

Press Release

Lalitpur 23 February 2015 - A media monitoring of 14 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from 15 January to 12 February 2015 has shown that 10 girls and women were killed in a month. There were 74 media coverage during the month related to murder 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, 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 56 coverage on rape while the incidents were 12. Likewise, the newspapers have 21 coverage on sexual harassment and cases were 6, and 16 coverage on domestic violence against women and the cases were 3. There were 58 media coverage on human trafficking while the case was single. The media have given 16 coverage for domestic violence while the incidents were 3. Traditional and religious violence had 61 media coverage and there were 4 cases. There were 67 coverage of health rights violation of women and the incidents were 3.

There has been some change in terms of placement of VAW-related news. A few serious cases have also appeared on the front page although most of the news appeared in inner pages of those newspapers. Compared to the previous month, fewer appeared on the front page with just 29 news items. The fifth page, as usual, had 97 news items - the highest number of news coverage followed by fourth and sixth pages with 72 and 63 coverage respectively.

A total of 85 news items mentioned family members as perpetrators, 14 neighbours, 8 state, 42 not mentioned and 27 others. During the one month, 7 editorials, 2 photo news, 52 articles, 116 soft news, and 331 hard news items were published. Only 45 hard- and 43 soft news and 14 opinion articles carried photo/sketch. There has been improvement in giving photo/sketch on coverage this month. Very few follow-up news items were published. Rape and murder had 2 follow-up news each and single follow-up news of witchcraft accusation.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. There are 32 photos of survivors while that of perpetrators are just 3. The trend needs to be reversed. The quote of perpetrators and existing legal provisions relating to VAW are still inadequate.

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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