



## Prevalence and Antimicrobial Resistance of *E.coli* and *Salmonella* isolated from Poultry litter in District Shaheed Benazir Abad

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### Abstract

Poultry industry provides rich and cheap resources of protein requirements to the people in the form of chicken meat and eggs production. A total of 100 poultry litter samples were collected from different poultry farms of district Shaheed Benazir Abad. Collected samples were transported to Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Tandojam for isolation and identification of microorganisms from different areas including, Sakrand, Nawab shah, Qazi Ahmed and Dour of District Shaheed Benazir Abad. Overall results showed that (84%) samples were found positive for *E. coli* and *Salmonella* species. Higher prevalence of *E.coli* 17(68%) was observed in Sakrand, while lower 12(48%) was observed in Dour . High prevalence of *Salmonella* 9(36%) was observed in Nawab shah, while lower 5(20%) was observed in dour. The results of antimicrobial sensitivity indicated that *E.coli* species were resistant to Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin, Sulphafurazole and Oxacillin. However, *E. coli* species were sensitive to Erythromycin, Amikacin and Gentamycin. The isolated *Salmonella* species have shown resistance to Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin and Sulphafurazole. While, *Salmonella* species were highly sensitive against the Amoxicillin, Erythromycin and Gentamycin. In conclusion, higher prevalence of *E. coli* was observed in Sakrand, while higher prevalence of *Salmonella* was observed in Nawab shah and lower prevalence of *E.coli* and *Salmonella* was observed in Dour. Whereas, the Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin, Sulphafurazole were highly resistant to *E.coli* and *Salmonella*.

**Keywords:** E.Coli, Antimicrobial resistance, Poultry litter, Salmonella.



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### INTRODUCTION

Poultry plays a vital role in producing animal derived protein for human food from the meat and egg sources. Poultry production markets differ around the world based on geographical regions, demand, supply, and consumption, which is increasing all over the world with the population, especially in Asian countries as compared to the rest of the world (Belova *et al.* 2012; Mujahid *et al.*, 2019). China, the United States, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, India, and Pakistan have recently become the top producers of poultry (Putri *et al.*, 2018). Many diseases affect poultry birds, including bacterial infections (Colibacillosis and Pullorum disease), viral infections (New Castle disease and Avian influenza), and parasitic infections (Coccidiosis and Heterakios Gallinarum), which results in significant losses to the poultry industry (Schiavone *et al.*, 2020; Umar *et al.*, 2019).

The disease outbreak, mostly occurs due to poor management, the floor of poultry farm is the one an important disease outbreak source that is always covered with bedding material called poultry litter that include rice husk or wood straw. poultry litter may contain a large waste material include poultry feathers, urine, feces and spoiled poultry feed (Jayathilakan *et al.*, 2012). There are many pathogenic organisms in the poultry litter, but the most common pathogen present in poultry farms are *E. coli* and *Salmonella* causing severe losses due to high morbidity and mortality (Alali *et al.*, 2010).

Antimicrobial drugs are widely used to inhibit the growth of microorganisms in intensive farming management systems for therapeutic or prophylactic uses (Jajere *et al.*, 2019). Antibiotic resistance is very common in poultry birds and common antibiotics are ineffective against previously sensitive bacteria (Capita and Alonso-Calleja *et al.*, 2013). Monitoring of bacterial resistance to antimicrobial drugs is essential in poultry for human consumption and the spread of antimicrobial resistance bacteria present in food-producing animals (Collignon *et al.*, 2016). The World Organization for Animal Health has declared a list of antibiotics resistant such as Quinolones, Cephalosporin and Macrolides groups that were previously effective against bacterial pathogens especially *E. coli* and *Salmonella* spp. (Davies and Wales, 2019; Sellah and Drissi, *et al.*, 2015). World health organization recommends reduced use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animal to decrease the adaptation of antibiotics resistance by bacteria (Belanger *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, the present study was designed to know Prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *E.coli* and *salmonella* isolated from poultry litter in district shaheed Benazir Abad.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted at Central veterinary diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) Tandojam to know the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *E. coli* and *Salmonella* from poultry litter.

