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Acid Attack on Women in India

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ABSTRACT: In the current situation, acid attack in females is a critical problem. This is the most egregious type of women's abuse. This research paper was intended to explain the profile of the survivor, the reasons behind the acid attack, and the importance of rehabilitative therapy in enhancing their living conditions. A constant spike in the number of acid assaults in the North of India is a serious problem, amid many legislation and schemes. Strategies for overall development towards orthodox culture can also be implemented alongside these legislation and schemes. This research paper attempts to explore the origins and effects of acid attacks that have become a significant threat to our culture. Acid attacks not only have adverse impacts on women, but also on culture. This research paper aims to investigate the origins of acid attacks and their repercussions for the well-being of survivors.

KEYWORDS: - Acid Attack; Crime; India; Victim; Violence; Women.

I. INTRODUCTION

Disputes over property, heritage, dowries, and refusal of marriage proposals in South Asia often provoke anger and resentment, resulting in acid violent acts, and females be the first victims of it. As the attackers aim to mutilate the survivors rather than harm them, acid attacks are extremely inhumane offences. Often, acid, which is thrown at females, is cheap and readily available. This attacks humiliate them, sometimes blind them, and seriously traumatize them. The lives of many women who, in this manner, were robbed of free choice and freedom, have been ruined[1].

For many causes, women in various parts of India have faced acid attacks from men, the most prominent among them being rejection of the proposal. These women are hunted down by men, accosted and assaulted with acid, leaving them badly scarred. While after laborious and repeated procedures, the physical injuries can recover, the mental injuries remain for life[1].

The malicious use of acid to harm another individual being is acid abuse. The targets of acid abuse are predominantly children and women, and in order to injure or kill, traumatize and blind, perpetrators frequently strike the face and head. The act never kills, but causes significant mental, cognitive and emotional repercussions. Victims are sometimes abandoned awaiting legal redress, with insufficient access to medical and psychiatric support, and with no form of self-help. Acid abuse is a worldwide epidemic and is not limited to a single ethnicity, religion or geographical area[2].

An acid attack is called acid tossing. Described to disfigure, maim, torment, or destroy as the process of throwing poison or a similarly corrosive material onto another's body. The offenders of these attacks often expose and often dissolve the bones by pouring acid at their targets, usually on their mouths, burning them, and destroying skin tissue[2].

Acid assault is a global concern that impacts everyone regardless of age, caste, and faith. It is the most egregious type of violence against women based on gender. The goal of the attacker is not to murder the victim, but to leave her in a pathetic state. Injuries to the body not only heal and leave wounds on the body, they also mentally and psychologically affect the survivor's entire personality[3]. At any forum in the recent world, violence against women has been a vital topic of debate. This heinous crime has been on the rise in India, considering the current legislation and the prohibition of over-counter sales of acid[4].

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This is the period of early adulthood where the male dominated culture is maximally revealed to women. They attract each other, too. In some one-sided partnerships, some stable marriages also thrive. These one-sided relationships also faced women's denial and thereby reached the male ego. In this male dominated culture, conditioned by cultural and social expectations, women are generally regarded as second-class people. These expectations recognize men as violent, strong, commanding and thereby contribute to the social approval of the dominant portion of our society[5].

As we know, the speed of urbanization contributes to rising crime rates in urban centres with the influx of more and more people. The developed countries have also reported a recent growing pattern of acid attacks in their metropolitan cities, not even in developing countries. In rural India, unlike urban areas, Indian mythology and scriptures that teach a woman to honour and follow her male equivalent, such as a woman can only eat after him, walk behind him in public, etc., are prevalent. These male people are more hesitant to recognize gender equality as these people move to urban areas and are often indulged in these forms of cold premeditated abuse[5].

The envy of these offenders has, in some circumstances, crossed so much that they throw or spill acid over the genital area. Sexual harassment has also been related to these events. Physical injury can be reversed, but the trauma inflicted on the victim's emotions has utterly ruined the expectations and desires of her naive mind. The acid attack is a dangerous nuisance to her seductive appeal. Immediately and on the long-term pervasive stigma of defending abuse against women, it eroded her personality, self-esteem, and faith, causing her to live a life of social economic sequestration[5].

II.DISCUSSION

Acid assault is a global concern impacting all regardless of gender, ethnicity, and faith. It is the most egregious type of violence against women on the basis of ethnicity. The purpose of the attacker is not to commit the murder, but to leave her in a miserable state. Body accidents not only heal and leave wounds on the body, they can mentally and psychologically affect the survivor's entire personality[6].

At any forum in recent world, violence against women has been a crucial topic of debate. This heinous crime has been on the rise in India, considering the new legislation and the prohibition on over-counter sales of acid[6].

