



AFRICAN SCHOOL OF EVALUATION
EDITION 1

Evaluation in service of equity?

Approaches and methods for equitable Evaluation

Provided by CLEAR AA



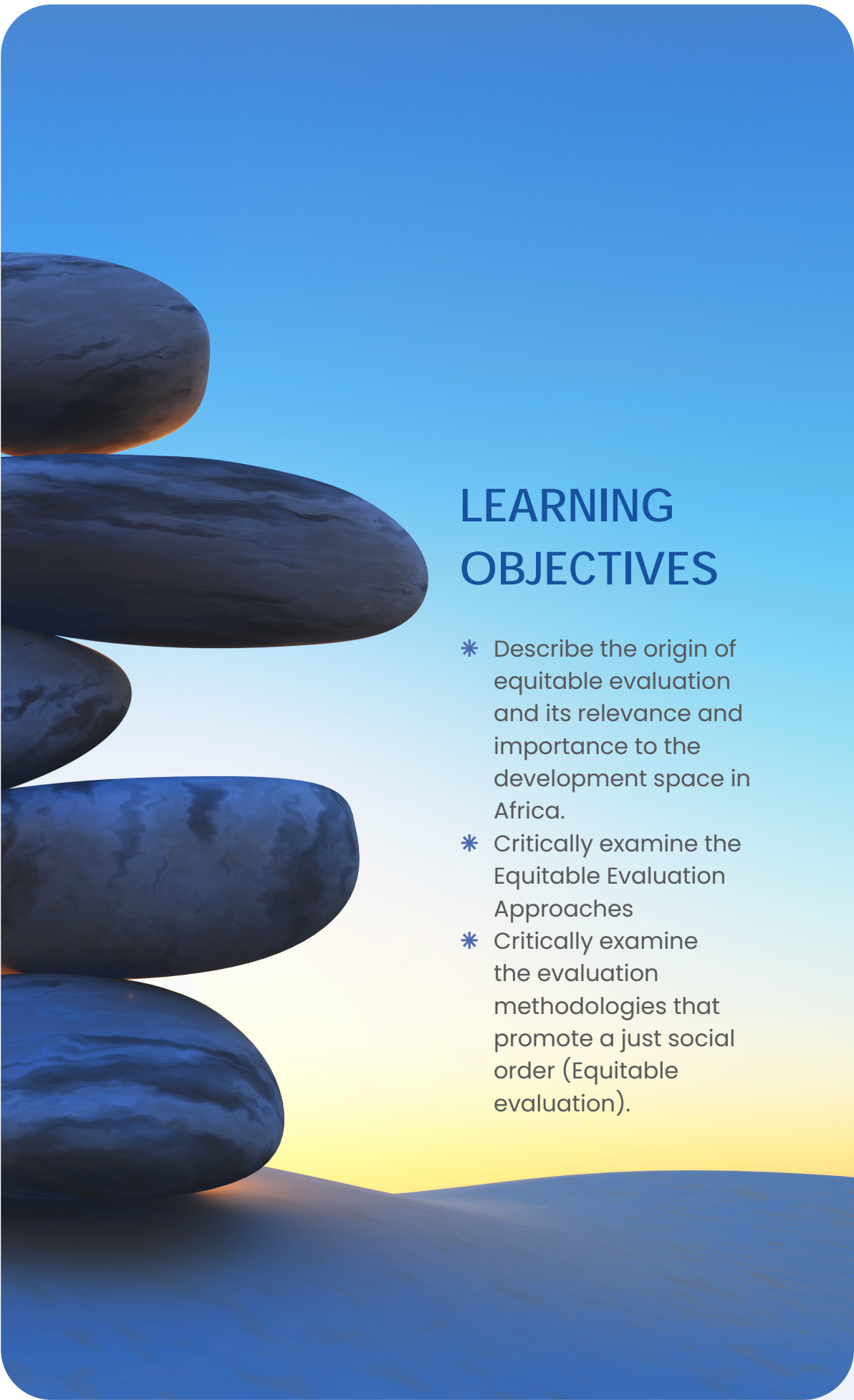
TRAINING BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) (2015), defines equity as “the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically.” The goal of equity is to eliminate the unfair and avoidable circumstances that deprive people of their rights. Therefore, inequities generally arise when certain population groups are unfairly deprived of basic resources that are made available to other groups.

A disparity is ‘unfair’ or ‘unjust’ when its cause is due to the social context, rather than biological factors. Equitable evaluation contends that conducting evaluations with an equity approach is more powerful, as evaluation is used as a tool for advancing equity. It emphasises that context, culture, history, and beliefs shape the nature of evaluations, specifically in the diverse and often complex African reality. Furthermore, equitable evaluation can render power to the powerless, offer a voice to the silenced and give presence to those treated as invisible.

Despite the importance of equitable evaluation in the Global South, there are limited approaches and methodologies that evaluators can use in their practice. This workshop will discuss several approaches and methodologies that can be used by evaluators to promote a just social order. Evidence from various sources shows that inequality is prevalent in the African continent, hence the need to focus on evaluative solutions that address the structural issues that contribute to the different forms of inequality, such as economic, political, and social inequality. Despite a plethora of development interventions in the African continent, a large proportion of the population on the continent is still lacking access to basic goods and services for survival.

The effectiveness of developmental programmes in sub-Saharan Africa has been elusive, to the extent that minimal inroads have been made in addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality and currently, the effects of climate change. One is forced to ask the question: Why is it that millions of people in Africa have limited access to clean water? Why is it that millions are without food, medicine, education, or a political voice? Why is it that millions suffer from human rights abuses? The realities cut far deeper than just being poor.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- * Describe the origin of equitable evaluation and its relevance and importance to the development space in Africa.
- * Critically examine the Equitable Evaluation Approaches
- * Critically examine the evaluation methodologies that promote a just social order (Equitable evaluation).