



Women Byline up by 2%

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING OF PROVINCE MEDIA



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Freedom Forum has been monitoring news contents of print media at province level since 2018 to observe the representation of women. Monitoring is based on the news published on the front pages with their bylines, quoted sources and topics of the story.

The monitoring reports were shared in the discussions held during two interfaces at province levels which became helpful to whet the editorial sensitization on the media contents they publish. This report (from April to June 2019) is based on data and findings of the monitoring done on 21 dailies published from different districts of seven provinces. The data generated through three months long study serve as an evidence-based advocacy tool for increasing women's presence in province media.

Name of the media outlets monitored

Province 1- Blast Times, Udghosh and Purwanchal daily
 Province 2- Krishna, Prateek and Janakpur Today
 Province 3- Kayakairan, Hetauda Sandesh and Chitwan Post
 Gandaki Province - Samadhan, Adarsha Samaaj and Lokwani
 Province 5- Dainik Nepalgunj, Butwal Today and Nayayugbodh
 Karnali Province - Malika Post, Hamro Akhabar and Dhamaka daily
 Far-West Province - Sundaranchal, Hill Times and Paschim Today

Key Findings:

January to March 2019	April to June 2019
This time, 1005 news were monitored which revealed 7% news with female bylines among 281 bylines recorded.	Among total 1004 news stories scanned from the main pages of 21 province dailies, 24% showed named byline with 9% names of female and remaining 91% names of male journalists.
Amongst all, Kayakairan daily (Province 3) had the highest number of news with female byline, while Blast Times (Province-1) recorded the highest number of news with male byline.	Amongst the dailies monitored, Kayakairan (Pro 3), Butwal Today (Pro 5) and Hill Times (Far-west Province) dailies published the highest number of news with female byline.
Among 2089 person sources quoted in news contents, 87% were male and 13% female.	While scanning the same news stories for sources quoted, 13% were found to be women with 87% men.

News stories scanned from Chitwan Post daily (Province 3) quoted the highest number of female sources whereas, Naya Yougbodh (Province 5) quoted the highest number of male as news sources.	Udghosh daily (Pro 1) is found to quote the highest number of female as news sources as compared to other dailies. News from Chitwan Post (Pro 3) quoted the highest number of men as news sources.
Yet again, news on social and legal issues (23%) dominate the main pages of Province media outlets followed by business (22%) and then political news (20%).	This quarter's monitoring recorded majority of news on business issues (28%) on the main pages of selected broadsheets followed by news on social and legal issues (22%).
Maximum number of women in byline and as sources is found in the news about social and legal issues followed by those in business and political news.	The highest number of female in news byline (33%) is found in social and legal news whereas, their maximum presence as news sources (30%) is found in business news.
Comparing the data with previous quarter, women's presence in news byline decreases by 8% and by 1% as news sources.	As compared to previous quarter (Jan-Mar), this quarter witnesses increase in the number of female in news byline by 2% with equal percentage of those as news sources.

Analysis

A) Gender in News Byline:

Total 1004 news stories were scanned for their bylines from 21 province dailies during April to June. Scanning resulted only 24% stories with byline whereas, remaining 76% contained no byline such as Udghosh reporter, Paschim Today, etc.

Among total 238 news with bylines recorded from 1004 stories, 21 are of female reporters against 217 names of male reporters.

Among the dailies published from seven provinces, those from Province 3 are found to include more news with female in byline than those from other provinces.

