



ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DERMAL ACID BURNS IN WOMEN OF PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Skin burning occurred after exposure to a corrosive material, such as an acidic or an alkaline substance. Acid is considered to be the king of all chemicals, and it affects badly not only the skin but the whole body organs. In addition to harming women, acid assault also has negative implications on society. The increasing number of acid attacks produces an alarming situation which is needed to be addressed because women are an integral part of our society and are considered to be the mother of the nation. Current research investigates the truth and hidden cultural and social factors that contributed to the horrible crime of acid attacks on women. In Pakistan, different violence cases against women in Punjab (56531), Sindh (26100), KPK (10421), and Baluchistan (5285) were reported. The reports of different organizations, including the World Bank and an Acid survivor foundation elaborate on the reasons for violence against women due to disputes over land ownership, suspicions of cheating in a marriage, or common family conflicts. Daughters who gaze at males or who reject their husband's marriage proposal will be attacked with acid by their fathers. Attack victims live in constant terror of calling the police since the justice system is weak and offenders frequently walk free. Due to the current situation Pakistani government passes the domestic violence bill against women recently for the freedom, protection, and well-being of women.

KEYWORDS: Dermal, Acid attacks, alkaline substances, Burns, Pakistan, Women, Fire.

INTRODUCTION

Acid violence is when someone intentionally uses acid to harm another person. Women and children are typically the targets of acid assault, and assailants frequently target the face and head to maim, disfigure, and blind their victims. Acid has the worse and most dangerous effects on the skin and it left the worse and long-lasting effects on the skin.^[1-2] The ½ population of women is suffering from violence due to different reasons and even have no access to their fundamental rights.^[3, 4] One of the fundamental causes of violence is traditional behavior, such as Badal-e-Sulah, Vanni, Swara, gang rapes, honor killings, sexual harassment in public and private places, trafficking, forced marriage, forced conversion, forced prostitution, bonded labor, early or early marriage, maternal mortality, and the most dangerous injury is acid burn.^[5, 6]

Causes of Acid Attack

The victim of an Acid attack suffered from both psychological and physiological effects. The most terrifying and dangerous kind of assault against women is acid abuse.^[7, 8] Acid attack victims have symptoms such as weariness, sadness, weakness, aggression, and issues with focus and memory, among others.^[9, 10] They

feel depressed, humiliated, nervous, and lonely forever.^[11] They continue to fear that they will likely have to deal with the situation once more.^[12, 13] Acid attack survivor faces issue of look and intellectual health troubles upon recovery.^[14]

Effects of Skin burns

The second most common non-flammable corrosive liquid after hydrochloric acid was acid. Acid is a very corrosive material that damages the skin tissues and ultimately leads to necrosis (death) of human pores and skin tissue.^[15] They can cause severe burning, poisoning, and severe damage to not only the skin but the whole body.^[16, 17] Commonly available acids consist of hydrofluoric acid, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, etc.^[18] Acids are mostly utilized in factories and different manufacturing firms.^[19] The pores and skin is the primary organ of touch in an acid assault.^[20] The properties of acid on the pores and skin can also additionally consist of redness and burn because our skin is the most sensitive and protective part of our body and due to acid attack, it can result in tumors and death due to peeling off the skin. Acid also causes everlasting hair loss and dead skin.^[21, 22] If we inhaled acid in a large wide variety it can additionally result in pulmonary

illnesses. The acid eats layers of the pores, skin, and even bone and causes osteoporosis.^[23] The deepness of damage relies upon the power of the acid and the

duration of touch with the pores and skin. Burning maintains till the acid is very well washed off with water.^[24]

Table 1: ASF Report 2018^[25]

Types of Burns	Victims	Attacks
Fire Burns (Petrol, Kerosene, or other)	11	11
Acid Burn	62	39
Gas Accumulation (Pressure Cooker, Hot Water)	4	4
Unknown	3	3

Violence against Women

Women are a basic part of not only our society but also of the whole nation.^[26] Violence against women is usually spread in our society.^[27] Men do violence against women to consider them supreme and authoritative in the social setup.^[28, 29] (According to the research, women frequently experience forced child marriage, incest, domestic violence, feticide, verbal abuse, intimate partner violence, rape using multiple men, marital rape, mental and sexual harassment, prostitution, trafficking, honor killings, genetic mutilation, crimes related to dowry, acid attacks, etc.^[30, 31]

The ratio of Acid attacks in different provinces of Pakistan

Pakistan is an underdeveloped country. It was found that 60 percentage acid assaults aren't mentioned every 12 months because of cultural norms and 80 percentage victims are only girls.^[32] The charge of acid violence confronted with the aid of using girls is pretty one of a kind from society to society.^[33, 34] The United Kingdom turned into one of the international locations that had recorded acid violence.^[35] The majority of the acts of acid violence had been carried out with the aid of using gangsters and the bulk of the victims are girls.^[36] According to the Acid Survivor foundation of Pakistan, the statistical data collected from 2006-2017 show the numbers of acid attacks cases in different provinces of Pakistan include South Punjab(578), Central Punjab(189), KPK (26), Sindh(26), Baluchistan (11), Islamabad(9) and AJK (4).^[37, 38]

