



# Legal news dominate main pages in National Dailies

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING OF NATIONAL MEDIA  
(Apr-Jun 2019)





# Legal news dominate main pages

Freedom Forum presents another report of media content monitoring from nine major national dailies and six online news portals for April to June 2019. The activity is carried out with an objective of contributing to inclusive and women friendly media in Nepal, with the financial support of the Free Press Unlimited (FPU), a foundation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which works on freedom of expression issues across the world.

Monitoring is done on the news contents published on main pages of the selected national media for their bylines, sources quoted and topics category. Data obtained are then recorded into the online platform Mediascan and analyzed thereafter. Mediascan is an online data platform developed by Tuwindi Foundation, Mali in support with FPU.

## Monitored Media outlets are as follows:

**Print-** Kantipur (Kan), Gorkhapatra (GP), Nagarik (Nag), Annapurna Post (AP), NayaPatrika (NP), The Kathmandu Post (TKP), The Himalayan Times (THT), The Rising Nepal (TRN), and Republica (REP).

**Online-** [www.setopati.com](http://www.setopati.com) (Setopati),  
[www.ratopati.com](http://www.ratopati.com) (Ratopati),  
[www.onlinekhabar.com](http://www.onlinekhabar.com) (Onlinekhabar),  
[www.lokaantar.com](http://www.lokaantar.com) (Lokaantar),  
[www.baahrakhari.com](http://www.baahrakhari.com) (Baahrakhari) and  
[www.pahilopost.com](http://www.pahilopost.com) (Pahilopost)

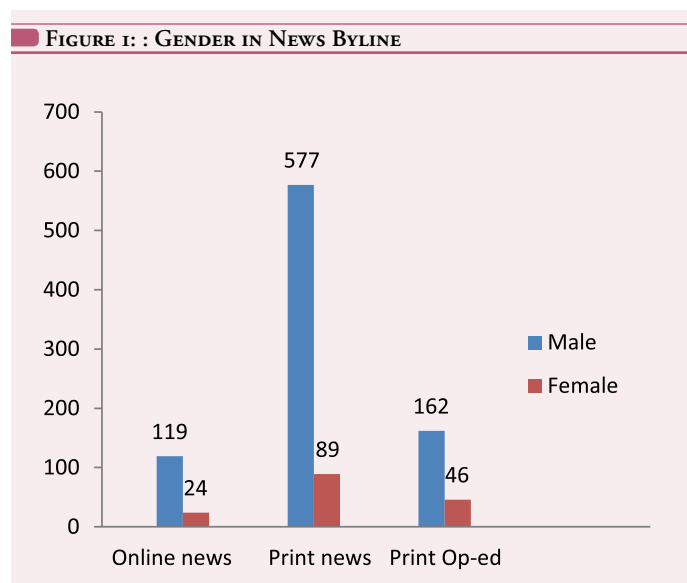
### Key Points:

January to March 2019	April to June 2019
<p>Women as reporter and article writer comprise 10% and 21% respectively in the main news stories and articles of nine print dailies monitored during three months. Likewise, online news contains 20% news with female bylines .</p> <p>Women as news sources are found 13% and 11% in print and online news.</p> <p>Highest number of female in news and op-ed byline and as news sources are found in news on social and legal issues for both online and print news monitored.</p> <p>Nagarik daily and Setopati online published the highest number of news with female byline and surprisingly The Himalayan Times contained the highest number of female-authored op-ed articles.</p> <p>The Kathmandu Post and Setopati online are found to have quoted the highest number of female as news sources as compared to others.</p> <p>As compared to previous quarter, this quarter witnesses increase in the number of female by 1% (print) and 5% (online) in news byline whereas, their presence as news sources decreases by 1% (online).</p>	<p>Among total 873 news stories, 73% showed named byline with 13% female. Among 195 op-ed articles, 22% were written by female against 78% male authors. Likewise, 360 online news stories revealed 17% female in bylines.</p> <p>Women as news sources comprise 13% and 10% in print and online news stories respectively.</p> <p>Highest number of female in news and op-ed byline (41%) and as news sources (34%) are found in social news on print media but their maximum presence as sources (26%) is found in news about science and health on online media.</p> <p>Comparing individually, Gorkhapatra (state-owned) daily and Setopati online contained the highest number of news with female in byline while Kantipur containing maximum women authored op-ed articles.</p> <p>The Kathmandu Post and Onlinekhabar are found to quote the highest number of female as news sources in their main news contents.</p> <p>Comparing to the previous quarter, news from print media show increase in the number of female in news byline by 3% but decrease by 3% on online media. Again, number of women as news sources remain same on print news but decreases by 1% on online news.</p>