### Sampling

A total of one hundred litter samples were collected from poultry farms four talukas i.e., Taluka Sakrand, Qazi Ahmed, Nawab Shah, and Dour of District Shaheed Benazir Abad. The 25 samples of litter from different farms of each taluka were taken in sterile polythene bags using standard methods. The litter samples were brought to laboratory for further examination.

### Bacteriological identification tests

To isolate and identify the pathogens on different media a number of biochemical tests were performed. Isolation and identification of salmonella was done by the standard method described in ISO 6579 (2002) and

6579-1 (2017). The isolation and identification of *E. coli* was done by the method described by Lie *et al.*, (2008).

### Antimicrobial sensitivity and resistance Test

The antimicrobial resistance to *E. coli* and *Salmonella* was determined by an agar disk diffusion assay. Guidelines from the clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) for disk diffusion methods that was used to determine antimicrobial resistance of antibiotics (Humphries, *et al.*, 2018). 3.8 gram of Muller Hinton agar measured and 100 ml double distilled water was prepared and autoclaved at 121°C temperature for 15 minutes at 15 lb pressure. After cooling the media was poured in sterile Petri dish to solidify. The Bacteria were inoculated on each of the plates with the sterile cotton swab. The Antibiotic discs of 14 antibiotics i.e., Oxacillin, Streptomycin, Polymyxin-B, Amoxicillin, Nalidixic acid, Amikacin, Ciprofloxacin, Sulphafurazole, Doxycycline, Sulfamethoxazole, Gentamycin, Tetracycline, Erythromycin, and Cefixime were placed with the help of a disc dispenser on the surface of agar plate and slightly pressed with a sterile forceps to make it fixed on the surface of medium. The Petri dishes were incubated at 37°C temperature for 24 hours. After overnight incubation, the size of inhibition zone was recorded.

## RESULTS

A total of 100 poultry litter samples were collected from different poultry farms of district Shaheed Benazir Abad. Among 100 litter samples, (84%) samples were positive for *E.coli* and *Salmonella* from four Talukas such as Sakrand, Nawab shah, Qazi Ahmed and Dour in district Shaheed Benazir Abad.

**Table 1.** The taluka wise distribution, number and % of *E.coli* and salmonella contaminated samples in District Shaheed Benazir Abad.

Taluka	N	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Salmonell</i>
Sakrand	25	17 (68%)	06 (24%)
Nawab shah	25	13 (52%)	09 (36%)
Qazi Ahmed	25	14 (56%)	08 (32%)
Dour	25	12 (48%)	5 (20%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56 (56%)</b>	<b>28 (28%)</b>
N= Total number of samples			

Table 1 shows that maximum samples were contaminated with *E. coli* as compared to *Salmonella*. This suggests that the *E. coli* is dominant pathogenic bacteria prevailing in the environment of poultry farms at all four talukas. The Sakrand Taluka was found with highest number of farms contaminated with *E. coli* (68%) followed by Qazi Ahmed taluka (56%). The

Salmonella, on other hand was common in the farms of Taluka Nawab Shah (36%) followed by Qazi Ahmed (32%). If considered both pathogens, the farms of Qazi Ahmed Taluka were found with high contamination and low sanitation. While the farms of Taluka Dour showed very low contamination with both *E. coli* and Salmonella in its farms. Prevalence of these high-risk pathogens in the local poultry farms of District Shaheed Benazir Abad suggest that the meat quality of these farms can be of low standards and farmers have to take advanced measures to decontaminate the environment of their farms.

**Antimicrobial susceptibility test of *E. coli* species isolated from the poultry litter samples**

*E. coli* isolated from 100 samples were observed for the antimicrobial resistance to the fourteen antibiotics i.e., Oxacillin, Streptomycin, Polymyxin-B, Amoxicillin, Nalidixic acid, Amikacin, Ciprofloxacin, Sulphafurazole, Doxycycline, Sulfamethoxazole, Gentamycin, Tetracycline, Erythromycin, and Cefixime. The results of resistance indicated that *E. coli* were highly resistant to most of antibiotics including oxacillin, Streptomycin, Nalidixic acid, Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin, Sulphafurazole, Doxycycline,

**Table 2.** The response of *E. coli* spp. isolated from various farms of four talukas against various well-known antibiotics.