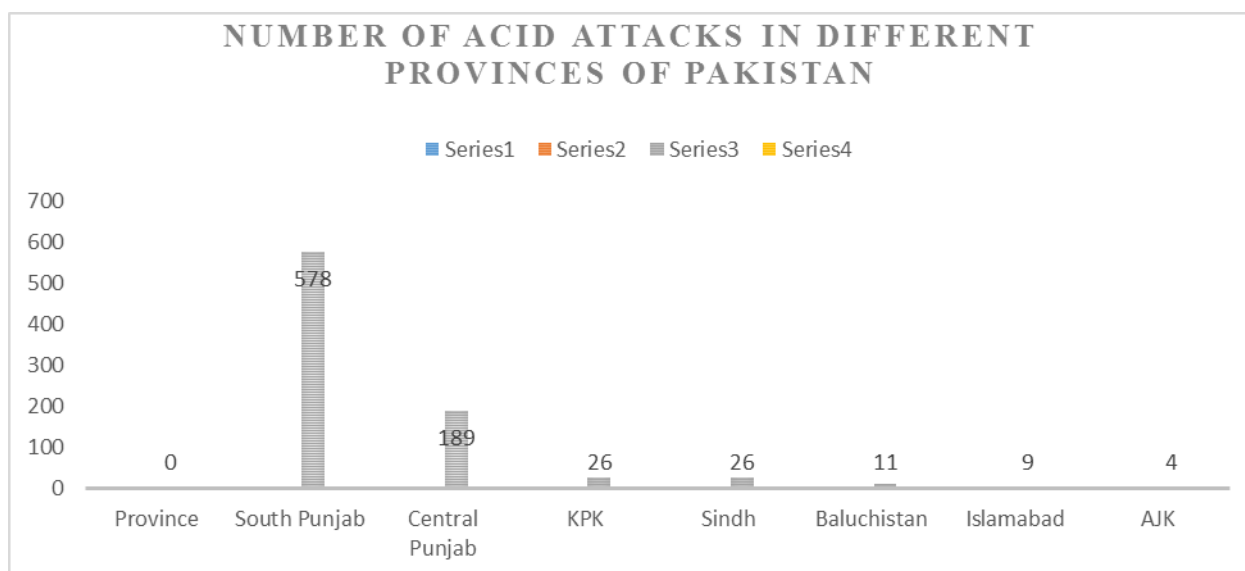


Figure 1: Shows the Number of acid attacks in different provinces of Pakistan.^[35, 36]

Report of Organizations on Acid Violence

1. Report of world bank

According to the report of the world, bank women have been going through several difficulties in South Asia.^[37, 38] The masculine lifestyle influenced the male to reveal their masculinity with the aid of using violence on ladies.^[39, 40] Along with divorce, refusal of a marriage proposal, retaliation, jealousy, disagreement, refusal of

sex, and other factors, many others contribute to acid violence.^[41, 42]

2. Report of acid survivor foundation

Acid Survivors Foundation (2017) highlighted that Pakistan will try to reduce the acid violence in opposition to ladies in the remaining decade.^[43] According to the Acid Survivor foundation of Pakistan, the total number of acid attacks in 2014 is 210 which reduces in 2015 and

2016 to 101 and 103 respectively.^[44] It's also recognized that aside from women the transgender additionally has been targeted.^[45, 46]

Control & Management

Violence Bill passes in Pakistan in the context of Acid attacks on skin

- (i) Marvi Mamon, a well-known politician of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz presented the Acid and crime bill in National Assembly in 2014.^[47] This bill not only addresses the skin burn due to acid attack but also addressed the burn due to fire and hot substances.^[48] This bill changed into critical law inside the records of Pakistan for making sure about women's rights.^[49, 50]
- (ii) Musarrat Misbah is a Pakistani Beautician who provided to the burn of skin acid attacks victims of females. Since 2003 her organization provide medical treatment to about seven hundred and sixty victims.
- (iii) (ASF) Acid Survivors Foundation is an International Trust to support survivors of Acid Attacks in Pakistan.

ASF aims to put an end to acid and burn violence and stop assaults from proliferating. Additionally, ASF is given the greatest long-term medical care.

CONCLUSION

We concluded that Acid has severe and long-lasting effects not only on the skin but also on the whole body. The dignity of men and women is equal in our society. Islam also emphasizes the security and the basic rights of women. The government and state should take responsibility for violence and acid attack against women. Women are an integral part of our society. So educated women with a clear and positive mind not only flourish in our society but also prove fruitful whole for the nation. So, as a citizen, we try to stop acid attacks and other illegal activities against women. The Government must formulate strict laws and regulations for the protection of women and implement strict punishment against those people who involve in such criminal activities.

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