

Acid Violence Laws and its Impact in Bangladesh

Musfiqa Ashraf*

Assistant Professor (Sociology) School of Social Science, Humanities and Language Bangladesh Open University, Dhaka - Mymensingh Highway, Tongi, Bangladesh

*Corresponding author

Musfiqa Ashraf

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Abstract: Women constitute half of the total populace and can contribute to the socio-economic of a nation as an inseparable unit with the male partner. Here in our Bangladesh, 49 percent of her kin are women yet the most vulnerable in the general public. The recent scenario of violence against women in Bangladesh, reported in media consistently, has been marked by an expanding frequency of acid attacks, rape, trafficking or molesting. Among all the violation related to women, acid throwing is the most malevolent form of brutality against women. After the sanctioning of The Acid Control Act 2002 and The Acid Crime Control Act 2002, the rate of throwing acid has been diminished yet not completely eradicated. The paper attempted to explore the challenges and limitations the society is facing to combat the acid attacks even though there are specific laws enacted on acid throwing in Bangladesh. Qualitative Method like case study and documentary analysis has been maintained for the study. Data have been collected from distinctive sources like books, journals, newspapers, magazines and different organizations like Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital and City Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Descriptive data has also been collected from some familiar foundation like, Human Rights Legal Survive (HRLS) under Social Development (SD) of BRAC Foundation and the Acid Survivors Foundations (ASF), Banani, Dhaka-1213. As the lawful framework has not possessed the capacity to pass out praiseworthy discipline to any corrosive assailant up until now, aggressors have little to fear. 42 convicted were sentenced to death. 139 convicted to life imprisonment and 112 others to different jail terms in 179 cases related to acid violence in the last ten years since 1994. Due to poor advancement in the media and an absence of awareness in the general population, a great many people don't know about the law.

Keywords: Women, Acid Victim, Burns, Plastic Surgery.

INTRODUCTION

"All human beings are born free and equal rights and dignity", written in the first Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [1]. The girls acquire the privileges like all of human beings by birth. They are conceived with a similar key rights to life, nourishment, protect, training, medicinal services and business. Our Constitution ensures equivalent positions of women and men in all circles of life. "Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life" mentioned in the Article 28(2) [2]. Regardless of this profound situated truth, young girls in Bangladesh experience the ill effects of extreme separation and unequal treatment each day of their lives. Beginning even before they are conceived, and proceeding for the duration of their lives, young ladies are subjected to savagery, rejection, and misuse construct essentially with respect to the way that they are female. Injustice acts conferred against young girls happen at all the levels of Bangladeshi society in families, tribe and even in the most elevated amounts of

government. The women are thought to be the second class nationals in this country. Despite the fact that different laws and Acts have been made to secure them, they are simple prey to abuse, torment and misjudgment. A young daughter from the village in Bangladesh faces a portion of the rudest types of segregation on the planet. Each period of her life is formed by unhealthiness, the refusal of selfhood and the absence of voice in the choices that influence her life. In view of abuse of young women about from birth, the sex proportion has dropped from a 1.06 of every 2001 to 1.05 in both 2005 and 2006 [3]. Tossing corrosive on any individual is such a most noticeably awful wrongdoing may not be trusted that is crime did by any individual. The culprit for the most part does not have any desire to execute the casualty, but rather needs to accomplish something more awful than kill - influence the casualty to endure until the end of time. The casualties are left terribly distorted in light of the fact that most assaults are guided at the face keeping in mind the end goal to for all time scar the casualty and