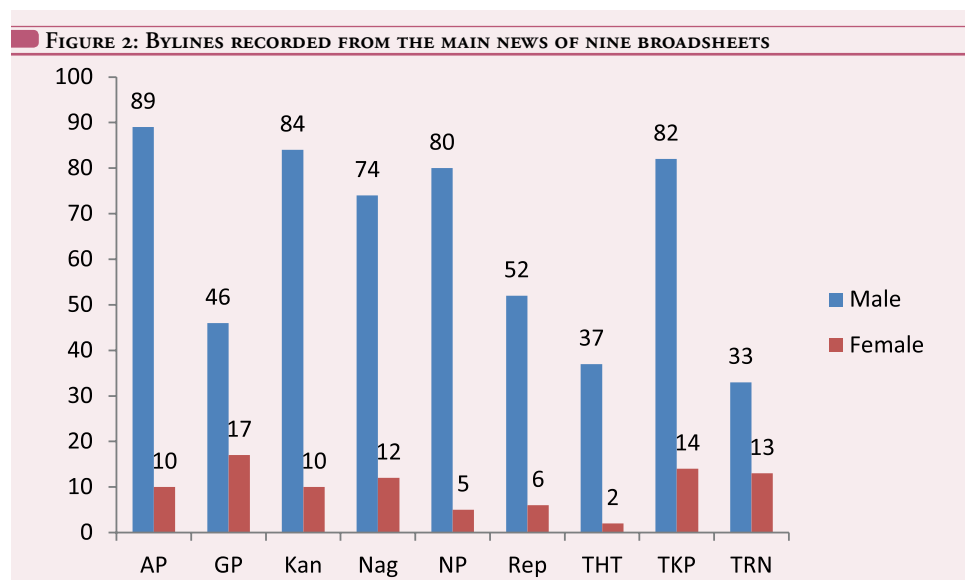
## Analysis

### 1. Gender In News Byline:

Overall, 1068 news and articles combined from nine broadsheets and 360 news stories from six online portals were scanned from April to June 2018. Among 1068 stories from broadsheets, 873 were news from main pages whereas 195 were articles from op-ed pages. Three-month-long monitoring of main news stories from the broadsheets had 666 named bylines. Among which, 13% was of female and remaining 87% of male. Remaining 244 stories contained unspecified bylines such as Staff Reporter, News service, etc.

