

# **Should plastic surgery be discouraged?**

By Jessica Yu (17S31)

With technology rapidly advancing, many new measures and ways to improve lives of different people are being discovered, tried and tested. One of the most popular yet controversial topics is plastic surgery. While some people see it as a way to forcefully change what is originally given to them, others see it as a channel for which it provides hope to those who need it. Personally, I agree with the latter that plastic surgery does more than merely changing how one looks for cosmetic reasons, and its benefits far outweighs its cons. Hence, I do not agree that plastic surgery should be discouraged, as it can greatly improve one's life medically, indirectly improve an economical status of a country, and improve the individual's self-esteem.

Plastic surgery can be an option for people who were born with abnormalities, which may be detrimental to their health. For example, there are many cases of people who were born with distorted features such as cleft lips, disjoined nose and the like. Some of these abnormalities could possibly interfere with their daily activities, making it difficult for them, such as having trouble eating with a cleft lip and difficulty breathing normally with a disjoined nose. These features not only get in the way of life, they also indubitably separate them from people with normal features, causing them to feel outcast and marginalised just because of their different appearance. This may eventually lead to them having low self-esteem, and should it be serious enough, it may even cause other psychological problems like depression. Plastic surgery is then an option for them to consider, provided they are able to afford it, and this will allow them to live life just like everyone else and fit in well with society. That being said, there are definitely many risks that comes with any surgery and plastic surgery is no exception. One should still consider the success rates of the surgery before employing it, since there are possibilities of them getting worse than before, and may even affect their lives even more adversely. Thus, although plastic surgery comes with risks, it still should not be discouraged for those born with defects and abnormalities, and should be considered as a choice for them to improve their lives.

Plastic surgery also provides countries with businesses which boost their economic growth. It is considered by many to be one of the things which only the rich can afford due to their cost. For example, to the residents in Thailand, it is considered as one of the things only the upper strata of society can afford, while foreigners from more developed countries may think otherwise. Due to this, many people who are looking for a minor plastic surgery turn to countries like Thailand, Vietnam and the like to achieve their desired looks. Indirectly, this boosts the businesses in these countries, since many people from other parts of the world visit their nations for this purpose. On the other hand, more developed countries like Korea are known through the media for their expertise in plastic surgery. Provided they are able to afford such a luxury, visitors plan Korea as a destination where they can get their desired look with a high success rate. Once again, countries like Korea thus venture into expanding businesses based off plastic surgery, boosting their economic growth. Hence, plastic surgery should not be discouraged as it is an option countries can consider when trying to boost economic growth.

Plastic surgery also provides the individual with hope of a new life. While many are blessed with stunning, if not average to pleasant looking faces, there are still many other less fortunate people who have to face the mirror, only to turn around with a low esteem. This is especially prevalent in teenagers, who have a tough time trying to fit in with the world where every other

person hits a rating of eight to nine on the “good-looking scale”, while he perceives himself as a low three to four. Undoubtedly, many critics would argue that “looks do not matter but the heart does”, “he’s just over-thinking, he is not that bad”, or even “just live with what nature gives you”, but they do not see the possible long-term consequences that “just live with it” advice could bring. Teenagers are easily influenced and affected by their peers and social media, and it is common for them to harp on something they do not find right about themselves. Some of them may even have peers who discriminate against them for their supposedly “poor looks” and marginalise them. This could lead to dire consequences, should the teenagers find it easier to end their lives rather than continue trying to fit in with no avail. However, this consequence would probably not happen with the option of plastic surgery, given that it is within their means. If simple plastic surgeries, such as orthodontic procedures to straighten their possibly crooked teeth and improve their smile, also known as braces, could help lift their spirits and self-esteem up, this is definitely worth it. For aspiring actors and actresses who are afraid to pursue their dreams because of their appearance, this could also be a way out for them, and they could gain confidence more easily and portray themselves better with some plastic surgery procedures. Yet, money is still the biggest and chief deciding factor of whether they should embark on this. Nonetheless, plastic surgery is still a good option to boost an individual’s confidence and help them live a better, more fulfilling life, and thus should not be discouraged.

Despite the above-mentioned boons that plastic surgery can bring, there are also many banes of it. The risks that it brings are irreversible, and one tiny mistake on the surgeon’s part could lead to disastrous results. Anyone considering plastic surgery should be able to bear the brunt of this as well. Other concerns are the use of plastic surgery for controversial reasons, such as changing one’s gender. One should consider also the religious issue behind the use of plastic surgery to alter one’s god-given looks. Thus, although I disagree that plastic surgery should be discouraged, I feel that the limitations of it are worth considering before one embarks on this path.

#### **Comments:**

*I’m impressed. Fluid piece of work that’s well thought out. Support and analysis were strong initially but becomes less persuasive towards the end. Seems you ran out of time and simply lumped your remaining ideas in the conclusion. Very good! Keep it up!*