Antibiotics	Zone of inhibition (mm)**	Resistant Level
Oxacillin	02	Resistant
Streptomycin	04	Resistant
Polymyxin-B	02	Resistant
Amoxicillin	15	Intermediate
Nalidixic acid	02	Resistant
Amikacin	22	Sensitive
Ciprofloxacin	03	Resistant
Sulfafurazole	04	Resistant
Doxycycline	03	Resistant
Sulfamethoxazole	2.5	Resistant
Gentamycin	20	Sensitive
Tetracycline	2.6	Resistant
Erythromycin	23	Sensitive
Cefixime	1.4	Resistant

\*\*According to CLSI Standards, antibiotics sensitivity is shown in millimeter (mm) Sensitive >20, Intermediate 15-19, Resistant <14.

Sulfamethoxazole, and Cefixime (Table 2). The *E. coli* species has shown intermediate sensitivity to the Amoxicillin with an inhibition zone of 14 mm. However, *E. coli* species were sensitive to Erythromycin, Amikacin and Gentamycin showing an

inhibition zone of 23%, 22%, and 20% respectively, (Table: 2).

**Antimicrobial susceptibility test of salmonella species isolated from poultry litter samples**

*Salmonella* isolate from 100 samples were tested for the antimicrobial resistance to the 14 well-known antibiotics. The isolated *salmonella* species have shown high resistance to majority of antibiotics including Polymyxin-B, Nalidixic acid, Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin, doxycycline. Sulfamethoxazole, and Sulfafurazole. *Salmonella* spp. were intermediately sensitive to Amikacin, Oxacillin, Streptomycin and Cefixime. While, the most of *Salmonella* spp. have shown sensitive response against the Amoxicillin, Erythromycin and Gentamycin, as shown in the Table: 3.

**Table 3.** The response of *Salmonella* spp. isolated from various farms of four talukas against various well-known antibiotics.

Antibiotics	Zone of inhibition (mm)**	Resistant Level
Oxacillin	14	Intermediate
Streptomycin	16	Intermediate
Polymyxin-B	1.25	Resistant
Amoxicillin	24	Sensitive
Nalidixic acid	1.3	Resistant
Amikacin	17	Intermediate
Ciprofloxacin	2.6	Resistant
Sulphafurazole	4.5	Resistant
Doxycycline	6.0	Resistant
Sulfamethoxazole	5.5	Resistant
Gentamycin	20	Sensitive
Tetracycline	2.1	Resistant
Erythromycin	23	Sensitive
Cefixime	16	Intermediate

\*\*According to CLSI Standards, antibiotics sensitivity is shown in millimeter (mm) Sensitive >20, Intermediate 15-19, Resistant <14.

**DISCUSSION**

The study was carried out to observe the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of *E.coli* and *Salmonella* from poultry litter. In this study the highest prevalence of *E. coli* 56 (56%) and *Salmonella* 28 (28%) were observed from poultry litter. The results obtained by Ghanbarpouret al. (2011) revealed similar the prevalence of *E. coli* 63.64% in poultry litter. However, all comparative results were attributed to the differences in environmental conditions, dietary habits, age of the sampling, and mixed feed contamination with other

microbes. Findings of Islam *et al.*, (2014) reported that poultry litter may contain different type of microorganisms, the presence of *Salmonella* in both feed and litter poses an alarming situation for the public health. In their study, the prevalence of 3% pathogenic *E.coli* was recorded in internal environment from the poultry farms. A similar kind of result was supported by Jeffrey *et al.*, (1998) that the overall prevalence of *E.coli* and *Salmonella* spp. from four poultry farms were 62.50 % and 49.91 % respectively. Whereas, *E. coli* and *Salmonella* prevalence was recorded as 87.50% and 66.66% respectively from litter samples, these results suggested that poultry litter is always the major source of both *E. coli* and *Salmonella* spp. from the birds reared in litter system.

Similarly, a high prevalence rate of *E. coli* and *Salmonella* spp. 58% and 28% by Ahmed *et al.*, (2007), and Biswas *et al.* (2004) was observed, they suggested the higher prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. in the same environmental sources and conditions as in India and Bangladesh. The isolated *E. coli* and *Salmonella* from poultry litter samples were tested in-vitro for antibiotic susceptibility by an antibiotic disk diffusion method. According to the findings of our study results, *E. coli* species were highly resistant to Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin and Sulfafurazole. While *E. coli* species have shown intermediate sensitivity to Amoxicillin. However, *E. coli* spp. were highly sensitivity to Erythromycin, Amikacin and Gentamycin as 23%, 22%, and 20% respectively antibiotics. Similar results were reported by Dhanarani, *et al.*, (2009) who reported that *E. coli* (12.5%) isolates were susceptible to Ampicillin 57%, Erythromycin 25%, Tetracycline 4% to Chloramphenicol 40%, Kanamycin 75%, and Streptomycin.

