

Press Release

Lalitpur Septmber 28, 2015 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from August 18-September 17, 2015 has shown that 18 girls and women were raped in a month. There were 73 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 23 coverage with the incident of 9 women and girls, those were killed in a month. Likewise, the newspapers have 14 coverage of sexual harassment with 3 cases, 16 coverage of domestic violence with 3 cases, 61 coverage of human trafficking, 36 coverage of economic right, 3 coverage of witchcraft accusation with 1 case, 46 coverage of traditional and religious violence, 46 coverage of political right, 76 coverage of health rights with 7 cases, 4 coverage Polygamy and 72 coverage of others category. The dowry related violence cases were observed none.

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 only 17 news item. The 5th page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 70 news items followed by 4th and 3rd page with 66 and 64 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 with 2 follow-ups of economic right, 1 of rape, 1 of health right, 1 of political rights and 1 of human trafficking. There were 3 photos of survivors while only 1 photo of perpetrator photo was published. 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.

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 28:68. 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