wreck her physical appearance. Acid spreads wilt through the entire body or generally in upper bit of the body. Regularly cases are left blinds, hard of hearing or stupid. The assault likewise prompts break their strength to live and saps their resolve to battle against this merciless society. Hence, they have no typical life. Alongside the physical enduring, acid survivors need to manage mental injury too. Numerous casualties are baffled and some of them have self-destructive inclinations. A large portion of the patients require periodic counseling via prepared psychotherapists to recoup from the stun and disappointment. Progressively, the casualties are getting to be discouraged and are dealt with as outsiders by relatives, neighbors and companions. These not exclusively does the casualty endure; additionally the whole family endures with her, similarly both rationally and socially. Normally attractive young ladies were the prey much of the time. Men are effectively less influenced. The vast majority of the victims of acid throwing are pretty young ladies are between the ages of seven and twenty years old. These young ladies have quite recently got wedded or are going to get wedded and originate from low to bring down working class foundations. In spite of the fact that woman's financial open doors are still rare, it is more conceivable today for a woman to get by individually than at some other point in Bangladesh's history. This has given ladies the certainty to dismiss propositions to be engaged from men and they don't know or look after. Men in Bangladesh are not used to being rejected by females and end up irritated when it happens. After a woman's dismissal to a proposition to be engaged numerous men have the attitude of "if I can't have her, than no one will". Acid throwing has turned into a typical reaction to dismissal in light of the fact that in Bangladesh a woman's solitary seen esteem is her magnificence and settlement cost. But before going of the *Acid Control Act 2002* and the *Acid Crime Control Act 2002*, the acid associated crimes were performed by the *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Domon Ain, 2000* and cases were trailed in *Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Domon Tribunal* and *Session Court*. In any case, there is gigantic case stick and that is the reason trailed was deled. Afterwards, the president affirmed the *Acid Control Act 2002* and the *Acid Crime Control Act 2002* On 17 March 2002. The laws in a short while declared to meet the requests that corrosive violations be controlled and culprits get quick punishment. Furthermore, other destructive substances need to be monitored by legitimate governing rules to keep their simple openness.

OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the study is to investigate the difficulties and limitations the general publics are facing to fight the acid assaults despite the fact that there are specific laws established on acid throwing in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives are follows:

- To classify the reasons and the genuine nature of acid throwing in Bangladesh.
- To discover the viability of existing law and policy to combat against acid violence.
- To give some policy suggestions.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Qualitative Method like case study and documentary analysis has been taken after for the study. Data have been gathered from different sources like books, journals, newspapers, magazines and distinctive organizations like Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital and City Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Illustrative information has also been collected from some out-standing foundation like, Human Rights Legal Survive (HRLS) under Social Development (SD) of BRAC Foundation and the Acid Survivors Foundations (ASF), Banani, Dhaka-1213.

Theoretical Framework

Tripartite Model of Violence

Galtung's [4] tripartite model of viciousness fills in as a brought together system to conceptualize corrosive savagery inside the Pakistani setting. Galtung [4] clarifies three kinds of savagery. To begin with, there is immediate viciousness which includes the utilization of physical or enthusiastic torment, assault and rape. The staying two types of savagery are undetectable types of viciousness. The second sort of brutality in the tripartite model is auxiliary viciousness that outcomes from an unequal appropriation of assets or standardized mistreatment and misuse. For example: "Poverty, hunger, repression, denial of educational opportunities, free speech, and freedom of association are the living examples of structural violence" [5]. The third shape is social brutality in which the overarching states of mind and convictions inside society weaken us in our day by day life. In other words, "direct violence is an event; structural violence is a process with ups and downs; cultural violence is an invariant, permanence" [4].

Feminist Theories

All inclusive, after the development of women's activist belief system and women's activist developments, the issue of savagery has increased much consideration in the media and from general society [6]. Feminist hypotheses clarify the marvels of persecution. As per women's activist hypothesis, women encounter brutality because of sex imbalances situated in a verifiably male centric and sexist society [7]. This theory suggests that "economic, social, and historical processes operate both directly and indirectly to support a male-dominated (patriarchal) social order and the family structure itself" [8]. Feminist viewpoints and the idea of male controlled society have been widely talked about by scientists who inspected local mishandle in different societies [9]. Furthermore, Social Model

versus Medical Model of Disability, Theory of change and theory of Anomie are important for this study.

