

TRACE ELEMENTS IN COMMONER NIGERIAN VEGETABLES AND THE TREATMENT OF HYPERACTIVITY AMONG HANDICAPPED CHILDREN/ YOUTHS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. BY PROFESSOR IHENACHO IZUKA JOHN, OSUORJI PETER AND ONOBUN CHARLES.

ABSTRACT

The Study Investigates: Trace Minerals In Vegetables and\considers its implications for the treatment of Hyperactive and Attention Disturbed School aged Children. The relationship between trace minerals and hyperactivity and attention disorders, is of great significance, considering the required intervention in the target problem area. The concern here is to validate the link through an empirical and well coordinated research program.

The Purpose of this research is to:-

1. Establish the relationship between trace minerals and hyperactivity(Feingold 1976).
2. Determine to what extent a deficiency or excess of a trace mineral can cause hyperactivity (Feingold 1975b).
3. Establish treatment Pattern using natural trace mineral substances (Divoky, 1978 and Ihenacho 1996)
4. Identify the importance of various trace minerals in the body.(Cott, 1972).

The significance of this study lies in identifying the relationship between trace minerals and hyperactivity, and providing an insight into the problem(causes) of hyperactivity in relation to trace minerals status. A substitute for the use of drugs for the treatment of hyperactivity, would be a major breakthrough in the intervention for hyperactive Children with learning disabilities in the school system.

The procedure involves diagnosis which focuses on trace-elements analysis using the atomic absorption electro spectrophotometer on the Urine samples to obtain the trace-elemental/ mineral status of such Children. This is aimed at the treatment of Children and youths with hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder including those with learning disabilities in general.

In our sample study, over 200 cases where investigated. After such analysis, most Children where found with either high or low status in the elemental/ mineral substances. The result proved significant in all the cases.

The trace element/mineral substances found in common Nigerian Vegetables where used for the treatment of the cases. The treatment was for the balancing of the biochemical status of such Children. This adequately effected corrective measures since normalcy was restored on the part of the Children, thereby establishing the efficacy of the treatment.