

ABSTRACT

In this study, an attempt was made to assess the impact of poultry farms on the health status of adjacent communities, with specific reference to acute diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections.

The study design utilised a comparative analysis of disease prevalence in four communities, two of which had poultry farms immediately adjoining.

An attempt was made to initially control for, then subsequently assess, the net impact of the confounding variables associated with these two diseases.

A household survey was used for obtaining the relevant information on disease prevalence and confounders.

Acute diarrhoeal disease in children under 5 years was significantly more prevalent in the two 'poultry farm communities'.

However, analysis of the confounding variables showed that the increased prevalence was most likely due to the net impact of the confounding variables, rather than the presence of the poultry farms.

The results for acute respiratory infections were inconsistent and inconclusive.