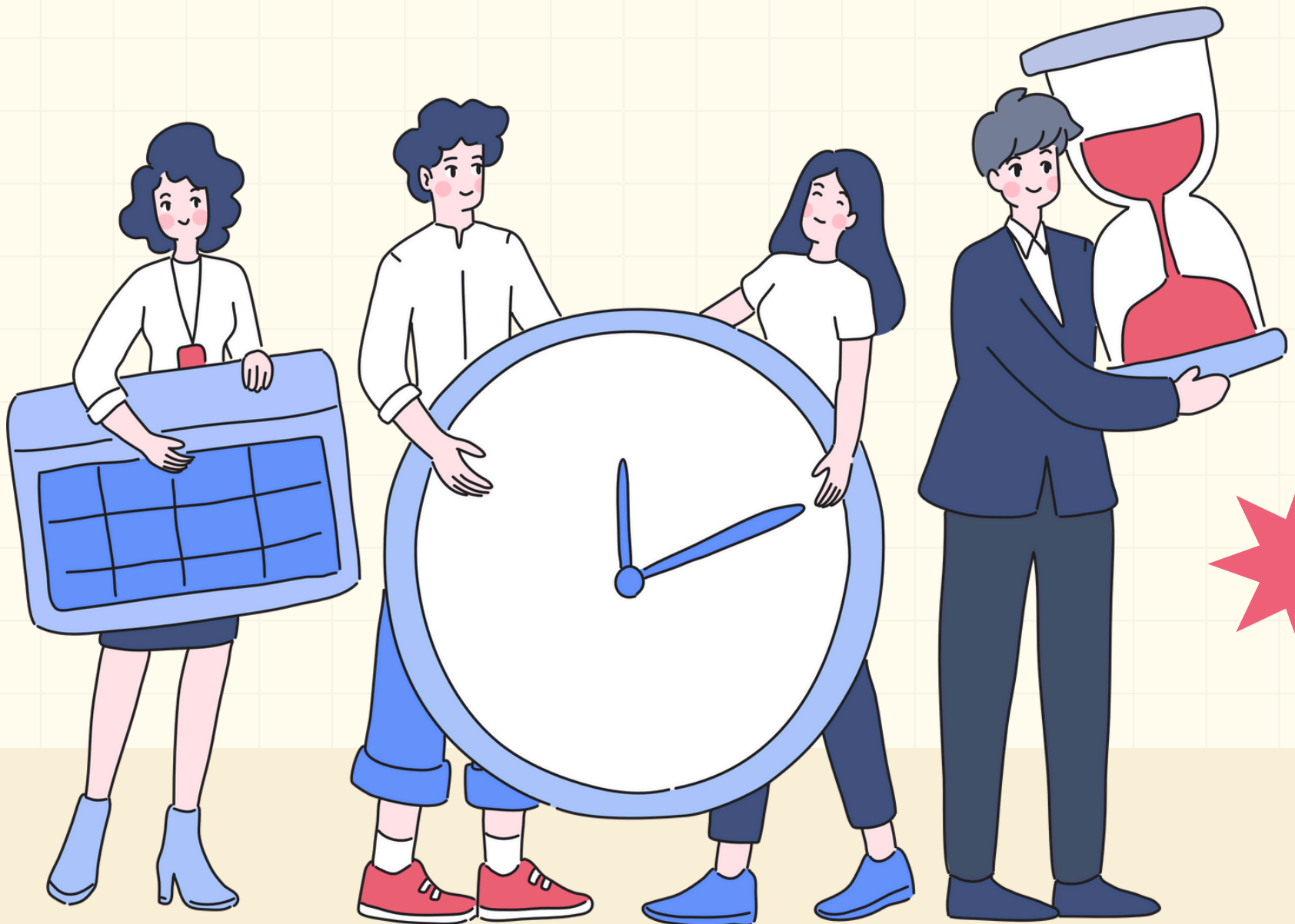


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Feminist Evaluation

Step-By-Step Guide



What is Feminist Evaluation?

Feminist Evaluation is a critical approach that seeks to address and challenge power dynamics, inequities, and gender biases in evaluation processes.

It emphasises inclusivity, participatory methods, and the empowerment of marginalised groups.



How is Feminist Evaluation different from the 'regular' evaluation?

Feminist evaluations prioritise social change and gender equity by including diverse, marginalised voices, examining power dynamics, and using participatory methods to deeply engage stakeholders.

They emphasise contextual sensitivity and reflexivity, with evaluators reflecting on their biases.

In contrast, regular evaluations focus primarily on programme effectiveness, often overlook marginalised perspectives and power dynamics, and use top-down approaches with less emphasis on context and reflexivity.

For example, while a feminist evaluation of a job training programme for women addresses systemic barriers like discrimination, a regular evaluation would simply assess overall programme effectiveness.



How Does One Conduct a Feminist Evaluation?

A feminist evaluation is conducted like any other type of evaluation, however, it is guided by the following principles.