Our policymakers have set down many regulations and schemes, such as banning the selling of acid, stricter penalties for the offenders, and free access to treatment care for survivors of acid assault, but the primary focus should be limited to mitigation. In order to reform the orthodox socio-cultural values that explain violence towards women, many steps, such as improving Nongovernmental organizations, digital, print, and social networks efforts, should be adapted[6].

Acid aggression is the malicious use of acid to strike any human being. The survivors of acid abuse are generally women and infants, and in order to maim, mutilate and blind, perpetrators frequently strike the head and face. Acid attacks routinely attack, but inflict severe physical, social and psychological bruising, and victims are often left lacking legal resources, with little access to medical or psychological help and without means of self-support[6].

Acid crime, which sometimes remains invisible, is pervasive and normal in our culture. Women are vulnerable and are often abused even in their homes and often by members of their own families. Any type of violence is vulnerable to women[6].

Our policymakers have set down many regulations and schemes, such as banning the selling of acid, stricter penalties for the offenders, and free access to treatment care for victims of acid assault, but the primary focus should be limited to prevention. In order to reform the orthodox socio-cultural values that explain violence against women, many steps, such as improving NGOs, electronic, print, and social media efforts, should be adapted[7].

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We have to improve the enforcement of the laws and regulations by improving them. If we see over-the-counter selling of acid, enforcement demands the position of each of us, we should report that authorities and authorities need to take stern action. It is often easier to avoid than heal[8].

For many causes, women in various parts of India have faced acid attacks from men, the most prominent among them being rejection of the proposal. These women are hunted down by men, accosted and assaulted with acid, leaving them badly scarred. While after laborious and repeated procedures, the physical injuries can recover, the mental injuries remain for life. The malicious use of acid to harm another human being is acid abuse. The victims of acid abuse are predominantly women and children, and in order to maim, disfigure and blind, perpetrators frequently strike the head and face[8].

In rare cases, the crime kills but induces significant physical, psychological and social scarring, and victims are often left without legal redress, with little access to medical or psychological help, and with no form of self-support. Acid abuse is a worldwide epidemic and is not limited to a single ethnicity, religion or geographical area[8].

An acid attack is called acid tossing. Described to disfigure, maim, torment, or destroy as the act of throwing acid or a similarly corrosive material onto another's body. The perpetrators of these attacks often expose and often dissolve the bones by pouring acid at their victims, usually on their mouths, burning them, and destroying skin tissue. Sulphuric, nitric, or hydrochloric acid are the most common forms of acid used in these attacks. The long-term effects of these assaults, along with far-reaching social, psychological, and economic problems, can include blindness, as well as lasting scarring of the face and body[8].

Any act of throwing acid or using acid in any way on the victim with the intention or knowledge that such a person is going to cause permanent or partial harm to the other person or deformity or disfigurement on some part of the person's body can be deemed to mean an acid assault. While acid assault is a crime that can be committed against either man or woman, in India it has a special gender component. Most of the acid attacks recorded were perpetrated on women, particularly young women for spurning suitors for refusing marriage proposals, refusing dowry, etc.[8].

Lifelong body disfigurement is the most notable consequence of an acid attack. There is a high survival rate amongst victims of acid attacks, according to the Acid Survivors Foundation in Pakistan. Consequently, the survivor faces physical problems that require long-term surgical care, as well as psychological challenges that need in-depth counselling at each point of physical rehabilitation by psychologists and clinicians. Their psychological, social and economic viability in societies is impaired by these far-reaching impacts on their lives[9].

Survivors of acid attack face numerous challenges with mental wellbeing following rehabilitation. Victims of acid attack showed greater levels of fear, depression, because of their presence. In addition, according to the Rosenberg Scale, women registered decreased self-esteem and increased self-awareness, both in general and in the social sphere[10].

III. CONCLUSION & IMPLICATION

The outcome further reveals that the majority of girls suffered from psychological stress and reconstructive surgery costs. The Supreme Court cracked down on the selling of the poisonous liquid and also directed higher payments for acid attack survivors to bring an end to the increasing number of acid attacks. It is unconstitutional to accept the selling and purchasing of acid as a non-bailable felony.

In February 2013, an Apex Court ordered the centre to pass a law governing acid sales and a scheme for the care, recovery and rehabilitation programs of victims of acid attacks. A few lakhs of reimbursement rupees are simply nowhere near enough to cope with the constant trauma a survivor has to face. This is an insidious offense that represents the actions of deviants.

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Time has shifted, Laxmi, an acid attack survivor, has been chosen for the coveted International Women of Bravery Award by the US. At an awards ceremony in Washington, Ms. Laxmi will receive an award from First Lady Michelle Obama. Acid attack has become a global issue, but the situation can be altered by strict legislation and social expectations.

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