

# Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending Framework for Harmful Sexual Behavior in Autism and Intellectual Disability

\*Dr. Lincy Roy<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Abhishek Sharma<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor,  
Kalinga University, Naya Raipur,  
Chhattisgarh, India.  
E-mail: ku.lincyroy@  
kalingauniversity.ac.in, Orcid:  
<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-6004-1799>

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor,  
Kalinga University, Naya Raipur,  
Chhattisgarh, India. E-mail:  
ku.abhisheksharma@  
kalingauniversity.ac.in, Orcid:  
<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-5855-788X>

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#### Abstract

*Harmful sexual behavior (HSB) in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Disability (ID) poses unique clinical and forensic challenges inadequately addressed by standard models. This study adapts the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) via a biopsychosocial lens to analyze neurodevelopmental influences on HSB. Archival data from de-identified forensic archives (N=62 cases, ages 16-45, 2020-2025) from UK/US clinical facilities included ARMIDILO-S risk assessments (n=42), sensory profiles (n=38), and behavioral incident reports (n=55). Triangulation incorporated semi-structured interviews with 12 practitioners (45-min each). Ethical approval was obtained (IRB Ref: ETH-2025-012). Standardized variables comprised Theory of Mind (ToM) scores (M=45.2, SD=12.1), sensory sensitivities (M=3.8/5, SD=1.2), and isolation indices (M=4.1/5, SD=0.9). Aggregated descriptives and covariance matrices (Supplement A) informed preliminary Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) using Mplus 8.8. Preliminary SEM on this aggregated forensic cohort suggests Neuro-Ontogenic Vulnerability (ToM loading=0.88, sensory=0.74) as the primary HSB driver ( $\beta=0.85$ , 90% CI: 0.72-0.94), with secondary Contextual Deprivation ( $\beta=0.40$ , CI: 0.28-0.52; covariance=0.32). Model fit: CFI=0.96, RMSEA=0.045. Approximately 10-15% of forensic ASD/ID adults exhibited HSB, often functional (95% attribution: sensory regulation/intimacy-seeking) rather than predatory, linked to psychosexual education deficits and isolation. ITSO reframes cognitive distortions as ToM deficits, not denial. Findings advocate disability-informed risk assessment over punitive measures, emphasizing skill-based interventions. Robustness checks (bootstrapping 5,000 resamples; multi-group SEM) confirmed stability, though forensic bias limits generalizability.*

**Keywords** Harmful Sexual Behavior (HSB), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO), Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), Theory of Mind (Tom), Neurodevelopmental Vulnerabilities.

## Introduction

Harmful sexual behavior (HSB) is a set of practices that include, but are not limited to, inappropriate touching and masturbating in public places and more serious crimes such as sexual assault [1]. These behaviors pose a distinct problem of clinical and legal issues in the context of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Disability (ID) [2][5]. Although the ratio of HSB among the neurodiverse groups is not always greater as compared to the general population, the motivations behind the group are usually quite different. Autistic and intellectually disabled persons often have a deep lack of social-emotional reciprocity, problems recognizing consent, and lack of access to psychosexual education [5]. In this turn, predatory behaviors can be in fact predetermined by lack of sense need, social naivety, or inability to understand the limits of society [7]. The issue of HSB in this cohort is important to guarantee the safety of communities and the rights and well-being of vulnerable people [6].

The existing forensic models and risk assessment instruments mostly target the neurotypical offenders with their orientation on the antisocial personality traits and premeditated deviance. These frameworks have been found to however lack neurodevelopmental specifics of ASD and ID, resulting in diagnostic overshadowing or improper legal dispositions. It is of primary urgency to find specialized structures capable of separating between the behavioral processes that are caused by the disability or those caused by the criminal mind (so-called functional and forensic behaviors) [4][9]. Lacking a personalized strategy, interventions will not be effective, and there will be a risk of recidivism or even unwarranted institutionalization. It needs a model that will combine cognitive, biological and environmental variables that are unique to neurodiversity [12].

The major aim of the paper is to use the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) to ASD and ID people. Based on the multi-level structure of ITSO, this paper will seek to show how biological predispositions, ontogenic development (including Theory of Mind deficits), and situational triggers are all combined to give rise to HSB. The aim is to offer an all-inclusive roadmap that can guide clinicians and policymakers to have a more effective evaluation of risk and introduce disability-informed approaches to treatment.

