

Prevalence and Risk Factors of *Ascaris lumbricoides* Infection: Experience form Some Rural Communities of Assam

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ABSTRACT This study describes the prevalence and socio-environmental predictors *Ascaris lumbricoides* infection in rural communities in Assam, India. Two sequential stool samples from 580 residents selected from three rural areas were examined for intestinal parasites. Information on many potential risk factors for infection was obtained by questionnaire from a respondent in each household studied. To control for confounding factors Cox's proportional hazards analysis (assuming constant risk period) was used. In the overall multivariate model, open field defaecation was the only factor found independently associated with *Ascaris* infection. There was no gender specific difference in overall prevalence of *Ascaris* infection, however, there was statistically significant declining trend in prevalence with the increasing age in females. Implication of these results for the epidemiology and control of *Ascaris* infection are briefly discussed.