaire

Wellbeing Domain	Corresponding Functioning	Survey Question
Subjective wellbeing	Overall life satisfaction	How satisfied are you with life as a whole, where zero is completely dissatisfied, and ten is completely satisfied? (Please circle the appropriate number)
Jobs and earnings	Income sufficiency	How well does your total income meet your everyday needs such as food, cloths etc.?
	Spending for own	How much of your income spent for your own like for your health or for your entertainment?
Health	Self-rated health status	How would you rate your general health?
Cultural identity	Ability to be oneself	How do you feel to express your identity regarding culture and beliefs that express the identity?
Social Connectedness	Level of loneliness	How often do you feel lonely in a week?
	Feeling of discrimination	What often you experience discrimination?
Civic engagement and governance	Trust on people	In general, how much do you trust most people in Nepal before and after joining the program, where 1 being not at all, and 10 being completely trusting?
Social Connections	Contact with friends	Friendship and Meeting with friends

Source: Duff, S. (2022) and Nussbaum, M. (2011)

The population for the study is marginalized group of people from the age 15 to 65 years 409 people which were selected EDF staff of DSMC since 2019. In Dhangadhi there are 334 females and 75 males in all 19 wards, who were selected, trained and recorded for entrepreneurship development which was defined as population for this study. They were trained by different skill development training.

For population under 1000 a minimum ratio of 25 to 30 percent (Hogg & Tanis, 2005) as a rule of thumb is advisable to ensure representativeness of sample. Using cluster sampling 30 percent from each ward were selected for sample. The data from primary sources collected by visiting the fields and elicit information through interpersonal interaction and use of ordinal type questionnaire. Name list of beneficiaries, their address, type of enterprises and contact numbers were recorded in the register of DSMC office Enterprise

Development Section. This is the main secondary source of the study.

The questionnaire contained close-ended questions which were measured using different point rating scale. But all scale have positive aspect toward higher level. There were 9 questions, 2 questions had 1-10 rating scale. One question had 6 scale, one question had 5 scale, 5 questions had ordinal type subjective answer with 4 scale.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

##### A. Respondent's Profile by Gender

The gender of the respondents is categorized into three groups as female, male and LGBTIQ+ community. The frequency distribution and percent composition of the different marital status group is shown.

Table 2 Respondent's Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	101	82.1
Male	22	17.9
LGBTIQ+ community	0	0
Total	123	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

##### B. Respondent's Profile by Skill

Major skills provided by Entrepreneurship Section of DSMC in research area are Dunatapari, Fibre-bag, Motor-cycle repairing, Hair-cutting, Thela-Nasta, Tailoring and some demand-based skills. The frequency distribution and percent composition of the different skills is shown.

Table 3 Respondent's Skill Profile

Skill	Frequency	Percentage
Duna Tapari	31	25.2
Fibre Bag	28	22.8
Thela Nasta	20	16.3
Motercycle Repairing	12	9.8
Hair Cutting	14	11.4
Other (vegetable farming, knitting, sewing and parlour)	18	14.6
Total	123	100

Source: DSMC Record, 2023

##### C. Descriptive Analysis

A descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to determine the mean, median mode, variance and standard deviation of each scale item as well as the overall variable. It displays a summary of the data of men and women in before-after format with the mean, standard deviation, and other metrics. There are 123 responders (N) for each question item. The following list of questions relates to each determinant and displays the descriptive statistic for each, along with the respondents' degree of agreement.

Table 4 Summary of Descriptive Statistics for Each Wellbeing Domain and Their Indicators

Wellbeing Indicators		Mean	Median	Mode	STD	Min	Max
Overall life satisfaction	B	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.89	1	10
	A	5.65	6.00	6.00	0.85	1	10
Income sufficiency	B	1.07	1.00	1.00	0.25	1	4
	A	1.60	2.00	2.00	0.54	1	4
Self-reported health status	B	2.09	2.00	2.00	0.48	1	5
	A	2.85	3.00	3.00	0.41	1	5
Level of loneliness	B	2.03	2.00	2.00	0.38	1	4
	A	2.46	2.00	2.00	0.72	1	4
Ability to be oneself (expressing cultural identity)	B	2.76	3.00	3.00	0.87	1	6
	A	3.30	3.00	3.00	1.19	1	6
Discrimination	B	2.07	2.00	2.00	0.50	1	4
	A	2.16	2.00	2.00	0.58	1	4
Trust on people	B	3.46	4.00	4.00	0.92	1	10
	A	3.52	4.00	4.00	1.00	1	10
Friendship	B	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.26	1	4
	A	2.28	2.00	2.00	0.56	1	4
Spending for own	B	2.01	2.00	2.00	0.27	1	4
	A	2.08	2.00	2.00	0.44	1	4

Source: Calculation by using SPSS

Each variable is split into two. 'B' denotes response of questions recalling the condition before involvement in the program and its training of entrepreneurship development. 'A' denotes the current condition which is after of the involvement in program.

