



ACID ATTACKS ON WOMEN: LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL RESPONSES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

- Survivors often face difficulty accessing medical treatment, including emergency care, reconstructive surgeries, and psychological support.
- Costly procedures and long-term medical care may not be affordable for many victims.
- Limited availability of specialized burn treatment centers in some regions.
- Physical and emotional trauma make it difficult for survivors to resume their daily activities.
- Many faces unemployment due to discrimination or physical limitations caused by the attack.
- Lack of support systems can hinder recovery and personal growth.
- Legal proceedings can be lengthy, costly, and emotionally draining.
- Victims may face threats or pressure from perpetrators and their families to drop charges.
- In some cases, law enforcement may not take the crime seriously or may be influenced by corruption.
- Survivors often face blame or judgment, especially in conservative communities.
- Negative societal attitudes can lead to exclusion from social and professional opportunities.
- Emotional distress and self-esteem issues may arise due to societal rejection and lack of acceptance.

INTRODUCTION

Survivors endure horrific physical and psychological injuries as a result of the vicious gender-based violence that acid attacks represent. Although this gruesome crime is also committed across the world, its increasing occurrence and ravaging impact on the individuals, their families as well as society have garnered heightened scrutiny for this crime in India.

They are driven by systemic gender inequality, paternalistic culture, and by intricate social and economic schemes. Women and girls are particularly at risk, and may be deliberately targeted by this violence in retaliation, for intimidation, or as punishment for refusing romantic attention, or as a part of family disputes. They have a centuries-old, ugly legacy of disrupting the social fabric of the country.

The alarming rise in the incidents of acid attacks in the country over the last few years has been met with much outrage and concern, and thus calls for concerted efforts and social reform. This introduction offers a powerful perspective of acid attacks as a problem in India by situating the phenomenon within the broader framework of social and cultural dynamics, gender injustice, and patriarchal norms. Narratives like this happen side by side in the world, where acid attacks are still a horrible fact of life, with women and girls disproportionately affected, even in some areas where legislation and programs empowering and protecting women are moving forward. The acid violence is a global problem that goes beyond race, religion and geography. Unfortunately, in India, sour attacks are unusual and repeatedly shaken the conscience of the nation. The survivors with disfigured faces and unimaginable resistance have signed up to share their harrowing experience, while their families often face financial ruins and seek to support their recovery. This brutal crime causes serious physical and emotional suffering, robs the victims of their livelihood, opportunities and social acceptance. Despite its destructive consequences, acid remains widely accessible and the motifs of these abominable acts can be shocking insignificant.

MEANING OF ACID ATTACK: -

It is associated with violence on the basis of gender. This attack occurs as a form of revenge when women reject marriage proposals, reject sexual progress or activate their independence.

They are more common in countries where the equality of women and men is deeply rooted. Acid attacks are a serious problem around the world, and women and children are often victims. These attacks can lead to permanent physical and psychological damage and emphasize the need for strict laws and regulations that would prevent such violence.

It is a form of a violent attack involving the act of throwing acid or similarly corrosive substance on the body of another with the intention of disfigurement, torturing or killing. This violence is deeply tied to the patriarchal belief that women should adapt to male expectations and that men's refusal guarantees punishment.

The number of cases of acidic attacks reported in India in 2022 in total 202. This number represents an increase compared to the previous year. In 2022 there were also 71 cases of attempts to attack acid attacks in India.

non-governmental organization is for an acid attack in India?

The Chanab Which Foundation has established aloks Dixit and Ashish Shukl in 2013 to help the surviving acid attacks.



What is the government policy for acid attack?

For the victim, temporary immediate relief also financial assistance of RS. 1,00 lakhs (above and above the amount provided to the victim's compensation system).

Is there any treatment for acid attack?

Rinse the affected area as soon as possible with continuously clean water to remove the residual chemicals. Use only water - do not shake the surface or rotate. Make sure the water can run from the affected area without gathering on the skin and potentially spread chemicals to a wider area. The fastest - acting cure for heartburn is likely to be antacid.

Psychological effect: -

Survivors on attacks of acid face many mental health problems after recovery. The victims were reported with a higher level of anxiety, as a result of women reported lower self -esteem and increased self -confidence in general and in the social sphere.

Physical -

The victim faces physical challenges that require long -term surgical treatment, as well as psychological challenges that require in -depth intervention of psychologists and advisors at every stage of physical recovery.

When the acid plunged on the face, quickly into her eyes, ears, nose and mouth. The eyelids and lips can completely burn.

Doctor: -

The medical effects of the acid effect are extensive. Most acid attacks are focused on the face. The severity of acids depends on the concentration of acid and on the time before the acid is washed with water or neutralized by a neutralization agent. Acid can quickly eat the skin, a layer of fat under the skin and in some cases their basic bones.

