

# Comparative Situation Analysis of Acid Attack Scenario in Southern and Eastern Regions of India

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**Abstract:** Acid attack is one of the heinous forms of premeditated violence where perpetrators attack victims with Sulfuric, Nitric or Hydrochloric Acid to disfigure, maim and torture the victims. It's also known as Vitriol Attack or Vitriolage. Acid dissolves skin, tissues and bone as well and it causes excruciating pain and often victims succumb to their injuries. The goal of that study is analyzing the acid attack incidents on the basis of demography. The study was conducted on 225 reported cases and out of those 122 from Southern Region and 123 from Eastern Region of India. It shows Eastern Region is more affected than Southern Region and maximum victims are young women while maximum perpetrators are young men. It also revealed most common reason of acid attack is rejection of indecent proposal and here marital status of victims is irrelevant while most acid attack take place in broad daylight often by someone who is known to victim and even a family member as well. Meanwhile few factors' influence is inconclusive such as educational qualification and occupational profile of victims or the area of maximum occurrence due to geographical limitation. Therefore further study of Northern and Western Region of India is essential.

**Key Words:** Acid Attack; Vitriolage; Violence against Women; Acid Attack in Southern India; Acid Attack in Eastern India; Acid Attack in India.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The incidents of acid attack could be seen in all over world and especially in the third world nations and that is because in these nations policing and judicial system is inadequate. Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) is a United Kingdom based non-profit organization which is one of it's a kind organization that is working relentlessly on that particular issue on international level. According to ASTI there are 1500 estimated acid attack cases taking place per annum worldwide (ASTI, 2017). Acid attacks have been reported from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Greece, Guyana, Iran, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda, UK, USA and Vietnam etc various nations.

As per sources the very first acid attack happened in India on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1920 and the perpetrator was Ali Mohammad Farag and the victim was Abdullah Mohammed Jabli (ASFI, 2017). Due to the absence of any exclusive statistics of acid attack in India till mid 2013 it was very difficult to assess the actual acid attack scenario. In February, 2013 Indian Government finally acknowledges acid attack as an absolute separate form of violence and amended the Indian Penal Code and introduced two separate sections exclusively for acid attack and those two separate sections were 326A and 326B. Under these two non bailable sections perpetrators are subject to imprisonment from ten years to entire life and under that same law the shopkeepers are also liable to maintain a register of their purchase and sale records and they are not allowed to sell acid to anyone without proper identity proof and stocker also liable to declare their stock to a sub-divisional level Magistrate once a month. Despite all these rules acid are heavily available in the retail market without any restriction (Venkataraman, 2016).

The data available in Acid Survivors Foundation India shows there is a sharp increase in acid attack in India and the trend shows the incidents of acid attacks are increasing at a sky rocketing pace from 106 incidents in 2012 to 249 incidents in 2015 (ASFI, 2017). Since the data of 2011 to 2013 (Table-1) is vastly dependant on the basis of assumption with comparison to socio-economical status of neighboring countries such as Bangladesh and Pakistan that's why many activists don't support that data and they believe actual number is much higher since many cases goes unreported, because perpetrator is a family member and victim is socio-economically dependent on the perpetrator (Venkataraman, 2016).

According to study, reason for acid attack could be anything such as rejection of marriage proposal or sexual advances, bearing female child, not bringing enough dowry, mistakes in household chores or any trivial reasons which shows typical patriarchal apathy towards female body and that's why 85% of acid attack victims are women age from 14 to 35 years and on the contrary almost the same amount of perpetrators are male and most of them are known to women (Venkataraman, 2016).

For this study the entire geographical area of India has been divided into four regions (Figure-1) and these four Regions are Northern Region, which is mostly affected and one out of every two attacks occurs in Northern Region and second mostly affected area is Eastern Region and one out of every five acid attack incidents happens in

Eastern Region and Next is Western Region and around 15% acid attack incidents happens here and relatively least affected area is Southern Region where 12% average acid attack incident occur. The study has been conducted on the basis of data collected from Eastern and Southern Region of India. Southern India comprising the states of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Lakshadeep and Puducherry respectively and Eastern Region comprising of the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

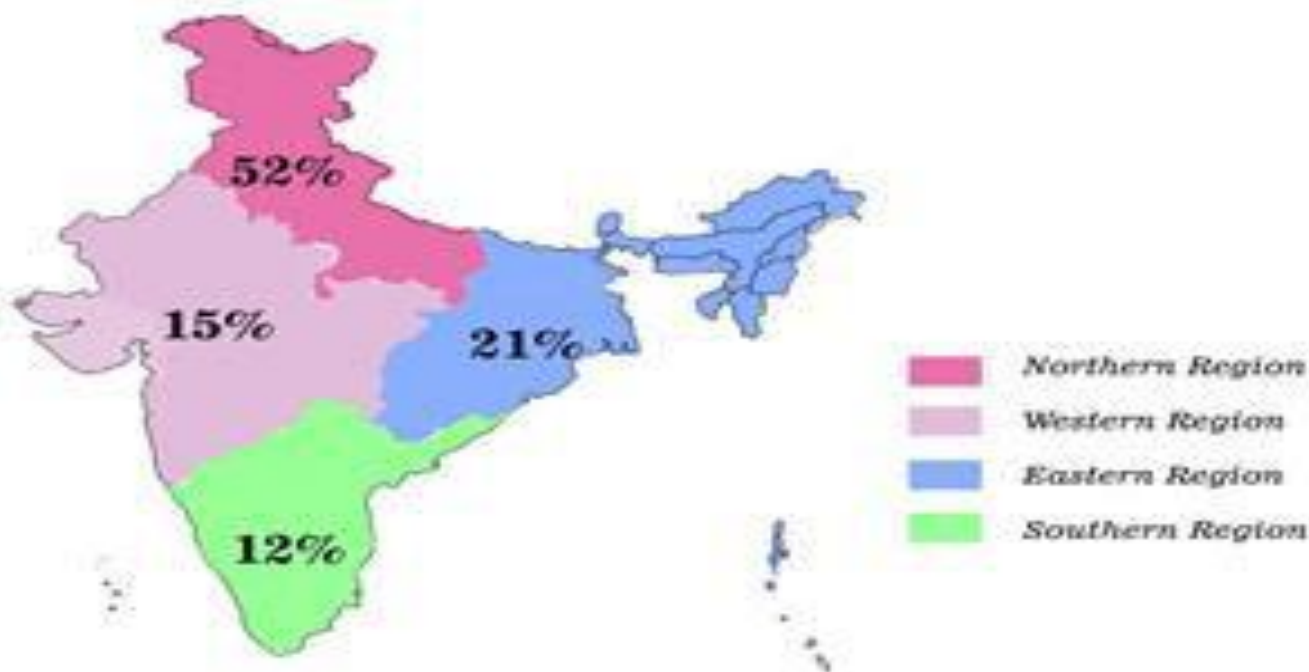


Figure – 1: Four Regions of India

The acid attack trend of Southern and Eastern Region of India is pretty remarkable for only one reason and that is the percentage of attacks itself. The area of Eastern Region is 824,450 square kilometers and the area of Southern Region is 639, 983 square kilometer, on the contrary the population of Eastern Region is 342,035,886 and the population of Southern Region is 254,120,136, meanwhile the average literacy rate of Eastern Region is 76% and the average literacy rate of Southern Region is 83% (Census, 2011). All these comparative analysis shows apart from average literacy rate Eastern Region of India is ahead of Southern Region of India in other two aspects. Therefore the objective of that study is a comparative analysis of the situation in both regions of India on the basis of different variables.

