

Shigellosis: A Conformity Review of the Microbiology, Pathogenesis and Epidemiology with Consequence for Prevention and Management issues

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This paper has reviewed investigates that obtained from peer-reviewed literatures on Shigellosis. Foodborne diseases related to unhygienic food handling practices remain a major public health problem across the globe. The problem is rigorous in developing countries due to restrictions in securing most possible hygienic food handling practices. Data demonstrates that an estimated 75% of cases of diarrheal diseases are linked with the using up of foods contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms. Bacillary dysentery (Shigellosis) is a severe human disease caused by Shigellae. It is one of the major sources of diarrhoea in developing countries. The precise estimates of morbidity and mortality due to shigellosis are deficient, however it is widespread and has been reported to cause many outbreaks. The limited information available specifies Shigella to be a vital food borne pathogen in developing countries. In this Review, it is renowned that pathogenic Shigella is still public health problem. Therefore, a large amount of information has been generated concerning the host, pathogen and environmental factors that impact the pathogenesis of shigellosis at the cellular and molecular level and summarizes what is currently known about Shigella, elementing those features that contribute to pathogenesis and investigating the existing progress in the development of safe and low-cost multivalent vaccine. Thus this review is focused upon the epidemiology, disease burden and the therapeutic challenges of Shigellosis in developing countries perception.

Keywords: Shigellosis, Epidemiology, MDR, Pathogenesis, Shigella, Food-borne pathogens, Antibiotic Resistance.

In medicine, “diarrhoea” means “a flow through”, also defined as “the passage of three or more loose or liquid stools per day, more frequently than is normal for the personality”^{1,2}. If left untreated, diarrhoea can lead to severe dehydration, which can result in hospitalisation or even death. Diarrhea disease is widespread all over the world, not only threatens human health but also greatly influence society and global economy. The fatality rate by diarrhea disease exceedingly ranks fourth

among all the diseases, only lower than tumour, Cardiovascular or Cerebral vessels diseases and diabetes mellitus, effects are worse in developing countries and low revenue countries and it has became one of problems of the worldwide major public health. WHO treats the organize of diarrhea disease as global strategy and also according to the scheme of control of diarrhea disease was ratified in May, 1978 (Figure 1).

It is usually the symptom of gastrointestinal infection, most cases of diarrhoea in children result from infection caused by a variety of viruses, bacteria or parasites, which disturb the normal fluid and nutrient assimilation of the intestines. As per

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UNICEF data: Monitoring the situation of Children and Women report June 2016, diarrhoeal diseases accounting for 9 percent of all deaths among the children under- five years of age making them the second largely common cause of child deaths worldwide. This translates into over 1,400 young children dying each day or nearly 1.34 million deaths a year³, most deaths from diarrhoea occur along with children less than 2 years of age living in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Over half of the fatality occurs in just five countries: India, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

As it core, in developing countries like India, diarrhoeal infection remains a major health problem, due to infection constitute a major burden disease⁴. Fifteen countries contribute three divisions of childhood causality due to diarrhoea in children less than five years of age worldwide out of which India ranks first⁵. In India acute diarrhoeal diseases lead to 13% deaths under five years of age group, for the period of 2009, concerning 11.2 million cases with 1,762 deaths were accounted⁶. According to a statistical survey, by National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease, Kolkata, (India), basic death rate due to diarrhoea in rural India is 9.3 for each 1,000 populations and the diarrhoeal deaths account for 22% of total rural deaths among 0 to six years age group children (NICED, Kolkata). Rotavirus is the single most common pathogen which causes gastroenteritis in together developed and developing countries but the inclination of bacterial enteropathogens vary largely between developed and developing countries⁷.

The causes of relentless diarrhoea in populations are poorly understood. Five types of *Escherichia coli* are responsible for significantly 25% of all diarrhoeal diseases in developing countries. *Shigella* species are accountable for 10 to 15% of severe diarrhoeas in children less than 5 years of age. Other bacterial enteropathogens are *Vibrio cholera*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Aeromonas* species, *Bacteroides fragilis* and *Providencia alkalifaciens* appeared to be the most common etiological causes but certain situations are associated through and particularly high incidence of acute diarrhoeal diseases⁸. The trends of bacterial enteropathogens causing gastroenteritis keep on altering with change in pattern of living and environmental hygiene⁷. So the periodic

renewal of the knowledge concerning the trends of the bacterial enteropathogens is very crucial. An epidemiologic revision of an infectious disease in a community is constantly measured to be a primary action towards the introduction of the proper involvements for overprotective of disease since the characteristics and the model of isolation of etiologic agents of the disease fluctuate from place to place depending on the confined meteorology, geography and socio-economic elements⁹.

