

REPORT

Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies

**Department of Law & Gender Sensitization and
Equality Initiative Club
(Under the Aegis of IQAC)**

Organizes

One Day Webinar on –

ACID ATTACK:

UNCIVILIZED AND HEARTLESS

CRIME

23rd NOVEMBER 2021

Conducted in collaboration with

The National Commission for Women (NCW)



**Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society (MATES),
New Delhi**



**Dr. Nand Kishore Garg
Founder & Chief Advisor, MATES
Chancellor, Maharaja Agrasen University, Baddi, HP**

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ABOUT NCW

National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women was setup as a statutory body in January, 1992 under NCW Act 1990. The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour. They have also discussed police abuses against women.

RESOURCE PERSONS



Prof. (Dr.) Debarati Halder
Parul University,
Gujarat



Dr. Siddhartha Mishra
Sr Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Law
University of Delhi



Ms. Abha Malhotra
Sr Counsel for Union of India
/ Counsel for DDA Managing
Partner
, Jurispleaders



Dr. Anjana Malhotra
Associate Professor
Shanti Devi Arya Mahila College
Dinanagar



Ms. Shaheen Malik
Acid Attack Survivor &
Founder Brave Souls Foundation

ABOUT MAIMS

OBJECTIVE OF WEBINAR

The proposed webinar is basically intended to open discussion in the following relevant areas:

- To identify the cultural, historical, societal and individual influences that underpin the cause of the acid attack and objectively analyse the impact of the acid attack on the gender status in India;
- To know the health care management of acid attack survivors;
- To investigate the legal implications of acid attacks and the rights of acid victims in India;
- To analyse the successful implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme which grant compensation to acid victims;
- To understand the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in combating acid violence in India.

The webinar will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to generate information amongst different stakeholders such as researchers, women's rights activist, lawyers, and students from a range of disciplines: Law, Management, Journalism, Psychology, Sociology and so on.

Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies (MAIMS) is an ambitious initiative of Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society. The Society has been promoted by a group of eminent industrialists, businessmen, professionals and philanthropists to promote quality education in the area of technology, management, journalism, economics and law.

MAIMS, affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, was established in the year of 2003 to impart high quality education and to develop it into a premier centre of excellence by developing young and enterprising youth into promising professionals.

MAIMS emphasizes to develop a value based personality among the students. MAIMS has been running BBA, B.Com (H), BA LLB, BBA LL.B, BBA (JMC) B.A. Economics (H) programmes.

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DEPARTMENT OF LAW & GENDER SENSITIZATION AND EQUALITY INITIATIVE CLUB

WEBINAR ON ACID ATTACK: UNCIVILIZED & HEARTLESS CRIME

Sponsored by National Commission for Women (NCW)

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Tuesday, 23rd November 2021

9:30 AM TO 3:50 PM

TIME	PROGRAMME DETAILS
INAUGURAL SESSION- Moderated by Ms. Purnima Gupta	
9:30 AM – 9:35 AM	Saraswati Vandana
9:35 AM – 9:40 AM	Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Garg Director General, MAIMS
9:40 AM – 9:45 AM	Address by Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Kumar Gupta Director, MAIMS
9:45 AM – 9:50 AM	Introduction to Theme of Webinar by Ms. Nirati Gupta Department of Law, MAIMS
9:50 AM – 10:05 AM	Address by Guest of Honour: Prof. (Dr.) Usha Razdan Former Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
10:05 AM – 10:20 AM	Address by Chief Guest: Hon'ble Justice Sangeeta Dhingra President, Delhi State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi
10:20 AM – 10:25 AM	Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, Chief Patron, Founder & Chief Advisor, MATES & Chancellor, Maharaja Agrasen University, Baddi, HP
10:25 AM – 10:30 AM	Vote of Thanks by Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Malhotra Dhingra Principal, Department of Law, MAIMS

Technical Session I Legal Implications & Acid Attack Victim	
10:30 AM – 11:05 AM	Ms. Abha Malhotra Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of India
11:05 AM – 11:10 AM	Q&A Session
Technical Session II Implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme	
11:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Prof. (Dr.) Debarati Halder Professor, Parul University, Ahmedabad
11:40 AM – 11:45 AM	Q&A Session
Tea Break	
Technical Session III Role of NGOs in Combatting Acid Attack Violence	
12 Noon – 12:35 PM	Ms. Shaheen Malik Founder, Brave Soul Foundation, Acid Attack Survivor
12:35 PM – 12:40 PM	Q&A Session
Technical Session IV Healthcare Management of Acid Attack Victims	
12:40 PM – 1:15 PM	Dr. Siddhartha Mishra Senior Asst. Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
1:15 PM – 1:20 PM	Q&A Session
Technical Session V Factors of Acid Violence in India	
1:20 PM – 1:55 PM	Dr. Anjana Malhotra Assoc. Professor, Shanti Devi Arya Mahilla College, Dinanagar
1:55 PM – 2:00 PM	Q&A Session
Lunch Break	
VALEDICTORY SESSION- Moderated by Ms. Kriti Johri	
3:00 PM – 3:05 PM	Address by Prof. (Dr.) G.P. Govil Advisor, MATES

