

**A Constructive Intervention in Martha Nussbaum's and Ingrid Robeyns'
Capabilitarianism and its Implications for Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

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Certification

This is to certify that Ayomide Opeyemi Ajiboye with the matric number LCU/PG/001826 carried out this research work titled “A Constructive Intervention in Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns’ Capabilitarianism and its Implications for Sustainable Development in Nigeria (2012-2022)” in the Department of Politics and International relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in International Political Philosophy and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty and to the memory of my late parents, Engr. Julius Folorunso and Mrs. Adenike Olayinka Ajiboye who gave us the best Legacy; EDUCATION.

Lead City University Ibadan DO NOT COPY

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in this work.

Abstract

Capability Approach is one of the topics examined in development studies, it emphasizes the understanding that human welfare and giving human beings the opportunity to live a dignified life that is free of limitations is important to economic success and this can in turn, help to create sustainable development. Creating Sustainable Development is of significant importance as it helps to address the social, economic and environmental challenges faced in Nigeria. However, there has been a major problem in Nigeria towards achieving sustainable development in Nigeria in line with the vision 2030 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This study seeks to do a constructive intervention in Martha Nussbaum's and Ingrid Robeyns' Capabilitarianism vis-à-vis solving the problem of sustainable development in Nigeria. It employs a qualitative research design using the method of secondary data collection in order to systematically analyze the data before relevant conclusions are drawn. In achieving sustainable development in Nigeria, especially the SDGs 1, 3, and 5, there is a need for constructive intervention using the capability frameworks of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns. This is done by harnessing the strength of both approaches and doing away with the weaknesses in order to promote human well-being and achieve the sustainable development goals, some of which includes emphasizing the central human capabilities needed to achieve a dignified life, advancing equality and social justice and more through several constructive interventions needed to improve their lives and guarantee a future that is richer and more sustainable. The belief is that society is ultimately human-driven. Thus, if the SDGS 1, 3 and 5 are theoretically pursued and practices, then the developed Nigerians, in turn, fundamentally work towards the institutional development of the Nigerian State.

Keywords: Capability Approach, Sustainable Development, Capabilitarianism, Nigeria, Sustainable Development Goals.

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
ERGP	National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NSIP	National Social Investment Programmes
NYIF	National Youth Investment Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UBE	Universal Basic Education
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YES	Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

In the discourse of International Political Philosophy area of research focus, the problem of development is one of the central issues of concern, be it at the state level or transnational level. On this problem, International Political Philosophy critically and systematically examines and interrogates the ends and means of public policies formulated and implemented for development objectives, be it at the state level or at the transnational level. A significant area of International Political Philosophy that morally focuses on development issues is development ethics.

Development ethics could also be said to be a sub-field of Applied Ethics. For development ethicists, development ethics is perceived as both the ethical reflection on the means and on the ends of local, national and international economic development¹. This gives room for analysis, evaluation and action regarding various societies with special reference to suffering, injustice within societies and between societies at a global scale². Development ethics typically takes a normative stance, asking questions about the nature of ethically desirable development and what ethics means for achieving development, and discusses various ethical dilemmas that the practice of development has led to³. There are different key development ethicists amongst which are David .A. Crocker, Amartya Sen, Denis Goutlet, Martha Nussbaum, Ingrid Robeyns, Gunnar Myrdal and Louis- Joseph Lebret amongst others.

Development ethics borrows freely from the works of economists, political scientists, planners, agronomers and other specialists of other disciplines⁴. Ethics places each disciplines' concept of development in a broad evaluative framework, therein development ultimately means the quality of life and the progress of societies towards values expressed in various cultures. Although development can be wholly studied as an economic, political or social phenomenon, its ultimate goals are those of existence itself which is to provide all human with the opportunity to live full human lives⁵.

Development ethics is a moral assessment of the theory and practices of development which has different sources. A source of development ethics is found in the work of Amartya Sen, an Indian American economist and political philosopher who has addressed the causes of global economic inequality, hunger and underdevelopment and addressed these problems with a conception of development explicitly based on ethical principles. Amartya Sen describes development as freedom, and the internal and external development of capabilities are both goals and means of achieving freedom⁶. It is important to note that development ethics deploys philosophical tools of research, combined with ethical thinking and practice, to issues relating to the ends and means of development policy making and policy implementation in the modern state.

The capability approach, one of the topics in development studies, emphasizes the understanding that improvement of human welfare and enabling them to live dignified lives are equally important to economic success. Instead of concentrating merely on the means or resources that people have, the capability approach focuses on

identifying and developing the substantive freedoms and opportunities that people have to live the lives they value. The capability approach emphasizes the significance of elements like education, healthcare, political engagement, access to resources, social relationships, and individual agency in development processes by taking people's capabilities into account⁷. It acknowledges that rather than focusing solely on an individual's material circumstances, development results should be assessed in relation to the opportunities and options accessible to them. Additionally, the capability approach highlights how development is multifaceted, taking into account not only economic factors but also social, political, and cultural elements. In order to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to access and benefit from capabilities, it is acknowledged that development should be inclusive, egalitarian, and sustainable.

Policymakers and stakeholders can go beyond limited economic indicators and prioritize initiatives that empower people, improve their capabilities, and advance social justice by incorporating the capability approach into development frameworks and policies. It offers a larger and more comprehensive knowledge of development, enabling more inclusive and thorough solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Capabilitarianism otherwise called Capability approach is a normative approach to human welfare that concentrates on the actual capability of persons to achieve their well-being rather than on their mere right or freedom to do so⁸. It was conceived in the 1980s as an alternative approach to welfare economics⁹. It is a theoretical approach to quality-of-life assessment and to issues about basic social justice,

which emerged as an alternative, in the global development context, to theories that focus on economic growth as the main indication of a nation or region's quality of life.

Although the capability approach can be traced back to the works of Aristotle, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx, the approach was pioneered by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum and a growing number of other scholars who have significantly helped to develop it. Like the Kantian approach, capability approach treats each person as an end and not as a means to an end, asking not just about the total or average achievements of a nation, but concerned with the opportunity available to each person¹⁰. Its main focus is centered on freedom which maintains that the most crucial thing societies should be promoting for their people is a set of opportunities or substantial freedom which people may or may not choose to exercise in action. For Amartya Sen, for people to work better, our policies should focus on what people can be or are able to do and also removing obstacles from their lives so that they are able to function better and have freedom to live the kind of life they choose. He talks about functioning, for him, individuals can differ greatly in their abilities to convert the same resources into valuable functioning¹¹.

A philosophical and ethical framework known as capabilitarianism places the advancement of human potential at the forefront of social and political advancement¹². It developed from the research of academics like Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns and expands on Amartya Sen's larger capability approach. The understanding of each person's inherent worth and dignity is the theoretical cornerstone of capabilitarianism. It

highlights the fact that people possess a variety of capabilities or modes of operation that allow them to lead lives that are worthy of value. These talents cover a wide range of areas, such as education, possibilities for social and economic mobility, political engagement, and individual liberties. Capabilitarianism opposes limiting measurements of wellbeing like GDP or money and instead emphasizes the real freedoms and chances that people have to pursue the lives they value¹³. It acknowledges that everyone has different goals and priorities, and that determining one's level of well-being should be based on how effectively they can pursue their own objectives and live happy lives.

Some of Capabilitarianism's major tenets are:

Multidimensional Approach: Capabilitarianism places a strong emphasis on a multidimensional perspective of wellbeing that takes into account a variety of capabilities required for a person to flourish. It acknowledges that people have a variety of needs and interests, and that their wellbeing cannot be summed up in just one factor or metric¹⁴.

Agency and Freedom: Individual agency and freedom are highly valued by capabilitarianism. It emphasizes increasing people's capabilities and liberties so they can make decisions and live the lives they value. It acknowledges that people should be free to select their own goals and have access to the means and opportunity necessary to pursue them

Social Fairness and Equity: Capabilitarianism emphasizes the significance of social fairness and equity in advancing human potential. It aims to address the disparities and

structural impediments that restrict people's potential and chances. It demands equitable resource allocation as well as social policies that support equal access to healthcare, employment, and political involvement.

Human Dignity: Capabilitarianism is based on the idea that every person is worthy of respect and dignity. It emphasizes the value of upholding each person's dignity, acknowledging their strengths, and creating the environment necessary for their growth and wellbeing.

Capabilitarianism has seen considerable advancements in light of the works of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns, who have improved its theoretical foundations and practical applications. The prominent writings of Martha Nussbaum, especially her book "Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach," provides a thorough foundation for Capabilitarianism. She defined ten central talents, including life, bodily health, bodily integrity, senses, imagination, thought, emotions, practical reason, affiliation, and control over one's surroundings, as being necessary for human flourishing¹⁵. She also emphasized the significance of human agency and functioning in obtaining well-being¹⁶. She made the case that the availability of enabling conditions, such as access to political freedoms, healthcare, and education, allows people to use their capabilities and operate effectively in a variety of spheres of life¹⁷ and also emphasized how personal agency shapes one's abilities and way of living. Around the world, policy debates and development frameworks have also been influenced by Nussbaum's list of central human capabilities. It offers a foundation for analyzing social

interventions and policies, as well as for gauging people's freedom and well-being within a society¹⁸.

The "cart wheel" method of Capabilitarianism, which builds on Nussbaum's list of essential capabilities, was developed by Robeyns. She stated that the capability approach should be represented as a cart wheel, with the functioning achievements serving as the rim and the central capabilities serving as the spokes. This method enables the consideration of extra abilities that might differ between situations and societies. Robeyns also established the idea of "sufficiency thresholds" in the context of the capability approach¹⁹. She stated that it is not sufficient to only concentrate on enhancing capabilities; care must also be taken to make sure that people have enough of each capability to live honourably. She proposed the idea of setting minimum thresholds for each capability to guarantee a life of basic dignity. She also emphasised the significance of relational capabilities, emphasising how social and relational aspects affect an individual's capabilities. She made the case that social networks, personal connections, and the effectiveness of interactions all have a big impact on how capable and happy people are.

Martha Nussbaum's version of capability approach which is the capability theory of justice is a work deriving from the requirements of human dignity, a list of central capabilities to be incorporated into national constitutions and guaranteed to all, up to a certain threshold²⁰. Ingrid Robeyns' capability approach is a critique of Martha Nussbaum's capability approach in which she faults Nussbaum's capability approach

and offered an alternative which is the cartwheel view of approach²¹. The contributions of Nussbaum and Robeyns to the growth and improvement of Capabilitarianism have deepened and broadened its theoretical underpinnings. The understanding of the complexity of human wellbeing, agency, and the significance of social and relational elements in determining people's potential has been improved by their work. Their theories and frameworks offer useful resources for policy analysis, the promotion of social justice, and real-world actions meant to improve human potential and advance sustainable development.

Sustainable development is of significant importance in Nigeria as it addresses the country's social, economic, and environmental challenges. By promoting social equity, economic diversification, and environmental stewardship, sustainable development can enhance the well-being of Nigerians, reduce poverty and inequality, create economic opportunities, and preserve the country's natural resources for future generations.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Capability Approach faces a problem of plurality. The capability approach presumes that the notion of a good life and purpose for every human is the same such that it is assumed that good health, good life, and the need for sexual partners, and so on are goals which every human chase and their capabilities to achieve it must be aided or enabled. From the perception of Ralph Baton Perry's axiological subjectivism, we may say that the good is actually an object of interest. An academic sees good life in

achieving great academic prowess while another sees it as the magnitude of wealth amassed. Every human is unique and so is their capabilities and also their interests. So, capability approach seems to take for granted the fact that there is no uniformity in what we term good life, also our capability to achieve it differs. We may say in contrast that both our definition of good and capabilities are indeterminate and diverse. Capabilities differ from A-Z. Thus, what the theory states is the capabilities of each human person ought to be developed as much as possible. A lot of scholars have spoken about development in Nigeria. There has rarely been any scholar that has addressed the problem of development in Nigeria using the Capability Approach.

Nigeria faces many difficulties in achieving sustainable development, which includes social, economic, and environmental aspects. Despite efforts to resolve these issues, there is still a problem with effectively converting theoretical frameworks like Capability Approach into real-world solutions that support sustainable development. A positive solution that adheres to the Capability Approach tenets and successfully handles the unique difficulties Nigeria's sustainable development context presents is required. The issue statement focuses on identifying the obstacles and constraints impeding Capability Approach's successful implementation in Nigeria and analysing the potential for a beneficial intervention that incorporates the ideas of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns within the Nigerian context. By addressing this issue, the study hopes to assist in the creation of sustainable development plans that prioritize human capabilities, well-being, and equitable development in Nigeria.

1.3 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the research work is to show how sustainable development in Nigeria especially SDGs 1, 3, and 5 can be achieved using the Capability Approaches of both Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns. The specific objectives are to:

1. examine the concept and the theory of Capability approach
2. investigate how Capabilitarianism's tenets and ideas fit with the nation of Nigeria's social, economic, and environmental problems
3. comparatively examine the theories of capability of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns, drop the individual weaknesses and harmonize the strengths
4. put forth beneficial interventions that are applicable and appropriate for the Sustainable Development in Nigeria, solves the problems that have been discovered, and draws on the ideas of capabilities, wellbeing, and social justice.
5. show the significance of capabilitarianism generally and how it can be deployed to address the problem of Sustainable Development in Nigeria and be useful to policy makers, researchers and the general public.

1.4 Research Questions

This research work will attempt to answer the following questions;

1. how can capability approach be explained as a concept and as a theory?
2. how does capability ideas and tenets fit with the notion of Nigeria's social, economic and environmental problems?
3. how can the theories of capability of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns be explained, as well as identifying the individual weaknesses and harmonizing the strengths of both theories?
4. what beneficial interventions are applicable and appropriate for Sustainable Development in Nigeria drawing on the ideas of capabilities, wellbeing, and social justice?
5. how is Capability significant to addressing the problem of Sustainable Development in Nigeria and how can it be adopted for use by policy makers, researcher and the general public?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Particularly in areas like human development, social justice, gender equality, and sustainable development, capability has had a significant impact on the creation of policy frameworks and development initiatives. It provides a thorough strategy that looks beyond specific economic indicators to take into account people's overall well-being and the development of a more just and inclusive society. Capability approach is sometimes understood as a formula for interpersonal comparisons of welfare in the sense that it provides a basis for analysis for carrying out empirical exercises in welfare comparisons. This work will be relevant to policy formulators as well as policy

implementers who seek to gain more knowledge on human development as a whole and this study hopes to advance knowledge of Capabilitarianism as a framework for sustainable development in Nigeria, identify particular obstacles and constraints present in the nation's context, suggest a helpful intervention to overcome those obstacles, and assess the potential effects of the intervention on advancing sustainable development and improving the quality of life for Nigerians.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

Both Nussbaum and Robeyns have developed intricate and comprehensive theories of capability. Integrating and applying these theories to a real-world context like sustainable development in Nigeria can be challenging due to their theoretical depth and complexity. Combining philosophical theories with real-world policy analysis often requires interdisciplinary research and applying a theory developed in a Western context like the capabilities approach to a vastly different context requires adaptations and a deep understanding of Nigerian society. Balancing this depth of analysis with the scope of this thesis was challenging and as such, accessing enough academic literature for this work was a hurdle as there was no prior research work on capability approach and sustainable development in Nigeria.

1.7 Operational Definitions of Terms

Capability: In this study, this term is referred to as what people are able to do and be and the life that they are able to lead themselves after all limitations has been removed.

Functioning: this refers to as the capabilities that have been achieved

Poverty: the deprivation of capabilities which is as a result of lack of freedom to do what they have reason to value.

Agency: this term refers to a person's role as a member of a society with the capability to have the freedom to enjoy political, social and economic participation.

Sustainable Development: this is defined as the development that meets and preserve the needs of the people presently without affecting those of the future generations in order to meet their own needs as well.

Constructive Intervention: this is a precise and detailed explanation of what, in a certain circumstance or setting, qualifies as an effective or beneficial intervention. It is a means of defining and assessing an intervention's efficacy in light of quantifiable and observable results or standards.

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Capability Approach

Researchers and policymakers have become more interested in the capabilities approach during the past years. Many people have read about the strategy and are interested in learning more. However, the capability approach's highly interdisciplinary nature has resulted in a body of literature that is dispersed over a number of journals, necessitating the writing of a survey article.

It is employed in a wide range of academic disciplines, and it is found to be most prominent in development studies, welfare economics, social policy and political philosophy. It can be applied to evaluate issues like inequality, poverty, the well-being of an individual or different member of a society. It can also be employed as a framework for the design and evaluation of policies which ranges from welfare state design in affluent societies to development policies by government and non-government organizations in developing countries¹. Capability Approach also provides the theoretical foundations for the human development paradigm which is also described as an alternative to neo liberalism and the so-called “Washington Consensus”². As a theory, the capability approach does not explain poverty, inequality or well-being. Rather, it provides a range of concepts and a normative framework within which to conceptualize and evaluate these phenomena. Capability describes a person’s

capabilities as being a set of things that a person is able to do or can actually be. This is in contrast to approaches that concentrates on a person's happiness, desires, income and expenditures.

Capability theorists have argued that our evaluations and policies should lay emphasis more on what people are capable of doing or to become, the quality of their life and getting rid of obstacles that prevent them from having the freedom to live the kind of life they desire. In capability approach, only the ends have intrinsic importance, although means are instrumental to reaching the goals of increased well-being, justice and development³. The ends of wellbeing, justice and development should however be conceptualized in terms of people's capabilities to function, that is, their effective opportunity to undertake the actions and activities that they want to engage in and to be the kind of person that they want to be. These beings and doings called 'functioning' together constitute what makes a life valuable. Functioning includes working, resting, being literate, being healthy, being part of a community, practicing a religion and so on.

However, the distinction between achieved functioning and capabilities is between that which is realized (achievement) and that which is effectively possible (freedom). That which is ultimately important is that people have the freedom (capability) to live the kind of life they desire to life, to do what they want to do and to be what they want to be. Once the opportunity is presented to them, they have the option to choose what they value most. For example, everyone has the opportunity to be part of a community and choose to practice whatever religion they want to practice. It is now up to them whether they want to be a Christian, Muslim or an atheist⁴. Capability

approach also evaluates the effect of policies on people's capabilities. It questions whether people are being healthy, and whether the means or resources necessary for this capability are present such as clean water, access to medical facilities, and protection from infections and so on⁵. It also asks which social and economic institutions are most suitable for expanding people's valuable capabilities. For instance, it focuses on whether people have genuine opportunities to be well-fed, and whether the conditions for this, such as access to sufficient food supplies are being met, it queries whether people have access to high quality educational system, community activities and so on which provides support in coping with the struggles of daily life. Capability approach makes a distinction from standard economic practices in its definition of means and ends. The ends of a wellbeing are a person's functionings and capabilities. The means of well-being are resources, as these includes goods, services and other aspects that play an instrumental role in the production of well-being including social capital and people's time allocations⁶. Resources should therefore not be thought to be exchangeable for money or income as often understood in economics. Resources in this context go beyond money or income and it can be called "capability inputs". The relation between capability inputs and capabilities is influenced by conversion factors which may be classified into three categories⁷. First, personal conversion factors, examples of these are; physical conditions, metabolism, sex, intelligence and reading skills, influence how a person can convert the characteristics of capability input into functioning. Secondly, social conversion factors; examples of which are social norms, public policies, social hierarchies, gender roles and thirdly, environmental conversion

factors which includes climate and geographical locations, play an important role in the conversion of resources (capability inputs) to functionings. Without the availability of the resources needed, it will be impossible to enable functioning⁸.