However, it was observed that the *E.coli* species were found resistant to Ciprofloxacin and Polymyxin-B antibiotics, which have been also reported previously by Ljubojević, *et al.*, (2016), Khan *et al.* (2005), and Islam *et al.*, (2008) who isolated antibiotic-resistant *E. coli* from poultry litter to multiple antibiotics. Khan *et al.*, (2005) isolated nineteen Quinolone group drug-resistant *E. coli* isolates during 2002-03 from 200 poultry litter samples from Arkansas. They found that all isolates were resistant to multiple antibiotics such as Gentamicin, Kanamycin, Chloramphenicol, and Streptomycin. Similar results were observed by Islam *et al.*, (2008) from Bangladesh. They reported that all 30 positive *E. coli* spp. From poultry litter samples were resistance to Tetracycline (96.6%), Ciprofloxacin (30%), Penicillin (100%), Erythromycin (66.6%), Gentamycin (50%) and Chloramphenicol (100%). Adelowo *et al.*, (2009) study results showed multiple-resistances to antimicrobial drugs (Ampicillin, Tetracycline, Cotrimoxazole, Colistin, Gentamicin, Streptomycin, and Nalidixic acid).

Furtula *et al.* (2010) reported antibiotic resistance in *E. coli*. to seven antibiotics such as  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, Amoxicillin, Ceftiofur, Tetracyclines, and Sulphonamides. Adelowo *et al.*, (2014) reported similar results on antibiotic resistance in 36 *E. coli* isolated from litter of poultry farms in Southwestern Nigeria. Results showed that resistance to Tetracycline was 81%, Sulphamethoxazole 67%, Streptomycin 56%, Trimethoprim 47%, Ciprofloxacin 42%, Ampicillin 36%, Chloramphenicol 22%, Neomycin 14%, and Gentamicin 8%. Krnjaić *et al.*, (2005) observed the prevalence of antibiotics-resistant of *E. coli* strains isolated from chicken to Tetracycline (100%), Ampicillin (95%), Streptomycin (95%), Trimethoprim (60%), Neomycin (60%), Nalidixic acid (60%), Amoxicillin-clavulanate (45%), Cephalexin (20%), Ciprofloxacin/Enrofloxacin (15%), and Gentamycin (5%).

*Salmonella* isolates were observed for the antimicrobial resistant to the fourteen antibiotics. The isolated *salmonella* species has shown highly resistant While, most of *Salmonella* spp. have shown resistance against the Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin and sulfafurazole *Salmonella* spp. were intermediate sensitive to Amikacin, Oxacillin, Streptomycin and Cefixime. The isolated *salmonella* species has shown sensitivity to Amoxicillin, Erythromycin and Gentamycin as 24%, 23%, 20% respectively. *Salmonella* spp. While, most of *Salmonella* spp. Have similar results were observed by Gutierrez, (2020) who observed antimicrobial-resistant profiles of *Salmonella* in poultry litter from Florida. Isolated *Salmonella* isolates ( $n = 290$ ) were resistance to Tetracycline (29.8%), Sulfisoxazole (23.4%), and Streptomycin (14.9%).

Alam, *et al.*, (2020) studied the antibiotic-resistance in *Salmonella* species isolated from broiler farms in Bangladesh. Overall prevalence of *Salmonella* was observed 35%, with the highest multi drug resistant observed was found to Tetracycline (97.14%), Chloramphenicol (94.28%), Ampicillin (82.85%), and Streptomycin (77.14%).

## CONCLUSIONS

Higher prevalence of *E.coli* was observed in poultry litter than *Salmonella* species. Taluka wise higher prevalence of *E.coli* and *Salmonella* was observed in Sakrand and Nawab shah, whereas, lower prevalence was observed in Dour. *E. coli* and *Salmonella* were shown highly resistant to Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin and Sulphafurazole.

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