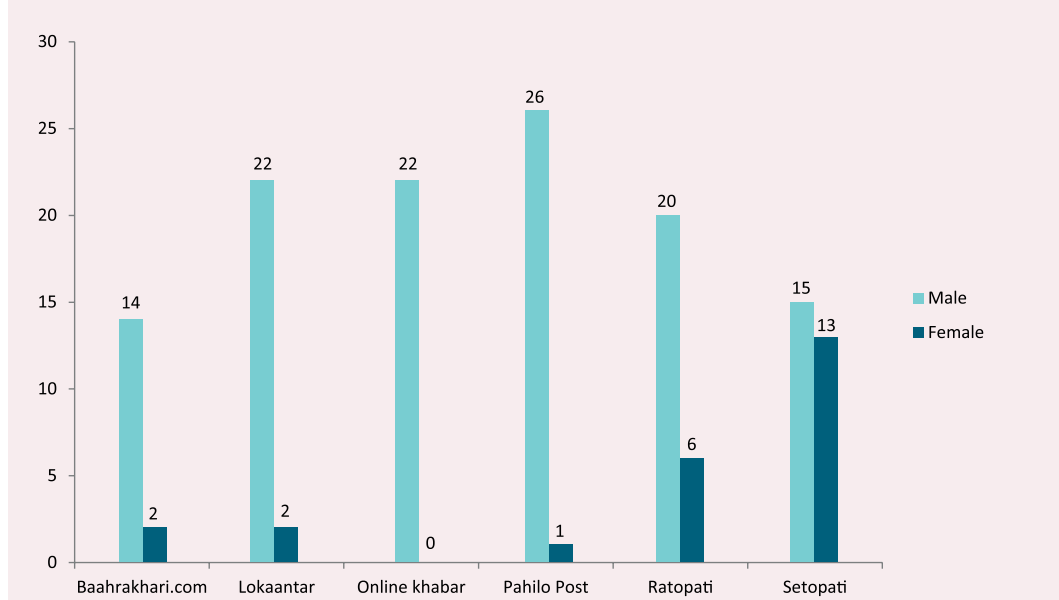


Among the scanned broadsheets, news from Gorkhapatra followed by TKP showed the highest number of female bylines whereas, those from Annapurna Post showed the highest number of male bylines.



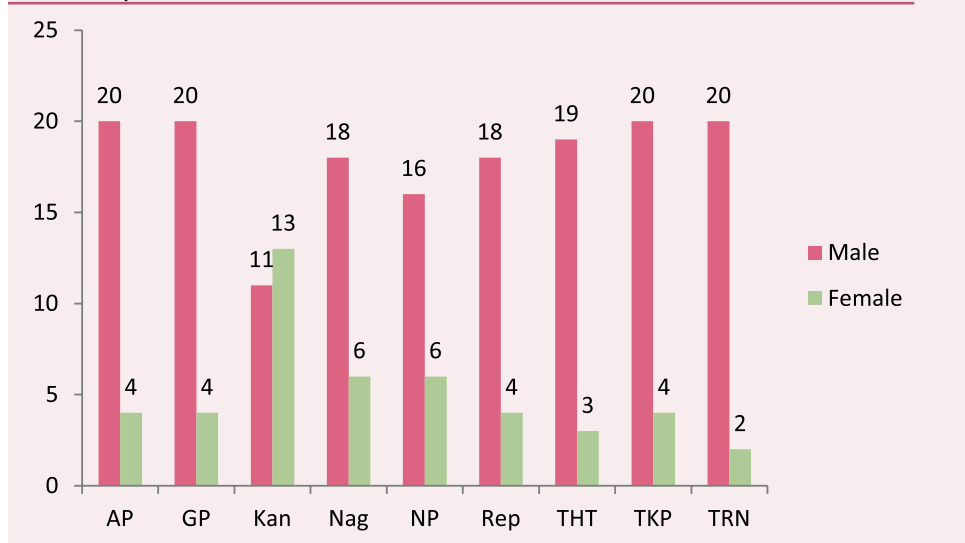
Similarly, among 360 news stories scanned from home pages of the selected online news portals, 143 showed named bylines -17% female and 83% male. Among them, Setopati contributed to the highest number of female in news bylines, whereas Pahilopost contained the news stories with highest number of male bylines. However, approximately 60% of the total news scanned did not show any byline. The Onlinekhabar did not show any news with female byline.

**FIGURE 3: BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE MAIN NEWS OF SIX ONLINE NEWS PORTALS**



Again, scanning of 195 articles from nine broadsheets' op-ed pages resulted in 22% articles by female authors against 78% male authors. Comparing among the broadsheets, Kantipur was found to have published the highest number of articles written by women authors.

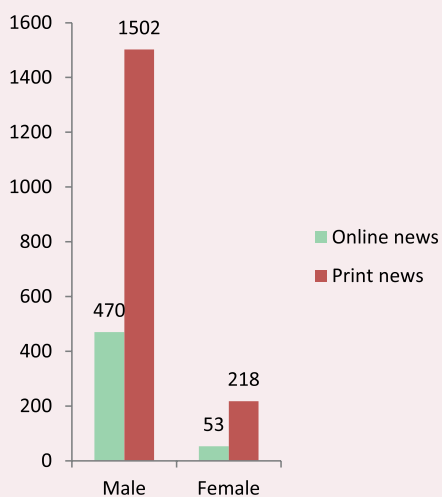
**FIGURE 4: AUTHORS OF OP-ED ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON NINE BROADSHEETS**



