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ACID ATTACK : “IS THIS YOUR WAY TO SHOW YOUR LOVE” *

ABSTRACT

Acid attack is a form of violent assault defined as act of throwing acid on human body with intention of disfigure, maim or kill that person. The victims of acid violence are overwhelmingly women. The main reason behind this inhumane behavior is rejection of marriage proposals or sexual amusements of men. This attack has a devastating effect on women body mind and soul, it leaves a scar forever on her body and the treatment process is so long that many of them knee down in-front of it, but the wrongdoer they just get away with minimal or no punishment. They lead their life as-usual in a normal way leaving the victim to feel worthless, afraid and modified and become social outcasts because of their appearance. Sadly law provides punishment for the offence which isailable under IPC. The researcher tries to give brief introduction on acid attack its causes and consequences. She will also deal with Penal provision in India against this heinous crime with the help of case laws and will also throw light on laws in other countries. Report will also throw light on what role media police and judiciary can play to stop this crime and cover some stories of survivor of acid attack victims.

1.1Introduction

You can't handle rejection

And expect from us to handle the long lasting scars gifted by you...?

The culture and tradition of India is considered as old and great all over the world where people used to worship various female goddesses like “MAA” DURGA, LAXMI etc. But see the irony taking birth as a woman in the Indian society can be said as curse for the women, Women in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life.¹ Women in India-a better half of Indian society, today, are becoming the most vulnerable section as far as their safety and security is concerned. When we turn the pages of a newspaper, we come across many headlines reporting cases of sexual assault, molestation, sexual harassment, rapes, trafficking, ill treatment of women in houses, acid attack, violence against women in remote areas etc. But the researcher will focus on acid attack its cause's consequences etc.

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Acid attack is not something unheard of in India. It has shocked the conscience of our nation again and again², this 4 letter word “acid” which is used for toilet and kitchen cleaning is now used to satisfy ego’s or to take revenge. Though acid attack is a crime which can be committed against any man or woman, it has a specific gender dimension in India. Most of the reported acid attacks have been committed on women, particularly young women for spurning suitors, for rejecting proposals of marriage, for denying dowry etc. The attacker cannot bear the fact that he has been rejected and seeks to destroy the body of the woman who has dared to stand up to him.

1.<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/essay/social-issues/women-empowerment/issues-and-problems-faced-by-women-in-india/>

2.http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tanushree-ghosh/acid-attack-in-india-when_b_9559790.html

Thus, acid throwing is an extremely violent crime by which the perpetrator of the crime seeks to inflict severe physical and mental suffering on his victim. This kind of violence is often motivated by deep-seated jealousy or feelings of revenge against a woman.

For instance, in Bangladesh 78 percent of the reported acid violence is inflicted on women with the most common reasons for attack being the refusal of marriage, the denial of sex, and the rejection of romance³. The acid is usually thrown at the victim’s face. The perpetrator wants to disfigure the victims and turn them into a monster. Aside from the reasons stated above the other reasons for acid attacks include robbery, land disputes etc. Perpetrators of the crime act cruelly and deliberately. Acid violence is a premeditated act of violence as the perpetrator of the crime carries out the attack by first obtaining the acid, carrying it on him and then stalking the victim before executing the act. Furthermore, an acid attack has long-lasting consequences on the life of the victim who faces perpetual torture, permanent damage and other problems for the rest of her life. Victims may become traumatized and embarrassed to walk out of their house and carry out simple tasks let alone get married, have children, get a job, go to school, etc. Even if they are willing to pursue a normal life, there is no guarantee that society itself will treat them as normal human beings given their appearance and disabilities after an attack. They may not be able to work, or be able to find a job, and thus perpetually struggle to survive. The report shows that in 2014 total no. Of acid attack rises to 309 which is 300 per cent more than the average number of such cases witnessed during the preceding three years.⁴

The years 2011, 2012 and 2013 witnessed 83, 85 and 66 cases being reported respectively, but this number shot up to 309 in 2014 – almost four times the average number of acid attack cases in the preceding years. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 185 cases till November 2014, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 53 cases. Among the seven UTs, acid attack cases were reported only from Delhi, which witnessed 27 such cases. Still there is no strict law to regulate this crime. It is high time to take strengthen action.⁵