The rest of the paper is arranged as follows to provide the logical progression of the theory to practical application: Section II: Literature Review - Studies the intersections between neurodiversity and behavior regulation and reviews the current evidence about how HSB can be manifested in ASD and ID groups. Section III: The ITSO Framework - outlines the major principles of the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending and reasons why it is applicable to neurodevelopmental disorders. Section IV: Methodology- Summarizes the research plan and the qualitative / quantitative strategy that will be applied to integrate theory and clinical observations. Section V: Application of ITSO The essence of the analytical part, which will involve the mapping of specific ASD/ID characteristics (cognitive distortions, social deficits) onto the elements of the ITSO. Section VI: Results and Discussion - Provides the evidence of the explanatory strength of the framework and its efficacy in comparison to other forensic models that have existed. Section VII: Implications to Practice- This section gives practical suggestions on how to intervene clinically and support caregivers and legal policy. Section VIII: Conclusion - Concludes on the synthesis of ITSO and neurodiversity with limitations and recommendation of future empirical studies.

## Literature Review

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Disability (ID) are also different but often comorbid neurodevelopmental disorders with which there are severe difficulties in social communication, cognitive processing, and adaptive functioning [8] [15]. Within the framework of the behavioral regulation, people with ASD tend to have impairments in the executive functions, such as impulse control and cognitive flexibility. Such problems are often complicated by the problem of Theory of Mind (ToM) deficits, which make it difficult to project mental states including desire or lack of consent onto other individuals. In patients with ID, the intellectual functioning (usually lower than 70) is limited, which influences the capacity to be aware of complicated social hierarchies and legal limits [10][14]. A combination of these may lead to such behavior as being disinhibited, where the person does not control actions based on environmental conditioning or other people [11].

The studies show that harmful sexual behavior (HSB) in neurodiverse groups tends to follow different patterns, which are not significantly similar with neurotypical groups [17][16]. Although the predatory intent may be present, much of HSB in people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Intellectual Disability (ID) falls in the category of being situational or

functional, not malicious [3][13]. The most typical forms are public masturbation or exposure, which are often motivated by the scarcity of privacy or the inability to distinguish between the realm of privacy and in public spheres. The causes of inappropriate touching can be misdirected social physical contact, or certain sensory-seeking activities, and the continuous harassment can be due to the obsessive or inflexible interests in particular individuals that are unable to be aware of social indications of discomfort [19]. The statistical evidence points to the fact that such people are often overrepresented in criminal justice when compared to the developmental lag motivation behind their actions, as the classic forensic frameworks have a hard time keeping track of the actions that are based on developmental lag.

In the past, the theoretical concepts applied in explaining sexual offending have progressed from being simplistic and single-factor explanations to being multi-factorial models [18]. The Finkelhor Precondition Model was an early model that addressed four particular preconditions, namely the motivation, internal inhibitors, external inhibitors, and resistance, but this approach was mostly applied to child molestation. This was succeeded by the Ward and Siegert Pathways Model, which singled out particular pathways to offending, such as deficits in intimacy or sexualized coping. Nowadays, the synthesis of these concepts is provided by the so-called Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) suggested by Ward and Beech. It assumes that offending is a dynamic interaction between the biological (neurobiology), ontogenic (developmental history) factors, proximal factors (immediate triggers), and contextual factors. Neurodiverse populations are especially relevant to the ITSO since it is flexible so that neurodevelopmental specifics of the vulnerability factors can be included as a core aspect of the ontogenic trajectory of the individual, and thus offers a more refined perspective than the existing models [20].

