

Physical Appearance Anxiety and Social Relations

Jerald C. Moneva

Department of Education-Mandaue City Division Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines Tel: +63908-927-3038 E-mail: Freezingfire1979@gmail.com

Justine Gay R. Geñorga

Jagobiao National High School Jagobiao, Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines Tel: +63915-069-8561 E-mail: justinerocel@gmail.com

Eugenia M. Solon

Department of Education Division of Cebu Province

Cang- Oyao Bitoon, Daanbantayan, Cebu, Philippines

Tel: +63917-100-7411 E-mail: eugeniasolon5@gmail.com

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Abstract

Students who are afraid of being judged negatively are experience of an anxiety which is called physical appearance anxiety. Social relations refer the relationship between two or more individuals through communication. Students have higher to encounter physical appearance anxiety towards social relations. This study was conducted in senior high school, in Mandaue City, Cebu Philippines. This research design used a descriptive-correlation to assess and to know the students physical appearance anxiety towards social relations using the rating scale researcher made questionnaire among grade 11 and 12 Senior High School student. Moreover, the quantitative data were analyzed through a weighted mean and processed by using a chi-square. It reveals that when a student experience physical appearance anxiety can affects in their social relations. There is a significant association between physical appearance anxiety regards with social relations. This implies that physical



appearance anxiety impacts social relations of senior high school students. Hence, the students are expected to face the consequences of physical appearance anxiety positively to cope up the negative impact of anxiety in physical appearance. The researcher recommended that the teachers may guide and help the students in facing anxiety in body image and looks and anti-bullying measures be observed.

Keywords: Anxiety, Physical appearance anxiety, Social relations



1. Introduction

Physical appearance anxiety refers an anxiety feel a dread of negative evaluation of its looks and body image by the people. Meanwhile, social relations mean the relationship between two or more people through communications.

Researchers believe that most of the people today judged by their physical appearance such as their face, hair, nose, color of the skin, height, body weight height and quality of clothing. Studying physical appearance anxiety can develop students mind that being afraid of being judged by their looks and body image is anxiety. If people have anxiety because of their physical appearance may be it can sequel badly in social relations.

Social appearance may be correlated with social anxiety stresses in general pleasing appearance (Hart, Flora, Palyo, Fresco, Holle, & Heimberg, 2008). Social appearance anxiety in adolescence might have a harmful and serious sequel in upcoming future life (Celik, Turan, & Arici, 2014). Meanwhile, social appearance anxiety is thought of as one of the parts of the social anxiety (Amil & Bozgeyiklf, 2015).

In addition, anxiety as a fear or nervousness what might happen (Merriam Webster). People experience anxiety when they become conscious that their existence or some value with it might be destroyed. Meanwhile, they also said that anxiety, like dizziness, can be either delight or painful feeling, positive or negative. It can be either normal or neurotic. No one can get away the sequel of anxiety. It can grow from early stage to old stage, their ethics change, and with each step has normal anxiety encounter. Normal anxiety can be also experienced during those creative moments when a fine artist, a scientist, or a thinker suddenly reach an understanding that leads to a realization that one's life or other lives will be eternally changed. Neurotic anxiety, the type experienced during time of growth or of threat to one's values or moral principle, is experienced by everyone. It can be positive provided it remains correlative to a threat. But anxiety can become neurotic or sick (Feist, Feist, & Roberts, 2013).

One of the types of anxiety related to the study is normal anxiety. Having a fear of negatively evaluation of physical appearance can change lives of the people because of experiencing of anxiety. Thus, whether it can be normal or neurotic anxiety but having a fear or afraid of being judged because of its looks and body image is an anxiety. In relation to this, the researcher would be assessing the physical appearance anxiety and social relations of the students and the result will be the basis for the study.

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The study intends to know the level of physical appearance anxiety and level social relations among senior high school students in a certain senior high school in Mandaue City, Philippines and the association of the two variables.