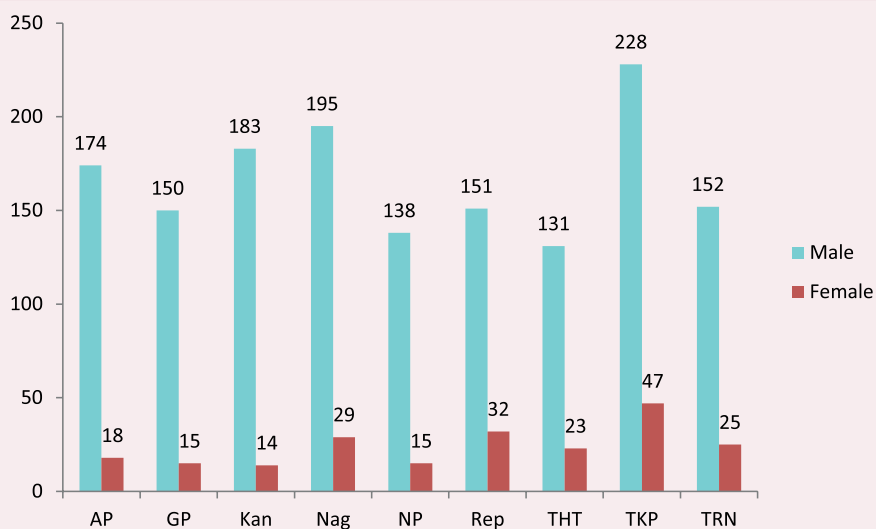
## 2. Gender in News sources:

Monitoring of 873 news stories from nine broadsheets quoted 1,720 persons as news sources, among which, 13% are women and remaining 87% men. Comparing among the broadsheets, TKP was found quoting the highest number of both men and women as news sources in the news published on the main pages.

**FIGURE 5: GENDER IN NEWS SOURCES**

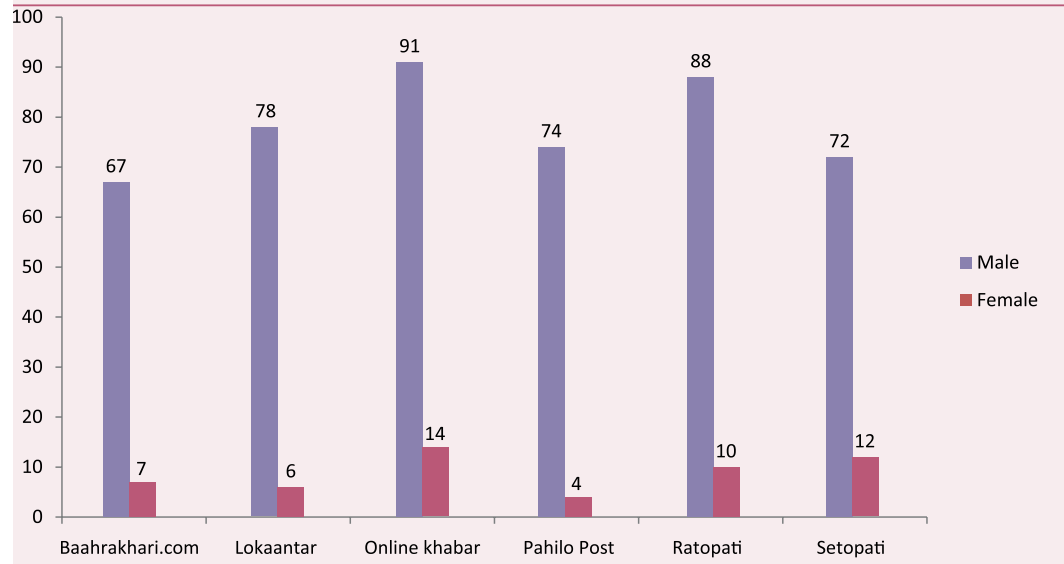


**FIGURE 6: SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS SCANNED FROM NINE BROADSHEETS**



For 360 news stories scanned from online portals, 523 people were found quoted as news sources among which, 10% the women and 90% the men. Despite zero female bylines, news stories from Onlinekhabar quoted the highest number of both men and women as sources.

