



New Trends  
in Psychology

## Intellect Deficit. Characteristics and Impact on the Psychosocial Development of Adolescents

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**Abstract:** Adolescents with borderline intelligence may show increased sensitivity to social rejection and a tendency to associate with delinquent groups to compensate for a lack of peer acceptance. For adolescents with liminal intelligence, delinquent behavior can have long-term consequences. Teenagers with liminal intelligence are more susceptible to peer pressure. Lack of adequate family support, parental abuse or neglect, as well as the presence of delinquency in the family can increase the risk of developing antisocial behavior. These adolescents are vulnerable because of the cognitive limitations and emotional problems they face, and interventions must be tailored to their specific needs.

**Keywords:** adolescent; threshold intelligence; psychosocial development; emotion; conflict

### 1. Introduction

Borderline intelligence refers to a level of intelligence below the average of the general population, but which does not fall into the category of intellectual

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impairment. Adolescents with borderline intelligence often have difficulty processing academic information.

Despite the fact that they are not diagnosed with a severe intellectual impairment, the subtle cognitive difficulties they experience can have a significant impact on their ability to cope.

These cognitive deficits are also reflected in interpersonal relationships, emotional self-regulation, and conflict management. Adolescents with borderline intelligence may show increased sensitivity to social rejection and a tendency to associate with delinquent groups to compensate for a lack of peer acceptance.

## **2. Specific Risk Factors for Psychosocial Development among Adolescents with Borderline Intelligence**

Among the main risk factors that can cause an adolescent with borderline intelligence to engage in delinquent behaviors are:

**a) Juvenile delinquency** is a complex problem, with multiple causes and implications for the individual and society. Adolescents with borderline intelligence, defined as having an intelligence quotient (IQ) between 70 and 85, face cognitive challenges that can influence both their social behavior and adaptation to the demands of school and everyday life. This category of adolescents, on the borderline between intellectual deficiency and normal intelligence, is exposed to an increased risk of developing delinquent behaviors due to cognitive and social vulnerabilities. In this paper, we will analyze the causes, implications and possible solutions for the delinquency of adolescents with liminal intelligence.

*Definition and Causes of Juvenile Delinquency* - Juvenile delinquency includes any anti-social or illegal behavior committed by a person under the age of 18. Among the most common forms of delinquency are theft, vandalism, drug use, physical assault and property vandalism.

Studies show that a number of factors contribute to the development of delinquent behaviors among adolescents, including biological, environmental, familial, and educational factors.

For adolescents with liminal intelligence, delinquent behavior can have long-term consequences. Exposure to the penal environment or correctional systems can amplify the feeling of social exclusion and reduce their chances of rehabilitation and

reintegration. Also, these teenagers are more likely to reoffend, having difficulty accessing the educational and occupational resources needed to build a stable future.

According to studies, adolescents who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system are more likely to be involved in delinquent behavior in adulthood, which emphasizes the need for early and effective interventions.

**b) Academic difficulties:** These adolescents frequently experience difficulties in the school environment, which can lead to discouragement and school dropout. Frustration and feelings of inadequacy can set the stage for antisocial behaviour.

**c) Peer group influence:** Teenagers with liminal intelligence are more susceptible to peer pressure, having limited ability to critically evaluate the consequences of actions or resist temptations.

**d) Family factors:** Lack of adequate support from the family, parental abuse or neglect, as well as the presence of delinquency within the family can intensify the risk of developing antisocial behavior.

**e) Problems with emotional self-regulation:** Adolescents with liminal intelligence have difficulty managing their emotions, which can lead to impulsive or violent reactions in conflict situations.

**f) Interventions and prevention strategies:** The prevention of delinquency among adolescents with borderline intelligence requires multidisciplinary interventions that address both their cognitive, emotional and social needs. Among the most effective prevention strategies are:

- *Adapted educational programs:* Providing individualized educational support, adapted to the needs and learning pace of each adolescent, can reduce the feeling of frustration and school exclusion.
- *Therapeutic interventions:* Psychological counseling and the development of emotional self-regulation skills can help adolescents better manage stress and social conflicts.
- *Family support:* The involvement of parents in the education process and the provision of emotional and behavioral support are essential for the prevention of delinquency.

- *Mentoring programs and extracurricular activities:* Adolescents with liminal intelligence can benefit from participating in social and sports activities that give them a sense of belonging and develop their social skills.

### 3. Conclusion

Delinquency among adolescents with borderline intelligence represents a major challenge for both the educational and judicial systems. These adolescents are vulnerable because of the cognitive limitations and emotional problems they face, and interventions must be tailored to their specific needs. Through appropriate educational programs and psychosocial interventions, it is possible to reduce the risk of delinquency and improve the chances of these young people to reintegrate into society.

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