Every year hundreds of women are intentionally burnt by acid or kerosene oil; unfortunately many of them do not survive due to lack of on time assistance and treatment. Depilex Smileagain Foundation (DSF) was conceptualized in 2003 and registered in 2005 as a nonprofit support and assistance organization. Since then the Founder President Masarrat Misbah has consistently pursued its Mission. DSF is committed to providing support to acid and kerosene oil burnt victims through medical treatment, psycho-social support and vocational training for their rehabilitation in society. They are treated without discrimination of cast, creed or religion.
DSF registered 32 acid and kerosene oil burnt victims from all over Pakistan during reporting months. DSF regularly arranges checkup of registered patients to prioritize and schedule the required treatment. During the reporting months 65 major and minor surgeries were performed, alongside checkups/follow ups to prioritize and schedule the required treatments.

DSF made arrangements with selected hospitals/clinics to carry out the required treatment in the best possible environment on subsidized rate.

**Medical Treatment of Burnt Victims in Italy**

Dr. Gabriela (reconstructive surgeon) from “Victoria Medical Center”, Florence, Italy, is one of the supportive doctors providing services to DSF for many years. She often visits Pakistan for the medical treatment of burnt victims. During her last visit, she short listed three burnt victims for advanced reconstructive surgeries in Florence, Italy. The patients were welcomed and hosted by Dr. Gabriela and her four member team. The burnt victims were looked after well by the doctors and after receiving appropriate treatments they returned to Pakistan in February 2020.

**Eye Check Up Camp for Burnt Victims**

Dr. Nazli is Cornea Specialist Refractive Surgeon, at Orlando VA Hospital and assistant professor at University Of Central Florida and Florida State University, Howard University School of Medicine and University of Texas Medical. During her visit to Pakistan, she contacted DSF to set up an Eye checkup camp for the burnt victims in Lahore. Burnt victims with severe eye problems were shortlisted and selected mutually by Dr. Nazli and DSF Staff. The patients were taken to a clinic arranged by Dr. Nazli. They conducted eye examinations of burnt victims to determine the extent of injury and the prospects for rehabilitating the eye and vision for those with corneal limbal stem cell loss. Dr. Nazli hoped to someday bring this treatment option amongst other treatments to the talented ophthalmologists in Pakistan to treat the patients in Pakistan.
Psycho-Social Support

The effects of violence include serious physical harm and burnt victims are disfigured for life and suffer from psychological trauma along with social isolation and ostracism. Services of psycho-therapists and experts are engaged to help the burnt victims and their families. Their involvement in social and recreational activities has a positive influence on the victims.

• Intermediate students of Nixor College invited DSF and arranged a Psycho-Social Support Workshop for burnt victims at the college campus. Staff members and students welcomed sixteen burnt victims. One of the students gave motivational speech and focused on the concept that life is full of bright colours with shades of ups and downs. After the motivational speech, Make up competition was held and the winner was awarded a certificate and gifts. As it was the beginning of the New Year, cake cutting was fully enjoyed by the burnt victims. The principal thanked the group and extended good wishes for the New Year.
• Marketing team of Chughtais Lab invited Masarrat Misbah and a group of burnt victims to a session on “Health of Burnt Victims”. Masarrat Misbah and ten burnt victims were welcomed by the administration of the Chughtais lab at their head office. Lab tour was a learning experience for everyone. After the lab tour, an interactive session was held in the auditorium. Masarrat Misbah, one burnt victim, Sonia Riaz; a cancer patient survivor and Dr. Shaista comprised the panel. Strategies to improve health were discussed. Everyone shared their experiences.

• Depilex Smileagain Foundation welcomed the visit of Ms. Urfana Ayub from Manchester, United Kingdom who is a writer, speaker, philanthropist and a healer. A healing session for acid and kerosene burnt victims at DSF office Lahore was organized. Ms. Urfana highlighted strategies to maintain psychological health. A good, health healing session to balance physical and mental health was held.
Vocational Training

Another aspect that DSF has always considered important is helping the burnt victims with training and job placement. When women are supported and empowered, all of the society benefits. While they are medically treated, they are also supported to complete their education and assisted to learn skills for economic sustainability. Many women have been trained as beauticians. Some of them are employed in Depilex Beauty Clinics; the others run small parlors of their own and earn regular income to support themselves and their families.

- We happily share that DSF rehabilitated 10 burnt victims by providing them stitching units. These burnt victims were earlier trained in stitching and knitting. Now they can work from home to earn a livelihood.
Advocacy

While it is important to serve the burnt victims, it is equally important to sensitize communities at large to curb this heinous crime. As a part of Advocacy plan, DSF participated in several seminars, conferences, events, TV programmes and webinar sessions to educate the public about Violence against Women in general and acid crime in particular. Success stories and the challenges faced by the burnt victims and their families were highlighted. Founder President Masarrat Misbah, DSF team and victims participated in special TV transmissions during the holy month of Ramadan. Appeals were made to philanthropists and supporters to help DSF in reviving the lives of these victims.

Another big achievement is, initiation of efforts by DSF for registration with “Baytee Program”, launched by the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Government of Pakistan. Under this program, a mobile App is expected to be created which acts as a consolidated portal and provides advocacy on women’s rights, disseminate information on laws and regulations, search women focused education schools, scholarships, training opportunities, job portal, health services, helpline etc. Through this “App” women will be able to locate nearby hospitals, women police stations, educational institutions, hostels etc. DSF will soon be live on the App’s portal and burnt victims can also contact DSF for registration.

During COVID-19 pandemic, DSF kept on working with enthusiasm and followed proper SOPs. With the help of its supporters, DSF also provided rashan bags to the burnt victims and their families. Burnt victims were educated about the important precautionary measures that everyone must take during COVID-19 pandemic.