

ACID ATTACKS AND WOMEN

Mrs. Licy Varghese

Research Scholar, Commerce

ABSTRACT

Acid attacks come across as a form of violence against women all over the world. A report of comparison between medical data and complaint reports on an international level shows that more than 58% of acid attack victims were unreported per year. The cruel mentality of people or the attackers could result in destroying the entire life of the victim. The fact is unacceptable that the men get also affected through this yet in fewer amounts which could be analyzed as a form of discrimination against gender. The present article presents a brief review of the causes behind the attacks and their impact on the life of women.

Keywords: Acid attacks, women, victim, international, and violence

INTRODUCTION

Violence could be in different forms like mental, physical, or social that shows the discrimination against gender. Women are no doubt treated as objects through the poor mentality of people across the world. The acid attacks are also such kind that results in destroying the life, identity, disfigurement, and sometimes death. In this era, while the whole world is talking about empowering women at the same phase these types of activities are also happening. According to Byard (2020), each year more than 1550 attacks are reported across the world and the highest report recorded is South Asian countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Attackers mostly use different types of highly concentrated acid-like HCL (Hydraulic Acid), HNO₃ (Nitric Acid), and H₂SO₄ (Sulfuric Acid). These acids can burn the skin tissue and damage bones and the reason for most of the cases are found to be love failure.

The international report of health and violence in the form of acid attacks shows a classification of the violence in three different forms such as: collective, interpersonal, and self-directed. Collective violence could be understood as the violence committed through a group (social, political, and economic). The violence committed through the intimate partner or any family person is termed interpersonal violence (Singh et al. 2018). The main motives of the attackers are taking revenge on their personal or community ego through harming a person on the emotional and physical level. The current article summarizes the causes and impact of acid attacks on women. This article effectively draws the attention of the readers towards the perception and the medical facility provided to the victims.

SIGNIFICANCE / PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The significance of the current study is to provide information related to the cause and consequences of acid attacks on women. The ill behavior of society towards the acid victim is the main reason that makes the life of a survivor more difficult. The role of laws and justice shows a significant role in these types of attacks. In most, South Asian countries the judiciary system does not work so frequently to provide justice. The purpose of the present article is to

provide an analyzed cause of acid attacks on women and their effects on their life. The article is effective in fulfilling the previous knowledge gap through evaluating the medical quality and care present for the acid victims. Safety concerns and social changes that could make the life of acid survivors better are also described in the present article.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The present article is based on the fulfillment of the following objectives:

- To describe the reason for acid attacks and their impact on the life of women
- To show the link between the acid attacks and the discrimination against the gender
- To evaluate the provided medical treatment and facilities to the acid victims
- To provide information related to the present and future impact of acid violence against women

METHODOLOGY

The present article is based on the acid attacks and their impact on women which could be completed with the proper selection of methodology. The methodology is the most important part of the writing article. The methodology provides a unique way that helps in identifying, selecting, analyzing, and processing information related to the subject (Snyder 2019). Philosophy, design, approach, data collection, and its analysis depend on the selection of the type of methodology. The present article is based on the selection of compiled or derived data as existing data and theories are used in this paper. Positivism philosophy has been selected as it focuses on the prediction and factual explanation of each point. The causes and consequences of acid attacks on women could be easily understood with the selection of descriptive design as it describes situations and phenomena (Alarcon-Ruiz 2019). The approach could be termed as the plan or methods of broad assumptions for the collection of data, its analysis, and implementation. The deductive approach has been selected as it helps in providing a link of theories with scientific investigations while testing the hypothesis.

DATA ANALYSIS

The most critical part of a paper is the quality of data and its reliability. Data could be analyzed in two different forms based on the type of data collected. Primary and secondary are two specific types of data that are analyzed in different ways. As per Mölder et al. (2021), the current paper is based on the collection of secondary data that are collected from primary sources such as published articles, books, newspapers, interviews, conducted survey reports, etc. The technique of filtering irrelevant information from the collected data before its implementation is termed data analysis. Qualitative and quantitative data analyses are used for analyzing the collected secondary data for the present article. The numerical or statistical data are analyzed with the selection of quantitative analysis and the information in the form of text is analyzed by qualitative analysis.

