Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

"Women Conquerers" – The Faces of Burning Justice

Abinayasankari. V[1], Sivakumar. I[2]

[1]M.A Gender Studies, Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu, India.
[2]Adjunct Faculty, Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu, India.

Email: [1]abiyasankari@gmail.com, [2]isiva05@gmail.com

Received: 05 December 2021 **Accepted:** 28 February 2022 **Published:** 21 March 2022

Abstract: Women are an important part of the world, but stereotypes about them stem from patriarchal ideologies in which women are expected to smile demurely and quietly acquiesce to declarations of love. Some men become enraged by such "unrequited love," but they never consider that women are also human beings with their own rights to live as they wish. Acid assault is a horrible crime that is usually done against women. Acid attacks on women are on the rise, primarily on young women between the ages of 15 and 30, with the purpose of disfiguring or killing them. However, it is still a highly gendered type of violence, with perpetrators nearly always being men and victims almost usually being women. The research revealed that the reported acid attack cases are for refusal to marry, rejection of love, or for any personal reasons. The women who were confronted with a vial of acid that forever transformed their lives have become a source of inspiration for all. Their lives have taken an exemplary path, and they have gone on to achieve remarkable heights in professional and personal arenas.

Keywords: Acid Attacks, Eternal Trauma, Gender Based Violence, Social Isolation.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the National Commission of India, an acid assault is defined as "any act of throwing acid or employing acid in any form on a victim with the goal of or knowing that such person is likely to cause permanent or partial harm, deformity, or disfiguration to any part of such person's body." It creates medical problems that necessitate long-term surgical therapy, as well as psychological problems that necessitate in-depth counseling from psychologists and counselors at each stage of physical recovery.

Acid attacks, also known as acid hurling, vitriol attacks or vitriolage, are a type of violent assault that is designed to silence and dominate women by destroying the major ingredient of their identity. Long-term effects of these attacks could include blindness, eye burns, severe irreversible scarring of the face and body, as well as extensive social, psychological, and economic ramifications.

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

Acid assaults are now documented in many parts of the world, however they are more common in developing nations. Between 1999 and 2013, 3,512 Bangladeshi citizens were acid-attacked, with the incidence of instances falling by 15 percent to 20 percent of every year since 2002, thanks to stringent legislation against criminals and acid-sale restrictions. Acid attacks are all-time high in India, with 250–300 cases documented each year.
The Acid Survivors Foundation India has compiled information from newspaper sources that shows a substantial increase in the number of instances, with 80 victims in 2010, 106 in 2011 and 2012, 122 in 2013, and 130 in November of 2014. Between 2013 and 2014, according to the Stop Acid Attacks campaign, 386 cases of acid attacks occurred.

Table – 1: Acid Attacks in India, 2010 to 2019

Year	Number of cases reported
2010	80
2011	83
2012	106
2013	122
2014	309
2015	222
2016	167
2017	244
2018	228
2019	240

* Source: National Crime Records Bureau (India), Reports of 2014-2019
In India in 2020, there were 182 acid attack cases registered. In comparison to the previous year, this figure is lower. In India in the year 2020, there were also 60 attempted acid attacks. The purpose of these assaults is to dominate and control women. According to a special research published by an Indian nongovernmental organization, 80 percent of victims are women, with 40 percent of these being girls under the age of eighteen.

AMENDMENTS AGAINST ACID ATTACK

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, as well as the Supreme Court of India's directions, has made the rules more stringent. However, a survey conducted in 2014 revealed a 300 percent increase in the total number of reported acid attacks. According to India's Law Commission's 226th report, women make up the majority of acid attack victims.
As per the provision of the "Prevention of Offences (by Acids) Act 2008, (National Commission for Woman – Draft Bill)" constitute the definition of Acid Attacks and Acid.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Women's self-determination is critical for achieving gender equality, but in some countries, women's rights are becoming increasingly bizarre. The dominance of women over men in society is a critical concern for all types of violence against women, particularly acid assault. This type of situation forces the researcher to work on this paper with only a few ideas about how strong and determined women have recovered their lives and, as a result, have become a global beacon of hope. The research primarily focuses on the persistent challenges that acid

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

victims faced following their attacks, and how they demonstrated that they are not survivors but successors.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this research is to investigate and analyze the problem of acid attacks against women in India, as well as to determine the legal framework surrounding acid assaults and the judicial attitude to acid attacks.

2. METHODOLOGY

The primary and secondary source method is used in the research. Case studies, textbooks, legal journals, statutes, reports, judgments, and law commission reports, as well as legal commentaries, newspapers, websites, digests, and other published materials, were all used in the research. The National Crimes Record Bureau gathered crime statistics.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

Case Study - I

Pragya Singh: It was 2006 at the time. Pragya Singh, 23, was traveling alone in a train from her hometown of Varanasi to Delhi, just 12 days after her wedding, to pursue a career in garment management. A man, whose marriage proposal she had turned down, sprayed acid on her face at 2 a.m., while she was sound asleep. The young woman lost her sight in one of her eyes as a result of the tragedy, and she had to undergo nearly fifteen surgeries. Seven years later, Pragya raised Rs 30,000 with the help of her husband and friends to found Atijeevan Foundation, an NGO that provides free surgeries and non-surgical treatments to acid attack and burn survivors, as well as post-op counseling and skill-development workshops, to help them get a fresh start. She is also the proud mother of two beautiful daughters.