- **The skull is partially destroyed / deformed and lost.**
- **The eyelids can burn completely and cause blindness.**
- **lips and mouths can destroy the detection of teeth; Eating and speaking can be difficult.**
- **Scars can run down the neck area, reduce the chin and an extremely limiting range of movement in the throat**

Factors responsible for acid attacks: -

The Indian Legal Commission in its 226. The report claimed that most of the sour attack. Dispopability with property is another cause of attacks on acids on women. Motivation for acid attacks on women can be attributed to various factors and feelings. Some perpetrators use acid to define and abuse the victim's body as an expression of conscious anger to degrade them.

Women's financial independence in the company of unemployed men creates antagonism in them. "Improving economic conditions, high unemployment rates in male breadwinners, a growing number of households without land and lack of agricultural work for male workers" are the main reasons for their indignation. In companies where traditional gender roles dictate that men should provide financially, increasing financial independence of women can cause tension and antagonism among men who feel threatened by their changing roles.

In his study, the renowned academic Afroze and Way stressed in his study that how men use acid as a sign of their masculinity and superiority over them and "keep women in their place.

Legal effect of acid attack: -

In India, the incidence of acid attacks often catches the headlines of Indian media. Unfortunately, in India there were no separate legal regulations on the solution of acidic attacks before the adoption of the Criminal Act (amendment) of 2013. The crime was registered under Section 320, 322, 325, 326 and 307 of the Indian Code (I.P.C).

Section 320 - Great injury - the following types of injuries are marked as "heavy": - first - second - second - permanent privates on both eyes. Third, permanent privates hearing of both ear, fourth - privation of any member or common. Fifth - the destruction or permanent disruption of the powers of any member or joint. Sixth - permanent disfigurement of the head or face. Seventh - fracture or dislocation of bone or tooth. The eighth - any injury that threatens life or causes that suffering will be in severe physical pain within twenty days, or unable to follow its routine persecution.

Section 322 - Voluntarily Causing Grievous Hurt - WHOEVER VOLUNTARILY CAUSES Hurt, IF the Hurt WHICE INTENDS TO CAUSE OR KNOS HIMSELF TO BE LIKELY TO CAUSE IS GIEVOUS Hurt, and if the Hurt to Cause Grievous Hurt.

Section 325 - punishment for voluntarily causing severe injury, except for the case set under Section 335 (voluntarily causing serious injury in provocation), voluntarily causes serious injuries, must be punished with imprisonment of both descriptions for a period that can extend for seven years and will also force a fine.

Section 307 - Attempt to Murder - Anyone does any dealing with such an intention or knowledge, and under such circumstances that if he caused death, he was guilty of murder, he would be punished by imprisonment from both descriptions for a period that he could extend to ten years and will also answer the fine; And if the injury is caused by any person by this act, the offender corresponds to either imprisonment for a lifetime or for a punishment as stated here. Attempts to live the convicts - when any person under this section, under the punishment of imprisonment for a lifetime, is punished by death if caused by injury. 2 April 2013 The Indian Criminal Code was amended by the adoption of the Act "The Criminal Act (amendment) of 2013.

SECTION 326 and STATES - WHOEVER CAUSES Permanent or Partial Damage or deformity to, Or Burns or Maims or Disfigures or Disables, Any Part or Parts of the Body of the Person or Causes Grievous Hurt by Throwing Acid On Or by Administration Acid To Person of causing or with the knowledge that he is likely to cause dry injury or hurt, Shall Be Punished with imprisonment of with description for a Term Shall Not Be Less than ten years, but which can expand to imprisonment for life and fine. Assuming that such a fine must be fair and proportionate to meet therapeutic expenses for handling the victim. Furthermore, assuming any fine imposed on this section will be paid to the victim.

Part 326 B Statutes - Anyone throws or tries to throw acid on any person or attempts to give acid to any person, or attempts to use any other means, with intention to cause permanent or partial damage or deformity or burn or mutilation or degradation or crazy that could be prolonged to prolong. prolong, and that it will be straight to a fine.

Supreme Court Direction:-

.In 2005, a fifteen -year -old girl whose name was Laxmi Agarwal was named. Laxmi was attacked by acid by a boy after refusing his proposal for marriage. After the incident, the Supreme Court ruled that in any incident and associated with an acid attack, the compensation would have at least RS 3 lakh and pay Rs 1 lakh within 15 days of the incident and provide free treatment victims. Illegal sale and purchase of acid should be an incapable offense. Understanding shares to be confiscated will be fined by RS. 50 000. Minimum sentence 10 years and fine Rs. 10 Lakhs were prescribed in the amendment.