3:05 PM – 3:10 PM	Address by Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Kumar Gupta Director, MAIMS
3:10 PM – 3: 25 PM	Outcome Presentation by Ms. Nirati Gupta Department of Law, MAIMS
3:25 PM – 3:45 PM	Valedictory Address by Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo Faculty of Law, University of Delhi
3:45 PM – 3:50 PM	Vote of Thanks by Dr. Praveen Kumar Gupta HoD, Department of Law, MAIMS

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INAUGURAL SESSION

The one-day long webinar on Acid Attack: Uncivilized and heartless attack began at 10:00am with Ms. Purnima Gupta as the moderator. The webinar started with remembering Goddess Sarasvati. The event continued with welcome speech of Prof. (Dr) S.K. Garg, Director General, MAIMS who highlighted that the topic of the webinar is not a recent topic but it's a perpetual topic. He also emphasized that the root Cause of any crime in the country is un education and desire to not accept the equality of women in the society. Our constitution has given Right of Equality to each and everyone in the country irrespective of caste, gender, religion etc., but certain section of the society due to their religious belief or due to lack of education are not ready to accept the women equality in the country.

The webinar was taken ahead by Dr Shaveta Gagneja, Convenor by shedding some light on the theme of webinar. She added that acid attack is a gender-based violence which affect women physically and mentally but also perpetuate gender inequality in our society.

The object of this webinar is to sensitize our society and to bring out the various issues that acid victim has to go through in order to get justice in India.

Then Webinar's Guest of Honor Prof. (Dr.) Usha Razdan, Former Dean, Faculty of Law, DU addressed the webinar with her valuable words. She highlighted the importance of speedy justice to the acid attack victims. The compensation should be given on time to victims and fast track courts should become active and take prompt actions.

The webinar continued with the address of the Chief Guest of the Webinar Honorable Ms. Justice Sangita Dhingra, President Delhi State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission and Former Judge High Court of Delhi, she mentioned the real reason behind acid attack against women is the feeling of anger or revenge against the women who rejects the proposal of

marriage or sexual advancement.

Then the webinar was carried forward with the address of Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, Chairman and Advisor MATES, Sir highlighted that destroying face of someone who has not accepted the love proposal or sexual advancement is a horrific crime. Only some sections of the society are the one who needs to be blamed for such a heartless crime. Such people can be civilized by teaching and giving them morals and values as justice through legal way can lead to a huge amount of time.

The Inaugural Session was ended by Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Malhotra Dhingra, Principal, Law, MAIMS.



Session -I

Topic: Legal Implications of Acid Attack

Resource Person: Ms. Abha Malhotra Senior Counsel of Delhi High Court

Moderator: Ms. Kriti Johri, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS

The Session 1 witnessed deliberations on the Legal Implications of Acid Attack by Ms. Abha Malhotra. The session was moderated by Ms. Kriti Johri, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS. Students of 1st & 2nd Year of BALLB & BBALLB and faculty members of MAIMS attended the session which discussed at length the conventional jurisprudential theories, policies and provisions of law that build the legal infrastructure regulating the acid attack offences in India.

The esteemed guest initiated the dialogue with the factual analysis of the high rate of commission of this crime in third world countries and briefly discussed the factors responsible for it. She briefly stated acid attack as a heinous crime which is gender based for mostly women are the victims. However, recent cases have been reported where a man was also a victim of acid attack though such cases are far and in between. She also stated that men, children that are found near the women who is attacked with acid are also suffer passive injury. The focus of this crime, however, remains women largely. The esteem guest speaker shared a study revealing that in 78% of the acid attack cases the cause for acid attack is refusal to marriage or rejection of romance.

She also discussed in concise the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights 1993 where all forms of violence against women were considered as human rights violations and duty of states to prevent such violations and upheld justice was emphasized. The session also saw detailed discussion on the easy availability of acid at a cheap price in the market as a major reason for the growing frequency of this offence. Most common types of acid are sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and hydrochloric acid. She humbly mentioned that impact of this crime on the physical, psychological, and social shades of victim's life. Though the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 brought strict provisions against this act, a survey revealed that there have been 300% increase in acid attack cases throughout the country.

She reminded the gathering that such an act is a global tragedy and supported her stance with a Cornell Law School study that found prevalence of this act more in third world countries like India, Bangladesh and Cambodia.

The Law commission of India in its 226th Report has asserted that the majority acid attack victims are women especially young women for spurning suitors, for rejecting proposals of marriage, for denying dowry etc. Acid attacks are used as a weapon to silence and control women by destroying what is constructed as the primary constituent of her identity.

Moving further to the effects of acid attack, the esteemed speaker mentioned briefly that acid has a devastating effect on the human body often permanently blinding the victim. The aftermath being the inability to do many everyday tasks such as working and even mothering is rendered extremely difficult, if not possible. Victims are left with no legal recourse, limited access to medical or psychological assistance and have no means to support themselves.

She discussed few statistics from 2017 Survey which revealed that top states to have reported acid cases were West Bengal, UP and Delhi as well as the low conviction rate in such cases.

The discussion was further followed by a brief on the International Conventions that deal with such gender-based violence- CEDAW Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and highlighting the international obligations of the developing states with high incidences of acid attack, to combat all forms of discriminations against the women, including acid violence.

