Beauty or Beast: Necessity of Having a Regulatory Mechanism on Cosmetic Surgery in Sri Lanka

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People like to have a perfect figure according to their vision of “perfection”. As per the recent statistics, women continue to drive the demand for cosmetic procedures worldwide, accounting for 86.4% in year 2017. There are incidents where several people have gone through near-death experiences and even end up losing their lives while undergoing cosmetics surgeries. Some have gone through many cosmetic surgeries to have their favorite celebrity’s look and ultimately they have become defacements. Even though it is difficult to find exact statistics, the advertisements suggest that there are places in Sri Lanka promoted for cosmetic surgeries. If something goes wrong, they can file a civil action or lodge a complaint with the Consumer Affairs Authority and Sri Lanka Medical Council based on the situation. Nevertheless, prevention is always better than cure. There should be a regulatory mechanism to maintain the standards and qualifications of these places and persons conducting cosmetic surgeries. The purpose of this research is to suggest a regulatory mechanism for cosmetic surgery in Sri Lanka. For this purpose, the research will focus on three basic issues; reasons and trends behind cosmetic surgeries, remedies for mistaken cosmetic surgeries, and reasons for having a regulatory mechanism. The research methodology is based on existing domestic and foreign legislation, academic articles, case laws and reports by recognized organizations/institutions mainly in Sri Lanka, USA, UK and Brazil. In conclusion, the research will recommend a proper regulatory mechanism on cosmetic surgeries in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Cosmetic surgery, Civil action, Regulatory mechanism