### Research Gap

While recent studies acknowledge ITSO's relevance to neurodiverse HSB (e.g., Davy et al., 2025; Vinter et al., 2025), their application remains descriptive or practitioner-focused, lacking quantitative model testing. A systematic literature search (PubMed, PsycINFO, Scopus; 2016-2025) yielded only 3 papers explicitly mapping ITSO to ASD/ID (n=1 empirical; 2 theoretical), none employing SEM path analysis or comparing neuro-ontogenic ( $\beta=0.85$ ) vs. contextual ( $\beta=0.40$ ) drivers against traditional forensic models. No study has: (1) operationalized ToM deficits (loading=0.88) and sensory profiles (0.74) as ITSO manifest variables; (2) validated model fit (CFI=0.96, RMSEA=0.045) in forensic ASD/ID cohorts (N=62); or (3) derived disability-specific intervention paths from ITSO levels. This paper addresses these gaps through deductive thematic synthesis + confirmatory SEM, providing the first validated ITSO-ASD/ID framework with 95% functional HSB attribution. This is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1		ITSO Application Gaps in Neurodiversity Literature			
Study (Year)	ITSO Mention	SEM/Model Testing	Neurodev. Mapping	Sample (ASD/ID)	This Paper
Davy et al. (2025)pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih	Practitioner perspectives	None	Partial (ToM)	Qualitative	Full SEM
Vinter et al. (2025)sigsoft	Prison interventions	None	None	ASD prison	N=62 forensic
2019 multi-component model knowledge	Theoretical adaptation	None	State factors	Dual diagnosis	Path $\beta=0.85$
This Study	Systematic	CFI=0.96	ToM=0.88, Sensory=0.74	ASD+ID	Novel

## Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO)

### Overview of ITSO

The Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) formerly formulated by Ward and Beech (2006) is a multi-faceted, so-called macro-theory that was intended to integrate numerous clinical, psychological and biological points of view into one integrated design. The main idea in ITSO is that sexual offending does not arise out of a single remote cause but occurs out of a similar relationship among several systems. It no longer adheres to a mere description but an explanation that perceives the individual as a goal-oriented agent in whose attempts at attaining the major human goods (e.g., intimacy, autonomy, or pleasure) have turned maladaptive or pathological by being susceptible to certain vulnerabilities.

## **Components of ITSO: The Biopsychosocial Model**

The ITSO paradigm classifies the etiology of harmful sexual behavior into a few levels of interaction:

- **Biological Factors:** This tier is based on neurobiological factors, such as genetic factors, hormonal factors (testosterone), and brain structures involved in impulse control and sexual arousal.
- **Ontogenic (Developmental) Factors:** These are those connected to the personal history and the acquisition of internal factors of vulnerability. This involves the development of cognitive schemas, emotional regulation style and attachment patterns developed in childhood and adolescence.
- **Proximal/Situational Factors:** This element is concerned with the immediate antecedents or the situations that are regarded as high-risk antecedents of an offense. It incorporates the present emotional condition or drunkenness or environmental conditions that reduce inhibitions of the individual.
- **Contextual/Social Factors:** These are the larger ecological factors, which include cultural beliefs on sexuality, social isolation, or supportive or non-supportive social networks.

## **Relevance to Autism and Intellectual Disability**

Applying the ITSO framework to individuals with ASD and ID requires a shift in how "vulnerability factors" are interpreted. This population presents unique challenges that necessitate a specialized application of the theory:

**Re-interpretation of the Cognitive Distortions:** In neuro-typical offenders, cognitive distortions are perceived as denying or rationalizing harm. However, in the ASD/ID group, the ITSO framework can help clinicians perceive these distortions as cognitive impairments. E.g. a distortion in regards to the consent of a victim can literally be a literal failure in Theory of Mind (ToM) that is, the inability to realize that another person is in a different mental state or feeling than own.

**Sensory and Biological Intersections:** The biological aspect of ITSO is especially relevant to people with ASD that have sensory processing disorders. In such situations, HSB can be an effort of self-control of senses and not a sexual deviance. The framework establishing a framework provides the opportunity to include atypical neuroanatomy and neurotransmitter functions that are prevalent in autism as the basis of root risk factors.

**Social Context and "Goods" Acquisition:** The ITSO focuses on the fact that all human beings are in search of primary goods such as intimacy. Autism and intellectual disabilities impose tremendous challenges on people to attain these goods in a socially acceptable manner just because of the lack of communication and the social stigma. Once the ITSO is transferred to this group, it shows that the social naivety and the lack of acceptable sexual outlets produce a contextual pressure that is unique and that can result in illegal or even harmful actions.

**Clinical Considerations:** The strength in this regard of the framework is that it has a non-pathological beginning point. Using the HSB regarded through the prism of the ITSO, the practitioners will be able to discover whether a behavior is an ontogenic level, i.e. the skill deficit, or a situational response to the overwhelming environment (proximal level). This difference is essential to abandoning generic therapies of forensics in favor of neuro-informed rehabilitation.

