

# ACID ATTACK IN INDIA AND IT'S IMPACT

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## ABSTRACT

An acid attack is a type of violent assault in which the attacker throws or pours acid or other corrosive substances onto the body of another person. The intention of the attack is to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill the victim. Acid attack can cause severe burns, blindness, tissue, damage, and other physical and emotional trauma. They are often used as a form of revenge, punishment, or intimidation, and the majority of victims are women and children. Acid attacks have been reported in many countries around the world, with high incidence rates in south Asia and southeast Asia. The consequences of acid attacks can be lifelong, and survivors often require extensive medical treatment and psychological support. Acid attack can have devastating physical, emotional, and social consequences for the victim. Survivor of acid attacks may require multiple surgeries and long-term medical treatment to recover from their injuries, and they may also experience psychological trauma, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Acid attacks are a serious problem in many parts of the world, particularly in countries with weak legal systems, when perpetrators may go unpunished. Governments and advocacy groups are working to raise awareness about acid attacks and to strengthen laws to prevent them and hold perpetrators accountable.

## INTRODUCTION

Acid attack is a serious and growing problems in India. According to the national crime record bureau, there were 244 reported cases of acid attack in India in 2019. However, the actual number of attacks is believed to be much higher, as many cases go unreported. Acid attacks in India are often carried out against women and girls, and are typically perpetrated by men who have been spurned in love, rejected for marriage, or who seek to intimidate or punish their victims. In some cases, acid attack is also carried out as a form of domestic violence, dowry harassment, or as an act of revenge.

Acid attack has devastating physical and psychological consequences for the victim. Survivors of acid attacks often require extensive medical treatment, including multiple surgeries, to recover from their injuries. They may also experience long-term psychological trauma, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

In response to the growing problem of acid attacks, the Indian government has taken steps to strengthen laws against the crime. In 2013, the Indian parliament passed the criminal law (amendment) act, which made acid attacks a specific offence punishable by imprisonment of at least ten years, with the possibility of life imprisonment in some cases.

Additionally, the supreme court of India has issued guidelines for regulating the sale of acid and regulating the compensation and rehabilitation of acid attack victims. Despite these efforts, acid attacks continue to be a serious problem in India, and much more needs to be done to prevent these heinous crimes and support survivors.

Despite these efforts, acid attacks continue to be a serious problem in India. Much more needs to be done to prevent these crimes and support the survivors. These includes raising awareness about the issue, addressing the root causes of violence against women providing support resources to survivors, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

## DEFINATION AND MEANING OF ACID ATTACK

*As per the provision of “Prevention of Offences (by Acids) Act 2008, (National Commission for Woman – Draft Bill)” constitute the definition of Acid Attacks and Acid.*

*According to Section 3 of said Act - “(a) “Acid” shall mean and includes any substance which has the character of acidic or corrosive or burning nature that is capable of causing bodily injuries leading to scars or disfigurement or temporary or permanent disability.*

*(b) “Acid attack” means any act of throwing acid or using acid in any form on the victim with the intention of or with knowledge that such person is likely to cause to the other person Permanent or partial damage or deformity or disfiguration to any part of the body of such person.”*

**In a study conducted by UNICEF reveals,**

*“Acid attack is a serious problem all over the world, even children are become victim of acid attack in many cases. In an Acid attack, acid is thrown at the face or body of the victim with deliberate intent to burn and disfigure. Most of the victims are girls, many below the age of 18, who have rejected sexual advances or marriage proposals. Acid attack or vitriol age is defined as the act of throwing acid onto the body of a person “with the intention of injuring or disfiguring [them] out of jealousy or revenge”.*

## MOTIVE BEHIND ACID ATTACK

The motive behind an acid attack can vary depending on the circumstances and the individuals involved. Some of the most common motive includes: -

**1. Revenge-** an acid attack may be carried out as an act of revenge against a person who has caused the attacker harm or humiliation. For example, an ex-partner may carry out an acid attack in retaliation for a relationship breakup.

**2. jealousy-** an attacker may target a person they perceive as a romantic rival, particularly if they believe the victim is in a relationship with someone they desire.

**3. envy-** in some cases, an attacker may be motivated by envy or resentment towards the victim's success, wealth, or social status.

**4. punishment** -an acid attack may be used as a form of punishment, particularly in cultures where there are strict social or religious codes that are perceived to have been violated by the victim.

**5. intimidation-** an attacker may use an acid attack as a way to intimidate or frighten others, particularly if they have a history of violence on criminal activity.

Regardless of the motive behind an acid attack, it is a crucial, horrific and inhumane act that can cause devastating physical and emotional harm to the victim. It is important to raise awareness about this form of violence and work towards prevention and support for those affected by it.

## CONSEQUENCES OF ACID ATTACK

The consequences of an acid attack can be devastating and long lasting, both physically and emotionally.

Here are some of the possible consequences of an acid attack: -

**1.severe burns:** - the corrosive acid can cause severe burns to the victim's skin and tissue, which can result in disfigurement, scarring, and permanent disability.

**2.vision loss:** - if the acid is thrown on the victim's face, it can damage their eyes and lead to partial or complete vision loss.

**3.breathing difficulties:** - inhaling acid fumes can cause respiratory problems, including coughing, shortness of breath, and wheezing.

**4.chronic pain:** - acid attack survivors may experience chronic pain due to nerve damage, tissue scarring, and other physical injuries.

**5. psychological trauma:** - acid attacks can also cause psychological trauma, such as anxiety, depression, post traumatic stress disorder(PTSD). And suicidal thoughts.

**6. Social isolation:** - acid attack survivor's may face social isolation and discrimination due to their physical appearance, which can affect their ability to work, socialize, and lead a normal life.

