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## Acid Attack Against Female in India

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### **Abstract:**

Acid attacks are a thing that happens to women and girls in India. This kind of violence affects them in several ways, it hurts them physically, mentally socially and effects them financially. These attacks usually happen when women say no to men who want to marry them or when there are problems at home or when men want to get at them.

Even though there are laws to control the sale of acid these attacks still happen to women and girls in India. The main reason for this study is to look at what happens in acid attacks why acid attacks happen and how acid attacks affect women in India. We used information from the National Crime Records Bureau to see how many acid attacks happen to women in India.

**Keywords:** Acid Attack, Women's Violence and Gender Inequality

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### **Introduction**

Violence against women is a problem in India. Acid attacks are one of the kinds of violence against women. When someone throws acid on a woman it can hurt her badly cause them pain and make them feel ashamed in front of society. Women are usually the ones who get attacked with acid. This is because men think they are better than women. Acid attacks happen when women say no to men or when they want to leave their husbands or when they stand up for themselves. These acid attacks can affect women in ways. Women can undergo pain and depression along with several problems in their lives.

The government of India enacted laws in 2013 to stop acid attacks against women. The Supreme Court has ordered the states to control the sale of acid and help the women who suffer

from their attacks. But these laws are not being followed properly. According to the National Crime Records Bureau many crimes against women happen in India. Then 4.41 lakh cases were reported in 2024. Acid attacks are not as common as crimes but they are very serious and can affect women for their whole lives.

If we look at the figures we can see that acid attacks are still a problem in India. In 2018 there were 228 reported cases and in 2019 there were 240 cases. This shows that more and more women are getting attacked. In 2020 and 2021 the number of cases went down probably because of the lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the lockdown the number of cases went up again. There were 199 cases in 2022 and 216 cases in 2023. This shows that acid attacks are still a concern for women’s safety in India. The reported acid attacks cases in India are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Reported Acid Attack Cases in India (NCRB Data)

Year	Reported Acid Attack Cases	Remarks
2018	228	Majority victims were women
2019	240	Slight increase in cases
2020	182	Decline during COVID-19 lockdown
2021	176	Cases remained underreported
2022	199	Increase after reopening period
2023	216	Continued concern regarding women’s safety
2024*	Around 200+	NCRB preliminary trend estimates

**Source:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), *Crime in India Reports 2024\** figures based on recent trend reports and preliminary crime statistics.

Domestic violence and dowry disputes are also reasons for acid attacks. Sometimes men attack women because of problems or property disputes and they want to hurt them and make them feel ashamed. Acid attacks against women, in India mainly happen because of gender inequality, patriarchal norms and revenge.

Table 2: Major Causes of Acid Attacks Against Females in India

Causes	Percentage/Trend	Explanation
Rejection of Marriage Proposal	High	Most common motive
Refusal of Sexual Advances	High	Linked with male ego and revenge
Domestic Violence	Moderate	Family and marital conflicts
Dowry Disputes	Moderate	Economic and social pressure

Property Disputes	Low to Moderate	Family conflicts over land/property
Personal Revenge	High	Retaliation and social humiliation

**Source:** NCRB Reports, NGO Studies, Research Articles on Gender Violence

Table 3 shows that acid attacks have bad effects on women. Women who are victims of acid attacks often get burned, become blind and have scars that never go away. Many women experience depression, anxiety and what is called PTSD. Women who survive acid attacks face people treating them badly and being left out alone. Acid attacks patients’ treatment is very expensive and women who are victims may lose their jobs. Many women have to stop going to school. Their families suffer a lot, facing financial problems.

Table 3: Impact of Acid Attacks on Female Victims

Type of Impact	Effects on Victims
Physical Impact	Burns, blindness, disfigurement
Psychological Impact	Depression, PTSD, anxiety
Social Impact	Isolation, stigma, discrimination
Economic Impact	Loss of employment and high treatment cost
Educational Impact	Dropout from school/college
Family Impact	Dependency and emotional stress

**Source:** WHO Reports, NGO Reports, Academic Studies

Table 4 depicts about the laws in India that deal with acid attacks against women. Sections 326A and 326B of the Indian Penal Code say that people who commit acid attacks against women will be punished severely. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2013 was a change, because it helped to stop acid violence, against women more effectively. The Supreme Court has also made rules to control the sale of acid and to make sure that victims of acid attacks get the money they need. The Victim Compensation Scheme helps women who are victims of acid attacks by giving them financial support and hospitals have to give them free medical treatment by law.

