

Environmental Enteropathy, stunting, and behavior change

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How many of you are familiar with this scene?

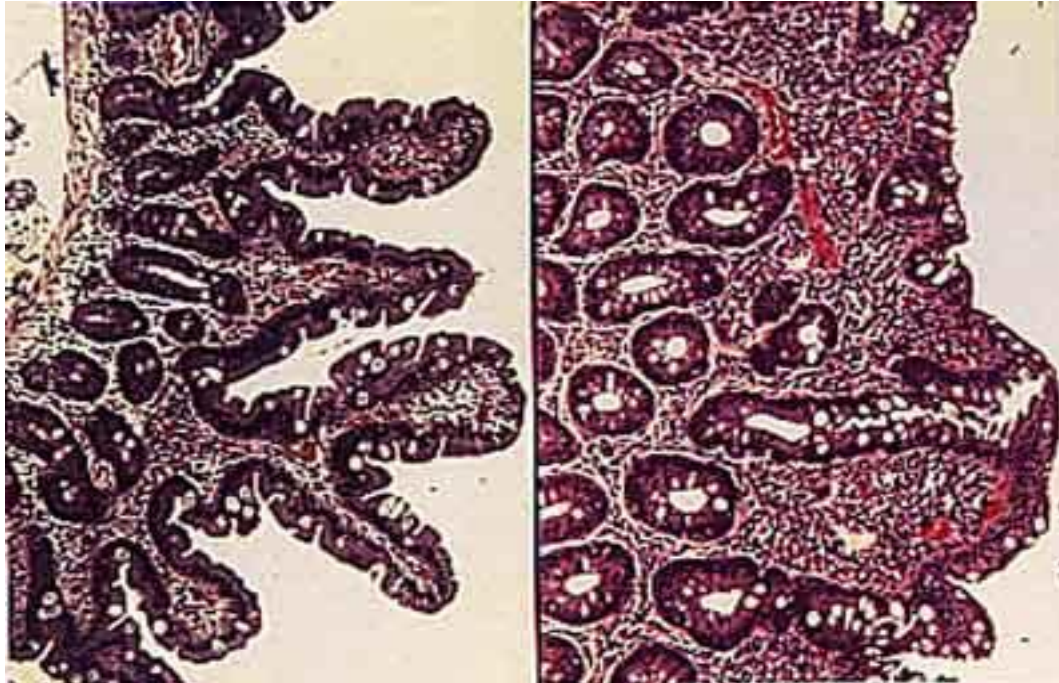


Environmental Enteropathy

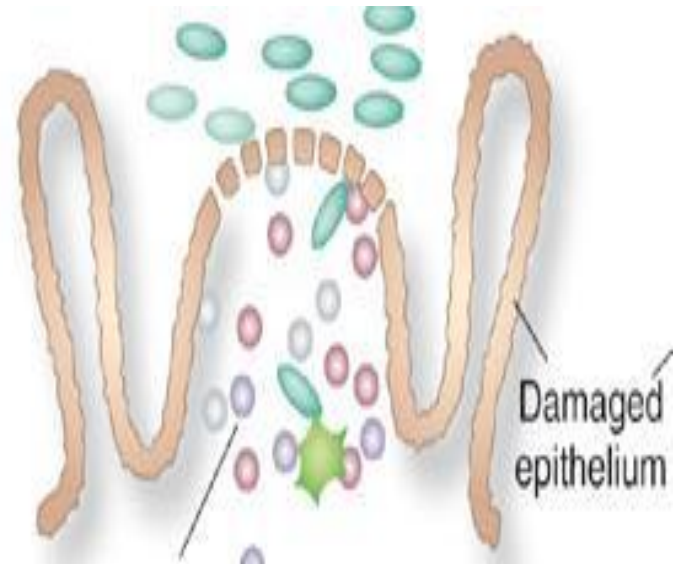
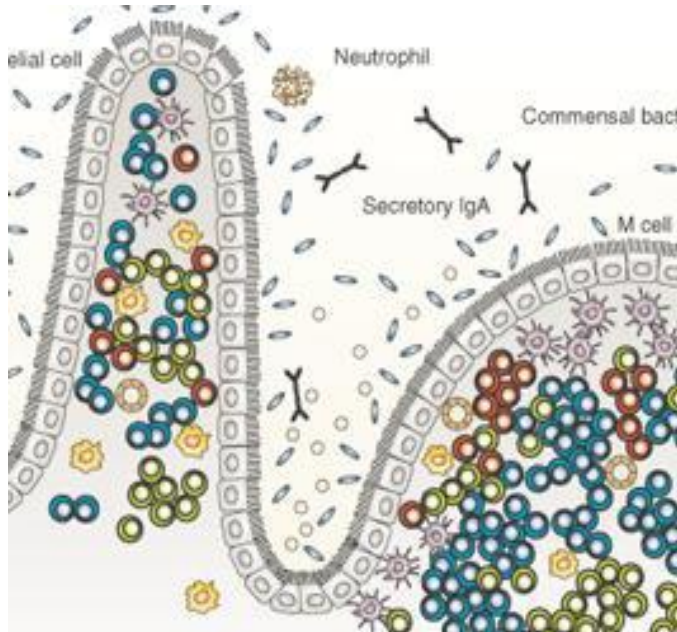
Environmental Enteropathy is a condition of the small intestine characterized by:

1. Flattening of the villi of the intestine, which reduces the surface area.
2. Thickening of the surface through which nutrients must be absorbed.
3. Increased permeability to large molecules and cells (microbes).

Problem # 1. Flattening of the Villi



Problem #2. Microbial Translocation



The result is a child who is stunted.



Environmental Enteropathy and the Hypothesis on Stunting

EE is a major cause of impaired postnatal growth, anemia and reduced immune competence.

EE can be avoided or reduced by preventing infants and young children from ingesting human and animal feces through a set of interventions that improve sanitation and hygiene.

Activity

- Let us pause here and reflect on the links between this study and our own programs.
- List (on a flip chart) all the opportunities that children in your project area have to ingest human or animal feces (especially chicken feces).

Observational study of babies



Results of the study

The most common:

- 38 times in 6 hours
- 75% is visible dirt

Dirtiest:

- 3 children ate an average of 11 pieces
- potatoes, chicken feces and stones



What are your conclusions
about all this?

Evidentially, children should
stop eating chicken poop!

Group Activity

For each of the opportunities to eat human or animal feces, that were mentioned in the previous flip chart, List the behaviors people could practice that would prevent children from ingesting dirty things like feces.

List the key behaviors linked to preventing children from eating feces.

Example:

Children only put nothing but food in
their mouths
(nothing dirty, no chicken feces).

Behavior

Mothers put their
children younger than 5
years old on a clean
matt to take all their
meals.

Other Means of Preventing EE

- **P**rotected play space, to prevent the child from ingesting contaminated soil and feces of animals (especially chickens)
Wash children's hands with soap when they have been playing outside the protected play area.
- **M**others wash their hands with soap after contact with feces and before preparing or serving food.
- **S**afe and hygienic disposal of feces.
- **W**ater treatment

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