The conversion factors also help to highlight the importance of human diversity in the capability approach. The approach takes account of human diversity in two ways, by its focus on the plurality of functioning, and capabilities as the evaluative space and by its explicit focus on personal, social and environmental conversion factors of inputs into functioning⁹.

2.1.2 Proponents of Capability Approach

The Capability Approach, developed by Amartya Sen and further elaborated by Martha Nussbaum, has gained widespread recognition and has been embraced and expanded upon by numerous scholars and researchers across various fields. Many prominent thinkers and organizations have become proponents of the Capability Approach. Some of the key proponents are discussed below;

Amartya Sen: As the primary architect of the Capability Approach, Amartya Sen is a leading advocate and proponent of the framework. His influential works, such as "Development as Freedom" and "The Idea of Justice," have shaped the understanding and application of the Capability Approach in the context of development, welfare economics, and social justice¹⁰.

Martha Nussbaum: As a feminist political philosopher and close collaborator of Sen, Martha Nussbaum has significantly contributed to the Capability Approach,

particularly in formulating the idea of central human capabilities and her list of ten capabilities, which are essential for human flourishing¹¹.

Sabina Alkire: An economist and development scholar, Sabina Alkire has worked extensively on the measurement and application of the Capability Approach. She co-developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with James Foster, which uses capability-based indicators to assess poverty beyond income measures¹².

Ingrid Robeyns: A philosopher and economist, Ingrid Robeyns has made substantial contributions to the Capability Approach, focusing on issues of inequality, justice, and the measurement of capabilities¹³.

Diane Elson: An economist and feminist scholar, Diane Elson has utilized the Capability Approach to examine gender inequality, emphasizing the importance of agency and empowerment for women's well-being¹⁴.

Arjun Appadurai: A cultural anthropologist, Appadurai has applied the Capability Approach to the study of globalization, migration, and cultural change¹⁵.

Frances Stewart: A development economist, Frances Stewart has used the Capability Approach to investigate various aspects of human development, social justice, and conflict¹⁶.

2.1.3 History of Capability Approach

Amartya Sen, an economist and philosopher, and Martha Nussbaum, a feminist political philosopher, created the Capability Approach as a theoretical framework for economics,

development studies, and social philosophy in the 1980s and 1990s. The Capability Approach, in contrast to other theories, places a greater emphasis on people's capabilities and freedom to live lives they have good reason to value¹⁷. It measures progress based on people's capability to engage in worthwhile activities, including those necessary for leading fulfilling lives in politics, healthcare, education, and social inclusion. It tries to offer an alternative method for assessing society advancement and human well-being, going beyond conventional metrics like GDP and income. Sen's intense interest in issues of poverty, social justice, and the limitations of conventional development theories and strategies had an impact on it¹⁸.

The Capability Approach was developed with the help of many factors, amongst which were skepticism of traditional development strategies, which mostly relied on GDP and economic growth as indicators of success and this led Sen to maintain that the multifaceted aspect of human development and well-being was missed by these methods¹⁹. He also understood the value of personal choice and freedom in the course of development. He thought that rather than focusing solely on a person's material wealth, progress should be judged on a person's abilities and opportunity to live lives they value. Sen and others were interested in determining how development activities actually affected people's lives, particularly in developing nations.

The Capability Approach emphasizes the improvement of human capabilities, such as education, health, and access to resources, which can contribute to meaningful and sustainable human development²⁰. It also emphasizes that people should have the freedom to pursue the goals and objectives that are important to them while taking into

account their unique preferences and circumstances. The Capability Approach recognizes that people's capabilities depend on their social, cultural, and economic contexts and may change as a result. It promotes a more complex and sensitive to context understanding of growth and well-being²¹.

A fundamental ethical theory in welfare economics, utilitarianism, emphasizes maximizing overall happiness or utility²². This strategy has been criticized for ignoring individual variations and liberties because it could justify sacrificing some people's pleasure for the happiness of society as a whole. To remedy this, the capability approach was created, focusing on the freedoms and capabilities of each individual. The capability approach rejects this narrow focus and takes into account a variety of aspects of well-being, including health, education, political participation, social relationships, and personal security²³. Traditional welfare economics also heavily relied on income and consumption-based indicators to assess well-being. The Capability Approach places a strong emphasis on improving human capabilities, like education, health, and resource availability, which can support meaningful and long-lasting human growth. Traditional utilitarian and welfare economic theories have also been criticized for ignoring individual differences in freedom and well-being in favour of collective metrics like GDP and wealth²⁴. He made the case that just gauging economic growth as a whole did not ensure increases in people's actual capability to live satisfying lives.

The creation of the Capability Approach was also aided by Amartya Sen's and Mahbub ul Haq's work on the Human Development Index, which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced in 1990²⁵. Indicators other than income,

such life expectancy and education, were included in the HDI, reflecting Sen's broader understanding of human well-being. He drew inspiration from a range of philosophies and ethical systems, such as Immanuel Kant and Aristotle. He laid a strong emphasis on the notion of substantive liberties and the significance of a person's ability to do and be what they have good reason to value²⁶. The Capability Approach was also impacted by his experience in social choice theory²⁷. He developed a theoretical framework for assessing societal well-being based on the freedoms and capabilities of its members through his research on individual and social welfare functions²⁸. His experiences in developing nations and his observations of various social and economic inequalities also had a significant impact on how he developed his methodology. He understood that development initiatives and policies should emphasize raising people's capability to improve their lives.

In summary, the Capability Approach was created in response to the shortcomings of conventional economic theories and as a way to go beyond solely materialistic measures of human progress and well-being²⁹. Since then, it has developed into a key theoretical framework that is utilized by researchers, policymakers, and development professionals to create more efficient and inclusive development initiatives.

2.1.4 Theories of Development before Capability Approach

The Capability Approach gained from interdisciplinary collaborations that included insights from the social sciences, economics, philosophy, and other fields to provide a more thorough view of development. Since then, the Capability Approach has

developed into a potent paradigm for evaluating development, social justice, and overall human welfare³⁰. It has had a global impact on academics, policymakers, and development practitioners, emphasizing the significance of increasing people's capabilities and freedoms as key development endeavours. Several theories of development had been put forth and studied prior to the Capability Approach. They are examined below;

2.1.4.1 Modernization Theory of Development

A socioeconomic framework termed modernization theory was developed in the 1950s and 1960s to explain how societies evolved and changed from traditional to contemporary forms³¹. It was primarily designed as a solution to the problems associated with decolonization and the post-World War II era, when many newly independent countries aimed to comprehend how to accomplish economic growth and social advancement. This theory was developed with a focus on the notion that traditional societies may flourish by embracing industrialization, urbanization, and technology in the Western manner³². It placed a focus on economic expansion and rising productivity as development indicators.

Many academics, including Walt Rostow, David McClelland, Daniel Lerner, and others, have been advocates for modernization theory. During the Cold War, the theory became well-liked and influential among decision-makers and development organizations, particularly in the West and the United States, as it offered justification for funding development initiatives in the Global South³³. Due to its Eurocentric biases and Simplistic Assumptions, it also received criticism and changed throughout time.

Societies pass through various stages as they progress towards modernity in Modernization Theory³⁴. Walt Rostow's "Stages of Economic Growth," which covers traditional society, preconditions for take-off, take-off, drive to maturity, and age of high mass consumption, is the most well-known model of stages³⁵.

All cultures are seen to grow along a similar route since these stages are thought to be linear, sequential, and universal. It contends that traditional communities will have enhanced productivity, higher income levels, and better standards of living when they adopt modern practices including industrialization, urbanization, and technology improvements. The relevance of specific institutions and ideals, such as industrialization, democratic government, the rule of law, free markets, education, and urbanization, as vital forces behind growth is also emphasized by modernization theory³⁶. These institutions are thought to promote greater effectiveness, innovation, and societal advancement. The notion contends that by exchanging knowledge, technology, and skills, wealthier nations can act as role models for less developed ones. This diffusion of modernity is said to speed up the process of development in the receiving societies.

The Eurocentric bias of modernization theory, which holds that Western-style growth is the sole desirable and acceptable option for all societies, has been criticized³⁷. It fails to recognize the variety of cultures, histories, and values present in non-Western nations, which breeds ethnocentrism and a disregard for non-Western methods of development. Additionally, critics have claimed that the modernization paradigm diminishes the autonomy of emerging countries by portraying them as obedient

consumers of Western ideas and influence. This viewpoint ignores how local institutions, governments, and players actively shape their own growth paths. The emphasis on economic growth and industrialization in modernization theory has resulted in a disregard for the socio-economic disparities and environmental effects of rapid development³⁸. It has additionally received criticism for failing to fully address any societal repercussions that could result from the modernization process. The idea ignores the complexity and unique historical settings of many societies since it presumes a universal and linear path to development. Various nations may have distinct difficulties that call for specialized growth plans.

In summary, modernization theory significantly influenced the development discourse in the middle of the 20th century. However, it has received a great deal of criticism for its Eurocentric biases, simplicity of the development processes, and disregard for the social and environmental repercussions³⁹. Due to these drawbacks, modern theories and methods of development have been developed in an effort to solve them and offer frameworks for development that are more inclusive and context-specific.

2.1.4.2 Dependency Theory of Development

As a response to modernization theory, an alternate viewpoint known as dependency theory was developed. Dependency theory, which emerged in the late 1950s and early 1960s in response to the shortcomings and limitations of modernization theory, is a critical framework for understanding international economic relations and development⁴⁰. It asserts that certain countries' underdevelopment is a result of their

dependence on and exploitation by more powerful and advanced countries. It emphasized the significance of overcoming this dependency for true development. Dependency theory, which was created by Latin American academics like Ral Prebisch, Theotonio dos Santos, and Andre Gunder Frank, aims to explain why many developing nations in the Global South continue to face inequality and underdevelopment.

The global economic system has a core-periphery structure within the scope of dependency theory. The periphery—the less developed nations, particularly in the Global South—is subject to dominance and exploitation by the core, the developed and industrialized nations, which are primarily found in the Global North⁴¹. While the periphery nations provide cheap labour, low-cost raw materials, and markets for the core nations' exports, the core nations regulate international trade and have access to superior technology and money⁴². Dependency theorists contend that unequal exchange underpins international trade, as seen by the low prices of primary commodities sold by peripheral nations contrasted to the high costs of manufactured goods purchased from core nations⁴³. This keeps the periphery nations trapped in low-value manufacturing and export patterns while the core nations reap the rewards of value-added activity, perpetuating a vicious cycle of economic dependency.

For proponents of dependency theory, capital moves from the periphery to the center, aggravating underdevelopment⁴⁴. Through processes including foreign investment, debt servicing, and the repatriation of profits by international firms, this capital drain takes place⁴⁵. As a result, the periphery lacks the money needed to invest in infrastructure and industry. Dependency theorists contend that even while many former

colonies have achieved formal political independence, they nevertheless depend on their former colonizers and other strong nations economically and politically⁴⁶. Neo-colonialism, where external actors continue to exert influence over the internal affairs of developing countries, is the term used to describe this relationship. It acknowledges the part internal elites play in maintaining dependency. Local elites frequently gain from their affiliation with outside economic interests, which enables them to amass money and keep their dominant position. In emerging countries, this tendency may result in socioeconomic inequality and class conflict.

However, dependency theory has come under fire over the years. For some detractors, the theory oversimplifies complicated global economic ties and ignores other elements that contribute to underdevelopment, such as domestic regulations, governmental structures, and cultural variables⁴⁷. Additionally, it minimizes the importance of internal dynamics and agency in the development process and focuses a strong emphasis on external influences (such as the global economic system).

However, dependency theory as a theory of development has also made valuable contributions by shifting the emphasis from analyzing the structural barriers and exploitative practices supported by the global economic system to analyzing the underdeveloped countries' lack of progress⁴⁸. It has also provided a potent critique of the premise of modernization theory that all societies could follow a similar path to development. In order to lessen dependency and advance development in the Global South, dependency theory has also been useful in arguing for policy changes like better trade conditions, debt relief, and support for domestic industrialization. To sum up,

dependence theory gives a critical viewpoint on the world economic system and the difficulties that emerging nations face⁴⁹. Even though it has come under fire, its contributions to recognizing underdevelopment and advocating for more just global economic relations have had a considerable impact on how development debates and policy discussions are framed.

2.1.4.3 Structuralist Theory of Development

The development theory known as structuralism first appeared in the 1960s as an alternative to dependence theory and modernization theory. By examining the underlying structures, institutions, and power dynamics that influence societies and their economies, it aimed to comprehend the intricacies of development. These theories focused on the role of the state in encouraging development through deliberate interventions and policies and analyzed the structural limitations and impediments that exist in developing nations, such as the unequal distribution of resources and power⁵⁰.

Marxist and historical materialist viewpoints have an influence on structural theory, which emphasizes the significance of historical context and the state's role in fostering growth⁵¹. For structuralist theory, every civilization has a distinct historical background and set of experiences that have shaped it throughout history. The idea of a universal and linear road to progress as put forth by modernization theory is rejected. Understanding the capitalist mode of production and its effects on development is at the heart of structuralist theory. It is believed that capitalism is a dynamic economic system that causes disparities and uneven progress among nations and regions. Global capitalism causes uneven regional and national growth. Import Substitution

Industrialization is one of the main recommendations of structuralist theory for government policy. By encouraging indigenous industries to produce things that were previously imported, this policy seeks to lessen reliance on imports. Promote industrialization and increase self-sufficiency are the objectives. They think that the government need to actively direct the process of development. They contend that in order to circumvent market imperfections and aid the expansion of local enterprises, the government can serve as a coordinator, regulator, and advocate of strategic sectors.

However, structuralist theory has come under fire for its state-centric approach, which some believe could result in an excessive reliance on government involvement and bureaucracy, which could lead to inefficiency and corruption. It may also minimize the importance of social and cultural aspects in determining development outcomes because it concentrates on economic structures and institutions. Critics have also claimed that by providing a generalized framework, structuralist theory has a tendency to oversimplify the diversity and complexity of developing nations⁵². In summary, structuralist theory offered an alternate perspective for examining development by highlighting historical specificity, government involvement, and the effects of global capitalism. Even if it was criticized, its contributions to comprehending the difficulties of development and advocating for industrialization and independence have had a long-lasting influence on development theory.

2.1.5 Capability Approach and Ensuing Debates

Amartya Sen's capability approach is deeply rooted in various fields from economics, political science, and philosophy to theology, medicine, development studies and so

on⁵³. Capability for him, is determined by the different lifestyle that an individual can choose. He argues that our evaluations and policies should focus on what people are able to do and be, on the quality of their life, and on removing obstacles in their lives so that they have more freedom to live the kind of life that, upon reflection, they have reason to value⁵⁴.

“The capability approach to a person’s advantage is concerned with evaluating it in terms of his or her actual ability to achieve various valuable functionings as a part of living. The corresponding approach to social advantage –for aggregative appraisal as well as for the choice of institutions and policy – takes the set of individual capabilities as constituting an indispensable and central part of the relevant informational base of such evaluation”⁵⁵.

A capability is “a person’s ability to do valuable acts or to reach valuable states of being”; it “represents the alternative combination of things a person is able to do or be”⁵⁶. The approach also implies that well-being should be conceptualized in terms of individual capabilities to achieve valued functionings which allow them to lead the kind of life they value. These functionings consists of all of the beings and doings that people have reason to value. The core tenet is that growth should be assessed in terms of the expansion of meaningful human freedoms⁵⁷. These substantive human freedoms are seen in the form of individual capabilities to do things that a person has reason to value⁵⁸. The capabilities approach makes a crucial analytical distinction between the methods and the purposes of growth and well-being⁵⁹. While the methods are necessary

to achieve the aims, only the ends have intrinsic value, a greater emphasis on justice, growth, and well-being. These distinctions, however, frequently become muddled in real-world scenarios since some goals serve as both means and ends in themselves (for example, the capability to be in good health serves as both a goal in and of itself and a means to the capability to work). The capability approach has been advanced in somewhat different directions by Martha Nussbaum, who has used the capability approach as the foundation for a partial theory of justice⁶⁰.

In relation to capability approach, the goals of wellbeing, justice, and development should be defined in terms of people's functional capabilities, or their actual opportunities to carry out the acts and activities they desire and be the persons they desire⁶¹. The distinction between the means and the purposes of growth and well-being is a fundamental conceptual one in the capability approach. The means are merely necessary to achieve the objective of greater wellbeing and growth; only the results have intrinsic value⁶². These distinctions, however, frequently become ambiguous in practice as well as in Sen's more applied work. The importance consequently resides primarily at the analytical level; we must constantly inquire about and be aware of what kind of value things have, whether that value is instrumental or intrinsic, and determine whether the significance of what we are examining is intrinsic or instrumental⁶³. What therefore are the goals of growth and well-being, in accordance with the capability approach? People's capabilities for functioning, or their actual opportunities to carry out the actions and activities they want to carry out and be who they want to be, should be the basis for discussions about wellbeing and growth.

These entities are referred to as functionings and says that they together are what give life its value⁶⁴. Functionings include things like working, sleeping, reading, being healthy, belonging to a community, being respected, and engaging in other activities. Even if the liberal school of thought is a school of political theory with a critical undercurrent, it is clear that it supports the capabilities approach. However, in political philosophy, the term "liberal" should not be confused with the term "liberal" in the context of current politics, but rather with a philosophical tradition that upholds individual freedom. In common parlance, the word "liberal" can refer to either the political right or left depending on the nation.

Thus, the capability approach to development and well-being assesses policies in light of how they affect people's capabilities⁶⁵. It inquires as to whether individuals are in good health and whether the prerequisites are in place, such as access to clean water, medical care, immunity to infections and diseases, and rudimentary health information. It inquires as to whether people are well nourished and whether the prerequisites—such as ample food supplies and access to food—are met. It inquires as to whether people have access to a decent education, genuine political engagement, neighborhood activities that help them deal with difficulties in daily life and create genuine friendships, and comforting faiths that can provide them with mental calm. Financial resources and economic production will be the primary input for some of these skills, but for others, it may also be political practices, such as the effective guaranteeing and protection of freedom of thought, religion, or political participation, or

social or cultural practices, social structures, social institutions, public goods, social norms, traditions, and habits.

Hence, the capabilities approach addresses every aspect of human wellbeing. The links between physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being, or the economic, social, political, and cultural components of life, are heavily considered when discussing development and well-being⁶⁶.