**TABULATION OF ACID VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN INDIA**

States	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Andhra Pradesh	8	6	4	6	14	38
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	1	13	0	3	17
Bihar	3	10	1	4	19	37
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	1	0	1
Goa	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gujarat	2	4	5	6	4	21
Haryana	8	6	6	13	12	45
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	1	1	3
Jammu and Kashmir	2	3	2	2	2	11
Jharkhand	0	1	0	3	0	4
Karnataka	3	2	4	3	2	14
Kerala	1	2	0	4	10	17
Madhya Pradesh	5	6	11	20	19	61
Maharashtra	6	3	9	5	8	31
Manipur	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>States</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Meghalaya	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	1	0	0	1

Odisha	1	2	3	10	8	24
Punjab	9	4	5	17	7	42
Rajasthan	0	6	0	6	1	13
Sikkim	0	0	0	2	0	2
Tamil Nadu	0	1	6	13	10	30
Telengana	0	0	0	1	1	2
Tripura	0	1	0	4	4	9
Uttar Pradesh	14	11	18	43	61	147
Uttarakhand	2	3	0	0	0	5
West Bengal	13	22	8	41	41	125
A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	1	0	0	2
D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi UT	28	9	18	20	21	96
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	106	106	116	225	249	802

**Table-1: Tabulation of Acid Violence from 2011 to 2015**

Courtesy: ASFI Website

## 2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE:

As a weapon acid is so highly potent that even a cup of acid can change the fate of a person for the rest of her life and the harsh reality is the easy availability of acid at local stores at a bare minimum cost. Empirical study shows that four out of five victims of acid attacks are women and in many cases, these women were attacked in their workplace or even at their home. Hence the main objective of that study is to analyze the very basic variables such as time, location, area, qualification, profession, gender, prime reasons, etc. with respect to acid attack phenomenon in both Southern and Eastern Region of India and finding the influence of these variables on the respect of acid attack phenomenon. To be more precise the objectives of that study are the comparative analysis of the Southern and Eastern region of India on the following matters:

- acid attack trend from 2011 to 2015
- gender profile of the victims
- gender profile of the perpetrators
- reasons of acid attack
- age along with gender profile of the victims
- details age profile of the perpetrator
- acid attack risk on the basis of victim-perpetrator mutual familiarity
- victims-perpetrators relationships
- marital status of the victims
- educational qualification of the victims
- influence of the occupational profile of the victims
- influence of the area on the acid attack incidents
- influence of the location on the acid attack incidents
- influence of the time on the acid attack incidents
- influence of the season on the acid attacks incidents

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Due to the sheer devastating and everlasting nature of the trauma the acid attack or Vitriolage is one of the most heinous crime ever could be perpetrated by any human being to any other living being. For an acid attack survivor the excruciating pain of acid attack and aftermath of it becomes an inevitable part of their natural span of life and that pain is not only physical but at the same time it's also quite psychological as well. In the article authors (Dr. Patel and Others, 2016) discussed about the possible treatment procedures for acid burn patients right from first aid to more advanced level in slightly elaborate manner.

In another article author (Bhullar, 2014) discussed the nature of acid attack in India and recent amendment in Indian legislation to deal with the nature of crimes. Though in recent amendment of 2013 Indian Government has mentioned about a compensation amount for acid attack survivors but the study shows that compensation amount is really negligible and it even not sufficient enough to reimburse the massive costs of reconstructive surgeries and post-operative medicines which most often goes for the rest of their lives.

Acid attack is now an international phenomenon and almost every country of the world are affected by that phenomenon; but few of the countries where acid attack is prevalent are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia (ASTI) etc. The author (Werlhof, 2014) discussed about the acid attack scenario of Pakistan and how the inefficient legislative system of Pakistan is not capable enough to address the justice issues properly.

So far various studies have proved that acid attack is basically a gender based crime and in this study author discussed about the various aspects of acid attack such as reasons of acid attack, aftermath of attack and relationship between perpetrators and victims. However, most astonishing fact is the different part of India witness different number of acid attacks year after year pretty consistently and that trend has never been discussed properly earlier. A situation analysis of two different zones of India is the objective of that study to understand most significant aspect of acid attack scenarios which pull the trigger finally or to be more precise what is the most possible reason that provoked the perpetrators to commit that heinous crime or in reality is there any catalyst that can escalate to acid attack scenario finally.

#### 4. MATERIALS AND METHOD:

The study was conducted on 225 reported cases that was registered at the head office of the Acid Survivors Foundation India (ASFI)'s Confidential Archive and out of those 225 cases 122 belongs to Southern Region and the remaining 123 cases were from Eastern Region (Figure – 1) of India. In Southern Region out of 122 cases 86% (n = 105) acid attack victims were female and 14% (n = 17) victims were male and in Eastern Region out of 123 victims 65% (n = 80) were female and 35% (n = 43) were male.

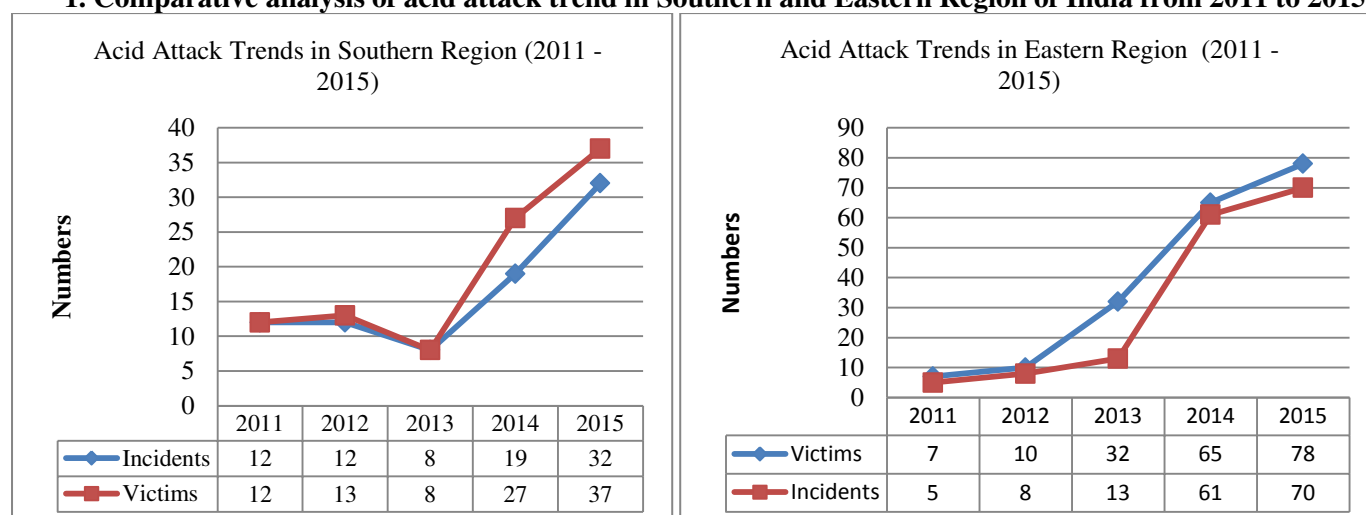
The primary data collection instrument was interview based on a questionnaire. The questionnaire was a combination of both structured and unstructured type questions. Apart from primary data the secondary data was copy of FIR Reports, copy of medical reports and other supporting documents provided by the administrative department of ASFI and additional secondary data was the regular field observation report of ASFI field workers and legal department.

The method of experiment was Case Study Method and in order to establish the acid attack situation of two particular regions of India respondent were selected on the basis of their demographic locations.

#### 5. DISCUSSION:

Acid attack is not like any other crime and often the modus-operandi of the perpetrator of acid attack could be extremely trivial and the impact of that crime is so enormous that the scars left by acid destroy the very existence of the victims. Since different regions of India are affected on absolutely different levels that is why it is absolutely necessary that we discuss the various factors which plays role in acid attack incidents on the other hands it is also important to know whether those factors are at all somehow related to acid attack incidents or not.

