



“Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
in Schools Building on What Children Value and Aspire
to Do and Be”

Cross-Country Data Brochure: Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh

What are Capabilities, Functionings, and the Capability List?

Capabilities are defined as a person's ability to achieve valuable acts or states of being. They represent an individual's freedoms or opportunities to do or be what they reflectively value (Sen, 1993). For example, access to quality education or the ability to participate in community decisions reflects a person's capabilities. Functionings refer to the achieved outcomes or realized states of being and doing that result from utilizing capabilities. Examples include being literate, participating in community activities, or maintaining good health (Sen, 1980). While functioning represents actual achievements, capabilities emphasize the freedom to make choices. A capability list defines the essential opportunities (capabilities) individuals need to achieve meaningful states of being or doing (functionings). It outlines specific dimensions of well-being or valuable opportunities that individuals should have access to in a particular context. These lists are not fixed but are developed through public reasoning and contextual analysis to reflect what people have reason to value (Nussbaum, 2000; Sen, 1993).

Capability List and its Connection with Children's Well-being

The Capability Approach (CA) provides a conceptual framework to evaluate and enhance children's well-being by focusing on their freedoms, opportunities, and the environments that shape their development. The capability list is vital for assessing children's well-being, as it captures its multidimensional nature, including emotional, cognitive, and social dimensions, while emphasizing children's agency and dynamic development. Addressing unique needs such as education, health, and emotional security, prevents irreversible capability failures and promotes growth during formative years. Unlike a one-size-fits-all list for adults, a children-specific capability list considers their evolving capacities, agency, and dependence on caregivers and societal structures. Additionally, the list incorporates inter-generational dynamics and children's participation in decisions, ensuring a holistic approach to their development and well-being.

Methodology: Data were collected from focus group discussions conducted separately with boys and girls in different community schools in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

- 26 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted engaging 234 students in Nepal.
- 10 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted engaging 100 students in Bhutan
- 16 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted engaging 116 students in Bangladesh.

Capability List/Domain Evaluated by Children

- Life/Physical Health
- Religion and Identity
- Love and Care
- Mental Well-being
- Participation
- Education
- Bodily Integrity
- Social Relations
- Freedom from Economic/Non-Economic Exploitation
- Respect
- Leisure Activities
- Nutritional Well-being
- Mobility
- Spirituality
- Understand and Interpret
- Time Autonomy
- Plan/Imagine and Think
- Aspiration
- Shelter and Environment
- Personal Autonomy
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Curriculum



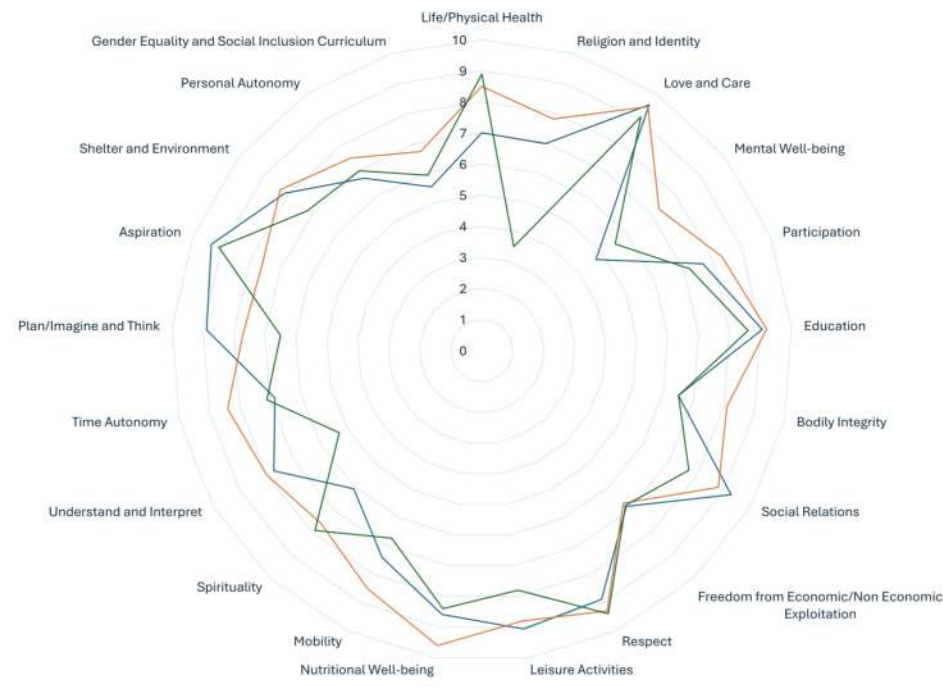
1. Do Children Understand their Capabilities?

Based on the capability approach domains, the spider chart illustrates students' responses, which were calculated on a scale from 0 to 10 according to their level of understanding.

