

Press Release

Lalitpur January 29, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from December 16 2015-January14, 2016 has shown that 12 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 29 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 44 coverage and 10 incident of murder of women and girls. Likewise, the newspapers have 10 coverage of sexual harassment with 3 cases, 33 coverage of human trafficking, 78 coverage of traditional and religious violence with 4 cases, 16 coverage of political right, 13 coverage of Domestic Violence with 2 cases, 4 coverage of dowry related violence with 2 cases, 33 coverage of economic right, 49 coverage of health rights with 2 cases, 5 coverage of witchcraft accusation, 6 coverage of polygamy and 66 coverage of others category.

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 cases of VAW appeared on the front pages with only 31 news items. The 3rd page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 76 news items. Similarly, page 4 and 5 has 35 and 61 news coverage respectively. Improvements can be seen in terms of allocating more space to news items of VAW.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. There were 2 follow-up news of Rape and 1 of Murder. There were 13 photos of survivors/Victims and only 6 photo of perpetrator. In this case the picture of perpetrators should be encouraged to publish to discourage the GBV issues. But in cases 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 only 32. However, Male participation in the women's issue is a positive point. 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.