

## Global dynamics of a staged progression model for whooping cough

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### Abstract

This paper introduces a comprehensive stability analysis of a pertussis (whooping cough) model that incorporates staged disease progression. To examine the asymptotic and symptomatic behavior of the disease with respect to the model's equilibria, a qualitative analysis of the model is conducted. The local stability of the disease-free equilibrium is demonstrated using the Jacobian stability method, demonstrating its local asymptotic stability. Additionally, the comparison method is utilized to demonstrate the global stability of the model, establishing that the disease-free equilibrium achieves global asymptotic stability when the basic reproduction number falls below one. Numerical simulations based on baseline data further validate the analytical results. Furthermore, the research explores the influence of varying some of the model parameters.

**Keywords:** Whooping cough disease; Mathematical model; Equilibria; Global Stability.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

According to Jamal et al., (2022), whooping cough, sometime referred to as pertussis, is an acute bacterial illness that affects the respiratory system and is contagious. It is a respiratory condition that ranks among the world's main causes of illness in both adults and children, even after decades of existence, it continues to be a major worry in the medical field in both industrialized and developing nations

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Less than a year-old infant, especially those under six months old, face the highest complications of disease and are a major victim of the illness and its mortality (De Cellès *et al.*, 2018; Fabricius *et al.*, 2018; Tilahun *et al.*, 2018; Stepanikova *et al.*, 2024). The disease complications include apnea, pneumonia, convulsions, and even death.

*Bordetella pertussis*, a Gram-negative bacterium, is the causative agent of whooping cough. It is an airborne disease, as indicated in (Mattoo and Cherry, 2005; Koenig *et al.*, 2019), the disease can travel through droplets in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. A healthy individual can contract the infection by breathing in the contaminated air. This results in infection of normal individual. Incubation period of the disease ranges from 7 to 10 days. While brain disease and convulsions are uncommon, pneumonia is a quite common side effect. It is characterized by coughing fits that last four to eight weeks which is very contagious in the three weeks of infection.

The history of whooping cough traces back to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century (Bokhari *et al.*, 2012), with the earliest documented outbreak occurring in France in 1578. A significant epidemic struck Cape Town in 1947, resulting in 107 fatalities (Joshi *et al.*, 2019). In the early 2010s, outbreaks were reported in the USA, Ireland, and Israel. In 2014, California experienced over 10,000 cases of whooping cough, marking it as the most severe outbreak since 1947. According to a report published in 2014, there were about 24.1 million cases of whooping cough in 2023, with 160,700 deaths in younger children around the world (Alqarni *et al.*, 2022). In line with WHO, there were more than 151,000 whooping cough cases in 2018 (Alqarni *et al.*, 2022).

Effective vaccination is essential for lowering the risk of whooping cough. Currently available vaccines include acellular vaccines made of highly purified whooping cough antigens and whole-cell vaccines made of inactivated *Bordetella pertussis*. In certain areas, adults are also given booster doses of whooping cough vaccine to strengthen their immune systems, and doses are given to expectant mothers to protect preterm infants. The scientific community has been very interested in mathematical modelling because of its ability to explain real-world occurrences and offer a deeper understanding of the system being studied. It has been used to represent problems in a variety of fields, including economics, chemistry, biology and physics (Ibragimov *et al.*, 2017; Serovajsky, 2021; Azizi, 2024). Primarily, mathematical models have been employed to furnish policymakers in the field of public health with enhanced comprehension regarding the unpredictable nature and dynamic transmission of many illnesses (Brauer *et al.*, 2019; Ullah *et al.*, 2020; Chahine *et al.*, 2024).

Ordinary differential equation-based Mathematical model can pinpoint factors that either inhibit or accelerate the spread of infectious diseases. These include; Pertussis (Ogbuagu *et al.*, 2024), Monkeypox (Akinyemi *et al.*, 2023; Manivel *et al.*, 2024), Tuberculosis (Dago *et al.*, 2015), Cholera (Abubakar and Ibrahim, 2022), Ebola (Wang *et al.*, 2023; Akinyemi *et*

*et al.*, 2023), and HIV (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2015; Ayoade *et al.*, 2024; Odebiyi *et al.*, 2024). Many of these mathematical models do not exhibit global stability, so suitable methods are frequently employed. Some mathematical models with stability analysis can be found in Akinyemi *et al.*, 2016; Xu, 2011; Vargas-De-León, 2013; Sun *et al.*, 2015; Gharahasanlou *et al.*, 2022; Ji, 2014; Huang *et al.*, 2012; Yakubu *et al.*, 2021; Tan *et al.*, 2015; Jenkins *et al.*, 2020; Xuan *et al.*, 2020; Carbonetti, 2015; Carrasquilla *et al.*, 2020; Muloiwa *et al.*, 2018 proposed that a mathematical model exhibiting local stability may not be stable for some initial condition and may seem to diverge after a small disturbance, thus global stability analysis are performed.

