Beauty pageants Empowerment exploitation Beauty pageants glittering gowns captivating stage presence long fixture popular culture beneath dazzling facade lies complex question platforms empowerment exploitation women answer like many things black white Traditionally pageants criticized perpetuating narrow beauty standards Competitions often focus physical attributes like height weight facial symmetry creating one-dimensional definition beauty excludes n't conform pressure conform detrimental self-esteem particularly young women bombarded images `` ideal '' contestants Furthermore emphasis elaborate costumes makeup hairstyling seen form objectification Contestants judged based appearance much intelligence talents personalities reinforces notion woman 's worth tied outward beauty However proponents pageants argue evolved Many competitions emphasize intelligence talent social impact alongside physical appearance Scholarship opportunities platforms advocacy empower women pursue goals make difference world Pageantry provide springboard careers modeling television public service rise alternative pageants challenges traditional model competitions celebrate diversity terms age size ethnicity background often focus inner beauty talents life experiences offering inclusive vision means beautiful Ultimately empowering exploitative nature pageantry depends several factors format competition values upholds experiences individual contestants play role key considerations Focus Inner Beauty pageant value intelligence talents social impact alongside appearance Diversity Inclusion competition celebrate broad range beauty standards backgrounds Pressure Objectification competition create atmosphere extreme pressure conform unrealistic beauty standards Empowerment Opportunities competition offer scholarships mentorship platforms advocacy women pageantry transformative experience fostering confidence public speaking skills sense purpose However others emotionally damaging reinforce narrow beauty ideals future pageantry likely lies striking balance Competitions celebrate inner beauty diversity personal growth empowering platforms women However constant vigilance needed ensure unrealistic beauty standards objectification n't overshadow potential positive experiences