Case Study – II

Laxmi Agarval was only 15 years old when she was attacked with acid by her stalker in 2005. He believed he could suffocate her dreams. He had no idea that she would bounce back and strike a connection with the public. "Usne acid mere chehre par daala hai, sapnon par nahin," she says, "He hurled acid on my face, not on my dreams." Instead, she never stopped dreaming, and she is now known around the world as a symbol of courage and beauty. Michelle Obama, the First Lady of the United States, presented Agarwal with the 2014 International Women of Courage Award. She was named Indian of the Year by NDTV. In 2018, she was also honored with the prestigious Mother Teresa Award. She was honored on the popular show "India's Next Superstar," where her life narrative was portrayed in an act, for her exemplary courage and service to society. Many corporations, schools, colleges, and other organizations have invited her to give motivational speeches.

Case Study – III

Anmol Rodriguez was a two-month-old newborn being breastfed by her mother when her father attempted to murder them by dousing them with an entire can of acid. While her mother died as a result of her injuries, Anmol unexpectedly survived. She spent her early

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

years in and out of operating rooms and hospital beds before being placed in an orphanage where she was raised. Her physical appearance, which was marred by burn scars all over, kept her secluded from the other youngsters, a trauma she endured until she was in college. But there was a turning point; an epiphany when Anmol vowed that her appearance would not determine her life. She had always been interested in fashion and decided to make a career out of it. Anmol is already a prominent model, with hundreds of modeling contracts under her belt at the age of 23. She has also assisted over 20 acid attack survivors in obtaining mainstream job offers.

Case Study – IV

Aarti Thakur: A man approaches her at the Goregaon train station in Mumbai. After being attacked twice in two months by a knife-wielding stranger, she had learnt to recognize the signs of danger. However, what happened this time was even worse than she had anticipated. January, 2011 Aarti was stalked and attacked by the accused on two occasions prior to the acid attack. She approached the Vakola police station on both prior occasions but the police refused to take any action. The police finally intervened this time; apprehend the son, his mother, and two accomplices. The son, offended by the perceived insult to his dignity and jealous of her imminent marriage, allegedly paid two men to purchase and spray acid on her as a final act of vengeance. Three years later, Aarti, 25, is battling the perpetrators of the assault in court while still trying to obtain finances for the operation she needed. She began working again after a year and a half of solitude in her home, and she is regaining confidence in her abilities as well as her appearance. However, she is justifiably enraged at how the acid assault on her may have been avoided.

Case Study – V

Daulat Bi Khan, a Mumbai resident, was brutally acid-attacked by her elder sister and brother-in-law when she was 26 years old. She underwent many reconstructive surgeries and faced social rejections as a result of her new look. The iron-willed lady, on the other hand, would never give up on life. In 2016, she established the Acid Survivors Saahas Foundation in Mumbai, which serves as a safe refuge for acid assault survivors. It offers survivors a variety of services, including legal assistance, medical care, and job placement.

The research shows that most of the women's respondents to acid attacks who had faced the violence had also faced other forms of violence like being cast-out from society. The most common types of acid utilized in these assaults include sulphuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acid. Several community awareness programs are being conducted by local authorities.

Today, women have all become involved in empowering acid attack survivors by assisting them in learning new skills. All they need is a reason to return to normal life following the assaults and to serve as a powerful testament to the world.

3. CONCLUSION

Women have proven themselves in practically every sector of life today, demonstrating that they are no less than males; nonetheless, reports of violence against women are far more numerous than allegations of violence against men. In modern times, dark corners of humanism still exist, despite women's achievements in different fields. The case studies

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

examine how today's women are empowered with self-confidence and boldness to face the world fearlessly.