RESULTS OF THE DATA TABLES

1. The age group of acid victims

Table 1 presented below shows the age group that faces the acid attacks. The total number of cases takes place for the different age groups of men and women. The analysis provided in table 1 shows the number of acid survivors or the reported cases is more in women. As per Moham (2020), women below the age of 18 and from the age group 18 to 25 are the most affected due to the acid attacks as shown below.

Table 1: Graphical representation of acid survivors across the world for men and women

Serial No.	Age Group	Men	Women	Total
1.	Below 18 (child or teenager)	6	20	26
2.	18 to 25	4	17	21
3.	26 to 35	3	12	15
4.	36 to 45	4	10	14
5.	46 to 55	2	6	8
6.	Above 56	1	4	5

(Source: Usman 2018, P.No 1-11)

2. The Cause and Impact of Acid Attacks on Women

Acid attacks could be caused due to different reasons such as family issues, dowry, dispute of land, love failure, and so on. The causes of acid attacks and the number of cases registered for men and women are provided in table 2. Table 2 shows the majority of the cases that occurred with women which represent gender discrimination and the thoughts of treating women as an object (Galozy 2020). Acid is not only effective in destroying the face or body of the victims it affects them emotionally and leads to social discrimination. The identity, confidence, and physical damage highly impact the life of the victim along with their family members.

Table 2: Reasons for acid attacks across the world

Serial No.	Causes	Number of Women victims	Number of Men victims	Total
1.	Family issues	5	2	7
2.	Dowry	12	3	15
3.	Dispute of property, money, or land	5	1	6
4.	Marital dispute	10	3	13
5.	Rejection, love failure, refusal, marriage, or sex	25	2	27
6.	Not found	4	0	4
7.	Other reasons	6	2	8
8.	Total:	67	13	80

(Source: Aboh 2018)

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

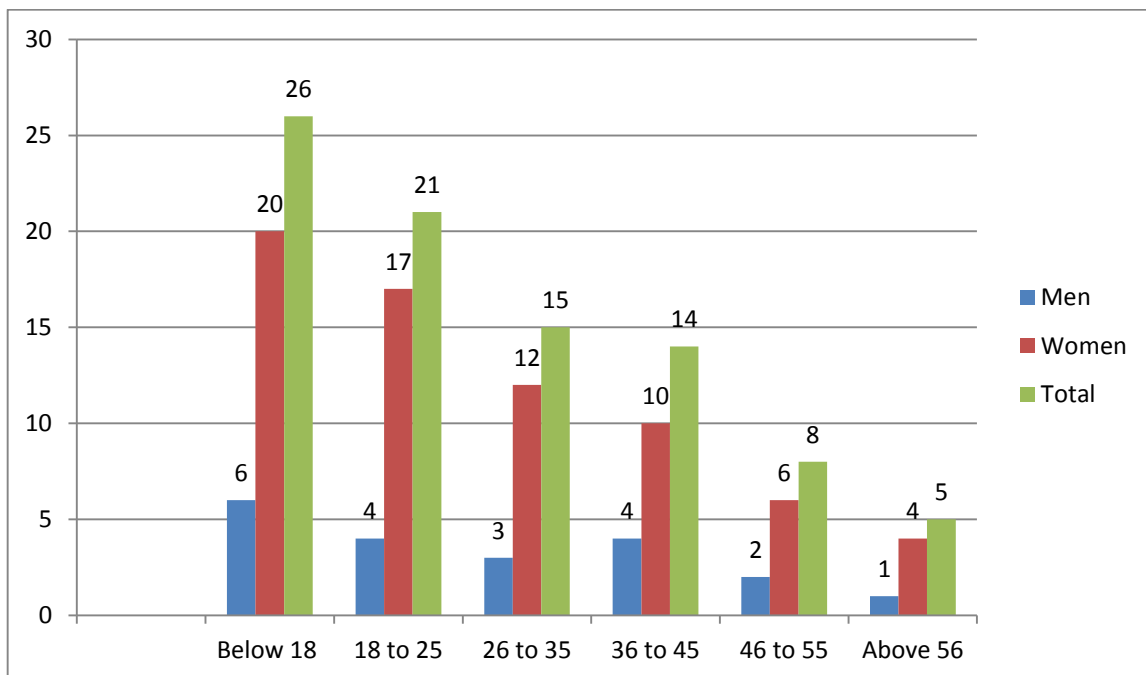


Figure 1: A report of acid survivors across the world for men and women
(Source: Created by Author)