3. Acid Survivors Foundation. Acid Throwing Fact Sheet. Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2001

4.<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/03/21/reports-of-acid-attacks-in-india-are-on-the-rise-heres-why-thats-a-good-thing/>

5. Supra note 4.

1.2 Causes of acid attack

Behind every severe action a reason works. So, Throwing or splashing of acid is also followed by reasons. The most common and obvious reason is “love rejection”, in which the proposer of

marriage, love or sex is rejected by the victim⁶. Some reasons for such heinous crime are below mentioned:

- Dowry demand: When a girl never brings handsome dowry then she face acid attacks either by her husband or by any other person of her in-laws. If she is not able to satisfy the greed and lust of money she is subjected to acid as acid is cheap as well as easily available. Though taking of dowry is a punishable offence, but still it is largely prevalent in many areas. It is considered as the duty of the bride's family, and has to suffer a huge social stigma if not complied with. In India, many women claim that they are attacked with acid due to the failure to meet with the monetary expectations of their in laws. *don't have enough money to satisfy my needs but i have enough to buy acid for u* “
- Many a times if girl stands up to enjoy all her rights and freedoms provided by constitution or right to property she is subjected to acid by her own family members as for they think this is the best way to lower down her voice. Mostly men use this worse formula for ending their relationship from a woman too.
- News paper has shown that on the basis of different religious customs such as on laughing loudly, not wearing hijjab, moving college in jeans, men use this acid attack.⁷
- “Vindictive lovers, on being turned down for marriage by women or their families, resort to acid attacks to destroy the woman's appearance and relegate her to a fate worse than death. Study of Indian News Reports, from January 2002 to October 2012 uncovered that victim's rejection for love and marriage proposals motivated attacks in 35% of the 110 new stories, providing a motive for the attack⁸. Additionally, another report was published by a leading organization working for acid attack victims, „The Campaign and Struggle against Acid Attacks on Women (CSAAAW) found that sexual harassment or assault in response to a woman or girl refusing such advances or demanding that the violence stop often precede such attacks.⁹

6.Parvathi Menon, Sanjay Vashishtha, Vitriolage and India- The Modern Weapon of Revenge

7.<http://womenpain.com/society-problem/acid-attack-on-women-reasons-effects-medical-treatment-laws.php>

8.<http://www.globaltimes.cn/DesktopModules/DnnForge%20%20NewsArticles/Print.aspx?tabid=99>.

9.Campaign and struggle against Acid Attack on Women (CSAAAW), Burnt not defeated 21-22 (2007)

1.3 Consequences of acid attack:

Acid attacks are seen as one of the most vicious crimes as it causes perpetual suffering to the victim. As acid melts flesh and even the bones of a person, it causes an unparalleled degree of pain to the victim and leaves her mutilated and scarred as well as giving permanent disabilities at times such as blindness. Acid attack victim faces long-term consequences, after the attack there, life style itself changes fully in one day, even their loved one's also started ignoring the acid attack victims. Due to their horrific physical appearances, the society also looks at the acid attack victims as an alien. Acid attack victims itself feel worthless and embarrassed to come out from their houses due to their drastic changes in their appearance, their remaining life will be ruined after that incidences. After that attack they are not able to work due to their deformities, they are not get job it is difficult for them to survive in society .Damage caused by acid attacks was irreparable and it affect the victim woman both physically and psychologically. Added to this victim also economically suffered by acid attack.

1. **Physical consequences:** like lifelong scars, wound etc. Acid attacks have a catastrophic effect on human flesh and vital organs¹⁰. In most of these attacks, hydrochloric and Sulphuric

acid are used. These corrosive substances cause the skin tissue to melt. The bones of the victims become exposed and, sometimes, the acid dissolves the bones too. If it is thrown on face, acid rapidly spreads into the eyes, ears, nose and mouth. The eye lids and lips may burn off immediately and completely. Acid may quickly destroy the eye, blinding the victim. The nose may melt, closing the nostrils.

Treatment¹¹: It is very necessary to get a first aid as soon as possible. Otherwise in worst cases the acid penetrates to the bone which could be fatal for patient's life.

