

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PRESENT LAWS TO CONTROL ACID ATTACKS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN PAKISTAN

**Kashmala Ashiq\***

College of Law, GC University, Faisalabad  
[Kashmalaashiq5@gmail.com](mailto:Kashmalaashiq5@gmail.com)

**Mirza Shahid Rizwan**

College of Law, GC University, Faisalabad

### ABSTRACT

*Women are constantly being denied their human rights via distinct practices that are found in Pakistani society as honor killing, forced marriage and acid attacks. Perpetrators of acid attacks are still rarely captured and women in poor families are especially more vulnerable. Even more than 90% of the reported cases are not settled and justice is not delivered because of the perpetrators' wealth. Rich individuals are more easily suitable to shirk the legal system and the police charges. Like other social changes, reforms against acid attacks in Pakistan are still moving too slow for Pakistani women. The lacuna in existing laws and hurdles in making new laws is permitting this stigma of society to grow. Our society is not allowing a woman to enjoy that status which she is given by Islam. The Qualitative research by using secondary data is done by studying Pakistani laws critically. In this article, comprehensive recommendations for making further reliable and effective laws in Pakistan are given. Awareness must be given to public regarding the real status and rights of women in Islam. New laws and better performance is the other tool to manage with this evil side of the society.*

**Keywords:** Acid Attacks, revenge, stigma of society, lacuna, comparative analysis, effective laws

### INTRODUCTION

With the everyday based progress and advancement of the world, the world has known various new inventions and discoveries. These inventions are performing their part for both good as well as wrongs. These are two distinct faces of the picture. Same is the situation with chemicals. On the one hand, they are serving and helping the life while on the other hand, abuse of these chemicals is abetting evil minds to achieve eugenic points. Where the society is suffering due to these inventions, also these inventions and discoveries are responsible for the nonstop progress of the world. That is why, their products cannot be banned. But our society and its evil mind people are using these beneficial means as ruinous munitions for hurting people and taking revenge from others. The society and the governance must formulate and borrow the proper preventative and remedial laws to combat with the evil side of similar discoveries (Hopkins et al., 2021).

One of similar discoveries and inventions is affiliated to chemicals i.e, Acids. Acids are the materials having burning nature and are corrosives. Acids are capable of causing temporary or permanent harm, disability or disfigurement to a person. Throwing of acid is called acid assault or acid attack. It's a form of violent assault. Acid Attack may be defined as the harsh act of pouring acid on the body of a person with the mala fide intention of injuring or disfiguring that person's body organs. Acids are generally thrown at the faces of others, destroying them by not only harming the skin but also more often exposing and sometimes even melting the bones (Byard, 2020).

According to Finley, in seventeenth century, the first listed acid attack occurred in France. Violence via acid attacks is even found in ancient times. In different countries, the motives of perpetrators are different. Around the globe, violence against women is found in different areas. There are various reasons owing to which, women are more vulnerable to the violence like women are less probably independent and owing to be dependent on males, they have to bear violence sometimes. Violence against women, include child marriage, forced marriage honor killing, acid attack violence, girls trafficking, forced prostitution, rape and the most common is domestic violence etc. Acid

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\* Corresponding Author

Violence is a gender based violence which is totally criminalized under all national and international laws, as in the Women's Bill of Rights, i.e The Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Root cause of Violence Against Women (VAW) is unbalanced relations between men and women. As men are stronger physically, they can harm women easily. The intention of the perpetrators of acid assaults is not only to beget severe pain or detriment to the victim but also to beget severe physical as well as emotional damage to the victim. Motives behind acid attacks range from domestic to racial, social, political and sexual affairs. Also, the man has raised a concept in his mind that he is dominant over the women. When a woman refuses a man, then man causes such offence to satisfy his so called fake pride. The most common motive behind acid attack is refusal of marriage proposals. That's why, they want to take revenge from those women, who refused their proposal, having mindset that If I can't have you, no one can. Domestic motives include rejection of marriage offer, demands for dowry and covetousness related to marriage affairs. Numerous other common motives behind acid assaults are denial for having sexual connections, lust and gang violence (Bitoliya & Yadav, 2022).