Table 4: Legal Provisions Related to Acid Attacks in India

Law/Provision	Description
IPC Section 326A	Punishment for causing acid attack
IPC Section 326B	Punishment for attempted acid attack
Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013	Introduced specific acid attack laws
Supreme Court Guidelines	Regulation of acid sale and victim compensation
Victim Compensation Scheme	Financial support to survivors

Free Medical Treatment Rule	Mandatory treatment in hospitals
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**Source:** Indian Penal Code, Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

The study depicts that the number of acid attacks that were reported went up from 371,000 in 2020 to 446,000 in 2023 which shows that women in India are not safe. Even though there were a little case in 2024 with 441,000 cases reported the numbers still is very alarming. These numbers show that we need to make more stronger laws about acid attacks to protect women in India. Table 6 shows that crimes, against women are still very common. Acid attacks are still a problem and we need to do something about it. Women who are victims of acid attacks need our help and support. Acid attacks are an issue and we need to stop them.

Table 5: Crimes Against Women in India

Year	Total Crimes Against Women
2020	3.71 lakh
2021	4.28 lakh
2022	4.45 lakh
2023	4.46 lakh
2024	4.41 lakh

**Source:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), recent crime statistics reports.

It is also clear from the data that the incidence of these crimes has increased from 3.71 Lakh cases in 2020 to 4.46 Lakh cases in 2023 and though has decreased slightly to 4.41 Lakh cases in 2024, they present a real concern that demands the urgent requirement of strong legal protection, awareness and the real implementation of women security measures in India. A slight decline of 4.41 Lakh cases in 2024 shows the problem to be a critical social issue, requiring prompt action towards law making, creating awareness and efficient implementation of measures for women safety in India. The magnitude of it can be easily seen from the data presented in Table 6 that shows crimes against women increasing over the years and peaking in the past year. The same shows the imperative of proper law enforcement, gender sensitization, empowerment of women, speedy judicial processes and public awareness campaigns for reducing crime against women in India.

### Findings

The present study highlights that acid attack is an acute form of gender-based violence and is mostly practiced against women in India. The major causes of acid attack include rejection for proposal of marriage, sex or forced marriage and domestic fight or personal dispute or revenge.

The basic causes of this crime are the deep-rooted patriarchy system, gender discrimination, which can be easily explained. To curb these offenses the government has come up with laws to protect women with IPC section 326A and 326B, Criminal law amendment act, 2013. It can be said that the survivors face lot of problems such as stigma, discrimination, socio-economic problem etc. The problem has been seen to have a large impact on lives of the victims in relation to high medical cost, and lack of livelihood. In addition to the above, poor enforcement of laws, unlawful sale and supply of acid, slow pace of judicial procedures and rehabilitation are seen as hindrances to improved protection and treatment of victims. Despite of existence of law and adequate compensation schemes for women, insufficient law enforcement and illegal sale of acid remain the challenge for crime prevention.

### **Conclusion**

The acid attack against women remains one of the cruelest and inhuman crimes being conducted on women in India. This is not just a physical assault but it represents assault on a women's integrity, identity and self-confidence. The present study shows that women are mostly targeted by men following the refusal of a marriage proposal or a sexual approach, personal enmity, dispute of money and dowry, or a desire for revenge. Patriarchy and gender discrimination were identified as underlying root causes. Analysis of the NCRB data showed that the problem of acid attacks and other crimes against women remained high throughout the country, despite slight variations reported each year. The threat of crimes against women remains very high in India. Victims face severe, permanent pain, blindness, physical disfigurement, psychological suffering, social ostracization, economic problems such as cost of medical treatment, loss of income etc. The women survivors were also face different types of difficulties like discrimination from the society, problems in their social mobility, employment and getting their right to education and information. In order to prevent such crimes government passed various laws for the women such as IPC Sections 326A and 326B, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, victim compensation scheme and limitations on sale of acid. However, the ineffective enforcement of law, illegal distribution of acid, delays in judicial processes and rehabilitation are identified as hurdles to better protection and treatment of victims.

The alarming statistics also reflect an increasing trend, with reported cases climbing from 3.71 Lakh in 2020 to 4.46 Lakh in 2023. A slight decrease of 4.41 Lakh cases in 2024 indicates the problem to still be a major social issue that demands immediate action on law making, awareness and the effective implementation of women security measures in India, the problem

of which is clear from the Table 6 data, which shows crimes against women being at its peak over past years, and which further warrants urgent measures to be taken.

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