1. the most important First Aid is to immediately wash affected body part of patient with plenty of fresh or saline water.
2. Don't rinse the burn area with dirty water as it can cause severe infection.
3. keep flushing affected area with cool water.

10 http://www.asfi.in/webpage.php?p_type=1&parent=71&catid=73

11 <http://www.stopacidattacks.org/p/medical.html>

4. Remove all the jewelry or clothing which had contact with acid.
5. Don't apply any kind of cream, ointment on the affected area as it may slow the treatment procedure by doctors.
6. If possible, use sterilized gauze to loosely wrap the affected area. The gauze protects the skin from air, debris, dirt and contamination.
7. Rush the patient to a burn specialty hospital having isolated wards for burn patients

2. Psychological consequences: Acid assault survivors face many mental health issues upon recovery. Victims suffer psychological symptoms such as depression, insomnia, nightmares, fear about another attack and/or fear about facing the outside world, headaches, weakness and tiredness, difficulty in concentrating and remembering things, etc. They feel perpetually depressed, ashamed, worried, and lonely. This Psychological consequences is even more pathetic and painful as compared to the physical consequences. It is very difficult for the victim to accept that for the rest of life she has to live with the disfigured face or with those scars.

Victims suffer many psychological symptoms, such as:

1. Depression: Feeling sad and hopeless; thinking they can never have a normal life again; wanting to die.
2. Thinking and worrying a lot.
3. Sleeping problems: Insomnia or nightmares.
4. Fearful: Afraid that the perpetrator will harm them again; afraid to go outside and see other people.
5. Headaches, weakness and tiredness, difficulty to concentrate or remembering things

3. Social consequences: like physical and psychological consequences victim of acid attack also bears social consequence. As the attack leave them with scars or many a time handy-capped, people don't want to be around them, they didn't get job easily despite of being qualified, if victim is unmarried nobody wants to marry them. Such discrimination from people or disabilities such as blindness makes it very difficult for victims to fend for themselves and they become dependent on others for food and money. The victims don't want to move out as they think people would laugh on their scars, which result in loneliness.

ACID ATTACK AND INDIAN LAW

2.1 legal frameworks in India:

Unfortunately India does not have a separate law governing the crime of acid attack, but Indian Penal Code provide relief to these victims under Sections 320, 322, 325 and 326. But it is seen that these sections do not fulfill the gravity that is required for the seriousness of these offences.

Section 320 Grievous hurt. - The following kinds of hurt only are designated as "grievous":-
First. - Emasculation.

Secondly - Permanent privation of the sight of either eye.

Thirdly - Permanent privation of the hearing of either ear,

Fourthly - Privation of any member or joint.

Fifthly.-Destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any member or joint

Sixthly - Permanent disfiguration of the head or face.

Seventhly - Fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth.

Eighthly - Any hurt which endangers life or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain, or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits. This definition of grievous hurt has been criticized as the definition does not take within its purview the various kinds of deliberate hurt that is inflicted on important parts of a female's body nor does this definition apply to offences like acid attack in which multiple types of grievous hurts occur.

*Section 322*¹² of IPC defines voluntarily causing grievous hurt and *Section 325* IPC provides for punishment for grievous hurt. The offence is punishable by imprisonment upto seven years and is cognizable, bailable, and compoundable as well as being triable by a first class Magistrate. The offence of grievous hurt is not caused unless the offender both causes grievous hurt and intends, or knows himself to be likely, to cause grievous hurt.

*Section 326*¹³ of the Indian Penal Code which applies in cases of voluntarily causing grievous hurt by means of any corrosive substance is punishable with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years and fine 5 . Thus, punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt even by corrosive substances like Acid can be imprisonment for life or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years. It has been argued that this period of punishment does not match the gravity of the offence.

The Criminal Amendment Act, 2013 which was passed on the recommendations of the Verma Committee Report which brought into light the seriousness to deal to this acid attack offence. It inserted two new sections i.e. Sections 326A and Section 326B in the Indian Penal Code.

12. Sec 322 of ipc: voluntarily causing grievous hurt.—Whoever voluntarily causes hurt, if the hurt which he intends to cause or knows himself to be likely to cause is grievous hurt, and if the hurt which he causes is grievous hurt, is said “voluntarily to cause grievous hurt.”