Conceptual Framework

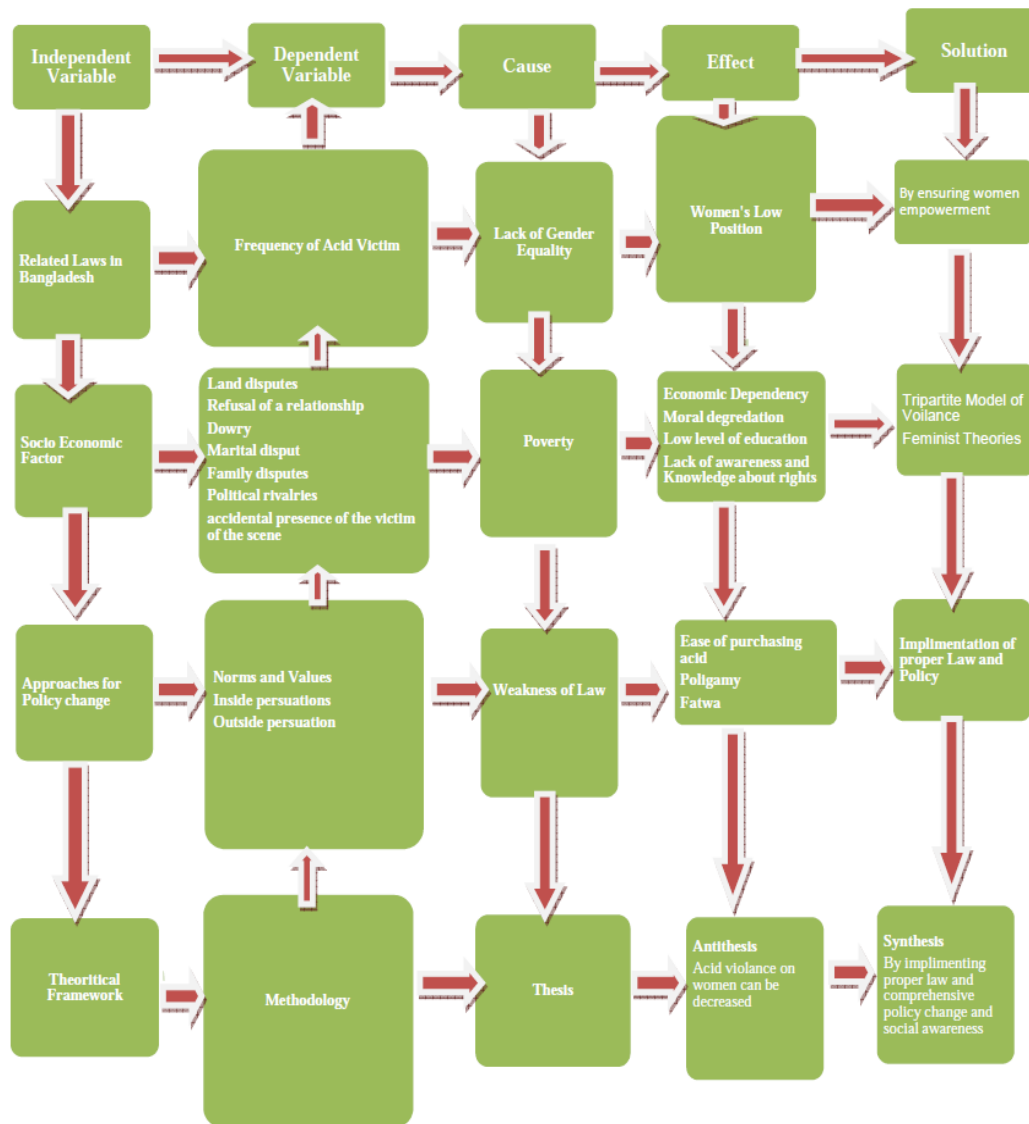


Fig-1: Conceptual Framework

Approaches for Policy Changes



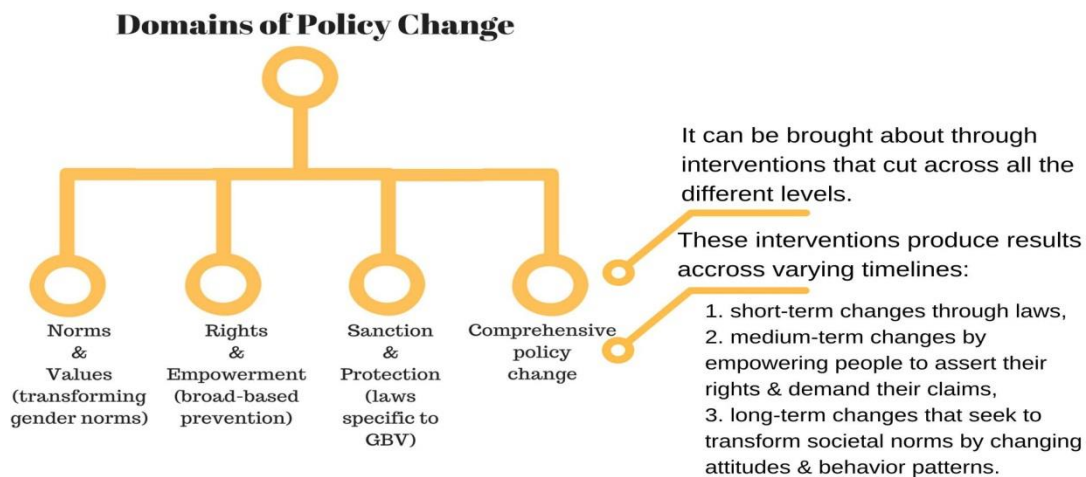
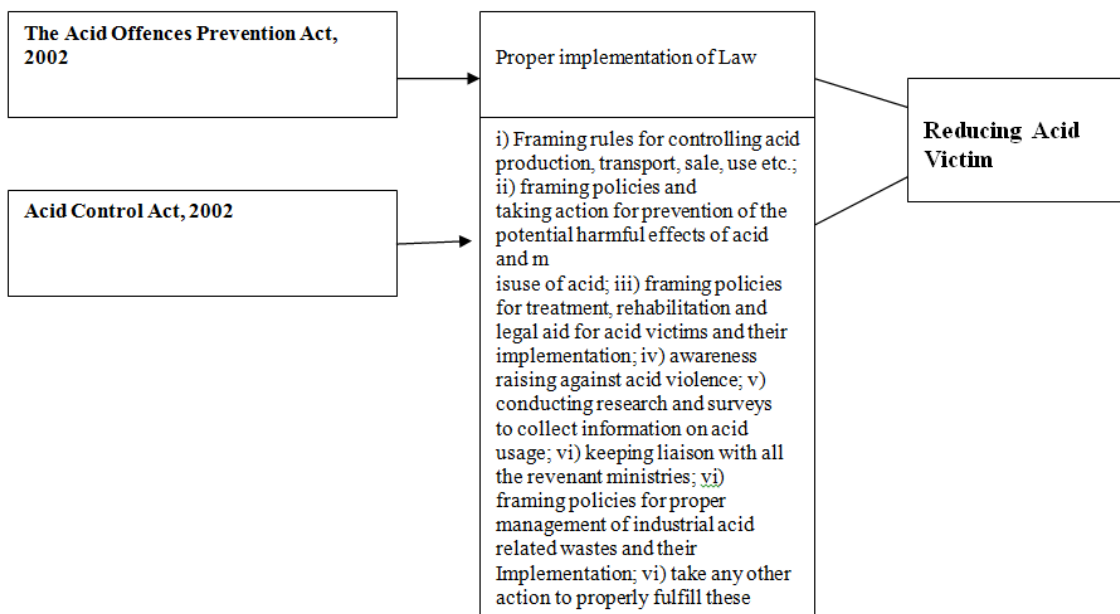


Fig-2: Conceptual framework for policy change on gender-based violence

Source: Greig *et al.*, 2015 [10]

Legal Framework



RESULTS

Table-1: Acid attack trend (2000-2007)

