



RBA and Budgeting

Rights Based Approach to Budgeting

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Outline

- What is it (RBA)
- Philosophy
- Why RBA?
- Principles and requirement
- Implications on accountability and Budgeting work
- Focus of Budgeting using RBA

What is it?

- A rights-based approach focuses deliberately and explicitly on people realizing their rights.

What cont'

- RBA is an approach to poverty & development that ensures that rights are secured in ways which are **empowering, strengthen peoples' ability to negotiate with the powerful, build dignity, and increase freedom and choice** to imagine and pursue the lives, futures and rights that people would value

What Cont'd

- In this approach, people hold their governments accountable and they are participants in the process of human development, rather than passive recipients.

Underpinning Philosophy

- Based on notion that all human beings are born free, with equal rights and dignity
- Inherent
- Human Development cannot therefore be looked at in isolation from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as it entails standard guidelines for ensuring that all Human beings live in dignity

Why RBA?

- Focus is on people and their unique value and equality of each and every human being

Why RBA?

- The rationale of poverty reduction no longer derives merely from the fact that the poor **have needs** but also from the fact that they **have rights-**entitlements that give rise to legal obligations on the part of duty bearers, the state and other actors.

Why Cont'd

- The approach stresses the application of human rights principles :
- Accountability,
- Non-discrimination,
- Transparency,
- Empowerment and
- Participation.

Principles Require

- Examination and serious consideration of how to address poverty's roots –
- Puts people at the center of their own development processes –
- Refuses to tolerate discrimination and inequities that impede peace and development
- Holds all of us accountable for respecting and helping to protect and fulfill human rights

Implications for Accountability work

- Unlike needs, which can be viewed in isolation, rights generate responsibilities. Those responsibilities are tied to defined and universally agreed standards. The relational nature of rights adds new force to our commitment to be advocates for global responsibility and accountability

Budget

- Budget is the highest policy document in the Land. It is then the framework through which policies affecting human rights are realised.
- The budget is both the document and law that authorises government to spend.
- Guarantee of rights (food, education, health etc) would involve expenditure in the provision of infrastructures, financing institutions and welfare programs.

What is RBA to Budgeting

- A rights based approach (RBA) to budgeting involves the use of the budget as an instrument through which the state allocates financial resources in compliance with its obligation to guarantee the basic rights of the citizen.

Aims of RBA to Budgeting

- To ensure access of the citizens to the budgeting process.
- To ensure a pro – poor budget regime
- Budgeting for the vulnerable and marginalized.
- Progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

The 3 Access Principles

- **Access to Information:** The ability of the citizens to obtain budget related information from the government and public authorities. Access to government expenditure and revenues and other policy documents.

Participation

- **Access to participation:** Citizens providing informed, timely and meaningful input and influence policies (budget) from formulation to implementation and review stages.

Justice

- **Access to justice:** Access to impartial arbiters to enforce access to information participation.

Elements of RBA to Budgeting

- Human rights
- Accountability
- Empowerment
- Participation
- Non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups

Responsibilities

- A form of trustworthiness; the trait of being answerable to someone for something or being responsible for one's conduct;
- Something for which one is responsible; a duty, obligation, or burden
- "every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty"

Entitlement

- Right granted by law or contract (especially a right to benefits);
- Benefits guaranteed to an individual, such as dividends for shareholders or government aid for those who qualify.

Obligation

- The act of binding oneself by a social, legal, or moral tie.
 - A social, legal, or moral requirement, such as a duty, contract, or promise that compels one to follow or avoid a particular course of action.
- A course of action imposed by society, law, or conscience by which one is bound or restricted.
 - The constraining power of a promise, contract, law, or sense of duty



Implications Cont'd

- In accountability work we direct unrelenting attention on the responsibility, both of the state and of other powerful institutions and individuals, in respecting, promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of poor and excluded people. These form the basis for legitimising our claims.

Focus of accountability using the right based focus

- To increase the power of poor and excluded people to have a direct influence over policy and decision making, and more control of the political space and terms of debate through which they negotiate with others.

References

- Accountability Sourcebook
- Accountability Learning and Planning Systems (AAI 2006)
- RBA and Poverty Reduction (AAI paper 2007)
- Right to End poverty (AAI strategy 2007 – 2011)



THANK YOU

**TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT RIGHTS WE HAVE TO BE
SERIOUS ABOUT POWER AND PARTICIPATION
(ALPS 2006)**