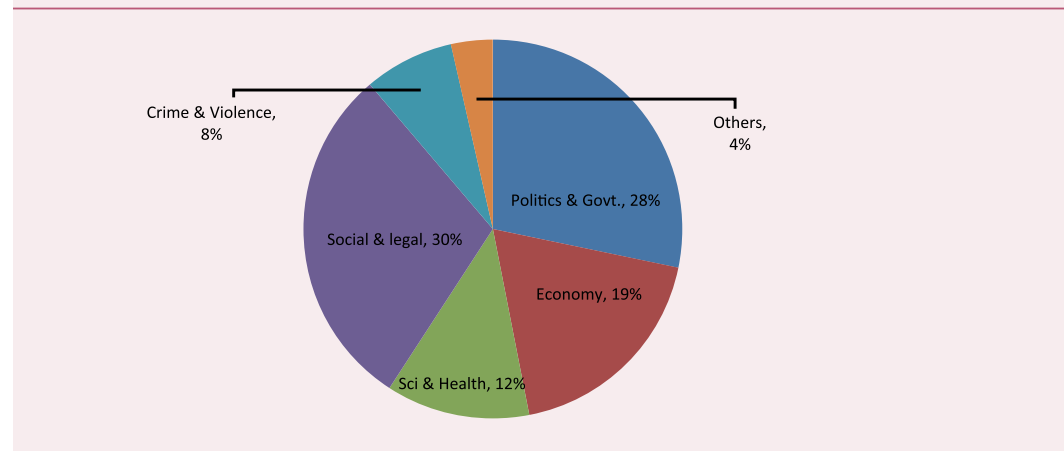
**FIGURE 7: SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS SCANNED FROM SIX ONLINE NEWS PORTALS**



Majority of the news sources was found to be government official, political party leaders, etc. who were presented in the role of spokesperson and experts in the news stories.

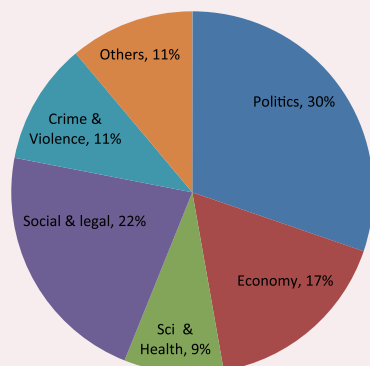
**3. Topics of the stories :** While scanning through the topics of the news stories from the broadsheets, majority (30%) was found related to social and legal issues followed by political news (28%). THT (42) followed by TKP (41) was found publishing the highest number of social news on its front page in comparison to other broadsheets. The least covered were the news about media, arts, celebrity and others in all broadsheets.

**FIGURE 8: TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS SCANNED FROM THE BROADSHEETS**



In news contents scanned from online media, out of 360 stories, 30% news stories are about politics and government followed by 22% social and legal news. Among six online portals, Lokaantar published the highest number of political news, whereas Onlinekhabar published the highest number of social news.