Years (2000-2007)	Number	
	Incident	Individuals
2000	174	234
2001	252	349
2002	367	490
2003	335	411
2004	266	325
2005	217	272
2006	180	221
2007	153	187

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

Table-2: Acid attack statistics (2006-2007), Gender Perspective

	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2006	150	67.87	130	69.52
2007	71	32.13	57	30.48

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

Table-3: Acid Attack Trend (2000-2007), Age Perspective

Table 1: Age group of acid survivors - 2006		
Age group	Men	Women
Under 18	13	22
19-24	2	23
25-34	13	39
35-44	13	32
45-54	12	09
Over 55	4	5
Not known	-	-
Total:	57	130
Grand Total:	187	

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

The biggest number of the reason to throwing acid is refusal of any type of relationship. My investigations have revealed that reasons for the increase of the attacks are lack of law enforcement,

little respect for women's rights, lack of medical and mental support especially in remote areas, ease of acid purchase and low level of education.

Table-4: Reasons of Acid Attack 2007

Reasons	Man	Woman	Children
Dowry	-	8	2
Family related dispute	3	6	-
Land/property/money dispute	28	52	14
Marital dispute	3	18	3
Refusal/rejection of love/marriage/sex	2	6	6
Not know	5	4	1
Others	3	14	9
Total:	44	108	35

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

Table-5: Number of person convicted in acid violence case (2000-2007)

Year	Number of person
2000	36
2001	17
2002	53
2003	96
2004	50
2005	62
2006	58
2007	48

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

Table-6: Acid Attack Statistics (1999 – 2017)

Year	Number of incidents	Number of survivors
1999	165	168
2000	240	240
2001	351	352
2002	494	496
2003	417	420
2004	326	333
2005	222	277
2006	183	224
2007	162	199
2008	142	184
2009	129	159
2010	122	160
2011	91	118
2012	71	98
2013	70	86
2014	59	74
2015	59	74
2016	44	50
2017	39	48
Total	3386	3760

Source: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF)

Table-7: Gender based violence in Bangladesh (2004-2010)

Types of Violence					
Domestic Violence	Dowry Related Violence	Rape	Gang Rape	Acid Attack	Eve teasing/Stalking
264	352	618	359	228	
333	356	585	250	130	
301	334	515	226	142	
283	294	436	198	95	
312	296	486	127	80	
281	285	446	199	63	
397	395	626	290	153	216

Source: Ain O Salish Kendro, 2010 [11]

Table-8: Gender based violence in Bangladesh (2015)

Violence Name	Number of Victims
Total women torture incident	4436
Rape	1092
Gang Rape	199
Murder after Rape	85
Attempt to Rape	142
Suicide for Torture	336
Unknown death for Torture	167
Early Marriage	94
General killing of women and child	714
Attempt to kill	51
Torture for dowry	386
Murder for dowry	203
Housemaid torture	70
Housemaid death for torture	30
Housemaid death suicide	03
Eve teasing	362
Suicide for teasing	22
Fatwa punishment	28
Acid throwing	37
Abduction	97
Women and child trafficking	65
Sell in brothel	18
Police torture	37
Physical torture	302

Source: Prothom Alo

Case Study: 01: Mr. Durjoy Talukder, Jessore

A little baby boy of only 49 days was attacked by acid by her paternal aunt. The lips, tongue and throat of the tiny boy melted in no time. His parents took him to some local hospitals but finally he was taken to Dhaka and afterward with the aid of various sources to the Prince Wales Hospital in Hong Kong, as some of his major organs were affected by the liquid poured through his throat. Now Durjoy is much better after a 12 hour long surgery following couple of other major surgeries on him and successfully rebuilds his chin, lips and throat. Fortunately now he can move his neck, breathe better and make some sounds.

DISCUSSION

Reasons of Acid Victims

A woman that has been distorted by an acid attack is not any more eligible for marriage due to her scars and consequently she is seen as useless by her locale. As a result of the little regard given to woman, most Bangladeshi men take a gander at ladies in indifferent way and everything thinks back to the little consideration given to women. During Julie Borup's meeting, when getting some questioned about the issue concerning the mishandle of women being so high on account of being a Bangladeshi of a Muslim nation, she answered, "It doesn't matter where the woman is from and whether she is Muslim, Christian, Hindu or Buddhist, violence against women is violence against women," (Borup, Julie, S. Schuann) [12].

