

Press Release

Lalitpur 24 September 2014 - A media monitoring commissioned by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from 1 August to 16 September 2014 has shown that 27 girls and women were killed in one and a half months. There were 97 media coverage of 27 cases of murder.

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.

A total of 14 national dailies were monitored. The newspapers had 150 coverage of 35 rapes committed in one and a half months. There were 104 media coverage of 9 cases of trafficked women and girls. Violation of health rights had 66 media coverage of 13 cases.

Traditional and religious violence had 66 media coverage, sexual harassment/torture had 55 coverage of 17 cases, and 38 coverage of 10 incidents of witch accusation. There were 28 coverage of 12 cases of domestic violence, 19 coverage on dowry-related violence, and 10 coverage of 3 cases of polygamy.

In terms of placement, most of the news appeared in inner pages of those newspapers. 43 news items were printed on the first page. The fifth page had the highest number of news coverage standing at 150. A large number of news items of VAW were given very little space.

93 news items mentioned family members as perpetrators, 37 neighbours, 23 state, 86 others, 67 news items mentioned unnamed as perpetrators. During the one and a half months period, 5 editorials, 8 photo news, 75 articles, 89 soft news, and 606 hard news items were published. Only 68 hard and 36 soft news and 27 articles carried photo/sketch.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. However, inadequacies were seen in follow-ups, use of photo/sketch in soft news, quote of perpetrators, and existing legal provisions relating to VAW.

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.

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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