Capability List; Aggregate Data from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh



Capability List; Cross-country Data



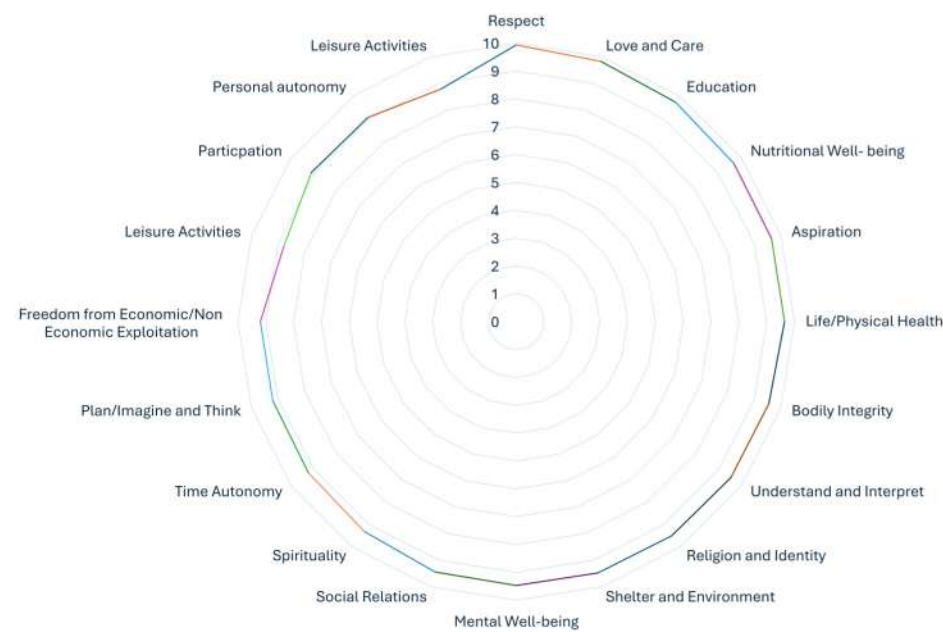
Boys & Girls Ranking; Aggregate Data from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh



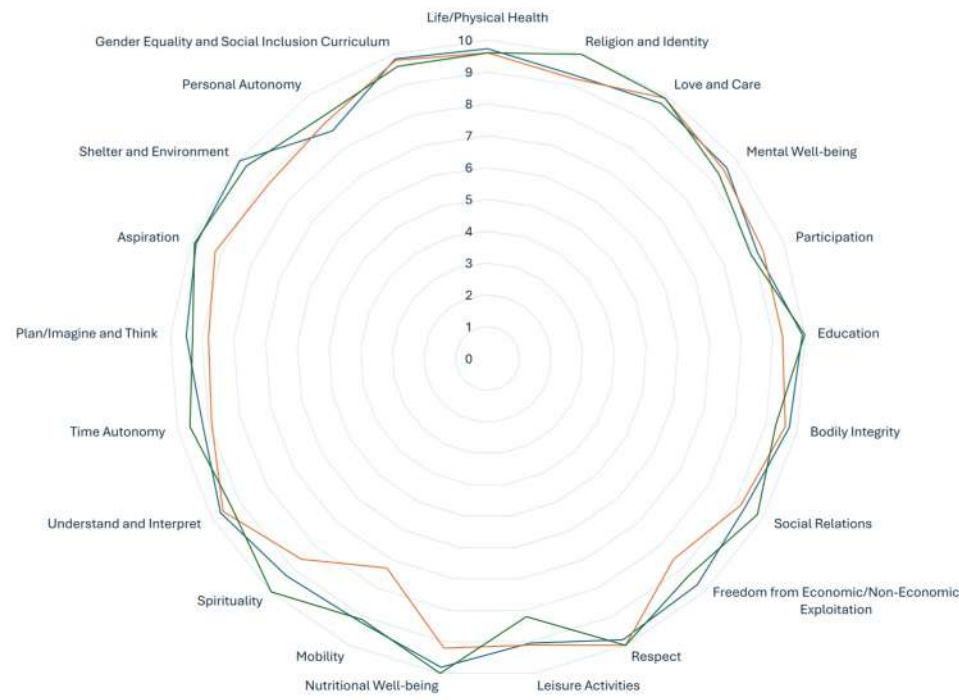
2. How Important are these Capabilities for Children?

Based on the capability approach domains, the spider chart illustrates students' responses, which were calculated on a scale from 0 to 10 according to their level of importance.