##### 1. Comparative analysis of acid attack trend in Southern and Eastern Region of India from 2011 to 2015



Figure– 2: Comparative Analysis of Acid Attack Trend in Southern and Eastern Region of India

According to Figure - 2 both in Southern and Eastern Region of India the acid attack incidents were moderately low from 2011 to 2013 and post 2013 there was an astronomical rise in acid attack incidents.

##### 2. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘gender of the victims’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India

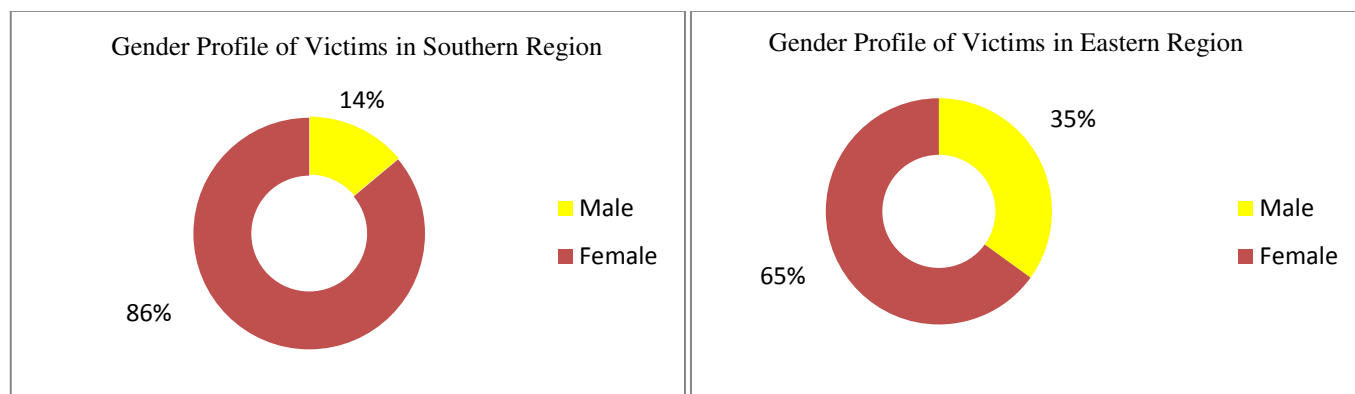


Figure – 3: Comparative Analysis of Victim’s Gender in Southern India and Eastern India

Most outstanding fact about acid attack is the gender-profile of the victims. In the following Figure – 3 it’s clearly visible that in Southern Region around 86% victims are female and 14% are male and in Eastern Region the approximately 65% acid attack victims are females and 35% are male.

**3. Comparative analysis of the details gender profile of perpetrators in both Southern and Eastern Region of India**

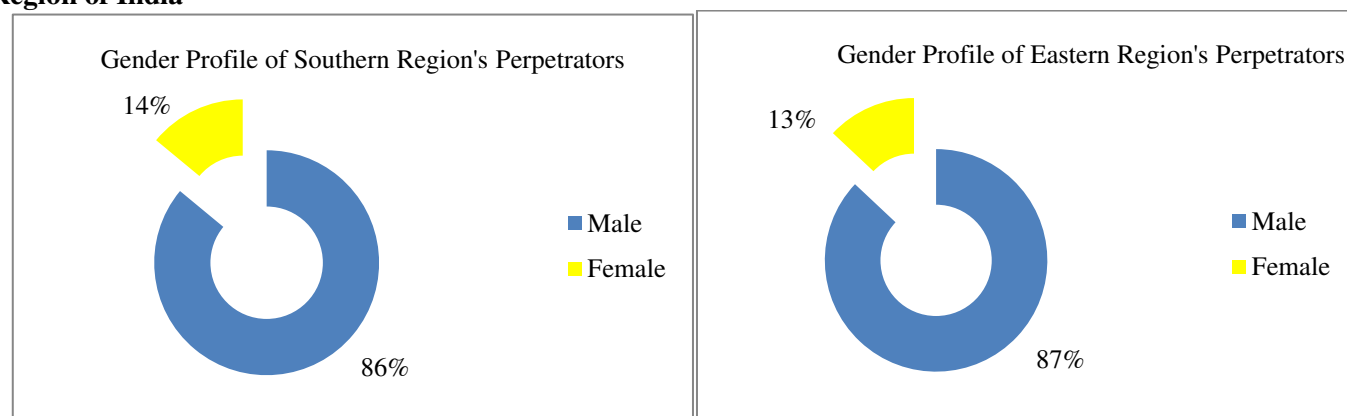
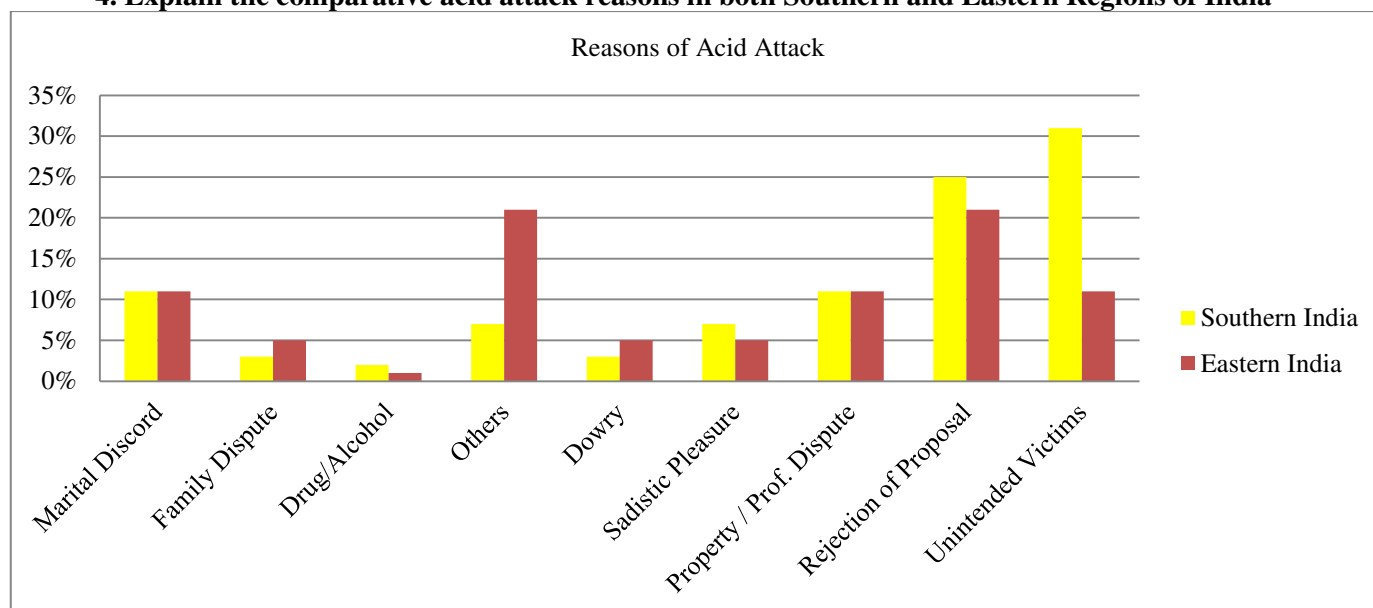


Figure – 4: Comparative Analysis of Perpetrator’s Gender in Southern India and Eastern India

Most outrageous fact about acid attack is the gender profile of the perpetrators (Figure-4). In Southern Region around 86% perpetrators are male and in Eastern Region almost 87% perpetrators are male.