2. Review Related Literature

Physical appearance anxiety is an anxiety which is about being afraid of negatively judged in terms of ones' overall appearance. While, social relations refer to the relationship between two or more people through communications



Social appearance anxiety was associated with measures and it was significant to predict social anxiety, measure of negative image and downheartedness (Hart, Flora, Palyo, Fresco, Holle, & Heimberg, 2008). It has also relationship to the levels of loneliness of the adolescents (Amil & Bozgevikli, 2015). And was in higher level in dental alignment and gender does not differ in social appearance anxiety (Arnasyali & Sabuncuoglu, 2017). Social appearance anxiety scale (SAAS) has a positively meaningful relationship in terms of interaction anxiety, fear of negatively judged and behaviors anxiety (Levinsn & Rodebaugh, 2011). Similarly, it has a connection with social evasion, fear of negatively judged and pain among teenagers in the community (Dakanalis, Carra, Calogero, Zanetti, Volpato, Riva, Clerici, & Cipresso, 2015). On other conducted study, there was a higher level of scores among disabled athletes participant to self-confidence and social appearance anxiety dissimilar to non-abled athletes' participant (Demirel, 2019). Correspondingly, self-criticism was related to negatively judge since students with obesity had excessive level of self-criticism than the other students who are not obese (Khan & Naqvi, 2016). As well as study shows that women had higher level of anxiety in related to weight than the men (Vega, Chavez, Rodriguez-Villalobos, Ornelas, & Lopez, 2014). Fear of negatively judged was positive correlated with body weight among men and women in the measurement of body mass index (BMI) (Trompeter, et al., 2018). Besides among men and women, internalization, ideals body appearance, physical appearance with communication with friends, criticism of friends appearance and body mass index (BMI) has a meaningful relations with body satisfaction (Lawler & Nixon, 2010). Moreover, social anxiety and symptoms of eating disorders was linked to social appearance anxiety (Levinson, et al., 2013). While masculine students undergo physical appearance anxiety which is concerned image and looks of individual because of the negatively discernment and assessment (Turan, Aydin, Kaya, Aksel, & Yilmaz, 2019). Negatively judged and social appearance was significant of social negative assessment anxiety in the situation of social anxiety, intake of food and discontentment of individuals' body (Levinson & Rodebaugh, 2015). And also, it was revealed that binge eating notable predicted to social appearance anxiety, dietary restraint and dealing with mistakes (Brosof & Levinson, 2017). Likewise, negative body looks has a relationship with apprehension, revulsion, distress, displeasure and timidness (Alijomaa, 2018).

On other hand, social appearance was negatively parallel with information of descriptive of awareness of metacognitive and procedural, preparation, self-control, information of cognitive strategies, self- assessment and self-examine (Celik, Turan, & Arici, 2014). Self-esteem had no relationship with social appearance anxiety (Sahin, Barut, Ersanli, & Kumcagiz, 2014).Participants were reduced lower level of anxiety when the body image were low while those with high level of physical appearance anxiety neither elaborated and standard video feedback with no condition of video feedback (Orr & Moscovitch, 2013). Whereas social appearance anxiety of men and women did not differ in regards to gender (Varol, Erbas, & Unlu, 2014). And also, no meaningful connection with body mass index (BMI) (Alemdag, Alemdag, & Ozkara, 2016). As well as, there was no notable relationship between the levels of body image of the participant (Aydin, Evrensel, & Ceylan, 2017). No remarkable association between dissatisfaction of body image and physical self-conceptualization (Alipoot Moazami- Goodarzi, Nezhad, & Zaheri, 2009). Body mass index



(BMI) was not correlated of physical appearance and fear of negatively judged (FNE) (Ahadzadeh, Rafik- Galea. Alavi, & Amini. 2018). Moreover, drive for muscularity among men was disparity related with mindfulness and positively connected with body evaluation and satisfaction areas of the body when after the case of the negative sequel and body mass index (BMI) (Lavender, Gratz, & Anderson, 2012). Levels of social appearance anxiety physical education participants were low (Yuceant & Unlu, 2017). In addition, social appearance anxiety has no noteworthy associated with the participants and has relationship with negative encouragement (Argon, 2014). In that case, it was also not related with the symptoms of social anxiety (Levinson & Rodebaugh, 2016). While there was a negatively connection between fear of negative evaluation of music teachers participant in regards to gender and age (Yokus, 2013). And also, body mass index (BMI) does not linked of fear negative appearance evaluation (Lundgren, Anderson, & Thompson, 2004). Additionally, individuals of body image satisfaction was linked to happiness in terms of physical appearance assessment, overweight pensiveness and ones' body and social relationship was not significant predicted to contentment (Chen, 2015).