The average overall life satisfaction of individuals (n=123) prior of program was  $4 \pm 0.89$  while after joining the program was  $5.65 \pm 0.85$ . There was an increase of 1.65 in mean overall life satisfaction after individuals were connected with program.

Increase of 0.53 in mean income sufficiency and increase of 0.76 in mean self-reported health status. Similarly, increase in mean of level of feeling loneliness in a week is 0.43. Ability to be oneself is measured by feeling towards expressing cultural identity. Its mean value is increased by 0.56 after involvement in program. Feeling of discrimination is also increased toward sometimes only by minimal value of its mean is 0.07 only. It shows that there is very less impact on decreasing the discrimination by MEDPA program. Trust on people and its mean value is also increased only by 0.06 that is no significant impact on building trust by program.

Friendship is the indicator of connectedness and its mean value is increased by 0.28 after program. Spending the income for owns personal development and entertainment is also increased with the time but by very less amount of mean value that is 0.07.

Result obtained following non-parametric Wilcoxon test with significant threshold  $p < 0.01$  confirmed all hypothesis concerning gender differences on variables overall life satisfaction, income sufficiency, health, level of loneliness, expressing identity, feeling of discrimination, trust on people, friendship and spending for own. Four hypotheses were drawn for the objective of this study. Test of each hypothesis is at the level  $p < 0.05$  and accepted hypothesis are:

There are significant differences in mean value of well-being indicators before and after implementation of program. This is accepted on the basis of analysis of table 4.3. There are significant that is more than 0.5 to 1.65 increase in mean value of each indicator after the implementation of program.

#### D. Gendered Descriptive Analysis

Calculating the value of selected functioning of capabilities for 22 male participants and 101 female participants separately, shows the following values of descriptive analysis.

Table 5 Summary of Gendered Descriptive Statistics for Each Wellbeing Domain and Their Indicators

Wellbeing Indicators		Mean		Change in mean	SD		Mode	
		B	A		B	A	B	A
Overall life satisfaction	Female (n=101)	4.0	5.6	+0.6	0.9	0.8	4.0	5.0
	Male (n=22)	4.3	5.8	+1.5	0.9	1.0	4.0	6.0
Income sufficiency	Female (n=101)	1.1	1.6	+0.5	0.2	0.5	1.0	2.0
	Male (n=22)	1.1	1.8	+0.7	0.3	0.7	1.0	2.0
Self-reported health status	Female (n=101)	2.1	2.8	+0.7	0.4	0.4	2.0	3.0
	Male (n=22)	2.1	3.0	+0.9	0.7	0.4	2.0	3.0
Level of loneliness	Female (n=101)	2.0	2.4	+0.4	0.4	0.7	2.0	2.0
	Male (n=22)	2.1	2.7	+0.6	0.5	0.9	2.0	2.0
Ability to be oneself (expressing cultural identity)	Female (n=101)	2.8	3.2	+0.4	0.8	1.2	3.0	3.0
	Male (n=22)	2.7	3.7	+1.0	1.2	1.3	3.0	5.0
Discrimination	Female (n=101)	2.1	2.2	+0.1	0.5	0.6	2.0	3.0
	Male (n=22)	2.1	2.2	+0.1	0.6	0.7	2.0	2.0
Trust on people	Female (n=101)	3.5	3.5	+0.0	0.9	1.0	4.0	4.0
	Male (n=22)	3.5	3.6	+0.1	1.1	1.2	4.0	4.0
Friendship	Female (n=101)	2.0	2.2	+0.2	0.2	0.5	2.0	2.0
	Male (n=22)	2.0	2.5	+0.5	0.3	0.7	2.0	2.0
Spending for own	Female (n=101)	2.0	2.0	+0.0	0.2	0.4	2.0	2.0
	Male (n=22)	2.1	2.4	+0.3	0.4	0.6	2.0	2.0

Source: Calculation using SPSS, 2024

There are no significant gender differences for variable feeling of discrimination only. Improved but in the same amount for both male and female. There are significant gender differences for all other indicators of wellbeing. There is difference (more than 0.05) in difference in mean value for male and female after the program.

