

Contemporary Scenario of Acid Burns Women in Delhi: an Analysis

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Abstract

Acid attack is a gender based problem. In fact the patriarchal mindset of Indian society is that women's beauty and body only controlled by men, Men have a set concept about women's body are essential meant to please men. Women invest more time in beauty, fashion, cosmetics, dressing patterns, fitness and other stuffs, to just impress men, rather men do less, have focused on career and money making process. This deceit illustration making society to expect it like this way, however it is largely bogus. Several types of Crime against women are already deeply rotten in Indian society, presently a horrifying menace of acid attacks on women has been disturbing social order. The large number of acid attacks on women in India is growing in every passing year. The latest data released by 'India Today Data Intelligence Unit' has exposed that between 2014 and 2018 there are approx 1,483 victims of acid in the country. It also reveals that the huge number of reported cases are; due to relationship breakups, one side love, romance refusal, rejection of marriage proposal and physical intimacy, jealousy, family property disputes, and marital disengagement. This paper will try to explore scenario of acid attacks on women in Delhi. This paper will try to make an attempt to highlight prime causes and consequences of attacks and supporting and benefitting agencies to Acid burn survivors in Delhi in contemporary times.

Key words: Women, Men, Crime, Acid Attacks, Burn, Scenario, CAW, Delhi

Introduction

Acid attack is a new form of violence in which a person or group tries to throw corrosive substances or acid on women, usually with the intention of killing, torturing, disfiguring and murdering purposes. Basically they have a plan based intention to destroy physical appearance and beauty of women and girls. And perpetrators had a strong notion to damage the face value of women and give them permanent scars, so that victim could lose her values in the society and could not even forget the reason of ditch-ness or rejection (Nikola Bailey for Actionaid.org.uk). Whereas, women are worldwide facing a great threat of acid attacks, there are approximately 1500 yearly acid cases recorded globally, some of the cases go to unreported for just a fear of retaliation. The greater impact of this crime is founded in southern Asian countries including Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India; whereas with the different variations of culture and system have not been made any big

difference in the mindset of common men. Though acid remains cheap and easily accessible and working as a helping agent for acid throwers, this corrosive substance is commonly used in domestic chores, labs and production units. Meanwhile, Acid attack occurs throughout the world, but most of the South Asians countries have been facing disproportionately. Hence violence against women in India has been damaging the name of India worldwide. Nowadays hike in crime graphs and patriarchal treatment to women and failed policy are the major challenge in contemporary times. Therefore, a patriarchal society bears expensive and big fat celebration at the time of birth of male child in 21st century, while female child receives less importance than male one. It is also a matter of pride to family and relatives and throughout of his life circle male gets privileged in private and public sphere. As of result in most of the cases; men have a great advantage of 'supremacy theory' to divert attention from cases for example; to blackmail victim and gives her 'izzat ka hawala', to mislead the case, to pressurize the victim family, to offer the compensation, to drag the case long lasting and so on.

Status of Women in Delhi: Past and Present

Women in Delhi now takes part in the areas where they performed least in previous decades such as Education, Media, Health, Economic, Sports, Politics, Army, Art, Culture, Films, Science and Technology, Service Sectors and so on. Delhi's longest female Chief Minister Late Sheila Dixit who stands as CM total 15 years of her period. Mrs Dixit known as the Nation's longest serving female Chief Minister in Indian State. A media portal *Scroll.in* published an article on women's day 'From Razia Sultan to Begum Samru: some of the women who shaped Delhi's landscape' is about positioning of Delhi women and how the two women whose intellectualism gave capital's most famous landmarks Humayun's Tomb and Chandni Chock. The first female sultan of Delhi was Razia Sultana. Her contribution in Delhi's politics was remarkable. The eldest daughter of Aurangzeb Zeb-un-Nissa was given so many times political advice to Aurangzeb. Princess was educated, poet, calligrapher and best singer among women of her time. Jahangir's wife Nur jahan was the first Mughal Queen who became a feminist icon and India most powerful woman of 17th century. Her exceptional contribution was to handling legacy of Mughal Empire and her work is briefly notable in the latest piece of prominent historian Ruby Lal. She says "why the history of her leadership is important to understand today".

