

# CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ACID VIOLENCE

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## ABSTRACT

*Acid violence, more formally known as vitriolage, is an act of violence that involves the throwing of acid upon another with the main purpose of causing disfigurement. Acid violence is a wide-reaching phenomenon. Women and girls primarily become victims, for making their own decisions regarding education, jobs and marriage. There have been cases, when they refused the advances made to them by the perpetrators. Research indicates that acid violence is carried out by the individuals belonging to diverse categories and backgrounds, irrespective of factors such as, caste, creed, race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender and socio-economic background. The main purpose of this research paper is to understand the cause and consequences of acid violence. The main areas that have been taken into account are, causes of acid violence, consequences of acid violence, treatment of victims, legislation in India, enacting laws to combat acid violence, Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks Scheme, 2016 and cases of acid violence.*

**Keywords:** Acid Violence, Difficulties, Suffering, Pain, Victims, Laws

## INTRODUCTION

Acid violence, gang rape, sexual harassment at the workplace, verbal and physical abuse, female foeticide, female infanticide, honour killing, bride burning and dowry death are a few crimes against women, which are giving rise to national and international consideration and attention of the modern world. Acid throwing, also called an acid attack, is a form of violent assault, which is primarily done upon the face of a person with the intention to mutilate, disfigure, torture or kill. Perpetrators of these attacks throw acid at the victims, burning them and damaging skin tissues, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The long-term consequences of the attacks may include blindness, as well as permanent scarring of the face and body along with far reaching social, psychological and economic hardships. It causes pain and suffering on a massive scale. According to the researchers and activists, countries typically associated with acid violence include Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Hong Kong, China, United Kingdom, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia (Bhullar, 2014).

The most noteworthy effect of an acid violence is the lifelong bodily disfigurement. Consequently, the victim experiences numerous physical challenges, which require long-term surgical treatment. Victims of acid violence are required to experience many mental health issues upon recovery like, apprehension, depression, hopelessness, stress, lowered self-esteem and increased self-consciousness, they experience hesitance in going into the social environment. Acid violence is often referred to as a criminal act that is driven by resentment, suspicion and revenge. Actual cases have mainly illustrated that they are usually the result of rage at women, who have turned down the advances of males. One study showed that refusal of marriage proposals accounted for 55% of acid violence, abuse from husbands or family members accounted

for 18%, property disputes accounted for 11% and refusal of other advances 2%. Hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid are made use of to commit this crime (Bhullar, 2014).

## CAUSES OF ACID VIOLENCE

There are numerous causes due to which acid violence takes place at home as well as outside the home, these have been stated as follows:

**Rejection of Proposals** – There have been cases of girls in India, who have become acid attack victims, primarily due to the reason that they have turned down proposals made by men regarding marriage. These young girls, who were not even 20 years of age, aspired to study and obtain a good employment opportunity. The age below 20 years is not meant for marriage, but at this age, a person needs to focus on his study and future prospects. Rejection of marriage proposals made them victims of acid violence. When men experienced rejection, they developed the feelings of antagonism and resentment, out of these feelings, they took revenge by throwing acid on the face of girls.

**Superiority of Males** – There has been prevalence of crime and violence against women. Besides, acid violence, the other criminal and violent acts that women experience are sexual harassment, rape, female infanticide, female foeticide, physical abuse and verbal abuse. Women, in the present existence, still cannot fight for their rights, they still cannot make their own decisions and have to obey the male members of the family. Girls and women, primarily in rural areas are still regarded as liabilities and they do not have any say in the decision making process. Decision making authority is vested in the hands of the males. When a woman refuses a man, it is seen as damaging his status, reputation and honour, and he restores it by committing acid violence. Men throw acid on women as a mark of their masculinity and superiority. By deforming her face, man derives a merciless pleasure and his ego gets fulfilled (Yeasmeen, 2015).