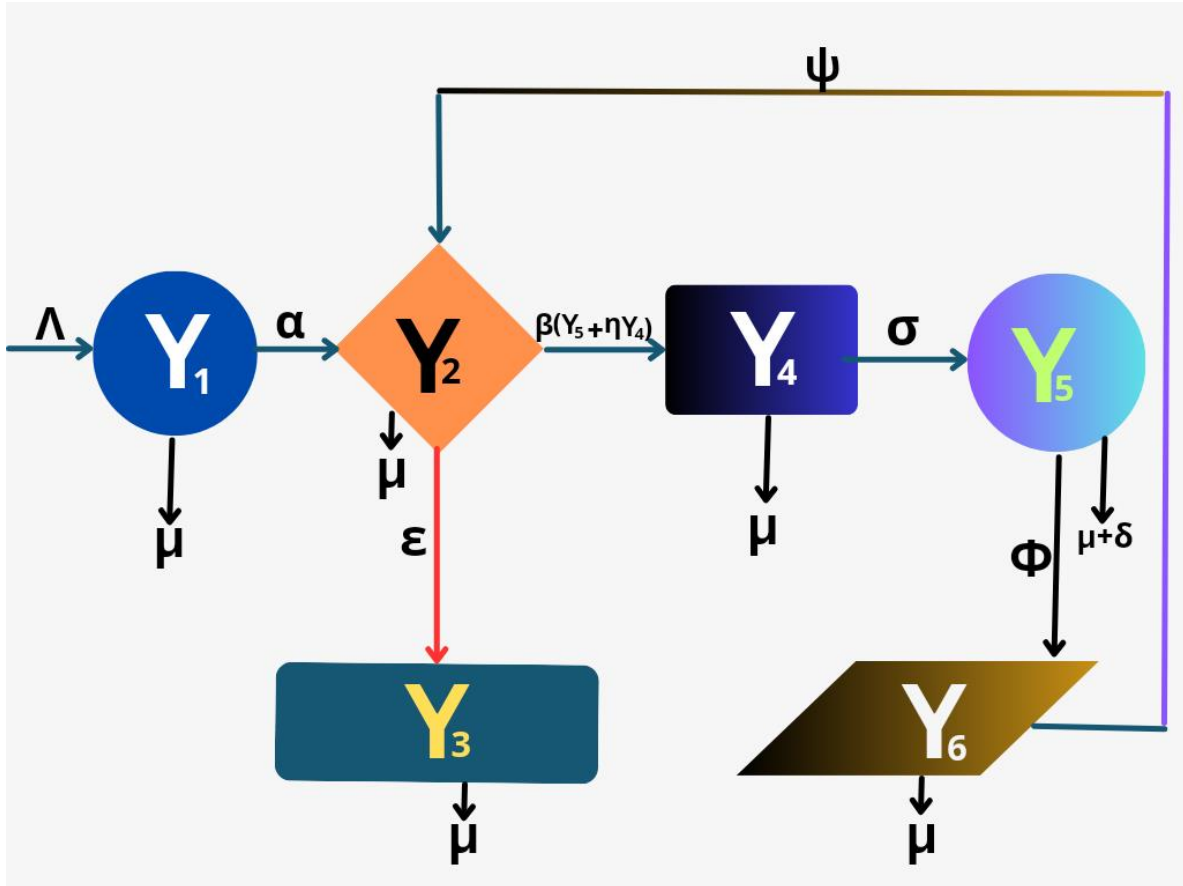
Consequently, since this study proposed a mathematical model with stability analysis, it is also crucial to apply the proper initial conditions to ensure stability of the analysis and prevent divergence as a result of disruption. Also, the investigation of the model's feasibility region and stability analysis is essential for generating an accurate predictive outcome (Keeling & Rohani, 2011; Brauer *et al.*, 2019; Muniyappan *et al.*, 2022). This work aims to conduct a stability analysis of an updated mathematical model that builds upon the framework introduced by Aisha *et al.* (2020). Unlike the earlier model, this version incorporates both asymptomatic infected individuals and vaccination classes.

The aim of this paper is to examine and explore the dynamical behavior of the whooping cough model, specifically examining how different population groups interact under stability analysis. By integrating vaccination and asymptomatic infected classes, the model provides a deeper insight into the disease dynamic. The layout of this paper is as follows: Section 2 outlines the model formulation; Section 3 focuses on equilibrium states and stability analysis; Section 4 includes numerical simulations with result discussions; and Section 5 wraps up the study.

## 2. MODEL FORMULATION

In order to comprehend disease flow patterns and develop effective disease control measures, mathematical models of infectious disease are essential. Thus, it is crucial to concentrate on the steps involved in determining the disease's epidemiology and to figure out the most crucial and manageable characteristics for disease control when building a mathematical model for infectious diseases. This part presents an enhanced version of the model from Aisha *et al.* (2020), which strategies the total human population over time  $Z(t)$  categorized into six separate and mutually exclusive subgroups: individuals with maternally derived immunity  $Y_1(t)$ , susceptible individuals  $Y_2(t)$ , vaccinated individuals  $Y_3(t)$ , asymptomatic individuals  $Y_4(t)$ , infectious individuals  $Y_5(t)$ , and recovered individuals  $Y_6(t)$ , so that

$$Z(t) = Y_1(t) + Y_2(t) + Y_3(t) + Y_4(t) + Y_5(t) + Y_6(t) \quad (1)$$



**Fig. 1:** Schematic diagram of the whooping cough model

### Fundamental Assumption of the Model

The formulation of the model is based on the following assumptions:

- 1) The model considers a mass incidence function  $\lambda = \beta(Y_5 + \eta Y_4)$
- 2) Only symptomatic humans are assumed to receive treatment.
- 3) There is no assumption of permanent immunity, transition from the R compartment to the S compartment is possible for individuals.
- 4) The birth rate and the death rate are not equal.
- 5) It is assumed that those who have had vaccinations are completely immune to whooping cough.

