

## Press Release

Lalitpur April 27, 2016 - A media monitoring of 15 national dailies conducted by Sancharika Samuha (SAS) Nepal from March 14 -April 12, 2016 has shown that 27 girls and women were raped with 47 media coverage in a month. Most of the rape victim were of age 10-15 (13). 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 51 coverage and 10 incident of murder of women and girls among them most of the victims falls under age 20-40(4). Likewise, the newspapers have 14 coverage of sexual harassment with 4 cases, 51 coverage of human trafficking, 81 coverage of economic right with 2 cases, 74 coverage of traditional and religious violence, 57 coverage of political right, 19 coverage of Domestic Violence with 7 cases, 56 coverage of health rights with one case, 3 coverage of witchcraft accusation with one case, 3 coverage of polygamy, 3 coverage of dowry related violence and 51 coverage 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 page with 51 news items. The 2nd page has the highest number of news coverage i.e. 86 news items. Similarly, the fifth page has 65 news coverage. 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 2 follow up news of Rape, 2 of murder and only 1 of sexual harassment. There were 26 photos of survivors/Victims and only 2 photo of perpetrator, 72 photos of others and 2 photos of both (victims and perpetrators). 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 satisfactory with Yes/No ratio of 106:74. 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.

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