G32 A Senegalese Case Study Illustrating a Determination of Age of the Pupils Without Civil Status or With False Declaration of Age by Means of Their Dental Assessment

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand how dental age estimation may allow pupils to gain civil status when they are without civil status or when there is a false declaration of age by their parents.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating how the dental age prediction may help pupils obtain a civil status. Certain children in the population of regions who have left and then moved back to Senegal often do not make the proper and necessary arrangements with the registry to attend school. Their parents sometimes make a false declaration of their age to allow access to the school. The government may request the forensic odontologist to assess their dental age. This presentation will add to research being conducted in age estimation for children using a dental formula when it concerns a large number of individuals.

Materials and Methods: Among the many methods for estimating age, this case study was based on two complementary methods, Schour and Massler, and Ubelaker, both of which use dental development tables, a viewer, and panoramic radiographs. A clinical examination is first performed in order to detect any pathology, parafunction, or treatment likely to alter the results. The government's five-day deadline for these tasks allows one to work quickly and in a simple manner. The two methods combined offer age-estimate ranges of more-or-less than 6 months, and assessments were adapted to each stage of dental development in age groups of 4 to 35 years. Age estimation was conducted by direct reading on the tables. This sample consisted of 102 children, 58 boys and 44 girls.

Results: By analyzing the age reported by parents on the census list, and the age that was estimated, 83 of 102 age declarations were false. This corresponds to an 81% false declaration of age.

Discussions: By comparing the reported age according to the dental formula, this study found a significant number of false declarations for those 5 and 6 years (86% and 92%) of age. This is due to the fact that these two age groups are highly targeted for the chance of being recruited.

False statements exceeded correct statements for all age groups. Among the false declarations, each age group had a given percentage: 3 years – 16% false declaration of age; 3½ years – 21% false declaration of age; 4 years – 12% false declaration of age; 5 years – 18% false declaration of age; 6 years – 19% false declaration of age; and 7 years – 14% false declaration of age.

Conclusion: In developing countries, particularly in Africa, these cases of unregistered children are recurrent and the estimate of their dental age is of great help in resolving this problem. In addition, the need to benefit from false declarations of age, such as for immigration, is a pressing motive to promote this discipline in forensic odontology.

Dental Age Determination, Pupils, False Declaration of Age