Embedding Soft Skills through a Māori Framework in a Business Course

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Introduction

- This research evaluates the experience of embedding quintessential soft skills in a business course using the Te Noho Kotahitanga framework, with the overarching theme of Ako.
- Benefits of using these concepts in developing critical soft skills are examined. Risk factors are evaluated and a possible risk mitigation plan is proposed.

Background & Research Method

- The overarching theme of Ako meant continuous two-way interaction between the lecturer and ākonga, to generate knowledge from shared learning experience.
- Research Methods: Collaborative Reflection and Autoethnography (collecting personal memory data and interviewing each other and Document Analysis (analysing student reflections on learning) .

Mahi Kotahitanga

Kaitiakitanga

Wakaritenga

Cultural Competence
Collaboration
Pūkenga whakaaro
Communication
Conflict Management

Rangatiratanga

Ngākau Mahaki

Summarising the Benefits

- Ākonga see value of soft skills through a Māori framework
- Appropriate behaviour and etiquette in a formal environment; Sensitivity to diversity and inclusion; Compassion and cultural competence; Fostering positive relationships, culture
- Enabling a sense of achievement and pride

Risk Mitigation

- Risk Factors: Reputation consequences for the Teacher, Institution and Students; Health and Safety of ākonga
- Risk Mitigation
  - Policy and procedures; Health and Safety induction; Creating a "safe space" for cultural expression & discussion; ensuring cultural sensitivity; Grounding practice in current research and expert advice

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