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Therefore, the model is constructed as a nonlinear deterministic system with six equations:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dY_1}{dt} &= \Lambda - \alpha Y_1 - \mu Y_1 \\ \frac{dY_2}{dt} &= \alpha Y_1 - \varepsilon Y_2 - \beta(Y_5 + \eta Y_4)Y_2 - \mu Y_2 + \psi Y_6 \\ \frac{dY_3}{dt} &= \varepsilon Y_2 - \mu Y_3 \\ \frac{dY_4}{dt} &= \beta(Y_5 + \eta Y_4)Y_2 - \sigma Y_4 - \mu Y_4 \\ \frac{dY_5}{dt} &= \sigma Y_4 - \phi Y_5 - (\mu + \delta)Y_5 \\ \frac{dY_6}{dt} &= \phi Y_5 - \psi Y_6 - \mu Y_6 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

The simplified form of system (2) is expressed as:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dY_1}{dt} &= \Lambda - K_1 Y_1 \\ \frac{dY_2}{dt} &= \alpha Y_1 - (\lambda + K_2)Y_2 + \psi Y_6 \\ \frac{dY_3}{dt} &= \varepsilon Y_2 - \mu Y_3 \\ \frac{dY_4}{dt} &= \lambda Y_2 - K_3 Y_4 \\ \frac{dY_5}{dt} &= \sigma Y_4 - K_4 Y_5 \\ \frac{dY_6}{dt} &= \phi Y_5 - K_5 Y_6 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (3)$$

Where  $K_1 = \alpha + \mu$ ,  $K_2 = \mu + \varepsilon$ ,  $K_3 = \mu + \sigma$ ,  $K_4 = \phi + \mu + \delta$ ,  $K_5 = \psi + \mu$

Given the initial condition:

$$Y_1(0) \geq 0, Y_2(0) > 0, Y_3(0) \geq 0, Y_4(0) \geq 0, Y_5(0) \geq 0, Y_6(0) \geq 0$$

**Table 1: Compartments and parameters Description**

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| $Y_1$ | Maternally Derived Immune individuals |
| $Y_2$ | Susceptible individuals               |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| $Y_3$         | Vaccinated individuals                                    |
| $Y_4$         | Asymptotic infected individuals                           |
| $Y_5$         | Infectious individuals                                    |
| $Y_6$         | Recovered individuals                                     |
| $Z$           | Total population  |
| $\Lambda$     | Recruitment of individuals                                |
| $\alpha$      | The movement from the passively immune group              |
| $\psi$        | The progression rate due to immunity loss                 |
| $\varepsilon$ | Effectiveness of the vaccine                              |
| $\phi$        | Rate of treatment of the infected individuals             |
| $\delta$      | whooping cough induce death rate                          |
| $\eta$        | Adjustment parameter caused by infection                  |
| $\beta$       | Rate of contact   |
| $\mu$         | Natural death rate  |
| $\sigma$      | Rate at which asymptomatic becomes symptomatic infectious |

**Lemma 1:** the close set  $D = \left\{ (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5, Y_6) \in \mathbb{R}_+^6 : Z \leq \frac{\Lambda}{\mu} \right\}$  remains positively invariant and attracts with respect to system (3).

### Proof

From (3) we note that  $\frac{dZ}{dt} + \mu Z \leq \Lambda$  and establish that  $Z(t) \leq \frac{\Lambda}{\mu} + e^{-\mu t} \left( Z(0) - \frac{\Lambda}{\mu} \right)$  using a standard comparison

theorem (Lakshmikantham et al., 1989). It is shown that  $Z(t)$  approaches  $\frac{\Lambda}{\mu}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , ensuring that system (3)

remains positively invariant and attracting within D. Therefore, the model holds significance from both mathematical and epidemiological perspectives in D (Hethcote, 2000), considering solutions in D is sufficient for the analysis.