A preface to *Shigella* bacteria

Shigella is a species of enteric bacteria that originates diseases in humans and other primates^{10, 11}. The disease originated by the ingestion of *Shigella* bacteria is referred as Shigellosis. Shigellosis is a bacterial infection of the intestinal tract caused through bacteria of the genus *Shigella* and manifested by diarrhoea. This is a well known agent of bacillary dysentery, infantile diarrhoea all over the world and more serious than the common “stomach flu”. *Shigella* species was the second most widespread bacterial agents causing diarrhoea after *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)¹². Shigellosis is endemic to many developing countries and also occurs in outbreak causing substantial morbidity and mortality. The foremost symptom of this infection is bloody diarrhoea and the least infective dose is as low as 10-100 bacterial cells due to virtual resistance to stomach acid. Shigellosis is a major public health concern worldwide, mostly in developing countries^{13, 14}. *Shigella* infection is characterized with high fever (>38.5°C [101.3°F]), abdominal cramps, diarrhea, tenesmus, and polymorph nuclear leukocytes on a methylene blue stain of the faecal matter; extraintestinal appearances and complications also occur.

Evolution and Identification of *Shigella*

The numerous types of *Shigella* bacteria have been named after the lead workers who discovered each one^{10, 11, 15}. The first bacterium to be discovered, *Shigella dysenteriae*, was named after Kiyoshi Shiga, a Japanese scientist who discovered it in 1896 as investigating a large epidemic of dysentery in Japan^{16, 17}. The bacterium was also referred to a genus of generally as the dysentery bacillus (the word “bacillus referring to a class of Gram-positive, rod shaped bacteria of which *Shigella* is a member)¹⁷.

In summary published annually, the CDC provides an overview of the classification

of various types (species) of *Shigella* bacteria as; the genus *Shigella* consists of four major serological groups belonging A to D according to their O-polysaccharide antigens subsequent to the four species, correspondingly¹⁸. In current taxonomy, these four serological subgroups are accepted as four species within the genus *Shigella*: *Shigella dysenteriae* (*S. dysenteriae*), *Shigella flexneri* (*S. flexneri*), *Shigella boydii* (*S. boydii*) and *Shigella sonnei* (*S. sonnei*). The four distinct species can be distinguished on the basis of serogrouping and biochemical analysis¹⁹. Around 70% of the children with Shigellosis are infected with *Shigella flexneri*, 20% with *Shigella sonnei* and the remaining 10% with *Shigella dysenteriae* or *Shigella boydii*.

General Characteristics and Epidemiology of Genus *Shigella*

The cells of the *Shigella* species are Gram-negative bacilli, nonmotile, non-spore-forming, facultative anaerobic rods²⁰. *Shigella* is differentiated from the closely related *Escherichia coli* on the basis of pathogenicity, physiology (failure to ferment lactose or decarboxylation lysine) and serology. They are generally catalase positive and oxidase and lactose negative. They ferment sugars, usually without forming gas. The strains are able to at temperatures ranging from 20°C and 46°C, with an optimum at 37°C and at a pH range of 5.0 to 7.5. The common selective or differential agar media used for the culturing of *Shigella* are MacConkey (MAC), Xylose Lysine Deoxycholate (XLD), Hektoen (HEK), *Salmonella-Shigella* (SS), Deoxycholate Citrate Agar (DCA). The genus is divided into four serogroups with over 2,500 identified multiple serotypes^{21,22}.

The genus *Shigella* was divided into four species viz., *Shigella dysenteriae* (serogroup A), *Shigella flexneri* (serogroup B), *Shigella boydii* (serogroup C) and *Shigella sonnei* (serogroup D). Based on the variations in their O- polysaccharide portion of their LPS, the species were further classified into several serotypes, as *S. dysenteriae* known to have 15 serotypes, *S. flexneri* have 14 serotypes and sub serotypes, *S. boydii* 20 serotypes and *S. sonnei* with a single serotype^{23,24} (Table 1).

