

## Luxury Products Must Be Banned Because It Increases Exposure To Ingredients

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ENG102 : English Composition I

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April 03,2023

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Every day, millions of people around the world slather luxurious skincare products on their skin, hoping for a perfect complexion, but little do they know that these products might actually be doing more harm than good. However, these products often contain a host of potentially harmful ingredients that can do more harm than good to the skin. Moreover, These items contain chemicals that can enter the body and harm internal systems as well as cause long-term health problems. According to a study by the Environmental Working Group, many luxury skincare products contain ingredients such as parabens, phthalates, and synthetic fragrances that have been linked to cancer, reproductive issues, and other health problems (EWG, 2022). Given the potential health risks associated with these chemicals, it is essential that they are not allowed in skincare products. The use of luxury skincare products must be banned as it exposes consumers to harmful ingredients that increase toxicity levels, causes psychological negativity, and impacts financial flow and trade advantage in the beauty industry.

Cosmetic products should be banned from Bangladesh, because of their potential toxic impact and a lack of appropriate safety regulations. To begin with, luxury skincare products are often considered a symbol of beauty and self-care, but their potential impact on the environment and human health is a growing concern. According to a study by Sarker et al. (2021), many luxury skincare products contain toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, and arsenic. These chemicals can have negative health effects when absorbed through the skin, including damage to the

nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Furthermore, these chemicals are not only harmful to the individual using the product but also to the environment, as they can pollute waterways and harm aquatic life. This means that the use of luxury skincare products is not only a personal health concern but also a public health and environmental issue. Regulating cosmetic products is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). However, the BSTI has limited resources and staffing to effectively monitor and regulate the safety of luxury skincare products. As a result, many of these products are sold in the country without proper safety testing or labeling, putting consumers at risk (Rahman, 2020). This lack of regulation creates a dangerous situation where consumers are unable to make informed decisions about the products they use, leading to potential harm to both individuals and the environment. Hence, it is evident that cosmetic products are not only a potential threat to the human body, but they are also hazardous for the environment and the broader ecology.

The use of cosmetics has been linked to negative psychological effects, including self-objectification, reduced self-esteem, and pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards. Calogero (2013) argues that the objectification of women's bodies in media and culture can result in negative psychological outcomes, such as the internalization of beauty standards and the promotion of self-objectification. Swami and Chamorro-Premuzic (2008) found that women with lower levels of self-esteem were more likely to use self-objectifying makeup, which emphasizes physical attractiveness and sexiness. Women are often inundated with messages from media and culture that reinforce narrow beauty ideals, such as having flawless skin, perfect features, and a slim figure. These messages can be particularly damaging to women's self-esteem, as they create a sense of inadequacy and pressure to conform to unrealistic standards. By using cosmetics to

alter their physical appearance, women may feel that they are "fixing" or improving their flaws, rather than embracing and celebrating their natural beauty. This can result in a cycle of self-objectification, in which women view themselves as objects to be judged based on their physical appearance, rather than as individuals with inherent worth and value. Additionally, Huston (2016) discusses the pressure that women may feel to wear makeup in the workplace and how this can impact their sense of self and opportunities for advancement. The expectation that women should wear makeup to be seen as competent and professional reinforces gendered beauty standards by equating a certain appearance with professionalism and success. This expectation is often based on narrow and unrealistic beauty ideals that prioritize a certain type of feminine appearance, such as clear skin, bright eyes, and even skin tone. Women who do not conform to these standards may be perceived as less competent or professional, which can create feelings of insecurity and pressure to conform. This pressure can be particularly challenging for women who do not feel comfortable wearing makeup or who cannot afford high-end cosmetic products. As a result of the negative effects associated with the use of cosmetics, particularly luxury cosmetics, we must ban them. This would help reduce the pressure on women to conform to narrow beauty ideals and promote positive body image and self-esteem.

Luxury cosmetics may contribute to the financial success of Bangladesh by generating revenue and trade flows. According to a report by Euromonitor International (2019), the skincare market in Bangladesh is growing, and luxury skincare products have seen an increase in demand. While it is true that luxury products can contribute to the financial success of Bangladesh by generating revenue and trade flows, there are some counterarguments to consider. Initially, luxury products may generate revenue and trade flows, the import of luxury products in Bangladesh is

significantly higher than the export of such products. According to a report by the International Trade Centre (2019), Bangladesh imported USD 2.6 billion worth of beauty and personal care products in 2017, while only exporting USD 72 million worth of such products. This means that the country is importing significantly more than it is exporting, which can disrupt revenue generation and trade flows. Moreover, the skincare industry in Bangladesh is dominated by multinational corporations, and most luxury skincare brands are owned by foreign companies such as L'Oreal and Estée Lauder, as reported by Euromonitor International (2019). This suggests that the financial and trade flows generated by luxury skincare products may not necessarily benefit the local economy effectively. Therefore, the idea that luxury products significantly contribute to the financial success of Bangladesh by generating revenue and trade flows needs to be reconsidered in light of the country's economic conditions and the import-export ratio.

In conclusion, luxury skincare products must be banned to protect consumers from exposure to harmful ingredients, reduce the environmental impact of the beauty industry, and promote the use of natural and organic skincare products. Given the potential health risks associated with these products, it is imperative that action is taken to protect the public from the potentially harmful effects of luxury skincare products. Therefore, governments should consider implementing regulations to ban luxury skincare products to protect public health and the environment. Therefore, the use of upscale skincare products needs to be outlawed because it subjects customers to toxic chemicals that worsen toxicity levels, damage psychological well-being, and reduce trade advantages in the cosmetics industry.

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Tasnim Rahman Moumita - 22301689 - Introduction and conclusion

Shami Islam Khan - 22301186 - Body paragraph 1 (Argument 1)

Ashraful Haque Abir - 22301305 - Body paragraph 1 (Argument 2)

Tansim Rahman Eshan - 22304158- Body Paragraph 3 (Counter argument and refutation)