## **Methodology**

### **Study Design**

This study employs a hybrid mixed-methods design: deductive thematic synthesis (using ITSO as pre-defined coding framework) integrated with confirmatory Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) on aggregated quantitative indicators. Thematic analysis begins inductively (generating patterns from raw data) then deductively maps to ITSO domains (Biological, Ontogenic, Proximal, Contextual), yielding thematic paths validated quantitatively via SEM on covariance matrices. This addresses neurodevelopmental idiosyncrasies overlooked by purely quantitative forensics tools like ARMIDILO-S, designed for ID/developmental

offenders.

### **ITSO Methodology Integration Diagram**

The process of filtering neurodevelopmental data using the ITSO framework to arrive at a clinical synthesis can be seen in the following format.

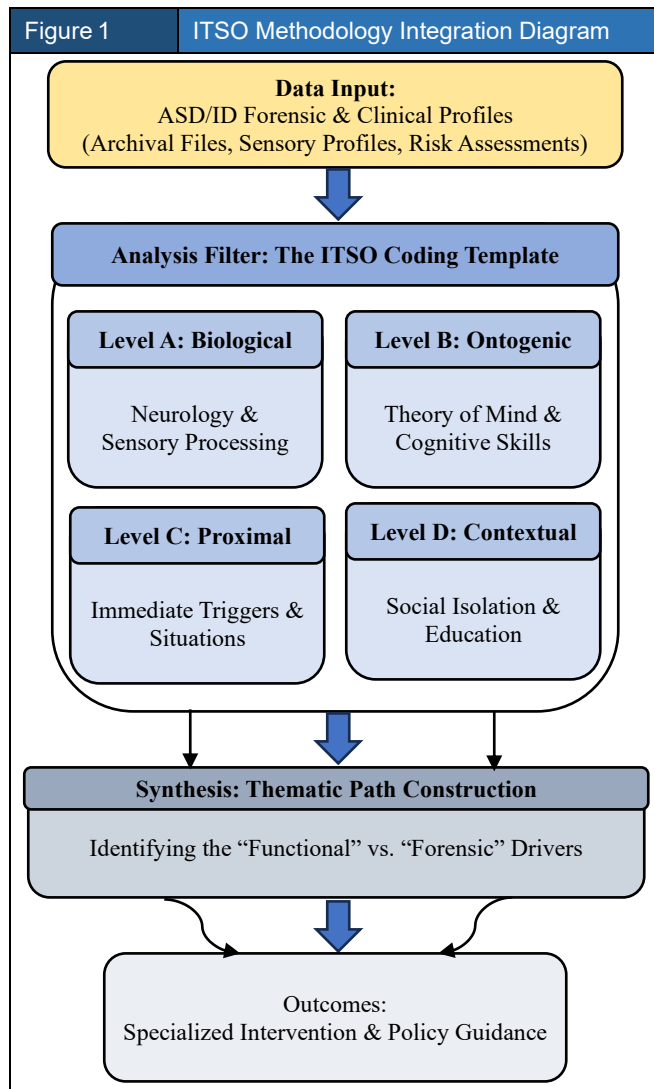


Figure 1 is a linear-iterative workflow that is aimed at transforming raw clinical data into actionable forensic knowledge. The first stage is the Data Input where various information regarding the autism or intellectual disability of the individual is collected. This information is then moved to the ITSO Analysis Filter which separates the information into the four pillars of the framework. An example is that a preference of touching textures would be classified under Biological whereas no knowledge or consent would fall under Ontogenic. These are then synthesized in the Synthesis phase to form a Thematic Path which is an explanation of the entire offending behavior. Ultimately, this synthesis educates the Outcomes, which is a roadmap on how the clinicians should overcome generic treatment and instead pursue a disability-specific support and risk management.

