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GRT GOLDEN RESEARCH THOUGHTS



IMPACT OF PARTICULATE MATTER ON OUR BRAIN.

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ABSTRACT

esearch has shown that air pollution have a damaging effect on our brain also. High level of air pollution may cause adverse effect on the cognitive abilities of children. It may increase the risk of cognitive decline and may lead to depression. The researcher revealed that long term exposure to high levels of pollution significantly worsened the women's cognitive skills. It was found that smaller particulate matter can penetrate our body's defences and cross onto blood and reach the brain. These pollutants damage the nerve cells and lead to memory loss or depression. Air pollutions contribute to cognitive decline and onset of dementia. It was found that kids exposed to greater levels of black carbon scored worse on tests of memory and verbal and non- verbal IQ. Children who were exposed to higher levels of urban air pollutants experience attention problems, symptoms of anxiety and depression. Airpollution can cause damage to many central nervous systems. It can cause Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. A study by Portuguese researchers explored the relationship between psychological health and living on industrial areas. They found that people living in highly polluted area scored higher on tests of anxiety and depression.

KEYWORDS: Air pollution, mental health.

INTRODUCTION

Air pollution is causing a great loss to the eco-

damaging the health of all smog over the sky is not just a stain but leaves a mark on your mind. Researchers have high level of air pollution can

system of this planet. It is cognitive abilities of children. Air pollution may increase the living beings. The dark line of risk of cognitive decline and may lead to depression. "This should be taken seriously," says Paul Mohai, Ph.D., a indicated since the 1970s that professor in the University of Michigan's School of Natural harm both cardiovascular and Resources and the respiratory health. It may Environment who has studied cause early death due to heart the link between air pollution and liver disorder. The effect of and academic performance in air pollution on cognition and children. "I do it think the issue mental well-being has has got the visibility it received little attention of deserve". (American researchers. However, new Psychological Association, researchers show that air 2012). A fine particulate pollution damages our brain matter has got much attention also. It has been found that of most of the researchers. high level of air pollution may These fine particles (1/30th of cause adverse effect on the the width of human hair) are



generated by power plants, factories and vehicles. This fine particulate matter causes cardiovascular diseases. Particulate matter is one of six principal pollutants for which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established air quality standard (American Psychological Association, 2012).

It has been established that particulate matter damages other organs of our body beyond cardiovascular disease. Jennifer Weuve at Rush medical college found that older women who had been exposed to high levels of pollutants experienced greater cognitive decline compared with other women their age (Archives of Internal Medicine, 2012). The researchers revealed that long term exposure to high levels of pollution significantly worsened the women's cognitive decline, as measured by tests of cognitive skill. Weuve and her colleagues narrated as "The conventional wisdom is that coarse particles are not as important as fine particles". When it comes to human health, Weuve says, Research studies have shown that the smaller particles can easily penetrate our body's defences." They can cross from the lung to the blood and, in some cases, travel up the axon of the olfactory nerve into the brain "She stays, she found that exposure to both fine and coarse particulate was associated with cognitive decline. This study has been supported by Power and colleagues. They found that men exposed to high levels of black carbon had reduced cognitive performance; equivalent to aging by two years, as compared to men who would had less black carbon exposure (Power et al., 2011). Power says "The problem is there are a lot of other things associated with traffic-noise, gases -- so we can not say from this study that it's particulate part of the air pollution that matters." Still, the cumulative results of these studies suggest that air pollution deserves closer scrutiny as a risk factor for cognitive impairment and perhaps the dementia.

Many dementias are often preceded by a long period of cognitive decline. But we don't know very much about how to prevent or delay dementia," Wouve says. If it turns out air pollution does contribute to cognitive decline and the onset of dementia, the findings could offer a tantalising a new way to think about preventing disease. "Air pollution is something that we can intervene on as a society at large, through technology, regulation and policy," she says. Shuglia (2008) found that kids exposed to greater levels of black carbon scored worse on tests of memory and verbal and non-verbal 1.Q. Perera (2012) discovered that children who had been exposed to higher levels of urban air pollutants known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons while in utero were more likely to experience attention problems and symptoms of anxiety and depression. These widespread chemicals are a bye-product of burning fossil fuels.

Mohai (2011) at the University of Michigan, found that Michigan Public Schools located in areas with the highest industrial pollution levels had the lowest attendance rates and the greatest percentage of students who failed to meet state testing standards, even after controlling for socioeconomic differences and other confounding factors.

In early investigations, Calderon-- Garciduenas (2003) dissected the brains of dogs that has been exposed to air pollution of Maxico city and compared them with the brains of dogs from a less-polluted city. She found the Maxico city dogs' brains showed increased inflammation and pathology including amyloid plaques and neuro- fibrillary tangles, clumps of proteins that serve as a primary marker for Alzheimer's disease in humans. In follow up research, Calderon-Garceduenas (2008) conducted a study on 55 kids from Mexico city and 18 from the less polluted city of Polotitlan. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans revealed that the children exposed to urban pollution were significantly more likely to have brain inflammation and damaged tissue in the prefrontal cortex. Neuro inflammation, Calderon-Garciduenas explains, disrupts the blood-brain barrier and is a key factor in many central nervous system disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. The Mexico City children scored lower on tests of memory, cognition and intelligence.

Nelson (2011) found that mice exposed to the polluted air scored higher on tests of depressive-like responses. A study by Portuguese researchers explored the relationship between psychological health and living in industrial areas. They found that people who lived in areas associated with greater levels of air pollution scored higher on tests of anxiety and depression.

CONCLUSION

The dark line of smog is not just a stain but leaves a mark on your mind. Researchers have indicated since the 1970s that high level of air pollution can harm both cardiovascular and respiratory health. It has been found

that on pollution can affect your brain also and can lower the cognitive and mental abilities of a person. Some particulate materials which are 1/30th of the width of human hair reach lungs through breathing and damage the respiratory system. These fine particles penetrate the body defence mechanism and get dissolved in our blood. When the blood reaches brain, the fine particulate matter damages the central nervous system and increases the risk of depression, dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Children living in industrial area have attention problems, symptoms of anxiety and depression. Researchers also discovered physical changes to the nerve cells in the mouse hippocampus, a region known to play a role in spatial memory. Exposed mice had fewer spines on the tips of the neurons in this brain region. Those (spines) form the connections to other cells," Nelson says. "so, you have less dendritic complexity, and that is usually correlated with a poorer memory. The changes are alarming and surprising, he says. "I never thought we had actually see changes in brain structure." Some Portuguese researchers have explored the relationship between psychological health and living in industrial areas. They found that people who lived in areas associated with greater levels of air pollution scored higher on tests of anxiety and depression. Fine particulate matter which includes smoke, car exhaust and pollens, can interact directly with the brain. Coarse particulate matter, however, is more of a mystery that researchers are only beginning to study.

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