**FIGURE 9: TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS SCANNED FROM THE ONLINE PORTALS**

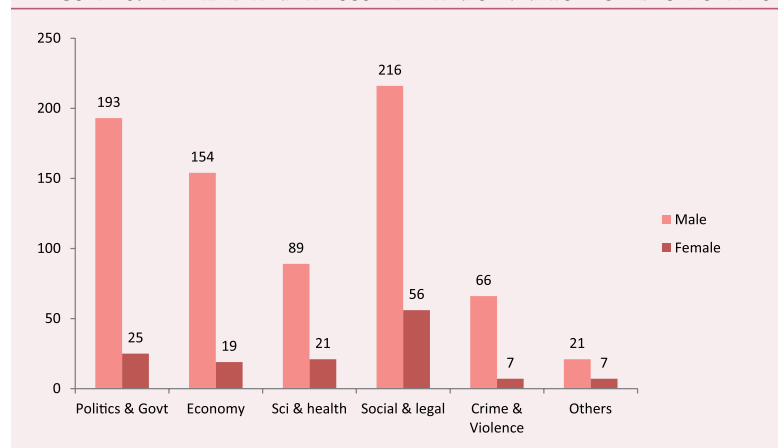


#### 4. People in the news:

##### i) Print Media

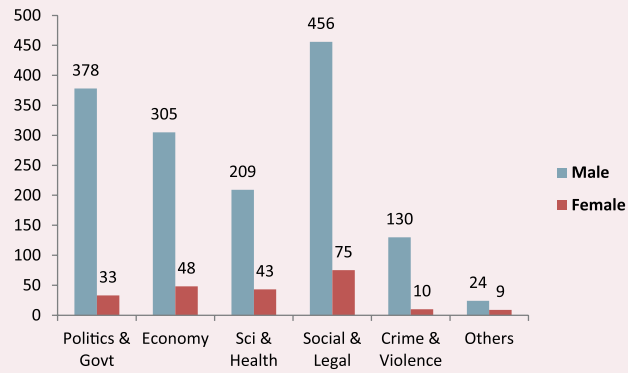
According to the data recorded from broadsheets during three months, total of 874 news bylines and 1,720 quoted sources were recorded. Among 874 bylines of the main news stories and op-ed articles, the highest number of both male and female byline was recorded from the news about social and legal issues.

**FIGURE 10: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS**



Similarly, among 1,720 sources recorded majority of both men and women were quoted in the news about social and legal issues.



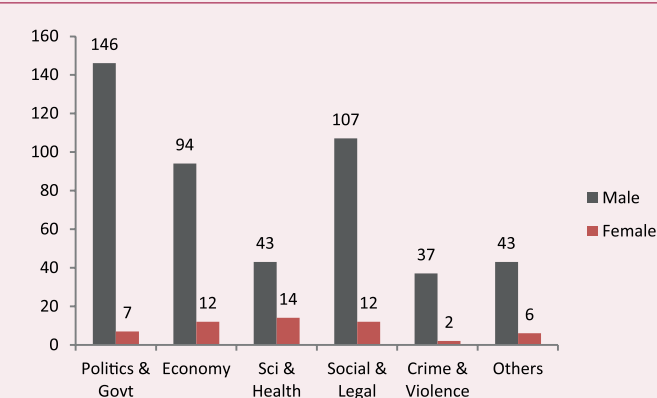
**FIGURE II: FEMALE SOURCE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS**

## ii) Online Media

Out of 143 news bylines recorded from online portals during same three months, majority has been recorded from news about social and legal issues.

**FIGURE 12: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM ONLINE NEWS PORTALS**

But the highest number of women as news sources was quoted in news about science and health and the highest number of men was quoted in news about politics and government.

**FIGURE 13: FEMALE SOURCE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM ONLINE NEWS PORTALS**

## 5. Stories about women:

Among 1,068 stories scanned from nine broadsheets, 40 are stories about women and 11 stories challenge stereotype against women. Moreover, out of total news with female byline 33 were published on the first pages of the scanned broadsheets where GP and TRN contributed the highest (9 each).

In case of news stories from six online news portals, among 360 stories, 40 are stories about women and 13 challenge stereotype against those. Setopati is found publishing the highest number of stories about women according to data and it is followed by the Pahilopost.

### Few stories about women

*a. This time again I conquered the fear (Setopati, Kathmandu, April 18):* The story is based on travel experience of a female actor Manisha Koirala who is also a cancer survivor. Despite being a cancer survivor, Koirala planned for a trek to the Everest Base Camp. In the story, she describes her journey, which, according to her, was exciting and difficult too. She also realized that nothing was impossible in the world after the travel. The story challenges stereotype against women.

*b. A powerful man who brought twists and turns to Nirmala's case (Who Killed Nirmala, Series 26), Pahilopost, April 18:* This story describes several twists in the case of rape and murder of a teenage girl Nirmala Panta. Even after nine months of the incident, police have not identified nor arrested the perpetrators according to the story. The story also describes a person who is responsible to divert the case on his own interest thus lingering the investigation. Despite massive protests and demonstrations through social media and in the street, the case has not been solved yet. The story hence, highlights inequality and warrants further analysis.

*c. 17% teenagers become mother at the age of 10-19 (Ratopati, Kathmandu, May 30):* The news with female in byline quotes a report as stating 17% girls in Nepal conceive in their teenage which make them more prone to several pre-mature pregnancy risks. They are also deprived of basic education. The story also recommends government to formulate and implement laws to ensure youths' right to basic healthcare and education through extensive discussion at local and federal level. Hence, the story challenges stereotype by prodding government to address the major issues of female and youth.