FIGURE 1: NEWS BYLINES RECORDED IN NEWSPAPERS ACCORDING TO PROVINCES

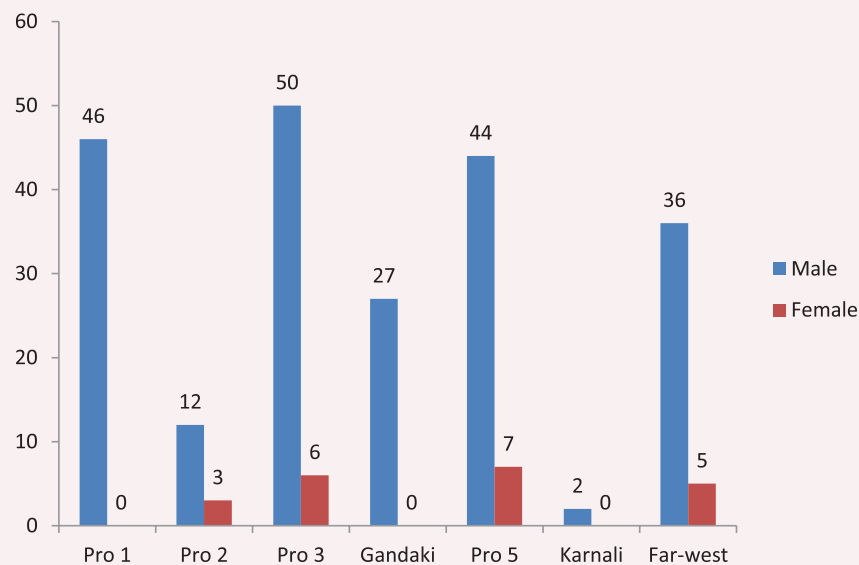
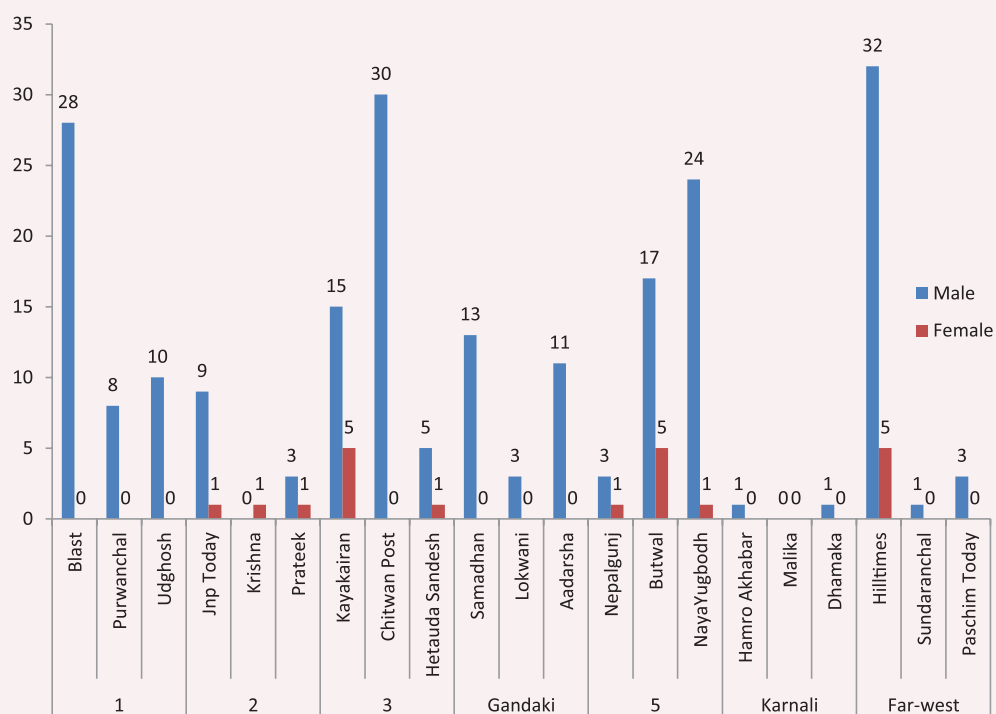


FIGURE 2: NEWS BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE 21 NEWSPAPERS MONITORED FROM PROVINCES



Comparing among the dailies from all seven provinces, Kayakairan published from Province 3, Butwal Today from Province 5 and Hill Times from Far-west Province contained the highest number of news with female byline. Likewise, Hill Times from Far-west Province contained news with maximum number of male bylines (Figure 2).

B) Gender in News sources:

Those 1004 news stories from 21 province dailies were again scanned for their inclusion of gender in the news sources quoted. Scanning revealed 13% women against 87% men as news sources in the selected main news

FIGURE 3: SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS MONITORED FROM NEWSPAPERS OF DIFFERENT PROVINCES

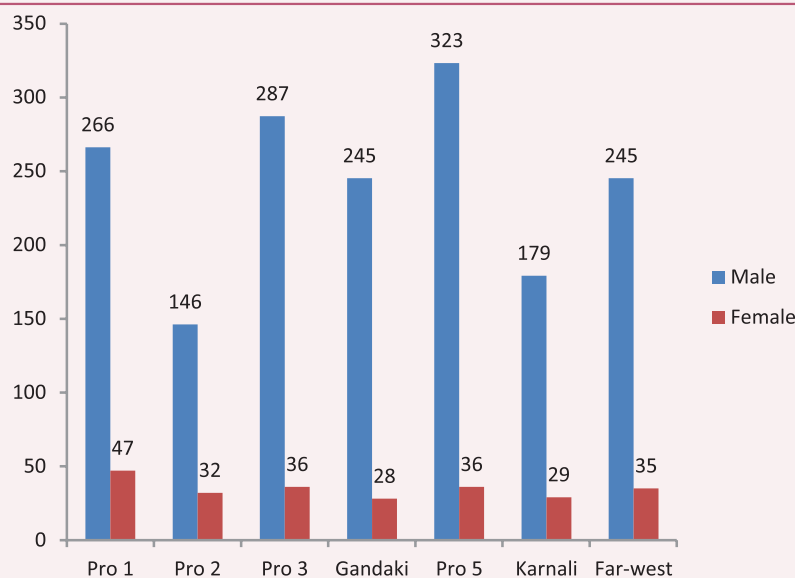
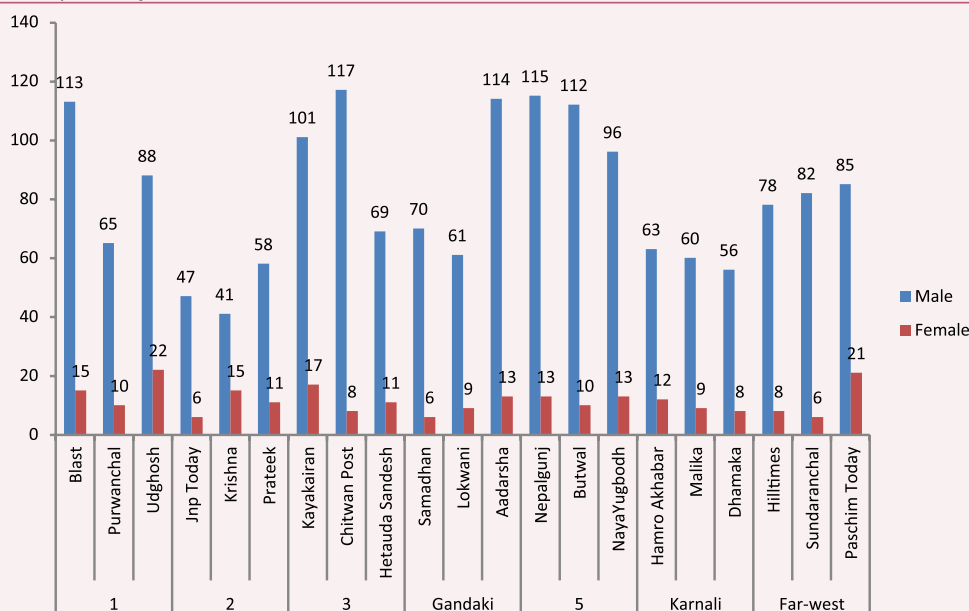


