**Introduction:**

In India, Women constitute half the total population in the society, but this is also a harsh reality that women have been ill and badly treated in the society from many years. Violence against women in the society is usually unreported because of Fear and stigma that often prevents women from reporting incidents of violence.

A woman facing many types of cruelty and Violence day by day and violence is divided into several broad categories. Among them one of the most heinous and dangerous crime committed against women that is Vitriol age means acid attack. Crime word is very much fascinated to that person who is having the sick mentality. Over the last decade, India is witnessing the gender based violence in the colour of acid attack and this is alarming growth in the criminal activities. The Acid Attack especially on women heinous crime with illintension against any woman. Crime is having very much significance with the person's life and whenever any crime committed by a criminal the many questions arise that who are responsible for such crime? To whom we can blame? And the answer is, we all human being because crime has not been created by God, it is the created by human being which we are facing as a heinous crime. The word Crime and act of criminal activity is not new for we people but the new way is surprising us. Many years ago in the urban areas, people use acid for household purpose, but now adays the work of acid has reformed and changed his way and now a days it also used for damaging the life of people. UNICEF defines “Acid attack is a serious problem all over the world, even children are become victim of acid attack in many cases. In an Acid attack, acid is thrown at the face or body of the victim with deliberate intent to burn and disfigure. Most of the victims are girls, many below the age of 18, who have rejected sexual advances or marriage proposals.” Vitriol age is defined as the act of throwing acid onto the body of a person with the intention of injuring or disfiguring out of jealousy or revenge.
In the present scenario, many people profess about the importance of gender equality and these days no doubt, women are seen successfully competing with men at corporate levels, in politics and at various platforms.

Passed by Indian Parliament in 1983, Indian Penal Code 498A, is a criminal law (not a civil law) which is defined as follows,

“Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine. The offence is Cognizable, non-compoundable and non-bailable.

Misuse of dowry laws is not a recent phenomenon and the judiciary of India is totally responsible for the growing misuse of dowry law and the result is abuse of innocent men in the process.

Your wife/daughter-in-law who’s demands are not met can make a written false complaint of dowry harassment to a nearby police station. The husband, his old parents and relatives are immediately arrested without sufficient investigation and put behind bars on a non-bailable terms. Even if the complaint is false, you shall be presumed guilty until you prove that you are innocent.

498a can only be invoked by wife/daughter-in-law or her relative. Most cases where Sec 498A is invoked turn out to be false (as repeatedly accepted by High Courts and Supreme Court in India) as they are mere blackmail attempts by the wife (or her close relatives) when faced with a strained marriage. In most cases 498a complaint is followed by the demand of huge amount of money (extortion) to settle the case out of the court. This section is non-bailable (you have to appear in court and get bail from the judge), non-compoundable (complaint can’t be withdrawn) and cognizable (register and investigate the complaint, although in practice most of the time arrest happens before investigation). There have been countless instances where, without any investigation, the police has arrested elderly parents, unmarried sisters, pregnant sister-in-laws and even 3
year old children. In these cases unsuspecting family of husband has to go through a lot of mental torture and harassment by the corrupt Indian legal system. A typical case goes on for years (5-7 years is typical) and the conviction rate is about 2% only. Some accused parents, sisters and even husbands have committed suicide after time in jail.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

There are various crimes against women in India but at times it is not the women who is the victim, but because of their ulterior motives and untenable demands misuse the law to trouble and harass the family members and other around them. This study is significant as it will highlight such instances of misuse as well as highlight the loop holes in the existing laws and measures to curb them.

**Limitations of the Study:**

1. The research study is confined to the Mumbai which is a geographical limitation on the study.
2. It is metro city and there may be a possibility that the results may not be directly applicable to other regions/ states / cities in India or abroad.