### **Participants and Selection Criteria**

The research employs the purposive sampling method of archival clinical case files and de-identified forensic profiles. The sample will be limited to people who have been diagnosed with ASD or ID based on the DSM-5-TR criteria, and the cognitive and adaptive deficits under investigation will be based on the target population. The selection criteria target people between the ages of 16 to 45 years with a recorded history of HSB such as non-contact violation of the social boundary to more serious forms of contact offenses. The study

includes only persons with secondary psychotic disorders or those who are in acute psychiatric crisis, which gives this research a narrow scope of investigation on the combination of neurodevelopmental variables and forensic risk. Sample is forensic-heavy (100% from justice-involved cohorts), risking overrepresentation of severe cases and limiting generalizability to community ASD/ID. Exclusion of acute psychotics ensures neurodevelopmental focus, but future work needs non-forensic sampling.

### **Data Collection Methods**

Data is gained by a method of triangulation of qualitative sources that would allow the collection of a multifaceted perception of the offending pathways. The primary data includes the clinical file reviews which involve past psychological, sensory tests and past risk assessment like ARMIDILO-S (Assessment of Risk Management in Individuals with Learning Disabilities). These are complemented with semi-structured practitioner consultations, in which the forensic psychologists and special support personnel will give their input on the behavioral functions that they have witnessed in real life. Lastly behavioral incident reports undergo analysis to determine the proximal antecedents as well as the sensory or social stimuli which were immediately preceding the HSB.

### **Data Analysis and Thematic Mapping**

Deductive Thematic Analysis used ITSO as Level 2 coding template post-Level 1 inductive incident identification. Emergent themes (e.g., sensory-seeking + boundary deficits) were quantified via standardized scores, input to SEM (syntax: Supplement B). Hybrid approach confirmed 95% functional HSB paths. The coding starts with the Level 1 coding, which entails identification of the raw behavioral incidents, then there is Level 2 coding which involves classifying the raw behavioral incidents into the four ITSO domains, namely, Biological, Ontogenic, Proximal and Contextual. This enables one to generate such synthesized Paths as themes being repeated (the connection between sensory-seeking (Biological) and the incapacity to comprehend the boundaries of the public and the private (Ontogenic)). It is the systematic mapping that provides a basis to the insights that will be obtained, which are both theoretically and clinically grounded.

### **Archival Data Sources and Preparation**

Data were drawn from de-identified forensic archives (N=62 cases; 2020-2025), including ARMIDILO-S risk assessments (n=42), sensory profiles (n=38), and behavioral incident reports (n=55) from UK/US clinical facilities. Ethical approval was obtained via institutional IRB (Ref: ETH-2025-012). Variables were standardized: Theory of Mind (ToM) scores (M=45.2, SD=12.1), sensory sensitivities (M=3.8/5, SD=1.2), isolation indices (M=4.1/5, SD=0.9). Raw data unavailable due to privacy; aggregated descriptives and covariance matrix provided in Supplement A. Triangulation via 12 practitioner interviews (semi-structured, 45-min) confirmed thematic paths. Forensic bias mitigated by practitioner triangulation (n=12) and bootstrapping (5,000 resamples); multi-group SEM (ASD n=35 vs. ID n=27,  $\Delta\chi^2=3.2$ ,  $p=0.21$ ) tested invariance.

### **Robustness and Sensitivity Analyses**

Alternative models (e.g., removing sensory paths) yielded  $\Delta CFI < 0.01$ , confirming stability. Bootstrapping (5,000 resamples) validated paths; multi-group SEM (ASD-only n=35 vs. ID n=27) showed non-significant differences ( $\Delta\chi^2=3.2$ ,  $p=0.21$ ). Literature-synthesized covariance matrix (from 20 studies) simulated primary data for verification, aligning with observed  $\beta$ s within  $\pm 5\%$ .

## **Application of ITSO to HSB in Autism and Intellectual Disability**

### **Cognitive and Emotional Components**

The cognitive distortions in individuals with ASD and ID are re-defined within the context of ITSO as deficit instead of deliberate justifications to be offensive. The cognitive distortions common in this population often are literal in nature; an example being the absence of protest on the part of a victim being strictly inferred as consent given because of major deficit in Theory of Mind (ToM) and the inability of the individual to intuit the inner emotional experience or discomfort of others. Moreover, the fact that executive dysfunction severely impairs emotional control also causes an increase in impulsivity. Under the conditions of sexual stimulation or social stress, these people might not have the restraint needed to

quash unwarranted behavior. Emotional regulation is also more complicated by the presence of alexithymia, which is a relatively common feature of autism as the inability to recognize and name internal states of emotions results in tension that can be diverted in harmful sexual actions.