- Recognition of gender as a key factor in social inequalities
- Acknowledgement that knowledge is socially constructed
- Prioritisation of women's experiences and perspectives
- Consideration of intersectionality (race, class, sexuality, etc.)
- Aim of using the evaluation for social transformation and empowerment



Step 1 - Define the Purpose

- Clearly articulate the purpose of the evaluation.
- Ensure the goals align with feminist principles, aiming to promote gender equality and social justice.

For example, evaluating a community programme aimed at increasing women's access to education.



Step 2: Engage Stakeholders

- Identify and involve all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from marginalised communities.
- Facilitate participatory methods to ensure their voices shape the evaluation process.
- Ensure diverse representation in the evaluation team
- Build partnerships with local women's organisations

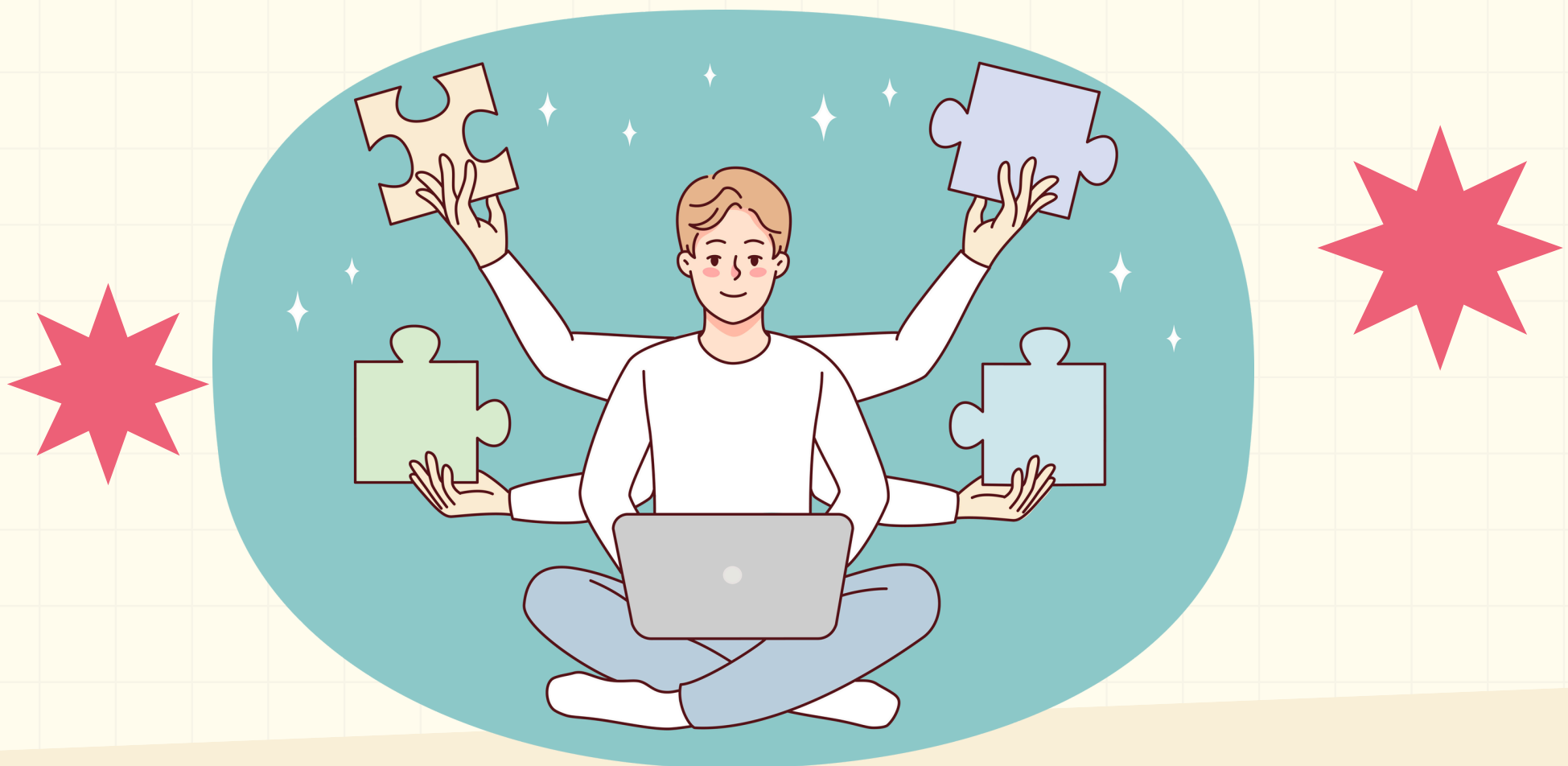
For example, conducting focus groups with women participants to understand their experiences and perspectives.



Step 3: Develop Evaluation Questions

- Formulate questions that explore power dynamics, gender roles, and the impact on different groups.
- Ensure questions are open-ended and encourage critical reflection.

