

## Press Release

Lalitpur July 27, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from June 16, 2015 to July 16, 2015 has shown that 15 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 55 media coverage during the month related to the rape of girls and women. Besides Sports and Entertainment news other contents of Kantipur, Nagarik, Annapurna Post, Naya Patrika, Gorkhapatra, Himalaya Times, Karobar, Rajdhani, Nepal Samacharpatra, Commander Post, Surya Daily, The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Republica, and The Rising Nepal were monitored.

The cases of violence against women (VAW) were segregated into 13 types: rape; sexual harassment/torture; domestic violence; dowry-related violence; trafficking in persons; murder; polygamy; witch accusation; traditional and religious; and economic; health; and political rights violation; and others.

These newspapers had 51 coverage of 12 women and girls were killed in a month. Likewise, the newspapers have 33 coverage of 4 cases of sexual harassment, 8 coverage of 1 case of domestic violence, 7 coverage of dowry related violence, 96 coverage of human trafficking, 31 coverage of economic right, 12 coverage of 3 cases of witchcraft accusation, 25 coverage of 1 cases of traditional and religious violence, 76 coverage of political right, 59 coverage of health rights, 9 coverage with 2 cases of Polygamy and 53 coverage of others category with only 1 case.

There have been some positive changes in terms of placement of VAW-related news. Although most of the news appeared in inner pages, the news related to the serious case of VAW appeared on the front pages with 56 news item. This time 2<sup>nd</sup> page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 80 news items followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> page with 74 and 70 coverage respectively. Comparatively improvements can be seen in terms of allocating more space to news items of VAW.

A total of 37 news item mentioned family members as perpetrators, 9 neighbors, 34 others and 19 news incidents didn't mention the perpetrators. During this period, 7 editorials, 9 photo news, 68 articles, 88 soft news, and 343 hard news items were published. Only 53 hard- and 40 soft news and 26 opinion articles carried photo/sketch. Some improvements have been seen in giving photo/sketch on coverage this month.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. There has been no improvement in follow-ups. There are 20 photos of survivors while that of perpetrators are 12. The trend needs to be reversed.

Male participation in the women's issues is a positive point but less female bylines is the con side. Hard news with pictures/sketches is not satisfactory with only 53 pictures/sketches. News related to women should be given more importance with a greater area of coverage and considering to be published on first page as their issues are national issues.

SAS, a forum of women journalists and communicators, has been monitoring the print and electronic media for more than a decade with a view to analyzing their trend on the coverage of VAW and recommending ways to reduce VAW through media.

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