Technological Justice: Social Work Ethics, Access, Diversity, and Equity

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Learning Objectives:

<table>
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<th>Explain</th>
<th>the concept of technological justice, including examples of tech injustices that affect individuals, families, groups, organizations, &amp; communities.</th>
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<td>Assess</td>
<td>ethical issues that may arise when clients, families, groups, organizations, and communities do not have equitable and reasonable access to tech</td>
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<td>Develop</td>
<td>options to promote tech justice, including ways to address specific problems in access to tech</td>
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Agenda

• Definition of Technological Justice
• Tech to Promote Justice
• Tech Injustices
  • Access
  • Exclusion
  • Unintended Effects…
• Social Work Ethics & Responses
• Questions and Key Points
Definition: Technological Justice

Fairness or equity regarding
• access to, and
• impacts of
technology as used by individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, and society

Consider: benefits, risks, costs
(Ortega et al., 2018).
SW Value of “Social Justice” vs. “Technological Justice”
Tech to Promote Social Justice (COE Part 6)

What types of tech can we use to:

- Build coalitions
- Educate
- Mobilize
- Advocate for social justice in distribution of resources
Tech Injustices

1. Lack of access to tech affects ability to acquire:
   - Good education
   - Jobs
   - Housing
   - Food information
   - Other needs
   (Hermann, 2019)
Tech Injustices

2. Exclusion from tech dehumanizes by:

- inhibiting relationships with family, friends, and other social systems (Alonso, 2016)
3. Negative / Unintended Impacts of Tech:

- Pollution
- Misinformation
- Hate speech
- Business monopolies

(vulnerable populations tend to suffer most)
4. Environmental and Cultural Impact on Indigenous Peoples

- “Monocropping” (vs. Agricology)
- Loss of ancestral lands and resources
- Degradation of land, water, plants, animals, and sacred places
What are the pros and cons of “Telemental Health”?  
Who benefits?  
Who doesn’t?
Who benefits and who suffers from social media?
How are different groups affected differently by specific types of power plants and energy sources: nuclear, hydroelectric, coal, fracking...?
How might today’s tech affect future generations?

- Global climate change
- Employment
- Quality of life
- Health disparities
  (Indigenous peoples: 7 generations)
SW Response to Tech Injustices

- Psychosocial assessments should address access to and the impacts of technology on individuals, families, groups, or communities (BPD Technology Committee, 2018)
- “Futurist ethics” – using foresight, being proactive
How can we address digital divides related to:

• Socioeconomic status
• Age
• Race and ethnicity
• Rural / urban location
• Disability
SW Value: Access

How can we ensure true access to health, mental health, and SW services that require tech?
How to ensure AI and Algorithms do not have discrimination embedded...

- Child abuse risk assessments
- Facial recognition
- Problem-solving programs
- CBT apps
How do we address “transitional” injustices with new tech?

- Social innovation – disruptive
- Affects employment, social support, ways people interact
- Wealthy and educated benefit first
- Vulnerable populations may “resist” access

Consider: voice, fair opportunity, transitional support
Questions & Key Points
References:


References (continued):


• Tech for Justice. (n.d.). https://www.techforjustice.org/about