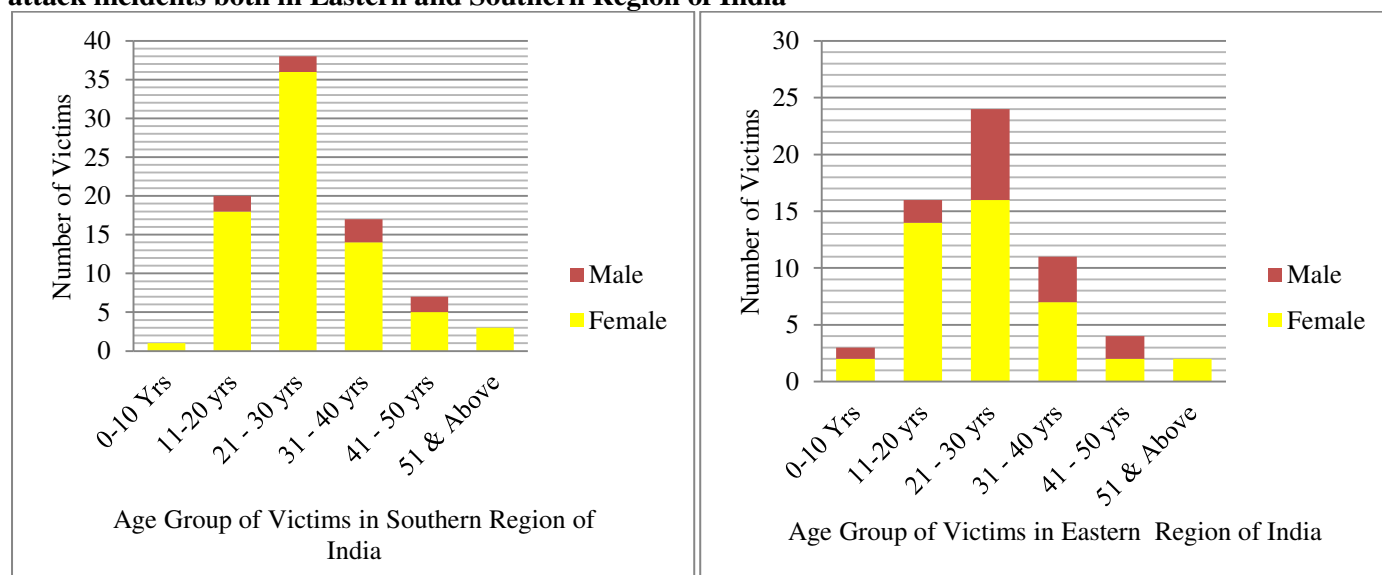
**4. Explain the comparative acid attack reasons in both Southern and Eastern Regions of India**



Figures – 5: Comparative Analysis of Acid Attack Reasons Both in Southern and Eastern Regions of India

The reasons of acid attacks are various and after careful analysis of both Southern and Eastern India (Figure – 5) few striking similarities could be found and according to these similarities ‘Drug / Alcohol’ is least possible reason and only between 1% - 2% acid attack occurs due to that reason and next two humble reasons of acid attacks are ‘Family Related Dispute’ and ‘Dowry’ and around 4% - 5% cases of attacks in both regions happen exclusively for these two reasons. However, most preposterous reason is the rejection of love, marriage and sexual proposal and in both regions, average one out of each four acid attack case is the direct outcome of the ‘Rejection of Indecent Proposal’ but one particular trend deserve maximum attention and that is the mind-boggling average percentage of unintended victims which is equal to average 20%.

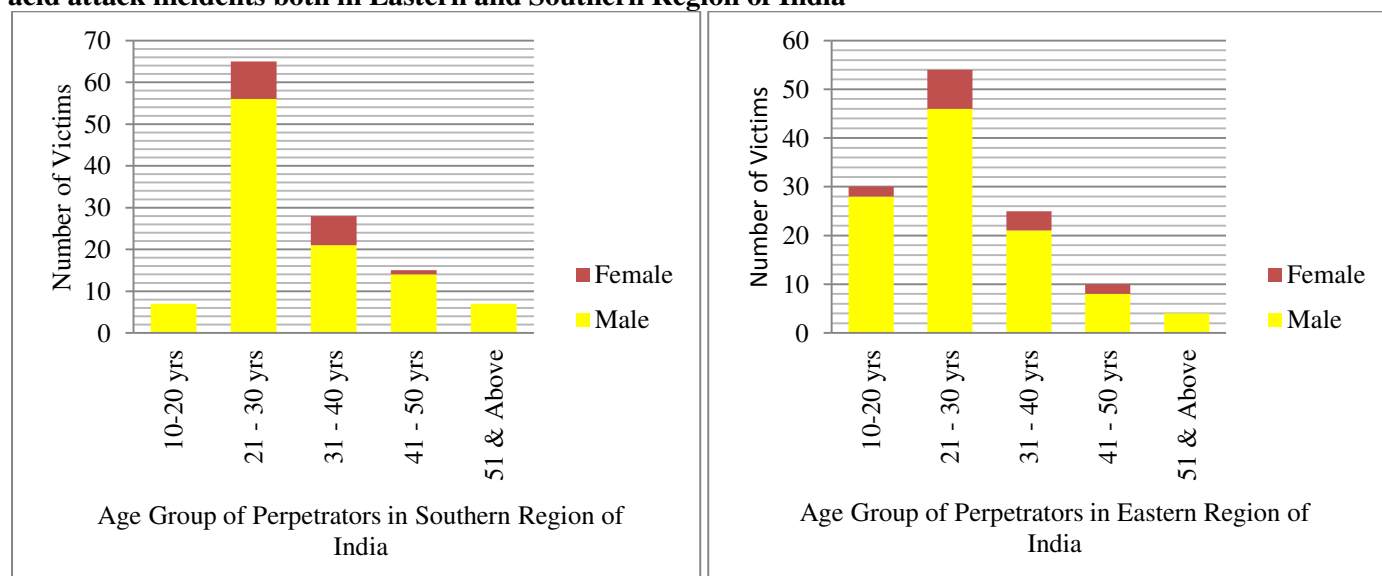
**5. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘age along with gender profile of the victims’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**



**Figure – 6: Comparative Analysis of Victim’s Age and Gender Profile**

Perhaps most remarkable similarities could be seen in gender and age profile of acid attack victims in both Southern and Eastern regions of India. According to Figure - 6 in both Southern and Eastern India the maximum number of victims belong to 21 years – 30 years age group and they are women followed by 11 years – 20 years old women. All though few scattered cases of acid attacks on juvenile and older people could be seen, but, those cases are mostly exception.

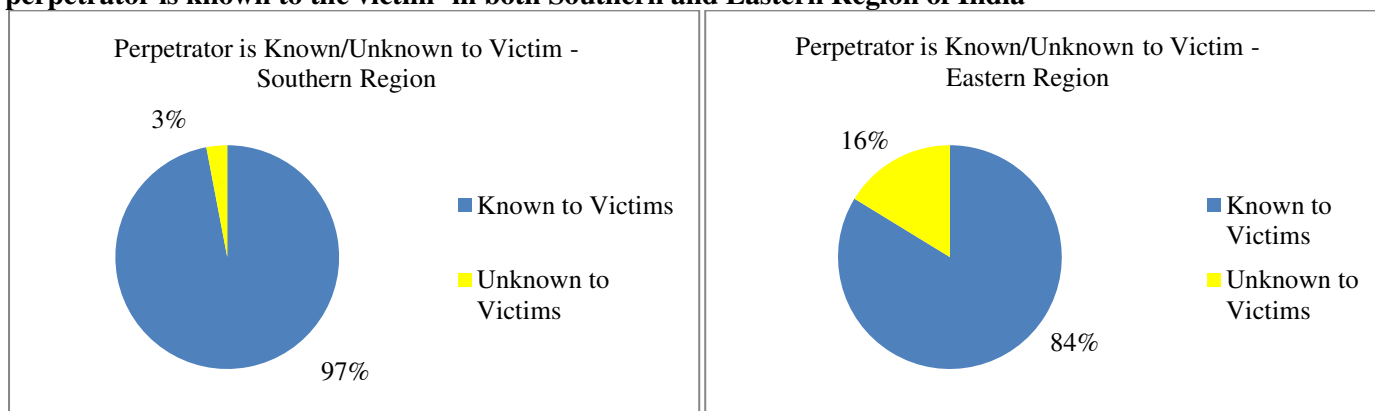
**6. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘age along with gender profile of the perpetrators’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**



**Figure – 7: Comparative Analysis of Perpetrators Age and Gender Profile**

It's clearly visible from the Figure – 7 the age profile of acid attack perpetrators is quite unique because in both Southern and Eastern Region maximum assailants were the men of 21 – 30 years age group. Apparently most acid violence was committed by men of 18 years to 40 years age group.

