

A Historical Analysis of Public Communication of Science in the Public Science Magazines published during 1910-2010

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Received: 2th June 2012; Accepted: 13th October 2012

Abstract

Purpose: This study illuminates some lights on public communication dissemination of science magazines as a possible contributive factor to the structural changes in the public communication of Science in Iranian society.

Methodology: A historical analysis of some documents representing the status of Science in Iran was conducted. It also conducted a content analysis of a random sample of public science magazines. As the sample included documents with no systematic record, the study also created a list of these documents for the first time.

Findings: The study revealed that the magazines have played at least three roles in changing the cultural space of Iranian society. These were: a) introducing the infrastructure needed for development of Science; b) commemoration and acknowledgement of science by magazines; c) quantitative development in the corresponding public communication of Science institutions.

Originality/value: This research is the first dealt with the role of public science magazines in structural changes in Iran. Considering public science magazines as a cultural space, this study illuminate the role of such magazines in the formation and transformation of public communication of Science in Iran.

Keywords: history of communication, public science magazines, structural change, public Iranians, cultural formation, science appreciation.