- Free treatment: - This Supreme Court ordered that all survivors of acidic attacks should be the treatment of free treatment, whether the government or private.
- Immediate medical care: - Acid survivors get 3 lakh compensation, of which RS 1 lakh must be paid within 15 days.
- awareness and sensation: - The Supreme Court ordered all government officials such as police staff, doctors and other government emphasis on the need for awareness and sensitivity programmed concerned with attacks and survivors.
- All departments, such as hospitals, educational institutions, government authorities and research hospitals, must maintain the register because they use acid and are administered in SDM.
- Sale only for people aged 18 years of age regarding the production of valid evidence of photo ID.
- The person identifies to be responsible for holding and safe to maintain acid. The acid should be stored under the supervision of such a person. Whose liability is mandatory/ check/ students leaving the laboratory/ storage location where acid is used.

The Ministry of the Interior issued advisory death on August 30, 2013 on measures to be taken to avoid acid attacks on humans and for the treatment and housing of the survivors.

Compensation for acid attack: -

Detailed compensation for explanations for survivors from acidic attacks refers to financial and non -financial support provided to help them recover physically, emotionally and economically. It may come from governments, courts, NGOs or private organizations. The purpose of compensation is to ensure that the victims after the attack have access to medical treatment, rehabilitation and financial stability.

Types of compensation

- Expenditure on medical compensation includes operations, skin grafts, reconstruction procedures, medicines and hospital stay. If necessary, it includes the costs of prosthetics, eye operations or special equipment. Loss of earnings and livelihood If the victim cannot return to work, they can get a replacement for a lost income. In some cases, lifelong financial assistance is provided if the victim is permanently deactivated. Victims of pain and suffering can obtain monetary compensation for emotional anxiety, trauma and suffering. Courts often determine the amount of injury. Advantages of the disability If the attack results in permanent physical disability, the victim may be eligible for state disability benefits.
- Schemes of state compensation and legal compensation many countries have funds to compensate victims that provide financial assistance that survived sour attacks. For example, in India, survivors can obtain compensation within the victim's compensation system. The compensation courts ordered by the Criminal Court may order the attacker to pay damages as part of his sentence. In some cases, the state will enter the victim's compensation if the attacker cannot pay. Victims of civil disputes may sue the attacker in a civil court for damages, including health costs, emotional problems and future care expenses.
- Rehabilitation and support for medical and psychological support free or subsidized medical treatment, including reconstruction surgery. Advice and therapy for recovery in mental health. Employment and professional training programs for survivors to help them find new jobs or establish business. Some governments and NGOs provide scholarships or free education. Housing and shelter of some non -governmental organizations and governments provide safe housing for survivors who face social stigmatization or threats.
- Examples of compensation specific to India countries within the Nirbhaya Fund, survivors from an acidic attack receive a minimum compensation of 3 GBP Lakh. State governments may increase this amount. Some states provide up to 10 lakhs. Free medical treatment in government hospitals. The victims of the UK may claim compensation through the Office for Compensation of Criminal Injury (CICA). Compensation includes health costs, psychological support and lost income. Survivors from acidic attacks of the United States can seek compensation through civil litigation.

Some states provide funds for compensation of crime victims. Pakistanis compensation is provided according to the Crime Act on the crime of acid and burning, which ensures free medical treatment and rehabilitation for the survivors.

Statistics

Most victims (80 %) are women, and they are typically attacked because of personal disputes, declined marriage proposals or domestic violence.

There are 1,500 to 2,000 acid attacks a year reported worldwide, but many go unreported.

Country-Specific Data India A rough count suggests 250-300 such attacks a year, mostly on women.

From 2014 to 2018, more than 1,400 cases were registered, but many are not reported.

Bangladesh

Throughout the early 2000s, that number was as high as 400+ per year. This has now decreased to 50–70 cases a year due to stricter laws.

Some 82% of the victims are women, many

REAL-LIFE ALTERNATIVES TO EXCERPTED PAGES FROM THE BOOK

Disappointment in love or rejection in marriage – A leading cause in South Asia.

Domestic violence and family disputes — Many attacks take place within households.

Property disputes – In particular countries such as India and Bangladesh.

Key Takeaway: -

Acid attacks -- Where the perpetrator throws vitriol in the victim's face -- are still a major problem, particularly in South Asia, where women are frequently abused. While these legal reforms have succeeded in reducing cases in some countries, there is still more to be done to prevent attacks and support survivors.

Conclusion

Acid violence is widespread in many places and invisible in society too. The main reason behind this acid attack is marriage proposal, dowry, sexual favor etc. practice performed against women.

Women are unsafe in us because of less education and illiterate people present in our society. This shows lacking sense and due to which insecurity and unstable of environment is developing. Acid attack is increasing day by day and it is maximum in the girl between age 14-30.

The success of any law is determined by its implementation. Most stringent of laws will be of no avail if they are not properly implemented. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 has brought positive changes in the laws against acid violence. Prior to the Act, no provision of strict punishment was there to punish the culprits and either no or a compensation of a very meagre amount was used to be given to the victim.

Attack by acid rarely kills a human being but it causes severe physical, psychological and social scarring.

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