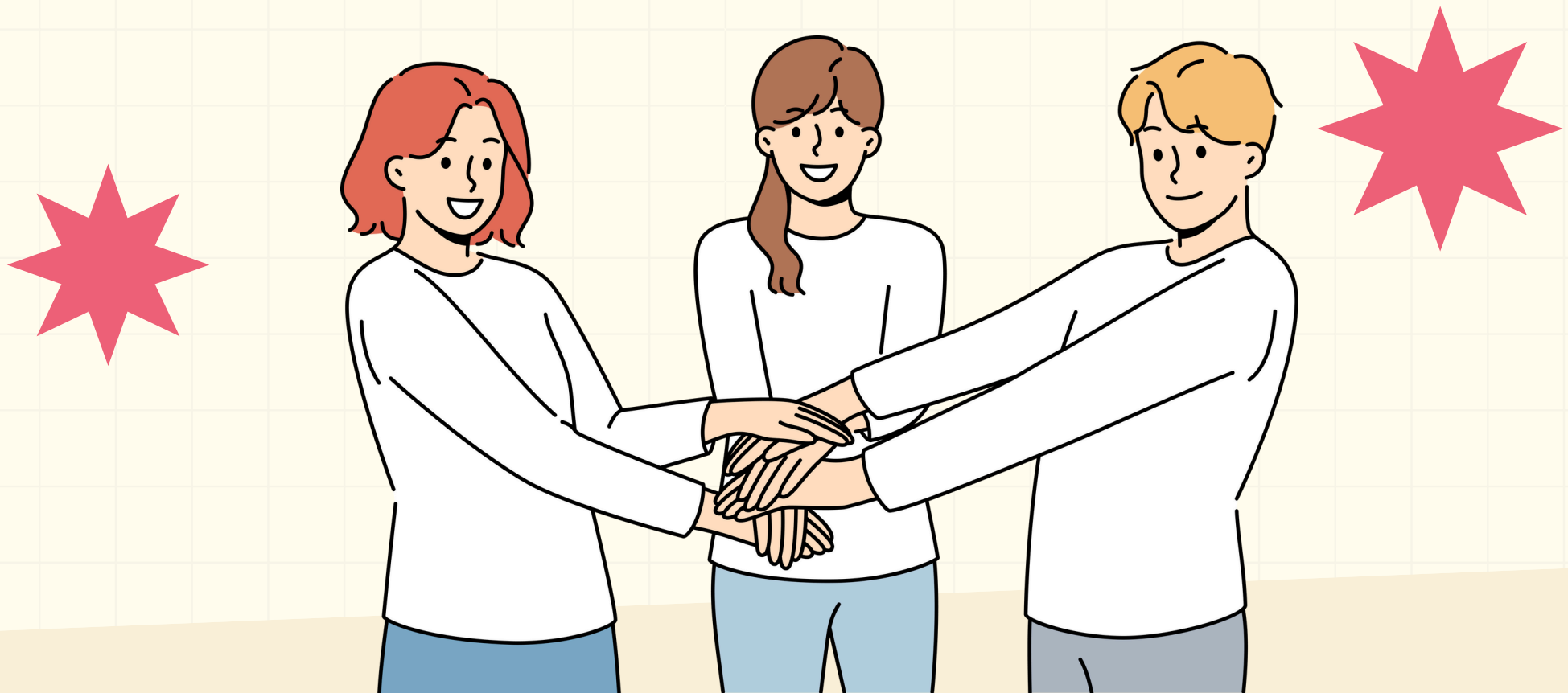
For example, how does the programme address gender-specific barriers to education?



Step 4: Design Gender-Responsive Data Collection

- Use mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative)
- Develop gender-sensitive indicators
- Ensure data collection methods are accessible and culturally appropriate

For example, when evaluating a water sanitation project in Kenya, collect data on time spent fetching water by gender and its impact on girls' school attendance.



Step 5: Analyse Data

- Analyse data with a critical lens, looking for patterns of inequity and power imbalances.
- Examine decision-making processes within the project
- Assess resource allocation from a gender perspective
- Identify barriers to women's participation and leadership
- Analyse how local gender norms influence project outcomes
- Examine intersecting factors (e.g., ethnicity, age, disability)
- Assess unintended consequences on gender relations
- Include stakeholders in the analysis process to ensure their insights and interpretations are considered

For example, collaborative analysis sessions with programme participants to interpret findings.



Step 6: Develop Actionable Recommendations

- Present findings in a way that is accessible and useful to all stakeholders.
- Propose specific steps to address gender inequalities
- Suggest ways to amplify women's voices in the project
- Recommend gender-responsive monitoring mechanisms
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For example, in an agricultural development project in Vietnam, recommend strategies to increase women's representation in farmer cooperatives and decision-making bodies.



Step 7: Use Findings for Advocacy

- Utilise the evaluation findings to advocate for systemic changes.
- Engage with policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders to implement recommendations.

For example, organising a community forum to discuss findings and advocate for increased funding for women's education programmes.



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