Gender based violence is not permitted by any law of national or international level because it is against the human rights which are undeniable. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by 20 nations and the UN General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became law on September 3, 1981, outlawing all forms of gender-based violence against women. This agreement required all signatory nations to protect women's rights and pass legislation to end all forms of violence against them (Mittal et al., 2021).

It isn't a gender based violence but in a report of The Acid Survivors Trust International, eighty percent of acid attacks are committed against women which make it a gender based violence at the same time acid attacks are grossly under- estimated. Violence against women is an infringement of Human Rights which is, unfortunately taking place worldwide. It doesn't only affects women but also each and every member of the society irrespective of any age group. Women are facing different forms of gender based violence in nearly all areas of the world including violence by family members and relatives; domestic violence including sometimes murder and even being burned by in- laws, injuring with acid, beaten, floated, honor profit, abuse and torture. Since this gender rested violence is apparent from thousands of cases, we hear daily, in Pakistan, this isn't a fact of being amazed that country's ranking is 141 out of 142 regarding percentage of women in politics. Such inequality is the reason of lowers women's status in society and making her more vulnerable to violence (Hadi, 2017).

Pakistan is one of the countries with the highest rates of acid attacks. Acid burn victims are termed by experimenters as living corpses. An acid assault is considered the intimate terrorism in which perpetrators throw acid on a person with malafide intentions performing in ruinous results not only for the victims but also for their families. The dilemma about maintaining records regarding acid attacks in Pakistan is that the authorities and bodies concerned are unfit to assess the exact numbers of assaults and acid burn victims. A poor estimation of number of acid attacks in Pakistan, according to Acid Survivors Foundation, was 91 reported cases in 2011, 70 in 2013, 153 in 2014, 59 in 2015 and 73 in 2016. The drop in similar attacks over the period of years may be considered a result of highlighting the issue through media. But at the same time, this fact cannot be ignored that numerous cases of acid attack aren't indeed reported and there is lack of proper medium for estimation of correct number of acid assaults annually (Jain, 2020).

In result of an acid attacks, the percentage of most affected body areas are face (81%), head and neck (67%), upper limbs (60%) and chest (54%). 31% victims suffer with complete or partial blindness. Its psychological impacts are indeed more heart wrenching and pathetic. It not only pushes the victim in severe depression but also the family of the victim and society. Feeling of being burnt and the sufferings like disfigurement, which are permanent, are heart-wrenching and no way allow them to smile again. These disabilities along with our society's mind set causes hurdles in victim's marriage if she is not married already. Indeed, they cannot do a job in malice of being well good because as per society's mind set, they do not meet the morals of having good personality (Yeasmeen). As United Nations' Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women has defined Gender Based Violence as any malafide act which is prohibited by law and is likely to result in any kind of hurt to a woman, including all kinds of sufferings whether being in public or private relationship is termed as Gender Based Violence. Gender based violence is defined by The Asia Forum on Women,

Law and Development (AFWLD) in 1990, as any act using force with malafide intention of harming a woman (Rafi, 2019).

Number of acid attacks never showed a regular pattern of decrease. It is because of various reasons. Such attacks will remain same until the perpetrator used to get the most severe punishment. The fluctuating number of acid attacks can be seen in the report of the Acid Survivors Foundation which states 190 cases of acid attacks in Pakistan between years of 2007 and 2014 while only in 2015, 59 cases of acid attacks occurred in Pakistan. There are various reasons behind such gloomy situation of the Pakistan but the main cause is lack of proper legislation and implementation. As, there is no proper implementation and perpetrators are not punished strictly. Such lack of strict action against these barbaric people encourages them to attack on innocent victims because they know they will get be free easily even after committing this heinous crime. Such escape of an accused person encourages other accused persons to commit crime with more bravery and fearlessness. To control commission and more spread of a crime, the state must punish the perpetrators strictly so that other people will get a lesson from it and try to avoid such commission (Ghosal et al., 2020).