The capability approach, developed by Amartya Sen and further expanded by Martha Nussbaum and other scholars, has sparked several debates and discussions within academia and policy circles⁶⁷. Some of the ensuing debates in the capability approach include:

Universalism vs. Relativism: The capability approach's universal applicability is a topic of continuous discussion. The capability approach is criticized for relying on a uniform set of skills that may not fully reflect the wide range of cultural, societal, and personal definitions of what makes for a good existence⁶⁸. The tension between defining universal qualities that are necessary for all people and allowing for context-specific variances in defining and measuring well-being is a topic of discussion among scholars.

Capability Measurement and Operationalization: The capability approach presents difficulties in capability measurement and operationalization for empirical research. The methods and metrics used to evaluate and contrast the capabilities of people and cultures are subject to academic debate. There are discussions around whether objective

measures (e.g., income, education levels) or subjective evaluations (e.g., self-reported satisfaction) should be given more prominence in capturing capabilities.

Agency and Freedom: The concept of agency, central to the capability approach, raises debates concerning the balance between individual agency and the influence of social structures and inequalities⁶⁹. Scholars discuss the extent to which individuals have genuine freedom and choice in shaping their capabilities, considering the role of power dynamics, social constraints, and structural inequalities in shaping opportunities and outcomes.

Interdependencies between capabilities: The interconnectedness and interdependence of capabilities are highlighted by the capability approach. Arguments over how to resolve conflicts or trade-offs between different skills and how to prioritize capabilities arise when resources are limited. Academics have examined the consequences of these interdependencies for policymaking as well as the challenges of ensuring a comprehensive approach to skill building⁷⁰.

Well-being vs. Agency: Whether the capability approach should prioritize increasing peoples' general well-being or granting them more autonomy and freedom to pursue their own goals is up for debate. While some argue that a focus on agency allows people to live according to their own conceptions of the happy life, others emphasize the need of ensuring that fundamental needs are met and promoting wellbeing as the main goals⁷¹.

Ethical Foundations: Although the moral compass of the capability method is built on ethical principles, there is ongoing discussion regarding what standards should be used.

Academics disagree on the question of whether the capability approach should be based on a specific ethical theory, such as utilitarianism or deontology, or if it can support multiple ethical orientations⁷².

Policy Implications: The capability approach to policymaking is currently being discussed in terms of its practical application. The feasibility and effectiveness of adopting capability-oriented policies, the role of institutions like governments to enhancing capabilities, and the challenges of integrating the strategy into present policy frameworks are all topics of debate among academics and decision-makers⁷³.

These debates reflect the ongoing refinement and development of the capability approach as scholars seek to address its theoretical, empirical, and practical implications. The debates contribute to a deeper understanding of the strengths, limitations, and potential of the capability approach in promoting human well-being and social justice.

2.1.6 Functioning and Capability

Real freedoms or opportunities for achieving functionings are referred to as a person's capabilities. Both the things we can accomplish (activities) and the kind of people we can be (aspects of who we are) are referred to as our capabilities⁷⁴. Therefore, while the ability to travel exists, the actual chance to go is the corresponding capability. A person who does not travel might or might not be liberated and capable of doing so; the idea of capability aims to capture precisely the fact of whether the person could go if she wanted to. Functionings and capabilities are defined in a morally neutral manner at the heart of the capability approach⁷⁵. Not every functioning must be positive in order to

function. Instead, certain functionings have a negative value, such as the functioning of being affected by an agonizing, crippling, and eventually fatal illness or of doing violent crimes. Functionings are essential components of both wellbeing and ill-being. Therefore, we should conceptually allow for the concept of "bad functionings" in the concept of functionings⁷⁶. Even though many beings and doings have negative value, they are nevertheless considered to be "beings" or "doings" and hence to be functioning. When Nussbaum argued that the ability to commit rape shouldn't be a capability that we have reason to defend, she made that point strongly⁷⁷. The capability approach can be seen as more than just a philosophy of justice or a way to evaluate different quality of life comparisons when viewed from its broader perspective⁷⁸. Capabilitarianism, on the other hand, has the potential to be considerably more extensive and potent. In order to recognize a much wider variety of capabilitarian theories and analyses as such (in the modules), we simply need to comprehend the core of the capabilities approach in a sufficiently constrained way⁷⁹. We have a lot more research to undertake in philosophy, the social sciences, and multidisciplinary domains if we accept this theoretical explanation of the capabilities approach.

2.1.7 Capability and Sufficiency

Capability theorists contend that alternative theories of justice frequently ignore critical facets of the human condition and the diversity of human lives. For instance, it is believed that the utilitarian emphasis on maximizing utility is insufficiently considerate of the socioeconomic distribution and the segregation of the people whose lives are in jeopardy⁸⁰. Of fact, this position is shared by many liberals as well, not just capability

theorists. Simultaneously, it is thought that theories that only consider the number of resources available to a person neglect the significant differences in people's capabilities to transform resources into functionings, while theories that only consider welfare overestimate the validity of subjective preferences⁸¹. These latter criticisms have primarily been levelled at egalitarians, although it goes without saying that they also apply to resource or welfare sufficientarians, such as the ones stated above⁸². These criticisms highlight the difficulties we avoid by defining sufficiency in capable terms as well as how capability theory lends itself best to non-welfarist views of social justice.

The capability approach's central tenet is that, rather than, for example, maximizing or equalizing preference satisfaction, welfare, or wealth, rather, we should be concerned with securing individual people's capabilities—the opportunity to achieve valuable combinations of functionings or, in other words, what people are actually able to do and be⁸³. A theory of justice must necessarily address a number of facets of human reality that cannot be condensed into one dimension without losing crucial information for capability theorists who believe that these latter methods simplify what is important in a human life. Capability theorists have contended that a theory of justice must necessarily handle a number of elements of human reality that cannot be reduced into one dimension without losing crucial information.

So, at least implicitly, capabilitarians accept the positive premise in its most basic form. That is to say, even while they disagree on the nature and content of it, they both acknowledge the existence of a certain threshold of capability that no one should ever fall⁸⁴. One reason for not explicitly addressing this issue appears to be that Sen and

Nussbaum, in particular, are primarily focused on the developing nations of the world, where an excessive number of people have far too few resources relative to their central capabilities. The extent to which adequacy of capability necessitates equality of capability is a challenging subject, as Nussbaum notes. Only thorough consideration of each capability and the requirements of respect for equal human dignity may provide an answer to such a question⁸⁵.

2.1.8 Overview of the Various Central Capability

Capability theorists contend that other theories of distributive justice do not adequately account for significant differences between human lives (i.e., their capability to transform resources into functionings) and do not adequately distinguish between various facets of human existence⁸⁶. This is important because, in the words of capability theorists, the most significant aspects of a human life "are not commensurable in terms of any single quantitative standard" and because some abilities and the functionings that they enable are more significant than others and as a result, should be given special attention⁸⁷. Different capability theorists have different ideas on exactly which capabilities are crucial and how to compile a list of them. Most significantly, Nussbaum has developed an index of fundamental human skills, which she argues are shared by all peoples and all civilizations⁸⁸. The overarching thesis of Nussbaum's work is that there is a core to human existence that is determined by essential human

capabilities. She lists life, physical well-being, bodily integrity, the mind, senses, and emotions as well as practical reason, affiliation with other species, play, and environmental control⁸⁹.

Sen, on the other hand, asserts that the capability approach should not be limited to a single theoretical list and instead should be purposefully vague in order to ensure people's agency—both in terms of their ability to effectively access the pertinent functionings and their ability to exercise democratic control over the process of determining which capabilities are pertinent⁹⁰. In other words, the freedom to choose how to list necessary skills is in and of itself a freedom that should be reflected in the skills that people should possess. In light of this, Sen insists vehemently that, to insist on a 'fixed forever' list of capabilities would deny the possibility of progress in social understanding, as well as go against the beneficial role of public discussion, social agitation, and open dialogue.

A move beyond a single universal list of capabilities and concentrating on developing relevant criteria for creating lists of capabilities for each specific application of the capability approach to a specific problem in order to preserve the political impact and applicability resulting from formulations of objective lists is encouraged while also safeguarding the individual agency-element that is so essential to the capability approach in Sen's original form⁹¹. In a similar spirit, Sabina Alkire challenges Nussbaum's claim by maintaining that there is no single list of relevant capabilities that can be used for all purposes and that, as a result, the selection of relevant capabilities must be made frequently while being mindful of its context⁹².

2.1.9 Distinguishing between the Capability Approach and the Capability Theory

The Capability Approach and the Capability Theory are closely related but have distinct differences in their scope and application. The economists Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum developed the Capability Approach, a more comprehensive conceptual framework for comprehending and assessing development and well-being. It emphasizes people's independence and possibilities to pursue the lives they value. The capability approach emphasises that an individual's capabilities—their freedom to choose and accomplish worthwhile functionings that is, the numerous things people can do and be in their live, are also what define well-being, in addition to material riches or income⁹³. The Capability Approach focuses on the value of freedom and agency for people to pursue their own valued functionings rather than providing a set of capabilities or functions that are generally beneficial. It strives to offer a thorough framework that takes into account social, economic, political, and cultural factors in order to evaluate and promote human growth and well-being.

Specific theories and models created within the framework of the capability approach are referred to as capability theory. Scholars like Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns have put forth their own variations of the capability theory that detail particular lists or categories of abilities they believe are crucial for people to acquire in order to live fulfilling lives or achieve highly needed wellbeing. These theories outline a collection of skills that are regarded as both desirable and necessary for human flourishing on a global scale. The ten central capabilities in Martha Nussbaum's philosophy, for instance, include the capability for life, physical health, education,

political involvement, and attachment⁹⁴. The Cartwheel Model, developed by Ingrid Robeyns, provides multiple aspects of well-being, including material, social, environmental, and personal dimensions, and suggests distinct abilities within each category⁹⁵.

By defining capabilities, capability theory offers more specific rules but still falls within the broader framework of the capability approach. These ideas provide useful direction and assistance in determining and measuring well-being, but they do not restrict the range of capabilities to only those they describe. In other settings, other qualities might also be applicable and helpful.

In conclusion, the Capability Approach is a more general philosophical framework that places an emphasis on freedom and opportunities for happiness, and Capability Theory refers to specific theories and models within that framework that identify and prioritize various skills as crucial for human flourishing⁹⁶.

2.1.10 Key Elements in Capability Approach

The capability approach provides a theoretical framework for understanding and evaluating human well-being, social justice, and human development. It offers a comprehensive perspective that goes beyond traditional approaches that focus solely on income or utility.

Key Elements in capability approach consists:

Capability: The key idea in the framework is "capability," which denotes the freedom or chance that people have to achieve wellbeing and lead fulfilling lives. Being

healthy, educated, having access to employment, engaging in social and political life, and feeling a sense of dignity and self-respect are just a few of the positive functionings or activities that people have the ability to engage in⁹⁷.

Functionings: The numerous things that people may value and want to accomplish or be are known as functionings. They are the actual things that people can do and mental states that they can have. Functionings include things like reading, speaking freely, having access to healthcare, and engaging in cultural events⁹⁸.

Agency: The capability approach places a strong emphasis on personal agency and discretion. It acknowledges that individuals have the freedom to choose how to conduct their life and to pursue their own ideas of what is right. The ability to act and make decisions in line with one's principles and aspirations is referred to as agency⁹⁹.

Conversion Factors: The capability approach acknowledges that people's capabilities to transform opportunities and resources into useful functionings may differ due to individual traits, societal expectations, or institutional constraints¹⁰⁰. Education, health, social networks, legal rights, and financial resources are a few examples of these variables.

Valuation of Capabilities: The capability approach acknowledges that different individuals and communities may have diverse conceptions of what constitutes a good life. It respects the plurality of values and does not impose a single universal metric for evaluating well-being. Instead, it promotes a participatory and deliberative approach

that involves individuals and communities in defining and assessing their own capabilities and functionings.

Overall, the theoretical foundation of the capability approach offers a comprehensive view of human well-being and social justice, placing emphasis on the value that people place on freedoms, choices, and a wide variety of functionings and capabilities¹⁰¹. It provides a thorough lens through which to evaluate and reshape initiatives and policies meant to promote human development and build a just society.

2.1.11 Pertinent Issues that are Examined under Capability Approach

In order to examine the Capability Approach's implications for human growth and well-being, a number of current topics can be raised. Here are some important subjects that can be looked into:

Human Development and Well-being: Beyond standard indicators like money or GDP, the capability approach offers a framework for comprehending and advancing human growth and well-being. The primary talents and functions that enhance human welfare, such as education, health, freedom, and participation in society, can be the subject of discussions¹⁰². Understanding the connections between capabilities and how they differ among various people and circumstances can help to improve well-being outcomes.

Poverty and Inequality: The Capability Approach provides a perspective through which to view and address inequality and poverty. Discussions can focus on how capabilities, beyond income-based measurements, can be used to quantify and assess poverty¹⁰³. The strategy emphasises the complexity of poverty and the significance of addressing

deprivations across a range of skills. Strategies to lessen gaps and advance more equitable results can be informed by analyzing the effects of inequality on people's freedom and opportunity.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Gender equality and women's empowerment are highly valued concepts in the capability approach. The identification and assessment of gender-specific talents and functionings, including access to opportunities in the fields of education, healthcare, the economy, and decision-making, are possible debate topics. Examining the difficulties that women encounter in various circumstances and talking about policy changes that may enhance gender equality can be crucial focal points.

Social Justice and Human Rights: There are close ties between the Capability Approach and social justice and human rights. Discussions can focus on the values and ideals that serve as the cornerstone of capabilities as a basis for just societies. The connection between skills and human rights, the effects of abilities on marginalized and vulnerable people, and the function of institutions and public policies in advancing social justice are just a few such topics¹⁰⁴.

Environmental Sustainability: The importance of environmental sustainability to human development and well-being is being acknowledged more and more. Discussions on ecological capabilities, such as having access to clean water, clean air, and a safe environment, can be part of research into the intersection of capabilities and environmental sustainability. It can also discuss the trade-offs and connections between

environmental protection, economic growth, and the maintenance of technological capability for future generations¹⁰⁵.

Policy Implications and Implementation Challenges: It is crucial to talk about how the Capability Approach can be used in practice. The difficulties of incorporating capabilities into policy frameworks, creating appropriate indicators and measuring methods, and creating interventions that effectively increase capabilities are a few examples of such topics¹⁰⁶. Examining successful case studies and the lessons discovered through the application of policies can offer insightful information on how the Capability Approach might be put into practice.

Researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners can improve their knowledge of the Capability Approach and its potential to improve social justice, encourage inclusive growth, and improve human well-being by tackling these current concerns.

2.1.12 Adoption of Capability Approach by the United Nations Development Programme

The Human Development Index (HDI), which assesses a country's development progress based on variables including life expectancy, education, and per capita income, was developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) using the Capability Approach as its foundation¹⁰⁷. The Capability Approach, which emphasizes the significance of empowering individuals and increasing their capabilities, has gained the support of numerous international development organizations as a guiding framework for creating and evaluating development initiatives. Particularly in the

context of development policies and programmes, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been a supporter of the capability approach¹⁰⁸. The concept known as the capability approach was created by Amartya Sen, a philosopher and economist, and further refined by Martha Nussbaum. Instead of just concentrating on money or material possessions, it emphasizes people's ability and freedom to achieve worthwhile goals in order to improve their overall well-being.

The capabilities approach has influenced how UNDP approaches its development work and is in line with the fundamentals of human development¹⁰⁹. The capability approach guides UNDP's efforts to promote sustainable development, lessen poverty, and enhance the quality of life for people around the world by moving the focus from economic growth alone to more comprehensive dimensions of well-being and human potential¹¹⁰. Capabilities and human freedoms have been emphasized by UNDP in its Human Development Reports and other publications as essential components of development. This method has been applied to evaluate and track development in numerous nations, areas, and communities with the goal of identifying and filling in gaps in human development and enabling people to live satisfying lives. The core idea behind Amartya Sen's and Martha Nussbaum's capability approach is to move the emphasis of development and well-being away from a solely economic perspective (such as GDP or income) and towards a more comprehensive understanding of human capabilities and freedoms¹¹¹.

Fundamentally, the capability approach emphasizes that enhancing people's capabilities and freedoms should be development's ultimate goal in order to give people

the opportunity to live lives they have good reason to value¹¹². The different chances and skills that people possess, which enable them to contribute to society and live the kind of life they wish, are known as capabilities. These skills cover a broad range of areas, such as, but not limited to: physical well-being (access to good health, nutrition, and a safe environment), education (access to quality education and opportunities for skill development), economic resources (access to income and economic opportunities), social and political participation, among others¹¹³. The capability approach tries to establish an environment where people have the freedom to follow their own life paths while acknowledging that people have a variety of values, goals, and aspirations¹¹⁴. This makes it a very person-centered strategy for growth, with an emphasis on expanding opportunities and removing obstacles that prevent individuals from thriving. The capability approach's adaptability to various situations and cultures is one of its advantages. It offers a framework for assessing and addressing the many facets of well-being rather than prescribing a particular set of aims. The capability approach has had a considerable impact on development programmes, poverty reduction tactics, and social justice projects globally by acknowledging that development is about strengthening people's skills and expanding their freedoms¹¹⁵.

2.1.13 Sustainable Development

The modern view of economic growth depicts development as a four-wheeled vehicle powered by capital, labour, resources, and technology and climate, which is linked to resources, has long been acknowledged as the root of national economic disparities¹¹⁶. The primary goal of development policy is hence sustainable development, which

attempts to create long-term improvements in the quality of life for all. Natural resource management is at the heart of sustainable development, which has become unavoidable due to conflicts between the short-term need to alleviate poverty and the long-term objectives for environmental sustainability in the third world¹¹⁷. The pressures placed on natural resources to meet people's demands, in fact, presents a dilemma for policymakers concerned with environmental sustainability¹¹⁸.

Nonetheless, the importance of policies that have long-term consequences for both society and the environment cannot be overstated. Developing such policies that are expected to improve public good and social welfare is a herculean task due to the necessity of balancing long-term and short-term goals for sustainability, as well as the political conditions that border on issues of ownership and the participation of stakeholders with frequently competing interests in the policy-making process¹¹⁹. This highlights the effectiveness of an integrated, systematic, and pragmatic interdisciplinary policy approach, because policy planning should not be viewed as a passive function separate and distinct from doing, but as an active process encompassing analysis, goal definition, action plans, and monitoring results.

The consistency of a country's natural capital pool is an essential requirement for sustainable growth. This means that present decisions should not jeopardize the chances of sustaining or improving the future capital stock¹²⁰. Because the concept that the resource base of any economy belongs to all generations, intergenerational fairness is central to the subject of sustainable development. Between the Stockholm Conference on Environment and the Rio Conference in 1992, there has

been a rising concern that human activities are endangering the natural systems that allow life to exist on this planet¹²¹. The damage produced by human activities on the natural environment renders the activities unsustainable since they permanently modify the ecosystem. The World Commission on Environment and Development popularised the term "sustainable development" in its landmark report "our common future" in 1987¹²². Since then, sustainability has become a primary criterion against which national governments, development agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) evaluate economic development programmes.

