

Press Release

Lalitpur February 22, 2016 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from January 15 - February 12, 2016 has shown that 10 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 33 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; witchcraft accusation; traditional and religious; and economic; health; and political rights violation; and others.

These newspapers had 42 coverage and 4 incident of murder of women and girls. Likewise, the newspapers have 8 coverage of sexual harassment with 1 case, 19 coverage of human trafficking, 49 coverage of economic right with 1 case, 18 coverage of traditional and religious violence, 9 coverage of political right, 16 coverage of Domestic Violence with 4 cases, 50 coverage of health rights with 1 case, 4 coverage of witchcraft accusation with 1 case, 1 coverage of dowry, 3 coverage of polygamy and 36 coverage and 1 case 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 case of VAW appeared on the front pages with only 11 news items. The 5th page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 48 news items. 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 6 follow-up news of murder and 1 of domestic violence. There were 14 photos of survivors/victims, only 3 photo of perpetrator and 1 photo of both. In this case the picture of perpetrators should be encouraged to publish to discourage the GBV issues. But in case 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 Yes/No ratio of 21:32. Male participation in the women's issue is a positive point but female by-liners are lesser. 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.