Status and Situation of women in a country is inversely proportional to the number of acid assaults in that country. While explaining the situation of women in Pakistan, Deeba and Nazir comprehensively discusses as follows: Another study clarifies that Pakistani society is not too different from those close-inclined countries, which infrequently provides an occasion to women to get on and come self sufficient. Pakistan is the first Muslim country where a woman, Benazir Bhutto became Prime Minister. Other reputed female politicians are also making soothing records in Pakistan like Shireen Mazari, Bushra Gohar, Sherry Rehman, Marvi Memon, Kashmala Tariq etc. On the other hand, we unfortunately had experienced cases of victims like Kainat Soomro, Mukhtaran Mai and Tehmina Durrani. The women who are making records are not from a specific class but actually Pakistan provides protection to women in its laws. This is the mindset of few people of the society who are causing deterioration of the society with their baseless and poor mindsets. According to United Nations Development Program, in report of 2012 Gender Inequality Index, Pakistan stands at 123 out of 148 total countries. There are various reasons behind sufferings of women. First and foremost is lack of education and awareness. Due to lack of education, women do not know about the rights given to them by their religion as well as by state. Owing to this lack of awareness, women do not know how to knock for seeking justice. The laws are unable to explain that despite of existence of laws, why violence against women is still common. The point to ponder is what are the gaps in these existing laws which are failing in discouraging a perpetrator to commit acid attack. Such situations have put many question marks on the existing laws, their implementation, education system and measures, which as a state, are needed to be taken (Welsh, 2019).

Accurate number of acid attacks are very difficult to calculate as many cases go unreported for many reasons. These reasons may include lack of awareness, ignorance, lack of proper laws and lack of enough potential in laws which create a sense of fear in the perpetrator's mind. Acid attacks happened to occur in many countries. These factors causing gender based violence are less or more common in all nations (Shehzad et al., 2013).

### **Objectives of the Study**

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- 1- To understand the reasons and after effects of acid attacks
- 2- To find the different types of problems face by the victims, after acid attack
- 3- To find the grey areas in laws of Pakistan
- 4- To critically study Pakistani Laws
- 5- To recommend improvements or amendments in existing Pakistani laws

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology is a mode of inquiry, analysis and collection of data that intends to systematically measure and predict phenomenon of ratios, numbers and percentage. This study is an attempt to understand the present situation of acid attacks in Pakistan and impediments of eradicating this evil from society. Secondary data is used to conduct this research work. Books of many authors, articles of different writers, case laws of different countries and online means are studied to achieve best of my research work and to pin point the weak areas in the laws of Pakistan. So, Research methodology used is of qualitative nature, because the qualitative research represents the major aspects of data collection

and analysis in the study. By critical analysis of the existing legal framework, suggestions to improve/strengthen the laws are provided. This study will be helpful in gaining an insight regarding the improvements Pakistan should made.

## **DISCUSSION**

With the development and progress of the world, the munitions of committing crime have been developed too. The graveness of hurts caused by similar ultramodern world munitions has been increased also. Women cannot be treated as subjects to which cruelty or oppression is allowed. A woman cannot be compelled by anyone to do anything which is against her will. Revenge cannot be sought from her by causing her hurt or attack with acid. As it is provided under Article 25 of the constitution of Pakistan that State shall not allow any discrimination based on gender. All citizens of the state will be treated equally irrespective of their gender. It is lawful for the state to make new laws on the subject of safety of women whenever needed. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has enacted various laws while keeping an eye on the fluctuating number of acid attacks with the passage of time.