### 3. EXISTENCE OF EQUILIBRIUM STATES

The disease-free equilibrium for system (3) is obtained as

$$\Theta = \begin{pmatrix} Y_{1,0} \\ Y_{2,0} \\ Y_{3,0} \\ Y_{4,0} \\ Y_{5,0} \\ Y_{6,0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\Lambda}{K_1} \\ \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1K_2} \\ \frac{\varepsilon\alpha\Lambda}{\mu K_1K_2} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

To examine the stability of the model at  $\Theta$ , the effective reproduction number  $R_e$ , will be applied. This is obtained through the application of the next-generation method described in (Hefferman et al., 2005), with  $F$  and  $G$  representing the matrices for new infection terms and transition terms at  $\Theta$ , respectively. hence

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} \beta\eta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1K_2} & \beta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1K_2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad G = \begin{pmatrix} K_3 & 0 \\ -\sigma & K_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$R_e = \frac{\beta(\eta K_4 + \sigma)\alpha\Lambda}{K_1K_2K_3K_4} \quad (5)$$

$$R_e = R_{e1} + R_{e2} \quad (6)$$

Thus,

$$R_{e1} = R_e - R_{e2} \quad (7)$$

Where

$$R_{e1} = \frac{\beta\eta\alpha\Lambda}{K_1K_2K_3} \quad \text{and} \quad R_{e2} = \frac{\beta\alpha\Lambda\sigma}{K_1K_2K_3K_4} \quad (8)$$

### 3.1. LOCAL STABILITY ANALYSIS OF EQUILIBRIUM STATES

**Theorem 1:** The disease-free equilibrium of the system described in equation (3) is locally asymptotically stable if

$R_e < 1$ , whereas it becomes unstable if  $R_e > 1$ .

Proof

The Jacobian matrix of the system (3), evaluated at  $\Theta$  is given as

$$J(\Theta) = \begin{bmatrix} -K_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha & -K_2 & 0 & \frac{-\beta\eta\Lambda\alpha}{K_1K_2} & \frac{-\beta\Lambda\alpha}{K_1K_2} & \psi \\ 0 & \varepsilon & -\mu & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\beta\eta\Lambda\alpha}{K_1K_2} - K_3 & \frac{\beta\Lambda\alpha}{K_1K_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \sigma & -K_4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \phi & -K_5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

The characteristic equation of (9) takes the form

$$= (K_1 + \chi)(K_2 + \chi)(\mu + \chi)(K_5 + \chi)[\chi^2 + a_1\chi + a_2] = 0, \quad (10)$$

where  $\chi$  represents the eigenvalue,

We have

$$a_1 = K_3 + K_4 - \frac{\beta\eta\Lambda\alpha}{K_1K_2}$$

$$a_2 = K_3K_4 \left( 1 - \frac{\beta\Lambda\alpha(\eta K_4 + \sigma)}{K_1K_2K_3K_4} \right)$$

Expressing  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  in terms of  $R_e$ , with aid of (4) and (6) to have

$$a_1 = K_3 + K_4(1 - R_e + R_{e_2})$$

$$a_2 = K_3K_4(1 - R_e)$$

It is evident that all the roots of equation (10) are negative whenever  $R_e < 1$ . Therefore, based on the Routh Hurwitz criterion, system (3) can be considered locally asymptotically stable as both and satisfy the stability criteria since  $a_1 > 0$  and  $a_2 > 0$ . Epidemiologically, according to Theorem 1, controlling the spread of whooping cough in the society is achievable (when  $R_e < 1$ ) if the initial-population sizes of the model fall within the attraction region of the disease-free equilibrium  $\Theta$ , otherwise, the disease will persist and spread within the population.

### 3.2. Global Stability Analysis of Equilibrium States

To demonstrate qualitatively that the system's dynamic behavior remains unchanged regardless of the initial subpopulation sizes, global stability analysis is done by comparison method as outlined by Okuonghae, (2012). Thus, the next result is ascertained.



**Theorem 3:** The disease-free equilibrium of system (3) is globally asymptotically stable whenever  $R_e < 1$  and unstable if  $R_e > 1$ .

**Proof**

The comparison method requires making use of the F and G matrices expressed in (4) by writing the infected classes as

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = (F - G)X - JX, \quad X = (Y_4, Y_5).$$

Where

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} \beta\eta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1 K_2} & \beta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1 K_2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } G = \begin{pmatrix} K_2 & 0 \\ -\sigma & K_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$J = \left(1 - \frac{Y_2}{Z}\right) \begin{pmatrix} \beta\eta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1 K_2} & \beta \frac{\alpha\Lambda}{K_1 K_2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

J is a non-negative matrix since  $Y_2(t) \leq Z(t) \leq \frac{\Lambda}{\mu}$ , in the invariant set. Hence it follows that

$$\frac{dX}{dt} \leq (F - G)X$$

Given that all eigenvalues of the matrix  $F - G$  possess negative real parts,  $R_e < 1$ . Hence, it can be inferred that the linearized differential inequality system retains stability whenever  $R_e < 1$ ,  $(Y_4, Y_5, Y_6) \rightarrow (0, 0, 0)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Substituting

$$Y_4 = Y_5 = Y_6 = 0 \text{ in (3) gives } Y_2(t) \rightarrow Y_{2,0} \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty. \text{ Thus, } (Y_1(t), Y_2(t), Y_3(t), Y_4(t), Y_5(t), Y_6(t))$$

$\rightarrow (Y_{1,0}, Y_{2,0}, Y_{3,0}, 0, 0, 0)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  for  $R_e < 1$ . Thus,  $\Theta$  is globally asymptotically stable if  $R_e < 1$ .