She also emphasized on the need for sensitization of judicial fraternity for creating an environment of zero tolerance towards such barbarous acts. The speaker also deliberated on various legal provisions under existing legislations and notable judicial initiatives and precedents to curb this menace. Cases like *Laxmi v. Union of India* where victim compensation scheme notified as part of this judgement only. *Nipun Saxena v. Union of India*, *Parivartan Kendra v. Union of India*, **Gulab Sahiblal** *Shaikh v. The State of Maharashtra* were also discussed elaborately by the speaker. Provisions related to acid attack under the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016, recognized disability from a sociological perspective rather than medical one. The speaker pertinently highlighted inclusion of acid attack victims as persons with specified disability which provides them with job security as well. She later concluded her deliberations by mooted viable recommendations on the topic by calling for strict enforcement of the laws, firm political will and fast tracking of cases and separate

investigating body for delivering speedy effective justice to the survivors.

Towards the end of the session a detailed discussion on the physical injuries caused by the acid attack, the psychological scars left behind and the social and economic ramifications, followed by the legal implications on the growing number of cases in India. The speaker also discussed in detail various provisions for compensation to acid victims under CrPC and under government schemes. Notable contributions made by judiciary to fill the legislative void for acid victims were also discussed at length in the session. The session was finally concluded with Q&A round wherein participants shared their ideas, opinions and raised questions for clarification on the legal implications of the acid attack.

This initiative of the Department of Law and Gender Sensitization & Equality Club sponsored by NCW was lauded by the speaker who also encouraged the participation of non-law students in these webinars.



THE WAY ACID ATTACKS- PHYSICALLY

- Acid eats through two layers of the skin, i.e. the fat and muscle underneath, and sometimes, not only eats through, to the bone but even dissolves the bone.
- The depth of injury totally depends on the strength of the acid and the duration of its contact with the skin. When thrown on a person's face, acid readily eats into eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Teeth and lips may burn off completely. The nose sometimes melts, closing the nostrils, and ears shrivel up.
- Acid can quickly destroy the eyes, blinding the victim. Skin and bone on the skull, forehead, cheeks and chin may dissolve. When the acid splashes or drops over the neck, chest, back, arms or legs, it burns everywhere it touches.



Session II

Topic: Implementation of Victims Compensation Scheme

Resource Person: Prof. (Dr.) Debarati Halder

Moderator: Swati Bajaj

The Session II witnessed deliberations on the Implementation of Victims Compensation Schem. The session was moderated Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS. Students of 1st & 2nd Year of BALLB & BBALLB and faculty members of MAIMS attended the session. The speaker for the second technical session was Prof. (Dr.) Debarati Halder. She is currently working as a professor in Parul University and is the founder as well as managing director of Centre for Cyber Victim Counselling (CCVC).

Prof (Dr.) Debarati Halder is a practitioner and is presently working in United world School of Law, Karnavati University as a Full Professor. Dr. Halder had won two awards in 2019 for her work on cyber laws, gender rights, Therapeutic Jurisprudence, criminal laws and creating awareness on cyber-crimes against women : these are “Webwonderwomen Award” by Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Government of India & Twitter on 6th March, 2019 and “TechNext India 2019 Best Faculty of the year” award by Computer Society of India, Mumbai Chapter on 28th September, 2019. Dr. Debarati Halder has developed a theory called “Irrational coping theory for online victimization” which is published as a book chapter titled Irrational Coping Theory and Positive Criminology: A Frame Work to Protect Victims of Cyber Crime in the book titled “Positive Criminology”, (2015) edited by Natti Ronel and Dana Segav, Routledge, Taylor & Francis group, UK.

In her session, Prof. Halder has covered almost every aspect of compensation scheme for acid-attack victims. Starting with a brief discussion over the women empowerment especially in the states like Bengal and North-Eastern States in comparison to the rest of India. In north eastern states, women teach their children about women respect and the consequences of crimes like acid-attack. She explained the relevance of compensation. She has explained that every compensation awarded to a victim has specific purpose. Hence, we need to understand the sorrow of an acid-attack victim before deciding that what kind of compensation is required to

be given.

In her presentation she focused on “Anatomizing Compensation”. She said that the purpose as generally understood for providing compensation is based on four pillars i.e., assistance for monetary loss, psychological well-being, physical well-being, reporting regulation/work hour/family hour damage. Prof. Halder emphasized on a very crucial debate over the label use for the individual subject to acid attack as whether to call them acid attack **survivor** or acid attack **victim**. As per prof., the psychological being of that person gets so affected that sometimes the will to survive gets eradicate from their core. To this emotion, prof. has used the term “customized psychological trauma” where the victim feels body shame and feels unconfident to appear before the society as well as family.