Even in modern India Women are been playing constructive roles in development of Delhi for every passing years. Delhi's borned women like Farida Jalal, Surekha Sirki, Tapsee Pannu , Kriti Senon and many more are contributing in Bollywood Industry. Even in media field Delhi's women have great contribution in journalism , a latest renowned journalist Barkha Dutt ruling over mainstream media, she is not only fearless journalist but have courage to ask salty questions to government. Presently this journalist is an author and founder of YouTube news channel 'MoJo Story'. She is also an opinion columnist in The Washington Post and The Hindustan Times as an opinion columnist. In current context women entrepreneurs are performing well. Women entrepreneurs of Delhi-NCR are being doing tremendous job in business fields. Recently The *times of India* posted a story on May, 2019 'inspiring story of successful women entrepreneurs from NCR' about women entrepreneurs who built up successful 'business models' despite many difficulties and challenges. Shaweta Raj Bajaj leads, launching her *fitness centre* to across NCR. Chitra Shharma who decided to give up her co-operate job to establish her business. Her idea was

making fusion food popular scintillating hit. Promoting ‘Responsible Tourism’ by Shipi Singh was a great business concept, quoting her words “we are aiming at providing employment to women and coming up with the more experimental travel opinions that promote inclusivity”. The Times UnLTD announced awards in the honor of women entrepreneurs across India, to celebrate women’s success.

Contemporary Status of Women in Delhi: Facts and Figures

Delhi is a capital of India; simply people call it ‘Heart of India’, with great economical hub and multiculturalism beauty. Currently, it is under bottom ranked with 4.30% in Multidimensional poverty Index report 2021, published by Niti Aayog. Parrallely, there are so many serious problems emerged in past few years. The current AAP government has much more focused on improving the condition of government schools and government health infrastructures. NDTV and other news channels coverage the government schools of Delhi and reported that a metamorphosis changes are coming out from Delhi government schools which was terrible in previous governments. Chandni chock transformation by Manish Sisodia planning project almost near to finished, has been receiving a great attention to local and foreign visitors. Women in Delhi is getting free rides in public buses as the AAP government is all set to fulfill its promise months ahead of the assembly polls in the national capital. Even in Delhi women is getting free rides in public buses as the AAP government promised to provide free bus rides to women in Delhi. It was just announced after a months of capital’s assembly polls. In that plan bus conductor will distribute pink tickets to each women passengers for free travel, that tickets having face value of Rs 10 and that all issued tickets will be reimburse into transporters pockets. Female population of Delhi is approx 7,800,615 in 2011 census and the average sex ratio is 868 which are more than national average 943 females per 1000 males. Delhi’s literacy rate alone holds 86.21% which is more than national average total literacy rate of 72.98%. Besides, 90.94% Delhi’s male literacy is where 80.76% female literacy rates locked. And Delhi Working Population Census 2011 highlights that approx 744,619 was involved in Main Work activities in Delhi’s total population and worker describes their work as an employment more than six months as Main Work. Parrallely 80,404 females were indulged with Marginal activity proving livelihood for less than six months. Whereas, 23,057 workers attacked in ‘household Industries’ 3,534 were cultivators while 5,842 was an as ‘Agricultural laborer data released by censusindia.co.in/states/Delhi.

	Main Workers	Total	Male	Female
		5,307,329	4,562,710	744,619
1	Cultivators	27,759	24,225	3,534
2	Agriculture Laborers	31,474	25,632	5,842
3	Household Industries	169,126	146,069	23,057
4	Other Workers	5,078,970	4,366,784	712,186
5	Marginal Workers	279,720	199,316	80,404
6	Non Working	11,200,892	4,225,300	6,975,592

Source:<https://www.censusindia.co.in/states/delhi>

Crime Against Women in Delhi

Delhi has a different kind of achieved status which makes ‘dilliwala’ more special and megacity man, off course it is privileged ones. Even though, outside people have a fix mental set up about Delhi peoples and especially Delhi’s woman. Dilliwali hain advance hogi type’s people’s mentalities are so common. As far as reality is beyond the imagination of people’s perceptions, while Delhi’s women are more working, modern, self dependent, educated, socially updates and vocal that is true, but there are many more pockets in Delhi where women have been living under difficult circumstances and facing violence in day to day life. Being a woman in Delhi is not simple. But the outward appearance ‘Rape Capital’ damages it badly, since it elides a long educated history and smart woman who shaped Delhi landscapes. In contemporary times women have achieving their goals and participating in every field. At the same time violence against women in Delhi is rising up and up. As a result, Delhi came under top ten worse performer states in case of Acid Attacks on women reported by India today Group.

