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TITLE OF THE RESEARCH: **Managerial and Communication Skills of Teachers and Their Influence on the Social Skills of Higher Education Learners: An Exploratory Study**

Teachers' managerial and communication skills vary across disciplines, with management and engineering teachers exhibiting the highest proficiency. Key skills utilized by teachers include planning, time management, relationship building, data analysis, and critical thinking. Areas for development include organizing, empathy, interpersonal skills, creativity, and conflict resolution. However, the social skills of majority of students is moderate to high, with emotional management and relationships being the strongest dimensions. Variations in social skill proficiencies were observed across disciplines, with engineering students exhibiting higher social skills compared to others. Female students generally demonstrate higher social skills than males, and students with a science background show higher social skills compared to other streams.

As far as the influence of teachers' managerial skills on the social skills of students. Teachers acknowledge the influence of their skills on students' social skills, particularly through qualities like sincerity, regularity, and leadership. The integration of technology and innovative teaching methods are seen as beneficial for enhancing students' social skills.

This study underscores the critical role of teachers' managerial and communication skills in influencing the social skills of higher education students. The findings highlight the need for targeted skill development in both teachers and students to enhance the overall educational experience and better prepare students for professional environments. Future research should explore the implementation of capacity-building frameworks to further develop social skills in higher education.