The reasons found for acid throwing assault incorporate

- Negation of marriage offers,
- Abdication of male advances,
- Dowry arguments,
- Domestic quarrels,
- Land and property conflicts,
- Political debates,
- A late potluck,
- Inexpensive and facile accessibility of acids.

The issue of land debate represented 27 percent of aggregate corrosive assaults in 2003 was the most elevated among every one of the causes following by the ASF. Sulphuric and nitric acid are the most well-known acids utilized as a part of corrosive tossing as they are common and effortlessly accessible. "Men can access acid easily, and attacks have been on the rise: an attack is reported every three days" ("Attacks against Women") [13].

However, at present, children, more established women and often men have been assaulted over the span of family or land debate, retaliation, and settlement requests. The following most noteworthy rates of these ruthless episodes are because of refusal of relationship/sex all through the nation. Most of the men in Bangladesh consider their spouses "slaves".

Impacts of Acid on a Victim

At the point when acid is tossed on a man, the outcomes are awful. Nitric or Sulfuric Acid catastrophically affects the human tissue. Except if treated with water promptly after the assault, corrosive

erodes the skin, torching its way deep down. It causes the skin tissue to liquefy, frequently uncovering the bones beneath the substance, in some cases also dissolving the bone. Numerous acid assault survivors have lost the sight of one or the two eyes. The casualty is damaged physically, mentally and socially [14].

Acid violence and the related laws in Bangladesh

Women and children are the most defenseless and sensitive individuals from any general public, particularly when it is a developing nation, like Bangladesh, the administration should take additional tend to these individuals. In a measurements of BHRC it is seen that 90% of the culprits are potent than the casualties. Additionally, greatest corrosive hurlers are the individuals from various fear monger gatherings or their partners. Hence, it is not feasible for the poor casualties to battle with powerful assailants. Therefore, the situation in Bangladesh in regards to corrosive brutality is unique in relation to some other nation. In order to secure the casualties, in 2002 the Government of Bangladesh openly recognized the issue of corrosive viciousness and established two new laws against corrosive brutality; these are The Acid Crime Control Act 2002 and The Acid Control Act 2002. Among Bangladesh, India and Cambodia, Bangladesh is the main nation that has established particular enactment to upgrade punishments on culprits of corrosive assaults and to direct corrosive deals and dissemination. Since ordering this enactment in 2002 together with criminal enactment, the quantity of detailed corrosive assaults in Bangladesh has relentlessly diminished by 15% to 20% every year. The legislature and common society likewise took the charge of expansive scale public awareness when these laws were instituted. The diminishing patterns in Bangladesh are as opposed to expanding patterns in Cambodia and India where no such laws exist [15].

These new laws are an exceptional advance forward to secure casualties of corrosive viciousness with rebuff of the culprits and a noteworthy advance forward from the other corrosive affected nations i.e. Pakistan, Iran, Iraq.

A great deal of thought has been given to the drafting of these laws, particularly in the region of remuneration to the casualty, imprudence of the examination officer, safeguard capacity, judge's capacity to meet at any area, restorative examinations and defensive care, the setting up of an Acid Crime

Control Council and (District) Acid Crime Control Committees, building up recovery centers, licenses for exchange corrosive and so on.

Acid Occurrences and the Socio-economic Factors

Land and property debate are the most critical explanation behind corrosive assaults in Bangladesh. Corrosive tossing is regularly utilized as a weapon to debilitate a rival physically, rationally and monetarily so he or she would not set out to continue with legitimate activity. As most corrosive assailants go unpunished, this further urges them to carry out the wrongdoing over and over.