Delhi holds 7,800,615 female populations in 2011 census, according to data released by the NCRB Delhi ranked first among nineteen metropolitan cities in India in felling the maximum number of violence against women. The data further highlights that the Capital accounted for nearly a 3rd of the total numeral of crimes. The data also reveals that Delhi accounted for twenty eight percent of the total figure, followed by Bangalore at 7.7% and Mumbai at 14.3 %.

Whilst, in general crime rate in the national capital curved in by sixteen percent in 2020 as compared to last year, Delhi had been recorded the maximum number of crimes against women among all the megacities of the country. According to released data by ‘ Crime Records Bureau’ the actual figure of cases registered under the ‘Indian Penal Code (IPC)’ in Delhi pointed out 18 percent dip between 2019 and 2020.The crime rate occurring per one lakh population, against women previous year is 129.1 in Delhi. Data released by NCRB shown that how Delhi is the most unsafe city for women, when nearly 10,000 cases of ‘crimes against women’ were registered last year alone in capital. In 201 almost 9,782 cases were registered for the crime against women as compared to 11,724 cases registered in 2018 and 12,902.

Delhi is more than double number of cases registered in Ghaziabad, Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai and Indore in 2020 and the charge sheet rate in Delhi places 75.9 %.

Figures are given below;

DELHI RANKS FIRST IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN-2020	
RAPE	1231
MOLESTATION	2311
MURDER WITH RAPE	5
DOWRY DEATHS	115
CURUELITY BY HUSBAND OR RELATIVES	3697
KIDNAPPING AND ABDUCTION	3398
CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN	10

Source:NCRB

Acid Attacks on Women in Delhi

Delhi's women are being experiencing acid attacks for every passing year. Being a member of megacity Delhi it makes women more vocal and independent financially. Female Literacy rate of Delhi is far better than National female literacy rate. Amid all the possible benefits women are prevailing in Delhi, parallelly Crime against women in Delhi is raising up and up, that makes tight challenge for Delhi government. Though, Delhi government has taken some serious efforts for controlling and providing safety to women. But it became less feasible way to control crime against women. In contemporary context Delhi is under top most unsafe zone for women's safety since Nirbhaya incidents came into nationwide limelight, and Delhi received strong backlash responses too. While Delhi's women have been facing multiple phases of violence since we started noticing, writes, speak, publish, discusses.

There are several latest example of VOI in Delhi recorded in last few years;

A most recent case of 2021 when a twenty six year old woman who tied up inside a home and attacked with acid like substance by Bawana's man. She made only a mistake to reject marriage proposal on several occasions whenever that guy offers her. That guy gave statement to police how he chosen to harm her and her husband too.

India Today News Portal published a crime story on 'Women forced to drink acid by husband in MP, DSW looks for strong action against culprits. This case was about a twenty five year old woman who was forced to drink acid by her own husband and sister in law in MP on 28 June 2021. Her condition was very critical and received treatments at a Delhi hospital. After the incidence came into light Delhi Commission for Women Chief Swati Maliwal wrote to MP Chief Minsiter Shivraj Singh Chouhan for looking this sensitive case and take strong action against the perpetrators. Miss Swati also blamed MP police of handling the case with insensitive approach. She sticks to facilitate fair justice for the survivor.

Media online Portal *The Logical Indian* covered an article on 'Delhi Woman Forced To Drink Acid By in-laws' Delhi Commission for Women interferences after Police fail to act In six Months on 26 July 2021. In this article a bitter truth revealed of 'policia negligence' this incident was noticed after the survivors brother called the Delhi Commission For Women's helpline and informed that police officials have denied to register the case even after 6 months to the incident. Above all the cases have almost same story and explanatory theory over interim jealousy, revenge, rage, rejection and personal disputes. Acid attacks perpetrated use this corrosive to give them lifelong lesson, an intention of maiming, torturing, killing , give them permanently scar, disfigured physical appearance, aloofness from social network, cut the ties of education and jobs part.