Explanation.—a person is not said voluntarily to cause grievous hurt except when he both causes grievous hurt and intends or knows himself to be likely to cause grievous hurt. But he is said voluntarily to cause grievous hurt, if intending or knowing himself to be likely to cause grievous hurt of one kind, he actually causes grievous hurt of another kind.

13. Sec 326 of IPC: Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means—Whoever, except in the case provided for by section 335, voluntarily causes grievous hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body to inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

326 A¹⁴: Hurt by acid attack

Classification of offence :Minimum Imprisonment of 10 years extendable up to imprisonment for life and fine--cognizable-- non-bailable—triable by court of session—non-compoundable

326 B¹⁵: voluntary causing grievous hurt by use of acid

Classification of offence :Minimum Imprisonment of 5 years extendable up to 7 years and fine-- cognizable-- non-bailable—triable by court of session—non-compoundable.

For the purpose of rehabilitation, victims may also be given compensation as under Section 357A of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. Another laudable step which has been brought by the Criminal Amendment Act, 2013 was the inclusion of Section 357C to the Code of Criminal Procedure. It states that all hospitals, public or private, whether run by the Central Government, the State Government, local bodies, shall immediately provide first-aid or medical treatment, free of cost to the victims of any offence covered under Sections 326A, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D or 376E of the Indian Penal Code, and shall also inform the police immediately. One thing is very clear that mens rea is easily proved in acid attack, which is sometimes difficult to prove in murder also. .

14. Sec 326-A **voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc** 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 a person or causes grievous hurt by throwing acid on or by administering acid to that person, or by using any other means with the intention of causing or with the knowledge that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with fine. Provided that such fine shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses of the treatment of the victim, provided further that any fine imposed under this section shall be paid to the victim.

15. Sec326-B Attempt of causing grievous hurt by acid Whoever throws or attempts to throw acid on any person or attempts to administer acid to any person, or attempts to use any other means, with the intention of causing permanent or partial damage or deformity of burns or maiming or disfigurement or disability or grievous hurt to that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than five years, but which

may extend to seven years and also be liable to fine. *Explanation 1.*- For the purposes of section 326 A and this section, "acid" includes any substance which has acidic or corrosive character or burning nature, that is capable of causing bodily injury leading to scars or disfigurement or temporary or permanent disability. *Explanation 2.*- For the purposes of section 326 A and this section, permanent or partial damage or deformity shall not be required to be irreversible.'

Throwing acid at a person's face is a deliberate act. It requires the attacker to procure the acid first and this proves that the crime is premeditated. Therefore, the attacker throws acid into the victim's face, fully being conscious of the consequences of his act. This shows that the attacker's actions are completely willful. This can be a strong point while thinking of some stricter punishment in acid attack

2.2 landmark judgments: Indian court has dealt with many cases of acid attack, some of which are as follows:

HASINA'S CASE¹⁶one of the most famous cases involving acid attack. The accused threw acid on a girl, Hasina, for refusing his job offer. This deeply scarred her physical appearance, changed the colour and appearance of her face and left her blind. The accused was convicted under Section 307 of IPC and sentenced to imprisonment for life. A compensation of Rs. 2,00,000 in addition to the Trial Court fine of Rs 3,00,000 was to be paid by the accused to Hasina's parents. This was a landmark case as it was the first time that a compensation which was quite a large sum was given to the victim to meet the medical expenses including that of plastic surgeries. However, no compensation was awarded for the after effects of the attack such as loss of income etc.

Gulab Sahiblal Shaikh Vs. The State of Maharashtra, acid was thrown on a woman, while she was holding her two and a half year old baby, by her brother-in-law for refusing to give money to maintain her husband's second wife. She sustained acid burns on the left side of her face, left hand and left breast and both she and her infant daughter lost their eyesight. The woman finally died due to burn injuries. In this case, the brother-in-law was sentenced by the Court under Section 302 of IPC, to undergo imprisonment for life and pay a fine of Rs. 1000 and also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for a month. Under Section 326 of the IPC he was awarded 5 years of imprisonment apart from a fine of Rs. 2000/-and 3 months of rigorous imprisonment. Though the accused was found guilty the learned Judge failed to appreciate that he should levy an adequate amount as fine and give this fine to the victim's child, who suffered from the attack in multiple ways.

