OLTD 506 Reflection #2: Social Justice presentation

I chose the social justice presentation because it spoke to a recent project that I designed and delivered. It was to create a reflective practice forum for people to answer specific questions from the Vatican as part of Synod 2021-2023. I designed a Listening Circle workshop to be delivered on multi-platforms because I knew that there would be a variety of people responding to the questions.

As it turned out, we had to adapt our sessions quite a bit to suit the marginalized populations that we work with. For the seniors, who do not have access to technology, or have used Zoom, it was a challenge. I was often responding to emails indicating that people had signed up for a session on Eventbrite but were not able to get on to it when the time came. From a social justice perspective, this is extremely important. Research shows that older adults have trouble accessing technology, and are reluctant to ask for help (Head, 2022).

For the rural and First Nations communities on Vancouver Island, we resorted to paper copies of the questions, and face-to-face sessions as we were not able to deliver them online. Some respondents followed up by answering the online survey with additional responses, but not very many (six in total). The social justice issues for those communities and people were not that they did not want to participate online but often time the facilitators were not capable of providing the information to them online in their communities.

What I learned from the social justice portion of OLTD 506 was that there is still a long way for Canada to go to over good broadband services in rural and First Nations communities. Those who have it are also facing expensive upgrades to replace their infrastructure.

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