

Hair in Society

Natural Hair

By

Petal D.

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Prof. Remi Alapo

Bronx Community College, CUNY



What is Natural Hair?

Avoiding any chemical processes to change the hair's natural texture.



Current Findings

Manufacturers, and retailers of natural hair products are seeing sales of straightening chemicals rapidly decline.

From an all-time high of more than \$750 million in sales, the amount of hair relaxers sold has dropped by more than 25 percent in the last five years.

As with earlier trends in textured hair, the natural hair movement has gained momentum today thanks to its adoption by some celebrities. Some Examples are Erykah Badu, Lupita Nyong'o, Solange Knowles..

Erykah Badu, Lupitah Nyong'o and Solange Knowle



Hair and Culture

In many cultures, hair plays an important role in the development of social constructs. Hair Grooming rituals have symbolic and religious meanings, and many social taboos are centered around it. Eg. muslim women covering their hair in public.

Hairstyles and hair care practices convey powerful messages about a person's beliefs, lifestyle and commitment in their culture.

Chinese, Muslim, and African



Hair in Society

Back in the 60s and 70s, racial relations in the United States were tense and strictly segregated. This time of political upheaval and African -American activism saw the rise of more natural hairstyles as a form of political awareness. According to one youtube video shown in the group discussion, a social movement will form to bring about change when you get a group with a strong shared idea that has the resources and leadership to survive and they can make a difference in one way or another. As seen today, because of this movement, many are confident in expressing their natural look and many more are currently conforming back to their original roots of self expression through displaying the natural beauty of their hair.

Questions for interviewee's

Three interviews were conducted.

The following questions were asked.

How has society influence the way you wear your hair?

Do you love your natural hair?

Sarah's Interview

“Society has no effect on the decisions i make when it comes to my hair.”

“Natural hair is beautiful. I love my hair because I can style it in various ways and it will remain in that style unlike straight hair. Straight hair require extra attention when styling to secure the hairstyle.”

“In my family, we are all natural, perms, wigs and weaves are additions that society believe us as black women should conform to. As a group my family refuse.”



Vaughn's Interview

“It Hasn't”

“I love it! It is never leaving my head”



Latoya's Interview

“Yes it has.”

“I prefer to wear wigs and weaves because it's what i feel comfortable and most beautiful in when going out. I wear it because it looks more neat and more manageable than natural hair. I just Love Them.”



My Response

Sarah and Vaughn are completely content with their hair and prefer to wear it natural vs processed unlike latoya she rather straight weaves or wigs and refuses to wear her hair out in the public.

Vaughn shared that growing up he always wanted to be like his dad who wore his hair similar to his and with every attempt his mom refuse to allow him to grow his hair because of societal norms, for instance, black hair is considered nappy and untidy, If you wear your hair out you will not be presentable or may not get a good job. However, Latoya has completely conformed to the way society has perceived hair to be. Straight, soft, long, and like the many celebrities she admire, nicki minaj, beyonce, and cardi B.

conclusion

Society has a massive effect on some individuals when it comes to their perception of their appearances. According to Toby Chow in his youtube video from class, "Those who want to confront social change must confront the voices in their head." Many remain true to their culture and norms, while others conform to the folkways of society, adapting the perception that they will only be accepted when presented in a distinct way. Following your cultural beliefs and traditions will not only ensure culture survival but it will enhance the world's experience with various individuals, who look completely different than they expect to see in society. Besides who doesn't like an interesting conversation? Hair can bring the world together one conversation at a time.



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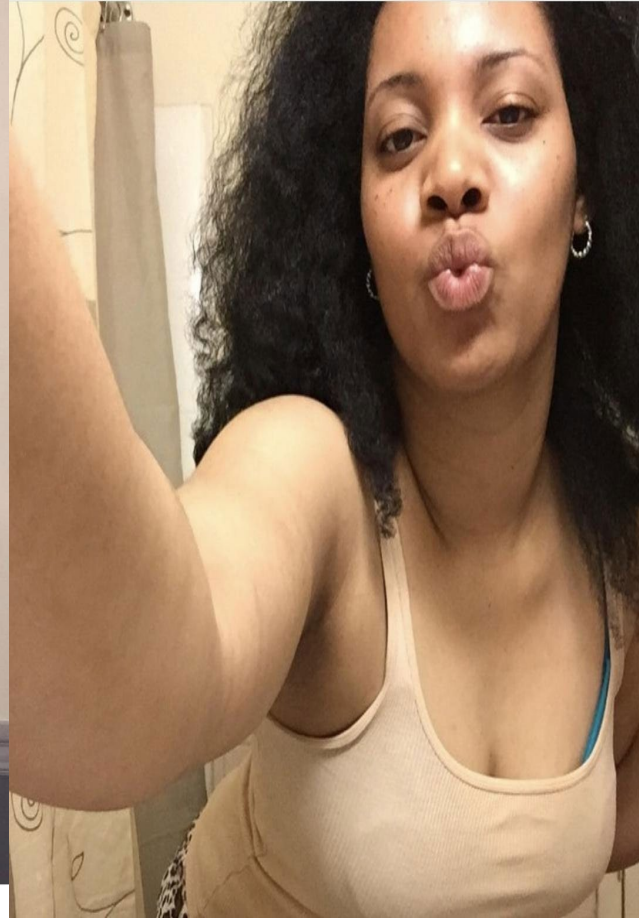
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