4. REFERENCES

1. N., Ahmad. "Acid attacks on women: an appraisal of the Indian legal response," AsiaPacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law, vol. 12, iss. 2, 55-72, 2011. https://doi.org/10.1163/138819011X13215419937940
2. Banerjee, Poulomi, A Corrosive Love: Living with the Scars, Hindustan Times, 12 (Chandigarh, January 19, 2014). Begum, Shabina, "Acid Violence: Uniting for the solution", available http://www.dawsoncornwell.com/en/documents/Acid_Violence.pdf
3. P. V., Guharaj. Forensic Medicine, (M.R. Chandran, Orient Longman Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, 2nd Edition, 2003).https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2021.06.01.05
4. Kumar, Vidhik. "Acid Attacks in India: A Socio-Legal Report," Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence, vol. 6, iss. 1, 2020. DOI: 10.23860/dignity.2021.06.01.05
5. Kumar, Kamal, Acid Attacks: A Scar on India, available at http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/09/acid-attacks-ascar-india-2013927165429393354.html
6. Law Commission of India. (2009). 226th Report: The inclusion of acid attacks as specific offences in the Indian penal code and a law for compensation for victims of crime. https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/reports/report226.pdf
7. K. Manimekalai, and Sivakumar, I. Clean India for New India, Chennai: MJP, 2019.
8. K. Manimekalai, and Sivakumar, I. "Towards Ageing Friendly Environment in India," Petals of Humanities and Language Studies, vol. 1, iss. 1, pp. 1-12, 2016.
9. R. Rajapandian, Dhanapal, B., and Iyyanar, S. "Representation of Caste and Class in Modern Tamil Films," Am J Econ Sociol, vol. 80, iss. 3, pp. 915-929, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12411
10. R. Rajapandian, Iyyanar, S., Saravanakumar, A., and Bala Kirshnan, MC. "Herstories in Contemporary Indian Films," Am J Econ Sociol, vol. 81, iss. 1, pp. 41-52, 2022. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12437
11. K. Ramesh Kumar, Sivakumar, I., Saravanakumar, N., and Sathishkumar, R. "Regional Disparities and Indian States: A Macro Level Study," Journal of Critical Reviews, vol. 7, iss. 13, pp. 87-92, 2020. DOI: 10.31838/jcr.07.13.13
12. R. Sathishkumar, Ramesh Kumar, K., Sivakumar, I., and Muthusami, S. "MGNREGA's Impact on Income and Employment in Seaweeds Cultivating Households: Pamban Village of Ramanathapuram District," Journal of Critical Reviews, vol. 7, iss. 8, pp. 2149-2156, 2020.
13. I. Sivakumar, Manimekalai, K., and Ranjithkumar, A. "The Impact of Social Media on Girl Students Health in Sivagangai District," International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, vol. 24, iss. 1, pp. 174-179, 2020. DOI: 10.37200/IJPR/V24I1/PR200118.
14. I. Sivakumar, Manimekalai, K., & Ranjithkumar, A. "Accessing Public Health Facilities: Rural and Urban Disparities," Journal of Critical Reviews, vol. 7, iss. 3, pp. 382–388, 2020. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.31838/jcr.07.03.73.

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Journal of Women Empowerment and Studies
ISSN: 2799-1253
Vol : 02, No. 02 , Feb - Mar 2022
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JWES
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jwes.22.5.10

15. I. Sivakumar. “Women and Journalism: Commitment and Challenges,” Indian Journal of Women’s Studies, vol. 11, iss. 1, pp. 57-66, 2018.
16. I. Sivakumar. “Gender Discrimination of Women in Tribal Community,” Indian Journal of Women’s Studies, vol. 8, iss. 1, pp. 28-33, 2017.
17. I. Sivakumar. “Women's Issues in Socially Exclusion Community: An Exploratory Study”, Women and Social Transformation (Eds.), Karaikudi: Poocharam, p. 188-197, 2016.
18. I. Sivakumar. “Gender Mainstreaming as a Tool for Women Empowerment,” Indian Journal of Women’s Studies, vol. 9, iss. 1, pp. 53-59, 2016.
19. I. Sivakumar. “Education for Gender Equality among the Fishing Community,” Petals of Humanities and Language Studies, vol. 1, iss. 1, pp. 59-68, 2016.
20. I. Sivakumar and Usha, V.T. “Education for Gender Equality among the Fishing Community,” Petals of Humanities and Language Studies, vol. 1, iss. 1, pp. 59-68, 2016.
21. I. Sivakumar. “Eliminating Child Labour among the Fishing Community,” Journal of Extension and Research, vol. 16, iss. 2, pp. 106-115, 2016.
22. I. Sivakumar and Usha, V.T. “Gender Bias and Women's Education: Status of Illiterate Women in the Fishing Community,” Indian Journal of Women’s Studies, vol. 8, iss. 8, pp. 28-35, 2015.
23. I. Sivakumar. “Gender Discrimination in Education among the Fishing Community”, Social Exclusion and Inclusion of Women in India (Eds.), Chennai: MJP, p. 89-96, 2015.
24. I. Sivakumar and Usha, V.T. “Women and Higher Education among the Fishing Community in Puducherry Region”, Higher Education between Quality and Reservation (Eds.), New Delhi: Kalpaz, p. 336-342, 2014.
25. I. Sivakumar and Anitha, M. “Girl Children and Education an Empirical Study in Puducherry”, Modern Education: Women and Weaker Section (Eds.), Chennai: MJP, p. 133-142, 2014.
26. I. Sivakumar and Usha, V.T. “Education and Women in India: In Theoretical Perspective”, Development and Displacement: Social Justice Paradigm (Eds.), New Delhi: APH, p. 141-148, 2013.
27. Sudha Arora, "Acid Attacks and the rhetoric of love", the Tribune, Chandigarh 9 (June 5, 2013). Poulomi Banerjee, "A Corrosive Love: Living with the Scars, Hindustan Times, Chandigarh, 12, January 19, 2014.
28. "Uttarakhand announces pension for acid attack survivors in state after release of 'Chhapaak'". The New Indian Express. 12 January 2020. Retrieved 12 January 2020

Copyright The Author(s) 2022.This is an Open Access Article distributed under the CC BY license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)