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Name of the student: MARIE ENGBERG HELMSTEDT

Second semester host university: ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

Name of the supervisor: LINA PAPA DOPOULOU

Title of the E.MA thesis: THE HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH: ASSESSING  
IMPLICATIONS ON THE WORK OF DEVELOPMENT NGOS

Academic year: 2012 - 2013

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## **Abstract**

*Keywords: The Human Rights Based Approach \* Development \* NGOs \* Human Rights \* New Institutionalism \* Constructivism.*

This thesis explores the Human Rights Based Approach and how it affects the work of development NGOs. It responds to the criticism of the approach, which questions the implications and sustainability of its implementation, suggesting that there is a gap between the HRBA in theory and the practice within development NGOs. The analysis is based on a constructivist theoretical framework, implying that the effects of the adoption of rights-based approaches are depending on the organisational translation of the approach.

Through an empirical analysis of interviews with Danish development NGOs the thesis concludes that the Human Rights Based Approach has influenced the work of development NGOs in significant ways, resulting in increased legitimacy and sustainability of development work. Development NGOs are faced with several challenges in their use of the approach, and its future is highly dependent on a collective effort of human rights and development practitioners to find durable solutions to these.

## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Abstract.....  | 1         |
| Table of Contents .....  | 2         |
| List of Abbreviations .....  | 4         |
| <b>INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| 1. Introduction .....  | 5         |
| 2. Methodology .....   | 9         |
| 2.1 A Constructivist Understanding of the Influence of Norms .....   | 9         |
| 2.2 Research Design and Methodology .....  | 12        |
| <b>CHAPTER I – Towards a Human Rights Based Approach in Development Work.....</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| 3. The Evolution of International Development.....   | 16        |
| 3.1 International Development before the End of the Cold War .....   | 16        |
| 3.2 The Rise of the HRBA as a New International Development Norm.....  | 19        |
| 4. Understanding the Adoption of the HRBA by Development NGOs.....   | 22        |
| <b>CHAPTER II – The Human Rights Based Approach to Development in Theory:<br/>Added Value and Critiques.....</b>           | <b>28</b> |
| 5. Definition of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development.....   | 28        |
| 6. Theoretical Added Value of the Human Rights Based Approach to the Work of<br>Development NGOs .....                     | 33        |
| 6.1 Human Rights Standards as Aims of Development.....   | 34        |
| 6.2 Accountability and Capacity of Duty-Bearers .....  | 34        |
| 6.3 Empowerment of Rights-Holders .....  | 36        |
| 6.4 Participatory Process.....   | 37        |
| 6.5 Changes to the Analysis and Assessment Process .....   | 38        |
| 7. Theoretical Critique of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development.....   | 40        |
| 7.1 Inadequate Implementation of the HRBA .....  | 40        |
| 7.2 Lack of Evidence of the Impact of the HRBA.....  | 42        |
| 7.3 The HRBA as Old Wine in New Bottles .....  | 42        |
| <b>CHAPTER III –The Human Rights Based Approach to Development in Practice:<br/>Implications for Development NGOs.....</b> | <b>44</b> |
| 8. Impact of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development: Case Study<br>Analysis .....                                  | 44        |
| 8.1 Adoption and Implementation of the HRBA by Danish Development NGOs.....  | 44        |
| 8.2 Changes in the Work of Danish Development NGOs .....   | 55        |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 8.2 Summation of the Impact of the HRBA on Danish Development NGOs .....  | 68 |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b> .....   | 69 |
| Bibliography .....  | 69 |
| Annex I: Interview Guide – Operationalisation of Research Questions ..... | 69 |
| Annex II: NGO Introductions.....  | 69 |

2013

# The human rights based approach : assessing implications on the work of development NGOs

Helmstedt, Marie Engberg

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<https://doi.org/20.500.11825/581>

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