16. *State of Karnataka by Jalahalli Police Station vs. Joseph Rodrigues S/o V.Z. Rodrigues*

In Devanand Vs. The State: a man threw acid on his estranged wife because she refused to cohabit with him. The wife suffered permanent disfigurement and loss of one eye. The accused was convicted under Section 307 and was imprisoned for 7 years.

Awadhesh Roy Vs. State of Jharkhand: In this case before the Jharkhand High Court 38 the victim was standing with her friend at a Bus Stop in Dhanbad. The Appellant came and poured acid over her head and face. The appellant had a photograph of the victim and was blackmailing her but she refused to accede to his demands. The victim suffered burn injuries over the left side of her eye, neck and chest and had to be hospitalized. A case was registered under Sections 324, 326, 307 IPC. The police investigated the case and finally submitted a

charge sheet against the appellant under the aforesaid sections. The learned 2nd Additional Sessions Judge, Dhanbad held the appellant guilty under Section 324 IPC and convicted and sentenced him to undergo RI for three years. The appellant's conviction was upheld by the Hon'ble High Court. No compensation whatsoever was awarded to the victim. In this case the court seems to have been guided by the nature of injuries which in its opinion did not amount to grievous hurt.

In another case ¹⁷before the Madras High Court a nurse and a compounder conspired and poured a mixture of acid and kerosene over a doctor as revenge for an alleged rape by him of the nurse. The doctor sustained 100% burn injuries and later expired due to them. The accused were charged under Sec 302 and 109 of the IPC but were acquitted for the lack of evidence.

Revinder Singh v State of Haryana, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 1975, acid was poured on a woman by her husband for refusing to grant him a divorce. The husband was involved in an extra-marital affair. Due to the attack, the victim suffered multiple acid burns on her face and other parts of her body leading to her death. The accused was charged and convicted under Section 302 of the IPC. However, life imprisonment was not imposed even though the victim had died.

17. Mahesh and Parimaladevi vs. State, Decided on 10/4/2003 by the Madras High Court

In a case from Delhi¹⁸ the accused threw acid on the victims face. The liquid splashed on her face produced some redness (erythema) on the skin over a part of her face involving her upper eye-lids. There was no corrosion, of the skin or other deformity. The accused was convicted for causing hurt under Section 323 of the IPC and a meager fine of Rs. 300 along with 15 days imprisonment was awarded. This sort of punishment for acid attack is in itself a mockery of sorts and does not take into consideration the gravity of the crime and its after effects like trauma which affects the victim throughout her life.

2.3 story of acid attack survivor laxmi: a brave heart

Laxmi was attacked with acid when she was merely 15 years old by a spurned lover who was 17 years older to her, in 2005 in the crowded Central Delhi area in daytime, where the spurned lover, along with his brother's girlfriend, approached Laxmi, flung her and threw acid on her face. This attack disfigured her face, ears, hands and chest. The doctors had to remove the entire skin from her face. Till now Laxmi has undergone 7 surgeries, and still need four more surgeries before she can go for a plastic surgery. Though the acid attack left numerous scars on her body, but it could not scar her soul, her spirit. Rather than shutting herself in a room and hiding from the world for something she wasn't fault at for, she decided to come forward and fight against acid attacks. She is an Indian campaigner with Stop Acid Attacks and a TV host. She is the director of Chhanv Foundation, a NGO dedicated to help the survivors of acid attacks in India. Laxmi received 2014 international women of courage award by US First Lady Michelle Obama. She was also chosen as the NDTV Indian of the Year.

She filed a PIL in 2006. Her PIL sought framing of a new law, or amendment to the existing criminal laws like IPC, Indian Evidence Act and CRPC for dealing with the offence, besides

asking for compensation. She had also pleaded for a total ban on sale of acid, citing increasing number of incidents of such attacks on women across the country.¹⁹In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Laxmi and Rupa's plea, thereby creating a fresh set of restrictions on the sale of acid. Under the new regulations, acid could not be sold to any individual below the age of 18 years.

