

# Problem Solving in Mathematics Teaching, Gifted Students and Teacher Stress During Problem Solving

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## Abstract

Solving problems in the not-so-distant past in the Republic of Croatia was introduced into school curricula. While in 1990 - they were introduced into school curricula in the world. Teachers are given goals that require each student to be trained to solve problems independently. However, it is not such an easy job, and due to the impossibility of achieving the set goals, teachers feel frustrated, which results in stress.

In this paper, we wanted to examine what challenges and stressors teachers face when teaching problem solving in mathematics classes, whether they do problem solving mostly only with gifted or better students than with other students in the class. The results showed that teachers, regardless of the university they graduated from and the average number of students in the class, define the same challenges that students and teachers face when solving problems, and that they try to implement problem solving with all students in the class, not only with the gifted.

**Keywords:** challenges, class size, competence, self-efficacy, stressors