Shigellosis is a global human health problem. Annually, there are 165 million cases of shigellosis resulting in 1.1 million deaths in

the developing world with high morbidity and mortality (99%)^{25,26}. Of these 1.1 million deaths due to *Shigella*, 69% are in children aged less than five years^{23, 25}. It is endemic in most developing countries where substandard hygiene and unsafe water supplies, in densely populated areas and institutions^{27,28}. Humans are the only natural hosts for *Shigella*. Both endemic and epidemic shigellosis is present in developing countries. Among 69% infections, 61% of all deaths were reported in the children less than 5 years of age. *S. flexneri* and *S. sonnei* were responsible for increased percentage of infections in the developing as well as in the industrialized countries. It has been reported that annually around 58 million travelers from industrialized countries were affected. Bacillary dysentery was also reported among the military troops²³. During a sporadic outbreak of dysentery in Kolkata, *S. dysenteriae* type I and *S. flexneri* were the commonest serotypes found in the tested stool samples of the patients 29-32. A surveillance report of *Shigella* infections in Indonesia states that *Shigella* was isolated from 9.3% of diarrhea patients in the health centres. *S. flexneri* was found in 5.9% of patients, and was the most frequent species isolated, comprising 63.2% (36/57) of all *Shigella* species isolated. *Shigella* species were found significantly more often among children over 2 years old, and the rate of isolation increased with age. In a multicentre study of *Shigella* infection in six Asian countries, *S. flexneri* was found to be predominant in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Indonesia and Vietnam site whereas *S. sonnei* was common in Thailand; *S. boydii* was responsible for the series of infection in Bangladesh³³. Kimura *et al.*, reported about *S. sonnei* outbreak in United States through the commercially prepared food³⁴. *S. boydii* was generally found only in the Indian subcontinent²⁵. Stool with mucus and/or blood were the main characteristics of *Shigella* infection in these patients³⁵. Meta-analysis from PubMed and Chinese biomedical literature database showed the prevalence of *S. flexneri* and *S. sonnei* in mainland China from 2001 until 2012³⁶.

The most frequently reported factor associated with the involvement of the infected worker was bare hand contact with the food followed by failure to properly wash hands, inadequate cleaning of processing or preparation equipment or utensils, cross-contamination

of ready-to-eat foods by contaminated raw ingredients. In United States and Europe, children in day-care centres, migrant workers, travelers to developing countries and individuals in custodial institutions are infected most often³⁷.

Biology and Biochemistry of *Shigella* species

Upon ingestion, the bacteria continue to exist in the gastric environment of the stomach or abdomen and make its way to the large intestine. Where it attaches and enters the epithelial cells of the intestinal mucosa. Post invasion, *Shigella* multiplies intracellular and spreads to Neighbouring epithelial cells resulting in tissue destruction and representative pathology of shigellosis. Generally, *Shigella* adheres to the membrane of the cell and is internalized by an endosome which it consequently lyses to gain access to the cytoplasm where multiplication takes place³⁸. *Shigella* infects the host during the M-cells in the gut epithelia of the small intestine, as they cannot enter directly through the epithelial cells. Using a Type III secretion system acting as a biological syringe, the bacterium injects Invasion plasmid antigen D (IpaD) proteins into cells, triggering bacterial infect and the subsequent lyses of vacuolar membranes using IpaB and IpaC proteins²³. Extracellular *Shigella* is not motile but intracellularly it is able to move occupying the entire cytoplasm of the infected cell and between cells. It uses a mechanism for its motility by which its *IcsA* and *IcsB* proteins trigger action polymerization in the host cell (via N-WASP recruitment of Arp2/3 complexes) in a rocket propulsion fashion for cell-to cell spread³⁹. Specifically, movement between adjacent cells is facilitated by the *IcsA* protein.

