

4D24 Lui Sung Chi

Dear Editor,

Due to the advancement of technology, plastic surgery is safer and more affordable nowadays. It is no wonder why plastic surgery has become more and more common and popular among the general public. The desire for being beautiful is like an instinct within us. Therefore, it is logically understandable for those who would like to enhance their appearance by undergoing operations. Some even believe that having plastic surgery is not just a practice for pursuing beauty as it can also boost one's career by providing job opportunities or even promotion.

A more appealing appearance gives us a competitive edge in the workplace. Our parents or teachers at school should have taught us not to judge a book by its cover. However, in reality, we will probably choose a physically more appealing person to work for us. Even though the less attractive one may be equally, if not more, productive and professional, we tend to have better confidence in good looking people. In real life scenarios, we are more willing to listen to a good-looking salesperson talking about their products. Moreover, the more charming the star is, the more attention and fame he or she will get from society. This is not just simply because we prefer looking at people who are pretty or handsome. In psychology, we usually consider a good-looking person more cheerful, have more self-confidence and charisma. Thus, we feel more comfortable and willing to work with that person. All these prove that having an attractive appearance can be a favourable factor for fostering success in one's job, and the surgery knife can offer a helping hand. Therefore, undergoing plastic surgery can be viewed as a desirable way to boost your career.

A classic example is found in South Korea. The country is famous for their K-pop music industry and well-developed plastic surgery technology. Many K-pop stars have had their faces altered before. Plastic surgery is such a popular mainstream trend that not only teenagers, but also their parents are willing to pay a fortune to have their children's face transformed. The reason for their obsession in having plastic surgery is that they believe this can provide better and more opportunities in their competitive society. Some are afraid that they will be left behind if they don't have their looks enhanced by going under the knife.

I am not going to judge whether having plastic surgery is right or wrong. As all of us have freedom and rights to choose what is best for us. It is acceptable for people to have plastic surgery if they think that may help them in work later. However, I also believe we need to bear one thing in mind which is having good looks may be able to help you succeed a little bit easier, but it is not the main criteria. For example, if you are applying for a job or attending an interview. The interviewer or the manager will not hire you just for your outstanding appearance. They will also consider your education levels, work experience, professional certificates, your manner and so on. These factors are way more important and critical when you are in a job application. The key that allows people to get promoted is more likely to be about how well you can perform at work and cooperate with other colleagues. We need to have a correct mindset and understand that success still requires hard work and skills, which is

a universal golden rule. Good looks are more like a blessing or a bonus. We need to prevent ourselves from falling into the misconception about having gorgeous faces is directly related to a smooth-sailing career.

In my opinion, it is unwise and naive if we simply focus on the benefits that plastic surgery may bring and ignore the fact that there are no shortcuts in life. In other words, it is more sufficient if we can spend our time on learning, enhancing our soft skills and preparing for our future. Rather than spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on these irreversible treatments.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong