

Internet Appendix A50 Sociology

A50.1 Illustrative Pitch Template Example in Social Work

Pitcher's Name	Jae-Eun Noh	FoR category	Sociology, Social Work	Date Completed	23 July 2015
(A) Working Title	From a normative discourse to contextualised practices: A case study of a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in Bangladesh				
(B) Basic Research Question	How does the contextualisation of a HRBA take place in an NGO based in a developing country?				
(C) Key paper(s)	Gready, P. & J. Ensor (2005). <i>Reinventing development?: translating rights-based approaches from theory into practice</i> . London: Zed Books.				
(D) Motivation/Puzzle	Despite wide recognition of a HRBA in the UN and European countries, I learned from my five-year work experience with a Korean NGO that the organisational culture and the Korean national context were not favourable to a HRBA. This experience led me to question if a HRBA can be differently understood and practised according to contexts and if the difference should be understood as either an adjustment for contextualised practices or a compromise damaging the intrinsic values of a HRBA.				
THREE	Three core aspects of any empirical research project i.e. the “ IDioTs ” guide				
(E) Idea?	This thesis builds on theories of discourse and agency, and argues that discourse of a HRBA is contextualised through the agency of NGO workers.				
(F) Data?	<p>(1) a qualitative case study of a HRBA in an NGO working in a developing country</p> <p>(2) Research Site: ActionAid Bangladesh</p> <p>(3) Reasons for selection: ActionAid adopted a HRBA in 1998 and it is known for its strong commitment to a HRBA. ActionAid is an appropriate NGO to explore the contextualisation process because of its long tradition of valuing local engagement and its decentralised organisational structure, called a 'federal model'. Bangladesh was chosen for its richness of contextual influences. A HRBA is challenged by cultural references (customary law, religion) and the dominance of microfinance NGOs.</p> <p>(4) Data sources: documents and interviews</p> <p>(5) Documents: 35 ActionAid documents published or finalised between 1998 (adoption of a HRBA) and 2012 (Field research)</p> <p>(6) Interviews: semi-structured interviews with 28 staff members / purposive sampling by position, major role, gender and the length of service</p> <p>(7) Problem: exclusion of Bangla documents, the use of an interpreter when necessary</p>				
(G) Tools?	<p>Thematic analysis with the aid of NVivo software</p> <p>Descriptive indexes are clustered into topic indexes, then developed as analytical themes using thematic framework</p>				
TWO	Two key questions				
(H) What's New?	<p>This research can inform theories on a HRBA in five ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This research suggests that a HRBA is not necessarily a Northern discourse. This finding differs from previous studies. 2) This research considers both discourse and agency, which are rarely discussed together, for a comprehensive understanding of the HRBA in practice. 3) An explanation for observed group differences in understanding of and commitment to the HRBA is offered. In particular, this research suggests that NGO practitioners with opportunities to learn a HRBA and to have field experience are highly committed to a HRBA. 4) A central argument of this research is the importance of the contextualisation of a discourse. This research illustrates how the HRBA is contextualised by clarifying the nature of knowledge and the process of knowledge acquisition, use, transfer and creation. 5) Individual workers' context-related knowledge contributed to the formation of the HRBA by being informally shared with colleagues. 				
(I) So What?	<p>The above findings are important because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rejection of labelling a HRBA as a Northern discourse can widen its applicability. 2) This research highlights the agency of NGO workers, which is largely neglected in the literature on development discourses. NGO workers are suggested as change agents for the 'contextualisation of a discourse'. 3) This knowledge can contribute to understanding and promoting individuals' internalisation of a development discourse. One suggestion arising from this finding is that NGOs should provide their staff members with HRBA training and opportunities to engage directly with the marginalised. 4) A HRBA can be viewed as a dynamic interactive process which is influenced by contexts, not as a predetermined normative framework. 5) Development NGOs should encourage knowledge sharing and creation for context-appropriate practices with attention to the informal ways of transferring knowledge. 				

ONE	One bottom line
(J) Contribution?	This research contributes to scholarship in the area of development discourse, and a HRBA in particular. This research has heightened the understanding of the HRBA and the contexts in which the HRBA is shaped. Implications arising from this research are mainly for development practices and organisational practices in NGOs.
(K) Other Considerations	<p>1) This research complies with the ethics requirements outlined in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research as reviewed by the Ethics Committee of The University of Queensland (UQ). The research topic itself is not overly sensitive. Risk was assessed as low by the UQ Ethics Committee.</p> <p>2) Target journals: Development In Practice, Journal of International Development, Third World Quarterly, Human Rights Quarterly</p> <p>3) Scope: researchable</p> <p>4) Limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The research findings have a limited transferability given their emergence through a case study. However, knowledge of factors on internalisation and process of contextualisation might be applicable to other NGOs, other countries and even other development discourses. - In relation to data collection, conducting interviews in English could limit the richness of some interviews, particularly those involving a translator, given that English is not the first language of the interviewer and the interviewees.