**V. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATION**

*A. Conclusions*

The results show the sample group reported improved wellbeing after joining a MEDPA and its training. Individuals reported being more satisfied with life; more socially connected; and more trusting of others. The findings show beneficiaries achieved enhanced states of being and doing. Descriptive statistical analysis found changes across the social connections, jobs and earnings, and civic engagement and governance wellbeing domains, were linked to the changes reported in overall life satisfaction. The descriptive statistics also show reported changes in wellbeing varied between two gender groups. These changes suggest the opportunities and freedoms available to individuals expanded after joining the program.

The results indicate that participants in the MEDPA and its training experienced an improvement in their overall wellbeing. Many individuals expressed greater life satisfaction, increased social connections, and heightened trust in others. The findings demonstrate that beneficiaries attained better states of being and doing. Descriptive statistical analysis

revealed that changes in social connections, employment and income, as well as civic engagement and governance, were associated with the overall increase in life satisfaction. Additionally, the data showed that the reported changes in wellbeing differed between the two gender groups that is positive impact is for both gender in different amount. These findings suggest that individuals experience an expansion of opportunities and freedoms after joining the program.

From table 4.3, impact of program in different indicators of well-being domain can be divided into three categories. High impact is shown in subjective wellbeing which is measured by overall life satisfaction on 10-point scale and increased by 1.65 in its mean value. Second category is moderate impact with increased mean value from 0.10 to 1.0. In this category health, ability to be oneself, income sufficiency, friendship and decreasing feeling of loneliness fall. Third category is least impact on decreasing discrimination, trust on people and spending for own.

Both males and females were benefited by the program but there is gender difference in all domain of wellbeing except the feeling of discrimination. From the table 4.4, mean value of different wellbeing indicators of males were more increased than females.

The difference in increased mean value for overall life satisfaction is 0.9 more in men than women. Income sufficiency, self-reported health status, level of loneliness were with 0.2 more for men in their mean value. The indicator

ability to be oneself is more for by 0.6 more in the mean value for men. The study revealed that there is not any impact of program for women for two indicators, trust on people (governance) and spending for own. Trust on people as its mean value increased by 0.1 for men but 0 for women. The indicator friendship got increased mean value of men more by 0.3 than women.

The Program has impact on capacity development of a person as the life satisfaction and identity expression are rises after the program. Women are more satisfied with life from this program as compared to men. But in case of social discrimination there is very less impact almost no impact of program. The program is more effective for female but this should include the concept of minimization of discrimination through the program.

### B. Implication

Capability Approach analysis and its measuring tools can be used to plan better and effective program at local level. Identification of the issues of different group of society makes development process more sustainable and inclusive at each unit of Government. Human development and justice both are related with the Capability Approach so employment generation should align with multidimensional development of people and the justice of community.

Entrepreneurship can be a human functioning and can contribute towards expanding the set of human capabilities through being both a resource and a process (Gries, T. & Naude, W., 2011). Expansion of micro, domestic and small enterprises is being an effective tool in the countries like Indonesia and India, to minimize the condition of outflow of youths for dirty and dangerous work in abroad.

The study to access the impact of micro-enterprise development program on wellbeing or achieved functioning indicators in local level, DSMC, where there is not any research on the impact on wellbeing. Findings of this research can provide valuable information about the Capability approach and promote its applicability in economic development area.

The study has taken only 9 variables of wellbeing or/and achieved functioning for the study of different domain and dimensions of wellbeing. Public policy ought to play a pivotal role in enhancing the capabilities of individuals, enabling them to pursue and attain lives they value and have reason to value. This study can help to inform and support governments, local, provincial and federal policy and decision making process concerning Nepal's enterprise and social development sector. This study is an invaluable tool for Nepal's ongoing efforts to more smooth and sustainable transition and irreversible graduation by modifying the model of entrepreneurship development towards more just and effective. It creates an environment to design and monitor programs at Local Level

using perspectives of the Capability Approach. Concept of CA and findings of this study is applicable for development planning, monitoring and evaluation. Here are some implication areas listed below that need further study and consideration.

- To study the impact of income generation activities on wellbeing of women taking more diverse population and group.
- Policy makers can use the concept of Capability approach to make more effective policies and program. Especially it will be helpful for Local Governments.
- Entrepreneurship development program can be made more effective to make irreversible human development and to eradicate poverty by using CA.
- Socio-cultural barriers and can be identified and impact can be assessed on differently for different socio-demographic groups.

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