Although ambiguities in definition and interpretation have hindered the adoption of sustainability as a development benchmark, there is agreement that sustainable development implies an active role for government in the efficient and equitable management of natural and environmental resources. Pigou emphasized as early as 1932 that it is the government's unambiguous responsibility to watch over and, if necessary, defend the exhaustible natural resources against hasty and careless destruction as the trustee for the current generation and future generations¹²³. We cannot continue with our current practices for using energy, managing forests, farming, safeguarding plant and animal species, controlling urban growth, and generating industrial goods, according to the Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Human needs are constant across generations, but the non-renewable natural resources used to meet those needs are in a state of depletion. Human needs are constant across generations but the non-renewable natural resources used to meet those needs are in a state of depletion¹²⁴. In the capability context, what should be preserved is not just

the capability to meet demands but also the freedom and ability to create the beings and actions that each member of a community values and aspires to. In order to improve the substantive freedoms and capabilities of both the present and future generations, Sudhir Anand and Amartya Sen underlined in two landmark studies that sustainable development is fundamentally about sustainable human development. The idea of sustainability or caring for future generations is just a continuation of the idea of universalism that is already ingrained in the idea of human growth¹²⁵.

A development strategy known as "sustainable development" aims to satisfy the requirements of the present generation without jeopardizing the capability of future generations to do the same. To build a more fair and resilient society, it entails striking a balance between economic development, environmental preservation, and social well-being¹²⁶. The Brundtland Report, titled "Our Common Future," was published in 1987 and helped bring the idea of sustainable development to the public's notice. Sustainable development has further being defined as being directly concerned with raising the natural standard of living for the poor at the local level, which could be quantified in terms of increased food, real income, educational services, health care, sanitation, and water supply¹²⁷. Sustainable development is also defined as a set of desired social goals that lead to an increase in real income per capita, better health and nutrition, educational success, access to resources, a more equitable distribution of money, and more freedom¹²⁸.

Similar to this, progress is only sustainable if the needs of present and future generations are not sacrificed in the pursuit of it. Sustainable development is said to be

the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs¹²⁹. Sustainable development is a relatively new idea that emerged from the need to appropriately exploit, process, and use earth resources in a way that does not jeopardize their continuous availability for either the present or future generations¹³⁰. The notion of sustainable development has clearly defined concepts, elements, aims, and purposes. It is clear from the definition and concept of sustainable development that one of its most important objectives or goals is the preservation of Earth's resources, and occasionally conservation as well, so that they can continue to adequately meet human needs both within and across generations.

Conservation is defined as the sound preservation, management, and rational use of available renewable natural resources¹³¹. This notion is located within the central domain of being a cardinal objective/goal of sustainable development. Thus, the following fundamental systems for bio resource conservation have been developed to highlight the many methods of conserving biodiversity:

By outlawing intensive hunting, fishing, trapping, and other forms of taking, certain species that are rapidly declining can be safeguarded while, rare species with limited populations ought to be permitted to exist in protected areas.

We can protect the threatened species by managing their habitat and providing them with food, drink, and shelter. Reserves and sanctuaries for wildlife should be established for their best chances of survival¹³².

Strict law enforcement can stop the widespread killings and protect wildlife from its deteriorating situation.

Hygiene practices in a habitat help safeguard endangered species that have been afflicted by illnesses.

Therefore, it can be claimed that conservation is a type of intrinsic instrument for addressing and achieving the goals of sustainable development. Preservation is another facet of the sustainability objective or goal. Although the terms "preservation" and "conservation" might be used interchangeably in discussions of sustainable development, "preservation" can be considered a component of the larger objective or goal of preservation in the context of that discussion. This is due to the fact that preserving something may be necessary for its continuous existence or for use in the future, whether it be in immaculate or almost pristine state. However, it is crucial to emphasize that the preservation aspect of sustainable development is more pertinent to the problems of protecting the environment that bears the resources that man has continued to exploit for his survival¹³³.

A sustainable human development approach places an emphasis on an inclusive vision of what should be a society's top policy priorities and how these should be achieved (via inclusive, deliberative public policy making processes) without compromising the ability of future generations to exercise their freedoms¹³⁴. A transparent effort has been made to balance the views of various groups or individuals in reaching the policy decision with the aim of maximizing (present value of) gains so that both present and future generations benefit¹³⁵. This is what is meant by an inclusive

approach. Policies or decisions are made through participatory mechanisms. All segments of society are given the opportunity to present their views.

The connectivity and interdependence of the economic, environmental, and social systems are acknowledged in sustainable development. It aims to establish a beneficial partnership between economic growth, environmental conservation, and social equity¹³⁶. The key principles of sustainable development include:

1. Environmental Stewardship: Encouraging the wise use of resources, cutting down on waste and pollution, and safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity¹³⁷.

2. Social Equity: Addressing poverty, eliminating inequality, and fostering social inclusion while ensuring that the advantages of development are distributed equally among all people¹³⁸.

3. Economic Prosperity: Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth that creates opportunities for all while minimizing resource consumption and environmental impacts.

4. Long-Term Perspective: Taking into account the needs and ambitions of future generations while considering the long-term effects of decisions and policies.

The main objective of any development policy is sustainable development, which attempts to raise everyone's standard of living. The goal of raising living standards also encompasses a number of more focused objectives, such as enhancing people's access to health care and education, enabling everyone to participate in public life, assisting in maintaining a clean environment, and fostering intergenerational

equality. In order to maintain the stock of all environmental and natural resource assets (physical, human, and natural), sustainable development also attempts to maximize the net advantages of economic development. Economic, social, and environmental factors are the three fundamental pillars of sustainable development. The three elements are linked to one another. Societies must pursue growth routes that produce an optimal revenue flow while conserving their basic stock of natural capital, human capital, and manufactured capital in order to achieve the economic component of sustainability¹³⁹.

The two guiding principles of justice and equality form the foundation of sustainable development's social component. Wealth, resources, and opportunities need to be distributed fairly for a developmental path to be long-lasting. Social equity means providing everyone with an equal opportunity to receive an education and contribute positively to society in terms of gender equality, social justice, cultural variety, and public involvement. It might be argued that the contact between development and the environment is necessary for sustainable development¹⁴⁰. This is due to the fact that while development is pro-people and the environment is pro-nature, they are inextricably linked¹⁴¹. Although the environment provides the necessary and valuable inputs for producing development through the conversion and transformation of environmental resources as well as technological innovation and advancement, there is growing concern about the environmental limit to growth and development as well as the necessity of environmental quality and management.

Sustainable development seeks to balance social advancement, environmental preservation, and economic growth. It acknowledges that social injustice, environmental

degradation, and economic inequality are interrelated problems that need for comprehensive solutions. Governments, corporations, civil society organizations, and individuals must work together at the local, national, and international levels to achieve sustainable development¹⁴². Consideration of the linkages between environmental, social, and economic variables is necessary for sustainable development. Adopting practices and regulations that strike a balance between the needs of people, the environment, and wealth is frequently required. International frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which serve as a road map for attempts to achieve sustainable development worldwide, reflect this strategy¹⁴³.

2.1.14 The Relevance of Capability Approach to Sustainable Development

Capability approach as developed by Amartya Sen and further elaborated by Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns, is highly relevant for sustainable development. It offers a comprehensive framework that considers the multidimensional nature of human well-being, social justice, and the long-term viability of societies. Capabilitarianism is a moral theory that focuses on capabilities, or the range of opportunities that individuals have to pursue the lives they value. This theory argues that increasing individuals' abilities to choose and achieve their goals is the main objective of social policy and development¹⁴⁴. Capabilities include not only basic needs such as food, water, and shelter but also education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.

In terms of sustainable development, capabilitarianism offers a valuable perspective. Firstly, by focusing on capabilities, capabilitarianism emphasizes the importance of providing individuals with access to information, education, and

resources needed to make sustainable choices in their daily lives¹⁴⁵. This means that sustainable development policies and strategies must be designed to promote the development of capabilities that facilitate sustainable lifestyles. Capabilitarianism also recognizes that sustainable development is not just about environmental sustainability, but it also includes social sustainability. A sustainable development approach that is rooted in capabilitarianism should aim to promote social inclusion and equality, ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities, and empower people to participate fully in their communities and societies¹⁴⁶.

Here are some key reasons why Capabilitarianism is relevant for sustainable development:

Human-Centered Development: The focus of development initiatives should be on the individual and their capabilities in Capabilitarianism. By doing so, the emphasis is shifted from solely economic metrics like GDP growth to a more comprehensive understanding of development that takes into account social, political, and environmental factors¹⁴⁷. Capabilitarianism assures that development is focused on boosting human well-being and advancing social justice by placing a high priority on people's ability to grow¹⁴⁸.

Equity and Social Justice: The capability approach emphasizes the significance of addressing inequalities and promoting social justice as essential elements of sustainable development, acknowledging that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing disparities in capabilities and opportunities¹⁴⁹.

Capabilitarianism focuses on enhancing the capabilities of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, helping to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive development¹⁵⁰.

Long-Term Orientation: As a way to meet the demands of the present generation without jeopardizing the potential of future generations to meet their own needs, sustainable development is pursued¹⁵¹. By putting a strong emphasis on the significance of intergenerational justice, capabilitarianism is consistent with this long-term perspective. It acknowledges that preserving and increasing capabilities is necessary for sustainable development in order for both the current generation and future generations to lead satisfying lives¹⁵².

Holistic Approach: Capabilitarianism approaches development from a wide range of angles. It takes into account a wide range of elements that affect people's well-being, such as education, health, interpersonal connections, political engagement, and environmental sustainability. As it acknowledges the interdependence between human well-being, social systems, and the environment, this holistic perspective is crucial for sustainable development¹⁵³.

Policy Relevance: The capabilities approach offers a useful framework for formulating and analyzing policy. It provides a tool to gauge how policies and actions affect people's capabilities and wellbeing. Policymakers can make more informed decisions that support sustainable development, boost human flourishing, and address social inequalities by incorporating a capabilities perspective into the policy-making processes¹⁵⁴.

In conclusion, capability approach offers a relevant perspective for sustainable development since it prioritizes people's capabilities, including their access to amenities such as education, healthcare, and social services. It provides a framework that is in line with the aims and tenets of sustainable development and is human-centered, equity-focused, long-term, and comprehensive. It emphasizes the importance of social inclusion, empowerment, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Therefore, it is a useful framework for designing and evaluating sustainable development policies and strategies that address the complex and multifaceted dimensions of sustainability and aids in the effort to achieve equitable and sustainable development by focusing on strengthening people's capabilities, resolving disparities, and taking into account a wider range of well-being factors.

2.1.15 Philosophy Behind Sustainable Development Goals

With the aim of attaining sustainable development by 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a worldwide framework for addressing a variety of social, economic, and environmental concerns. Like many other nations, Nigeria has adopted the SDGs as the foundation of its development programme. The fundamental philosophic tenets and factors that underpin the SDGs in Nigeria are discussed below:

Inclusivity and Universalism: Due to the universality of the SDGs, all nations can implement them, regardless of their level of development. This concept places a strong emphasis on inclusivity and recognises that all countries have a responsibility to work together to overcome global issues including poverty, inequality, and environmental damage¹⁵⁵.

Letting No One Fall Behind: The SDGs' central tenet is "leaving no one behind." This notion emphasises how crucial it is to cater to a nation's most marginalised and vulnerable communities in order to make sure that development efforts benefit everyone¹⁵⁶. Given the diverse population of Nigeria and the stark gaps in poverty, education, and access to essential services, this is especially pertinent to the African nation.

Integrated and Connected Objectives: The SDGs acknowledge that different development objectives and targets are interdependent. This theory emphasises that advancements in one field, like healthcare or education, are frequently connected to advancements in other fields, such poverty alleviation or environmental sustainability¹⁵⁷. The SDGs are being approached by Nigeria in a way that acknowledges and addresses these links in its policies and programmes.

Sustainable Development: The SDGs' guiding principle is sustainability. To guarantee that current and future generations can achieve their requirements, it emphasises the significance of balancing the economic, social, and environmental components of development.¹⁵⁸ The SDGs are seen as a strategy to achieve sustainable growth and solve problems like deforestation, desertification, and climate change in Nigeria, a nation with substantial environmental challenges¹⁵⁹.

Partnership and Cooperation: The SDGs advocate for international collaboration and partnerships between international organisations, corporations, and civil society. In order to mobilise resources, share information, and carry out sustainable development activities, Nigeria's approach to the SDGs entails collaboration on many different levels,

including partnerships with the corporate sector, NGOs, and international organisations¹⁶⁰.

Data-Driven and Evidence-built: The SDGs are built on the idea that it is crucial to make decisions based on data and evidence. Nigeria is aware of the importance of timely, accurate data for reviewing policies, tracking progress, and making decisions that will help it reach the SDGs¹⁶¹.

Accountability and Governance: The SDGs place a strong emphasis on the importance of accountability, transparency, and good governance in order to achieve sustainable development¹⁶². Nigeria has sought to enhance governance systems and institutions in order to monitor progress and guarantee that public funds are utilised effectively and efficiently in the pursuit of the SDGs.

In conclusion, the SDGs' underlying tenets of inclusion, sustainability, and global responsibility are fundamental to Nigeria. The nation views the SDGs as a guide for tackling its various issues and securing a more fair, economic, and environmentally sustainable future for all of its citizens.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The reviews of theories under this sub-section were discussed in terms of various scholars' definitions and explanations of the theories in line with the subject matter of this study. The theories reviewed in this study include Resourcist theory; Egalitarian theory; and Welfarist theory.

2.2.1 Resourcist Theory

The capability approach, developed by Amartya Sen and further elaborated by Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns, is primarily focused on enhancing individuals' capabilities to lead lives they value. While the capability approach does not explicitly align with a specific theoretical framework, it is often associated with a broader critique of resource-based theories, including what can be termed "resourcist" theories. Resourcist theories, often associated with utilitarian or economic perspectives, place significant emphasis on the distribution and allocation of resources as a means of achieving social welfare or well-being. These theories typically prioritize maximizing the availability of material resources, such as income or wealth, as the primary means to improve people's lives¹⁶³. In contrast, the capability approach challenges the narrow focus on resources alone and argues for a broader perspective on well-being. It emphasizes that well-being is not solely determined by the quantity of resources individuals possess but also by the opportunities, freedoms, and substantive choices they have to live a life they value¹⁶⁴.

By incorporating the resourcist approach as a theoretical framework for capabilitarianism, one moves beyond the limitations of resourcist theories. The capability approach provides a lens through which to evaluate the distribution and allocation of resources, but it also emphasizes the importance of agency, choice, and human functioning. It recognizes that individuals have diverse capabilities and that enhancing their substantive freedoms and opportunities is essential for their well-being¹⁶⁵. In using the capability approach as a theoretical framework, one can critically examine how resourcist theories may fall short in capturing the multidimensionality of

human well-being and the complexities of social justice¹⁶⁶. The capability approach helps highlight the importance of not just the availability of resources but also the conversion factors that enable individuals to transform resources into valuable functionings and capabilities¹⁶⁷. It provides a broader understanding of well-being beyond material resources and encourages policymakers and scholars to consider a wider range of factors that contribute to individuals' freedom and flourishing.

2.2.2 Egalitarian Theory

Egalitarianism can be considered as a theoretical framework for Capabilitarianism, providing a normative basis for the distribution of capabilities and resources within society¹⁶⁸. Egalitarianism is a moral and political philosophy that promotes equality in various dimensions, such as wealth, opportunities, and outcomes¹⁶⁹. When applied to Capabilitarianism, egalitarianism emphasizes the goal of equalizing capabilities among individuals to ensure a more just and equitable society. It suggests that all individuals should have equal opportunities to develop and exercise their capabilities, regardless of their social, economic, or demographic backgrounds¹⁷⁰. Distributive justice, or ensuring certain that the way resources and skills are distributed in society is fair and equal, is the goal of egalitarianism. It emphasizes equal opportunities for people to develop and use their capabilities and calls for minimizing gaps in capabilities, particularly those resulting from factors beyond individuals' control, such as birth conditions or social disadvantages. It aims to remove institutionalized discrimination and hurdles that prevent people from getting the resources, education, and healthcare they need to improve their lives. Additionally, egalitarianism seeks to

lessen inequality in the distribution of talents as well as in terms of outcomes. It aims to remove social stratification and economic inequalities that prevent people from realizing their potential and actively participating in society. Additionally, it supports the overarching objective of social justice, which aims to build a society in which every person has an equal opportunity to succeed and lead fulfilling lives¹⁷¹. It urges resolving systemic injustices and giving underprivileged people the tools, they need to overcome limitations on their potential. It is crucial to remember that using egalitarianism as a foundation for capabilitarianism may involve disputes and disagreements about the proper degree and character of equality as well as the proper ratio of individual agency to community responsibility. The way Capabilitarian policies and treatments are implemented may vary depending on how egalitarianism is interpreted and understood.

Overall, Capabilitarianism emphasizes the value of advancing equal opportunities, minimizing gaps, and ensuring a more just distribution of capabilities, leading to a more equitable and inclusive society by adopting an egalitarian paradigm¹⁷².

2.2.3 Welfarist Theory

In the context of the capability approach, the welfarist theory focuses on the evaluation of individual well-being primarily through the lens of utility or welfare¹⁷³. It emphasizes the importance of assessing people's subjective experiences and preferences to determine their well-being. Welfarism posits that individuals' well-being is determined by the satisfaction of their preferences or desires¹⁷⁴. The welfarist perspective, which takes into account how well people are able to accomplish the functions and capabilities they value, complements the capability approach's focus on

capabilities¹⁷⁵. It acknowledges that a person's happiness is influenced by a variety of factors, including their subjective experiences and level of pleasure, in addition to their abilities and opportunities. The welfarist theory can be applied to the capability approach to evaluate the overall well-being or utility that people obtain through the transformation of their capabilities into useful functionings¹⁷⁶. The welfarist perspective offers a comprehensive picture of well-being by taking into account people's subjective assessments, preferences, and experiences.

However, it is important to note that the capability approach also recognizes the limitations of relying solely on subjective well-being evaluations. It emphasizes the importance of objective functioning and the intrinsic value of certain capabilities and freedoms, irrespective of individuals' preferences¹⁷⁷. This broader perspective acknowledges that individual preferences may be influenced by external factors, social norms, and unequal power dynamics.

The capacity approach, which was largely created by economists and philosophers like Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, emphasizes people's capabilities and freedom to achieve well-being and lead lives they have good reason to value. It highlights how crucial it is for people to have real freedoms and opportunities to select and follow their own life goals. In this strategy, increasing people's capabilities is prioritized over merely supplying them with resources or money. In the context of welfare economics, welfarism is frequently associated with the utilitarian philosophy, where the aim is to maximize overall well-being or happiness. Welfarism is a moral and philosophical perspective that places a central emphasis on well-being as the ultimate

goal. It contends that the goodness or value of outcomes should be measured in terms of individual well-being.

The capability approach, on the other hand, goes beyond conventional welfare approaches by highlighting the significance of human freedoms, personal agency, and the diversity of people's life objectives and values. It acknowledges that a person's ability to transform resources into useful functionings and talents influences their level of well-being in addition to their access to material or utilitarian resources.