#### 4. NUMERICAL SIMULATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This section addresses that the qualitative results for the new pertussis model presented in Section 4 are validated quantitatively (numerically). Thus, for the purpose of simulation, we choose  $Y_1(0) = 76489400$ ,  $Y_2(0) = 120197600$ ,

$Y_3(0) = 13112470$ ,  $Y_4(0) = 4150$ ,  $Y_5(0) = 2190$ , and  $Y_6(0) = 7430401$  to be the initial condition for the model such that

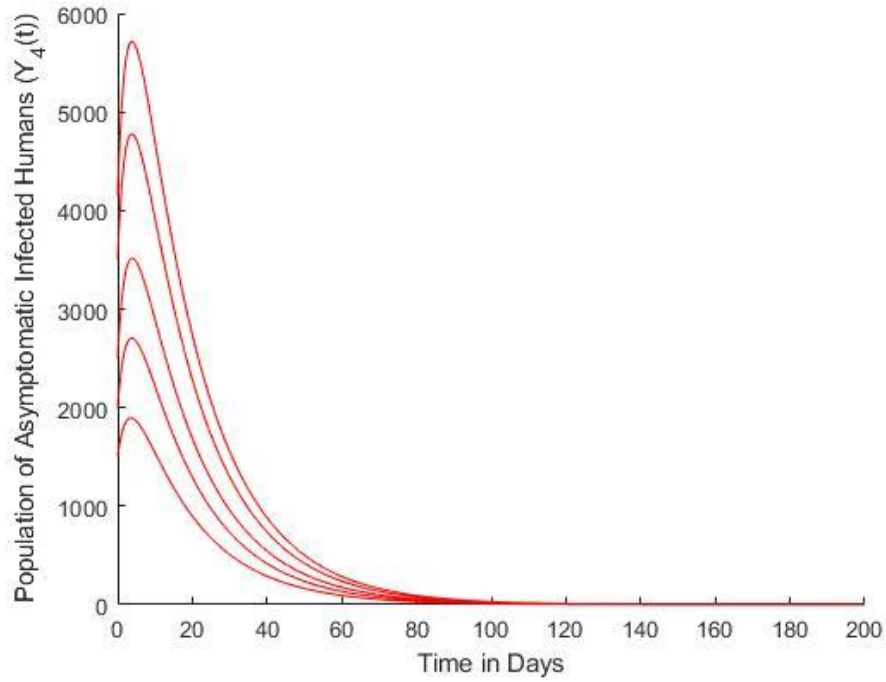
the total population  $Z \leq \frac{\Lambda}{\mu}$  and the value of the parameters presented in Table 1 are used to numerically simulate the model

in MATLAB

**Table 2: The values of population independent model parameters**

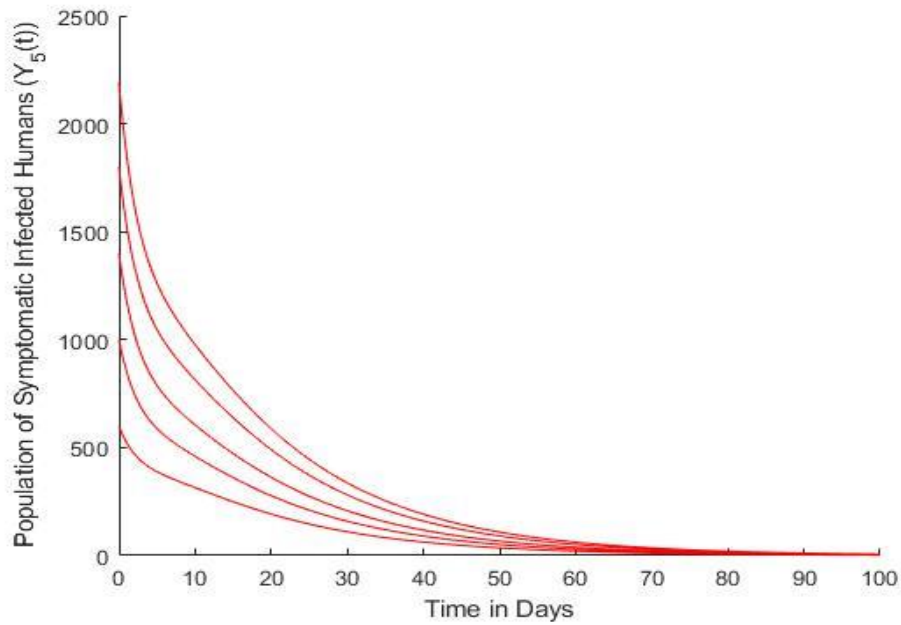
| S/N | Parameter     | Description  | Values  | Source(s)            |
|-----|---------------|--|---------|----------------------|
| 1.  | $\Lambda$     | Proportion of immunized individuals against infection      | 10140   | Estimated            |
| 2.  | $\alpha$      | Migration form M to S                                      | 0.02    | Estimated            |
| 3.  | $\psi$        | Progression rate due to loss of immunity                   | 0.02    | Estimated            |
| 4.  | $\phi$        | Treatment rate from I to R                                 | (0,1)   | Control parameter    |
| 5.  | $\delta$      | Pertussis induced death rate                               | 0.01    | (WHO 2015)           |
| 6.  | $\mu$         | Natural death rate   | 0.00005 | Calculated           |
| 7.  | $\beta$       | Contact rate   | (0,1)   | (Yeung et al., 2017) |
| 8.  | $\varepsilon$ | Vaccine efficacy   | (0,1)   | Control parameter    |
| 9.  | $\eta$        | Modification parameter due to infection                    | 0.04    | Skoff et al., (2015) |
| 10. | $\sigma$      | Rate at which close contacts becomes asymptotic infectious | 0.048   | Calculated           |

Fig. 2 Depicts the population profile of the asymptomatic infected human  $Y_4(t)$  with respect to time in days. It reveals that when  $R_e = 0.0150 < 1$ ,  $Y_4(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  despite having different initial conditions. Furthermore, this validates the theoretical result presented by Theorem 3.2.



