



Skin Bleaching Materials Facts And Effects



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Introduction:

Why do many African women continue to use damaging skin-bleaching cosmetics that contain dangerous chemicals (e.g., mercury) that may increase their rates of infertility, skin cancer, and serious skin/brain/kidney disease? To address this question, our study investigated motivations driving the preservation of skin-bleaching practices in Tanzania. We conducted qualitative interviews with women who reported engaging in skin-bleaching practices. Results yielded six motivations behind the practice of skin bleaching: (a) to remove pimples and rashes; (b) to have soft skin; (c) to be White, "beautiful," and more European looking; (d) to remove the adverse affects of extended skin bleaching use on the body; (e) to satisfy one's partner and/or attract male mates; and (f) to satisfy and impress peers. These findings provide empirical support for skin bleaching being linked to self-objectification, colonialism, and Westernization. Skin bleaching is discussed in the context of other potentially harmful body modification practices in which women participate as a result of external and internalized standards of beauty. Implications for future research and potential practice and policy interventions are discussed.



The method used to prove our hypothesis was in questionnaire form. The questions were,

- What kinds of cosmetics are normally used and what chemicals present in that particular cosmetics.
- Why people bleach their skin
- What effect do they think happen after using cosmetics for long time?

We visited different places such as hospitals, around the streets and TFDA searching for data.

Through questionnaire we came to realize that the cosmetics used to bleach the skin are of two types, natural and man made. Natural cosmetics include msio, magadi and manjano. Man made cosmetics is grouped into three types depending on the dangerous chemicals they contain.



(Illustration 2) Advertisement for Pear's Soap, 1875 (www.advertisingarchives.co.uk)

Investigating Motivations for Women's Skin Bleaching in Tanzania

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Abstract

Why do many African women continue to use damaging skin-bleaching cosmetics that contain dangerous chemicals (e.g., mercury) that may increase their rates of infertility, skin cancer, and serious skin/brain/kidney disease? To address this question, our study investigated motivations driving the preservation of skin-bleaching practices in Tanzania. We conducted qualitative interviews with 42 urban women in Dar es Salaam who reported engaging in skin-bleaching practices and who were a subset of a larger sample of women from a study investigating the prevalence of skin bleaching in Tanzania. Results yielded six thematic motivations behind the practice of skin bleaching: (a) to remove pimples, rashes, and skin disease; (b) to have soft skin; (c) to be White, "beautiful," and more European looking; (d) to remove the adverse affects of extended skin bleaching use on the body; (e) to satisfy one's partner and/or attract male mates; and (f) to satisfy and impress peers. These findings provide empirical support for skin bleaching being linked to self-objectification, colonialism, and Westernization. Skin bleaching is discussed in the context of other potentially harmful body modification practices in which women participate as a result of external and internalized standards of beauty. Implications for future research and potential practice and policy interventions are discussed.

Keywords

health behavior, body image, cross-cultural psychology, skin disorders, racial and ethnic groups, ethnic values, skin bleaching, body modification

Within the last several decades, women's skin bleaching has become one of the most common forms of potentially harmful body modification practices in the world (Charles, 2003; Hall, 1995). Skin bleaching is the application of topical practice. Previous studies indicate that mid-20s, educated women are increasing their rates of engagement in skin-bleaching practices (Lewis, 2009), a group that is over-sampled in the current study.

HYDROQUINONE	MERCURY	STEROID
CARO LIGHT TOP LEMON TEINT CLAIR EPIDERM CREAM LADY CLAIRE ULTRA CLAIRE BODY CLEAR BLACKSTAR	MONT CLAIRE SOAP JARIBU SOAP MOVATE SOAP RICO SOAP MIKI SOAP BINTI JAMBO SOAP AMIRA SOAP TURA SOAP	ORANVATE JARIBU CREAM LEMONVATE MOVATE TENOVATE BETA SOL DIPROSON CREAM BETA LEMON CREAM GENTRISON



IN SEARCH OF BEAUTY! . . . many women have had their skin burnt by bleaching creams while others suffered skin diseases including cancer.



The project seems to correlate with hypothesis simply because about 90% of the people who bleach their skin by using cosmetics that contain chemicals seemed to have effects on their skin.

The most affected groups are women between 18 – 45 years, although even old women bleach their skin.

But women are more affected compared to men because women are the most users of the cosmetics because of being attractive to men.

Through our project we observed that cosmetics that contain hydroquinone, mercury and steroids are the most dangerous. And the users of these cosmetics show the following few observable effects.

Easy bruising of the skin.

Telangiectasia on the face i.e. Red colour (looks as a wound) around the face especially for middle and old age.

They do not stay longer in the sun

Destruction of the skin that leads to multiple colours in different parts of the body.

Why Skin Bleach!!

To Have Soft Skin there was a strongly held belief among a few participants that skin-bleaching creams would soften the skin and make skin more supple and attractive. (30 years old, beauty professional) said that "women bleach their skin to make their skin soft and maintain . . . beauty." This was most common among participants who used the creams with high frequency.

To Be White, "Beautiful," and More European Looking Although many women who use skin bleach acknowledge the need to internalize Black beauty, national and international pressures to look White have strongly outweighed this desire, and in turn, many Tanzanians have embraced more Euro-centric beauty ideals. The shared belief that White is the absolute form of beauty is heard through Western media images including television, radio, advertisements, cinema, and theater—all globally accessible through satellite and other forms of communication.

To Satisfy or Attract Men

Interviewees believed that people, particularly men, in Tanzania have a strong preference for lighter skinned women. Although women acknowledge that skin-bleaching practices are potentially dangerous and life threatening, participants believed that the benefits of using the creams (now) far out-weighted the costs/risks (later). For example, participants who had partners felt it was important to satisfy them.

To Satisfy and Impress Peers

Interviewees reported experiencing strong pressures (direct and indirect) from their peers to be light skinned. In fact, many participants reported that their lighter skinned peers in Tanzania have higher status, income, opportunities for education and jobs, and more friends. These elevated possibilities bring social class and status to the family. As a result, darker skinned people are often envious of those with lighter skin and attempt to achieve that same status by using skin-lightening creams

In our study, interviewees' comments consistently confirmed that women's self-image is based on their perceptions of others as a primary reference point. The skin-bleaching motivation of satisfying one's partner/attracting male and impressing others speak directly to these women's desire to obtain the approval of others through modifying their own body.

Conclusions: Through observations we saw that few days after using the cosmetics a person start to look beautiful, smooth-satin and skin lightens. But as time goes on a person start to experience some effects on the skin and affected group are women of middle age. Due to these findings it seems that our hypothesis proved to correct

We expect that through reading this project the future generations will avoid using chemical cosmetics for bleaching their skin. To make it clear we advice the ministry of education and vocation training to introduce this project as a topic taught in secondary and primary school in Tanzania in order to educate the teenager about the dangerous effects of bleaching skin by using chemical cosmetics.

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