*d. In educated and elite Nepali circles, a different kind of "menstrual huts" (The Kathmandu Post, May 28, Kathmandu):* The story describes the fact that not only in rural areas but also in urban cities, women are forced to stay isolated during menstruation. It also quotes a study report, stating almost 50% women living in cities avoid social gatherings and stay in separate space than families during the period. However, they feel bad and hesitated. They are forced to practice the taboo due to family pressure. Hence, the story perpetuates stereotype for female and warrants further analysis.

## 6. Comparative trend

As compared to the previous quarter (January to March) presence of women in news byline show increasing trend for all the broadsheets except for Nagarik and NayaPatrika this quarter.

FIGURE 14: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS FROM JAN-JUNE 2019

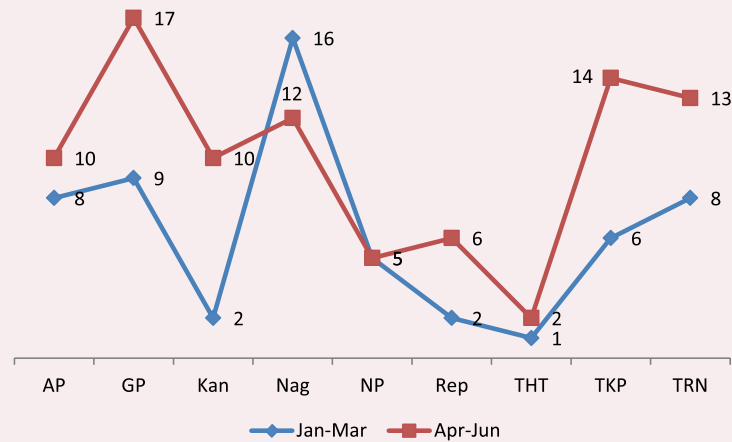
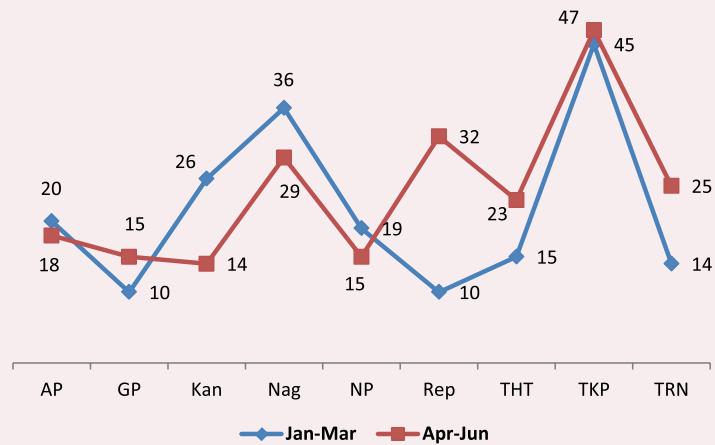


FIGURE 15: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS FROM JAN-JUNE 2019



However, presence of women as news sources is found in decreasing trend in the broadsheets except for Gorkhapatra, Republica, THT, TKP and TRN.

FIGURE 16: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN ONLINE NEWS FROM JAN-JUNE 2019

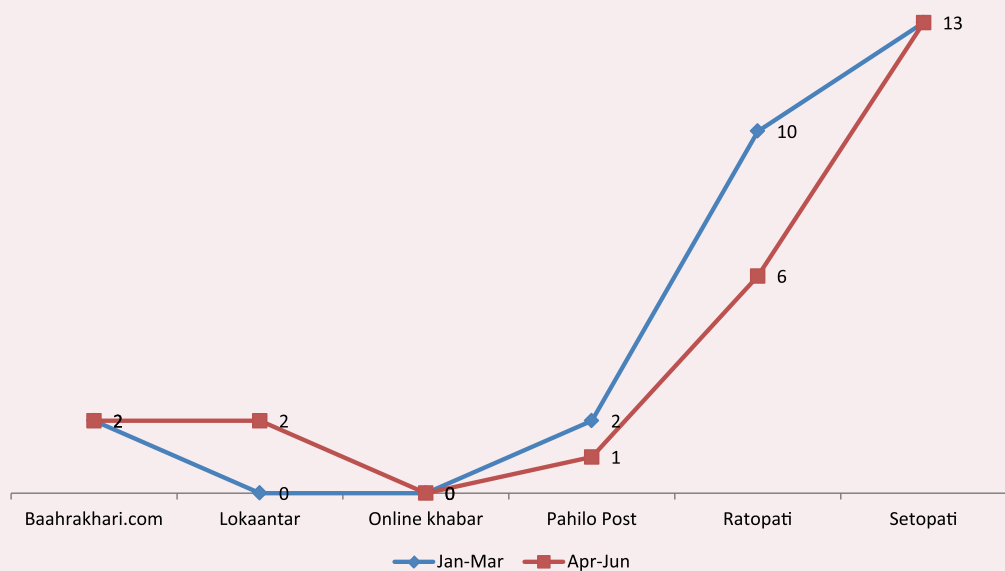
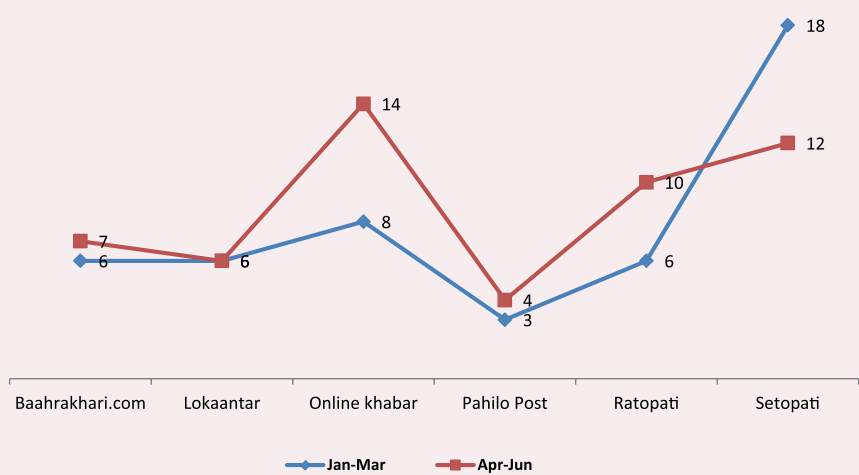


FIGURE 17: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN ONLINE NEWS FROM JAN-JUNE 2019



On the other hand, online news portals too show slightly increasing trend for presence of women in news byline except for Baahrakhari, Onlinekhabar and Setopati. Similarly, number of women quoted as news sources is also found slightly more than the previous quarter in Baahrakhari, Onlinekhabar, Pahilopost and Ratopati.

## Conclusion:

Coming to the third year of monitoring of Nepali media contents for their inclusion of gender, Freedom Forum observed various fluctuations on trends of data. However, this quarter recorded increase in the presence of women in byline by 3% on news from print media, whereas their presence on news from online media decreases by 3% as compared to the previous quarter. Nevertheless, the data for women in news byline in print media is the highest among data recorded till date.

Women as the op-ed authors in nine broadsheets scanned for three months revealed 22% inclusion which is increase by 1% against the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, data for gender inclusion in news sources reflect similar or decreasing trend as compared to the previous quarters for both online and print media news stories.

However, unlike past records legal news have been found to be given priority on the first page of the major national dailies in this quarter, while online media contents show majority of political news on their home pages.

Among the broadsheets, Gorkhapatra (State-owned) daily published the highest number of news with female byline and Kantipur contained the highest number of female-authored op-ed articles. The Kathmandu Post on the other hand, is found quoting the highest number of female as news sources as compared to other broadsheets.

Likewise, among the online news portals, Setopati showed the highest inclusion of female in news bylines and Onlinekhabar as news sources.

Notably, in this quarter, 33 news stories with female in byline were published on the first pages of different broadsheets.

Overall, with the state-owned media contributing to the highest number of women in news byline on first pages of the mainstream dailies, this quarter presents satisfactory participation of women in Nepal media.





Freedom Forum is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit civil society organization working for the cause of social accountability, democracy and human rights focused on press freedom, freedom of expression and right to information in Nepal. Incepted in 2005, Freedom Forum has emerged as a prominent national organization in promoting access to information and freedom of expression through dialogue, research, training, public advocacy and campaign and programme implementation. Currently, the organization is working on the issues of public finance management, budget transparency, open data and aid governance, political and parliamentary accountability, freedom of expression online and open government partnership (OGP) based on its on-hand experience and learning.

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