

DEVIANT BEHAVIOR AND SELF-CONTROL IN ADOLESCENCE: A STUDY IN A TUNISIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

Many psychological studies explain the deviant behavior of young people by mentioning weaknesses in their ability to exert self-control. The relationship between the antisocial behavior of youth and lack of self-control provides a useful first explanation but calls for further analysis of the issue. In this study, we try to explore the complexity of this relationship between the different forms of social deviance and behavioral self-control processes in a Tunisian adolescent population confronted with delinquency. The study is based on a sample of 112 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 16 of both sexes who have dropped out of school early and who come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. The participants responded to a self-reported deviant questionnaire designed for this purpose as well as to a scale of self-control capabilities. The main results confirm the link between the antisocial behavior of young people and their weak self-control abilities. At the same time, the study reports on the complexity of this correlation in its internal dynamics.

Keywords: Deviant behavior, antisocial behavior, Self-control process, Adolescent, Tunisian Context.

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