

Press Release

Lalitpur 23 April 2015 - A media monitoring of 14 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from 15 March to 13 April 2015 has shown that 30 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 255 media coverage during the month related to 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, 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 85 coverage on murder while the incidents were 12. Likewise, the newspapers have 18 coverage on sexual harassment and cases were 6, and 28 coverage on domestic violence against women and cases were 5. There were 52 media coverage on health rights while the cases were 3. The media have given 10 coverage on witchcraft accusation while the incidents were 3. Traditional and religious violence had 18 media coverage and 161 coverage were on Others.

There have been some changes 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. As compared to previous month, stories appeared lesser on front page; 82 news items were printed on the first page. The fifth page had the highest number of news coverage i.e. 118 news items, followed by third and fourth pages with 103 and 80 coverage respectively. There have been some improvements in allocating more space to news items of VAW.

A total of 38 news items mentioned family members as perpetrators, 12 neighbors, 9 state, 30 not mentioned and 47 others. During the one month, 8 editorials, 13 photo news, 106 articles, 93 soft news, and 537 hard news items were published. A total of 93 hard, 42 soft news and 37 opinion articles carried photo/sketch. Only 2 follow-up news items were published on issues of rape, 7 of murder and 9 of others.

Overall, the dailies gave priority to news on VAW. There were 36 photos of survivors and 26 photos of perpetrators. This is quite positive but the trend needs to be reversed and also, the survivor's photo should only be given if she is seeking for justice. 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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