

# REDISCOVERING MATHEMATICS BY ADULT WORKER STUDENTS

E.M.Guedes and R.M.Zandonadi  
University of Taubaté - Taubaté - SP - Brazil

## Abstract

In this panel presentation authors try to show how they identify problems encountered by the adult worker student, when returning to graduation courses and evening elementary classes; their difficulties and the environment where counselling and support activities in Mathematics take place, directly helping students with an **Educational Programme called Rediscovering Mathematics.**

## Summary

There are two kinds of work being done in the project **The Adult Worker Student and Mathematics Education:**

- helping students individually or in groups every saturday in the university.
- going to the places where the evening elementary classes take place.

Knowing that the adult worker student needs to be counselled and empowered as an active participant of our society, gaining self confidence, we try to reintroduce him/her into the academic world without traumas and psycho-emotional consequences providing conditions for the majority of them to find their own ways and means of development, reassuring themselves in their learning ability.

Our teaching practice has given priority to interaction among students, tutors, teachers and course supervisors because that plays a decisive role in the process of learning. We have employed a geometric-historical-epistemological approach, where Mathematics has a wealth of meanings. We have been searching for alternative solutions for teaching and learning of Mathematics and other Sciences specially for the adult worker student looking for new learning opportunities.

They choose the tutor or the professor; they study as much as they want, many times in groups with people of different ages; they participate in activities involving the construction of geometric models; they attend special classes in the Computing Laboratory where the software Cabri-Géomètre and Maple have been used.

One of our problems is to make them understand that knowledge is built-up by themselves as long as they feel encouraged by favourable conditions and that they will lead us to help them. Another aspect of the work is to make all the professors from the Mathematics Department understand that we need to consider the large number of problems involving the teaching and learning of Mathematics by the adult worker student and try to minimize or even solve them.

What are these problems? The curriculum is the most important aspect to be considered besides the studies that need to be done so as to satisfy needs and expectations of adult worker students enrolled in evening courses.

### **Bibliography**

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