



‘Early brain function affected in poor kids’

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Study says children from lower income backgrounds had weaker brain activity

- Children born into poverty show key differences in early brain function, according to new research from the University of East Anglia (UEA).
- Researchers studied the brain function of children aged between four months and four years in rural India and found that children from lower income backgrounds, where mothers also had a low level of education, had weaker brain activity and were more likely to be distracted.

Study in U.P.

- The team carried out the study in Uttar Pradesh, the highly populated region in India.
- Previous work has shown that poverty and early adversities significantly impact brain development, contributing to a vicious cycle of poverty.
- But few studies have looked at brain function early in development.
- Using a portable ‘functional near infrared spectroscopy’ (fNIRS) device, they measured the brain activity of 42 children aged between four months and four years in rural settings.
- The research team found that the children in India from families with low maternal education and income showed weaker brain activity and poorer distractor suppression in the left frontal cortex area of the brain that is involved in working memory.

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