In 1992, it was rendered mandatory for a state to help violence and to ensure availability of proper services and rehabilitation to the victims, in General Recommendation No. 19 of The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women (CEDAW). Also it was rendered mandatory for the state to regulate the acid trade as the factors which are responsible for acid attacks also include the easy availability of acids. State was also asked to make the laws to punish every person who is involved in committing such violence. Gender discrimination causes and promotes all kinds of violence against women like acid attack. So, it was the main motto of the Convention to eradicate gender discrimination from the society. Gender discrimination is caused by social moral and general conception or mindset of the people of a society. The best method to end acid violence was, as directed by this Committee, to find out its root causes and then eradicating them from society. Also, it was said to all states that they should work for the gender equivalency and respectful connections between distinct genders (ASTI, 2015).

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has also tried hard to legislate laws which may help to exclude not only the crime or the felonious but also the vacuity of similar munitions. To combat with similar atrocity, laws must be legislated as rigorously as the crime is cruel. As, Islamic Republic of Pakistan is an Islamic country, its laws and implementations must be in accordance with Islam. That's why, first of all, it is needed to explain the status of women in Islam. So that, it can be understood easily that state must ensure those rights to the women, which have already granted to her by her religion, Islam. Islam is a religion of equal rights, justice and peace. Islam has spoke a lot on the topics concerning human rights, specially, women rights. The freedom given by our religion Islam can not be curtailed by any person. The Holy Quran says, explanation of the verse: And they (women) have rights (over their men as respects maintenance) equal (to those of their misters) over them (as respects obedience and respect) to what's reasonable, but men have a degree (of responsibility) over them (Al- Baqarah 228). Then, supremacy simply refers to giving each other ease, safety, and support for their basic needs. It neither elevates males to the status of oppressors of women nor gives men the go-ahead to abuse them. Man has a duty to standardise things in the world. The family is the basic building block of society, and both men and women enjoy equal rights there. A higher level since the dad must work to support his family (Zain et al., 2015).

In agreement with another report by Pakistan Ministry of Women Development (2011), 42% women in Pakistan accept violence considering it in their fate, 33% are weak to manage with violent situations, 19% kick against violence and only 4% take any action against similar violence. The factual intention of throwing acid is not to cause death of a person but to take vengeance by causing defect to women and to bring agony in their lives. Smile Again Foundation states in its report that the acid victims ranges from age of 14 to 25 in Pakistan and common causes of similar incidents reported are covetousness, infidelity, dowry, husband's want of alternate marriage and sexual non cooperation (Mujeeb et al., 2018).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

After studying the present situation of acid attacks in Pakistan, already existing relevant laws and the laws which are in pipeline, I am inclined to suggest following recommendations for bringing

improvements in the laws of Pakistan. So that, the efforts of making these laws may bear fruit (Nawaz & Malik, 2021).

### **1. Improvements in Legislation**

Since acid attacks are crimes that result in disfigurement or long term injuries or even death, so, the maximum imprisonment must be fixed for this offence. There is need of comprehensive Federal as well as Provincial legislation to deal with the acid attacks crimes against women in Pakistan. Following are the recommendations to make legislation more effective:

#### ***i. Legal Aid and Representation***

Laws, having provisions regarding legal aid and representation for victims at all levels like district, provincial and state level, must be enacted. In this way, victims, who do not have enough legal knowledge, may have guidance regarding filing their complaints and following their cases.

#### ***ii. Provisions to Raise Awareness***

Laws must have provisions to establish authorities comprising of Attorneys, Legal Panels and other officials, who will make people aware of rights of acid attack victims and survivors and who will guide the acid attack survivors about the procedure of getting justice and stand against the violence.

#### ***iii. Substantial Protection Laws***

The other major hindrance on the way to seeking and providing justice is threat of the perpetrators. To encourage victims and witnesses, the substantial protection Laws for their protection must be made. Only then, complaints will be files against such perpetrators of acid attacks and people will raise their voice against every violence occurring in their surrounding (Srivastava et al. 2018).

