

## PREFACE

Newspapers report with cruel frequency the episodes of Burns in women. The episode may be a 'death by design', 'a cry for help' from a suffering woman or a matter of 'sheer carelessness', the outcome is equally grave in terms of the physical and psycho-social morbidity and high mortality resulting from the episodes.

A visit to the Burns ward in any general hospital would stir a person with human concern looking at the plight of women with Burns. Why do women choose to submit to flames? What is responsible for the accident? What needs to be done to prevent these untimely, unnatural deaths and the miseries of physio-psycho social morbidities in those who survive the episodes?

Burns is a serious problem in terms of its magnitude and psychosocial consequences, irrespective of it being homicidal, suicidal or accidental in nature. The culture born symptomatology, the pressure of social norms and traditions, the socio-economic status and the life-style of the victims of Burns must be studied, for a rational action plan to follow. Hence the study.

The present work is a result of guidance and motivation of several well wishers.

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