

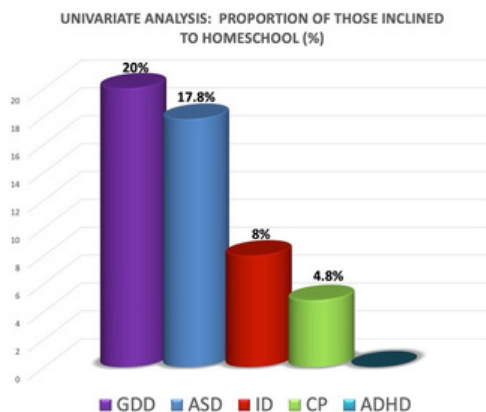


## PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOMESCHOOLING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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### BACKGROUND:

Education has always been a priority among Filipino families and the ongoing threat of the pandemic made parents seek alternative means to educate their special needs children. Because of this, homeschooling became a viable option. This study on the perspective of parents of special needs children on homeschooling and the factors associated could help all stakeholders empower these families.



### METHODS

This is an analytical cross-sectional study of 200 parents of special needs children, being catered at the National Children's Hospital Child Development Center. Convenience sampling was done. The sources of data came from the medical records and a validated physician administered questionnaire. Measures of Central Tendency were used to summarize data and categorical variables were summarized using frequency distributions and proportions. The factors associated with home schooling were analyzed using Chi-square test, Odds ratio and the 95% Confidence Interval were calculated. The level of significance was set at  $\alpha < 0.05$

### RESULTS

A minor yet significant percentage (14.5%) of our parent population were willing to homeschool their special needs children. Mothers were found to be the primary care givers (92%) and were homemakers (75%).

FACTORS (% Within the Parameter)		p value	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	
DISAGREE	Age of the Child			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
		0.380	1.110	0.880	1.400
	Only Child	0.005	0.073	0.012	0.461
	Did not Reach College	0.021	15.772	1.521	163.592
	Currently Employed	0.047	7.307	1.030	51.856
	Without Support System	0.00	0.066	0.018	0.242

Factors that were significantly associated with the inclination to homeschool were the following 1. Having only one child OR 0.073 (95% CI 0.012-0.461), 2. Good support system OR 0.066 (95% CI 0.018-0.242), 3. Parental education OR 15.772 (95% CI 1.521-163.594), 4. Work status of the Primary Caregiver OR 7.307 (95% CI 1.030-51.856)

### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the significant factors presented, we can conclude that highly educated mothers of special needs children, who are homemakers, with a good support system, tend to agree to homeschool children with special needs especially if she has only one child.

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REFERENCES: Brian D. Ray (2017). A systematic review of the empirical research on selected aspects of homeschooling as a school choice, Journal of School Choice, 11:4,604-621, DOI: 10.1080/15582159.2017.1395638