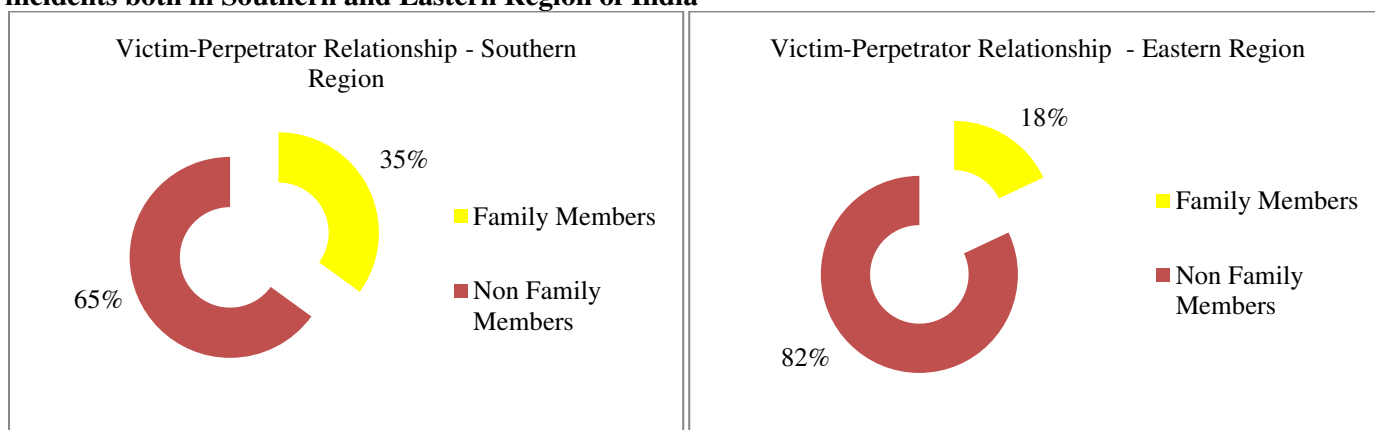
**7. Comparative analysis to determine whether the ‘risk of acid attack is relatively minimum if the perpetrator is known to the victim’ in both Southern and Eastern Region of India**



**Figure – 8: Pie-chart of Perpetrator is Known/Unknown to Victim**

In South – Eastern Region four out of every five acid attack cases the perpetrators are known to the victims (Figure – 8) and sometimes the perpetrators are the family members of the victims. Another mind – blowing fact is in Southern Region around 97% perpetrators are known to victims and in Eastern Region around 84% perpetrators are known to the victims.

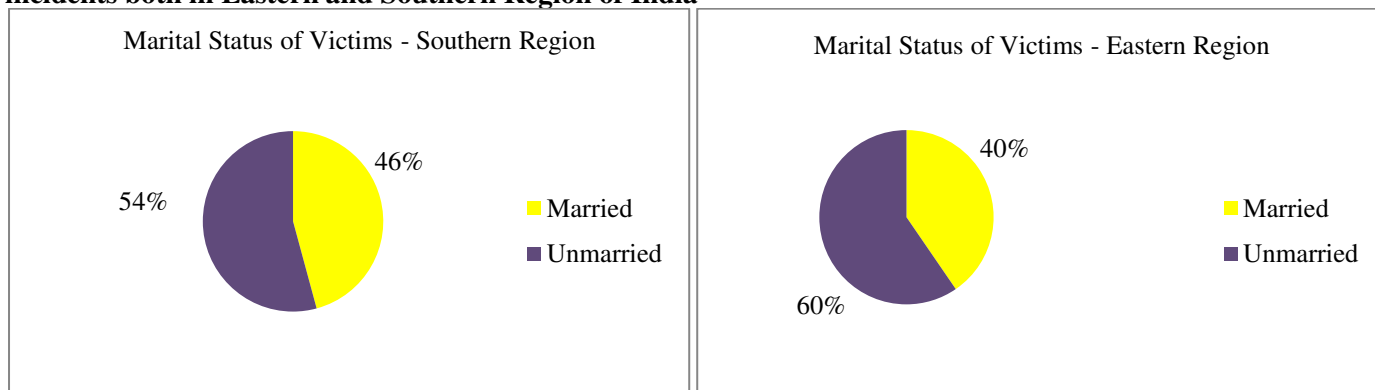
**8. The comparative analysis of the influence of ‘victim-perpetrators relationship’ on the acid attack incidents both in Southern and Eastern Region of India**



**Figure – 9: Victim – Perpetrator Relationship Status in Southern and Eastern Region**

The victim-perpetrator relationship (Figure – 9) in both Southern Region and Eastern Region is quite remarkable. In Southern Region around 35% perpetrators are family members of the victims and in Eastern Region around 18% perpetrators are the family members of the victims.

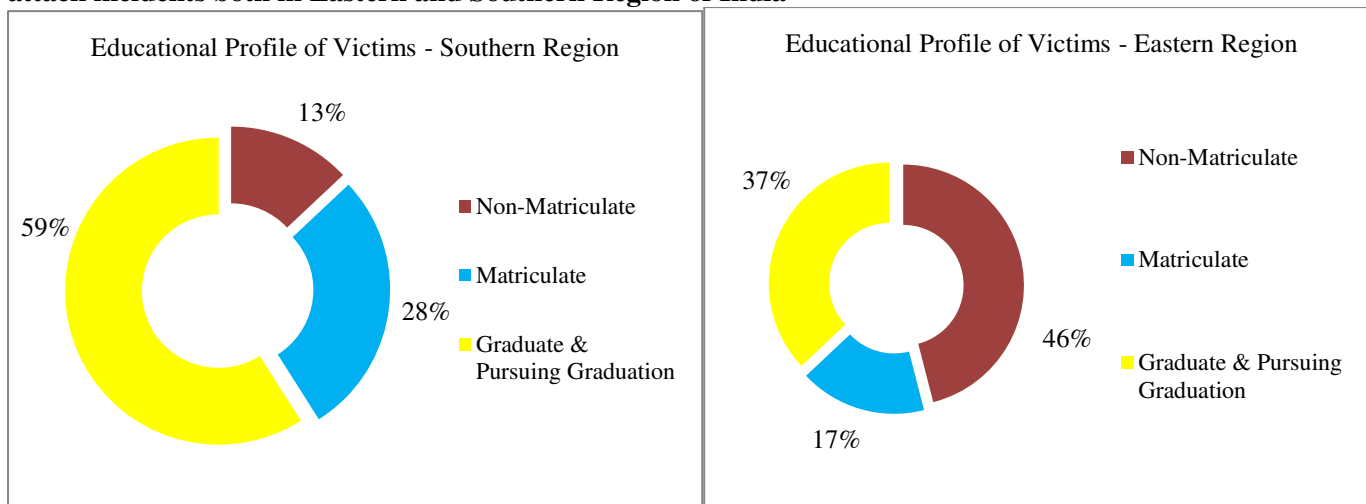
**9. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘marital status of the victims’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**



**Figure – 10: Marital Status of Victims both in Southern and Eastern Region**

In this section the influence of marital status (Figure -10) has been discussed with respect to available data of both regions of India and according to data in Southern Region 46% acid attack victims are married and 54% are unmarried. On the other hand, in Eastern Region around 60% acid attack victims are unmarried and remaining 40% are married.