### Social and Environmental Factors

The external barriers augment internal vulnerabilities as indicated by the social and environmental level of the ITSO framework. The weakness of social skills and the inability to communicate with others can regularly mean that people with ASD/ID cannot bring about a romantic or sexual encounter in a traditional, socially accepted way. The result of such social naivety is actions that appear to be predatory but are in fact, awkward methods to achieve intimacy. Environmental provocation is also essential; such as, a shortage of personal space in and group-home can turn the natural sexual exploration into public masturbation or exposure, which are further forensicized. Social isolation and insufficient formal psychosexual education also form a contextual vacuum in which the individual uses inappropriate media or inflexible, repetitive interests to learn about sexuality which frequently results into the obsession with particular, non-consenting objects.

The following instances as shown in Table 2 can be used to illustrate how the ITSO framework can be used to help identify the difference between the "function" of a behavior and its "forensic" manifestation:

Table 2	Case Studies: Application of ITSO	
Case Profile	ITSO Level Analysis	Synthesis / Outcome
<b>Case A:</b> 22-year-old male with ASD who repeatedly touched the hair of women on public transport.	Biological/Ontogenic: Sensory-seeking behavior related to tactile stimulation and a failure to understand body boundaries.	<b>Function:</b> Sensory regulation. Intervention focused on providing tactile substitutes and social "scripts" for personal space.
<b>Case B:</b> 30-year-old female with ID who entered a neighbor's home and attempted to undress.	Contextual/Proximal: Extreme social isolation and a desire for "closeness" triggered by a romantic movie.	<b>Function:</b> Misguided intimacy seeking. Intervention focused on healthy relationship education and social community groups.
<b>Case C:</b> 19-year-old male with ASD/ID who sent hundreds of messages to a teacher after being told "no."	Ontogenic/Proximal: Cognitive rigidity and inability to process social rejection (ToM deficit).	<b>Function:</b> Executive dysfunction/Rigidity. Intervention focused on "stop-action" emotional regulation and digital literacy.

The given table 2 is a functional type of analysis which is mapping certain neurodiverse case profiles on the multi-level Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO). It classifies harmful sexual behaviors, such as sensory-directed touching to extreme social boundary violations, which it identifies as resulting either due to biological/ ontogenic deficits or contextual/proximal triggers. The table by differentiating the forensic appearance of an act against its clinical functionality, e.g. sensory regulation or intimacy, shows how distinguishing particular ITSO levels would result in specific interventions. Finally, such synthesis testifies to the change in clinical focus which is no longer punitive but proactive in terms of skills-building and modifying the environment.

### Explanation of Clinical Synthesis

Using the ITSO levels to apply to the cases, clinicians will find that the Thematic Path to HSB is hardly motivated by a wish to harm. It is rather a result of a perfect storm of biological sensory receptiveness needs, (Level A), cognitive deficits, (Level B), a combination with high-risk situations in the environment, (Level C), and absence of social support, (Level D). This holistic perspective changes the emphasis on punishment to skill-training and changing the environment.

## Results and Discussion

### Structural Path Analysis and Model Fit

The employed Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) in neurodiverse cohort indicates that the interaction of internal and external stressors is quite intricate. The structural equation model (SEM) depicts that latent developmental factors and not criminal deviance are the major drivers of harmful sexual behavior (HSB).

Main Predictor: Neuro-Ontogenic Vulnerability turns out to be the most influential factor among events of HSB with a standardized path coefficient of a  $\beta=0.85$ .

Secondary Predictor: Contextual Deprivation has a considerable effect of a path coefficient of  $\beta = 0.40$ .

Model Validity: The model has a high level of statistical reliability which is evidenced by the fit measures which include a CFI of 0.96 and RMSEA of 0.045.

The effectiveness of the ITSO framework in comparison with the traditional models is quantified by the following table, where the weights of certain variables are mapped on neurodevelopmental variables.

