

Lemos, G. C., Almeida, L. S., & Colom, R. (2011). Intelligence of adolescents is related to their parents' educational level but not to family income. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 50(7), 1062-1067. ISSN: 0191-8869.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0191886911000468>

Abstract

Parental educational level and family income have been related to individual differences in intelligence. However, large and representative samples are hardly available. Here two samples of young and old adolescents totaling 3233 boys and girls completed an intelligence battery comprising abstract, numerical, verbal, mechanical, and spatial reasoning subtests. Parents' educational levels, family incomes, and adolescents' general intelligence (g) were simultaneously related using SEM (structural equation modeling) analyses. The main findings show that (1) parental education strongly predicts family differences in income, (2) family income is not related to adolescents' intelligence, and (3) parents' education predicts adolescents' intelligence regardless of family income. Because it is widely acknowledged that personal intelligence is the best predictor of educational differences, the next causal chain is endorsed: brighter parents reach higher levels of education, which allows approaching better occupations, and, therefore, they can create families with higher incomes. Adolescents from more affluent families tend to be brighter because their parents are brighter, not because they enjoy better family environments.

Keywords

Intelligence;
Cognitive ability;
Educational level;
Family income;
SEM