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## **DENTAL EXAMINATION OF DEAF AND MUTE CHILDREN: EXPERIENCE AND STUDY RESULTS IN THE BUKHARA REGION**

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### **Abstract**

The article analyzes the findings of a cross-sectional study conducted at the Department of Dentistry of the Bukhara State Medical Institute. The study aimed to assess oral health and treatment needs among children with hearing and speech impairments. The sample included 124 students from specialized boarding schools in the Bukhara region, comprising 78 boys and 46 girls aged 6 to 18 years, with an average age of 12.95 years. . . A cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate the oral health status and treatment needs of children with hearing and speech impairments at the Department of Dentistry, Bukhara State Medical Institute.

**Keywords:** children, hearing impairment, speech impairment, oral health, dental examination, treatment needs, specialized schools, Bukhara region, disabilities, clinical diagnostics, questionnaires, demographics.

### **Methodology**

A cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate the oral health status and treatment needs of children with hearing and speech impairments at the Department of Dentistry, Bukhara State Medical Institute.

The study included children from two specialized boarding schools for deaf and mute children located in the Bukhara region. All registered students from these schools were examined, resulting in a total sample size of 124 children, including 78 boys and 46 girls. To assess the feasibility and applicability of the questionnaire and clinical examination methods, a pilot study was conducted on 30



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children. Permission to conduct the study was obtained from the parents of the children involved. The research protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Supervisory Board of the Bukhara State Medical Institute. Informed consent was obtained from the principals of the respective schools in either the national or Russian language prior to the clinical examinations.

### Conclusion

Children with hearing and speech impairments show higher caries prevalence, poorer periodontal health, and greater unmet dental care needs compared to healthy children.

- Efforts must be made to improve access to dental services and educate parents and caregivers about oral health care.
- Future initiatives should focus on educational programs, preventive interventions, and enhancing the quality of dental care for children with special needs.

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