Resource- and income-based theories, on the other hand, tend to place more emphasis on the distribution of resources or money than on the concept of capacities and well-being as a whole. Egalitarian theories place more emphasis on the equitable distribution of resources among people, whereas resource-allocation theories prioritise the distribution of resources like money or goods.

In summary, the capability approach aligns more closely with welfarist theories because it places a primary emphasis on enhancing individuals' well-being and the opportunities that they have to lead fulfilling lives, while taking into account their diverse capabilities and personal freedoms. The welfarist theory within the capability approach allows for the consideration of individuals' subjective experiences and preferences when evaluating their well-being. It complements the focus on capabilities by providing insights into how well individuals are able to fulfill their preferences and desires¹⁷⁸. By incorporating both objective capabilities and subjective well-being evaluations, the capability approach can provide a more comprehensive understanding of human well-being and social arrangements.

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 Sustainable Development in Nigeria

Sustainable development is already being worked on in Nigeria through a number of initiatives and activities. In order to achieve long-term success and well-being, sustainable development in Nigeria entails resolving the nation's particular social, economic, and environmental problems¹⁷⁹. Nigeria is a large, resource-rich nation in Africa that struggles with a number of sustainability-related problems. Like other United Nations members, Nigeria has committed to enacting the 17 SDGs. The Nigerian government has incorporated the SDGs into its national development plans and is trying to meet objectives for eradicating poverty, ensuring high-quality education, promoting gender equality, utilizing renewable energy, creating sustainable cities, and other things¹⁸⁰. Here are some key aspects of sustainable development in Nigeria:

Economic Diversification: Because Nigeria's economy depends so significantly on oil money, it is susceptible to changes in the price of oil. In order to achieve sustainable growth, Nigeria must diversify its economy by fostering industries including manufacturing, agriculture, renewable energy, and technology. Economic growth would be more robust and inclusive as a result¹⁸¹.

Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion: Nigeria has a high rate of poverty and severe income disparity. Poverty Alleviation and Social Inclusion. Efforts at sustainable development seek to eradicate poverty and guarantee that economic expansion benefits all facets of society, particularly underrepresented groups, women, and young people¹⁸².

Access to high-quality programs for housing, healthcare, education, and social protection must be improved.

Environmental Conservation and Climate Change: Nigeria suffers environmental issues include deforestation, pollution, and ecological deterioration¹⁸³. It also faces climate change. Protecting and restoring natural resources, supporting sustainable land use practices, and addressing the effects of climate change are all necessary for sustainable development¹⁸⁴. Nigeria has developed a National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy to address climate change impacts and promote sustainable development. The policy includes actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change impacts, promote sustainable land use, and increase access to clean energy, waste management, afforestation, the development of renewable energy sources, and wildlife preservation¹⁸⁵.

Infrastructure Development: Infrastructure development is essential for Nigeria's ability to support both social and economic progress¹⁸⁶. This includes spending money on telecommunications, water and sanitation systems, electricity systems, and transportation networks. Infrastructure that is sustainable should be durable, effective, and created with long-term environmental and social factors in mind.

Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening: strengthening institutions and ensuring good governance are crucial for achieving sustainable development. For Nigeria to achieve equitable resource distribution, encourage sustainable behaviors, and fight corruption, the country needs strong public administration, transparent and accountable governance institutions, and the rule of law¹⁸⁷.

Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships: Collaboration between the government, civil society, corporations, and communities is essential for sustainable development in Nigeria. The effectiveness and inclusivity of sustainable development programs can be increased by involving stakeholders, such as indigenous groups and local communities, in decision-making processes and encouraging collaborations¹⁸⁸.

Renewable Energy Initiatives: Nigeria has been making efforts to increase the use of renewable energy sources. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international partners, has implemented initiatives such as the Renewable Energy Master Plan, the Rural Electrification Agency, and the Energizing Education Program to promote renewable energy technologies, increase energy access, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions¹⁸⁹.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Programs: Nigeria has various programs aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security. Initiatives include the National Agriculture Resilience Framework, the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme, and the National Food Security Program. These programs focus on improving agricultural practices, enhancing productivity, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and supporting smallholder farmers¹⁹⁰.

Conservation and Biodiversity Preservation: Nigeria is home to diverse ecosystems and unique wildlife. Efforts are being made to conserve biodiversity and protect natural habitats. For instance, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation works on initiatives related to forest conservation, wildlife protection, and sustainable livelihoods for local communities¹⁹¹.

Waste Management and Recycling: Nigeria faces significant challenges in waste management, but there are ongoing initiatives to address this issue. Several organizations are engaged in waste management and recycling projects, promoting sustainable waste disposal practices, and creating awareness about the importance of recycling and reducing waste generation¹⁹².

Civil Society and Community-Based Initiatives: Numerous NGOs and community-based organizations in Nigeria are actively working towards sustainable development. They focus on various aspects such as environmental conservation, poverty alleviation, education, women's empowerment, and community development.

These are some of the essential elements of sustainable development in Nigeria, but it is a dynamic process that calls for coordinated action by numerous stakeholders in order to handle the particular opportunities and difficulties faced by the nation.

2.3.2 Sustainable Development in Nigeria in the Past Ten Years (2012-2022)

Between 2012 and 2022, Nigeria's sustainable development was characterized by both advancements and difficulties. The most populous nation in Africa, Nigeria, deals with a number of challenging economic, social, and environmental concerns. Nigeria's oil industry served as the main driver of the country's economic expansion during this decade¹⁹³. However, the nation also had to deal with economic difficulties, such as changes in the price of oil on a global scale. With a focus on industries including agriculture, manufacturing, and services, efforts were made to diversify the economy and reduce its heavy reliance on oil earnings¹⁹⁴. Despite economic expansion, poverty

rates remained high and income inequality continued during this time. Many Nigerians still have trouble getting access to necessities like clean water, healthcare, and education. Road construction, energy production, and transportation infrastructure development were prioritised¹⁹⁵. The government launched initiatives to increase infrastructure and economic growth.

Nigeria experienced serious security issues, including as the Boko Haram insurgency in the country's northeast. These wars caused chaos in people's lives, led to population displacement, and hampered sustainable development¹⁹⁶. Sustainability of the environment remained a problem. Soil erosion, desertification, and deforestation were continuous issues¹⁹⁷. In areas that produced oil, Nigeria also struggled with environmental contamination and degradation¹⁹⁸. In an effort to combat climate change and lessen its dependency on fossil fuels, Nigeria made achievements in encouraging renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind power¹⁹⁹. The expansion of access to healthcare and education has advanced. The National Health Insurance Scheme was developed as part of programmes to boost student enrollment and enhance healthcare services²⁰⁰.

However, Nigeria's efforts to achieve sustainable development were still seriously hampered by corruption. To deal with these problems, anti-corruption activities and governance reforms were started. The country's technology industry grew, with rising internet usage and mobile phone penetration. Fintech, education, and other industries were affected by this digital shift. Initiatives to promote business and skill development among young Nigerians were launched as a result of the persistent

problem of youth unemployment. Nigeria synchronised its development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN. The SDGs have been attempted to be incorporated into national policies and programmes²⁰¹. The Nigerian healthcare system and economy faced considerable hurdles as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government took action to slow the spread of the virus and lessen its effects.

In conclusion, attempts to solve different economic, social, and environmental issues were part of Nigeria's journey towards sustainable development from 2012 to 2022. While there were some noteworthy accomplishments, such as the improvement of infrastructure and advancements in healthcare and education, enduring problems like poverty, inequality, security issues, and environmental sustainability remained major obstacles. Nigeria's determination to attaining sustainable development and raising the standard of living of its people is demonstrated by its commitment to the SDGs and ongoing governance changes.

2.3.3 Existing Initiatives and Efforts towards Sustainable Development in Nigeria

Nigeria has made numerous efforts and attempts towards sustainable development in a number of fields. These programmes attempt to solve economic, social, and environmental issues while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

The Nigerian economy's diversification, infrastructure development, industrialization promotion, and attainment of macroeconomic stability were the main objectives of the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), which was carried out from

2017 to 2020²⁰². A number of National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP), including TraderMoni, N-Power, and Conditional Cash Transfer were introduced. These programmes seek to increase social protection, human capital development, and poverty reduction²⁰³. The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) was also introduced, with the aim to restructure Nigeria's agricultural industry by raising productivity, fostering agribusiness, and assuring food security²⁰⁴.

Nigeria is working to employ more renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, in order to lessen its dependency on fossil fuels and fight climate change. Health insurance programmes like NHIS and HMO were created with the goal of increasing access to healthcare services and affording Nigerians financial security²⁰⁵. To fully utilize the potential of the digital economy, the Nigerian government is encouraging innovative businesses and fostering digital literacy. In an effort to improve the education sector, initiatives were introduced that improved teacher preparation, increased access to high-quality education, and offered scholarships to underprivileged students. The National Youth Investment Fund (NYIF) and the Youth Entrepreneurship encourage (YES) Programme are only two of the programmes that have been developed to encourage youth employment, skill development, and entrepreneurship²⁰⁶. Initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls emphasize expanding their access to economic, medical, and educational possibilities.

Nigeria works along with international agencies including the United Nations, World Bank, and African Development Bank to obtain financial and technical assistance for initiatives promoting sustainable development²⁰⁷. Nigeria made attempts

to lessen the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the entire nation by adopting public health initiatives, distributing vaccines, and creating economic stimulus plans. These programmes and projects demonstrate Nigeria's dedication to social inclusion, poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship. However, difficulties persist, and the success of these programmes rests on their efficient implementation, ongoing oversight, and resolving underlying problems including corruption, security threats, and insufficient infrastructure.

2.3.4 Challenges Faced in Achieving Sustainable Goals in Nigeria

Taking a look at the current limitations in sustainable development practices reveals several challenges that hinder progress towards achieving sustainability goals. These limitations vary across different sectors and contexts but generally include the following:

Institutional capability: Building and enhancing the institutional capability required to successfully execute sustainable development practices is difficult for many nations, including Nigeria. This includes scarce resources, deficient governance arrangements, and flimsy policy frameworks, all of which make it difficult to coordinate and carry out sustainability projects²⁰⁸.

Poverty and Inequality: Poverty and inequality remain significant barriers to sustainable development. High levels of poverty and income disparities make it difficult for vulnerable populations to access essential services, education, healthcare, and adequate housing²⁰⁹. Addressing poverty and inequality is crucial for inclusive and sustainable development.

Environmental Degradation: Nigeria faces environmental challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion, pollution, and inadequate waste management. These issues contribute to the degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and negative impacts on public health²¹⁰. Effective environmental protection and sustainable resource management are needed to address these challenges.

Energy Access and Transition: Access to affordable and clean energy is essential for sustainable development. However, Nigeria struggles with energy poverty, with a significant portion of the population lacking access to reliable electricity²¹¹. Transitioning to renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency is crucial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change, and provide sustainable energy solutions²¹².

Climate Change Resilience: Nigeria is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including increased temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. Building climate resilience is a critical aspect of sustainable development. However, limited capability for climate adaptation, inadequate infrastructure, and funding constraints hinders efforts to address climate change impacts effectively²¹³.

Limited Data and Monitoring: Adequate data collection, monitoring, and evaluation are crucial for evidence-based decision-making and tracking progress towards sustainable development goals²¹⁴. However, data gaps and limited monitoring systems pose challenges in assessing the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives and identifying areas for improvement.

Behavioural and Cultural Change: Achieving sustainable development requires a shift in attitudes, behaviours, and cultural norms. However, promoting behaviour change and fostering sustainable lifestyles can be challenging²¹⁵. Education, awareness-raising campaigns, and community engagement are needed to encourage sustainable practices and create a culture of sustainability.

Limited Financial Resources: Adequate financing is essential for implementing sustainable development practices. However, limited financial resources, both domestic and international, pose a significant constraint. Mobilizing and effectively utilizing financial resources for sustainable development projects remains a challenge²¹⁶.

Addressing these gaps and limitations requires a holistic and integrated approach, involving the government, civil society, private sector, and international cooperation. It involves strengthening institutional capability, promoting social equity, enhancing environmental protection, investing in renewable energy, improving data collection and monitoring systems, fostering behaviour change, and increasing financial resources for sustainable development.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

2.4.1 Review of Martha Nussbaum's Capability Theory

American philosopher and classicist Martha Nussbaum was born in 1947. She has made significant contributions to political philosophy, the philosophy of emotions, and moral philosophy. In her writing, she frequently discusses topics pertaining to human potential, justice, and the function of emotions in ethical reasoning. She created the "capabilities

approach," a framework for evaluating social justice and human well-being that is founded on the notion that everyone should be able to live fulfilling lives. Nussbaum has written extensively on a variety of subjects, including ethics, gender justice, education, and the contribution of the humanities to the development of compassion and empathy. Her work has had a profound impact on political philosophy and ethics.

As she often does in her works, she begins with a narration on the life of Vasanti, a poor Indian woman who has struggled to escape from an abusive husband, is discussed in terms of the opportunity she has for choice and action in her specific political, social, and economic situation. She offers a thorough definition of the capabilities approach in general, in her book *Creating Capabilities*. The capability approach should be "defined as an approach to comparative quality-of-life assessment and to theorizing about basic social justice"²¹⁷. She makes this claim repeatedly throughout the book. In Nussbaum's own version, the methodology is put to use by developing a theory of fundamental social justice from it²¹⁸. She thus, acknowledges two clusters of scholarship within the capability approach: capabilitarian theories of justice and capabilitarian accounts of the quality of life²¹⁹. Works in the first cluster includes Anderson's egalitarian theory, Wolff and de-Shalit's theory of disadvantage, debates about the metric of justice, and debates about the justification of a capabilitarian theory of justice.²²⁰²²¹

The work of Amartya Sen and his collaborators, which best exemplifies the second cluster of theories on the capability approach, defends "capability as the most pertinent space of comparison for purposes of quality-of-life assessment, thus changing

the direction of the development debate"²²². The capability approach, in Nussbaum's book, is either about comparing quality of life assessments or about fundamental social fairness. The "social justice version" and the "comparative quality of life version" are undoubtedly connected. As a result, she recognizes two scholarly subfields within the capability approach: capable conceptions of justice and capable explanations of life's quality²²³. She describes the capabilities approach in her book in a way that incorporates Nussbaum's work as well as the majority of Amartya Sen's.

The capability approach has been influential in various fields, including development economics, human rights, and social policy. It has been used as a theoretical basis for measuring and evaluating well-being, informing policy decisions, and advocating for the rights and empowerment of marginalized groups. The capabilities approach based on the Aristotelian and Marxian concepts of human flourishing and the good life, was purported by Nussbaum. In her interpretation of the capability approach, conducting daily activities with human choice and their rationale is what it means to live well as a human being. Her version of capability approach is found on Amartya Sen's concept of substantial freedoms or capabilities. However, contrary to Sen, her capability framework specifies a comprehensive list of human capabilities that every human in the world is required to be able to perform.

The capability approach developed by Martha Nussbaum is a conceptual framework for assessing and advancing social justice²²⁴. It is concerned with the question of what individuals are effectively able to achieve and be in their life, rather than solely focused on their financial resources or basic necessities. For a person's

capabilities, or the opportunities and freedoms they have to lead a valuable and fulfilling life, should be at the center of any assessment of well-being and social progress²²⁵. Her capability approach is a philosophical framework that focuses on assessing and promoting human well-being and social justice. This approach was developed as an alternative to traditional welfare economics, which primarily relies on measuring well-being through economic indicators like income or GDP²²⁶. People have a certain set of core abilities that are essential for leading noble and successful lives and these capabilities include features such as being able to live a healthy life, having access to education, being able to engage in political processes, enjoying emotional well-being, creating personal relationships, and having the ability to follow one's own goals and interests²²⁷.

The capability approach considers people one by one; it rejects the preference standard as a proposed standard of what is socially valuable. It has been pointed out that preferences may be distorted (a slave or an abused person may eventually become convinced that a moderately comfortable enslavement or oppression is best she can get and not prefer greater freedom)²²⁸. When referring to people's quality of life, Nussbaum frequently employs the plural form "capabilities" to stress that these elements are numerous and quantitatively distinct. She believed that a single term could not encompass all aspects of an individual's life, including their health, physical integrity, education, and other factors²²⁹. Nussbaum is being praised for providing a richer, more applicable, and realistic framework that can be used to evaluate every individual's well-being because she is interested with the capabilities of non-human animals as well as

human beings. As such, she prefers to define her "capability approach" as the "human development approach," because she is concerned with the capabilities of non-human animals as well as human beings²³⁰. She broadens the approach for enhancing the environment where people can live well utilizing their own strengths.

Furthermore, it is evident that each member of the household receives attention in her version of the capability approach, not only the household as a whole²³¹. A good flourishing life requires the protection of ten central capabilities and she makes a list of the aspects of life to which capabilities relate and believes this list gives a good indication of the central capabilities that are important to all people. In line with Aristotle, she emphasizes the necessity of both the ideas of human flourishing and human dignity to ensure that a person possesses the abilities listed in Nussbaum's central human capabilities and lives a truly human and dignified existence. She does not solely rely on Sen's theory of capability; she begins her argument from an Aristotelian perspective on human growth. She asks an Aristotelian question, "What activities characteristically performed by human beings are so central that they seem definitive of the life that is truly human."²³². Her lists include the following;

1. Life; Being able to live to the end of a human life and not dying prematurely
2. Bodily health; Being able to have good health, including reproductive health, being adequately fed and have proper shelter.
3. Bodily integrity; Ability to move freely from place to place, being secured from violent assault, including sexual assault; having opportunities for sexual satisfaction and for choice in matters of reproduction.

4. Senses, imagination and thought; Being able to use the senses, imagine and think in a way informed by getting the right amount of education.
5. Emotions; Ability to have attachment to things and people outside of us.
6. *Practical reason*. Being able to form a conception of the good and to engage in critical reflection about the planning of one's own life. (This entails protection for liberty of conscience.)
7. *Affiliation*. Being able to live for and in relation to others, to recognize and show concern for other human beings, to engage in various forms of social interaction; being able to imagine the situation of another and to have compassion for that situation; having the capability for both justice and friendship... Being able to be treated as a dignified being whose worth is equal to that of others.
8. *Other species*. Being able to live with concern for and in relation to animals, plants, and the world of nature.
9. *Play*. Being able to laugh, to play, to enjoy recreational activities.
10. *Control over one's environment*. (A) *Political*: being able to participate effectively in political choices that govern one's life; having the rights of political participation, free speech and freedom of association . . . (B) *Material*: being able to hold property (both land and movable goods); having the right to seek employment on an equal basis with others . . . ²³³.