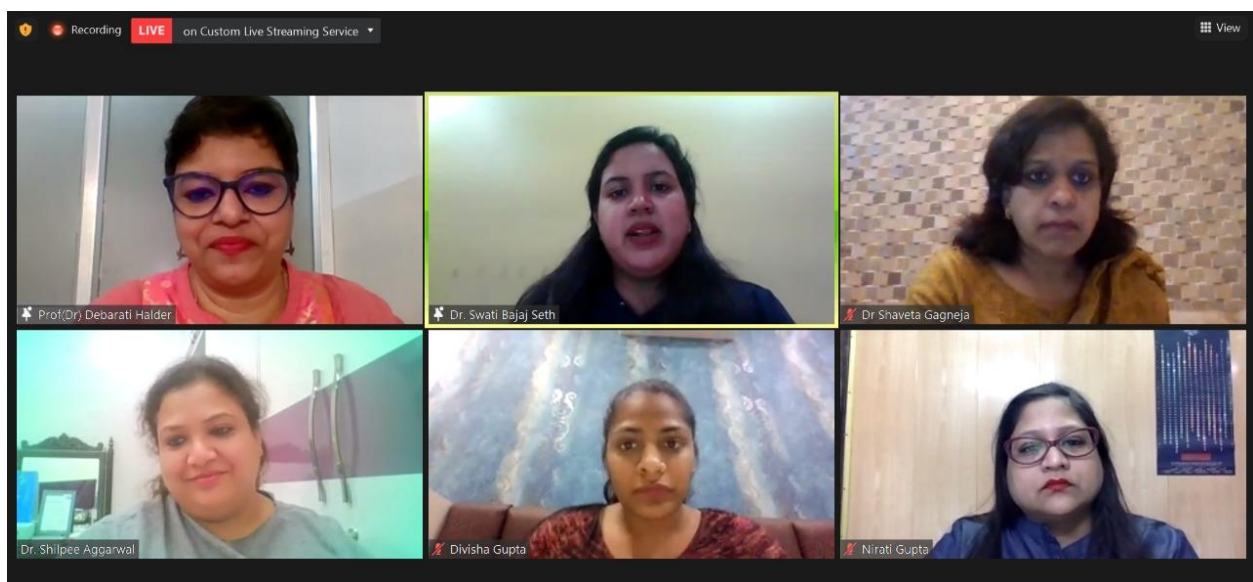
Prof. Halder has focused on the afterlife of an acid attack victim and her family members. Like their social life gets affect, their usual life-style gets affect and how hard it becomes for them to survive and be called as survivor. The mental and physical trauma they suffer with is unimaginable by others. Hence, based on this, Prof. said that there is a need to create funds for the acid-attack victims. The funds are required to be contributed by the government, by the corporates as a part of their CSR initiative. She also said that the compensation fund should also be taken from the accused person who has made the life of victim so difficult and harsh. Not only the victim, but their families also feel helpless and stranded about the life and future of victim. How will the victim get married, how will she bear child, *etc.* These agonizing interrogations running in their mind throttle them to such an extent that every so often they chose to either abandon the victim or leave her on their own. Besides above, the victim also faces delinquencies at their work place. They often get termination from their jobs or they aspect issues in getting any job because of their mutilated appearances. According to Prof. Halder, the damaged or injured face of the victim might result in creating traumatic or disturbing conditions for the fellow employees. Overall, the situation becomes bizarre for the victims and they gets suffering in making their career.

Professor Halder talked about the right of victims to take compensation as protected under “United Nations Basic Principles of Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power”. It says that, “When compensation is not fully available from the offender or other sources, States should endeavor to provide financial compensation to victims who have sustained significant bodily injury or impairment of physical or mental health as a result of serious crimes; the family, in particular dependents of persons who have died or become physically or mentally incapacitated as a result of such victimization.”

Prof. Halder has explained the Application filing procedure wherein she stated that SHO/SP/DCP shall mandatorily share soft/hard copy of FIR immediately after its registration with State Legal Service Authority/ district Legal Services authority qua Commission of offences covered in this scheme which include section 326A, 354A to 354D, 376A to 376ZE, 304B, 498A so that the SLSA/DLSA can in deserving cases may Suo-moto initiate preliminary verification of facts for the purpose of grant of interim compensation. Also, an application for the award of interim/final compensation can be filed by the victim and/or their dependents or the SHO of the area before the concerned SLSA or DLSA. It shall be in “Form I” along with the copy of FIR or the criminal complaint of which cognizance is taken by the court and if available Medical Report, Death Certificate (wherever applicable), copy of judgment *etc.*

Besides, Prof. Halder has also stressed upon the manner of disbursement of compensation among the victims so that proper and undelayed medical assistance and treatment can be provided and also the fund for the future help of the victim like her education assistance, basic and necessary requirements can also get easily accessible by the victims.

Prof. Halder has also discussed the case of *Laxmi vs. Union of India* [W.P. CRML 129/2006] wherein it was directed by the Supreme Court that in case of acid attack victim the deciding authority shall be “Criminal injury Compensation Board”.



Zoom Meeting

Recording LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service

View

Prof.(Dr) Debarati Halder

Dr. Swati Bajaj Seth

Dr. Shilpee Aggarwal

Dr. Shaveta Gagneja

Divisha Gupta

Nirati Gupta

Unmute Start Video Security Participants 149 Chat Share Screen Record Breakout Rooms Reactions Leave

ENG IN 12:25 23-11-2021

Detailed description: This is a screenshot of a Zoom meeting window. The window title is 'Zoom Meeting'. At the top, there is a status bar indicating 'Recording LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service' and a 'View' button. The main area is a grid of six video thumbnails, each with a name tag at the bottom. The participants are: Prof.(Dr) Debarati Halder (top-left, wearing glasses and a pink top), Dr. Swati Bajaj Seth (top-middle, wearing a dark top), Dr. Shilpee Aggarwal (top-right, wearing a grey top), Dr. Shaveta Gagneja (bottom-left, wearing a yellow top), Divisha Gupta (bottom-middle, wearing a red patterned top), and Nirati Gupta (bottom-right, wearing glasses and a blue top). At the bottom of the window is the Zoom control bar, which includes icons for Unmute, Start Video, Security, Participants (149), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Breakout Rooms, Reactions, and a red Leave button. The Windows taskbar is visible at the very bottom, showing the time as 12:25 on 23-11-2021 and the language set to ENG IN.

Session III

Topic: Role of NGOs in combating Acid Attack violence

Resource Person:

Moderator: Ms Madhura Mohan Nikalje

The theme of Third Technical Session in the webinar, organized by Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies Department of Law and Gender Sensitization and Equality Initiative Club was 'Role of NGOs in combating Acid Attack violence'. The session was moderated by Ms. Madhura Mohan Nikalje, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS. Students of 1st & 2nd Year of BALLB & BBALLB and faculty members of MAIMS attended the session. The speaker for the third technical session was Ms. Shaheen Malik, founder of Brave souls NGO and an acid attack survivor.

The speaker was Ms. Shaheen Malik, founder of Brave souls NGO and an acid attack survivor. She began her session by the powerful words "If the thinking changes, everything will change". Ms. Shaheen shared her journey from the dreadful day when she was attacked till today when she is the founder of an NGO. She shared how she does not remember the pain when the acid hit her face but remembers the fear that she felt. Fear as to what will happen to her now. This incident not only scarred Ms. Shaheen's face but also took away her right eye because one drop of acid had fallen into it. Ms. Shaheen explained how people were reluctant to help her and the ones who did want to help, didn't know what to do. It took her one hour to reach the hospital and with each passing second she could feel the acid penetrating deeper into her skin and body. She threw light on the sad situation of high medical expenditure that is to be undertaken and how for a middle class family this is an enormous financial burden. Ms. Shaheen explained how the Police was insensitive and filed a closure report without investigating properly and the doctors were unwilling to take up the case owing to the uncertainty regarding payment of bills. The problem at the core of this reluctant behavior was that acid reacts again and again and each time has to be treated unlike any other scar which is treated once. It was only at AIIMS that she was finally given some medical attention.

Four years later, in 2013 when she made an application to the Haryana Government claiming compensation under the Victim Compensation Act/Scheme however that too was in vain since the police had filed a closure report and no trial was going on. It took Ms. Shaheen immense

patience, resilience and 12 years after the date of the attack that the High Court ordered a compensation Rs. 3,00,000 to be given to her.

Highlighting the role of NGOs, she explained how NGOs play an important role in providing emotional support to the survivor but then again, the sensitivity is lacking as survivors are expected to work like a regular person despite the medical issues. The gap that needs to be filled is of implementation and awareness among, the police, NGOs and society at large. She enlightened the audience regarding the time limit set for disposal of such cases. Not many people know that the case has to be disposed of within 6 months and the victim can claim medical facility from any hospital. This lack of awareness is what must be treated at priority. This disparity inspired her to start her own NGO which not only counselled the survivors but also helped them with litigation, medical claims and employment assistance. One interesting observation made by Ms. Malik was that all the survivors to whom she has spoken never expressed a sense of revenge. They do not wish to live their past but want to carve a bright future for themselves.

Ms. Malik laid special emphasis on the psychological trauma that the victim undergoes. Simple things like getting dressed up and ready for any function or event suddenly disappears from their lives. When they are stripped off the capability to do everyday things the survivors become extremely vulnerable to depression and other mental health issues. The support of family, friends and community at large is imperative at this stage.

Prior to concluding she explained the first aid to be exercised in case of an acid attack. Pouring plain water for 30 minutes continuously would to an extent ensure that the acid does not seep into the skin. All jewelry, clothes and ornaments must be removed immediately in order to avoid them getting stuck on to the skin of the survivor. From an investigation stand point she emphasized that the rights that the survivor must be informed to her by the police and the police personnel must be sensitized towards such acid attack victims. Lastly, in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court in Parivartan Kendra v. UOI, she explained how no hospital/clinic can refuse treatment citing lack of specialized facilities. She very humbly requested all the members of the audience to be sensitive towards the survivors and understand that each one must attempt to change the mind-set of such person who thinks that acid attack is even an option. By the end of the session, each member of the audience was awe-struck and filled with appreciation for Ms. Malik and Bravesouls.

Ms. Sarita Garg, faculty at the Department of business administration delivered the vote of thanks and formally concluded the session. In the end she said *“Qualities lie not in the face, but in the soul”*

Some glimpses:



Session IV

Topic: Causes, Consequences, Treatment and Access to Justice

Resource Person: Dr. Siddhartha Mishra, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Delhi

Moderator: Dr. Anuradha Asthana Singh

The theme of the fourth Technical Session in the webinar, organized by Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies Department of Law and Gender Sensitization and Equality Initiative Club was **Causes, Consequences, Treatment and Access to Justice**. The session was moderated by Dr. Anuradha Asthana Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS. Students of 1st & 2nd Year of BALLB & BBALLB and faculty members of MAIMS attended the session. The speaker for the third technical session was **Dr. Siddhartha Mishra**, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Delhi.