In this case, the researchers intend to assess the anxiety of the students in the locality in order to know if it really affects students and necessary measures can be identified.

3. Research Method

The study is a brief cross-sectional study of the two identified variables. By complete enumeration, the study was conducted in senior high school with about 244 cases out of 245 Senior High School who are invited.

3.1 Instrument

For this study, a rating scale questionnaire is used as a tool to achieve the main objective of the study. The respondents rate each indicator with 1 as Never, 2 as Sometimes and 3 as Always

3.2 Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher asked an approval from the school administrator of the school and from the teachers in grades 11 and 12. The purpose of the study was explained as well as its contribution to the field of the study.

The respondents can answer the rating scale questionnaire comprehensively in ten minutes. After gathering all the data, the researchers tabulated the ratings. The results are presented in the proceeding contents

3.3 Statistical Treatment

The sum for both level of physical anxiety and level of social relations.



4. Results

Table 1. Physical appearance anxiet	Table 1	e 1. Physica	l appearance	anxiety
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Indicators	WM	Interpretation	
1. The extent to which I look overweight.	1.77	Sometimes	
2. My thighs.	1.84	Sometimes	
3. My buttocks.	1.71	Sometimes	
4. My hips.	1.88	Sometimes	
5. My stomach.	2.02	Sometimes	
6. My legs.	1.96	Sometimes	
7. My skin.	1.98	Sometimes	
8. My waist.	1.81	Sometimes	
9. My ears.	1.70	Sometimes	
10. My lips.	1.84	Sometimes	
11. My wrist.	2.01	Sometimes	
12. My hands.	1.89	Sometimes	
13. My forehead.	1.75	Sometimes	
14. My height.	1.94	Sometimes	
15. My chin.	1.72	Sometimes	
16. My feet.	1.80	Sometimes	
Overall Weighted Mean	1.86	Sometimes	

LEGEND: 1.00- 1.67 (Never); 1.68- 2.34 (Sometimes); 2.35 - 3.00 (Always)

The table 1 shows the weighted mean of the level of anxiety in terms of physical appearance. The overall weighted mean was 1.86 which is interpreted as sometimes. This result reveals a considerable reason to consider that there have been anxiety experienced by the students which could result to unpleasant emotions. For instance, fear of negatively judged can be associated with body weight among men and women in the measurement of body mass index (Trompeter, et.al, 2018). Sadly, negative body looks has a relationship with apprehension, revulsion, distress, displeasure and timidity (Alijomaa, 2018).



Table 2. Social Relations

Indicators	WM	Interpretation
1. I feel comfortable with the way I appear to others.	2.16	Sometimes
2. I feel nervous when they picture taken.	1.94	Sometimes
3. I get tense when it is obvious people are looking at me.	2.25	Sometimes
4. I am concerned people would not like me because of the way I look.	2.08	Sometimes
5. I worry that others talk about my flaws in my appearance.	2.06	Sometimes
6. I am concerned people will find me unappealing because of my appearance.	2.00	Sometimes
7. I worry that my appearance will make life more difficult.	1.86	Sometimes
8. I am concerned that I have missed out on opportunities because of my appearance.	1.94	Sometimes
9. I am afraid that people think I am not good looking.	1.86	Sometimes
10. I am concerned that people think I am not good looking.	1.84	Sometimes
11. I get nervous when talking to people because of the way I look.	1.87	Sometimes
12. I feel anxious when other people say something about my appearance.	1.98	Sometimes
13. I am frequently afraid I would not meet others' standards of how should I look.	1.89	Sometimes
14. I worry people will judge the way I look negatively.	1.97	Sometimes
15, I am comfortable when I think others are noticing flaws in my appearance.	2.07	Sometimes
16. I worry that a romantic partner will/would leave me because of my appearance.	1.87	Sometimes
Overall Weighted Mean	1.98	Sometimes

LEGEND: 1-1.67 (Never); 1.68-2.34 (Sometimes) 2.35 - 3 (Always)

The table 2 shows the level of social relations towards physical appearance anxiety. The overall weighted mean was 1.98 which was interpreted as sometimes. This can indicate that social relations equally exist among the students. "Sometimes" can mean that social relations can be affected with physical appearance anxiety. Social appearance anxiety has a connection with social evasion, fear of negatively judged and pain among teenagers in the community (Dakanalis, et. al, 2015). Among men and women, internalization, ideals body appearance, physical appearance with communication with friends, criticism of friends appearance and body mass index (BMI) has a meaningful relations with body satisfaction Physical appearance anxiety: the extent to which I look overweight and social relations (Lawler and Nixon, 2010).