**Dowry and Other Marital Problems** - Demanding dowry is a punishable offence, but it is still prevalent in many areas. It is considered as the obligation of the bride's family, and they have to experience a massive social stigma, mainly if they belong to deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections. In India, many women are attacked with acid due to the failure of meeting the financial expectations of their in-laws. In addition to this, land and property disputes may also be stated to be the primary reasons for the implementation of this vicious offence. When the girl's family is not able to meet the demands made by the boy's family, which can be related to property, money, or other valuables and luxury items, then girls have been made acid attack victims (Yeasmeen, 2015).

**Business Rivalry and Sales Disputes** – There have been cases, when two or more individuals get involved into business and partnerships with each other. These may include men and women. When one has borrowed loan from the other and is unable to pay, then primarily out of the feelings of anger and resentment, individuals get involved into acid violence. There have been cases of acid violence, when even men have become victims, but in most cases, victims have been women. Females, who are between the ages of 11 and 30 years have been most vulnerable to such attacks (Yeasmeen, 2015). In business, every individual aims to make profit and when one

feels, he has experienced a loss because of someone, he may get involved into acid violence primarily out of the feelings of hatred and jealousy.

**Domestic Disputes** –Within the households of primarily poverty stricken, deprived, and socio-economically backward sections of the society, the occurrence of disputes and conflicting situations mainly give rise to criminal and violent acts. These individuals are usually unaware and illiterate, they do not recognize the significance of education and their main goal is to enhance their living conditions. Conflicts normally arise within their households over trivial issues, such as in carrying out of household chores, preparation of meals, availability of water and other civic amenities and finances. When individuals are unable to meet their needs and requirements, the feelings of anger and frustration primarily lead to domestic disputes. There are ways to bring out solutions to these problems in a peaceful manner, but there have been cases of men, who get easily aggravated and in turn commit heinous acts of verbal and physical abuse, sexual harassment, rape, acid attacks and even murder within their own household.

**Extra-Marital Affairs** – There have been cases of individuals, when they commit acid violence, due to the reason of having an extra-marital affair. This aspect normally leads to a stressful and a demanding relationship between husband and wife. They get engaged into conflicts on a frequent basis and out of the feelings of anger and resentment, he throws acid upon her. The main motive of the man is to get rid of his wife, the reason being, he no longer takes pleasure in living with her. Therefore, due to this main reason, she becomes a victim of acid violence.

**Feelings of Resentment and Detestation** – There have been individuals, who are engaged in criminal and violent acts and do not follow the traits of morality, righteousness, truthfulness and ethics. There has been a case of a young woman, who raised her voice against the crime committed by a group of several men. Her main objective was to maintain law and order within the community, so that women do not become victims of crime and violence. She wanted to generate empowerment opportunities for women. As a result of her efforts, she became an acid attack victim and experienced severe pain and suffering. When she dared to raise her voice against these individuals, then out of the feelings of revenge, resentment and detestation, they made her undergo calamitous consequences. The primary intention of these male perpetrators was to disfigure her as a form of revenge.

**Conflicting Situations** – The occurrence of conflicting situations between unknown individuals have also made them victims of acid violence. There has been a case of a taxi driver and passenger, a dispute took place between them and the passenger threw acid upon the driver and fled. He refused to pay the required taxi fare that the driver asked for. Therefore, it can be stated that in most cases, trivial issues, which can be resolved in a peaceful manner enabled the individuals to commit acid violence. When any kinds of rejections take place between the individuals, then in most cases, it leads to occurrence of conflicts and disputes. When these situations assume a major form, then acid violence takes place.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF ACID VIOLENCE**

The consequences of acid violence have been stated as follows: (Yeasmeen, 2015).

Physical consequences – Acid violence is the most painful of all kinds of wounds and injuries inflicted upon human beings. The acid thrown not only burns the skin, but also melts the flesh and bones layer by layer, and it may also dissolve the bones. The damage depends upon the quantity of acid thrown and duration in which it remains exposed. If it is washed away immediately, then the intensity of the burn may be lessened. If it is thrown on the face of the person, acid rapidly spreads into the eyes, ears, nose and mouth. The eye lids and lips may burn off immediately and completely. Acid may speedily damage the eyes, blinding the victim, which may be on permanent basis, though blindness may be partial. The nose may melt, closing the nostrils. The skin and the bone on the skull, forehead, cheeks, and chin may rapidly melt. One study found that on average, a patient suffered burns to 14% of the body surface area with areas most commonly affected, including the face (81%), head and neck (67%), upper limbs (60%), and chest (54%). Around one third of the victims suffered complete or partial blindness.

Psychological Consequences - Psychological consequences can even be more pitiful and excruciating as compared to the physical consequences. It has deep influence not only upon the victims, but also on their families. The victim suffers from trauma and mental suffering to a major extent. There have been cases of women, who were below 20 years of age, they had aspirations regarding acquiring good education and having a good career. Acid violence completely plunged them into trauma and led to immense long-term pain and suffering. They were compelled to give up their education and dropped out of the institutions. A psychological trauma is suffered by the victim, when she feels that her skin is burnt off, and after the attack, the mutilation and the disabilities, which they have to bear for the rest of their lives.

Some of the psychological problems which the victims experience are restlessness, nightmares, depression, fear of facing the world, headache, tiredness, and fear of other acid attacks. They also feel depressed and apprehensive as they think themselves prohibited from the society. Many victims had to remain confined within their homes for years and could not go outside the house, this made them feel disheartened on a major scale, as they could not even plan their career. Other psychological effects included, eternal trauma, social isolation and suicide plan (Azam, & Zakariya, 2014). The victim's life completely gets destabilized, as many times, she looks herself in the mirror. In the society, wherever a person goes, his or her physical appearance is noted and when the physical appearance of a person gets damaged, he experiences hesitance and fear in communicating with the outside world and usually remains confined at home.

Economic Consequences - The victims, who are not married are most likely not to get married as they experience from many disabilities such as, visual impairment, hearing impairment and many others. The perspectives and viewpoints of individuals within the societies is not that wide-ranging that they would accept a person, who has been an acid attack victim. There has been a case of a girl, who has been an acid attack victim and has been fortunate enough to find a life partner. But in most cases, this crime destabilizes a person and they experience problems in the acquisition of education, employment opportunities and getting settled. They even do not get a job in spite of being qualified, as they cannot meet the expectations of their employers, the reason being, they do not have the required personal appearance. The victims of acid violence, may recuperate, but it is a time consuming process to gain complete confidence to pursue education or employment.

The suffering that these victims experience is not for their own fault but because of warped minded individuals, who are the doers. As far as economic consequences are concerned, such victims experience discrimination, when it comes to acquisition of employment opportunities. The employers are of the viewpoints that these victims, will not be able to meet the job requirements. At the initial stage, the pain and suffering that these victims experience are unbearable. Whereas, there have been cases of victims, who have recuperated and are doing well in their lives. In spite of having good careers and work, their physical scars remind them continuously of the massacres committed on them, and a feeling of lonesomeness and insignificance always worries them.

## **TREATMENT OF VICTIMS**

The medical treatment of victims of acid violence is costly and long-term. The first thing that should be done, when the acid gets in contact with the skin is to flush the burned flesh with water for at least 60 minutes and to wash off the acid with water for as long as possible. This usually depends upon the quantity of acid used to injure the victim. Emergency treatment at hospitals should include cleaning and bandaging the burns, and relieving any breathing problems caused by acid fumes. Infection is a major hazard, the reason being, dead tissues around deep burns get easily infected and prevents the burns from healing. Infection may spread to the healthy part of the skin, and may even kill the victim and it can attack the victim at any stage during the weeks and months right after the occurrence of the attack (Law Commission of India, 2008).

The wounds need to be kept clean and antibiotics need to be given to fight infection. The eyes are vulnerable to infection and can cause blindness, which may be complete or partial. Most important part during treatment is to ensure that victims can close their eyes, preventing them from getting dry and infected. Surgery may be needed to rebuild the eyelids, if they have been damaged by acid, or remove thick scars around the eyes, as burns heal. Consumption of adequate diet and nutrition is vital, the reason being, victims require energy to fight infection and heal the wounds. This may be difficult, if the victim has burns around the mouth and has difficulty in swallowing, or cannot afford the necessary diet. It can take the time period of three to twelve months for the wounds to heal (Law Commission of India, 2008).

Thick scars, which are excruciating, hurting, agonising and uncomfortable, grow over the healed burns. The scars grow and change over the time period of one to two years. As the scars thicken and contract, they can cause permanent disability by stiffening the joints and restricting movement. For example, the scarring on the neck and shoulders, can prevent a patient from moving his head or arms. Doctors may need to perform numerous operations to release the scars and graft new skin over them. In some cases, when the injuries are numerous, they may require more than 40 surgeries. Scars may also grow over the nostrils or ear canals, and surgery is required to remove them. Long periods of physical therapy are required to minimize the lack of movement from scarring, and special elastic bandages can intensely cause a reduction in the thickness and stiffness of scars. The final stage of treatment is to try to restore the physical appearance of the victim as much as possible. During the final stage of treatment, the wounds must have healed completely and the whole extent of scarring and deformities of the body must be

visible. The operations may continue over the period of two to three years to enable the victim recuperate completely (Law Commission of India, 2008).

## LEGISLATION IN INDIA

There has been establishment of an organization, known as the Acid Survivors Foundation. Its main objective is to mobilize public support and work with the government that action is put into practice to curb acid violence (Campaigns against Acid Violence spur Change, 2011). The Supreme Court's ruling on July 16, 2013 comes after a principally dishonourable incident, in which four sisters suffered severe burns after being assaulted with acid by two men on a motorbike. There have been regulations imposed upon the sale of acid (Bhullar, 2014).

The Supreme Court has directed the states and union territories to issue licenses to retailers, who are selling acid, after the government stated it will categorize it as poison.

The Supreme Court stated anyone under the age of 18 will not be eligible to purchase acids like hydrochloric, sulphuric and nitric.

Shops will have to keep details like the quantities sold and the addresses of the buyers, who will need to present photo identification to purchase acids.

The Supreme Court stated, over the counter sale of acid is completely prohibited, unless the seller maintains a log or a register recording its sale.

Retailers will have to declare the amount of acid being stocked to the police, the Court stated. Failure to do so would lead to undeclared stock being confiscated and a fine of up to 50,000 rupees.

The Supreme Court stated that acid attacks became a non-bailable offence and the victims should receive 300,000 rupees in compensation, one third of which must be given within 15 days of the attack.

The Government of India is implementing some constructive schemes on the victims of acid violence, which are a wanted indication that would add upon the objectives of the Criminal Justice System. The compensatory jurisprudence should also include within its preview the victims of acid violence. The distribution and sale of acid should be prohibited except for profitable and scientific purposes. Acid should be made a scheduled banned chemical, which should not be available on the counter. The particulars and details of the purchasers should be noted. The acid offences prevention act 2002 of Bangladesh need to be examined in India, either as a special act or special provisions to be integrated in the penal code. The concept of restorative justice should be efficiently implemented in the justice system. The idea of restorative justice is emerging as an answer to these issues. Justice has to essentially move from retributive and deterrent to restorative. Restorative justice is primarily concerned with restoring relationships, with establishing or re-establishing social equality within relationships. At a more concrete level, restorative justice involves the victim, the offender, and the community in search for solutions, which endorse repair, reconciliation, and reassurance (Nair, 2014).

The basic principles of restorative justice have been stated as follows: (Nair, 2014).

1. Holding the offender directly accountable for the individual victim and the specific community affected by the criminal act.

2. Requiring the offender to take direct responsibility for making things whole again to the extent that this is possible.
3. Providing the victims, determined and focused access to the courts and correctional procedures, which allows them to assist in determining the commitments of the offenders.
4. Promoting the community to become directly involved in supporting the victims, holding the offenders accountable, and providing opportunities for offenders to reintegrate into the community. Restorative justice seeks to redefine crime, understanding it not so much as breaking the law, or offending against the state, but as grievance or a misconduct. It stimulates the victim and the offender to get involved directly in bringing about resolutions to the occurrence of conflicts through discussions and negotiations. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a technique helps the restorative justice to achieve its objectives. The ADR refers to the ways and means of bringing about resolutions to conflicts outside the courtroom. It includes, arbitration, mediation, early neutral evaluation and conciliation.

## ENACTING LAWS TO COMBAT ACID VIOLENCE

The Law Commission of India and the National Commission for Women (NCW) have maintained enacting amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Indian Evidence Code to state acid violence. However, in a public interest litigation court filing in April 2010 before the Supreme Court of India, the government stated that the present legislations are adequate to deal with the offence of acid violence. The government has recently reversed its position, at least with respect to the adoption of criminal provisions. An expert committee headed by the home minister of India is supposed to sanction the implementation of amendments to the IPC to address acid violence. Legislation to combat acid violence has also been proposed in the state of Andhra Pradesh, but it has not yet been enacted. The key provisions of the law commissions and NCW draft bills have been explained as follows: (Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India and Cambodia, 2011).

New penal code section to address acid violence - Both the Law Commission and NCW drafts recommend adding a new section to the IPC that addresses acid violence. Under the proposed new section, anyone who throws acid on another person with intention or knowledge to cause harm or injury upon the victim can be charged. Under existing laws, there is confusion about whether a perpetrator should be charged with causing hurt (IPC Section 324) or grievous hurt (IPC Section 326). A charge for grievous hurt leads to life imprisonment but a charge of hurt carries only a maximum penalty of three years. Section 320 defines grievous hurt as emasculation of the victim's reproductive and sexual organs, permanent deprivation of the hearing of either ear, deprivation of any joint, the annihilation or permanent impairment of any joint, permanent disfigurement of the head or face, fracture or dislocation of a bone or a tooth, and any hurt that endangers life or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of 20 days in severe bodily pain, or inability to pursue simple tasks.

New penal code section to address attempted acid attacks - Both the Law Commission and NCW propose adding a new section to the IPC that will make accountable any individual, who throws acid to a person with the intention of causing damage. Punishing the perpetrators, who throw acid but miss their targets or use diluted acid sends a message that the government will not take this type of violence and may dissuade unsuccessful perpetrators from making a second attempt.

Increases maximum and minimum sentences for acid crimes - Both the Law Commission and NCW endorse giving judge's discretion to sentence acid violence wrongdoers to a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment. Indeed, it has been noted, in most cases, sentences are between seven and 10 years, but the time the wrongdoer actually serves is usually less. Indeed, higher penalties seem to have had a restrictive effect on acid violence in Karnataka. After the case in which a judge imposed a life sentence for an acid violence, there was a successive decline in this crime.

Imposes increased fines against perpetrators - Both the Law Commission and NCW bills recommend increasing the penalties against acid violence perpetrators. The Law Commission bill proposes a maximum fine of Rs.10 lakhs, which is double the maximum fine recommended by the NCW. The Law Commission draft suggests that any fine collected should be given directly to the victim of acid violence. The moderately high fines reflect the severe effect of acid throwing on victims and also recognize high expenses that victims and their families experience.

Addresses evidentiary issues particular to acid violence - Acid violence may take place during any time of the day and it can be inside the house or outside. Quite often only few witnesses are noticed. Even when there are witnesses, wrongdoers often threaten them to prevent them from testifying at trial or describing previous testimony. The weapon, including both the acid and the container, is rarely found or collected. To address these problems often encountered by the prosecutors, the NCW bill suggests an amendment to the Indian Evidence Act that allows the statement of victims to be adequate to convict a perpetrator.