Dr. Siddhartha Mishra, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Delhi spoke on the topic, **“Causes, Consequences, Treatment and Access to Justice”**. He explained in detail about the causes and consequences of the acid attack on a person. He stated about a unique event when a male became the victim of acid attack in the year 1915 and the attack was made by his mistress. However, in recent times a, Dr. Mishra said that mostly women specially young girls are the victims. The causes may range from sexual rejections to rejection of proposal by females. The cheap availability of acid and the lack of access to justice are the main issues of the problem of acid violence.

Among the South East Asian countries, Bangladesh holds the record of highest number of acid attack cases. Though it has stringent laws against this crime and the justice is also delivered at a fast pace against such cases.

Referring to the data of National Crimes Record Bureau Dr. Mishra presented the statistics of the acid violence data—228 cases in 2018; 249 cases in 2019 and 182 cases in 2020.

Dr. Mishra mentioned about the social effects of the attack like it renders the victim incapable and the acid attack survivor becomes totally dependent for daily acts on others. Impaired vision, disfigurement and handicaps further add to agony with no work or job. Dr. Mishra also explained the physical and mental agony which an acid attack survivor has to undergo. It has a long-lasting consequence. The survivors are most of the times too traumatized to walk out of their homes. Even the society often refuses to accept them or treats them as normal human

beings. The severe physical, psychological and social scarring is life-long. The victims mainly face psychological effects like trauma, stress, frustration, fear and also suicidal plans. The psychological consequences are so intense that they often lead to mental retardation. Moreover, the rejection by own family members and relatives acts as a crushing blow to the already traumatized survivor. The psychological trauma is lifelong. The treatment is prolonged which proves to be financially burdensome for the family of survivor.

He also quoted various national and international laws which are there for the acid attack victims. Need is to make the people aware of these laws so that the wrong doer is brought to task. The Vienna convention on human rights strongly took up this matter and mentioned that all forms of violence against women were human rights violence. Right now, the silence has been broken and the gender violence has gained visibility as well as public attention. It is the duty of every government to prevent, protect, punish and provide.

Dr Mishra suggested treatment for the acid attack like first aid which includes keeping the victim under running cold water for an hour, maintenance of hygiene, proper dressing, physiotherapy, skin grafting, protein rich food, corrective surgery and continuous monitoring of hemoglobin.

For the prevention of such attacks, Dr. Mishra also suggested that the ease of access of acid needs regulations. Dangerous acids like sulphuric acid, hydraulic acid is commonly used and are cheaply available at mechanic shop, jewelry shop, bakery, pharmacies, cosmetic shops etc. This causes severe threat. The easy availability must be restricted and offenders be punished. Specific laws must be strictly enforced.

Dr. Mishra then mentioned about various sections of the Indian Penal code, safeguarding the persons against acid attacks. The section 326(A) criminalizes throwing or administering or attempting to throw acid. There is provision of punishment for ten years under this section which may extend to life imprisonment. Similarly section 326(B) criminalizes attempts to throw or administer acid. Referring about the section 375 (A) sub section (1) refers about the compensation to be allotted to the victims. The sub section (2) mentions that the DLSA (Delhi Legal Services Authority) or the SLSA may decide upon the amount of compensation and the sub section (3) further safeguarded the victim. The section 375 (C) provides for free emergency first aid.

The most important effort to curb this crime is to encourage value education among the children as well as the youth. The sons should be gender sensitized at home. Home is the first school. Acid violence is widespread and prevalent in our society that remains often invisible. Women are unsafe and are frequently victim even in their homes and often by their immediate family

members. Women are vulnerable to every form of violence. Dr. Mishra concluded that acid attack is present in society as a whole and has been reported in different appearances like history of burning, psychological effects as well as social isolation.

Refusal of marriage proposal and family disputes are one the major causes of acid attacks practiced against women. Dr. Mishra focused that our society is lacking of sense of belongingness which often results in insecurity and unstable environment. That is why women of our society are much suppressed.



Technical Session - V Report

Topic: FACTORS OF ACID ATTACK VIOLENCE IN INDIA.

Resource Person: Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Associate Professor, Shanti Devi Arya Mahila College, Dinanagar.

Moderator: Ms. Purnima Gupta

The theme of the fourth Technical Session in the webinar, organized by Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies Department of Law and Gender Sensitization and Equality Initiative Club was FACTORS OF ACID ATTACK VIOLENCE IN INDIA ‘. The session was moderated by Ms. Purnima Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, MAIMS. Students of 1st & 2nd Year of BALLB & BBALLB and faculty members of MAIMS attended the session. The speaker for the third technical session was Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Associate Professor, Shanti Devi Arya Mahila College, Dinanagar.

She has membership of various academic and professional bodies and has undertaken various research projects and published numerous research papers. She has attended and organized various seminars and has guided many students to complete their M Phill. She started her session by quoting the words of famous laureate V. S. Naipaul, chronically on one hand, women are the manifestation of Goddess like Durga, Kali, the symbol of power and on the other hand she is considered as a second-class citizen. Violence against women knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. Ma’am explained that how women have over the time faced violence and crimes have always been hampering her growth in this patriarchal society. She explained how people think of a woman as goddess and devi and therefore she is expected to be the first person to sacrifice for her family and loved ones and has no life and desires of her own. But society is not able to accept her as an ordinary human being who wants to live a normal life, live her dreams and make a mark in the society and therefore men use the tool of acid to show their masculinity and superiority over women.

