Dear Editor,

I’m writing to share my opinions on the obsession of Hong Kong people with physical beauty. Recently, the advancement in technology has inspired new hope in those who wish to have a fundamental change in their appearance through cosmetic surgery. Though many people choose to undergo cosmetic surgery, only a small part of this practice is acceptable to me.

Everyone has some imperfections with their body. Sometimes, these slight flaws may subject them to sarcastic ridicule from others. Thus, appearances affect not only people’s interpersonal relationships, but also their employment opportunities. That’s why cosmetic surgery is now a multi-million dollar industry.

The pursuit of beauty is the natural instinct of everyone. Evidence of this desire is ubiquitous in Hong Kong. Have a look at the women in the street, you can hardly find one without make-up. Flip through popular magazines and you will never cease to be amazed by the enormous number of advertisements for cosmetics or slimming products. The use of cosmetic surgery to strive for beauty not only boosts self-confidence, but it also helps those with inborn defects and those who have experienced accidents. For example, cosmetic surgery allows a child with a harelip to smile again, as well as helps to regenerate the skin of someone who has been severely burnt in a fire accident. That’s why the obsession with physical beauty has become prevalent and many people are willing to pay large amounts of money for cosmetic surgery. In this sense, it seems that cosmetic surgery has already shifted from the superficial concern of beauty to the matter of whether one can lead a normal life.

Nonetheless, the drawbacks brought by the obsession with physical beauty may be disastrous. If the trend of cosmetic surgery spreads like a rampant disease, all of us will begin to look the same! Don’t you think such a scenario would be horrible? Not to mention the possible side-effects that the surgery may have on our bodies.

Even if the aforementioned situation is implausible, there are still other problems given that most people, after undergoing cosmetic surgery, will look more beautiful and attractive than before. Those who have not had undergone surgery and remain ‘plain’ or ‘ugly’ may be despised by others as they are not considered ‘beautiful’ enough. Such a phenomenon is obviously unhealthy for our society, as people are increasingly judging people by their appearances, while neglecting the important virtues inside them.
All in all, undergoing cosmetic surgery for the procurement of beauty is both economically and socially undesirable. Not only does it cost us a lot of money, but it also brings about negative moral values and stresses the importance of possessing a beautiful appearance. After all, appearances can be deceptive. Though we may not have a perfect appearance, these shortcomings are in no way insurmountable. They can be compensated by our precious personalities of being patient, courteous and helpful. People should be proud of themselves, and have these words engraved in their hearts: “inner beauty is more important than physical beauty”.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong