

Acid Attack

The acid throwing is the most vicious form of crime in the society. Acid attack has its steep rise in past few years and as usual the most of the victim are women and only women. The horrific act of attacking people with acid has been taking place across different parts of country. Man has chosen an alternative form of action to exploit the life of women. Hydrochloric acid and Sulfuric acid which are easily available in the market are used for acid attack which melts the skin and even bones of the victim. Acid attack is such a heinous form of crime which makes the life of the victim miserable. The most notable effects of an acid attack are the lifelong bodily disfigurement. The acid attack is a form of violent assault by throwing corrosive substance onto the body of another person with the intention to disfigure the body. Mainly acid are thrown at the face of victim, burning them, and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The long consequence of such type of attack is that it makes the person blind, as well as permanent scarring of the face and body. The acid attack makes the life of the person worse and it also affects their social, economic and psychological life.

Till recently there was not any specific law in India to deal with the cases of acid attack. The Section 326 of the Indian Penal Code which deals with voluntarily Causing Grievous Hurt by Dangerous Weapons or Means was not so effective in dealing with this heinous form of crime because it does not include acid attack. The eighteenth law commission of India which was headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan then proposed a new section 326A and 326B in the India Penal Code and section 114B in the Indian Evidence Act. The scope of the definition of section 326 is very narrow but it does not deal adequately with the issue of acid attack. In cases of acid attack, a presumption is incorporated in the Indian Evidence Act as Section 114B. The proposed Section 114B of the Indian Evidence Act shall read as under:

Presumption as to acid attack– If a person has thrown acid on, or administered acid to, another person the court shall presume that such an act has been done with the intention of causing, or with the knowledge that such an act is likely to cause such hurt or injury as is mentioned in Section 326 A of the Indian Penal Code. This section was introduced to give wide perspective to acid attack. Acid Attack was recently introduced as a separate offence under the Indian Penal Code through Criminal (Amendment) Act, 2013.

According to the Section 326A of Indian Penal Code “Acid” includes any substance which has acidic or corrosive character or burning nature that is capable of causing bodily injury

leading to scars or disfigurement or temporary or permanent disability. The long-term consequences of these attacks may include blindness, as well as permanent scarring of face and body, along with far-reaching social, psychological, and economic difficulties. Section 326A and Section 326B of Indian Penal Code includes punishment which is given to an accused which read as follow:

Section 326A lays down the punishment for acid throwing. The minimum punishment is 10 years' imprisonment. It can extend up to life imprisonment with fine.

Section 326 B lays down the punishment for attempted acid throwing. The minimum punishment is 5 years' imprisonment. It can extend up to 7 years' imprisonment with fine.

This amendment included punishment for those people who practice this heinous form of crime but the amendment was useless because after also people use to practice. So, the best punishment will be tit for tat i.e., same thing should be done with those people who practice this crime. They should give realization by throwing acid on their face and on their family members. These will be the best punishment which can be awarded to them. The Crime of an Acid attack is not on a small range, day by day the crime of acid attack is increasing so instead of making such useless law the government should take appropriate action which actual will help the victim.