After successful epithelial cell invasion and penetration of the colonic mucosa by the bacteria, there is deterioration of the epithelium and inflammation of the lamina propria culminating in desquamation and ulceration of the mucosa and subsequent leakage of blood, inflammatory elements and mucus into the intestinal lumen²³. Thus the characteristic passage of recurrent and mealy dysenteric stool mixed with blood and mucus. Absorption of water by the colon is inhibited under these conditions²⁰. Some strains of *Shigella* produce enterotoxins and *shiga*-toxins similar to the verotoxins of *E. coli* O157:H7. The toxin has a molecular weight of 68kDa and is a multi-subunit protein consisting of one molecule

of an A subunit (32,000 MW) and five molecules of the B subunit (7,700 MW). Both *shiga*-toxins and verotoxins are associated with haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), Haemolytic colitis and dysentery³⁹. The names of these conditions are dependent on the causative organism and symptoms range from severe diarrhoea, abdominal pain, vomiting and bloody urine. Each of the *Shigella* genomes includes a virulence plasmid that encodes conserved primary virulence determinants. The *Shigella* chromosomes share most of their genes with those of *E. coli* K12 strain MG1655²⁰. No antidote exists for these toxins. Thus supportive care requires maintenance of fluid and electrolyte levels and monitoring and support for kidney function. Inactivation of the toxin is achieved by steam treatment, oxidizing agents such as bleach and chemical sterilizing agents such as glutaraldehyde. The toxin acts on the lining of the blood vessels, the vascular endothelium. The B subunits of the toxin bind to a cell membrane component, Gb3, and the complex enters the cell. Once inside, the A subunit interacts with the ribosomes to inactivate them. The A subunit of the *Shiga*-toxin is a Glycosidase that modifies the RNA component of the ribosome to inactivate it and thereby bring a halt to protein synthesis of the cell leading to cell death⁴⁰.

The vascular endothelium has to continually renew itself. Hence, cell death leads to breakdown of the lining leading to haemorrhage. The primary response is characteristically bloody diarrhoea. For unexplained reasons, the toxin is seemingly effective against small blood vessels such as found in the digestive tract, kidneys and lungs but not against vessels such as the arteries or major veins. A specific target for the toxin appears to be the vascular endothelium of the glomerulus destroying the structures and concluding in kidney failure and the development of the often deadly and frequent debilitating haemolytic uremic syndrome. Food poisoning with *Shiga*-toxin often has an effect on the lungs and the nervous system⁴¹.

Clinical Manifestation

Shigella spp. is the causative agent of the disease shigellosis. This severe intestinal infection is also called as bacillary dysentery. Globally, this disease is known as a major burden in public health care²³. It is first and foremost a disease of humans. The disease is characterized by injure of

the colonic epithelium followed by intracellular and intercellular spread, infection in the nearby or near to cells and the host's acute inflammatory reactions leads to colitis of the mucosa. It results in the leakage of blood and mucous in the intestinal lumen⁴¹. Since the disease is acquired via the faecal-oral route, the rigorousness and the series of symptoms may be dependent upon the number of organisms ingested. The symptoms vary from mild watery diarrhea to severe inflammatory dysentery with the passage of frequent bloody and mucoid stools. The other symptoms include fever, malaise, abdominal cramping and convulsions. The beginning of symptoms usually occurs within 24 to 48 hours of ingestion of the etiologic agent. Like other complications of shigellosis include bacteraemia, septicaemia, hypoglycaemia, dehydration, haemolytic-uremic syndrome, reactive arthritis, toxic megacolon and other neurological problems⁴². The persons infected with *S. flexneri* subsequently develop pain in their joints, irritation of the eyes and painful urination. This condition is called Reiter's syndrome. It is the late complication of *S. flexneri* infection and lasts for months which lead to chronic arthritis. Shiga toxin of *S. dysenteriae* type I is responsible for the Haemolytic-uremic syndrome. Usually, shigellosis is a self-limiting disease. Life-threatening are often seen in malnourished infants and young children less than 5 years of age, also in elderly people who have weak immune system^{23,43,44}.

Pathogenesis of *Shigella*

Infection is initiated by ingestion of Shigellae (usually via faecal-oral contamination). The organism enters the host and travels through the digestive system until it reaches the large intestine. In general the infection is limited to the intestinal mucosa. Pathogenesis is initiated by the invasion through the basal face of the intestinal epithelium by *Shigella*. Thus, upon reaching the large intestine, *Shigella* is taken up in vacuoles by microfold cell (M cells) which are specialized structure of the follicle associated epithelium which covers the mucosal lymphoid follicles, the stimulating site of the mucosal immune system^{45,46}. The organism escapes from the vacuole and finally travels to underlying macrophages that are associated with M cell-associated lymphoid follicles⁴⁷. *Shigella* is phagocytised by macrophages in the dome area of these follicles, which then induces apoptosis

which results in the escape of the pathogen to the basal side of the colonic epithelium. Studies also report that virulent *S. flexneri* causes destruction to the host cell mitochondria and triggers necrosis in the infected human monocyte derived macrophage⁴⁸. Another study indicated that *Shigella* induced mitochondrial dysfunction in non myeloid cells; result in caspase-independent necrotic cell death through a new pathway during oxidative cell stress in epithelial cells⁴⁹. Death of the macrophage results in the release of proinflammatory cytokine IL-12 which eventually results in the recruitment of polymorphonuclear (PMN) cells to the site of infection and the onset of inflammation^{47,50,51}.

Meanwhile, the bacteria induce their own uptake into colonic epithelial cells and spread laterally through the cells of the epithelium by a process known as action based motility (ABM) through the comet tail formation⁵². This actin based filamentous tail propels the Shigellae into the protrusions on the contiguous enterocytes. During cell-cell spread the plasma membrane envelops the bacteria are lysed which results in the intracellular replication and intercellular bacterial spread^{47,53}. As the inflammation persists and expands, the infiltration of the PMNs facilitates the entry of additional bacteria onto the epithelium. Ultimately, it is the cells of the host's immune system that cause inflammation and ulceration of the mucosa to the colon and develops the symptoms associated with shigellosis^{45,54-57}. It has been reported that the destruction of epithelial cells in the experimental models of shigellosis is due to the host inflammatory response and probably not by the intracellular multiplication of the pathogen⁵⁸.

Transmission of and Infection with *Shigella*

Shigella infections are very transmissible; transmission of the disease is mainly by person-to-person contact through contaminated hands⁵⁹. Outbreaks in children consistently occur under situation associating close physical contact, such as those come across in day-care centres, nursing homes, custodial institutions, cruise ships, aboriginal reservations and packed refugee camps, with poor hygiene practices and contaminated food or water serving as the vehicle for infection⁶¹⁻⁶³. It is approximated that up 80% of all infection is the result of shigellosis transmission; the infectious dose is as low as 10-100 organism. Numerous studies have exposed an increased frequency of

shigellosis cases in young adult men residing in urban settings who have little, if any, disclosure to these traditionally recognised risk groups. Although some of these studies designated that sex between men able to be a risk-factor, most of these studies transpired before the HIV epidemic ⁶⁴.

Shigella infections also may be acquired from consumption of contaminated food. In the developed and developing countries, incidence of foodborne illness is cited through foodNet, a reporting system used by public health agencies

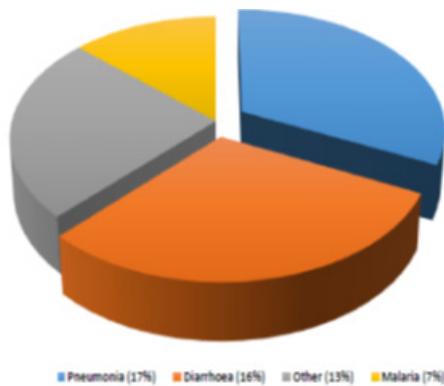


Fig. 1. Proportional distribution of cause of disease among children below five years of age in India (Source: Based on WHO, Global Burden of Diseases estimates to the most recent estimates for the total number of less than-five deaths)

that occupies foodborne illness in over 13% of the population of the ten pathogens; *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Shigella* are responsible for most cases of foodborne illness. An estimated 20% of the total number of cases of shigellosis involved food as the vehicle of transmission ⁶⁴.

Symptoms of *Shigella* infection

Shigellosis has mild infection cause low-grade fever (about 100.4 to 102°F [38 to 38.9°C]) and watery diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps and abdominal pain one to four days after people exposed to the bacteria, symptoms may start 6-72 hours after infection. Some adults not have a fever. In adults, the first indications may be painful abdominal cramps and a continual longing to secrete. Passing stool may temporarily mitigate the pain. These symptoms may develop into more severe and appear more usually as the infection progresses. Serious infections may cause low-grade or moderate fever and watery diarrhea that progress to dysentery. *Shigella* bacteria produce toxins that can invasion the lining of the large intestine, lead to swelling, ulcers on the intestinal wall and bloody diarrhea. The severity of the diarrhea sets Shigellosis apart from routine diarrhea. In kids with Shigellosis, the primary bowel movement is often oversized and watery. Later bowel movements may be smaller, frequent, but stool may have blood, pus and mucus in it.

In very severe cases of Shigellosis, an infected person may have seizures, a rigid neck,

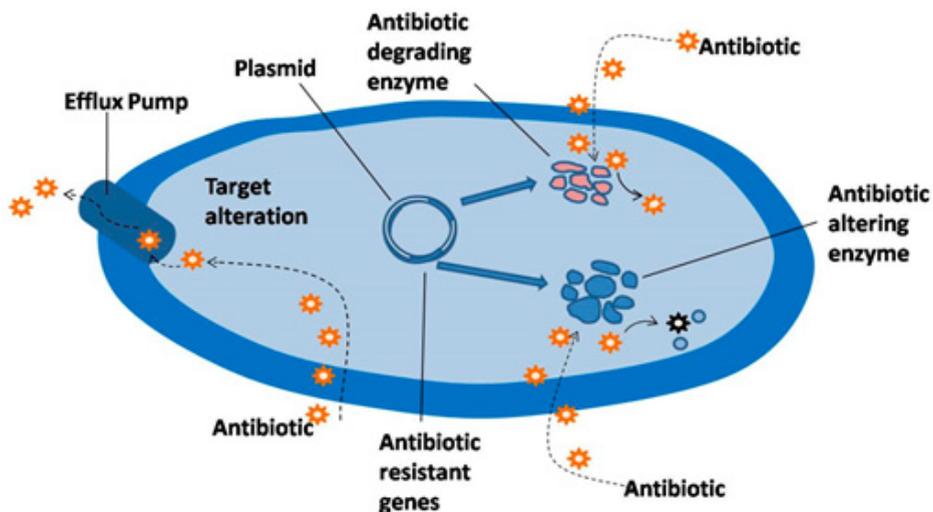


Fig. 2. Chief Bacterial targets and various ways of resisting the action of antibiotics (Source by; Harish Chandra et al, 2017)

Table 1. Species and Serogroups of *Shigella* (Thomas and Gerald, 2000)

Species	Serogroup	Serotypes	
<i>S.dysenteriae</i>	A	1-12	Most common, with outbreaks
<i>S.flexneri</i>	B	1-6(with 15 subtypes)	Developing Countries
<i>S.boydii</i>	C	1-18	
<i>S.sonnei</i>	D	1	Developed countries *

(* Kotloff, 1999; Prado, 1999)

a headache, acute tiredness and uncertainty. Shigellosis can also lead to dehydration and in odd cases, other complications, like arthritis, skin rashes and kidney failure. Some cases in children with serious cases of Shigellosis may need to be hospitalised. Shigellosis usually resolves in 5 to 7 days⁶⁵. A severe infection with high fever may be having with seizures in children less than two years old 28. Some persons who are infected may have no signs at all, but may still overtake the *Shigella* bacteria to others^{10, 15}.

Prevalence of *Shigella* infection

Most *Shigella* infections result sporadically, but huge *Shigella* epidemic have been traced to contaminated food and water. The CDC estimates that 4, 50,000 total of Shigellosis appear in the development countries every year^{15, 66}. In local Gulbarga district and surrounding region of Gulbarga (Karnataka state), diarrhoea has been estimated to be responsible for approximately 11-13% of all childhood illness, with a population of about 5, 32,031. Among the four species of *Shigella*, *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Shigella flexnerii* were more predominant one⁶⁷. Shigellosis also characterized by seasonality with the largest percentage of accounted cases occurring between July and October and the smallest percentage occurring in January, February and March²⁸. Non-outbreak infections account for the majority of cases and in general, the precise means through which persons are infected (risk factors) are not yet well renowned or understood. *Shigella* is a particularly common reason of disease among young children, in large part since it is difficult to control the spread of the bacteria in day-care settings¹⁰. The symptoms of shigellosis vary so widely that children shedding *Shigella* in their stool may show no indications of infection. A person infected with *Shigella* can be asymptomatic (show no symptoms of illness), suffer from moderate to

rigorous diarrhea, or suffer complications up to and including death¹⁵.