#### ***iv. Provisions To Establish Rehabilitation Centers***

Laws must include provisions to establish rehabilitation centers for acid attack survivors, where the survivors can again become able to lead their lives happily. Laws regarding establishment and management of these rehabilitation centers must be enacted.

#### ***v. Laws Regarding Monetary Compensation***

Laws must enact provisions regarding paying monetary compensations to acid attack survivors to make them enable to manage expenses of their treatment and their living.

#### ***vi. Laws regarding Medical Services***

Laws must have provisions to establish medical centers to enable the victims of acid attacks to get free of cost and better medical services. Proper laws must be enacted regarding procedure of establishing and maintaining medical centers.

#### ***vii. Laws regarding Training***

Laws must provide provisions to organize training sessions for the victims. These training sessions will help acid attack survivors to be enabled to earn their livelihood.

### **2. Regulation of Acid Sale**

Legislation must make strict laws to keep a check on regulation of the acid trade. Following steps must be taken in this regard to cope with the fluctuating ratio of acid attacks in the country.

#### ***i. Law of Sale and Purchase***

Laws must be enacted regarding sale, purchase, import, export, use and disposal of wastage regarding production of acids.

#### ***ii. License for Acid Dealers***

There must be laws which render it mandatory to have licenses for all dealers who trade in acid. The requirement of this license will prevent illegal trade of acids.

#### ***iii. Record keeping Of All Deals***

There must be proper records of all deals regarding sale and purchase of acid. Laws must render mandatory the monitoring of acids and define grounds on basis of which a person can buy or purchase acid, so that, nobody can use it for eugenic aims. Laws must declare it mandatory or every person dealing in acids to maintain a record of each sale or purchase and also identity of every person buying and purchasing acid.

#### ***iv. Ban on unlicensed Sale***

There must be laws having provisions regarding ban on unlicensed sale and purchase of acid. Keeping in view that these laws must be so strict to never allow black market trading of acids.

#### ***v. Laws regarding theft of Acid***

Laws must render it declare for the acid dealers to have strict control on storage of acids. Laws must include provisions to make people aware of reporting immediately any case of theft of acids. Legislation should also devise strict procedure for dealing with cases of theft.

***vi. Laws regarding Consequences:***

Laws must include provisions regarding legal consequences of misusing the acids. Laws must bound people and companies dealing with acid to be vigilant that all the people or companies to which they are dealing, are following all the laws and legal procedure. The last but not the least, the imprisonment for violating these rules should be very strict.

***3. Improvements in implementation***

Laws will only be able to help the present situation of acid attacks, if implemented effectively. Without proper implementation, no law can discourage the perpetrators. Following are the steps, which are necessary to be followed for effective implementation:

***i. Establish Authorities***

State should establish bodies to work on implementation of all relevant laws. Establishment of all those authorities, which are provided in legislation, must be ensured by the State. Procedure, which is to be followed by such authorities, must be given comprehensively in legislation. Also, the consequences of violating these laws must be given by the Legislature. Only then, an effective implementation together with reliable laws will be able to help our state.

***ii. To Keep Check***

State must also direct higher officials to keep a check on activities of their subordinate officials. Legislation must bound every official to ensure fully abidance of laws. A body should be set up to collect information and records from all departments concerned, districts and relevant people for determining the achievement of all strategies and purposes of enactment. It will help to determine that whether laws are being properly implemented or not. It will be helpful in encouraging people for believing in law and the system.

***iii. Establishment of Assistance Board***

Legislation should also render it mandatory to establish Acid Attack Victim's Assistance Board in Police Department. Immediate and proper action of police on complaints of acid attack survivors will play a vital role in encouraging them and in providing them justice timely. Police should also investigate such matters without any pressure.

***iv. Duty of Medical Officer***

Legislation should render it mandatory for every medical provider to treat the patient without any delay and to report immediately every case of burns and harms caused by acid to the police. Laws should also fix consequences in case of any negligence on the part of medical officer.