Categories	Value	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
The extent to which I look overweight and social relations	1.061E2 ^a	.001
My thighs	1.000E2 ^a	.003
My buttocks	1.081E2 ^a	.000
My hips	1.081E2 ^a	.000
My stomach	1.098E2 ^a	.000
My legs	1.135E2 ^a	.000
My skin	1.200E2 ^a	.000
My waist	87.899 ^a	.025
My ears	1.237E2 ^a	.000
My lips	1.024E2 ^a	.002
My wrists	1.166E2 ^a	.000
My hands	1.326E2 ^a	.000
My forehead	1.175E2 ^a	.000
My height	1.479E2 ^a	.000
My chin	96.964 ^a	.005
My feet	1.606E2 ^a	.000
Df	64	
N of Valid Cases	244	

Table 3. Association between	Physical Annearance	Anviety and Social Relations
Table J. Association between	T inysical Appearance	

5. Discussion

The table 3 shows the association between physical appearance anxiety and social relations. The computed chi-square $(1.061E2^a)$ of the two variables which is physical appearance anxiety, specifically in the extent of which I look overweight and Social relations. With the significant level alpha (0.05) is greater than the computed value (.001) This implies that physical appearance anxiety specifically the extent of which I look overweight has association with social relations. Hence, physical appearance anxiety specifically the extent of which I look overweight has effects in terms with social relations. In some particular case, men have more an impact on overweight than women although, the level of the overweight and obesity has remained high in recent years (Schienkiewitz, Mensink, & Kuhnert, 2017). In addition, pre- and primary of young girls and boys who are overweight and obese are distinctly possible to continue to be a fat as a teenagers and adults. Thus, the overweight has a connection to poor health which the risk was increased (William & Greene, 2018).Generally, overweight has an impact to men and women which can result that overweight influence to social relations of men and women.

Physical appearance specifically my thighs and social relations shows that the thighs of senior high school students are significant to social relations. The significant level alpha (0.05) is greater than the significant value (.003). As a result, it rejects the null hypothesis. In that case, physical appearance anxiety specifically the thighs has an impact in regards with social relations. Based on medical records, smaller thigh circumference was correlated with diabetes



(Jung, Yun, & Jee, 2013). Overall, thighs have an effect of men and women which can also impact to social relations.

Physical appearance anxiety specifically my buttocks and social relations show that buttocks among senior high school students are significant to social relations which the computed value (.000) less than the alpha (0.05). This implies that physical appearance anxiety specifically the buttocks has association with social relations. Similarly, buttocks are not significant to attractiveness (Furnham & Swami, 2007). However, buttocks do play a main significant in physical and attractiveness in sexuality (Cuzalina & Retana, 2019).

Physical appearance anxiety specifically my hips and social relations shows that the hips of Senior High School students particularly grade 11 and 12 students are significant to social relations as evident in the significant level alpha (0.05) which is greater than the p-value (.000). In other words, his implies that physical appearance anxiety specifically the hips of grade 11 and 12 Senior High School students has meaningful association with social relations. In addition, there was a significant meaningful relationship of young boys and girls and Waist-to-Hip Ratio (WHR) (Buttovskaya, Sorokowska, Karwowski, Sabinlexicz, Fedenok, Dronova, Negasheva, Selivanova, & Sorokowski, 2017). While, men preferred woman having low of Waist-to-Hip Ratio (WHR) values below average of different forms of trait (Koscinski, 2014).

In terms of "my stomach" and "social relations", the table above shows that stomach of grade 11 and 12 Senior High School students are significant to social relations in which the p-value(.000) less than the significant alpha at 0.05. In overall, physical appearance anxiety specifically the stomach of grade 11 and 12 senior high school students has an influence in terms with social relations. Moreover, study shows that women had higher level of anxiety in related to weight than the men which the men tend to more anxious of their beauty in physical (Vega, Chavez, Rodriguez-Villalobos, Ornelas, & Lopez, 2014). And body mass index (BMI) was not correlated of physical appearance and fear of negatively judge (FNE) (Ahadzadeh, Rafik- Galea, Alavi, & Amini, 2018).

