Teenage Beauty Pageants

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 Beauty pageants is something exciting to talk about, but an argument about what pageants can do to teens is something else. Every teen contestant may think it is exciting, but along the days, it could be tough. We should build awareness for the causes of pageantry. Beauty pageants are associated with a large variety of negative emotional and social effects, a cause of financial issues, and teens who are competing in a pageant may send a negative message to the audiences and future contestants.

The idea of competing in a beauty contest sounds fun and it may offer some benefits but, pageants also have negative impacts on a teen. Pageants affect a teen emotionally. Beauty pageants are stressful and competitive. In beauty pageants, society focuses on the physical appearance and unrealistic qualities of a child. According to Dante Prizzo, when young girls compete in beauty pageants, they may experience low self-esteem and depression as adults. Teens involved in the pageantry world also stress about weight gain. This struggle may cause serious eating disorders or excessive eating if one decides to starve themselves. Pageants may also affect a teen socially. Growing up to be a young woman, a teen’s emotions change, their perspective on society differs, and insecurities build up. In addition, young women who learn to live through standards may differ themselves from others. This effect may cause that teen to perceive people in a negative way.

Similar to college, beauty pageants can be expensive. In beauty pageants, expenses go to a contestant’s dress or dresses, costume, hair, make up, accessories, fitness trainers, tanning, hair extensions, and pageant coaches. Not to mention, an entrance fee is included in a list of beauty pageant expenses. A big amount of money could be used to go to school, pay for house rent, or it could be used for any emergencies. 1991 Miss Georgia America, Kim Gravel states that “dresses alone can run from $700 to $1,000 when bought off the rack, or as much as $5,000 for the serious competitor.” Could you image how many serious competitors a contest may have. Every contestant wants to win the big prize, and in order to win, they must play strong. In addition, big spending doesn’t always win the crown says Tamar Fleishman. With lots of competitors, there is a possibility you may not win any prize and all the money you spent would be worth nothing. Furthermore, publisher of Pageantry Magazine, Charles Dunns, mentions that some parents even take out loans for the pageant expenses. This may cause stress and anger towards the contestant when they do not win the crown, allowing that teen to feel disappointing or shameful.

Besides stressing about looks and money, teens who join in beauty pageants may trigger the audience in a negative way. Most girls are sexualized for what they wear. In most pageants, there is a swimsuit portion. While others may view it as a positive way to show a female’s confidence, others may view a female’s figure as a sexual attention. When one wears a bikini or a provocative costume, it is possible for gentlemen to feel aroused. This can lead to a possible serious kidnap and death in the future. Although, the United States takes its action to enforce an *Active Wear* portion, rather than a swimsuit portion, others countries must discover and educate their community about sexualizing young teens. In 2014, USA decided to put a stop in swim suit competitions. ABC News states that, “It’s not just a beauty contest, it’s a beauty with a purpose.” Beauty pageants are meant to be events where women show their brains and beauty, not just a competition with standards to win a crown.

A beauty pageant is an event where teenage girls express their beauty, talents, and passions but, beauty pageants can also negatively affect a child psychologically and socially, may cause financial stress, and may characterize young women as a sexual figure. Beauty pageants has its advantages and benefits, but pageants can also have several disadvantages. Teens who compete in pageants undergo lots of stress, pain, and tears throughout a competition. Their behaviors and mindset of the world change overtime. If the world continues to propose traditional pageant events like before, then many young women may suffer knowing they are sexualized for expressing their inner beauty.

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