Acid attack is often used by men over women to keep them in place and curb their voice in the society. Our society is a male-domineering society where men have always been told to dominate and women have been told to be subjugated. Women have always been considered to be devoid of personality. In ancient times, women were considered to be the property of the

father, later she became the property of the husband who received her as a gift from the father, and when she became a widow, it was the son who protected and controlled her. In such a society where women have always been controlled and regulated by men, men are not used to hearing 'no'. Various factors which have until date come to the light for throwing acid has been refusal of women to enter into conjugal relation, denial of woman to enter into relationship, withdrawal of woman from the ongoing relation, etc. The disavowal by a woman on some of the cases aforementioned has a great ineffable and adverse bearing on the minds of the men who have always been told to dominate in this male-dominated society and forces them to react in this most harrowing manner and results in acid attack cases.

One of the primary causes of acid attack cases is the easily availability of acids in the market. People can easily procure it without much effort on their part from pharmacies, open-air markets, goldsmith shops, automobile repair shops, etc. Many people also use it as a common cleaning agent in their homes. Thus, it is easily obtainable. Apart from this, it is inexpensive and also within the reach of common men.

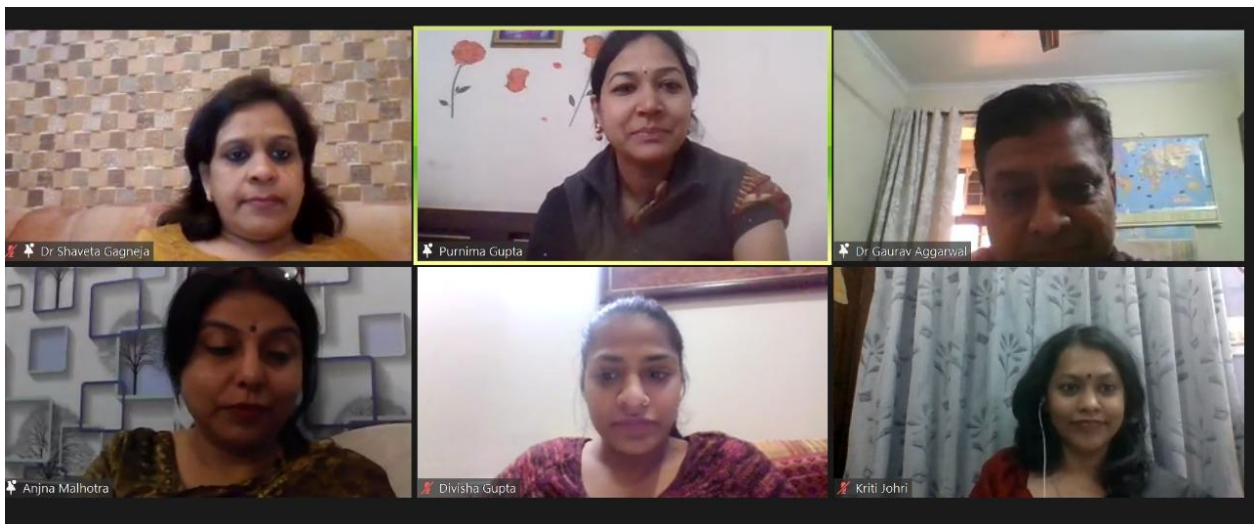
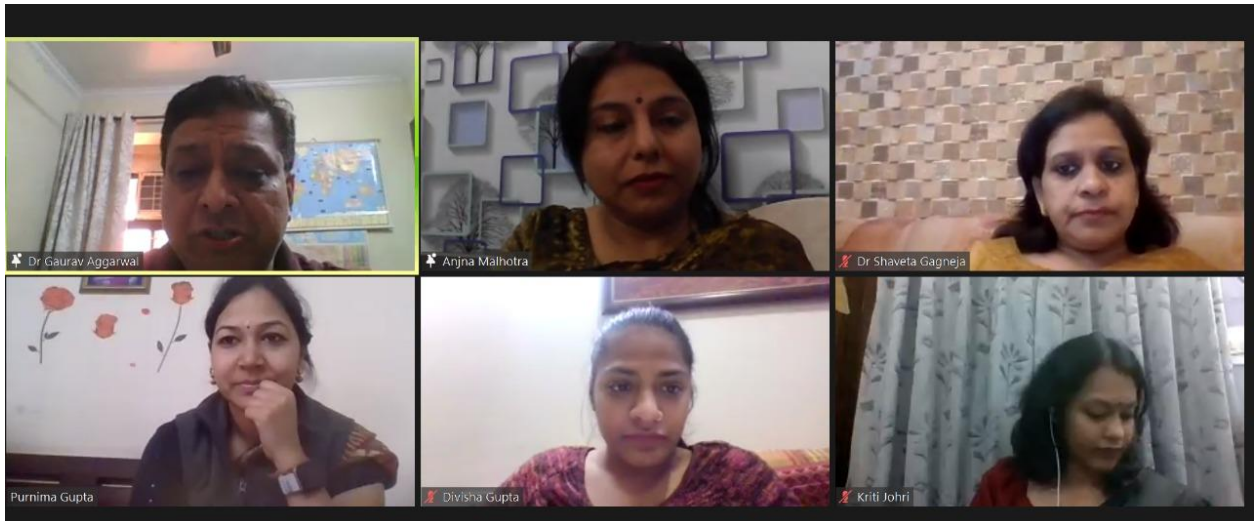
Vengeance by Rejected and Rebuffed So-called Lovers is also one of the major causes for throwing acid on the victim. When a person is rejected of his marriage proposal or advances of a person are rebuffed by a woman, it is taken as a spite and out of vengeance, acid is used on the woman to teach her a lesson. For the committer, it hardly takes a few moments to throw the acid on the victim and satisfy a grisly sense of retaliation against the seeming denunciation. These people fail to comprehend that the lesson that they are teaching is not temporary, but is permanent which spoils not only the looks of the woman but also has a devastating effect on her life throughout. In order to shield the honour of the family, people have resorted to such barbaric acts and have used acid as a means to forbid women to retaliate against the accepted norms and ethnicities of the family. Even after the Supreme Court passed an order regarding the regulation of the sale of acid, it can still be bought over-the-counter because most of the acids which are used to disfigure the victims are used for the household purpose of cleaning. Most of the retailers who sell acids slack off from their duty to register the names and address of the buyer after checking for a valid photo identity if they see that the one purchasing is a regular buyer from their shop. A social experiment by Deepika Padukone after the release of her movie 'Chhapak' proved that unregulated and over-the-counter sale of acids continues even after legal regulations.