In terms of "the legs" and "social relations", the table revealed that that the legs of Senior High School students particularly grade 11 and 12 students are significant to social relations in which the alpha (0.05) is greater than the p-value (.001).. Thus, the length of the legs that has a connection of individuals' body can influence perceived attractiveness and females tend to inclined to longer legs, as evaluated among by men and women (Bertamini & Bennett, 2009). Moreover, across all the nations, male and female silhouettes with short and long legs were perceived and likely less appealing. Hence too long legs were more appealing compared to too short legs (Sorokowski, et al., 2011). Furthermore, physical appearance specifically hips have affects to men and women which can influence to social relations.

The table above revealed that the "skin" particularly grade 11 and 12 students are significant to social relations in which the p-value (.000) is lesser than the significant alpha (0.05). Thus, physical appearance anxiety specifically the skin has positively relationship in terms with social relations. Furthermore, the color of the skin cause the ratings of the attractiveness which the black people with light colored skin and white people with darker colored skin



were assessed more appealing (Hersch, 2011). More appealing individual were more inclined to be connected with characteristics which is positive. Hence, less appealing of individuals are more inclined to be associated with negative ones (Frisby, 2006). Generally, physical appearance specifically the skin have an impact to both men and women with their social relations.

The waist among grade 11 and 12 senior high school students are significant to social relations with computed value (.025) lesser than the significant alpha (0.05). As said, physical appearance anxiety specifically the waist has a meaningful relationship in terms with social relations. Additionally, women tend to prefer to lower in Waist-to-Hip Ratio (WHR) compared to men, which recommend that women prefer to small waist rather than the hips in contrast with men (Koscinski, 2013). Men with low Waist-to-Hip Ratio and Body Mass Index (BMI) were most appealing in populations of well-nourish that shows fertility (Lassek & Gaulin, 2018). In that case, waist has an impact of men and women which the waists of grade 11 and 12 students influence their social relations.

Ears of the students are significant to social relations as evident in significant alpha (0.05) is greater than the p-value (.000). This is true especially with having a disease on ears which can lead to anxiety has an influence to both men and women. Generally, this could happen to the ears of the students which affects social relations.

Lips can be associated to social relations as indicated in the p-value (.002) lesser than the alpha (0.05). Additionally, the lightness of facial skin becomes lighter when it was perceived made of lips that were more color red and the darker colored lips made it darker (Kobayashi, Matsushita, & Morikawa, 2017). Fuller lips had been considered more appealing compared to thin flat lips in traditional. Hence, sense of youth, health and appealing has been shown when the lips are full and well- silhouette (Trookman, Rizer, Foed, Mehta, Gotz, & Pharm, 2007). Generally, lips have an affects among both sexes men and women which can influence in terms of social relations.

Wrists of 11 and 12 students can be associated to social relations. As displayed, the p-value (.000) is lesser than the significant level alpha (0.05). Unknowingly, wrists can be used to approximate the age of the person in which many of the senior high schools therein are old enough to be in the senior high school. As said, when left hand wrist was developing maturely, it was view as an archetypal of individual which it can be use in estimation of age and has been studied extensively (Dogaroiu, Hackman, Gherghe, Panaitescu, & Avramoui, 2013).In that case, having an anxiety in physical appearance specifically wrists has an impact to adolescents. Hence, wrists have an influence to social relations.

Hands are significant to social relations. The alpha (0.05) is greater than the p-value (.000). Additionally, attractiveness of hands of opposite sex were become conscious among men and women in a not random manner and most of them were more tend to prefer of average of shape, femininity, long fingers and skin which is smooth (Koscinski, 2011). In some particular cases, a student's social relations can be affected with pathologic and therapized hand. Hand appearance evaluation can show the effects of pathology of hand and the therapeutic interventions effectiveness (Johnson, Sebastian, Rehim, & Chung, 2015).



Therefore, physical appearance anxiety specifically the hands have a notable effect in regards with social relations of adolescents.

Significant alpha (0.05) is greater than the p-value (.000). This implies that physical appearance anxiety specifically the forehead has positive association with social relations. On other hand, straight necks and foreheads of individuals' profile were scored as the most appealing profile (Oshagh, Aleyasin, & Roeinpeikar, 2012). Foreheads would be unique as in contrast from one another in the existence and the size and shape of pattern of wrinkles that they carry (Alfadaly, 2015). Overall, physical appearance anxiety specifically the forehead has an impact in terms with social relations.