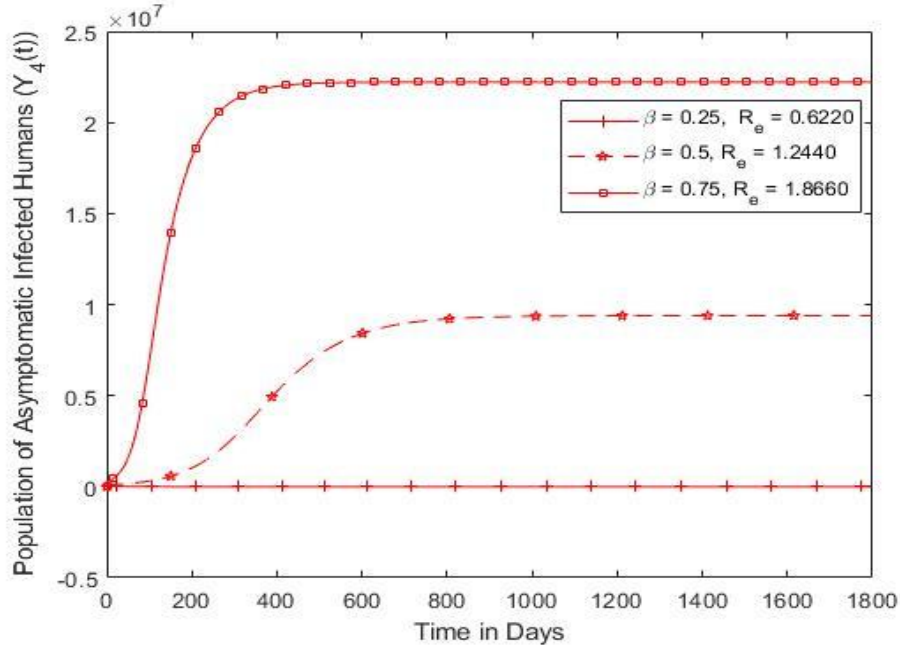
**Fig. 2.** Global Stability Result for  $Y_4(t)$  when  $R_e < 1$

The population profile for symptomatic humans  $Y_5(t)$  against time in days is presented in Fig 3 and is generated by setting  $\beta = 0.75 \times 10^{-7}$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.25$ ,  $\phi = 0.25$  while Table 1 shows that the parameter values are fixed. The figure demonstrates that whenever  $R_e = 0.0150 < 1$ , then  $Y_5(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence validating Theorem 3.2.

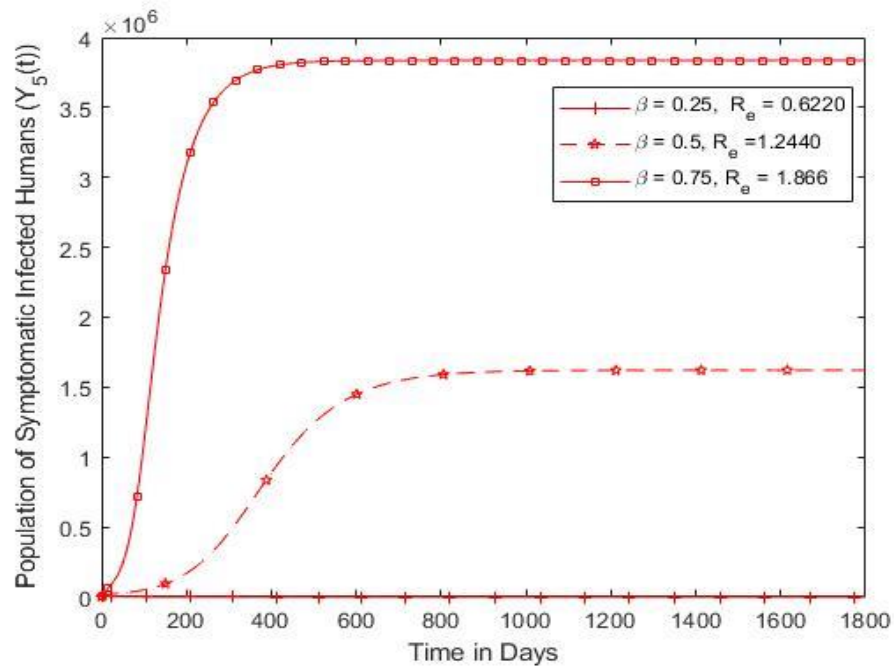


**Fig. 3.** Global Stability Result for  $Y_5(t)$  when  $R_e < 1$

The effect of varying the parameter value for  $\beta$  on the population dynamics of  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  against time in days are shown in Fig 4 and Fig 5 respectively. Both figures illustrate that as  $\beta$  increases, the population of  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  increases. This suggest that the number of those infected with whooping cough will increase as  $\beta$  increases. Hence, the implementation of control measures targeted to reduce the value of  $\beta$  should be encouraged and maintained.