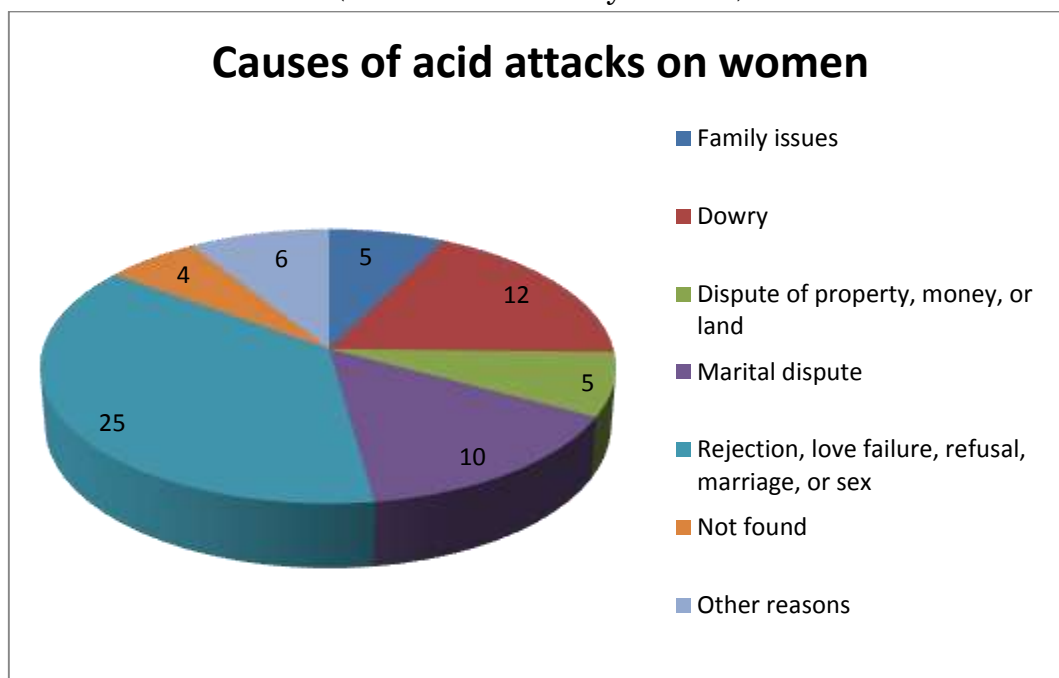


Figure 2: Graphical representation of reasons for acid attacks across the world
(Source: Created by Author)

DISCUSSION

Summarizing the entire article it could be discussed that women are the main target of the attackers. The women of age group 18 to 25, 26 to 35, and below 18 are mostly targeted through the acid attackers. Acid attack is a kind of social, emotional, and physical violence that could destroy the lives of victims and their families. The main causes of acid attacks are found to be rejection, love failure, refusal, or marriages.

CONCLUSION

The current article concluded that acid attacks are reported all over the world. The most affected age groups of this violence are from 18 to 30 and below 18. Marriage, love failure, revenge, dowry, etc are the most common reason found in acid attack cases. Acid burns not only the face or body of the victim it burns the confidence, identity, and personality of the survivors. The concluded summary of the present article shows the gender discrimination for women by society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for the article are as follow:

- The article is effective in providing information to researchers and scholars working on the further study based on violence against women.
- The government of South Asian countries should make strict laws and provide justice in less time.
- The selling of concentrated acid must be banned as it could help in reducing the number of acid attack cases.
- A comparative study of two different countries could increase the reliability of the current article.

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