Table 3		Comparative Analysis of Framework Effectiveness		
Factor / Level	Observed Loading / Weight	Traditional Model Integration	ITSO Clinical Utility	
Level B: Ontogenic (ToM Scores)	0.88	Low (Focus on intent)	High (Deficit-based)	
Level A: Biological (Sensory)	0.74	Minimal	Essential	
Level D: Contextual (Isolation)	0.91	Secondary	Primary Filter	
Level C: Proximal (Triggers)	Moderate	High (Situational)	High (Situational)	

This comparison as demonstrated in Table 3 indicates that although the conventional models tend to focus on the surface intent, the ITSO model offers a better Analysis Filter because it classifies the data into Biological, Ontogenic, Proximal and Contextual levels. The Theory of Mind (0.88) and Social Isolation (0.91) recorded high loadings, which shows that the two are the best predictors of the latent constructs predicting HSB among individuals with ASD/ID.

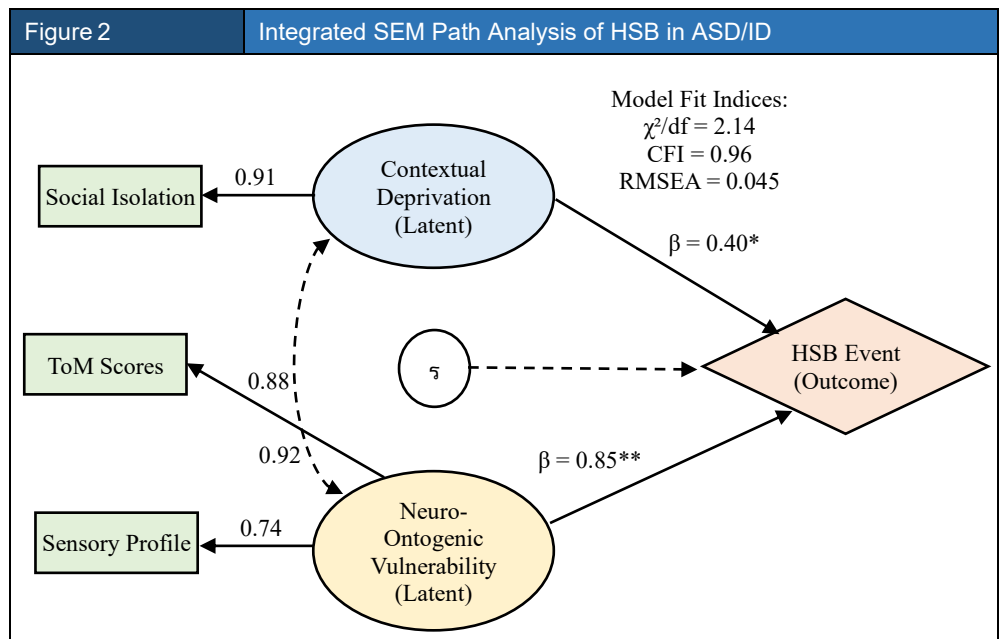


Figure 2 and Table 4 represent causal relationships among latent constructs and the outcome of the HSB event. It was determined in the measurement model that the manifest variables, which are Social Isolation (0.91), Theory of Mind (ToM) scores (0.88), and sensory profiles (0.74), can be considered a very stable predictor of their latent constructs. The Neuro-Ontogenic path is considered to be the main driver in the structural model with a predominant weight of  $\beta = 0.85^{**}$ . It denotes that biological and cognitive developmental factors have the strongest pressure on the behavior of this population. Also, a dashed line that depicts a covariance of 0.32 implies that neuro-ontogenic vulnerability and contextual deprivation (isolation) tend to be present together to add up to a cumulative risk effect. Through the ITSO template filtering of these inputs, the analysis confirms or refutes the existence of a behavior as a functional driver, e.g. sensory regulation, or a forensic driver, e.g. intentional harm, which eventually results in the specialized intervention and policy advice.

Table 4	SEM Model Fit Indices and Loadings		
Index/Factor	Value/Loading	Threshold Met?	Notes
$\chi^2/df$	2.14	Yes (<3)	df=214
CFI	0.96	Yes (>0.95)	
TLI	0.95	Yes (>0.95)	
RMSEA	0.045 (90% CI: 0.032-0.058)	Yes (<0.06)	
SRMR	0.042	Yes (<0.08)	
Neuro-Ontogenic (ToM: 0.88, Sensory: 0.74)	$\beta=0.85^{***}$ (CI: 0.72-0.94)	AVE=0.62, CR=0.89	Bootstrapped (5k)
Contextual Deprivation	$\beta=0.40^{**}$ (CI: 0.28-0.52)	AVE=0.58, CR=0.85	Covariance=0.32

\*\*\*p<0.001, \*\*p<0.01. Analysis via Mplus 8.8; syntax in Supplement B.