**Fig. 4.** Effect of varying  $\beta$  on  $Y_4(t)$

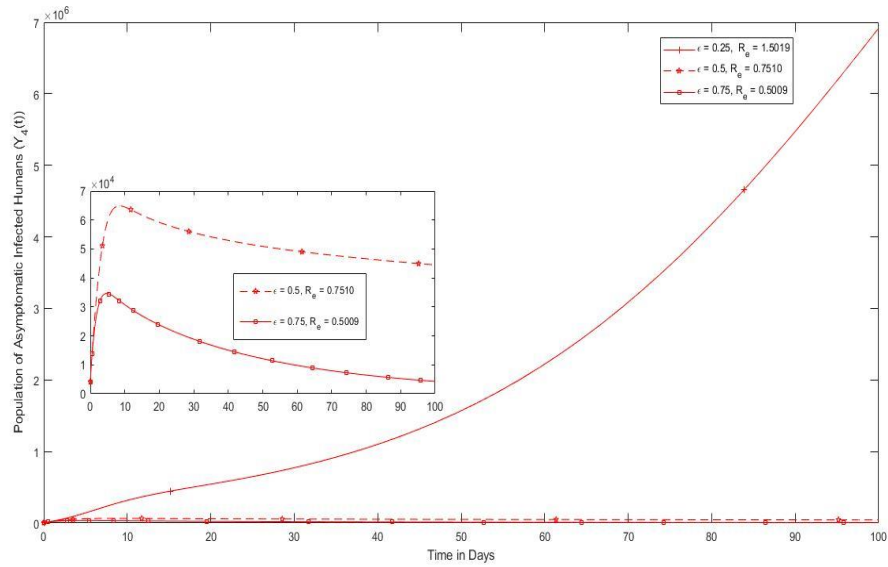


**Fig. 5.** Effect of varying  $\beta$  on  $Y_5(t)$

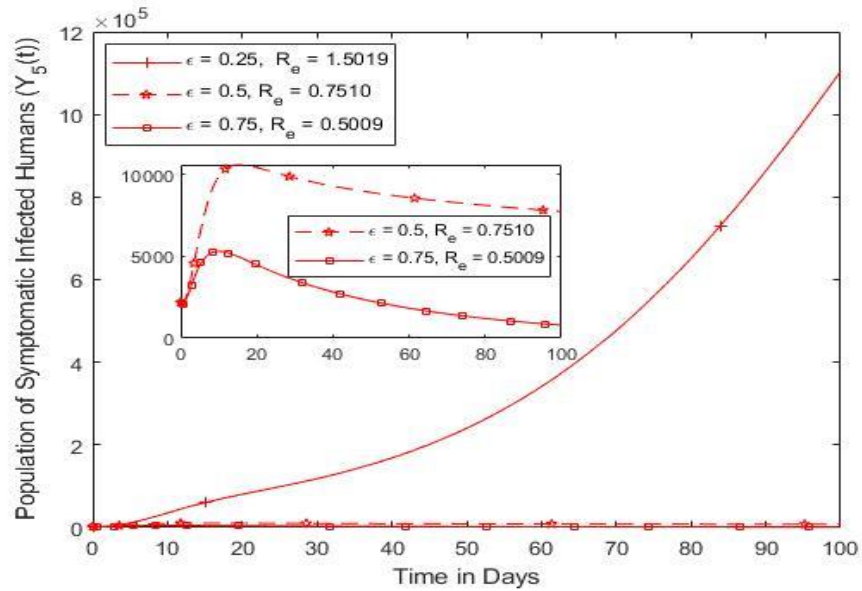
To investigate the effect of the parameter  $\mathcal{E}$  on the distribution of whooping cough, the population profile of

$Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  against time in days while varying the parameter value of  $\mathcal{E}$  is displayed in Fig. 6 and Fig 7 correspondingly.

The figures demonstrate that as the value of  $\mathcal{E}$  increases the population of both  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  reduces. This implies that parameter  $\mathcal{E}$  is a control measure needed to curb or reduce the menace of whooping cough in the society.