Antimicrobial Resistance in *Shigella* bacteria

Antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria is developing and increasing risk to human health^{68, 69}. Physicians are progressively attentive that antimicrobial resistance is increasing in bacterial pathogens and that, as a result, patients who are recommended antibiotics are at increased risk for promoting antimicrobial-resistant various infections⁷⁰. Certainly, “increased frequency of treatment failures for acute illness and increased relentless of infection may be signified by continued duration of illness, increased frequency of bloodstream infections, increased hospitalization or expanded fatality”. The need of antimicrobial agents in the feed of food animals is estimated by the FDA to be over 100 million pounds per year. It is estimated that 36% to 70% of all antibiotics produced in the United States are used in food animal feed or in preventative treatment to counter animal disease⁶⁸. In 2002, the Minnesota Medical Association printed an article by David Wallinga, M.D., M.P.H. who wrote: According to the [Union of Concerned Scientists], 70 percent of entire antimicrobials used in the United States and developing countries for all intents or about 24.6 million pounds annually are fed to poultry, swine and beef cattle for nontherapeutic point, in the non appearance of disease. Over half are “medically important” antimicrobials; identical or so closely related to human medications that resistance to the animal medicine can confer resistance to the similar human drug. Penicillin, tetracycline, macrolides, streptogramins and sulphonamides are prominent examples⁷¹ (Figure 2).

Important enteric pathogens like *Vibrio cholera*, *E.coli*, *Shigella* spp, *Salmonella* spp and *Campylobacter jejuni* are becoming gradually more resistant to the major antibiotics that are

needed for optimal treatment of patients and these bacterial pathogens are very diverse from one another. They cause quite different clinical syndromes; their ecology, epidemiology and method of transmission are distinct; and they are usually separated genetically. The fact that such different organisms are developing increasingly antibiotic-resistant underlines the pervasiveness of the pressures that lead to the emergence and spread of resistance. Over the past decades, *Shigella* species show a pattern of steadily increasing and have become even more resistant to most widely-used antimicrobials^{72, 73}. The increasing levels of antimicrobial resistance of *Shigella* isolates have complicated the treatment of shigellosis. The antimicrobial resistance mould of *Shigella* species differ according to geographic area and in the same place over time, leading to therapeutic problems⁷⁴⁻⁷⁷. Periodic regional monitoring of disease with serotype breakdown and regular periodic antibiotic-susceptibility testing mode of isolates to conduct local empirical therapy are important factors for the adequate control of shigellosis.

The clinical consequences of antibiotic resistance differ among the pathogenic bacterial diarrhoea agents. For shigellosis, antibiotics are the primary treatment. Patients treated with an ineffective antibiotic may have more complications than condition that, they had not been treated, since the antibiotic is likely to affect the normal intestinal flora, thus actually supporting the growth of the resistant *Shigella*.

Infantile diarrhoea is a major disease and has been posing a vast communal health problem in developing countries like India over the years. The traditional antishigellosis drugs chlormaphenicol, ampicillin and sulphamethoxazole have developed into out of date. In recent years, fluoroquinolones, especially ciprofloxacin have been very successful in combating Shigellosis but unfortunately, resistant strains have emerged. The emergence of high-level ciprofloxacin resistance in *Shigella* sps has also been reported in India⁷⁹ among *Shigella* poses a major therapeutic challenge to manage this disease. One of the reasons for emergence of multi-drug resistant *Shigella* sps is the unique capability of the pathogen to acquire resistance factors (transmissible genes) from the environment or from other bacteria. Antimicrobial resistance is usually conferred by certain genes. A large number

of resistance related genes have reported for each group of antimicrobials. It is impossible to study all the reported genes, so most commonly isolated predominant isolates and reported genes were selected for this study. Fluoroquinolone, especially ciprofloxacin are the most regularly used drugs for Shigellosis treatment. Reduced susceptibility to the fluoroquinolone group of antibiotics is usually linked with point mutations in the bacterial target genes *gyrA*, *gyrB* encoding DNA gyrase and *parC*, *parE* encoding DNA topoisomerase IV.

At present, multi-drug resistance has complicated the assortments of empirical agents used for treatment of Shigellosis, particularly in children. The emergence of fluoroquinolone resistance in *Shigella* sps and their dissemination across the countries⁸⁰ due to;

i) Point mutations, intrinsic resistance and extra chromosomal resistance that result in amino acid substitution in chromosomal genes intended for DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV, the targets of fluoroquinolone action.

ii) Changes in expression of efflux pumps and outer membrane permeability to facilitate control the accumulation of these agents inside the bacterial cells⁸².

iii) A wide range of molecular mechanism, such as the presence of β -lactamases dihydrofolate reductase, Chl acetyltransferase (CAT) enzymes and many others⁸³⁻⁸⁵.

