

Are ugly people oppressed? Jonny Thakkar discusses the issue of people treat ugly people differently than pretty people in his article *The Ugly Truth*. The author's argument is relevant within the greater social, legal and ethical contexts because our society treats beautiful people much better than ugly people, the lack of laws to protect ugly people from discrimination, and the difficulty in protecting ugly people.

According to Dina Spector, an editor at *Business Insider*, writes pretty people are treated better by most people, like teachers, students and waiters, After a lot of research, she concluded that being beautiful can really make people's lives easier than being ugly. All of us treat attractive people with more respect and kindness because we assume pretty people are healthier, nicer, kinder and more talented. Those suppositions actually make people feel better about beautiful people being treat better than ugly people (Spector, 2014). Beautiful people usually get a job or may get a promotion easier than ugly people. Their good looks make them more appealing for the business. As Thakkar said:

The reality is that there are a number of jobs where looks do help. Not just the obvious ones such as acting, modeling or waiting tables but probably also sales, management and even teaching – as long as customers, staff members or pupils remain responsive to looks, the ugly will have a harder time appealing to them. (2014, p5)

Beauty bias is natural and unconscious in our society. Even mothers may treat prettier babies better than the less attractive babies (Bakalar, 2005).

Even though ugly people get oppressed in our society, we haven't had any law to protect them yet. The Civil Rights Act of 1964: Title VII (Equal Employment Opportunities) "prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin." Employees get protected from discrimination based on race, sex and other qualities out of our control. Also,

the state of Michigan banned height and weight discrimination in 1977. We cannot do anything about our height or genes because those are decided when we are born. Those laws in place protect minorities to make their life better. Appearances are also something that we cannot control, but ugly people still get oppressed and no laws protect that.

Ugly people get oppressed in our society, but eliminating the beauty bias is more difficult than we thought. Ruth Graham at the Boston Globe recently explained that ugly people get oppressed because they don't want to admit they are less beautiful there they cannot get enough protection. She thinks:

Though to a surprising degree, we agree on who is attractive and who isn't, differences in looks remain largely unmentionable, unlike divisions of race, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. There is no lobby for the homely. How do you change a discriminatory behavior that, even though unfair, is obviously deep, hard to pin down, and largely unconscious—and affects people who would be hurt even to admit they're in the stigmatized category? (Graham, 2013, p3)

Being less beautiful people already make their life harder than beautiful people, admitting that make it worse. Nothing can hurt our self-esteem more than admitting we are not attractive enough in this society, which cares looks a lot. The ethical phenomenon makes beauty bias more difficult to protect in our society.

Our society treats people differently based on their appearance, and good-looking people always get better treatments than less beautiful people. There are laws to protect various biases, but we have not created a law to protect beauty bias yet. Also, people don't admit that they are less beautiful and many people hide their bias because of the ethical issues, which makes protecting ugly people more difficult than we thought.

If we want to solve the problem of beauty bias and make our society more equitable, the first thing we should do is to admit we have a problem. In addition, society should teach people when they are kids that looks don't matter and what's important is inner beauty. Also the government should make laws to protect people who are less pretty in order to make a harmonious society. Automatically, we can fix the problems; we just need to make it a priority to become a fair and equal country.

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Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. 88-352 42 U.S.C. §2000e, 42.