***v. Investigation by Station House Officer***

It shall be stated very clearly in legislation that every case of acid attack must be investigated by Station House Officer of the Police Station concerned. Police should also be bound to provide all necessary legal aid to the victims and witnesses so that they may be able to fight with the perpetrators.

***vi. Steps for Protection***

Authorities concerned should also ensure implementation of all necessary measures for protection of victims and witnesses from all kinds of harassment for withdrawing the case against perpetrators.

***vii. Knowledge of Laws***

Legislation must render it mandatory for the authorities to take measures for making people aware of the availability of these all laws specially the protection laws. If no work will be done for awareness of people regarding these protection laws, people will never be able to find courage for fighting against perpetrators of acid attacks.

**4. Availability of Medical Board**

***i. Establishment of Medical Board***

Medical Board shall be set up in each district to treat acid attack victims timely. Shifting a victim from one district to another owing to non-availability of medical centers increases the chances of danger to her life.

***ii. Female Medical Officers***

Presence of female medical officer must be ensured in medical centers so that no female will hesitate to get treated properly.

**5. Monitoring**

***i. Monitoring of Protection Orders***

The state should also provide proper and comprehensive mechanism for monitoring the abidance of protection orders for safety of victim and witnesses.

***ii. Monitoring by Acid Dealers***

Companies and people dealing in acids can play a substantial role in monitoring whether illegal sale or purchase of acid is stopped or not. All companies doing business in acids must ensure that they are not providing acids for unlawful purposes. Proper disposal of wastage must be ensured for protecting any kind of misuse.

**6. Measure to Speedy Investigation**

As justice delayed is justice denied, so for ensuring timely justice, speedy investigation can help too. To provide speedy justice and to prevent abuse of powers, speedy investigation is mandatory, which can be ensured by taking following measures:

***i. Time Frame***

Laws should provide time frame for each step of investigation and fifteen days for completion of the investigation.

***ii. Consequences of Negligence***

If investigation could not be completed by the investigation officer, he will report its causes to his higher official as well as court. If authorities consider, appropriate, may replace the investigation officer with another and call the inquiry of officer who could not complete investigation in stipulated time. Otherwise, if authorities get satisfied with the causes given by the officer, authorities may grant further extension of seven days with a warning. Such inquiries of police officers may result into suspending them. As no doubt, there is a high work load on police officer, making such laws and implementing them is the only way to get the desired results from police department. There shall be a stipulated time for Courts to decide such cases too.

**7. Monetary Compensation**

As the victims have to suffer a lot, following points must be considered and laws in regard to providing compensation the victims must be enacted:

***i. Compensation by accused person to victim***

Expenses of all visits of acid attack victim to medical examiner must be borne by the perpetrator of acid attack. The accused must also be bound to pay for victim's surgeries and psychiatric sessions. This compensation must cover all expenses of the victim. In case of non-payment, this compensation must be payable as arrears of offender's land.

***ii. Compensation by state to victim***

State should introduce schemes to give security and compensation to the acid survivors throughout their lives since the victim suffers from the consequences of acid attack for whole of her life. A certain of money should be fixed for the victim as the acid attack has blotted her opportunities of earning, for time being and in some cases, for whole life.

***iii. Procedure for claiming compensation***

Laws must provide proper guidance to the victim to claim compensation by filing a written application from the State.

***iv. Establishment of Authority Concerned***

Legislative bodies must direct to establish authorities concerned, who shall assess the amount of compensation payable to a victim. This authority must also be bound to monitor whether every victim is getting compensation in time or not. Legislation should also direct the procedure of increasing the amount of compensation, if later on, during her treatment, she suffered any loss of eyesight, hearing or other disfigurement.

***v. Supervision***

Government should supervise execution of all orders of paying compensation and take conscious steps to ensure that all victims are getting compensation or not.

***vi. Free of Cost Recovery Centers***

It is suggested that the government should have to make free of cost recovery and rehabilitation centers for the acid attack victims, so that, expense of their recovery can be minimized and they may be kept safe from depression and other mental problems.

