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The latest trends of IQ and brain size and effects of life style and environmental factors on cranial capacity

Introduction: Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is widely used to assess different aspects of mental ability. Development in mental ability initiates from conception and continues through adulthood. Various environmental factors affect IQ.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the correlation between IQ and environmental characteristics on cranial capacity in children and adolescents in Malaysia.

Methods & Materials: This cross sectional study was performed on primary and secondary school students in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. Students, who were aged between 6 to 16 years and did not have any mental or physical disabilities, participated in this study. Measurements including weight, height, body mass index and cephalometry were performed for each subject. The Wechsler Abbreviated Scale for Intelligence-Second Edition (WASI-II) questionnaire was used for each subject to evaluate the subtests of IQ. A total of 419 subjects with the mean age of 12.51 ± 2.82 years had participated in this study.

Results: Boys were taller ($p=0.04$), had higher IQ ($p=0.01$) and cranial capacity ($p<0.001$) as well as block design score ($p=0.02$) when compared with girls. There was a significant mean effect for age ($p=0.03$), gender ($p=0.04$), paternal education ($p=0.04$), family income and block design ($p=0.03$) on cranial capacity.

Conclusions: This study revealed different patterns of brain growth, function and IQ amongst male and female subjects as well as defining the environmental factors that can affect cranial capacity and that the IQ and cranial capacity may be improved by tuning up the lifestyles and economic conditions of the families in developing countries.

Biography

Swamy K B has been awarded with PhD from Andhra University, his Master's degree in Clinical Anatomy from Andhra Medical College, DMCh in Maternal & Child Health from IGNOU, New Delhi and MBBS in 1976 from SV University, India. He has expertise in human genetics, reproductive health & developmental anatomy and in herbal medicine. He has been the Genetic Counselor for many medical institutions. He has been the Former Founder Anatomist, Professor and Head for many medical schools in India as well as in Malaysia. He is an International Editorial Board Member for many reputed journals like Anatomical Society of India (ASI).

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