

Press Release

Lalitpur November 23, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from October 18 - November 17, 2015 has shown that 16 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 23 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 6 coverage and 6 incident of murder of women and girls. Likewise, the newspapers have 2 coverage of sexual harassment with 1 case, 10 coverage of human trafficking, 5 coverage of economic right, 10 coverage of traditional and religious violence, 36 coverage of political right, 19 coverage of health rights with 2 cases and 15 coverage of others category. The cases of dowry related violence, witchcraft accusation and Polygamy were observed none.

The trend is satisfactory 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 only 9 news items. The 2nd page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 24 news items. Improvements can be seen in terms of allocating more space to news items of VAW.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. No news has been observed in terms of follow-up. There were 4 photos of survivors/victims while none perpetrators' photos were published. In this case, the picture of perpetrators should be encouraged to publish, to discourage the GBV issues. But in case of the survivor/victim, their picture shouldn't be disclosed unless they are seeking for justice and support.

Hard news with pictures/sketches is not satisfactory with Yes/No ratio of 11:17. Male participation in the women's issue is a positive point but female by-liners are lesser. 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.

Bimala Tumkhewa,
Secretary,
Sancharika Samuha.