

SAVE THE FACE

HELL TO NIRVANA

INTRODUCTION

TO

ACID BURN

Acid-throwing Offence,

Impact on Women,

Prevention of Offences

Criminal Bill, 2013

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Creating awareness:

- To prevent severe deformity following acid burn by early, primary definitive and reconstructive treatment through plastic surgery.
- To make the society aware of the hardships faced by these young victims of vitriolage having facial disfigurements.
- Encouraging NGOs and other groups to come forward and participate in rehabilitation of these victims through charity.
- Early help to the victims of acid burns by the plastic surgery will help in preventing permanent deformities to the patients.
- To include the source and the supplier of the acid into the category of the “Offender”. Not only the person throwing acid but also the person making the acid available along with the dealer are partners in crime and should be included in the category of “Offender”.
- To enhance punishment to the “Offender” in proportion to the permanent/ functional loss/ facial disfigurement caused by Vitriolage / Acid burn injury. Appropriate punishment should be given to the “Offender” with respect to the injury/ harm s/he has caused to the victim.

2. Rehabilitation:

- To enhance the existing plastic surgery setup at recognized medical colleges/ teaching hospitals/ private hospitals in the country.
- To provide specialized treatment to acid burn victims with moderate to severe facial disfigurements.
- To provide proper psychological counselling to the acid burn victims and to rehabilitate them physically/psychologically/socially.
- Guiding physicians to providing appropriate primary treatment to the victims of acid burn.
- To encourage the concerned departments to improve the reconstructive surgery facilities at various hospital in country.
- To educate people in rural areas regarding the reconstructive treatment available.

ISSUES & CHALLENGES:

Acid Throwing / Vitriolage is a form of Violent Assault

Definition:

VITRIOLAGE is a medical and legal term embodying the act as well as the purpose within itself. It means "Throwing Acid (Notably Concentrated Sulphuric Acid / Nitric Acid) on Someone with the Malicious Intent to Harm a Person".

Vitriolage as a phenomenon is firmly rooted in the crucible of ages bygone. Its purpose was vitriol, i.e., hatred, and has continued to be so. Its scope has nevertheless widened with the passage of time. Its causes can range from morbid jealousy and infidelity to vindictiveness/ vengeance, gangsters' internal warfare.

Sexual assault, Molestation and Acid Attacks on young girls have become a common story these days:

- *Why do you think these incidents are recurring?*
- Are culprits being punished appropriately or
- is the government lax in implementing regulations?
- Shouldn't the law be amended to give immediate punishment to such offenders who wash away bright futures of young girls just because the girls are not subservient to them?
- The citizens in India are pledging to fight against global warming, nuclear war-heads corruption, terrorism etc.
- Why has no one ever called for a war against the kind of terror caused due to Acid Throwing?
- Nitric, hydrochloric, or sulfuric acids all have a catastrophic effect on human flesh.

Another face of violence –

Innovation is never in short supply when it comes to cruelty. Corrosive acid has now become the weapon of choice for a wide range of individuals determined to inflict life-long suffering on their victims. And, as usual, women are prime targets due to their vulnerable position in society.

Perpetrators of these attacks throw acid on their victims (usually at their faces), burning them, and damaging skin tissues, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The consequences of these attacks include blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body. Acid violence seems to be almost unique to South Asia, with most incidents occurring in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Easy accessibility of acid at low rates without any responsibilities (i.e. licence or legal permission) is one of the chief reasons that these countries are the hotbed of such attacks.

Acid burn occurs when living tissue is exposed to a corrosive substance such as a strong acid or base. The main types of irritant and / or corrosive products are: acids, bases, oxidizers, solvents, reducing agents and alkylants. Additionally, acid burns can be caused by some types of acid weapons e.g. Vesicants (a substance that causes blisters; used in chemical warfare), Mustard Gas and Lewisite (a colorless or brownish oily poisonous liquid; used in the gaseous form in chemical warfare during World War I) or Urticants (producing wheals and itching) and phosgene oxime.

When acid is thrown, it leads to deep burns and contractures of the affected area usually causing permanent damage of vital organs. Many acid attack survivors have lost either one or both the eyes. The victim is traumatized physically, psychologically and socially. Most of these women can hope for is survival and can lead to permanent disfigurement and victim spirals into depression. Most survivors of an acid attack are forced to give up their education, occupation and other activities in their lives for recovering from the trauma. Additionally, disfigurement puts them through difficulties which debilitate and handicap them in every conceivable way.

The scars left by acid are not only skin deep, but also soul-deep. Victims are most often faced with social isolation and ostracism that further damages their self-esteem and self-confidence, seriously undermining their professional and personal future. Women who have survived acid attacks have great difficulty in finding a job and if unmarried, as many victims tend to be, they have very little chance of ever getting married.

**HOW DISGUSTING!! WITH JUST A FEW RUPEES,
ANYONE CAN BUY A WEAPON THAT CAN RUIN
ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE IN A FEW SECONDS**