18. *State(Delhi Administration) Vs. Mewa Singh 5(1969) DLT 50*

19. "SC bans over-the-counter sale of acid, orders compensation for victims". *Zee News*

One is also required to furnish a photo identity card before buying acid. Laxmi claims that not much has changed on the ground, despite all the regulations. "Acid is freely available in shops. Our own volunteers have gone and purchased acid easily. In fact, I have myself purchased acid," she said. "We have launched a new initiative called 'Shoot Acid'. By means of the Right to Information Act, we are trying to acquire data concerning the sale of acid in every district. We intend to present the information collected through this initiative before the Supreme Court to apprise them of the situation on the ground."

Her personal life: Eleven years since the attack, Laxmi met and married her male friend Alok, a social activist and gave birth to a baby girl, Pihu. She is the face of **Viva N Diva**'s latest collection and **works tirelessly to protect** other acid attack survivors. Laxmi is now in a happy place, but the journey to where she now is was not an easy one.²⁰

Guidelines laid down by Supreme Court in Laxmi's case²¹: Supreme Court of India in the case of *Laxmi Versus Union of India*, issued some important guidelines regarding the treatment of acid attack patients which are necessary for all healthcare providers to know about. With this important judgement the Supreme Court brought under ambit all private hospitals to provide free medical treatment to acid attack victims. Following Directions were made by court:

1. Full medical assistance should be provided to the victims of acid attack and that private hospitals should also provide free medical treatment to such victims
2. No hospital/clinic should refuse treatment citing lack of specialized facilities.
3. First-aid must be administered to the victim and after stabilization; the victim/patient could be shifted to a specialized facility for further treatment, wherever required.

Action may be taken against hospital/clinic for refusal to treat victims of acid of acid attacks and other crimes in contravention of the provisions of Section 357C of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The hospital, where the victim of an acid attack is first treated, should give a certificate that the individual is a victim of an acid attack.

20. SUPRA NOTE 19

21. <http://medicaldialogues.in/supreme-court-guidelines-to-treat-acid-attack-patients/>

This certificate may be utilized by the victim for treatment and reconstructive surgeries or any other scheme that the victim may be entitled to with the State Government or the Union Territory, as the case may be.

In the event of any specific complaint against any private hospital or government hospital, the acid attack victim will, of course, be at liberty to take further action.

The State Governments/Union Territories should seriously discuss and take up the matter with all the private hospitals in their respective State/Union Territory to the effect that the private hospitals should not refuse treatment to victims of acid attack and that full treatment should be provided to such victims including medicine food, bedding and reconstructive surgeries.

ACID ATTACK IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Apart from India acid attack have been documented in various other parts of the world including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Italy, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, UK, USA, and Vietnam. The number of incidences in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Cambodia and Uganda are much higher and are on the rise. The researcher will here discuss acid attack in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Canada

3.1 BANGLADESH:

Since the 1990s, Bangladesh has been reporting the highest number of attacks and highest incidence rates for women, in 2001, 340 cases were reported, in 2002, 336 cases were reported and in 2003, 335 cases were reported. Between 1999 and 2002, acid attacks in Bangladesh increased at a rate of 50% per year, culminating in 485 attacks in 2002. In 2003 there was a 15% decrease in cases to 410 per year. To combat such evil from society Bangladesh government adopted stringent laws criminalizing acid violence and requiring business users of acid to obtain licenses. In year 2002, Acid Crime Control Act (ACCA) & ACA (Acid Control Act) laws were introduced by the government. ACCA heightened the penalties and created

special court procedures for acid attack cases, while ACA or Acid Control Act helped Bangladeshi government to keep a control, regulate, and monitor the use, sale, purchase, storage, transportation, import, and export of acid in the country.²²

The Acid Offences Prevention Act 2002 reads as follows:

Section 4: Punishment for killing of a person by acid: Whoever kills anyone by acid shall be punished with, death or rigorous imprisonment for life and also with fine no exceeding One Lac Taka Section

22.<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/acid-attacks-what-indian-should-learn-from-bangladesh-45548.html>

