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**Air pollution damages intelligence, says study – 1st September, 2018**

## Level 4

Air pollution may reduce intelligence. Research in China showed that air pollution led to big falls in test scores for languages and arithmetic. The study is called, "The impact of exposure to air pollution on cognitive performance". It took place over four years. Researchers looked at speaking and arithmetic tests taken by 20,000 people of all ages. They said: "Polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become older."

The study is a warning to people in cities. Over 91 per cent of us live in areas with toxic air, which is the fourth biggest cause of global deaths. The longer people are exposed to polluted air, the greater their intelligence goes down. Air pollution may cause a year's worth of lost education. This could be several years for older people. A researcher warned: "Governments really need to take concrete measures to reduce air pollution."

## Level 5

Scientists found that air pollution may be responsible for a big reduction in intelligence. Research conducted in China showed that air pollution was responsible for big falls in test scores for languages and arithmetic. The study is called, "The impact of exposure to air pollution on cognitive performance". It was published in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" journal. The study took place over four years. Researchers analyzed speaking and arithmetic tests taken by 20,000 people of all ages. They said: "Polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become older."

The study is a warning to the rest of the world, especially those in cities. Over 91 per cent of the world population live in areas with toxic air and air pollution is the fourth highest cause of global deaths. Researchers discovered that the longer people were exposed to polluted air, the greater their intelligence went down. They said air pollution caused a year's worth of lost education. For those aged over 60, this could be several years. A researcher warned: "There is no shortcut to solve this issue. Governments really need to take concrete measures to reduce air pollution."

## Level 6

Scientists have revealed that air pollution may be responsible for a significant reduction in intelligence. Research conducted for the World Health Organization (WHO) in China showed that air pollution was responsible for notable falls in student test scores for languages and arithmetic. The Chinese study is called, "The impact of exposure to air pollution on cognitive performance". It was published in a journal called, "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences". The study took place over a period of four years. Researchers analyzed verbal and arithmetic tests taken by 20,000 people of all ages. They said: "Polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become older."

Researchers say their study is a warning to the rest of the world, especially to those who live in cities. The WHO says over 91 per cent of the world population live in areas with toxic air. Air pollution is currently the fourth highest cause of deaths worldwide. The researchers discovered that the longer people were exposed to polluted air, the greater was the damage to their intelligence. They equated the impact of air pollution to losing a year's worth of education. For those aged over 60, this could be the equivalent of several years of lost education. Researcher Dr Xi Chen warned: "There is no shortcut to solve this issue. Governments really need to take concrete measures to reduce air pollution."