

## Press Release

Lalitpur June 24, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from May 15, 2015 to June 15, 2015 has shown that 13 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 54 media coverage during the month related to the 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, 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; witch accusation; traditional and religious; and economic; health; and political rights violation; and others.

These newspapers had 42 coverage of 10 women and girls were killed in a month. Likewise, the newspapers have 17 coverage of 8 cases of sexual harassment, 7 coverage of 3 cases of domestic violence, 2 coverage of 2 cases of dowry related violence, 42 coverage of human trafficking, 8 coverage of economic right, 10 coverage of 2 cases of witchcraft accusation, 9 coverage of 2 cases of traditional and religious violence, 8 coverage of political right, 92 coverage of 2 cases of health rights. News coverage related to Polygamy was observed null and 47 coverage of others category with only 1 case.

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 case of VAW appeared on the front pages with 38 news item. This time 3rd page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 62 news items followed by 2nd and 5th page with 57 and 48 coverage respectively. Comparatively improvements can be seen in terms of allocating more space to news items of VAW.

A total of 21 news item mentioned family members as perpetrators, 12 neighbours, 2 states, 25 others and 7 news incidents didn't mention the perpetrators. During the one month, 5 editorials, 2 photo news, 34 articles, 74 soft news, and 223 hard news items were published. Only 35 hard- and 46 soft news and 8 opinion articles carried photo/sketch. No improvement has been seen in giving photo/sketch on coverage this month.

Overall, the dailies accorded priority to news on VAW. There has been no improvement in follow-ups. There are 6 photos of survivors while that of perpetrators are 4. The trend needs to be reversed. The quote of perpetrators and existing legal provisions relating to VAW are still inadequate

Male participation in the women's issues is a positive point but less female bylines is the con side. Hard news with pictures/sketches is satisfactory with Yes/No ratio of 35:36. News related to women should be given more importance with a greater area of coverage and considering to be published on first and second pages 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.

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