

## Press Release

Lalitpur August 26, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from July 17, 2015 to August 17, 2015 has shown that 20 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 89 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; witch accusation; traditional and religious; and economic; health; and political rights violation; and others.

These newspapers had 49 coverage of 13 women and girls, those were killed in a month. Likewise, the newspapers have 21 coverage of sexual harassment with 6 cases, 21 coverage of domestic violence, 1 coverage of dowry related violence, 56 coverage of human trafficking, 45 coverage of economic right, 19 coverage of witchcraft accusation with 2 cases, 24 coverage of traditional and religious violence with 1 case, 77 coverage of political right, 61 coverage of health rights, 4 coverage with 3 cases of Polygamy and 72 coverage of others category.

There have been some positive 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 46 news item. This time 5<sup>th</sup> page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 89 news items followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> page with 77 and 76 coverage respectively. 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 has been some improvement in follow-ups. There were 29 photos of survivors while none of perpetrators' photo was published. In this case, the picture of perpetrators should be encouraged to publish, to discourage the GBV issues.

Male participation in the women's issue is a positive point but female by-liners are lesser. Hard news with pictures/sketches is not satisfactory with Yes/No ratio of 49:90. 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  
Sancharika Samuha