

# **Problem solving method**

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# Introduction

problem solving method is a teaching method in which the teaching work is planned and organized related to a problem. it is an activity centered approach in which a problem is presented before the students and they are trained to discover the solution of that problem. 'problem' means a thing that needs attention and needs to be solved. The process of problem solving method results in the development of cognitive abilities, affective abilities, attitudes and psychomotor skills.

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It is in this context that the 'problem solving method' is called a scientific method. This approach is used most often in science and mathematics classes. The students are trained to be sensitive to any puzzling situation or to any difficult situation that needs to be solved.

# Definition

According to **skinner**, “problem solving is the framework or pattern within which creative thinking and reasoning takes place.”

According to **Gates**, “A problem exists for an individual when he has a definite goal he can not reach by the behavior pattern which he already has available.”

# Purpose of problem solving method

- Train the students in the act of reasoning.
- Gain and improve the knowledge.
- Solve puzzling question.
- Overcome the obstacles in the attainment of objectives.

# Steps of problem solving method

- Sensing the problem
- Interpreting, defining and delimitting the problem.
- Collect the relevant data.
- Organising and evaluating the data.
- Formulating tentative solution.
- Arriving at the final solution.

# Essential features of the problem

- The problem should be meaningful, interesting, and worthwhile for children.
- It should have some correlation with life.
- It should have some correlation with other subjects if possible.
- It should arise out of the real needs of the students.
- The problem should be clearly defined.
- The solution of problem should be found out by the student themselves working under the guidance and supervision of the teacher.

# Merits of problem-solving method

- It helps students to learn more meaningfully.
- It enables students to think and reason.
- The students also acquire valuably desirable work habits and self reliance.
- As problem solving requires a higher order of mental abilities, it also helps students develop mental self discipline.
- It affords opportunities for participation in economic activities.
- Discussion help to develop the power of expression of the students.



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- Knowledge is easily assimilated as it is the result of a purposeful activity.
- It helps to verify an opinion.
- It is a goal oriented method.
- It helps in solving the problem of life.
- It helps in developing the habit of self study.
- Students learn to struggle for solutions to selected problems.
- It arouses a natural interest by creating a condition of strong mental perplexity or by setting up a challenge.

# Demerits of problem solving method

- It takes too much time.
- It is not possible to apply this method to all disciplines.
- It can load some worldly burdensome to students.
- It can be difficult for students to provide the materials and sources which is required for solving the problem.
- Evaluating the learning can be difficult.