

**ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS TO NUTRITION
AND DIETARY MANAGEMENT AMONG CHILDREN WITH PERVASIVE
DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS.**

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2010

Background: The prevalence of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) has increased in recent years. Currently Trinidad and Tobago has no official statistics on these disorders, however, these disorder do occur within the population. Medical literature and the media are filled with different theories regarding the relationship between nutrition PDDs, but a scientifically conclusive relationship is yet to be established.

Objective: This study accessed the attitudes and behavior of parents to nutrition and dietary management.

Design: The sample comprised of 54 parents of children aged 3 – 12 years with PDD.

Results: It was determined that a relationship exists between attitude to nutrition and their approach to nutrition and dietary management; mainly provision of supplement and diet modification.

Conclusion: Mechanism for detecting and recording the incidence and prevalence of PDD in Trinidad and Tobago should be implemented.