

# Can a little loving kindness improve our mental health?

May 21 2015, by Lindsay Brooke

---



Mindfulness - an ancient Buddhist approach to meditation - is attracting increasing attention in the 21st century as a non-invasive treatment for stress and depression. But can it improve mental wellbeing in young people? View the video to find out more.

Using electroencephalography (EEG) – a non-invasive method of recording electrical activity in the brain along the scalp - Dr Ahmed Mohammed, from the School of Psychology at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) is attempting to find out if loving kindness meditation can improve the wellbeing and mental health of [young people](#).

Dr Mohammed said: "Mindfulness is free cost effective and non-invasive. The aim is to discover if mindfulness compared with active relaxation can improve the subjective wellbeing and brain measures in

health young adolescents who have never been exposed to mindfulness training."

After completing a psychological questionnaire, 30 students from UNMC, The University of Nottingham in the UK and local Malaysians, take part in a two week [mindfulness](#) intervention to assess the impact on their subjective wellbeing, happiness, their sense of gratitude as well as hopefulness.

The [mindfulness training](#) being used in this research focusses on being friendly towards yourself and towards others. The research, funded by the Faculty of Science at UNMC will take six months to complete. The aim is to enhance the health of the young adolescent brain.

Dr Mohammed said: "I have always been interested in how psychology in general and neuroscience in particular can promote wellbeing in young adults and young adolescents and contribute to the betterment of society as a whole."

Provided by University of Nottingham

Citation: Can a little loving kindness improve our mental health? (2015, May 21) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-05-kindness-mental-health.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------