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**MASS MEDIA & LEGAL LITERACY: A CASE STUDY OF
NIRBAHYA AND LAXMI ACID ATTACK CASE**

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ABSTRACT

According to scholars legal literacy is a process of self and social empowerment that moves women not only to activate the rights they do have, but to redefine and reshape the inadequate ones as expressed in law and in practice. Sadly however the dismal situation of legal literacy in India is worrying. More than 35% of the population is illiterate and more percentage of those who live below poverty line, in poor socio-economic conditions. Even those who are literate are helpless and confused when there is a violation or infringement of a right enforceable in law. In the light of these events, it becomes crucial to promote legal literacy awareness among the citizens, especially women, so that they can safeguard and are fully aware about their legal rights. Mass media can play a crucial role in achieving this goal. Being the fourth estate, the mass media through its rigorous coverage and wide dissemination can reach to the farthest reaches and can help to promote and spread legal literacy among the weaker sections of society.

The paper will take the case study of Nirbhaya and laxmi acid attack case which are the prime example of how through the coverage of mass media regarding the event, women became more legally aware about their rights.

KEY WORDS: Legal Literacy, Women, Nirbhaya, Laxmi Acid attack, legal empowerment