



### REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57940

**Title: Phenotypic and Molecular Characterization of ESBL-Producing Escherichia coli and Klebsiella spp. in a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital in South India.**

**Recommendation:**

Accept as it is ..

Accept after minor revision

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

Reviewer ID: JP085

**Reviewer's Comment for Publication.**

This study investigated the prevalence, antibiotic resistance pattern, and molecular characteristics of ESBL-producing Escherichia coli and Klebsiella spp. isolated from clinical samples in a tertiary care hospital in Tamil Nadu, India. The study found a high prevalence of ESBL-producing isolates, with blaCTX-M being the most common ESBL gene. The findings highlight the growing problem of multidrug-resistant bacteria and the need for routine screening and antimicrobial stewardship programs.

**Strength:**

1. Important and clinically relevant topic related to antimicrobial resistance
2. Combined phenotypic and molecular methods for ESBL detection
3. Clear study objectives and methodology
4. Ethical approval obtained and mentioned
5. Provides useful antibiotic susceptibility data

**Weakness:**

1. Small sample size.
2. Single-center study limits generalization of findings
3. Study data are relatively old
4. Limited ESBL genes analyzed; other resistance genes were not investigated
5. No patient demographic or clinical outcome data included
6. Discussion section is brief and lacks detailed comparison with recent studies.

**Overall assessment:**

This manuscript addresses an important public health issue and provides valuable information on ESBL-producing E. coli and Klebsiella spp. The use of both phenotypic and molecular techniques strengthens the study. However, the limited sample size, older dataset, and lack of broader molecular analysis reduce the impact of the findings. Updating the discussion with recent literature and improving data presentation would strengthen the manuscript.

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**Recommendation:** Manuscript accepted for publication after minor revision.