These acquired mechanisms of survival by *Shigella* sps have contributed to the persistence of this pathogen, thus making the antibiotic treatment therapy failure. Preparing the prevention and treatment protocols with natural patterns in this regard seems to be necessary.

Prevention and Control

The most useful methods for controlling shigellosis are prerequisite of safe and plentiful water and efficient faeces disposal. Prevention of dysentery caused by *Shigella* relies mainly on measures that prevent spread of the organism within the community and from person to person²⁶. These include:

- Hand-washing with soap
- Ensuring the availability of safe drinking water
- Safely disposing of human waste
- Breastfeeding of infants and young children

- Safe handling and processing of food
- Control of flies

These measures will not only reduce the occurrence of shigellosis, but of other diarrhoeal diseases as well. In all cases, health education and the cooperation of the community in executing control measures are important. In general, several studies and Edwards (1999) ⁸⁶ reported that the most effective intercession approach to minimize morbidity and mortality would involve comprehensive media and personal outreach programs consisting of the following components:

- Education of all residents to actively avoid faecal contamination of food and water and to encourage
 - Hand washing after defecation;
 - Encourage mother to breast feed infants;
 - Promote the use of oral rehydration therapy to offset the effects of acute diarrhea;
 - Encourage mothers to provide convalescent nutritional care in the form of extra food for children
 - Recovering from diarrhea or dysentery.

The input to avoid infection by *Shigella* is prevention of fecal contamination in drinking water and food supplies. Since the only source of this agent is infected humans, it is possible to control transmission by proper hygiene, waste management, water purification and treatment of the sick. Health education is vital to elevate public awareness and provoke behaviour change.

Vaccination: There is a strong need for an effective, safe and low-cost vaccine against shigellosis ⁴⁴. The high disease burden of shigellosis in developing countries, children <5 yr of age as the core sufferers, difficulty in attaining adequate sanitation and personal hygiene in these regions and scarce therapeutic alternatives for emerging multiple drug resistance *Shigella* point towards vaccination as a hope for effective and sustainable approach against shigellosis. Shigellosis is targeted by WHO as one of those enteric infections for which novel vaccines are most needed, the target populations being travellers from developed countries and military service personnel, as well as children existing in endemic areas ^{23, 44}.

Even though the need for a *Shigella* vaccine is urgent, not much development has been done due to the antigenic complexity, lack of inter-species cross-protective epitopes, and gaps in

understanding of the protective immune response. Numerous diverse types of vaccines against *Shigella* have been experimentally tested in animal models and in volunteer trials ⁸⁷. Various live attenuated vaccines such as the old parenteral killed whole-cell vaccine was effective but produced strong side-effects because of LPS. Yang et al., (2001) ⁸⁹ showed that two safe and useful vaccines are now licensed and available. One is based on defined subunit antigens (Vi polysaccharide, is given in a single dose Subcutaneous), the other on whole-cell live attenuated bacteria (the live oral vaccine Ty21a, available in enteric-coated capsule or liquid formulation ⁸⁹. Vaccination against shigellosis before or during an outbreak condition should consequently be critically considered as an effective tool.

CONCLUSION

Shigellosis remains an important public health problem and produces a substantial global disease burden, particularly for young children in developing countries being of epidemiological importance. Outbreaks of infection with *Shigella* species are difficult to control because of the low infectious inoculum and ease of transmission. Antimicrobial therapy is advocated for shigellosis to shorten the duration of illness. However, in developing countries like India, antimicrobial resistance is an emerging problem in *Shigella* species, treatment options are becoming limited globally and resulting in reduced efficacies of antimicrobial therapy. Rapid emergence of resistance to antimicrobials over time warrants the need for continuous monitoring of sensitivity patterns and this has become a challenge in the management of shigellosis. So the practicing the prevention, management issue and develop into protocols with natural pattern consider to be essential.

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Ethical approval

This research was conducted in compliance with the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee and other federal statutes and regulations relating to animals (Lcp/PQ.col/IAEC/P/86/2016, 346/CPCSEA).

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