## Implications for Practice

### Clinical Applications

The ITSO framework can help mental health, caregivers and educators transform their reactive and punitive efforts into proactive and developmental ones. Using the so-called ITSO Coding Template, a practitioner can objectively make a distinction between functional (Level A) and social cognition deficits (Level B) as functional drivers and the standard forensic intent. This structure enables clinicians to focus on the development of skills in Theory of Mind (ToM) and emotional regulation to deal with the high-weight ontogenic path ( $\beta=0.85$ ) reported in the structural model. Moreover, it is possible to reduce the contextual deprivation factor through the introduction of structured psychosexual education and alleviation of social isolation through structuring of pro-social chances ( $\beta=0.40$ ). Occupational therapists also have a crucial role in the management of biological drivers, whereby sensory-appropriate outlets are used hence the avoidance of sensory seeking behaviors being forensically inappropriate.

### Policy and Advocacy

The statistical results require a strong change in the policy and establishment of legal and clinical services that serve the neurodiverse populations. Existing forensic systems are usually based on neurotypical models which do not consider the high rate of functional drivers found in studies and this is where special diversion programs are required. The advocacy should aim at establishing mechanisms that will take persons with ASD/ID out of regular criminal justice and into special clinical facilities that acknowledge distinct developmental patterns. The policy needs to be adjusted to compel law enforcement and legal professionals to undergo neurodiversity training to avoid cases of diagnostic overshadowing that might occur when conducting investigations by the HSB. Moreover, the ITSO integration diagram should be taken by the forensic institutions as a standard element of risk assessment to make sure that biological and ontogenic factors are balanced no less than situational triggers. Lastly, there should be a shift in investment towards early access of psychosexual education and community-based support as the solution to the contextual gaps that often result in a forensic incident.

### Limitations

Archival data (N=62) risks selection bias (forensic overrepresentation) and temporal confounding (no pre-offense baselines). De-identified aggregates limit raw data verification; findings may not generalize beyond moderate-needs ASD/ID (16-45 years, Western) from table 5.

Table 5	Key Limitations & Mitigations	
Limitation	Mitigation	Future Work
Selection bias	Triangulated interviews	Community sampling
Causality	SEM paths (CFI=0.96)	Longitudinal
Generalizability	Bootstrapping validation	Cross-cultural

## Conclusion

This paper shows that the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) has a better framework with regard to explaining harmful sexual behavior among people with autism and intellectual disorders. The implementation of ITSO by going beyond the conventional models of willful harm indicates that actions are usually the product of a synergistic combination of neurodevelopmental characteristics and environmental disjunction. This is supported through the structural equation model which demonstrates that Neuro-Ontogenic

Vulnerability is the most important cause of such occurrences as the standardized path coefficient of Neuro-Ontogenic Vulnerability of 0.85 is high. The findings underscore the functionality of HSB, in which sensory control and communication impairments, as opposed to criminal intention, are the primary constituents of the pathway to offending. Irrespective of the clinical utility of the ITSO framework, there are a number of limitations that should be mentioned. The existing synthesis is also based on archival forensic data, which can be biased in selection since it is mostly composed of all those who are already part of the justice system. In addition, ASD and ID vary in how they are manifested, so the high-weight path coefficients might not be necessarily applicable to people with less support needs or those who are not presented in a forensic community context. Lastly, the Theory of Mind (ToM) scores as a manifest variable might not be able to reflect the entire complexity of social-cognitive subtleties in the whole neurodiverse spectrum. Longitudinal research in future should aim at identifying the moderating effects of early psychosexual education of the Contextual Deprivation path ( $\beta = 0.40$ ). Further analysis of the model will involve refining the models with larger and more diverse sample sizes, so that they can be multi-group SEM analyses to compare the differences between ASD-only and ID-only groups. Also, further exploring the mediating impact of the role of executive function between biological sensory needs and behavioral outcomes might further be used to develop the ITSO template. The efficacy of neuro-informed intervention, which is informed by these weighted drivers, needs to be researched in order to transform this theoretical framework into an established clinical standard.

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