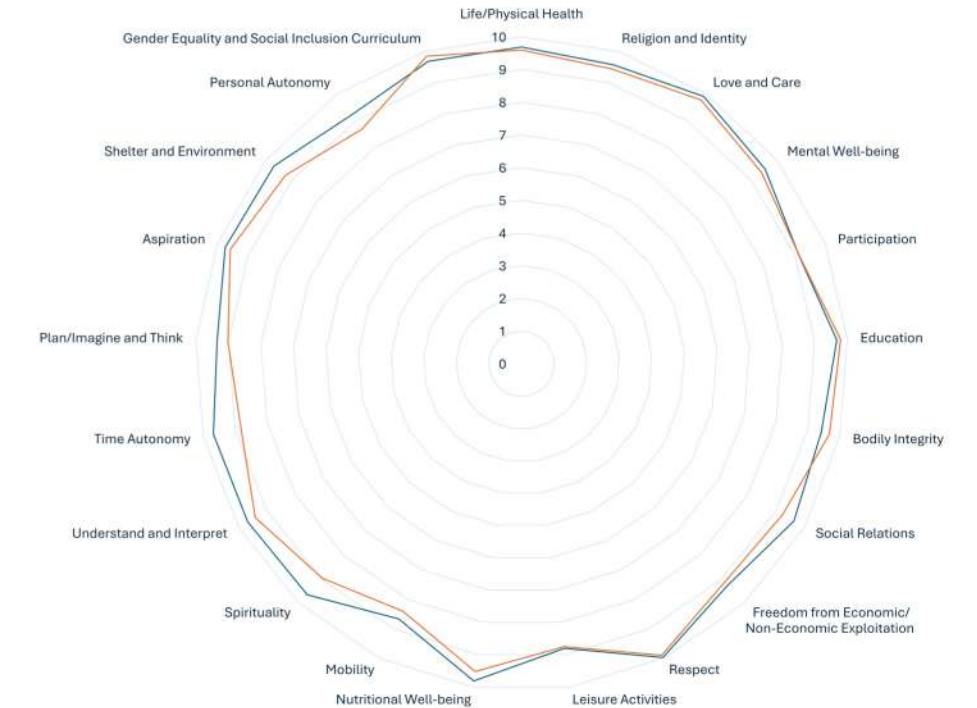
Capability List; Aggregate Data from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh



Capability List; Cross-country Data



Boys & Girls Ranking; Aggregate Data from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh



What do Children Value within their School Environment?

Word cloud representing children's valuables within their school environment.

Nepal

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Boys' Arts

Washroom Desk/Bench/Chair Classroom
Water/Water Pump Water Filter
 Computer Lab/Computer Science Lab Temple
 Flag **School/School Building**
 Star/Heart Vehicle Library **Dustbin/Broom**
Ball/Bat/Play Materials
 Fan/Electricity Health Post Board/Smart Board
Flower/Garden/Tree Book/Copy
 Fruits/Healthy Food **Playground** Drum Set

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Girls' Arts

Ball/Bat/Play Materials Science Lab
 Canteen Temple **Washroom** Book/Copy
 Board/Smart Board Fruits/Healthy Food Clock
 Flag **Library** Health Post Swings/Slides Participation
 Vehicle **School/School Building**
 Computer Lab/Computer Stage
 Desk/Bench/Chair Fan/Electricity Classroom
 Dustbin/Broom **Flower/Garden/Tree**
 Water/Water Pump Water Filter **Filter/Water Tap**
Friends/Teachers Education/Respect

Bangladesh

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Boys' Arts

School/School Building
 Water/Water Pump/Water Filter
 Library **Washroom** Desk/Bench/Chair
 Vehicle **Fan/Electricity/Watch** Flag Board/Smart Board
 Food Canteen Monument/Shahid Minar
 Computer Lab/Computer **Classroom**
 Office Science Lab **Playground**
 School Gate **Ball/Bat/Play Materials** Temple
 Dust Bin/Broom

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Girls' Arts

Electricity Minar Bench Tap Food **Building** Slides
Board Washroom Monument Ground
 Gate **Flag Room** Desk Chair Academy
 Healthy Materials Lab Clock Logo Library Bin Butterflies shop Vehicle Birds
 Flower **School** **Water** Canteen Classroom Swings
 Pump Play Prayer Ball **Water** Common Shahid Fan Canteen Classroom
 Computer Garden Smart Filter Broom Dust

Bhutan

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Boys' Arts

health services badminton court
 dining hall kfc restaurant
 school buildings it laboratory school canteen
 teachers
 playground bhhu library **lhakhang**
 swimming pool
 kitchen furniture voting class mph statue disco light counselling services
 classroom transport **entry gates** sports

Word Cloud of School Mapping through Girls' Arts

school buildings
 games and sports
 scouts day canteen equal vote
 books and pen **toilets** meals
 counselling services
 prayer wheel **teacher** health room
 equal treatment chorten
 library computers
 picnic dining hall garden
 national flag classroom no bullying
 flower pot



LEARNING,
INNOVATION &
KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE

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