**8. Road maps to Charities and Organizations**

Organizations play an important role in helping acid attack victims as well as government to fight with the violence against women. Following measures can be taken to provide more effective road map to such charities and organizations:

***i. Attractive incentives***

Government shall introduce attractive impulses for the Charitable foundations and organizations so they can be encouraged for performing their part in the betterment of the helpless victims. Government must also help the organizations in growing their networks. Consequent upon that, these organizations will be more helpful to the state in fighting with acid attacks. Organizations working for women rights may play a vital role to eliminate this gender based violence. That's why, state must take measures to encourage them.

***ii. Effective Road Maps***

With more effective road maps, such organizations can work more efficiently for enabling victims to get justice and can also help and support victims more. Organizations can make pressure on government to make more strict laws and can play an important part in conviction of perpetrators.

**9. Public Awareness**

The well being of acid violence survivors is mandatory. Reintegrating survivors into their community is important thus following measures may be taken in this regard.

***i. Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Media***

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) along with the media may play a great role via informing people about the necessity of making victims feel that they are also useful citizens of our society. The state must itself take steps and also direct Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to do efforts for making people aware.

***ii. Campaigns and Awareness Programs***

All the necessary information can be spread among public via campaigns organized by these Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). There must be awareness sessions or programs conducted in all areas on the content of the gender-based violence and woman as victim of acid attack. Reason behind it, is that occasionally cousins or family of victim try to hide the incident because there's a social stamp that a woman shall be ashamed. So, a women, herself, must have all the information of taking steps in case of violence against her. There should be proper counseling of woman as a victim of the acid attacks because occasionally they lose courage and commit a suicide. Legislation must direct to establish such campaigns and also generate fund for it. No doubt, any law will be successful in improving a society if it will be enforced properly.

**10. Vocational Training and Economic Reintegration**

State should ensure following measures for the welfare of acid attack victims:

***i. Opportunities of Vocational Training***

State should establish institutes and provide opportunities of vocational training to the victims so that they may become able to be independent.

***ii. Provide job opportunities***

State should step forward to establish industries which provide acid attack survivors with the opportunities for their economic reintegration or state may ensure attractive incentive for the industries, which will provide job opportunities to the victims of acid attack. State must take all necessary measures to provide opportunities to acid attack survivors for making them useful citizens of the state.

**11. Ensure Morality Through Education**

State must render following measures obligatory:

***i. Improving Mindset of People***

State can only make people aware that moral education is mandatory but it is not the job of the state or those in power to educate us with moral education. State's job is to give justice and rules we are supposed to follow. Media and Seminars must train parents that they can perform the lead role in passing on common morality to the coming generation. Parents and teachers must educate children to admire the rights of others. They may also promote the acceptance of responsibility for one's conduct. The acid attacks are committed by the people having sick mindset, so it is needed that even in schools, children must be given education of equality and equal rights of women as men. State must make the curriculum of schools eliminating discrimination. When this young generation will grow up, they will have developed and better mindsets.

## **12. Directions to Media**

Media is the most important mean to promote the social and moral values. The issue of domestic violence is one of the major topics that media has been featuring considering the focal point over it. Pakistani media is playing prominent part to punctuate the crucial social issues of women for the awareness of the society.

### ***i. Promote Equal Rights***

Our state must direct media to feature programs which try to portray equal rights of women and men. Media should also portray a picture of healthy society in its programs in consequence of equal rights given to all.

### ***ii. Discourage violence***

At the same time, State must direct media to not to show or promote the programs having any kind of violence not even abuse. Media should also discourage all kinds of violence in its programs. It will help a lot in shaping minds of people.

