

Till when..? Where is the law ? Where is justice?

“Acid attack women are not victims, they are survivors. They change their faces not their dreams, they destroy their profile not their imperishable soul”

-Loveship-

India is a country which reports approximately 200-300 acid attacks every year. The saddest part is most of the victims are women and children, as a result of rejection of marriage or love proposals. Increasing acid attack towards women brought a gendered aspect in this heinous crime. So the female has to be considered as the most vulnerable section towards this inhuman activity. What are the reasons which increased acid attack towards women? How can we control such crimes? What will be the role of the people handling law and justice...?

Acid throwing also known as acid attack, or vitriolage. It's a form of assault which is defined as the act of throwing acid onto another with an intention to disfigure the body. Sadly in India, the victims of acid attack are women and children. Hundreds of young women are becoming victims of this attack every year. That is the worst part. There are many reasons behind this dreadful crime which extends from rejection of marriage proposals..love proposals to dowry issues. The number of acid attacks shows that the attack has now gained a women centered or a gendered aspect. The accumulation of victims or sufferers are due to the ineffective laws or the lack of implementation of proper laws which makes the people think of the after effects if they commit such crimes.

FROM GENDER POINT OF VIEW

Acid attack nowadays has become a heinous crime especially against women. The criminals don't aim in killing the victims but to leave them in a state of physical and mental frustration and fear which follow them in their entire life. This are the results of rejection of marriage proposals and other sexual desires. The male prefer to hurt female in 9 out of 10 times with acid because they love their beauty. They wanted to ruin the romantic future life of women which was rejected to him. He also wants to destroy her social status, career, economic background which made her more strengthening and rejected his proposals. In India, one third of women in age group 15-49 undergo physical violence, but 2 out of 3 women will not share their experience with anyone.

There are 250-300 acid attacks cases reported in India every year, among them most of the victims are women. Other crimes against women like rape increased in the capital city from 572-2,155 within 5 years as per Delhi police report. Apart from Delhi whole country is suffering and experiencing this heinous crime from years...still no strict law or justice hasn't delivered.

ACID ATTACK STATISTICS-A GENDERD ASPECT (1999-2010)

Boys 1963 Persons) 31.30%

Women & Girls (2152 Persons) 68.64%

Studies and reports and news of country's prominent portals clearly show how the females are affected more due to the inhuman acts of acid attack. There is a huge difference existing between the number of male and females who are attacked.

CAUSE and RESULTS

The depth of injury and the after effects depends upon the intensity of the acid used and the time for which the victim had in contact with the acid. The acid can cause complete destruction or damage to eye, ear, nose and the inhaling of acid can also cause severe damage to lungs which results in breathing problems and suffocation.

WHAT COULD BE THE REASONS FOR ACID ATTACKS

Above half (63%) had similar burns and the reason for the attacks are refusal of marriage proposal, dowry, doubt on character, drug addiction, marital affair. Majority of the victims (73%) had to face psychological effects including ignorance of children, behavior of family and relatives which are more painful than the physical injuries. Most of them are self-isolated and are suffering from loneliness. The victims also becomes unable to work and depends upon some others for their food and shelter. Consequences also includes the negative attitude of the public towards them.

CONTINUOUS GROWING NUMBERS OF ACID ATTACK IN INDIA

According to National Crime Records Bureau it's found that the number of victims of acid attack have reached 1,483 between 2014-2018.

In 2012, 106 cases were reported in India according to Acid Survivors Report in India (ASFI). In 2014, 244 cases were reported, among them only 201 people were charge-sheeted. 2017-2018 showed a huge increase in the acid attack cases which reached 596 in

the year 2017, and 623 victims in the year 2018. The dreary part is only 19% people convicted in the

HOW MANY CASES WERE INVESTIGATED

Supreme Court in the year of 2013 ordered government to limit sales of acid, but it's scary to know that these acids are still available in country to anyone even at a very low cost. This shows the failure of the government to implement the laws which are passed. The failure in implementing rules and prosecuting the criminals is the root cause for the increase of acid attack every year.

As per NFHS final report only 2% of abused women seeks help from police, which is a major reason for the increase in the number of crimes. This 2% who strive for justice in certain situations has to be satisfied with the inefficiency and apathy of the legal system, those who brought to book in rare cases are let go in name of bail. The increasing acid attacks can be now concluded as the after effect of the legal system. India has to refer to certain laws of countries like Bangladesh which came up with death penalty for the acid attack in, 2002. Pakistan provides the perpetrator the same faith as of the victim and in Iran the attacker has to be blinded.

ASPECT OF LAW AGAINST SUCH ACTS IN INDIA

India is a country which has a huge increase in the number of acid attacks every year even then, until recent time there was no specific provision in India which deals with this crime. 226th Law Commission and Justice J.S Verma committee made suggestions on this behalf which paved way for the introduction of specific provisions. Section 326A (provides 10yr of imprisonment which may also extend to life imprisonment for causing grievous hurt in acid attack) and 326B were added in Indian Penal Code which provide punishment for acid attack and attempt for the same. Additional clause also added in Section 100 which provides exception from criminal liability for causing death in case of private defence in acid attack. [10] Indian Constitution also provides protection against such crimes which is included under fundamental rights. There is Prevention of Offence (by Acid) Act, 2008 which also provides the protection against acid attack.

POSSIBLE STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN FURTHER TO ADD FULLSTOP TO ACID ATTACKS

Acid attack is one of the most dangerous crime which is now existing in our country. It's also to be noted that the victims to this kinds of crimes are women due to different reasons. This increase in the number of acid attack towards women brought a gendered

aspect for this kind of crimes. The only way to fight against or to protect our mother and sister from this heinous crime is to implement new laws and strengthen those laws which are already in existence. When compared to other countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh the number of acid attacks are very less. This is due to the strict rules which are existing in those countries. The punishment like death penalty, blinding, and same effect as of victims etc. helped a lot in reducing the crime in these countries. So the only way reduce the attack in our country is to adopt similar kinds of punishments, which makes the people scared and prevent them from doing similar kind of crimes while thinking of this kind of punishments. The other way to reduce the crime is to completely prohibit the availability of acid to people in the country. So making strike rules on this behalf and implementing the same more effectively can help to reduce the attacks in our society.

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