In addition, it is emphasized that in order to live in a truly human way and be completely functioning, each person must make use of the ten central human capabilities in addition to having them on their own. In contrast to Sen, she emphasizes

that the abilities outlined should be authorized to ensure that everyone has access to them. The threshold of capabilities is a concept that she popularized. She argued that every citizen should be given a social minimum-security guarantee or promise that these capabilities will be available to them like other human life resources. She also agrees that institutions like the government, labour, and religious groups have a responsibility to see that these minimum standards of capability are met²³⁴. From a philosophical standpoint, Nussbaum, created her version of the capability approach. She heavily bases her theory on the Marxian and Aristotelian conception of actual human functioning. In line with Aristotle, she emphasizes the necessity of both the conceptions of human flourishing and human dignity to ensure that a person possesses the talents enumerated in Nussbaum's central human capabilities and lives a truly human and dignified existence. Nussbaum does not solely rely on Sen's theory of capability; she begins her argument from an Aristotelian perspective on human growth. Nussbaum created a clear list of talents and recommendations to be constitutionalized by the government in order to create a blueprint for human growth that was firmly rooted in Aristotelian and Marxian conceptions of human flourishing and human dignity.

Martha Nussbaum classified capabilities into three types. Basic, internal and combined capabilities ²³⁵.

Basic capabilities are the innate type of capabilities which form the necessary basis for developing more advanced capabilities. Nussbaum points out that most infants have the basic capabilities for practical reason and imagination. Healthy children have basic capabilities in all ten of the areas in the above list.

Internal capabilities are states of persons that are... sufficient conditions for the exercise of the corresponding function. It builds on pre-existing basic capabilities by processes such as exercise, education and training. Many internal capabilities require a more structured educational environment²³⁶.

Combined capabilities are defined as internal capabilities plus the external conditions that make the exercise of a function, a real option. The aim of public policy is the promotion of internal capabilities and making available the external institutional and material conditions²³⁷.

Martha Nussbaum, having being inspired by the works of Amartya Sen, proposes a theory that serves as a theory of social justice and for the comparative assessment of the quality of life, there by bringing moral philosophy into development economics. She maintains that each person should be taken as an end and not a means to an end, putting into consideration, the opportunities available to each individual person. Her approach is strongly based on choice and freedom. For Nussbaum, "Capabilities are not just abilities residing in a person, but also the freedoms or opportunities created by a combination of personal abilities and the political, social and economic environment"²³⁸.

2.4.2 Review of Ingrid Robeyns' Capability Theory

Belgian philosopher Ingrid Robeyns, who was born in 1972, is renowned for her work in political, ethical, and economic philosophy. She is a well-known proponent of the creation and use of the capability approach to evaluate well-being and social justice.

Robeyns has concentrated on topics of inequality, poverty, and the evaluation of life quality. Particularly in the context of economic and social policy, her work frequently aims to close the gap between philosophical notions of fairness and real policy-making. On subjects including the morality of economic injustice and the equitable distribution of resources, she has written extensively. Her writings have had a significant impact, such as "Wellbeing, Freedom and Social Justice: The Capability Approach Re-examined."

The capability approach is a thorough, multifaceted normative approach that holds that when analyzing people's lives, we should consider what they are capable of accomplishing and what kind of lives they are capable of leading—their "doings and beings," which the capability approach refers to as their "capabilities."²³⁹ The capability approach is concerned with elements of people's existence like their health, the education they can obtain, and the support they can receive from their social networks. The method also considers what people are capable of, such as their capability to work, raise a family, travel, or engage in political activity²⁴⁰. A person's "capabilities" or "functionings" are used to evaluate their level of wellbeing. Regardless of whether they choose to use them, a person can develop a range of abilities from the resources at their disposal. It is the person's functionings that they genuinely are aware of. The term "capability set" refers to the total set of capabilities that a person has access to at any given time and serves as a gauge of their overall level of real freedom²⁴¹.

Ingrid Robeyns is another prominent scholar who has made significant contributions to the capability approach. While her work builds on Nussbaum's ideas,

she has expanded and refined the framework in certain ways. Her version of the capability approach is often referred to as the "resource-based" or "sufficientarian" approach²⁴². She emphasizes the significance of taking into account not only an individual's capabilities but also their social and relationship dimensions. She also emphasizes that social interactions, institutions, and norms have an impact on skills in addition to being influenced by personal characteristics²⁴³. The wider social and cultural context in which people live as well as their interactions and connections with others have an impact on how capable individuals are.

A person's capability to transform resources into useful functioning is based on the social and relational resources they have at their disposal. For instance, social connections, networks, and support systems may be necessary for access to healthcare or education services. She contends that the capabilities approach needs to be guided by a concern for social fairness and ought to give the eradication of serious disadvantages and the satisfaction of fundamental requirements top priority. She focuses on the distribution of resources within society and highlights the role that resources play in developing skills²⁴⁴. The idea of "sufficientarianism," which is advanced in her work, contends that societies should put a priority on ensuring that every person has access to a sufficient level of well-being before concentrating on obtaining higher levels of well-being. This suggests that the main objectives of social policy should be eradicating poverty and establishing a fundamental social safety net.

The "sufficientarianism" of Ingrid Robeyns is an ethical system that emphasizes making sure that people have enough resources and skills to live at least minimum

respectable lives. It is a different viewpoint from egalitarianism, which seeks to attain absolute equality among people²⁴⁵. In sufficientarianism, what really matters is whether or not a person has enough to meet their fundamental requirements and be treated equally in society, rather than what exact degree of resources or qualities they possess. In order for everyone to be able to live a life that is honorable and fulfilling, she contends that a "threshold" or minimal standard of resources and skills must be established²⁴⁶.

Key aspects of sufficientarianism include:

Focus on Basic Needs: Basic requirements like food, shelter, healthcare, education, and personal protection are given priority by sufficientarianism. The goal is to guarantee that people have access to enough resources to live respectable lives and take active roles in society²⁴⁷.

Equality of Opportunity: Equal opportunity is emphasized by sufficientarianism, which holds that everyone should have an equal opportunity to advance their potential and achieve their objectives. It acknowledges that for people to exercise their freedom and make informed decisions, some amount of resources and capabilities is required²⁴⁸.

Relative Inequality: Sufficientarianism acknowledges that inequality may persist to some extent after the point of adequacy. Although it aims to combat poverty and stop extreme inequities, it does not strictly pursue individual equality. Instead, it puts an emphasis on ensuring that there are enough resources for everyone, taking into account the fact that everyone may have different tastes, skills, and aspirations²⁴⁹.

Contextual Considerations: Sufficiencyarianism takes into account contextual factors such as societal norms, cultural values, and specific needs of different groups. It recognizes that the threshold of sufficiency may vary across different contexts and may need to be adjusted to address specific challenges and inequalities²⁵⁰.

Overall, sufficiencyarianism seeks to establish a society where everyone has enough resources and capabilities to lead a dignified life, while also recognizing the importance of equal opportunity and contextual considerations. It provides an alternative perspective to strict egalitarianism, focusing on meeting basic needs and ensuring a fair and sufficient level of resources for all individuals.

The concept of "conversion factors," which refers to the social and economic circumstances that permit people to successfully transform resources into useful capabilities, is another one that is emphasized. Access to healthcare and education, for instance, might be considered conversion variables that improve a person's capability to develop their abilities²⁵¹. Overall, her take on the capability approach emphasizes the significance of enough resources and guarantees that everyone has the chance to live at least a minimally respectable life in order to solve concerns of distributive justice and inequality²⁵².

With the understanding that people's capabilities are influenced by their relationships with others and the social structures they live in, Robeyns' capability approach places an emphasis on the relational and social dimensions of capabilities. She contends that talents of people should be assessed in light of their unique situations and the social environments in which they reside²⁵³. In addition to extending Nussbaum's list

of necessary skills, she contends that different communities and historical eras may have varying requirements for particular skills. She advocates for the incorporation of contextually and culturally pertinent skills in assessments of people's wellbeing²⁵⁴.

A case is also made for a just distribution of abilities among people while emphasizing the significance of distributive justice. She contends that in order to advance social justice, societal institutions and policies should work to increase people's capabilities and lessen inequities. She focuses on the notion of relational egalitarianism and employs the capability approach to address concerns of social justice and inequality²⁵⁵. She contends that considering the capabilities of individuals in isolation is insufficient and that the distribution of capabilities within society must also be taken into account and underlines that a variety of social, economic, and political variables, such as income inequality, discrimination, and unequal power relations, can have an impact on people's skills²⁵⁶. She argues that a just society should strive for a fair distribution of capabilities and opportunities, ensuring that individuals have the resources and conditions necessary to live a good life.

Along with the list of skills put out by Nussbaum, she indicates that the precise collection of skills valued differently between nations and cultures. In order to decide which skills should be given priority and to make sure that many views and viewpoints are taken into consideration, she advocates for a democratic and participatory process. Incorporating social justice, relational equality, and the significance of democratic discussion in identifying the pertinent capabilities for a just society, Robeyns' capability approach expands Nussbaum's approach.

Depending on the problem it is intended to solve and the norms of the discipline in which it is used, the basic capability framework can be developed in many ways, leading to various specifications in order to distinguish between capability theories or capability accounts, which specify the general framework in order to use it for a specific purpose, such as to develop an account of wellbeing, poverty, or justice, and capability approach, which is the general framework used in a number of different disciplines for various purposes. However, this distinction does prompt the question of what characteristics are shared by all capability applications²⁵⁷. Yet this distinction does raise the question what all capability applications share in common. She presented a modular approach to answering this question²⁵⁸. This modular approach contains a list of items that all capability applications should possess, as well as a set of items on which the scholar using the capability approach has some discretionary power, given the pluralism within capability accounts²⁵⁹. What are the core characteristics shared by all capability accounts that are particularly important for applications within feminist economics? First, as opposed to other normative frameworks, the capability approach ultimately prioritizes distinct parts of reality.

It however suggests that rather than focusing on a person's wealth or other resources, happiness, or welfare, we should instead evaluate their wellbeing and substantive freedoms by evaluating their functionings and capabilities. The core components of other evaluation ideas like "development" or "fairness" should also be these. Moving from means to objectives of wellbeing is a second crucial tenet shared by all capability approaches. Instead of concentrating on the resources at a person's

disposal valued as a means to achieving what that person has reason to value in life, the focus of evaluation is directly on the ends, resulting in the freedom to achieve the doings and beings a person has reason to value, which is reflected by her capabilities²⁶⁰.

Ingrid Robeyns makes a critique of Martha Nussbaum's description of the capability approach and she offers an alternative. Nussbaum addresses the fundamental questions of what the capabilities approach is and is not, unfortunately, there is a lack of clarity on these issues²⁶¹. She argued that Nussbaum's characterization of the capability approach is flawed, and she proposed an alternative which is radically multidisciplinary but contains a foundational core that is robust across its various usages. She calls this the cartwheel view of the capability approach. It is important to note that the cart wheel approach is one of the contributions made by Ingrid Robeyns to the capability approach, and it adds a valuable perspective to the ongoing development and application of the capability approach in addressing issues of social justice and well-being.

Her "cart wheel approach" is a conceptual framework that expands on the traditional list of capabilities proposed by Nussbaum. The cart wheel metaphor represents a multidimensional and interconnected understanding of human well-being and capabilities. It emphasizes that capabilities should be seen as interdependent and mutually reinforcing, rather than isolated capabilities that exist separately.

The key features/modules of Robeyns' cart wheel approach include:

Central Capability: a central capability is the most fundamental or important capability that enables the development of other capabilities for Robeyns. This fundamental skill is considered essential for an individual's general thriving and well-being²⁶².

Core Capabilities: The core capabilities, which are the most important and widely shared capabilities required for a minimally decent living, surround the central capability. These fundamental talents cover such areas as physical health, education, housing, and interpersonal interactions.

Inner Rim Capabilities: The inner rim is made up of extra skills that are necessary for living a good life but are not as crucial as the core skills. These skills can vary amongst people, cultures, and circumstances, reflecting different priorities and values.

Outer Rim Capabilities: The outer rim represents capabilities that are more context-specific and reliant on individual choices, cultural norms, and social expectations are represented by the outer rim. These talents are varied and might include everything from leisure activities and religious freedom to cultural involvement and artistic expression²⁶³.

By recognizing the connectivity and interdependence of capabilities and the fact that the development of one skill frequently facilitates the realization of others, the "cart wheel approach" broadens the capability approach. This method takes into account the complexity of human lives and the wide variety of qualities that people value, allowing for a more nuanced view of well-being and human flourishing²⁶⁴. The Cartwheel Approach's modules have practical implications for policy formulation and evaluation.

They highlight the importance of not only providing resources and opportunities but also addressing barriers and inequalities in accessing and utilizing those resources. Policymakers can use these modules to identify areas where interventions are needed to enhance individuals' capabilities and well-being, promote social justice, and ensure inclusive development²⁶⁵.

The cartwheel view, which also explains the range of capability theories that have been developed, better illustrates the capability approach. The term capabilitarianism, which emphasizes the capabilities approach's breadth while highlighting its ultimately normative nature, is also used to describe it. The capability approach is also known as capabilitarianism to emphasize its breadth while underlining its ultimately normative nature²⁶⁶. She highlights the difference between a capability account or theory and the capability approach. The broad viewpoint is referred to as the "approach" and is employed in a variety of contexts and disciplines. But there is need to distinguish between that basic viewpoint and the specific theories or accounts that are founded on it, such as that of Wolff and de-Shalit's capabilitarian account of disadvantage, David Crocker's development ethics, and Martha Nussbaum's theory of justice^{267 268 269}. These particular interpretations are referred to as capability accounts or capability theories. All capabilitarian theories centers on a person's potential (her capabilities) and/or her actualized potentials (her functionings). Before providing a capability theory, capability account, capability measurement, or capability application, the capability method adds numerous additional modules to that core. It might be

transformed into, for instance, a theory of justice, a way to gauge poverty, or a narrative method for examining cultural shifts.

As a result, a statement of the capability approach should be fair to all capability theories. Therefore, this description must be slightly ambiguous in order to cover all of the family members, including those who have not yet surfaced. The capability approach has been applied to conceive, quantify, and evaluate how well-being is distributed across a population. It has also helped to provide the normative framework for evaluating how institutions, laws, and practices should change or be designed²⁷⁰.

Overall, Ingrid Robeyns' Cartwheel Approach offers a valuable framework to analyze and evaluate individuals' well-being and capabilities in multiple dimensions. It enhances the capability approach by providing a more nuanced understanding of the factors that shape individuals' opportunities and the conversion of resources into valuable functionings.

2.5 Summary of Gaps in Reviewed Literature

While there has been significant scholarly work on Martha Nussbaum's and Ingrid Robeyns' theories of Capabilitarianism, there remains a notable gap in the literature regarding constructive interventions that specifically address the application of these theories to sustainable development, particularly in Nigeria. There aren't many thorough case studies that precisely look at how Capabilitarianism's tenets have been implemented in practice to sustainable development programmes in Nigeria. Instead of actual investigations that evaluate the success and difficulties of applying these theories

in the Nigerian setting, the literature that already exists frequently concentrates on conceptual frameworks and theoretical discussions. The policy ramifications and workable approaches for incorporating Capabilitarianism into sustainable development policies and programmes in Nigeria are not sufficiently explored in the literature²⁷¹. There is a gap in the research regarding how to effectively implement Capabilitarianism's guiding principles into policies, institutional frameworks, and governance structures that can address Nigeria's social, economic, and environmental problems.

Although the capability approach stresses the need to take into consideration specific to the setting variations in capabilities, there is little research that explores the particular contextual elements in Nigeria that influence the realization of capabilities and its implications for sustainable development. To better understand how cultural, social, and political aspects influence how capabilities are understood and used in the Nigerian setting, more research is required. Further research is also needed to explore effective mechanisms for fostering collaboration, participation, and inclusivity in the application of Capabilitarianism in Nigeria in order to fill the gap regarding the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organizations, communities, and marginalized groups, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of Capabilitarianism-based interventions for sustainable development in Nigeria.

Addressing these gaps in the literature will significantly contribute to the practical understanding and implementation of Capabilitarianism in the context of

sustainable development in Nigeria. It would provide policymakers, practitioners, and scholars with valuable insights and evidence-based recommendations for designing and implementing constructive interventions that can enhance capabilities and promote sustainable development in Nigeria.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Three

Methodology

This work will be methodologically theoretical and prescriptive in nature. This approach is chosen to provide a comprehensive understanding of the relevance of Capabilitarianism for sustainable development in Nigeria, identify specific challenges, propose a constructive intervention, and analyze potential implications.

3.1 Research Design

Qualitative research design will be employed in the course of carrying out this research work. Qualitative research is often associated with an interpretative philosophy because researchers need to make sense of the subjective and socially constructed meaning expressed about the topic being researched.¹ This choice of research design is employed in order to make an exploratory and explanatory study into the research topic.

3.2 Method of Data Collection

For the purpose of the research work, secondary data will be used. This includes textbooks, peer reviewed journals, government documents, chapters in scholarly edited books, and internet sources amongst others. Each of these will be systematical and content analyzed, before relevant conclusions are drawn in the process of conducting the research. The study will begin with an extensive literature review to explore existing theoretical frameworks, concepts, and empirical studies related to Capabilitarianism, sustainable development, and Nigeria's context. This will help to

identify gaps and opportunities for the research and also help illustrate the practical application of Capabilitarianism in Nigeria's sustainable development context.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis techniques such as thematic analysis will be employed to identify recurring themes, patterns, and key insights related to the research objectives.² This analysis will provide a holistic understanding of the relevance of Capabilitarianism, challenges, and the proposed constructive intervention's potential implications.

This chosen methodology is appropriate for addressing the research objectives as it allows for a comprehensive exploration of theoretical frameworks. The literature review provides a theoretical foundation that facilitates a deep understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's sustainable development context. Overall, the chosen methodology enables a holistic examination of Capabilitarianism's relevance and the potential implications of a constructive intervention in the Nigerian context.

ENDNOTES

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Comparative Analysis of Both Capability Theories

In recent years, the capabilities approach created by Nussbaum and Sen has drawn a lot of interest in philosophical debates and practical considerations pertaining to policy decisions.¹ Although Sen invented the method, Nussbaum enhanced it and increased its applicability in a variety of domains other than economic studies. Her justification for the capabilities approach explains why attention to human development shouldn't be limited to issues of income poverty. She claimed that people have the power to make their own lives better. She supported her own brand of capability approach, which was founded on Marxist and Aristotelian notions of the good life and human flourishing.²

Conducting life activities with human choice and logic is the key to living well as a human being. She clarified this concept by making use of what is "recognizable as human" as opposed to what is beneficial to an individual, or wellbeing, as Robeyns prefers to phrase it.³ Nussbaum claimed that a successful human life will entail relationships with others and respectable interactions with members of other species on the alternative premise of the recognizably human life.⁴ Although living a more clearly human existence by getting along with other animals may always be beneficial for the individual whose life it is, proving that this is the case generally would be a challenging intellectual task. In more recent presentations, Nussbaum has drawn inspiration from the Stoics' understanding of dignity when describing this more modern approach.⁵

Capability Approach focuses on the protection of freedoms that are so essential that losing them renders a life unworthy of human dignity.⁶ The two ideas are not interchangeable. It's not just that Nussbaum uses the idea of wellbeing as a crutch to be thrown away. Her work with the idea of capability conflicts with the concept of putting wellbeing first and her capability framework presents a comprehensive set of human capabilities that every person in the world should be able to perform.⁷ She frequently uses the word "capabilities" to highlight how the most significant features or capabilities of people's quality of life are quantitatively unique and come in multiples.