## **13. Other Steps**

The root cause which is not allowing efforts regarding control of acid attacks to change the scenario, is mindset of people. To change mindset of people is a huge challenge for the state. To ensure all rights of women and to eradicate all kinds of gender based violence from the society, Pakistan has to work very hard. Breaking all stereotypes, is the biggest challenge. It can only be handled with promoting education and spreading awareness. Acid Attack victims suffer from mental as well as physical trauma. So, not only state or authorities, we, as society should also perform our best to support acid attack victims and to discourage such activities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Pakistan is a state that came into actuality with the pretext of Islam, it is truly heart wrenching to see that Islamic principles and schooling regarding status of rights of women are often times avoided and twisted. In Pakistani society, social immoralities, to cope with which, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) worked for, are unfortunately, deep embedded. And few so called honourable people take them as customary to violate women's rights. If violation of these laws will remain same in our society, no right of women can be ensured. Families and societal structures have to admit the women's position in ranking of power and any violence against women should be dealt as state crime than particular offense considering that, violence against women should be treated as a state offense rather than an offense against the existent.

By understanding the gaps in present legislation and its implementation, a critical study of relevant Pakistan laws is done. The improvements which must be made to cope with the problem of acid attack, are given in recommendations. There is need of comprehensive Federal as well as Provincial legislation to deal with the growing acid attack crimes against women in Pakistan. The protection laws are the basic need of the victims and witnesses to fight against their perpetrators. In acid attack crimes testimonials, news persons and indeed inquiry officer have trouble to their lives. Since, the victim suffers from the consequences of acid attack rest of his life, the security and compensation to the acid survivors throughout their lives by the state can be helpful in making the survivors useful citizens again. Acid burns centers in every district of Pakistan, are the other requirement of the present times. The crime of acid attack is mostly committed in rural and small areas where there is neither first aid nor exigency treatment available.

In accordance with Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Report, the requirements of women protection laws were admitted and the need of essential laws and mechanisms were felt badly. This study has been made by keeping in view the situation of acid attacks, a gender-based violence, in Pakistan. The efforts made by Provincial as well Federal Government have also been analyzed. The exploration has been done by centering the graveness of acid attack considerably on the physical, mental and economical conditions of the victims. Study has done to not only study the existing laws regarding acid attacks in Pakistan but also to find the need of enacting new and strict laws in this regard. Actually, acid attack is a crime, which is based on extremely malafide intention and conspiracy, that is why, it is the requirement of justice, to handle such crime harshly. Also, in addition to penalizing, the payment of compensation to the victims is very mandatory in these cases, as the victims has to suffer from various surgeries and psychiatric sessions etc. So, justice can not be fulfilled until compensation is paid to the victim too. Also, the dire need of schemes like vocational

training sessions and providing them with job opportunities is a matter of extreme consideration. It will enable victims to at least manage their living. These are the domains which are studied during this study.

In order to help women from all forms of violence, advanced strategies and new policies along with other influential characters of the society can play their role. These all strategies should be executed. We must also dissect our actions and belief system for impulses that allow violence against women to do. It is duty of we all to stand against all factors that cause and encourage Violence Against Women (VAW) as violation of rights of an individual is a threat to all.

Throwing acid on the faces and other bodily parts of females is an extremely heinous crime which not only leads to a great deal of physical and internal pain, anguish and trauma for the victim and their family but can also lead to defect for life which will in utmost cases have negative implications on the rest of the life of the victim in terms of marriage and going out of the house and interacting with other people and as as such those found guilty of the offense earn no mercy from the courts. As it is stated in the case, Pervez alias Laddu v. The State (2020 PCr.LJ 1672) “**Let the penalty be equal to the crime**”. judgement must be commensurable to the graveness of offence and degree of responsibility of lawbreakers.

The last but not the least opinion derived after this comprehensive study is the implementation or enforcement of these all laws, without providing the compact mechanism or establishing authorities concerned, is nothing, but a daydream. Only then, enacting these laws will bear fruit, when these laws will consist of the provisions by which they will make the authority for implementing the laws as well as proper procedure which will be adopted by such authorities. And most importantly, to render it mandatory for authorities to follow the procedure as laws without implementation are nothing.

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