Compensates acid violence victims - The Law Commission's recommended bill suggests that the Indian legislature should adopt the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act that will provide interim and ultimate relief to the victims of certain criminal and violent acts, such as rape, sexual harassment, and acid violence. The Law Commission's bill seeks to provide both interim and continuous compensation to the victim, and to the victim's legal guardian and dependants, if any. In determining the amount of compensation provided to the victim, the Law Commission of India recommends adopting a matrix modelled after the one in the United Kingdom's Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, to decide the amount awarded to a victim based on the cause and nature of the wounds and damages he or she has suffered.

Creates a victim's assistance board - The NCW proposed bill would launch a National Acid Attack Victim's Assistance Board comprising of lawyers, activists, and advocates. This government organization would scrutinize the legal, medical, and financial assistance the government provides to the victims of acid violence. The Victim's Assistance Board would also have the authority to scrutinize acid violence victims' medical treatment, and arrange for legal support services for them, frame and recommend to government agencies rehabilitation plans for each victim, assist the government in developing strategies to regulate the control and sale of



acid, and raise awareness about acid violence. Additionally, the Victim's Assistance Board would be authorised with processing claims for financial relief made by victims, their caregivers, or their dependants.

## **LEGAL SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF ACID ATTACKS SCHEME, 2016**

The scheme is known as NALSA, legal services to victims of acid attacks scheme, 2016. The objectives of the scheme have been stated as follows: (NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016, 2016).

To strengthen the legal representation and assistance at the national, state, district, and taluka levels for the victims of acid violence. The main purpose is to make available the benefits of various legal provisions and schemes for which the compensation exists.

To enable the victims of acid violence to get access to medical assistance and rehabilitative services. There have been victims of acid violence, who belonged to deprived, marginalized and socio-economically backward sections of the society. These victims cannot afford medical treatment, hence they require medical assistance and rehabilitative services.

To create and spread awareness about the entitlements of the victims of acid violence through the District Legal Services Authorities, Taluka Legal Services Committees, panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, and legal services clinics.

To improve the capabilities to deal with acid violence on the part of all the levels of penal lawyers, para-legal volunteers, volunteers in legal services, clinics, government officers, who work for the implementation of various schemes, service providers, police personnel, and non-government organizations. It is done by the organization of training, orientation and sensitization programs.

Research and analysis is required to get implemented for the documentation of various schemes, laws, policies and procedures. It is vital to find out the gaps and needs and to communicate effectual ideas and suggestions to the appropriate authorities. It is vital for the authorities to possess adequate awareness, regarding how to deal with and curb acid violence cases.

The ultimate objective of the scheme is to ensure that rehabilitative services are provided to the victims of acid violence, they recuperate in an effective manner and are able to live a life of dignity. There have been victims of acid violence, who are in the present world, working and living a life of dignity. They have not let their suffering and calamitous consequences become impediments within the course of pursuing their goals and objectives. Though their suffering is reflected in their personal appearance, but they have come out of the traumatic situation and living a satisfied life.

## **CASES OF ACID VIOLENCE**

Some of the acid violence cases that have taken place within the country have been stated as follows:

In a case of Devanand vs. the State, a man threw acid on his estranged wife because she expressed willingness to get separated from him. The wife not only lost her eye sight, but the

attack also led to permanent disfigurement of her face. Although the accused was held guilty by the Court, and the punishment awarded to him was a minimal period of seven years under Section 307 IPC (Yeasmeen, 2015).

On 28th January, 2010, a young girl named Anu, who was 19 years of age, was undergoing training to become a nurse. She was returning home with her two friends, when an unidentified male threw acid on her face. She was severely burnt on her neck, face, arms, which resulted in her withdrawal from college as well from the society. Her personnel appearance completely changed. Numerous surgeries were put into operation, but the cost was unaffordable for her family. The perpetrator remained unpunished even after one and a half years after the incident (Yeasmeen, 2015).