A single category cannot encompass all facets of a person's life, including their health and physical integrity.⁸ She likes to refer to her "capability approach" as the "human development approach" because she is interested in both human and non-human animal capabilities.⁹ The essence of reading Aristotle's writings, who contended for the "good life" of every human, gave rise to her conception of well-being.¹⁰ Like Aristotle, Nussbaum broadens the strategy for enhancing the environment where people can live well using their own capabilities. To achieve human flourishing and dignity, she created a detailed list of qualities she thought were necessary for every human being to exist in a really human way.¹¹

The capability approach is described as being essentially a framework for thought, an inclusive normative framework for the assessment and evaluation of human well-being and social systems. Robeyns contends that the capabilities approach does not just attempt to explain social issues like poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.¹² Its

sole goal is to conceptualize them in terms of individual freedom, and explanation theories are required.

4.1.1 Highlighting the Differences Between Both Capability Theories

Both well-known philosophers Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns have created capability theories, which are conceptual frameworks that concentrate on evaluating an individual's well-being and quality of life based on their talents and opportunities.¹³

While their methodologies are similar, there are also significant disparities in their emphasis and point of view. The core of Martha Nussbaum's capability theory is a list of ten fundamental skills that she sees as being necessary for human flourishing. Their abilities span a variety of areas, such as life, physiological integrity, health, and senses as well as the mental and emotional aspects of them, as well as practical reason, allegiance, and knowledge of other species.¹⁴

While Robeyns has proposed a list of eleven capabilities, which includes dimensions like life, bodily health, knowledge, experience, emotions, practical reason, affiliation, other species, play, control over one's environment, and political participation, these capabilities are meant to serve as a baseline for assessing well-being and addressing social inequalities.¹⁵ Her list is more concentrated on skills related to social interaction and human agency.

The approach of Robeyns acknowledges the wide variety of human values as well as the possibility that various people and cultures may place a different emphasis on particular skills.¹⁶ While Nussbaum's approach is based on the notion of a universal human nature, suggesting that certain capabilities are necessary for all people to lead a

honorable and flourishing life, regardless of their cultural, societal, or individual differences, she emphasizes the importance of pluralism in defining and valuing capabilities.¹⁷ The idea of Nussbaum emphasizes how people function and their capabilities, emphasizing what people are truly capable of. She stresses the significance of taking into account not only available resources or outcomes but also the possibilities and freedoms people have to pursue their personal aspirations.¹⁸ Her method takes into account both internal (such as character qualities, skills, and goals) and external (such as social, economic, and political contexts) aspects that either empower or hinder people's potential. She develops the idea of "conversion factors" that control how resources are transformed into useful functionings.¹⁹ She also emphasizes a "sufficientarian" viewpoint that places less emphasis on enhancing capabilities and more on ensuring that people have enough to live at least minimally well.²⁰

The feminist and relational dimensions of capabilities are heavily emphasized in Robeyns' theory of capabilities. She contends that talents are not simply personal traits but also a part of social interactions and should be viewed in light of one's duties and roles in these relationships.²¹ Her capability hypothesis is flexible and subject to change. She adds that since society norms, attitudes, and circumstances change throughout time, the list of skills may need to be modified. She lays a great focus on equality and narrowing the capability disparities between the most advantaged and least advantaged people of society. She is concerned with providing fundamental requirements and eliminating extreme deprivations.²² In conclusion, while both Nussbaum and Robeyns support the idea of evaluating well-being through capabilities, Robeyns' approach is

centred on sufficiency, conversion factors, and is more sensitive to the relational and contextual aspects of capabilities, with a focus on feminist perspectives and pluralism.²³

Nussbaum's approach is grounded in a set of foundational capabilities based on universal human nature. Their theories provide complementary points of view that can be used to frame conversations about societal development, policy, and human well-being.²⁴

4.1.2 Highlighting the Similarities of both Capability Theories

Ingrid Robeyns and Martha Nussbaum's capability theories have certain similarities despite the variations in their focus and viewpoints. The following are some of the main parallels:

Promoting human flourishing and wellbeing is something that both Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns are interested in. They contend that using only material things or economic indicators to gauge well-being is insufficient and that a more thorough method that takes into account people's strengths and possibilities is required.²⁵ Both academics criticize conventional utilitarian theories of well-being that only consider indicators of pleasure or happiness. Both claim that these metrics disregard crucial facets of human existence and the variety of human values. They both push for a change in emphasis from merely resources or outcomes to people's functioning and capabilities in their writings.²⁶ They think that rather than merely what they have or consume, what people are able to accomplish and be is more important. Both of their conceptions of capability place a strong focus on the value of human agency. They view individual freedom to choose and pursue goals as essential to overall wellbeing.²⁷

Emphasizing capabilities makes it easier to spot and rectify systemic disparities that prevent some people from leading satisfying lives. Both place a strong emphasis on how freedom and opportunity play a part in capability theories. They emphasize the need of fostering environments that enable people to fully utilize their potential. Both strategies acknowledge that people's capabilities and wellbeing can alter over time and in various situations.²⁸ They stress the significance of taking into account the significance of human diversity and cultural variance, despite possible differences in the specifics of respective skill lists. They care about addressing social injustices and advancing justice because they understand that people's capabilities and well-being can be influenced by their cultural, societal, and personal settings, individuals' life paths and the mutable character of abilities.²⁹ Their capability theories incorporate ideas from many different academic fields, including as philosophy, economics, political science, and social theory. They both encourage interdisciplinary discussion to create more comprehensive conceptions of wellbeing.³⁰

4.2 Nigeria: A Contextual Critical Analysis

Examining Nigeria's numerous dynamics, difficulties, and opportunities in relation to a variety of factors, such as politics, the economy, society, culture, and more, constitutes a contextual analysis of the nation. Nigeria is a federated country with a sophisticated political structure. It has experienced difficulties with governance, corruption, and political instability. The nation has seen military rule in the past, followed by periods of civilian rule.³¹ Politics and governance have occasionally been impacted by racial and religious issues. Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, has a diversified economy.

Although it is one of the world's greatest oil producers, because so much of its economy depends on oil exports, it is susceptible to changes in oil prices on a worldwide scale.³²

Nigeria experiences high rates of poverty, income inequality, and underemployment despite its abundance in natural resources.³³ With more than 250 different ethnic groups and a wide range of languages and customs, she is immensely diversified.³⁴ This diversity is however both a strength and a source of conflict. There have been sporadic racial and religious clashes in the nation, primarily between the predominantly Christian south and the predominantly Muslim north. Native customs and cultures are still vibrant and contribute to Nigeria's rich cultural legacy.³⁵

Nigeria has struggled with security issues, such as the insurgency by Boko Haram in the northeast. This group has attacked both security personnel and civilians frequently in its pursuit of establishing an Islamic state.³⁶ In addition, violence and eviction have been the results of conflicts between farmers and herders in several areas.

The development of the infrastructure has been difficult in Nigeria. Particularly in rural areas, basic amenities like power, healthcare, and education are sometimes insufficient. Significant investment is required to enhance these areas and advance global growth.³⁷ The number of youths in Nigeria are numerous and increasing despite the fact that this group of people have the potential to be valuable assets for economic growth and development, there are concerns about providing them with adequate education, employment opportunities, and empowerment. Additionally, a high percentage of young people are currently migrating abroad in search of better opportunities. Nigeria deals with environmental problems such pollution, desertification,

and deforestation. In some areas, the oil sector has also contributed to environmental damage. Additional difficulties are brought on by climate change, including risks to infrastructure and agriculture.³⁸

Nigeria's government has consistently faced difficulties due to corruption. This problem undermines progress, has an impact on many industries, and erodes public confidence. Although there have been efforts to combat corruption, structural transformation which is still a challenging task. Nigeria plays a significant role in both African and international politics. She participates in efforts to maintain regional security and resolve disputes and is a member of international organizations like the United Nations.³⁹ Significant relationships exist between her and her international allies and neighbors.

Despite its difficulties, Nigeria has a lot of potential. Natural resources, a sizable market, and human capital are advantages that could fuel economic expansion and development. The tech sector and entrepreneurial spirit are expanding throughout the nation and these might help to diversify the economy. However, it's crucial to acknowledge both Nigeria's promise and its difficulties while examining the country's context. To create a more prosperous and secure future for Nigeria, it would be crucial to address challenges like governance, security, economic diversification, and social inclusion.

4.2.1 Nigeria as a Contextual Analysis for Both Capability Theories

Nigeria can undoubtedly provide an intriguing background for examining both Martha Nussbaum's and Ingrid Robeyns' capability theories. Nigeria is an excellent case study

for figuring out how these capability frameworks might apply in a complicated and real-world situation because it is a varied country with major socioeconomic issues.

The ten core capabilities of Nussbaum offer a framework for assessing wellbeing in various spheres of life.⁴⁰ The realization of abilities connected to physical health, senses, creativity, and knowledge can be perceived as being hampered in Nigeria by issues with access to basic education, healthcare, and clean water. It is crucial to upgrade healthcare facilities and services nationwide. Having access to universal healthcare would improve people's capability to live healthy lives and contribute to development. Her focus on the shared human condition can be both a benefit and a drawback in the Nigerian setting. While it emphasizes on the value of particular skills for all people, it could neglect the ways in which cultural and environmental factors affect what matters most to people in terms of their well-being. Given Nigeria's cultural diversity and regional differences, a more adaptable strategy may be necessary to defining capabilities.

In order to apply Nussbaum's approach in Nigeria, one must evaluate not just the outcomes of individuals but also their opportunities and freedoms. For instance, difficulties finding good jobs, gender discrimination, and political instability may restrict one's capability for practical judgement, identification, and political engagement. Her methodology advocates looking at both internal and external factors that affect capabilities. In Nigeria, issues like corruption, poor infrastructure, and unequal resource distribution can have a big impact on how much opportunity people have to use their skills.⁴¹

The foundation for sustainable development in Nigeria may be found in Nussbaum's list of essential competencies, which also includes involvement in politics, health care, social interactions, and education. Regardless of their origin or region, policies should work to guarantee that all Nigerians have access to these capabilities. It is essential to fund high-quality education for all Nigerians. This entails not only expanding access to education but also making sure that the education delivered provides students with the abilities and information required for engaged involvement in society and the economy. She also stresses the value of having a clean and healthy atmosphere. For long-term wellbeing, it is essential to implement sustainable practices in industries including agriculture, energy, and waste management.

Contrarily, Robeyns' emphasis on the relational aspect of skills is relevant to Nigeria, where societal norms and gender roles can have a significant impact on wellbeing. Realizing abilities like connection, physical integrity, and practical reason requires gender equality and women's empowerment. Her method, which emphasizes plurality and human agency, is applicable to Nigeria's complex cultural milieu. It can accept differences in goals for well-being across racial, religious, and regional boundaries. The population of Nigeria, which is multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multilingual, supports Robeyns' emphasis on pluralism. This variety emphasizes the necessity for a flexible strategy that takes into account the priorities and values of various cultures when evaluating talents. The focus on sufficiency that Robeyns places is in line with efforts to combat extreme poverty and hardship in Nigeria.

To achieve a minimum level of wellbeing, policies should concentrate on meeting fundamental necessities including food, clean water, shelter, and healthcare.⁴² Additionally, policies should work to lessen gaps in the conversion of resources to capabilities by acknowledging the impact of conversion factors.⁴³ This entails allocating resources to those who require them the most, particularly disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Her readiness to modify her list of skills over time fits with Nigeria's changing socioeconomic and political landscape.

These new difficulties and objectives, like access to technology and environmental sustainability, can be addressed with this adaptability. The emphasis on empowerment that Robeyns places on making sure that people have the opportunity to live at least moderately good lives. Policies should encourage active participation in decision-making and offer people the chance to shape their own growth. In order to address environmental issues and make sure that marginalized populations are not disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, Robeyns' concern for justice must be taken into consideration.

4.3 Common Themes of Both Approaches in Relation to Nigerian Situation

Ingrid Robeyns and Martha Nussbaum both emphasize resolving social injustices as a key component of competence theories. These ideas emphasize the significance of establishing an equitable distribution of capabilities given the extreme gaps in wealth, education, and healthcare in Nigeria. In their conceptual frameworks, human development is emphasized as a multifaceted idea that extends beyond economic progress.⁴⁴ This is especially true for Nigeria, where rapid economic expansion has not

always resulted in bettering the well-being of all demographic segments. Both Nussbaum and Robeyns emphasize the significance of choice and autonomy in developing potential.⁴⁵ In Nigeria, problems like political unrest and a lack of access to high-quality education can make it difficult for people to make important decisions about their lives. The diverse socioeconomic and cultural environment of Nigeria emphasizes the necessity for a nuanced and adaptable method of evaluating skills. Both paradigms recognize how crucial context is in determining well-being. In conclusion, Nigeria's socioeconomic difficulties and cultural variety offer a complex setting for examining both Nussbaum's and Robeyn's capability theories. The potential advantages and difficulties of employing capability theories as tools for comprehending and resolving complex problems related to wellbeing and development might be clarified by applying these frameworks to the Nigerian environment.

4.4 Application of Both Theories to SDGs 1,3 and 5 in Nigeria

The primary aim of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)1 is to end all forms of poverty worldwide.⁴⁶ In Nigeria, a nation with considerable rates of poverty and income disparity, achieving this objective is of the utmost significance. We may evaluate Nigeria's achievements to address SDG 1 and significantly reduce poverty by using Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns' Capability Approaches. These strategies place more emphasis on improving people's abilities and wellbeing than they do on merely alleviating poverty or a lack of material goods.

The importance of education as a fundamental capability is emphasized by Nussbaum's capability approach. People who receive education gain information and

skills that help them escape poverty and lead fulfilling lives. Nigeria should prioritize expanding access to high-quality education, particularly for girls and underserved communities. Initiatives like the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme should give equal weight to enrollment and educational quality. Providing healthcare is a vital skill. In order for people to live healthy lives, Nussbaum emphasizes the need to have access to healthcare services. Nigeria should endeavour to increase access to healthcare, especially for disadvantaged groups. Important efforts include increasing health insurance coverage, making investments in healthcare infrastructure, and making sure that healthcare services are affordable.

The distribution of important competencies is emphasized by Robeyns' capability approach. To escape poverty, one must have access to resources like income and possessions. Nigeria ought to put policies into place that lessen wealth disparity and enhance the poor's access to resources. This includes initiatives to alleviate wealth inequities, land reforms, and social safety net programmes. Institutions are essential for reducing poverty. The significance of fair institutions that offer equal opportunity is emphasized by Robeyns. The enhancement of governance, openness, and the rule of law should be prioritized. Capabilities can be improved by tackling corruption, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and bolstering poor people's legal rights. Her strategy also highlights the significance of participatory policies that take into account the voices and preferences of those who are affected by poverty by involving marginalized communities and civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of

policies. More successful approaches to reducing poverty may result from ensuring that the poor have a voice in the creation of policy.

Finally, the Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns Capability Approaches can be used to drive SDG 1 implementation in Nigeria. These strategies place a strong emphasis on the value of improving a range of capabilities, such as those related to education, health care, gender equality, political engagement, resource access, just institutions, participatory policies, and environmental sustainability. The advancement of Nigeria in these areas will not only lessen poverty but also promote sustainable growth and increase the standard of living for all of its population.

Nigeria needs to accomplish Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, "Good Health and Well-Being," as the nation faces several health issues and gaps in access to healthcare. The Capability Theories of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns can be used to analyze Nigeria's efforts to achieve this aim and enhance the general health and well-being of its population. These strategies stress the significance of improving people's capacities and wellbeing in terms of their access to healthcare and their general health.

The need of giving people the capability of health is emphasized by Nussbaum's capability approach. This refers to ensuring that all citizens in Nigeria, regardless of socioeconomic class or geography, have equitable access to high-quality healthcare services. Nigeria should keep putting money into healthcare infrastructure, increase access to care, and lower the cost of care. In order to achieve this, primary healthcare systems must be strengthened, out-of-pocket medical costs must be decreased, and

distant and underserved communities must have enough access to healthcare facilities. She also highlights the contribution that education can make to health. People who are educated are better able to protect their health, prevent illness, and use healthcare services when necessary. For the purpose of promoting health literacy and raising knowledge of preventive actions, health education should be given top priority in schools and communities. People can be empowered to take charge of their health by being educated on diet, hygiene, reproductive health, and illness prevention.

The strategy of Robeyns on the other hand, emphasizes the significance of the infrastructure and accessibility of healthcare. To guarantee that individuals have access to essential healthcare services, Nigeria should keep making investments in healthcare infrastructure, including the building and upkeep of healthcare facilities. Access to necessary medications is also critical for maintaining health. Nigeria should make efforts to increase the accessibility and cost of necessary medications. This entails enhancing the pharmaceutical industry's supply networks, minimizing medicine shortages, and managing drug costs. Robeyns views nutrition as a crucial skill. Malnutrition is a problem that Nigeria should prioritize, especially for children and expectant mothers. Programmes that advocate for healthy eating habits, vitamin supplementation, and food security can improve nutrition skills. She also emphasizes how the environment can alter a person's capacity for health. Nigeria needs to address concerns with pollution, garbage disposal, and access to clean water. These steps can help create a healthier environment, which will lead to better health outcomes.

These strategies highlight the significance of improving health capabilities, ensuring equitable access to healthcare, encouraging health education, addressing gender disparities, improving healthcare infrastructure, granting access to necessary medications, addressing malnutrition, and promoting a healthy environment. Advancement in these areas will not only enhance the quality of life for its people but also support long-term growth and economic development in Nigeria.

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are the goals of the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5). Achieving gender equality is a difficult task with significant ramifications for social, economic, and political growth in Nigeria, as it is in many other nations. The Capability Approaches of Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns can be used to examine Nigeria's efforts to achieve SDG 5 in order to get insights into methods for advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Education is emphasized as a core competence in Nussbaum's capability approach. Educational empowerment requires making sure that women and girls have equitable access to high-quality education. Initiatives to reduce gender inequities in education should be given top priority in Nigeria. This entails taking steps to encourage girls' enrolment, retention, and educational quality as well as addressing cultural norms and practices that could obstruct girls' access to school.

The focus of Nussbaum's strategy is on health's potential, including reproductive potential. It is essential that women have access to family planning, maternal healthcare, and reproductive health services. To increase access to reproductive health treatments,

Nigeria needs improve its healthcare systems, particularly in its rural areas. Providing family planning services, lowering maternal mortality rates, and addressing gender-based violence in healthcare settings are all included in this. One essential capability is economic empowerment. The significance of women's economic independence is emphasized by Nussbaum. Nigeria should put in place measures that support women's economic empowerment, including their access to finance, career possibilities, and training programmes. The gender pay gap must be closed, and occupational segregation must be addressed. Being free from violence is said to be a skill, therefore, empowerment requires the abolition of gender-based violence. Nigeria should improve its legal framework and enforcement procedures to combat gender-based violence, offer survivors counselling services, and launch public awareness efforts to alter cultural norms that enable violence.