The significant level alpha (0.05) is greater than the computed value (.000). It means that height has association with social relations. Similarly at work, physical height has an impact of career of the people and interactions in their workplace (Judge & Cable. 2004). Hence, men are viewed as more leader than compared to women and tall participants were viewed as more leader compared to short participants (Blaker, Rompa, Dessin, Vriend, Herschberg, & Vugt, 2012). Furthermore, physical appearance anxiety specifically the height has an influence in regards with social relations.

Physical appearance anxiety specifically the chin has an association in regards with social relations since p-value (.005) less than the significant level alpha (0.05). When anxiety becomes more prevailing, people who can afford would prefer to go under surgical improvement. Moreover, treatments were seek of participants to treat their discontent in their double chins (Bhojwani, 2016). In the first place, the shape of the chin was not a universal in the sense of strict because there were a notable disparity between regions of geographic of men and women (Thayer & Dobson, 2013). Hence, physical appearance anxiety specifically the chin has an influence in terms with social relations.

Physical appearance anxiety specifically my feet and social relations are associated as indicated in the result that significant level alpha (0.05) is greater than the p-value (.000). In some particular cases, small feet were contributed to the attractiveness of the females while men with average size of feet were thinks as the most appealing (Fessler, et al., 2005). Therefore, physical appearance anxiety specifically the feet have and affect with social relations of men and women.

6. Conclusion

Students who are afraid of being judged negatively are experience of physical appearance anxiety. It shows that the levels of physical appearance anxiety of grade 11 and 12 Senior High School students were interpreted as Sometimes which means that physical appearance anxiety impact on students. And the levels of social relations were interpreted as Sometimes which means that the social relations impacts on students This implies that these physical appearance anxiety and social relations are significant which was based on the result of computation of chi- square. It has been manifested that physical appearance anxiety has a significant association with social relations. Furthermore, whatever the effects of social relations are based on anxiety in terms of individuals physical appearance.



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Glossary

Anxiety: the fear or nervousness about what might happen (Merriam Webster).

Physical appearance refers to the looks of senior high school students such as their face, hair, nose, color of the skin, height, legs, body weight height.

Physical appearance anxiety is being afraid of negatively evaluated by other senior high school students of their body image and looks.

Social relations refer to the relationship between two or more Senior High School students through communications.

Appendix

Appendix 1. Survey Questionnaire for Physical appearance anxiety and Social relations

Name: _____ Grade and Section: _____ Age: ____ Gender: ____

Direction: Please read each statement and put a check in the box of your answer. The statements listed below are to be use to describe how anxious, tense, or nervous you feel in general (i.e., usually) about your body or parts of your body and also the attitudes towards social relations.

Legend: 3 – Always 2 – Sometimes 1 – Never

Part 1:

Indicator to Physical Anxiety	3	2	1
1. The extent to which I look overweight.			
2. My thighs			
3. My buttocks			
4. My hips			
5. My stomach			
6. My legs			
7. My skin			
8. My waist			
9. My ears			
10. My lips			



- 11. My wrists
- 12. My hands
- 13. My forehead
- 14. My height
- 15. My chin
- 16. My feet

Adapted from (Hart, Flora, Palyo, Fresco, Holle, & Heimberg, 2008). DOI: 10.1177/1073191107306673

Part II.

Indicators	3 2 1
1. I feel comfortable with the way I appear to others.	
2. I feel nervous when they picture taken.	
3. I get tense when it is obvious people are looking at me.	
4. I am concerned people would not like me because of the way I look.	
5. I worry that others talk about flaws in my appearance.	
6. I am concerned people will find me unappealing because of my appearance.	
7. I worry that my appearance will make life more difficult.	
8. I am concerned that I have missed out on opportunities because of my appearance.	
9. I am afraid that people find me unattractive.	
10. I am concerned that people think I am not good looking.	
11. I get nervous when talking to people because of the way I look.	
12. I feel anxious when other people say something about my appearance.	
13. I am frequently afraid I would not meet others' standards of how should I look.	
14. I worry people will judge the way I look negatively.	
15. I am comfortable when I think others are noticing flaws in my appearance.	
16. I worry that a romantic partner will/would leave me because of my appearance.	

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