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Sitting in the comments section of Shaneel Lal's (2022) social media posts are victim impact statements of vulnerable young people who echo the voices of other students of gender and sexual diversity harmed during their time in Christian education. On the @underthewhariki podcast, Lal discussed that the step beyond banning conversion therapy is teacher education: "What was missed out was resources...There are no resources for education – a ban is not the end of conversion therapy..." (Finau & Hollis, 2023, 28:55). This PhD study aims to develop an inclusive and culturally responsive approach to gender and sexuality discourses within Christian education.

This presentation will share '*Te Taputoru Ōrite*', a post-structuralist conceptualization that engages with and negotiates the authoritative voices regarding gender and sexuality in Christian education (Biblical, Cultural, Policy Environment). Reconciling these voices problematizes their binaries and considers how each of these three pou might intersect to re-orient to new forms of thought.

It will also introduce an in-development experimental pedagogical resource that will guide ITE students through a process of inquiry and critical reflection to enable them to uphold the Statement of National Education and Learning Priority (NELP) to: "create a safe and inclusive culture where diversity is valued and all learners and staff, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+, are disabled, have learning support needs, are neurodiverse, or from diverse ethnic communities, feel they belong" (Ministry of Education, 2020, p.4).

Early feedback from educators and LGBTQIA+ community members affirmed the need for this resource to include humanisation through storytelling, theological reflection, and practical support such as literacy tools and creating safe spaces. These insights underscore the transformative potential of empathy, lived experience, and thoughtful pedagogy in fostering inclusive education.

Keywords

Christian Education, Gender and Sexual Diversity, Initial Teacher Education (ITE), Inclusive Pedagogy, Human Rights in Christian Education, LGBTQIA+ Inclusion, Teacher Reflection, Pedagogical Resource Development.

References

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