**Fig. 6.** Variation of  $\mathcal{E}$  on the Asymptomatic Infected Humans

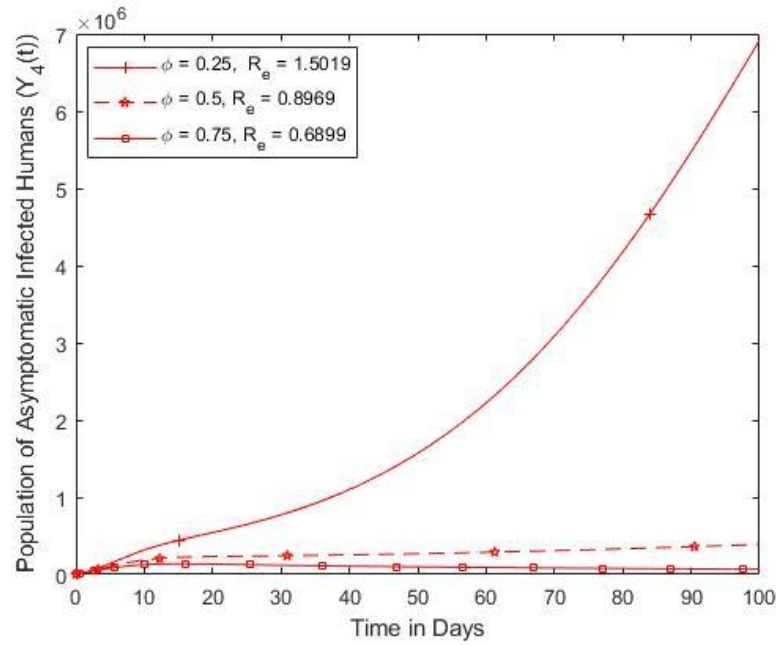


**Fig. 7.** Variation of  $\mathcal{E}$  on the symptomatic infected Populations

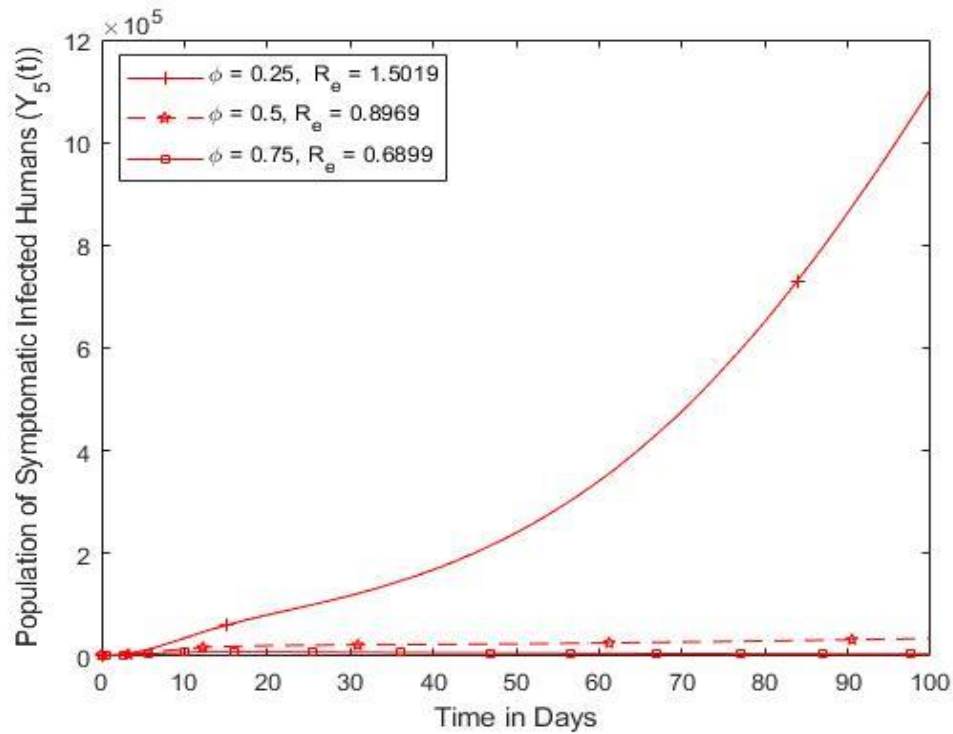
The effect of changing the parameter value for  $\phi$  on the population profile of  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  is explored through

numerical simulation and presented graphically by Fig 8 and 9. The figures depicts that increase in  $\phi$ , reduces the

number of those in  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  compartments. Consequently,  $\phi$  is a control measure and should be implemented to reduce the prevalence of whooping cough



**Fig. 8.** Variation of  $\phi$  on the Asymptomatic Infected Population



**Fig. 9.** Variation of  $\phi$  on  $Y_5(t)$

## 5. CONCLUSION

This paper examines the epidemiological aspects and global stability analysis of whooping cough, specifically incorporating asymptomatic infected and infectious classes. A non-linear model with six compartments was developed and analyzed to gain insights into the disease's behavior. The key findings are summarized below:

1. At the disease-free equilibrium, the model is globally asymptotically stable whenever the effective reproduction number  $R_e$  is less than unity.
2. Since a higher contact rate  $\beta$  would result in more people becoming infected, the implementation of control measure such as quarantine / isolation should be targeted towards reducing the value of  $\beta$ .
3. An improvement in vaccine effectiveness results to a decrease in the population of both the symptomatic and asymptomatic infected persons, this implies that vaccination is an essential control measure needed to curb or reduce the transmission of whooping cough in the society,
4. As explored through the numerical simulation presented graphically, the more treatment  $\phi$  is administered, the more the individual in  $Y_4(t)$  and  $Y_5(t)$  compartments reduces. Consequently, treatment is a control measure and should be implemented to reduce the prevalence of whooping cough.

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