Impacts of pesticides on the brain development of children
#PesticidesFreeWorld

Cases of ADHD is on the rise
A study found a general increase of 11% in cases of ADHD since 2005. However, there was a 175% increase in cases among children between the ages of 3-17. ASSOCHAM (2011)

Brain harming pesticides are widely used
From 2005 to 2009, more than 7163 metric tons of chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate pesticide (OP) was used in India (Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Govt of India).

Pesticides are toxic at even low levels
Children who were maternally exposed to OPs have a 5 point drop in IQ scores when the maternal blood levels are elevated from 10 to 75 parts per billion (ppb). 1 ppb = 2 table spoons of sugar in an Olympic sized pool.

Routes of exposure
Children are exposed to pesticides in various ways. Pesticides and other chemicals are found in food, water, air, environment, schools and household pesticides.

Children in India fare worse
Many cases of severe pesticides poisoning among children have been reported. In 2013, 23 children died in Bihar after consuming their mid day meals contaminated by toxic OP, monocrotophos which has been banned in many countries.

Children are being born pre-polluted
Pesticides, lead and mercury have been found in umbilical cords and in bodies of children in various parts of India.

Intelligence impacted by pesticides
80% of children who were exposed to pesticides performed worse in cognitive tasks than children who were less exposed. (A study in 6 cotton plantation states in India, K.Kuruganthi, 2005)

Best to adopt the precautionary principle in regulations
Urge governments and chemical industries to take precautionary measures before introducing chemicals to the market.

Alternatives and solutions exist
Children who consumed organic food had less pesticides in their bodies. Keep schools, homes, and the environment toxic free as much as possible.

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