**10. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘educational qualification of the victims’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**

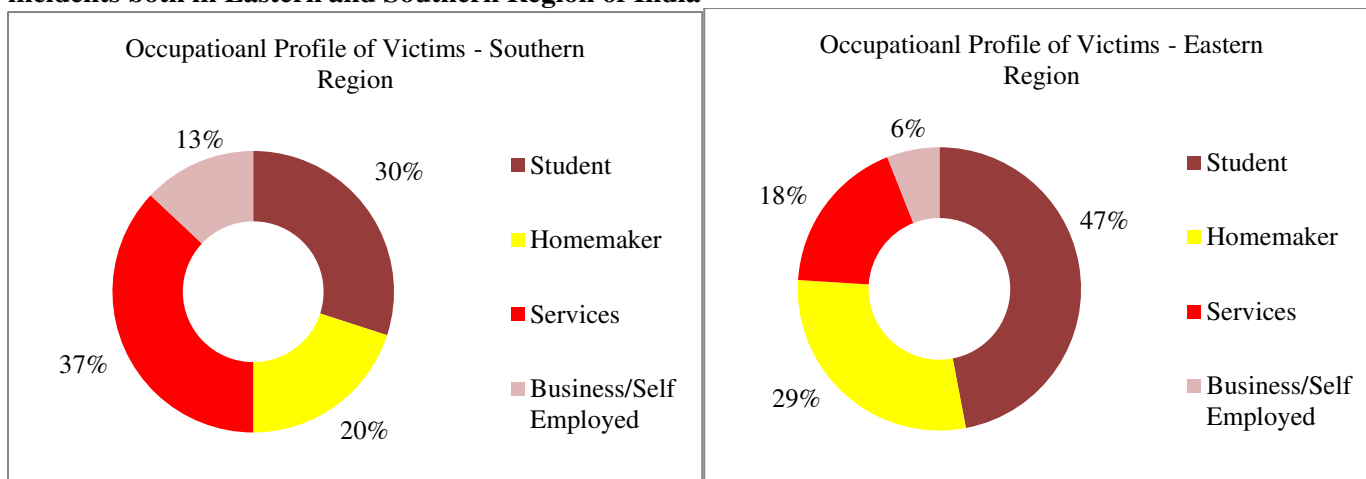


**Figure – 11: Educational Qualification of Southern and Eastern Regions’ Victims**

The educational qualification of acid attack victims (Figure – 11) is also other aspects which need to be properly analyzed. In Southern Region 59% of acid attack victims are Graduate, pursuing Graduation or highly educated professionals followed by 28% acid attack victims who have completed their Higher Secondary or Matriculation examination and remaining 13% are those people who are non-matriculate or illiterate.

On the contrary, in Eastern Region around 46% acid attack victims are non-matriculate or illiterate, followed by 37% victims who are Graduate, pursuing Graduation or even more educated and remaining 17% are those people who are matriculate or have completed higher secondary education.

**11. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘occupational profile of the victims’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**



**Figure – 12: Occupational Profile of Southern and Eastern Regions’ Victims**

Another vital statistics were the occupational profile of acid attack victims and there are various types of occupations and victims also belong to different socioeconomic background. According to following Figure – 12 it’s clearly visible that in Southern Region 30% victims are students followed by 20% homemaker and 13% self-employed and remaining 37% of acid attack victims are service holder. On the contrary, in Eastern Region 47% victims are students and 29% victims are homemakers.

**12. Comparative analysis of the influence of ‘area’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**



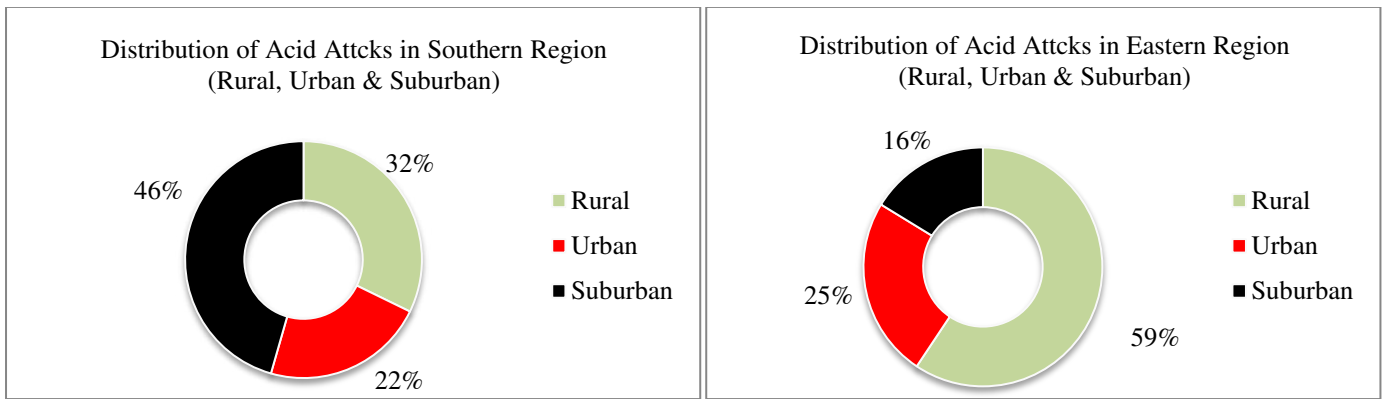


Figure – 13: Area Distribution in both Southern and Eastern Region

The Figure – 13 clearly shows in Southern Region 46% acid attack happens in suburban area and rural area’s share is 32% and the urban areas’ share is 22%. On the contrary, in Eastern Region the share of rural area is 59%, which means in three out of each five acid attack incidents the area of incidents must be a rural area and at the same time the share of urban area is 25% and suburban area is 16%.

**13. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘location’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**

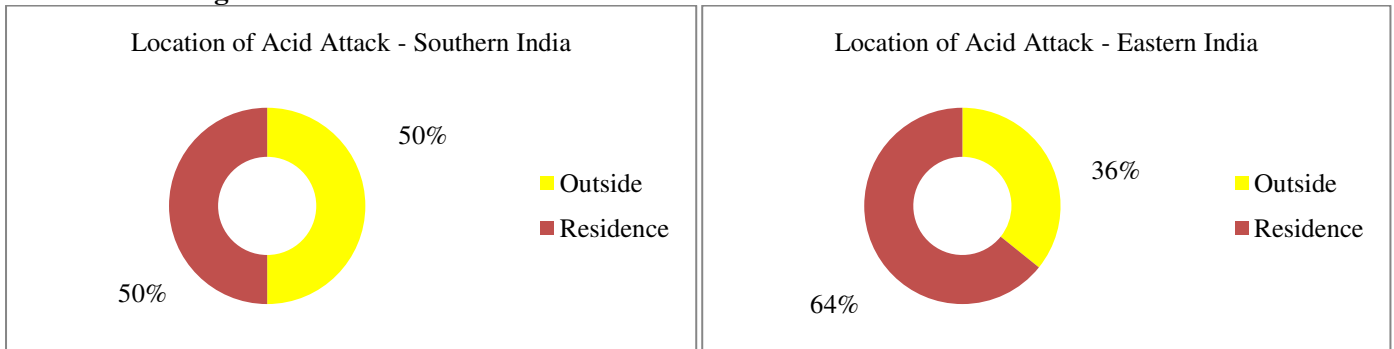


Figure – 14: Location of Acid Attack in Southern and Eastern India

Other statistics that are distinguishably different in the acid attack phenomenon and that is the location of acid attack. On Figure – 14 it can be seen that in Southern Region 50% incidents have taken place at the victim’s own residence itself and on the other hand, in Eastern Region around 64% acid attack incidents happened at victim’s own residence.

