

Press Release

VAW continues unabated

Lalitpur 16 July 2014 - A media monitoring commissioned by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal has shown that violence against women (VAW) continued unabated. Monitoring of 15 national dailies carried out from 1 April to 30 June 2014 has shown that these dailies carried 194 news, views and editorials of 75 rapes committed in three months.

The cases of VAW were segregated into 13 types: rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dowry-related violence, trafficking in person, murder, polygamy, witch accusation, traditional and religious, economic, health, political violence, and others.

The second biggest coverage was on the violation of health rights of women which comprises denial and deprivation of treatment. There were 114 media coverage of 23 such cases. The third biggest VAW was trafficking which had 105 media coverage of 27 trafficked women and girls.

There were 103 media coverage of 17 cases of VAW related to tradition and religion. This was the fourth in terms of coverage and occurrence of incidents. Domestic violence occupied the fifth place with 74 media coverage of 30 cases.

During the three months, there were 45 media coverage of 17 cases of murder. This is an affidavit that women in Nepal are unsafe. Similarly, there were 47 media coverage of 12 incidents of VAW related with dowry.

In terms of placement, most of the news appeared in inner pages of those newspapers. 72 news items were printed on the first page. A large number of news items of VAW were given very little space. There were very few follow-ups of the news covered. The most followed up news were rape with 6, murder with 5 and domestic violence with 4 follow-ups.

According to the findings of the monitoring, the largest number of news items showed family members as perpetrators of VAW. There were 156 news items that mentioned family members as perpetrators, 71 neighbours, 35 state, 32 unnamed and 160 news items mentioned others as perpetrators.

During the period, 8 editorials, 13 photo news, 128 articles, 143 soft news, and 773 hard news items were published by the dailies. Only 137 hard news and 78 soft news items carried photo/sketch.

Overall, the dailies accorded increasing 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, Naya Patrika, Gorkhapatra, Himalaya Times, Karobar, Rajdhani, Annapurna Post, Nepal Samacharpatra, Commander Post, and Saurya Nepali dailies and The Kathmandu Post, Republica, The Himalayan Times, and The Rising Nepal English dailies published from the capital 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 journalism.

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