Monica was a first year student of the undergraduate course in apparel design at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), when she was attacked with acid at her home. She spent an entire year in the hospital in Lucknow and almost a sum of Rs. 50lakhs on reconstruction surgery. Acid violence completely devastated her entire life, but she received less relief from the court. Two of Monica's attackers are in custody but three are out on bail. Under the new law passed last April, Monica would have been entitled to compensation, both from the State and Central government as well as from the accused. But regrettably, Monica pre-dates this, so she does not procure any benefits from the law (Yeasmeen, 2015).

Laxmi Agarwal, is the daughter of a domestic cook, and was only 16 years old when a 32 year old man began pursuing her. After she refused his marriage proposal a few times, he reverberated up one day on a motorcycle with a collaborator and threw acid on her face, chest and hands. At such a young age, she became a victim of acid violence and her entire life turned into a misfortune. She lost her entire childhood, friends and had to dropout from school. People around passed comments and stared at her. She was blamed by people around, even saying that she might have done something that enabled the man to take such an extreme step. She spent eight years hiding her face and suffered humiliation whenever she went outside the home. She gained audacity, when gang rape of a medical student in a bus took place in December 2012, which had an impact on the entire country (Yeasmeen, 2015).

She immediately filed a PIL and sought a ban on the sale of toxic liquids. Under huge pressure, the Government passed a law that for the first time generated criminal charges especially for stalking, acid violence and forcible public disrobing of women, it is an act sometimes carried out in rural areas to cause humiliation and dishonour. Under the new law, a person convicted of an acid violence experiences a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life sentence and in addition, he has to pay a penalty of 10 lakhs rupees. There are limitless cases happening all around in the present world. Formulation of appropriate measures, laws, policies and their effective implementation can provide assistance to the acid attack survivors to obtain hope. There have been cases of acid violence, when they are able to effectively recuperate and live a dignified life. On the other hand, there have been cases, when women have not been able to survive. Their rehabilitation and compensation should be well thought off, especially for the families, who cannot afford medical treatment. Laxmi has been fortunate enough to recuperate and in the present world is living a self-respecting life. Phase has arrived, when the young

generations are thinking of some new means to make their life pleasurable inspite of the problems and sufferings that they have experienced(Yeasmeen, 2015).

Gulista was a Muslim girl, who was just 21 years of age, when she became a victim of acid violence. A man proposed her for marriage, but she refused, because, she was to get married to another person. Her marriage was arranged within a time period of one month, after she was attacked with acid. She was admitted in a hospital and underwent treatment, the burns on the face were severe, and she could not survive even after the medical treatment. After one and a half months' time period of being admitted in the hospital, she passed away. Gulista was the second person in her family to become a victim of acid violence. The first to be attacked was her grandfather.

## CONCLUSION

There have been numerous reasons for which women and girls become victims of acid violence. These are rejection of proposals, superiority of males, dowry and other marital problems, business rivalry and sales disputes, domestic disputes, extra-marital affairs, feelings of resentment and detestation and conflicting situations. The acid violence is considered to be the most heinous of all forms of criminal and violent acts and imposes detrimental effects on a large scale. The consequences of acid violence upon the individuals are physical, psychological and economic. It is vital to implement adequate measures and procedures to help the victims recuperate and severe penalties need to be imposed against the perpetrators. An important aspect which requires immediate consideration is the formulation of new rehabilitation schemes.

Education, better employment opportunities and training should be made available to the victims to help them sustain their living conditions. There are some measures which can be implemented to curb acid violence. Victims of acid violence undergo severe physical and psychological distress, hence, they need help and support to recover. Another effective measure could be awareness and more thoughtful and developed management of these cases by the media. Education, knowledge, information, legal services, enactment of new laws, policies and schemes, and forming organizations to make provision of assistance need to be put into operation in an effective manner. Another point that needs to be focused upon is, raising public and national awareness against this crime and its perpetrators, which in turn could influence the authorities to take appropriate measures to curb acid violence.

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