**14. Comparative analysis of the influence of the ‘time’ on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India**

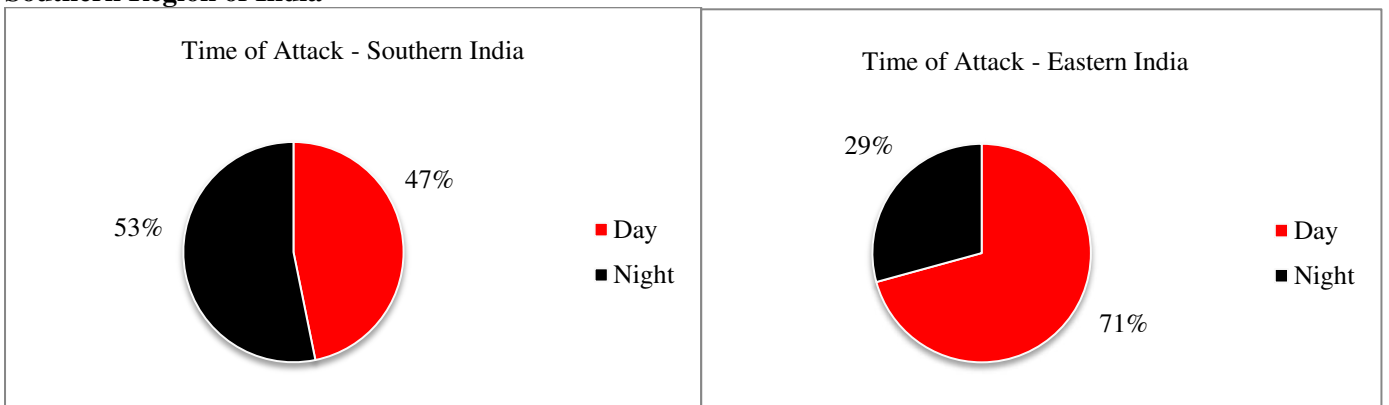


Figure – 15: Time of Acid Attack both in Southern and Eastern Region

Unlike many other crimes the time of the occurrence is extremely vital in these types of cases. In Figure – 15 it’s clearly visible that in Eastern Region 71% attacks has taken place in the broad daylight and barely 29% attacks happened at night. Meanwhile, in Southern Region 47% perpetrators attacked during daytime and 53% attacks happened at night.

### 15. Comparative analysis of the influence of the 'season' on the acid attack incidents both in Eastern and Southern Region of India

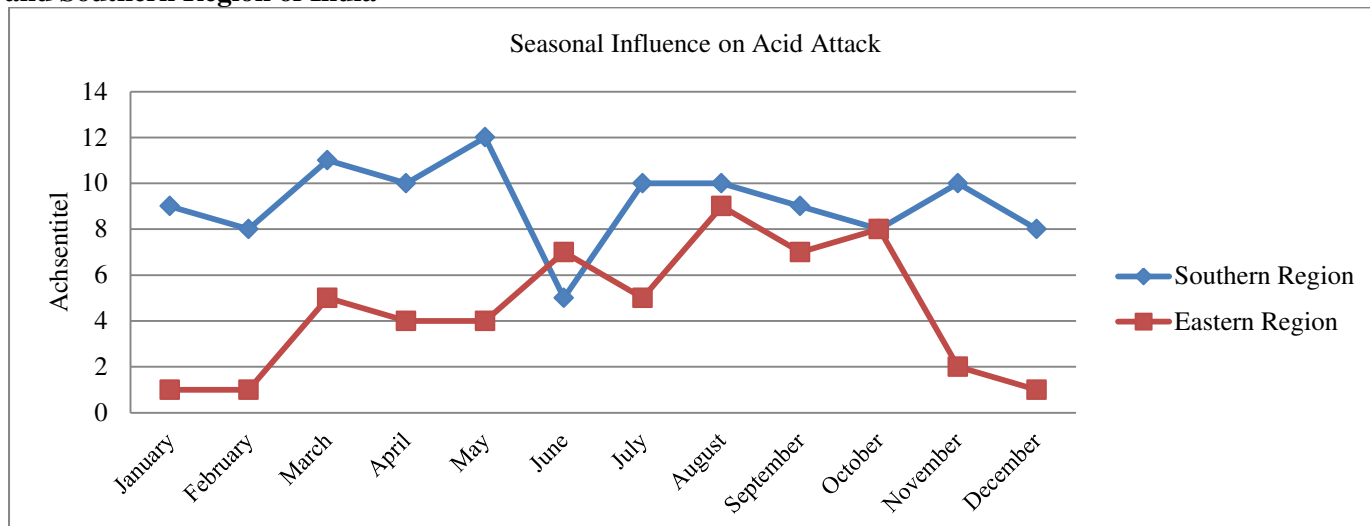


Figure – 16: Season of Acid Attack Both in Southern and Eastern Region

According to Figure – 16 it's clearly visible that in Southern region there is no particular season of acid attack and on the contrary in Eastern region most popular acid attack season is September to November.

#### DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Acid burn is unique from normal burning because as long as it's on victim's body its keep eating away the skin then fat and flesh beneath the skin and in some instances the bone as well. It only stops damaging the victims when the acid gets diluted entirely by some efficient neutralizer. Apart from that the additional misery is the numerous reconstructive surgeries and sometimes it can go up to 70 or 80 surgeries, as per ASFI archive report since many victims cannot afford the cost of those surgeries and that's why they gave up their further surgeries and even daily medication as well. That study would analyze various socio-economic factors to understand the gruesome effects of acid attacks and at the same time it will also emphasize on those crucial factors which triggers the incidents of acid attacks.

Despite all that most ironical part was till mid of 2013 there was no separate law to address acid attack in India and that is why usually acid attack incidents used to get reported under various other severe or diluted sections of Indian Penal Code and it was only after 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013 (ASFI, 2017) two exclusive sections were introduced in IPC to address acid attack incidents and those two sections were 326A and 326B of IPC and from 2014 onwards there was a huge increase in acid violence cases and according to National Crime Record Bureau's (NCRB, 2017) data the lame picture of record maintenance procedure of pre 2014 era was absolutely clear. However, that deserved to be mentioned that those cases are reported cases only, but, many social activists (Venkataraman, 2016) claims the actual number of acid attack cases is much higher because, many cases go unreported due to critical socio-economic reasons. Here most disturbing reality is a steady rise in acid attack cases in both South and Eastern Region from 2014 onwards. At the same time the intensity of acid attack is much lesser in Southern Region then Eastern Region of India and there are many states in Eastern India where acid attack phenomenon could not be seen such as Manipur, Mizoram etc meanwhile there is state like West Bengal at the same region which holds second position in acid attack incidents in all over India. That striking contradiction indicates there is a further need of state wise analysis of acid attack scenarios.

The most crucial factor of any crime study is the targeted gender of that crime and in special cases like acid attacks, it's more important since empirical study shows acid attack is another form of violence against women (wiki). According to the present study in South – Eastern Region of India nine out of each ten acid attack victims are women and that statistic itself is quite enough to establish the fact that acid violence is another form of violence against women because the percentage of female victims is almost similar in Southern and Eastern Region of India; but, further study of Northern and Western Region of India is extremely crucial to establish the fact (Acid Throwing, 2017).

Meanwhile, according to study in South-Eastern Region on an average around 87% acid attack perpetrators are male and remaining 13% are female and that statistic shows men choose acid as most cheapest and potent form of weapon and, apart from that the previous slack legal system made it easier for them to get away with little or no punishment after attack. That's why acid is so popular among men to violate the body and mind of a woman permanently. Around the nation study is also important even on that topic also to establish the ground reality more strongly (Acid Throwing, 2017).

