





## GOOD ACTIONS RAISE SMILES



# Let's talk about dreams

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## DO YOU DREAM?

I believe we are so immersed in our daily routines that we do not stop to think about the real meaning of our profession.

Dentistry as a social changer, and its paramount role in giving smiles a new meaning. A dream-making machine that makes a lot of dreams come true.

We have become so used to our private patients that we see them as clients, potential consumers, and such routine blinds and limits us. Online and face-to-face courses are about getting clients, finances, technical and clinical skills and specializations.



Nobody teaches us to listen. A profession in which we are so close to other human beings, and we use it in such a robotic manner. The part of traveling for PORISORRISO that I consider the most enjoyable is the exchange of stories and, in these narratives, the most common of all dreams comes up: to smile again. Speaking of narratives, I clearly remember a 15-year-old girl called Edna. We were in the northeastern hinterland of Brazil, nine hours from Salvador, the capital city of the state of Bahia. I was the last one to treat her for the reconstruction of her four anterior teeth. However, before that, she had already undergone some endodontic treatments and more than a dozen procedures, including restorations and extractions. During the visit, we laughed together; she told me some things, very timidly, but I enjoyed treating her very much. A sweet girl, who waited three days in line to be seen by us. A crowd was waiting outside. When we finished, I asked her for a word about our action in her city, what she thought about it. Something simple and short. But what happened next touched us deeply. She started telling us the story of her life from the starting point of her smile. Here is the whole conversation:

“Once, in my classroom, a classmate made fun of me because of this front tooth that was black here in my face. Then, because of that, I stopped going



to school (tears – everybody else in the room, including me, cried with her). Then, after that, my mother convinced me to go back to school, you know? But I didn't want to leave home, I was really closed-off (a deep breath and lots of tears). And then my mother talked to my friends, my cousins, and asked them to invite me to go out with them. Then, with time, I started to understand, you know? That, although my smile was like that, I had to go out, I had to live, right? Then, I started going out; but, even then, when I smiled... every time I smiled, you know, I covered my mouth with my hand. And sometimes, when I laughed and someone looked at me, I wondered whether they were laughing because of my smile. I was always brooding upon it. Even today, I repeat the gesture of putting my hand in front of my mouth when I laugh. But that is it."

"Fifteen minutes ago you were suffering because of all that; and now?", asked Dani, our camera operator.

"And now, everything new, right, new smile, new life?"

"Will you go up to everyone who made fun of your face and give them a delightful smile now?"

"Yes, thank you, thank God, first God, and then you all. It was one of my dreams. I can say that this was my dream, my priority was to smile."

This moment, we all smiled together.

"What is your next dream now?"

"I don't know, like, you know, I want to be a cowgirl."

End of the story. Beginning of a new life. Dentistry as social reintegration. We hugged each other and cried together, but this time it was with joy!

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How to cite: Rossi FAR. Let's talk about dreams. J Clin Dent Res. 2020 Jan-Apr;17(1):96-101.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14436/2447-911x.171.096-101.bso>



