Ethiopians use raw butter (commonly known as **"neter kibe"** when spiced or **"dhadha"** in some Oromo traditions) for various cultural, traditional, and practical purposes. Here are some of the most common uses:

**1. Culinary Uses**

* **Cooking:** Raw butter is a key ingredient in Ethiopian cuisine, especially in preparing stews like *Doro Wot* (chicken stew) and *Shiro* (chickpea stew). It enhances the flavor and adds richness.
* **Fermented Butter:** Aged and spiced butter (*neter kibe*) is used to give a distinct aroma to dishes.
* **Baking & Bread Spreads:** It is used in traditional bread (*dabo*) and as a spread for various local dishes.

**2. Traditional Medicine**

* **Healing Properties:** Ethiopians use raw butter to treat wounds, burns, and skin conditions.
* **Massage Therapy:** It is used for massaging babies and adults to relieve body pain and improve circulation.

**3. Beauty and Hair Care**

* **Hair Treatment:** Women and men apply raw butter to their hair to strengthen it, reduce breakage, and protect it from dryness, especially in rural areas.
* **Skin Moisturizer:** It is used to keep the skin soft and prevent dryness, particularly in cold or windy weather.

**4. Religious and Spiritual Practices**

* **Religious Offerings:** In some Ethiopian Orthodox Christian and traditional Oromo practices, butter is used in religious rituals and offerings.
* **Blessing Ceremonies:** Butter is sometimes applied to the forehead of newborns or used in wedding blessings.

**5. Postpartum and Childcare Traditions**

* **Newborn Care:** New mothers apply raw butter on newborns’ skin as a protective layer.
* **Mother’s Recovery:** Women who have just given birth may consume butter for strength and energy.

**6. Hair and Skin Rituals for Special Occasions**

* **Wedding & Holidays:** Women apply butter to their hair and skin before celebrations like weddings and religious holidays (*Meskel*, *Timket*, etc.).
* **Grooming Rituals:** Some Ethiopian tribes, like the Hamer people, use butter for body decoration and shine.

**7. Dairy Preservation**

* **Butter Storage:** In rural Ethiopia, raw butter is aged and stored for long periods as a way of preserving dairy products without refrigeration.

That sounds like a great thesis topic! A raw butter-based cosmetic product can have various applications, but for a **realistic and practical** thesis, you should focus on areas where raw butter (such as shea butter, cocoa butter, or mango butter) can provide clear benefits and be **formulated with minimal complexity**. Here are some application ideas that would be feasible:

### ****1. Skin Care Applications****

* **Moisturizing Body Butter** – A simple formulation that deeply hydrates dry skin, especially useful for winter care.
* **Lip Balm** – A compact, easy-to-make product that provides nourishment for chapped lips.
* **Hand and Foot Cream** – Especially for people with dry, cracked skin (e.g., workers, athletes).
* **After-Sun Balm** – To soothe and repair skin after sun exposure, potentially adding natural cooling agents like aloe vera.
* **Anti-Aging Face Cream** – With the addition of essential oils or active ingredients to combat wrinkles.

### ****2. Hair Care Applications****

* **Leave-in Conditioner** – A raw butter-based treatment for dry, frizzy, or curly hair.
* **Scalp Treatment Balm** – Helps with dry scalp, dandruff, or hair growth (infused with oils like peppermint or rosemary).
* **Hair Mask** – A deep-conditioning treatment for damaged or brittle hair.

### ****3. Baby Care Products****

* **Diaper Rash Cream** – A gentle formulation to protect and heal baby skin.
* **Baby Body Butter** – A natural alternative to synthetic baby lotions.

### ****4. Therapeutic/Medical Applications****

* **Eczema or Psoriasis Cream** – Using raw butter’s natural healing properties to relieve irritated skin.
* **Stretch Mark Balm** – Targeting pregnant women or those with skin elasticity concerns.
* **Massage Balm** – With essential oils for muscle relaxation or pain relief.

### ****5. Decorative Cosmetics****

* **Butter-Based Foundation or Tinted Balm** – A natural alternative for light makeup.
* **Highlighter or Solid Perfume Balm** – Can be infused with shimmering particles or fragrance.

Would you like recommendations on which butter to use based on the chosen application? 😊

##### You said:

cow butter

###### ChatGPT said:

If you're focusing on **cow butter** (dairy-based butter), your thesis will have a different approach compared to plant-based butters like shea or cocoa butter. Cow butter is rich in fats, vitamins (A, D, E, and K), and has moisturizing properties, but it also has **limitations** due to its lower shelf stability and higher potential for spoilage.

