

The Rights-based Approach

From a Normative Discourse to Contextualised practices



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RBA in the literature

Existing study

- The potential
 - Legitimacy
 - Sustainability

- A set of criteria & technical tools
 - Discourse theory

This study

- Theoretical debate
 - => **Empirical study**

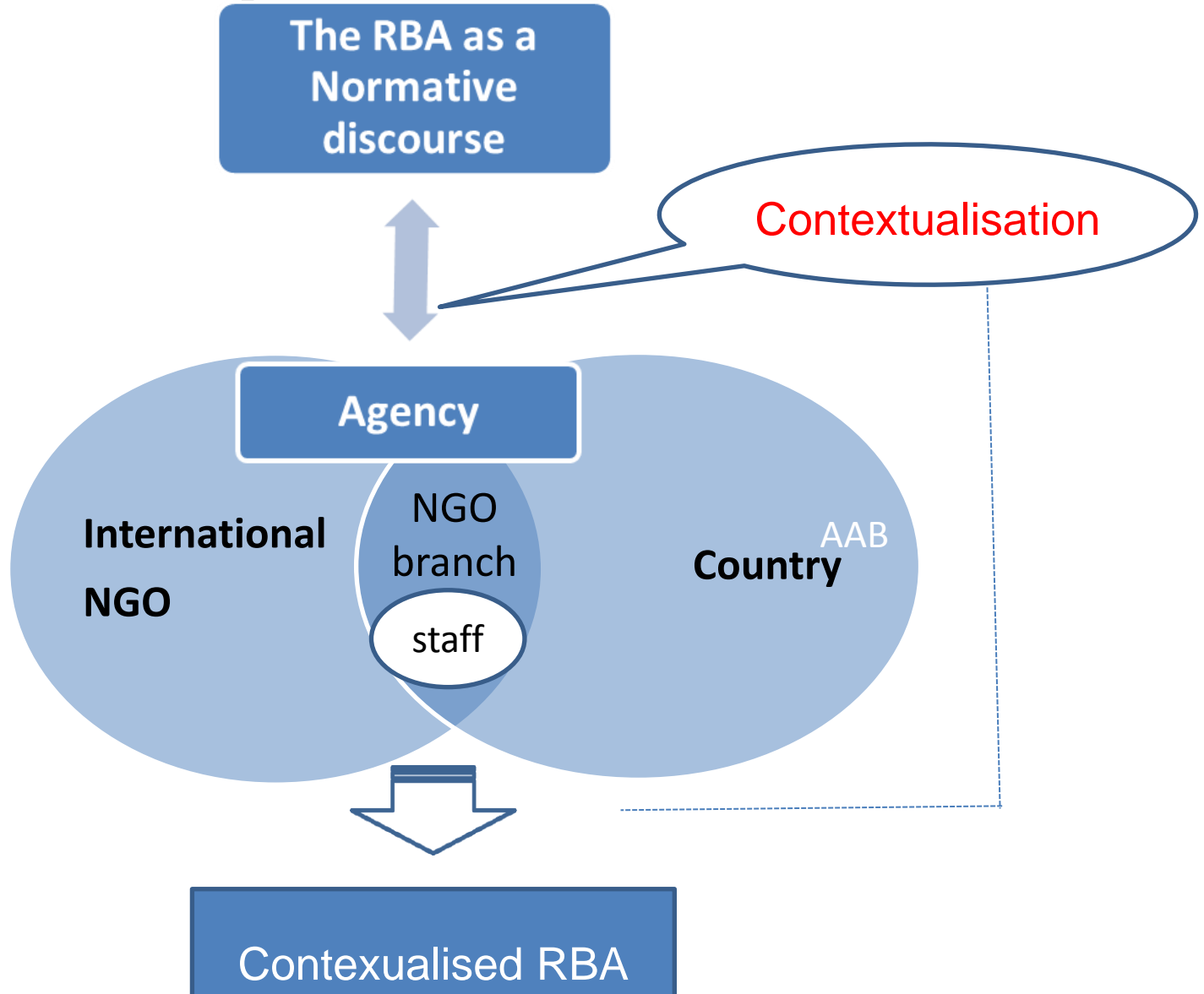
- Local staff & context: regarded as barrier
 - => **Contextual influence & agency**

It's a rights based approach

In the good old days, they called it "handing out food"...



Conceptual framework



Methodology

- Case study: RBA of ActionAid in Bangladesh
- Timeframe for field work: 3 months

ActionAid

- Representativeness: RBA
- Appropriateness for the research purpose: organisational structure
- Availability: permission for the research

Bangladesh

- Challenging environment: micro credit, cultural /religious practices, anti-western sentiment
- Familiarity and personal network

Gap 1: Literature vs. Field

- North-driven concepts of human rights
- Pre-determined RBA ?

About HR



- Cultural and philosophical elements
- Importance and utility for work
- Slow insights into HR

About RBA



- Needs and rights
- Revolution or evolution
- RBA or HRBA

Gap 2: Literature vs. Field

- Conflicts with duty bearers?
- Legal approach?

Not
confronta-
-tional

- Providing duty bearers with alternatives

Not limited
to rights
recognised
by law

- Claim legally binding rights + Broadening concepts of rights

Influential contexts for AAB's RBA

ActionAid International

- Encouragement of innovative implementation
- Federal model
- Partnership

Bangladesh

- Competing practices of microfinance NGOs
- Fail to meet basic needs by the state
- Cultural and religious perception around development & HR

Contextualising process

Discourse: RBA in AAB



Agency: AAB staff, partner NGOs, community people, government, donors

Conclusion

- √ **More than 1 RBA**
- √ **Active contextualisation**
 - Local actors' agency
 - Importance of organisational structure for local actors' agency