



A study of the high school chemistry curriculum for scientific literacy themes in the P. R. China

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the distribution of the aspects of scientific literacy in high school chemistry curriculum in China. By way of the review of literature, the analytical framework was sorted out. Scientific literacy was divided into four themes: (a) the knowledge of science, (b) the investigative nature of science, (c) science as a way of knowing, (d) interaction of science, technology, society, environment and human. Content analysis was employed to analyze High School Chemistry Curriculum Standard, chemistry textbooks before curriculum reform and chemistry textbooks arising out of curriculum reform used in high school. From the results, we may know that the distribution of the aspects of scientific literacy in high school chemistry curriculum in China is not satisfactory.

Keywords: Scientific literacy; Chemistry curriculum; Curriculum balance