The sick mindset of society is also one of the reasons why such attacks continue to occur.

Recently, a TikTok artist with the name Faizal Siddique was suspended from the platform after his video was shown to be 'glorifying' acid attacks. Sadder is the fact that there are women who collaborate on such videos for the sole reason to get more likes and fame. Another reason for such forms of violence to exist is the lack of education of both men and women regarding mutual respect and human rights, exposure of men to violence since their childhood, exposure to seeing the females in their household getting such treatments from the elder men of the house and unequal gender social norms making it acceptable for men to harm and violate women and that men have entitlement over women. All these above reasons were explained by her.

After explaining the factors responsible for rising acid attacks in India , she highlighted the facts that there is need of more strict legislations like the Supreme Court gave the ruling that the sale of acid should be regulated and anyone who wants to buy acid has to provide a valid photo identity card to the retailer and the retailer has to register the name and address of the buyer before handing over the product. Section 326A of the Indian Penal Code lays down the punishment for an acid attack. It involves a minimum of 10 years as punishment which can extend up to life imprisonment along with fine. Section 326B of the Indian Penal Code lays down a minimum of 5 years of imprisonment extending to 7 years with fine in cases of attempted acid throwing. Acid attack is one of the most inhumane crimes against women and the only way to really do something about acid violence is to deal with toxic masculinity and changing the mentality of the society from 'women are under men' or 'not meant for equal treatment to women' to 'women are self-sufficient' and 'women are equal to their counterparts'. Tackling the issue of toxic masculinity cannot start until and unless victim blaming stops. No one ever asks to be destroyed and abused, so why should we blame them? It is not the job of the judiciary or those in power to teach us what respecting each other means, their job is to give justice and rules we are supposed to follow so that such acts never happen. It is our duty to actually maintain the peace and harmony, law and order at the grassroots because only then right and correct measures can be taken and enforced at the macro level with positive results.

The session ended by vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Guarav Agarwal. Sir extended his vote of thanks to ma'am for throwing light on the topic assigned to her and making all the attendees understand the factors behind acid throwing and reasons of rising attacks.



VALEDICTORY SESSION

Valedictory session for the long day webinar **ACID ATTACK: UNCIVILISED & HEARTLESS CRIME** in association with NCW started at 3:00 pm.

The session started by the address of Prof. (Dr.) G.P Govil, Advisor MATES who highlighted that such a heartfelt topic is required to be discussed in order to sensitize the society and especially the youth who is the future of our country. He rightly said that the victim might lost the eyes but not the dream. He also highlighted the thinking of the criminals that they feel they can do whatever they want and no harm will touch them.

The session was carried forward by Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Kumar Gupta, Director, MAIMS who highlighted the main motive behind organizing such webinar. And seminar in the esteem institute.

Then Ms. Nirati Gupta, Faculty of Law, MAIMS, addressed the gathering with the outcome presentation of the whole one-day webinar. She mentioned about how she felt after listening to the acid attack survivor. The hardships that are being faced by them. She specifically mentioned that we should not address the victims as “VICTIMS” but they should be regarded as “SURVIVORS”.

Then the webinar continued with the address by the Chief Guest of Valedictory Session Prof. (Dr.) Anju Vali Tikoo, Faculty of Law, DU, she highlighted that we should change the method of raising children and should practice equality from the early ages. There should be no discrimination among the sister and brother or between husband and wife. The equality starts from home. The main root cause of such increasing crime is lack of education and importance given to religious beliefs.

The Valedictory Session ended by the Vote of Thanks given by Prof. (Dr.) Praveen Kumar Gupta, HOD, Law, MAIMS.

