

**DEPRESSION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AMONG FEMALE ACID
ATTACK SURVIVORS**

By

HINA HAMEED

A thesis presented to the Bahria University, Islamabad

In partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

Masters of Philosophy

June 2015

BAHRIA UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD

APPROVAL SHEET

SUBMISSION OF HIGHER RESEARCH DEGREE THESIS

Candidate's Name: Hina Hameed
Discipline: Clinical Psychology (M.Phil.)
Faculty/Department: Institute of Professional Psychology

I hereby certify that the above candidate's work, including the thesis, has been completed to my satisfaction and that the thesis is in a format and of an editorial standard recognized by the faculty/department as appropriate for examination.

Signature (s):

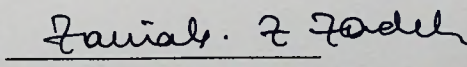
Principal Supervisor: 

Date: 15-Sep-15

The undersigned certifies that:

1. The candidate presented at a pre-completion seminar, an overview and synthesis of major findings of the thesis, and that research is of a standard and extent appropriate for submission as a thesis.
2. I have checked the candidate's thesis and its scope, format, and editorial standards are recognized by the faculty/ department as appropriate.

Signature (s)

Dean/Head of Faculty/Department: 

Date: 15-Sep-15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COPYRIGHT	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iii
AUTHENTICATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
DEDICATION	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii

CHAPTERS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of research	1
1.2 Gaps in acid attack research in Pakistan.....	4
1.3 Problem Statement.....	7
1.4 Objectives of the study.....	8
1.5 Research Questions.....	9
1.6 Significance of the study.....	9
1.7 Structure of Thesis.....	11
1.8 Definition of Key Terms	12
1.9 Summary.....	13

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Acid Attacks as a Gender Based Violence	15
2.2 A Multi Causal Framework of Acid Attacks.....	19
2.3 The Perpetrator's Reasons of Acid Attack against Women.....	20
2.4 The Psychological Factors behind Acid Attacks.....	21
2.5 The Motivational Factors behind Acid Attacks	23
2.6 The Menace of Acid Attacks.....	29

2.7 Acid Attack Victim versus Acid Attack Survivor.....	29
2.8 Health Hazards of Acid Attacks.....	31
2.9 The Biopsychosocial Model of Treatment for Acid Attack Survivors.....	44
2.10 Legislative Support for Acid Attack Survivors.....	50
2.11 Summary.....	54

3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Hypotheses.....	59
3.2 Summary.....	59

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Design.....	60
4.2 Participants.....	60
4.3 Ethical Considerations.....	61
4.4 Measures.....	66
4.5 Procedure.....	67
4.6 Summary.....	67

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of Data.....	68
5.2 Descriptive Statistics.....	80
5.3 Summary.....	93

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Conclusion.....	106
6.2 Implications	107

6.3 Limitations.....108

6.4 Recommendations.....109

REFERENCES.....111

APPENDICES

A. Research Permission Letter.....132

B. Permission Letter for Obtaining Research Instrument.....137

C. Consent Form in Urdu.....140

D. Demographic Information Form in Urdu.....142

E. Siddiqui Shah Depression Scale Urdu.....146

F. Ryff's Scale of Psychological Well-Being Urdu.....149

G. Turnitin Report.....152

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the relationship between depression and psychological well-being among female acid attack survivor. For the purpose of this study, a quantitative research approach was employed to gather the data from a sample of 48 female acid attack survivors. The age range of the participants in the sample was 18-35 years with a mean age of 28. The participants were approached through non-government organizations that were working for the reintegration of the female acid attack survivors in Pakistan. The minimum education level for the participants to be a part of study was matric. Data collection from the participants was done by using a consent form, a demographic information form, Ryff Psychological Well-Being Scale and Siddiqui Shah Depression Scale (1992). For the ease of participants, all measures were used in Urdu language. It was hypothesized that acid attacks would determine levels of depression among female acid attack survivors (H_1) and also they would predict the psychological well-being levels among them (H_2). The third hypothesis was based on the correlation between depression and psychological well-being among female acid attack survivors (H_3). Findings from the statistical analysis of the data revealed a strong negative correlation between depression levels and psychological well-being levels among female acid attack survivors ($r = -.502, p < 0.01$). The depression levels among female acid attacks survivors explained for the 100% variance in the levels of psychological well-being among them ($R^2 = .250, p < 0.01$). Furthermore, predictive value of the independent variable of depression for the dependent variable of psychological well-being was also significant ($B = -.260, p < 0.01$).

The significant implication of the current study draws attention to the negative health outcomes of acid attacks among female acid attack survivors and elaborates its effect on the psychological well-being of the survivors with an emphasis on important factors for their reintegration into society such as self-acceptance, autonomy, positive relation with others, environmental mastery, purpose in life and self- growth. The findings from the present study detailed out the low levels of psychological well-being among female acid attack survivors, giving a deeper understanding of the psychological repercussions of the female acid attack survivors to the health practitioners. Recommendations for future research have been discussed focusing on the sample and measures that can be broadened to achieve a higher generalizability of research findings.