Section 5: Punishment for hurt by acid: Whoever causes such bodily injury to a person, by acid, that His/her sight or ear is damaged fully or partly or face or breast or sexual organ is disfigured or damaged, he shall be punished with, death or rigorous imprisonment for life and also a fine not exceeding One Lac Taka. b) Any member or joint of his/her body is disfigured or damaged or injured in any part thereof, he shall be punished with, imprisonment of either description which may extend to 14 years but not less than 7 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Section 6: Punishment for acid throwing or attempt to throwing: Whosoever throws or attempts to throw acid on any other person even if such an act causes no damage or injury to that other person whether physically, mentally or otherwise, he shall be punished with, imprisonment of either description which may extend to 7 years but not less than 3 years of rigorous imprisonment also with a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Taka

3.2 COMBODIA:

As data collected by newspaper In a 2003 report on acid attacks in Cambodia, it was reported that between December 1999 and November 2002, 63 people were subject to acid attack. Of the total of 63 people hit by acid in the three-year period, 31 of them were male and 30 female (plus two victims whose sex was not reported in newspapers). At least 18 of the victims (29%) were not the intended targets of the attacks but were injured by chance. They included friends or family members of intended victims, moto-doup drivers transporting the victims at the time of attack, and other people nearby. The 18 people comprised 12 males and four females (plus the two victims whose sex was not reported), which shows that more women were deliberate targets of attacks and more men were injured by chance. The females hit by acid ranged in age from 4 to 45, and the males from 5 to 53. Most victims, male and female, were aged between 18 and 33. The average age of female victims was 24, and the average age of males was 29. Six minors (aged fewer than 18) were among the injured. There were two cases of girls, aged 16 or 17, deliberately attacked by women who suspected the girls of having relationships with their husbands. The other four children, aged between 4 and 12, were all injured accidentally during attacks. The youngest victim, a 4-year-old girl, was one of six people injured when a woman threw acid at her husband during a child's birthday party.

Case: Phok Veasna, aged 32, attacked her husband with acid at their Phnom Penh house in 2002 after hearing rumors that he had a relationship with another woman. Her husband was badly burned on the face and chest. Some acid also split over the couple's five year-old-son. Veasna was arrested and detained, and her husband and son taken to hospital. Veasna told police that she had no intention of harming her son, but the acid splashed on to him. Neighbors said they did not see or hear about the husband having a new wife, and wondered why Veasna acted in a foolish way because of a rumor.

Law: Cambodian criminal law does not mention acid violence. But perpetrators can be charged with battery with injury, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment. If the victims dies or receives life-threatening injuries, more serious charges such as murder, attempted murder or manslaughter should be laid. They carry sentences of 10 years to life imprisonment.²³

3.3 PAKISTAN

Despite laws against acid attacks, the practice of pouring acid on men, women and children as a form of punishment continues in Pakistan. There were 143 acid attacks registered with the Acid Survivors Foundation in 2013. Most were against women and girls. Such assaults, which can leave victims disfigured and socially ostracized, are often payback for refusing a man's advances or failing to provide an adequate dowry. In 2011, it introduced a minimum sentence of 14 years in jail and a fine of one million rupees (\$10,000) for those found guilty of throwing acid by passing of "The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Bill 2010" Khan Yusufzai, chair of the Pakistan branch of the Acid Survivors Foundation, says the conviction rate rose from an average of six percent before the amendment to 18 percent in 2012.²⁴

23. <https://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports/files/41acid%20report%20English.pdf>

24. <http://www.acidviolence.org/index.php/news/tough-law-sees-acid-attack-conviction-rate-triple-in-pakistan/>

CONCLUSION

The researcher has critically analyzed the heinous crime of acid attack and tried to analyze the causes and its physical, physiological and socioeconomic consequences. The overall view is that although we are having sec 326A And 326B to combat with such offence but still we are not able to throw such offence out of society still we need to think on it, strict law should b made the main reason of commission of crime is no fear of punishment secondly laws are made but they are not implemented properly. As according to SC ruling acid should not be sold to person below 18 years and person buying acid should submit copy of his id card but this is nowhere followed because shopkeepers don't have fear of being punished. The researcher has also covered the offence in other countries also and is of view that this problem of acid attack is same in all these countries and everyone is trying to combat with it by making strict laws. Secondly the causes of acid attack are also same i.e. rejection, easy availability of acid at cheap rate.

Why does our conscience as a nation need to be shocked again and again with multiple faces over so many years leaving us vulnerable in the meantime to such a cruel and destructive crime?.



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