

The Class Practiced Improving Critical Thinking Using a Chocolate Bar as a Subject Material in Home Economics : Critical Thinking was Improved Through the Activity to Investigate and Inquire Various Viewpoints with Others

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to prove that investigating and considering various viewpoints with others is effective way to improve critical thinking. A lesson plan was developed for validation.

In the class practice, a lesson was conducted relating to consumer behavior using a bar of chocolate as the subject. The lesson included activities such as “designing the packaging of the bar”(manufacturer’s perspective) and “assessing the quality of goods in the chocolate”(consumer’s perspective), so students could learn to analyze the situation from various viewpoints and develop critical thinking. The activity also encouraged dialogue between students.

Considering the viewpoints of manufacturers, and consumers during the activity appeared to deepen students’ critical thinking abilities. During the “designing the packaging of bar” activity, students considered economic and other factor that manufacturers typically consider, and during the “assessing the quality of goods in the chocolate” activity, they also explored the value of the chocolate bar from a social viewpoint. They also became more aware of consumer-related issues and considered future consumption behavior such as purchasing fair trade goods.

Therefore, students’ critical thinking skills can be encouraged, enhanced, and deepen through dialogues with others and by investigating and considering various viewpoints.

Key words; critical thinking, investigating and considering various viewpoint, consumption behavior, chocolate