**7. financial difficulties:** - the medical and rehabilitation costs associated with an acid attack can be significant, which may lead to financial difficulties for the victim and their family.

Overall, acid attack are heinous crimes that cause devastating and long lasting consequences for the victim. It is important to raise awareness about that issue and take steps to prevent such acts of violence from occurring in the first place.

## CAUSES OF ACID ATTACK

Acid attacks are a form of violence and are caused by a range of factors, including personal and societal issues. here are some of the common causes of acid attacks:

**1. revenge-** one of the most common causes of acid attacks is revenge. The perpetrator may use acid as way to punish someone for a perceived wrongdoing.

**2.domestic abuse-** one of the main factors that has been linked to family members throwing acid on weak and beaten women is domestic violence. The spouse of his family members have interpreted a women's denial of anything or her loud nature in this male-dominated environment as defiance and rebellion, which has led to these torturous and painful situations. It might be connected to bringing dowry, infertility, disobedience, sexual rejection, suspicion, property issues, interpersonal conflicts, etc.

**3. Jealousy-** in some cases, acid attacks may be caused by jealousy, especially in cases where the perpetrator is jealous of the victim's success or attention from others.

**4. misguided beliefs-** some perpetrators may believe that acid attacks are a way to permanently disfigure someone, making then unattractive to others or causing them to withdraw from society.

**5. criminal activity-** in some cases, acid attacks may be used as a way to commit crimes such as or sexual assault.

**6. lack of regulation-** in many countries, acid and other corrosive substances are easily available and can be purchased without proper regulation or control, making it easier for perpetrators to obtain them.

It is most important to note that the underlying causes of acid attacks are complex, and addressing them requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, awareness, and legal measures to prevent and punish this heinous crime.

## LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR ACID ATTACK

The legal provisions for acid attack vary from one country to another, but here are some common legal provisions for acid attack:

**1. criminalization-** many countries have criminalized acid attacks and have made them a separate offence under their criminal law. The severity of the punishment varies from country to country.

**2. punishment-** the punishment for acid attacks may include imprisonment, fines, or both. The year of imprisonment, may range from a few years to life imprisonment, depending on the severity of the attack and the damage caused.

**3.compensation-** the victim of an acid attack may be entitled to compensation for medical expenses, loss of earnings, and pain and suffering. Some countries have set up funds to compensate acid attack victims.

**4.prevention-** many countries have implemented measures to prevent acid attack, such as restricting the sale of acid sales, and imposing strict penalties for the illegal sale of acid.

**5.rehabilitation-** victims of acid attacks may require medical and psychological rehabilitation. Some countries provide free medical treatment and counselling to acid attack victims.

**6. protection-** many countries provide protection to acid attack victims and their families. This may include witness protection, restraining orders, and other measures to ensure safety of the victim. Overall, the legal provisions for acid attack aim to prevent, punish, and rehabilitate those involved in these heinous crimes, as well as provide support and protection to the victims.

In India there are many laws related to acid attack is given in our IPC and any in any other law some of them are-

### Section 320 - grievous hurt

The following kinds of hurt only are designated as "grievous"

First- masculinization

Second- Permanent loss of vision in either eye. Thirdly- a permanent loss of either ear's hearing Fourthly- privatisation of any joint or member.

Fifthly - Permanently destroying or diminishing any member's or joint's authority.

Sixth- Persistent face- or head-disfigurement.

Seventh - Bone or teeth fracture or dislocation

Eighthly - Any injury that puts a person's life in peril, renders them unable to engage in their regular activities for a period of twenty days, or causes them to experience extreme physical discomfort.

### Section 322- voluntarily causing grievous hurt

Anybody who intentionally causes harm is considered to have committed the crime of voluntary harm if the harm they plan to cause or know they are likely to cause is serious harm.

"wilfully causing great harm." Explanation - A person is not considered to have caused grievous harm intentionally unless he also knows or intends that he will likely cause grievous harm in the future. Yet if somebody knows or intends to do grievous harm of a certain sort, he may be regarded to have done so voluntarily even if he actually causes terrible harm of a different kind.

### SECTION 325 - PUNISHMENT FOR VOLUNTARILY CAUSING GRIEVOUS HURT

Anyone voluntarily causes grievous harm, unless exempt under section 335 (causing grievous harm on provocation), must be punished with imprisonment of either kind for a time that may last seven years, as well as being subject to a fine

**ATTEMPT TO MURDER** – Anyone found guilty of committing any act with the intent or knowledge that, if it resulted in death, they would be guilty of murder, shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of either kind, or both.

If harm is done to someone as a result of the conduct, the offender will face a period of up to ten years in jail as well as a fine; alternatively, they will face the punishments already indicated.

Life-sentenced prisoners' attempts If harm is done, a person violating this clause who is already serving a life term in jail could also be put to death.

### attempts by life convicts -

If harm is done, a person violating this provision who is serving a life term in jail could also be put to death.

The Indian Criminal Code was updated on April 2nd, 2013, when the 2013 Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. Sections 326A and 326B were added as a result of the change to deal specifically with acid violence.

## CONCLUSION

Acid attack is a crucial and violent form of assault that can have lifelong physical, emotional, and psychological consequences for the victim. It is a heinous crime that causes unimaginable pain and suffering for the victim and their families.

To prevent acid attacks, it is important to raise awareness about the devastating effects of this form of violence and to take action to punish perpetrators through strict legal measures. Additionally, support must be provided to victims in the form of medical treatment, counselling, and legal aid.

Addressing the root cause of acid attacks, such as gender-based violence, inequity, and lack of education, is crucial in preventing these attacks from occurring. By working together to create a society that is free from violence and discrimination, we can protect vulnerable individuals and build a more just and equal world.

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