Statistical Representation of Acid Cases

Number of Acid Attack Cases Reported in Delhi India 2017-2020											
Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cases	22	28	9	18	13	21	18	14	11	10	2

Source: Statista Research Department

Causes and Consequences of Acid Attack in Delhi

- Revenge take place when girl ditched the boyfriend and broke relationship
- The refusal of marriage proposal by girl
- When girl having extra affairs and having sexual intimacy with another guy
- The refusal to have sex
- Unsatisfied with dowry
- Perpetrators Jealousy factor sometimes targets to disfigure girls and women to give her lifetime public mark of shame and making her life hard to get married or work.
- By attacking face of the victim, the culprit limits their aptitude to engage in public and private sphere.
- Society often could not entertain her well with disgraceful look.
- Victim's physical appearance became horrifying sometimes so they started facing long term consequences such as friend's disconnections, public party gathering and negligence attitude of relatives.
- Some scars leave survivors handicapped in some way messaging them to fully or partially dependent on both their family and spouses.

Supporting Benefits for Acid Attack Victims

- The Delhi Government has taken initiative to invite city government to make a list of available benefits of acid survivors under the numerous schemes which ensures that the acid victims do not feel needy to approach the court for reliefs.
- A 14 years old boy father's filed a plea to court, looking for a compensation of Rs 50 lakhs from Delhi Government, the court's ordered came into limelight when Justice Vibhu Bakhru asked to Social Welfare Department of the government to scrutinize the schemes and take in possible measures for rehabilitation to victims.
- Delhi Court also said that there is an urgent need to issuing a compiled benefits listed papers that are available to the beneficiaries. So that this would be guarantee part if acid victims are fully awake of the granted benefits and they do not need to approach the court for relief requests.
- Whereas, Delhi Government would bear the all expenses at Private hospitals treatments of burn and accidental cases statement by Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain.
- The government has been chosen approx 230 private hospitals in the city, which have severe care units and more than twenty beds and well- equipped to deal with emergency cases such as road accidents and burns.

Ministry of Home Affairs Advisory -2015

- The Criminal law (Amendment) Act 2013
- Disbursing compensation to the tune of at least 3Lakhs to the acid victims
- Providing free treatment to acid attacks victims
- Actions to be taken to stop acid attacks on women and girls and facilitate proper treatments and rehabilitations to survivors
- Laxmi minor vs. union of India to take proactive measures of regulation of sale of acids

- The issue of apprehending the culprit and Fast tracking of justice
- Providing stringent punishment provisions section (326A and 326B) in the Criminal law (Amendment) Act 2013
- States/UTs must take proactive measures to expedite investigation, trial of acid attack cases and bring them under a definite form.

Acid Attacks Survivors and Supporting Agencies

- 'Women's rights organizations' at the grassroots level are central key player in combating Acid attacks on women. With the correct funding and support system, they can also ensure that acid attack survivors receive the help and justice they needed.
- Community members must have treated acid survivors respectfully.
- Educational institutions could play key role to lead their coming education.
- Most of the families are least supportive and they do blame and teases survivors all the time. Actually force of social stigma over family's status is far above than love.
- Welfare organizations come forward to provide free counseling session.
- There should be more network channel opening for example; Action Aid initiates a group supports to Acid victims and started 'Acid Survivors' Network'.
- Except for business and scientific objectives, the distribution and sale of acid should be prohibited.
- In the legal system the idea of Restorative Justice ought to be applied accurately.
- Arbitration mediation or the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is applying in many crippling issues of the justice procedure might be overcome.
- Many debilitating flaws in the judicial system might be solved by the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) or Arbitration mediation.
- There are not any strong laws related to this subject matter. Even the section in IPC not enabling to punish perpetrators if no injury happens, but international laws punish and concludes it crime throwing of acid by culprits.

Conclusion

Throwing acid on women and girls are the best example of perpetrator incompetency. Rage, hate, jealousy, breakup, rejection, obsession must be under controlled by men along with patience, strong morality and humane behavior. If NOT then these kinds of men are unfit for society and big threat for women. Though, Delhi women having same kind of problem what rest of Indian women are facing in acid attack cases. Delhi is under the top 10 worst states in India with the highest number of acid victims. Some sincere efforts by Government and systems in 2020 and 2021 Delhi records less number of Acid attack cases and declining rate of acid attacks in last two years having a lighten up and positive message to Delhi women.

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