The thorough analysis was also required to determine the reasons of acid attack. The study shows there are various reasons of acid attacks such as marital discord, not bringing enough dowry, drug, alcohol abuse, property or professional dispute etc. However, the most popular reason of acid attack is 'Rejection of Indecent Proposal' and in South –Eastern Region average 20% acid attack happens due to that single reason and apart from that another most common cause is apparently nothing, because here the victims are simply 'unintended victims' and in South – Eastern Region average 20% victims are just those unfortunate people who were at the 'wrong place at the very wrong time' and as a result they endured the pain though they were not the target of the perpetrator. Apart from that considerable amount of attacks also happens only to gain some distorted pleasure.

That study shows in Southern and Eastern Region most remarkable fact is maximum number of victims belongs to 21 years to 30 years age group. Despite few scattered incidents of juvenile victims and the most prime target group for perpetrators are the 18 years to 38 years age group's women and men and around 85% of acid attack victims belongs to that particular age group. Further study can prove why acid attack phenomenon is so prevalent among that particular age group.

**Case No: SI-56:** - Mr Pradip approached Ms Sushma (both name changed) and proposed her for marriage and just like any decent lower middle-class Indian girl she advised him to seek permission from her parents which shows her willingness only. Now, Mr Pradip approached her parents and then her parents advised him to introduce with his parents which is also quite common in conservative Indian society where till two families arranged a matrimonial relationship. When he approached his own parents and asked them to contact Sushma's parents then his own parents said he cannot get married before his unmarried sister and being an elder brother it's his responsibility to fix his sister marriage first and then think about his own marriage. Pradip became so irritated that he bought huge amount of acid and literally showered Sushma with acid. That case is unique because there was no rejection of proposal but still Pradip thrust Sushma's face on floor to ensure her death and cause of her death was inhalation of acid.

Not only the victims even most number of perpetrators belongs to 21 years to 30 years age group and the study shows in South – Eastern Region average 50% perpetrators belong to that age group. Hence, it's very important to establish the reason which provokes that particular age group towards that heinous crime.

The uniqueness of acid violence is that in acid violence cases victims are mostly unsafe from known people. This study shows in South–Eastern Region around 90% acid attacks were carried out by those perpetrators who were known to victims. The reasons behind that bizarre fact is assailants treat a women's body as their property and acid attack is often perceive as most efficient form of punishment (Venkataraman, 2017).

**Case No: EI-79:** - Mr Nadim was married to Mrs Nafisa (both name changed) and due to some marital discord he decided to divorce her and sent her to her matrimonial home. Later her brothers called him for reconciliation and when things went wrong then they tied him with a tree of their front yard and poured a mug of acid on his head. As a result Nadim not only lost his vision, in fact he also lost his livelihood permanently. This case is particularly unique because here acid became the ultimate weapon of choice in order to settle a family dispute.

In acid attack cases another unique perspective is the victim – perpetrator relationship and in South – Eastern Region average 25% assailants are the family members of the victims and it shows the vulnerability of the victims. Present study shows from live-in-partner to husband, brother, nephew, in-laws and even own mother could be a potential assailant and can carry out that heinous crime in most brutal manner.

**Case No: SI-115:** - Mrs. Parvati was having an affair with a man outside of marriage and her mother Mrs. Lilavati (both name changed) was really angry on her. The day of the incident she went to Parvati's workplace with her sister and there they tried to convince her to break that illicit affair, but Parvati were not agreed to do that. As a result Parvati's mother and aunt threw acid on her. That case itself proved how acid as a potent weapon works indiscriminately.

Study shows around 40% acid attack victims of South – Eastern Region are married and therefore the marital status of the victims does not make any difference in the chances of attack, because a married woman is equally vulnerable in front of potential acid attack as an unmarried woman. The psychological analysis of perpetrator's mind is extremely crucial to understand why they chose acid as weapon of crime instead of any other weapon.

In Southern India 59% acid attack victims are either Graduate or studying Bachelors/Masters/Higher Education and on the other hand in Eastern India majority of acid attack victims are illiterate. This sharp opposite views is enough to establish the fact that the qualification of victims is not dependant on the acid attack incidents directly or indirectly and those same contradictory facts of two different regions itself is enough to establish the demand of further study of around the nation.

The study was also conducted on the occupational profile of the victims to determine whether the occupation of the victims is anyhow affects the potentiality of the acid attacks. As per study in Southern India around two out of each three victims are earning for themselves and still they were the subject to acid attacks and on the other hand in Eastern India three out of four victims are not self-dependant. That sharp contrast itself is enough to establish the fact that acid violence has no apparent link with the economic independence of the victims, but only the further study of Northern and Western Region can establish the actual picture of acid attack.

For any kind of crime the most popular zone of crime is very important to know and acid attack violence is no difference. As per study in Southern India 46% acid attack happened at suburban area and in Eastern India 59% acid attack happened at rural areas. Hence, acid attack is not an 'urban phenomenon', though in Southern India Bangalore mostly affected city and in Eastern India Murshidabad is another badly affected district; but, from demographical perspective Bangalore is metro city and Murshidabad is predominantly a rural zone, therefore anyone type of area could not be defined as most commonly affected area. Apparently the survey conducted by ASFI suggests crime rate is proportionately dependant on the availability of acid at the local market.

In acid attack cases the most outrageous fact is the location itself, because, as per study in South-Eastern Region around 50% attacks happened at victims own residence and that spine chilling fact itself is enough to prove the gruesomeness of that particular kind of crime and the vulnerability of the victims in front of the perpetrator and further psychological studies can reveal a absolute new aspect of victimology.

Generally most of the crime occurs at night since from a criminal's point of view night is more convenient time because then getting away after crime is relatively easy and in acid attack cases the presumable time of occurrence was initially night time, but, quite astonishingly the data analysis shows in acid attack cases perpetrators are equally active at both night and day and that's why in South – Eastern Zone around 50% acid attack incidents happens during broad daylight and from criminological aspect its quite unique and worthy of study.

The seasonal affect of acid attack was another topic which needed some analysis and after proper study the outcome is in Southern India there is no apparent 'acid attack season' and on the other hand in Eastern India the most attacks happens during June – October period which is also known as 'Festive Season'. That means most ironically in Eastern India 'Festive Season' is also the 'acid attack season'. However, the study of all over India is very important to establish the exact perennial effect on acid attack phenomenon.

As per present study the influence of few factors on acid attack phenomenon are inconclusive such as the influence of educational profile of victim or the effects of occupational profile of victims or the most common area of acid attack; but, without any doubt it has been proven clearly that acid attack is just another form of violence against women. To establish all the factors correctly proper study should carried out in the Northern and Western Region of India. Northern Region is particularly important since maximum acid attack cases happen in that particular region every year. The nature of that crime needs to be understood properly and since most common reason of acid attack is rejection of indecent proposal therefore it's very crucial to analyze how a present suitor turned to become a violent acid attacker and especially is there any 'tell – tale sign' of a suitor who is planning to turn violent and plotting a violent acid attack? There are plenty of scopes for further studies in the area of acid attack violence.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Perhaps acid attack is one that kind of attack which is still quite underrated in spite of its tremendous destructive nature. The impact of acid attack is physical, social, financial and psychological and it can drain the victims and their families completely. The present study shows the constant rise of acid attack in India and how few instrumental factors plays crucial role in acid attack cases. Meanwhile elaborate study also require in psychological profiling of the perpetrators. Due to the financial constraint I could not conduct the present study as pan India basis therefore it's very important that to get the complete picture of all the region a pan India basis study should be conducted to understand the trend of acid violence.

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