The distribution of important competencies is emphasized by Robeyns' capability approach. It is crucial to make sure that women have access to resources, such as land, credit, and employment possibilities. Laws, such as land reforms, fair inheritance laws, and initiatives to encourage women's involvement in the formal labour market, that address gender imbalances in access to resources should be enacted in Nigeria. Institutions of justice are essential for advancing gender equality. Robeyns emphasizes the significance of dealing with prejudice and discrimination inside institutions. Nigeria should make an effort to end discriminatory practices in both public and private entities. Important first steps include eliminating workplace discrimination and guaranteeing women have equal opportunities to hold leadership positions. The

strategy taken by Robeyns emphasizes the significance of inclusive policies that take into account the opinions and choices of women and girls. Women's groups and people should be actively included in Nigeria's policy-making process. The needs and experiences of women and girls should be taken into consideration while developing gender equality policies and programmes.

These strategies stress the value of improving a range of capacities, such as those related to education, health, economic empowerment, lack of violence, resource accessibility, institution quality, and participatory policies. Nigeria's development in these sectors would support broader social and economic development as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

4.5 Integration of Both Capability Theories

Robeyns' emphasis on sufficiency and Nussbaum's universal core competencies could be combined to produce a balanced strategy in addressing the aforementioned SDGs. Both strategies stress the significance of lowering disparities and maintaining long-term sustainability. While protecting the environment for future generations, policies should place a priority on the equal distribution of opportunities and resources. Both theories emphasize the importance of making community and individual empowerment a central component of development initiatives. Greater effectiveness and sustainability can result from participatory strategies that involve citizens in decision-making.

In order to apply the capability methods of Nussbaum and Robeyns to sustainable development in Nigeria, fundamental needs must be met, inequalities must be reduced, environmental sustainability must be promoted, and participatory

development must be encouraged. Incorporating their views into policymaking can help it prioritize equity, long-term prosperity, and human well-being.

4.6 The Effects of Both Capability Theories and its Implications for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

The goal of Robeyns' approach, Sufficiency, is to ensure that every person has a minimum set of capabilities. In areas with little resources, such as many parts of Nigeria, this may be more practical. Prioritizing fundamental necessities may enable the most disadvantaged groups to make progress more quickly, hence reducing severe poverty. A targeted sufficiency solution would take care of immediate demands and avoid severe shortages. It might result in a more equitable allocation of assets and aptitudes, resulting in less inequality between disadvantaged and affluent groups. But it might not cover the whole range of human potential and welfare that Nussbaum's strategy aims for.

However, Nussbaum's method strives for maximization while also aiming for a wide range of competencies, which may demand a lot of money, time, and institutional support. Maximization may be more difficult to achieve in nations like Nigeria that have severe resource constraints and widespread inequality. However, concentrating on maximizing capabilities encourages holistic well-being and development, allowing people to live fulfilling lives. Education, health, social involvement, and overall quality of life may all see long-term increases as a result of this. Maximization could take some years to achieve and need significant investments in the infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other fields.

The sufficiency philosophy of Robeyns is in line with meeting Nigeria's urgent requirements, such as expanding access to clean water, healthcare, reducing poverty and education, especially in rural and underserved areas. Even though maximization is the desired goal, Nigeria may need to balance short-term fixes with long-term development plans. Both strategies place a strong emphasis on reducing inequalities, although Robeyns' sufficiency strategy may have a more immediate effect on disadvantaged groups, perhaps resulting in speedier improvements in their quality of life. Given the issue of resource constraints, a phased strategy may be used. Initiatives could begin by assuring the most fundamental capabilities and then gradually broaden to cover a wider variety of competencies. The larger objectives of sustainable development, such as addressing environmental sustainability, boosting cultural involvement, and enabling people to realize their full potential, are in line with the pursuit of maximization.

In Nigeria, a nuanced and context-specific strategy is required because of the trade-off between sufficiency and capability maximization. While Robeyns' sufficiency method might offer those in desperate need more immediate aid, Nussbaum's approach offers a holistic picture of flourishing. A practical strategy can comprise meeting fundamental requirements while gradually enhancing capabilities to allow people to gradually live more fulfilling lives.

4.7 The Need for Constructive Intervention in Nigeria

To address the unique issues that impede sustainable development in Nigeria, a positive intervention is urgently needed. Even if many projects and efforts are under progress,

several crucial areas still need targeted attention and intervention. Here are some particular difficulties and the demand for beneficial interventions:

Nigeria has to make improvements in areas such as education, health, and living standards. Investments in human development can be given higher priority, ensuring that everyone has access to good healthcare, education, and other essential services. Individuals and their well-being are prioritized in the capabilities approach as the core of development. A human-centered approach guarantees that policies and interventions in a varied nation like Nigeria, where many social, economic, and cultural elements influence well-being, are adapted to meet the specific needs and ambitions of its residents. By improving human potential, such an intervention can support sustainable development by giving people the knowledge and opportunity they need to live happy, meaningful lives.

Nigeria suffers governance issues, such as corruption, weakened institutions, and insufficient accountability measures. A constructive intervention can address governance deficiencies, corruption, and inefficiency in public institutions as well as enhancing governance frameworks, fostering transparency, and combating corruption. The intervention can strengthen governance structures and create an enabling environment for sustainable development initiatives by promoting transparency, accountability, incorporating measures like increasing the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, creating platforms for citizen participation in decision-making processes, and participatory decision-making.

Also, there are major social inequalities in Nigeria, including differences in income, political representation, education, and healthcare. By emphasizing the development of opportunities and capabilities for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, a positive intervention based on the capability approach can aid in addressing these inequities. It can support inclusive policies and initiatives that give people the tools they need to go beyond obstacles and improve their well-being. A major hindrance to sustainable development in Nigeria is inadequate infrastructure, which includes inadequate power supplies, transportation networks, and water and sanitation systems. Infrastructure development, including investments in renewable energy, enhanced transportation systems, and accessibility to clean water and sanitary facilities, should be prioritized as part of a positive intervention. To successfully solve infrastructure deficiencies, creative financing methods and public-private partnerships can be investigated.

Quality education and skill development are essential for the growth of the nation's economy and human resources. Nigeria faces difficulties in ensuring that all children have access to a high-quality education, resolving educational inequities, and coordinating educational efforts with industry demands. To promote sustainable economic development, a constructive intervention should concentrate on increasing access to education, improving the standard of instruction and learning, encouraging vocational and technical training, and closing the skills gap.

With a sizable section of the population living below the poverty line, poverty remains a serious problem in Nigeria. Rates of underemployment and unemployment

are also high. Through targeted programmes that encourage entrepreneurship, skill development, and support for small and medium-sized firms, a constructive intervention should place a priority on reducing poverty and creating jobs. As a result, economic inequality may be decreased and sustainable livelihoods may be created. The capability approach encourages long-term sustainable development by concentrating on enhancing people's capabilities. Investments in healthcare, education, and skill development enhance not only the well-being of the individual but also the economic growth and stability of the nation. The intervention acknowledges that in order to build a fairer society, it is crucial to fight corruption, improve governance, and advance openness. The intervention also focuses on eradicating poverty, empowering women, and creating jobs in order to lessen gaps and advance equitable chances for everyone, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status.⁴⁷

Nigeria faces serious environmental issues, such as deforestation, pollution, and the effects of climate change. The capabilities approach can be used to implement environmental sustainability as a fundamental tenet of a constructive intervention. It can encourage environmentally friendly behaviors, the use of renewable energy, the preservation of natural resources, and plans to combat climate change. Increasing climate resilience in communities that are already at risk, putting sustainable land- and water-management practices into practice, and incorporating climate considerations into policy frameworks can all help with this. By doing so, the environment will be protected and conserved for both current and future generations.

Gender inequality still remains an issue in Nigeria, particularly when it comes to political representation, employment opportunities, and access to education. The capability approach places a strong emphasis on gender equality as a crucial component of growth. It acknowledges that empowering women is essential for attaining sustainable development because it has a positive knock-on impact that benefits families, communities, and society as a whole. Through programs that support access to leadership positions, economic opportunities, and education, a constructive intervention should place a priority on women's empowerment and gender equality. This may entail putting gender-responsive legislation into practice, supporting female entrepreneurs, and tackling discriminatory practices and cultural norms.

Capabilitarianism adopts a Multidimensional Approach to Development, taking into account numerous dimensions of Human Well-Being. The intervention tackles a number of development-related issues, such as data gathering, infrastructure, education, and climate change. The intervention recognizes the linkages between several facets of human capabilities and aims to develop them thoroughly by focusing on these various areas. It also emphasizes how crucial it is to include people in decision-making procedures that have an impact on their life. The intervention urges participation from the public through projects including fostering openness, encouraging citizen participation in government, and adopting gender-responsive policies. The intervention adheres to the idea of respecting persons' agency and ensuring inclusive decision-making.

As a result, a successful intervention aimed at advancing sustainable development in Nigeria should focus on tackling particular issues like governance and corruption, infrastructure development, education and skill development, poverty alleviation and job creation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, women's empowerment and gender equality, and data collection and monitoring. Nigeria can overcome obstacles to sustainable development and advance towards a more equitable, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future where people have the capabilities and opportunities to thrive and contribute to the long-term development of the nation by focusing interventions on these issues.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings

Nigeria as a country has battled with achieving the sustainable development goals and this work has somehow been able to use the capability theories of both Martha Nussbaum and Ingrid Robeyns to serve as a guide in helping with the problem of sustainable development. The first Chapter explains the background to the study, some introductory review into the concept Capabilitarianism and then proceeded to writing about the statement of the problem, statement of thesis, the research objectives and so on. In the second chapter, the researcher presented the literature review and explored the history of capabilitarianism, the proponents and the development theories in existence before it as well as examining some theoretical frameworks suitable for the purpose of this research. The researcher also explored the concepts of functionings and capabilities, capability and sufficiency, overview of various central capabilities before proceeding to review both capability theories being examined for this research. Also examined, is the concept sustainable development as well as sustainable development in Nigeria and the challenges faced in achieving sustainable development in Nigeria.

The third chapter of this research focuses on the research method employed in the course of this research. The research was done by systematically reviewing different literatures which consists of several books, edited works and periodic journals amongst

others, in order to give a thorough and comprehensive analysis and understanding of the topic.

In chapter four, the researcher presented a comparative analysis of both theories of capability approach and highlighted the differences as well as the similarities of both Capability Theories and then proceeded to make a contextual analysis of Nigeria as a country and for both Theories and then explored the common themes of both approaches in relation to Nigeria. This work attempted an integration of both approaches and applied both to the issue of sustainable development in Nigeria with the main focus on SDGs 1,3, and 5, and then examined the feasibility and impact of both theories in terms of sustainable development in Nigeria and the implications.

The goal of constructing a positive intervention for Sustainable Development in Nigeria using the capability approach is to promote all-around development and address the particular issues preventing advancement. The intervention covers a number of important topics, such as governance and corruption, infrastructure development, education and skill development, poverty alleviation and job creation, adaptation and mitigation to climate change, women's empowerment and gender equality, and data collection and monitoring. Building a political will and leadership, bolstering institutional capability, mobilizing financial resources, addressing socio-cultural factors, investing in capacity building and awareness, enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems amongst others, are all necessary to implement the intervention.

By emphasizing human capabilities, advancing equality and social justice, employing a multidimensional approach, emphasizing democratic decision-making, and taking sustainability and long-term perspectives into account within the principles of the capability approach, Nigeria may make substantial progress towards sustainable development. It can promote data-driven decision-making, promote inclusive governance, upgrade infrastructure, boost education and skill development, lessen poverty and unemployment, adapt to climate change, empower women, and build a more sustainable and prosperous future for its population. The intervention focuses on enhancing access to resources, knowledge, and skills to enable people to live full lives and contribute significantly to society. It can result in more well-being, greater opportunities, and a more equal society by improving human capabilities. The intervention tries to lessen poverty and inequality through specialized programs to alleviate poverty, initiatives to create jobs, and programs to empower women. A more inclusive and just society with equal access to resources and opportunities can arise from this.

This intervention has the potential to have a profound impact on Nigeria, improving wellbeing and good health, reducing poverty and gender inequality, spurring sustainable economic growth, building environmental resilience, promoting good governance, and promoting data-driven decision-making. Nigeria can create the conditions for its people to live in a future that is richer and sustainable by accepting capability approach and carrying out the intervention successfully.

5.2 Conclusion

The capabilities approach centers development activities around the needs of the individual. It acknowledges that people have different needs, aspirations, and values, and that development should enable people to follow their own goals. Enhancing people's capabilities that is, their actual chances to accomplish and become what they value is the aim. Enhancing access to resources, health, education, and other aspects which go into total well-being are a few examples of how to do this. The capacity approach is a human-centric, bottom-up approach to development that aims to provide communities and individuals the power to choose their own development objectives and enhance their well-being through the expansion of their freedoms and capabilities. It differs from conventional top-down development models, which emphasize economic growth as the only measure of advancement.

Both Martha Nussbaum's and Ingrid Robeyns's capability theories contribute to the broader scope of capability approach, but they have nuanced differences in their focus and application. Selecting the most suitable theory for sustainable development in Nigeria depends on the specific context, priorities, and challenges faced by the country. Nussbaum's approach is grounded in the idea of "central human capabilities" that individuals should be able to achieve for a life of dignity. She outlines ten core capabilities that cover a range of dimensions, including life, bodily health, bodily integrity, senses, imagination and thought, emotions, practical reason, affiliation, other species, play, and control over one's environment.

This approach provides a comprehensive framework for assessing human well-being and ensuring that individuals have the foundational capabilities necessary for a flourishing life. This approach is especially valuable for addressing inequalities and ensuring a basic level of human dignity. Robeyns's approach emphasizes a more open-ended list of capabilities, allowing for context-specific additions based on societal preferences. She emphasizes the importance of considering relational and environmental factors that affect people's well-being, such as social relationships and the natural environment. Robeyns's approach provides flexibility to tailor capability lists according to local contexts, which can be particularly beneficial for a diverse and culturally rich country like Nigeria. It also highlights the role of social and environmental factors in shaping individuals' capabilities. Robeyns's approach is contextually flexible as it gives value to the ability to adapt and expand the list of capabilities based on its cultural diversity and local priorities and also to emphasize the relationship between individuals, their communities, and the environment. Nussbaum's approach on the other hand, helps to ensure a minimum standard of well-being for Nigerian citizens and address fundamental inequalities.

Ultimately, both approaches offer valuable insights into enhancing well-being and human development which can both be harnessed to be used based on a careful assessment of Nigeria's unique context, goals, and values. It's also worth considering that elements from both approaches can be integrated to create a hybrid framework that suits Nigeria's specific needs.

5.3 Recommendations

1. It will help policy makers to embrace the principles of Capabilitarianism and recognize its potential for sustainable development and prioritize the implementation of the proposed intervention by integrating its goals and strategies into national development plans and policies.
2. It will also help in the process of allocating adequate financial resources and establish a conducive policy environment to support the intervention's implementation and to foster collaboration among government ministries, departments, and agencies to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the intervention's components.
3. It is recommended because it will help to regularly monitor progress, evaluate outcomes, and make necessary adjustments to ensure the intervention's success.
4. It is recommended for stakeholders in order to engage actively in discussions and dialogue on the proposed intervention, providing insights and perspectives from diverse sectors and communities and to collaborate with government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector entities to contribute resources, expertise, and knowledge to support the intervention's implementation.
5. It shares research outcomes through academic publications, policy briefs, and engagement with stakeholders to contribute to the knowledge base on Capabilitarianism and sustainable development and explores interdisciplinary approaches to understand the complex dynamics of sustainable development in Nigeria and identify innovative solutions.

6. It encourages international partners and donors to provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity, facilitate knowledge transfer, and support the implementation of sustainable development initiatives and foster international collaborations and partnerships to leverage expertise and resources for effective implementation.
7. It promotes knowledge exchange and learning between Nigeria and other countries to enhance best practices and innovation in sustainable development.

5.4 Contributions to Knowledge

It is crucial to employ the capability approach in a positive way to contribute to Nigeria's sustainable development since it emphasizes the need of putting people and their well-being at the center of development. A human-centered approach guarantees that policies and interventions in a varied nation like Nigeria, where many social, economic, and cultural elements influence well-being, are adapted to meet the specific needs and ambitions of its residents. The capability approach is vital for tackling these inequities and ensuring that no one is left behind, alleviating the issue of inequality and poverty. It focuses on enhancing people's skills to live lives they value. The capability approach considers a wide range of factors that contribute to a person's well-being beyond just economic indicators. It recognizes the importance of freedoms and opportunities, including education, healthcare, political participation, cultural expression, and social integration.

This research work explains the capability approach, a philosophical and development framework pioneered by Amartya Sen and developed by Ingrid Robeyns and Martha Nussbaum. For those looking to investigate development alternatives beyond conventional economic metrics, this knowledge is crucial. By highlighting Nigeria's difficulties, opportunities, and the applicability of the approach to the country's unique cultural, economic, and social landscape, it demonstrates how the capacity approach may be applied to the particular context of Nigeria. The suggestions made give a useful road map for dealing with difficulties in putting the capabilities approach into practice in Nigeria. This connects the ideas of sustainable development and well-being, highlighting the need for a more holistic approach that takes into account not only economic growth but also individual capabilities, freedoms, and overall quality of life. It can be especially helpful for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and development organizations working in the nation.

The discussion contributes to discussions on social justice and equal opportunities and emphasizes the significance of taking into account the local context and cultural sensitivity when implementing development interventions. It also highlights the importance of gender equality and social inclusion within the context of the capability approach. This focus on individualized approaches can guide the development of strategies for interacting with diverse groups in Nigeria and elsewhere. The discussion of development paradigms that place a priority on people's welfare, aspirations, and agency gains insight from the description of the capacity approach's human-centeredness. The suggestions made provide useful information on how the

capabilities approach might be applied to create successful interventions and policies that may have an impact on the decision-making process. Discussions about how nations may create plans to face economic, environmental, and social obstacles benefit from the emphasis on long-term sustainable growth and resilience.

This study helps to bridge the gap between philosophical concepts (like the capability approach) and real-world development challenges, showing how abstract ideas can be translated into actionable strategies and how progress can be measured beyond economic growth thereby contributing to ongoing conversations about more comprehensive and meaningful ways to assess development outcomes.

In conclusion, the information provided contributes to knowledge by synthesizing the capability approach, its relevance to Nigeria's development, and practical recommendations for implementing it effectively. It combines theory and practice, addressing both the conceptual foundations and the on-the-ground considerations of applying this approach to sustainable development.

5.5 Suggested Areas for Further Research

A further research can be done by looking at other capability theorists as well as examining how theories can help in achieving other sustainable development goals

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The University Compliance Certification

This is to certify that this Thesis written by Ayomide Opeyemi AJIBOYE with matriculation number LCU/PG/001826 in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State is in full compliance with approved University format and style.

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