### ****Best Application Areas for Cow Butter-Based Cosmetics****

Since cow butter is prone to rancidity, it’s best for products that:  
✅ Are used **quickly** after production  
✅ Can be **preserved naturally** with antioxidants (e.g., vitamin E, rosemary extract)  
✅ Benefit from its **moisturizing and nutrient-rich properties**

### ****1. Skin Care Applications****

* **Ultra-Moisturizing Body Cream** – A rich formula for deep hydration, ideal for winter skincare.
* **Hand & Foot Balm** – Helps with dry, cracked skin, especially when combined with beeswax.
* **Night Repair Cream** – Cow butter’s vitamin content makes it good for night-time skin nourishment.
* **After-Shave Balm** – To soothe and hydrate irritated skin.

### ****2. Lip Care****

* **Lip Balm or Butter-Based Lip Mask** – Cow butter’s smooth texture makes it great for lip care, but it would need natural stabilizers to prevent melting/spoilage.

### ****3. Hair Care Applications****

* **Deep Conditioning Hair Mask** – Can be used as a treatment for dry or damaged hair.
* **Anti-Frizz Hair Serum** – A lightweight version could be developed for taming flyaways.

### ****4. Therapeutic Uses****

* **Eczema or Dry Skin Treatment** – When blended with soothing ingredients like chamomile or calendula.
* **Massage Balm** – Cow butter has a smooth texture, making it a unique option for massage applications.

### ****Challenges and Considerations****

🛑 **Short shelf life** – Cow butter can turn rancid, so adding natural preservatives like vitamin E or refrigeration might be needed.  
🛑 **Texture & Greasiness** – Unlike plant butters, cow butter is softer and may feel greasy, requiring formulation adjustments.  
🛑 **Odor** – Natural dairy scent may need masking with essential oils.

Would you like help in choosing the right **formulation methods** or **preservation techniques** to make it more stable? 😊

##### You said:

yes

###### ChatGPT said:

To make **cow butter** more stable and suitable for cosmetic use, you'll need to address **preservation, texture, and odor** while maintaining its natural benefits. Here’s how:

### ****1. Preservation Techniques**** (Prevent Rancidity & Spoilage)

Cow butter contains **milk solids and water**, making it more prone to bacterial growth and oxidation. You can improve its shelf life by:

✅ **Clarifying the Butter (Make Ghee)**

* Ghee (clarified butter) removes **water and milk solids**, leaving only the pure fat.
* This extends shelf life and makes it more stable for cosmetics.

✅ **Adding Natural Preservatives**  
To prevent oxidation and spoilage:

* **Vitamin E (Tocopherol)** – Natural antioxidant that extends fat stability. (1% of the formula)
* **Rosemary Extract** – Helps prevent rancidity. (0.1–0.5%)
* **Essential Oils (like tea tree or lavender)** – Have mild antimicrobial effects.

✅ **Keeping the Product Anhydrous (Water-Free)**

* Avoiding water in your formulation reduces the risk of bacterial growth.
* If water is required, you’ll need a **broad-spectrum preservative** (like Optiphen or Geogard 221).

✅ **Refrigeration or Dark Glass Packaging**

* Keeping cow butter products cool slows down spoilage.
* Using dark or UV-protected jars helps prevent oxidation.

### ****2. Adjusting Texture & Greasiness****

Cow butter is softer and can feel greasy. To improve consistency:

🔹 **Mix with Beeswax or Plant-Based Butters** – Helps solidify the product (ideal for balms).  
🔹 **Use Starches (Arrowroot or Cornstarch)** – Reduces greasiness and gives a silky feel.  
🔹 **Emulsify for Creams & Lotions** – If mixing with water, use emulsifiers like **cetearyl alcohol** for a smooth texture.

### ****3. Masking the Dairy Odor****

Cow butter has a mild dairy scent that some may find unpleasant. You can:

✅ **Blend with Essential Oils**

* Sweet scents: Vanilla, Coconut, Almond
* Floral scents: Lavender, Rose, Chamomile
* Fresh scents: Lemon, Peppermint, Bergamot

✅ **Use Cocoa Butter or Coconut Oil**

* These ingredients complement the natural scent and create a more appealing fragrance.

### ****Final Formula Example (Body Butter with Cow Butter)****

**Ingredients:**

* 50% Cow Butter (Clarified/Ghee)
* 20% Shea Butter or Cocoa Butter (for stability)
* 15% Jojoba Oil (light, non-greasy feel)
* 10% Beeswax (to solidify and extend shelf life)
* 2% Vitamin E (natural antioxidant)
* 2% Essential Oils (Lavender + Vanilla for scent)
* 1% Arrowroot Powder (reduces greasiness)

**Steps:**

1. Melt cow butter, shea butter, and beeswax together (double boiler).
2. Remove from heat and mix in jojoba oil, vitamin E, and essential oils.
3. Whip the mixture as it cools to get a fluffy texture.
4. Store in a clean, dark glass jar.

Shelf life: **3–6 months (cool storage), up to 1 year (refrigerated).**