Refusals of a relationship or proposition to be engaged are another imperative factor in corrosive assaults, especially on pre-adult young females. In Bangladesh's male-commanded society, a young lady's refusal to have an association with a man or dismissal of his proposition to be engaged isn't generally welcomed by the man himself. Much of the time, particularly in provincial zones where the requirement of peace isn't exceptionally strict, the ruined young fellows render retribution by tossing corrosive on the young girl. The casualties generally originate from poor families and are not all around ensured by their families. Young women and kids are helpless against corrosive assaults or assaults of any sort whenever as they can be effectively drawn closer by anybody on their approach to class or when they go out to bring water or gather kindling. The entrance of destitute individuals to police and lawful help, and also restorative offices, is extremely restricted. In 2002, just 9 percent of the aggregate instances of corrosive assaults were identified with the refusal of a relationship or proposition, however, the rate bounced to 17 percent in 2003.

The absence of security for poor young ladies and youngsters has likewise added to the rising number of corrosive assaults on the individuals who were unintentionally present at the scene. As most cases have happened around evening time when the casualties have been sleeping, any individual who was with the casualties at the season of the assaults - more often than not a sister, relative or kid - was likewise harmed. This reason involved 10 percent and 17 percent of the aggregate number of corrosive assaults in 2002 and 2003 individually.

Dowry is a known reason for savagery against women, additionally a source of corrosive assaults. According to Islamic traditions, a settlement is an obligatory blessing or measure of cash that must be given by the spouse to the wife. Besides, in Hinduism, the custom is that the settlement must be paid by the spouse's dad to the husband. In fact, this Hindu custom is honed in low-salary gatherings of both the Hindu and Muslim people group in Bangladesh. The inability to give a dowry regularly implies passing for the spouse or

a corrosive consume all over and body. The endowment issue activated 6 percent of the aggregate instances of corrosive assaults in both 2002 and 2003. According to Odhikar's information, from January 2001 to 28 February 2007, 61 women experienced corrosive consume simply because of dowry. Overall 30 women have been slaughtered because of endowment related violence [16].

Institutional arrangement for the victims

Beside legal arrangement a public awareness programmer is required. Media needs to work more to develop knowledge among the culprits because rehashed communicates of discipline conveyed would tell the general population and caution the potential corrosive assailants.

To meet the treatment issue, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) has opened a different Burn Unit in the late 1990s containing 8 overnight boardinghouses plastic specialists are utilized there. Yet, these are too little facility for this nation with 140 million individuals. Thus, it is much of the time difficult to reach to corrosive casualties. Recently, four other new healing facilities are risen beside of Dhaka Medical College Hospital to give treatment to acid assault casualties. The theater can be solid methods for social change in the event as it manages the style and is a piece of a promotion procedure. ASF is building up a performance center group contained corrosive survivors. This group is creating shows on various parts of corrosive savagery and has encountered unheard of reactions from their gatherings of people. To build up awareness we required powerful battle instruments like notices, flyers, TV and radio spots, open shows and so forth.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We need to research every one of these cases connected to the accessibility of corrosive and related people. In the event that we need to spare the mankind at first we have to discover. What makes a man so malicious that propels him to look for exact retribution? A vast majority of the women who have succumbed to this viciousness are the individuals who have rejected propositions to be engaged and recommendations for sexual connections. But a couple of one, the culprits of corrosive viciousness has dependably been men. Most were against ladies by spurned suitors of envious spouses, some by relatives who detest moderate settlement installments.

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) and the Acid Survivors Foundation appraise that lone 10% of assailants are ever brought to trial [17]. Indeed, even the correct number of corrosive assaults against females is hard to archive in light of the fact that numerous cases go unreported as casualties fear retaliations. Impoverishment and absence of legitimate learning impedes survivors from heading

off to the Court. We ought to maintain over morals and no single lady ought to be focused for corrosive assaults in future. To secure corrosive viciousness the accompanying advances are essential:

- Confirming women's nurture
- Reducing destitution and strengthening opportunity
- Mass battling and advising
- NGO association
- Strength Law making
- Round Table meeting
- Implementation CEDAW, DEVAW and so on.

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