FIGURE 4: SOURCES QUOTED IN THE NEWS MONITORED FROM 21 PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS



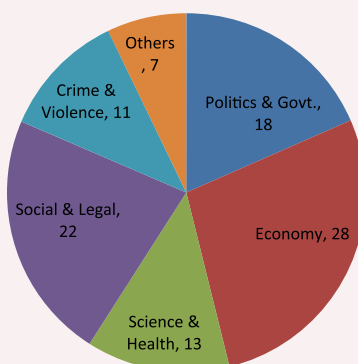
stories. Overall, news contents monitored from dailies of Province 1 are found to include more voices of women as compared to those from other provinces.

Again, Udghosh daily (Province 1) is found to quote the highest number of women as news sources as compared to other dailies. News from Chitwan Post (Province 3) quoted the highest number of men as news sources (Figure 4).

C) Topic of the story:

During three months long monitoring of news contents, news stories selected from major pages of the province dailies were also categorized according to their headlines. Those stories were categorized under six different categories namely; Politics and Government, Economic, Science and Health, Social and Legal, Crime and Violence and others.

FIGURE 5: TOPICWISE (NEWS HEADLINE) DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS MONITORED FROM PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS

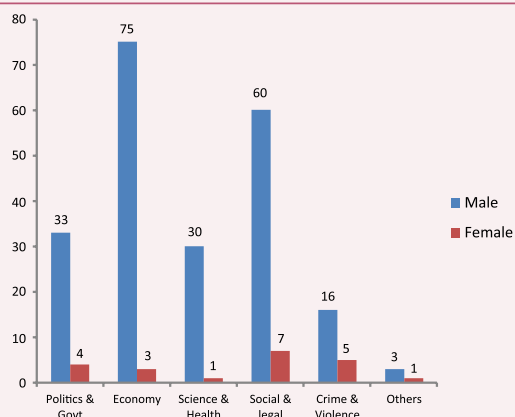


The highest number of news stories are found to be about business issues (28%) followed by social/ legal (22%) and then, political issues (18%). Among the provinces, dailies from Karnali province are found to publish maximum number of news about business issues. However, dailies published from Province 2 are found publishing more political stories as compared to others.

D. People in the news

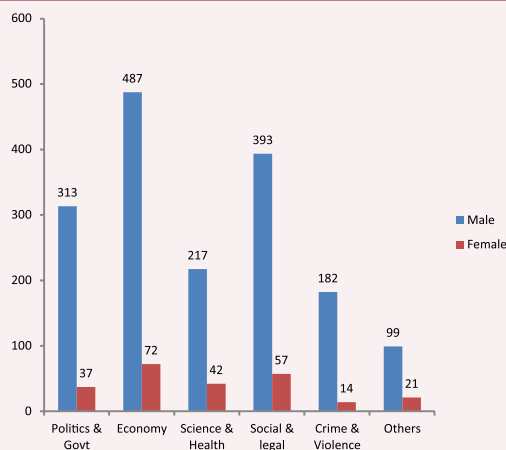
Reporters' bylines and news sources quoted in the news scanned for three months are again scrutinized for their relation with topic of the stories. Analysis revealed irrespective of the maximum number of business news, the highest number of female byline is found in the news about social and legal issues whereas the highest number of male byline is found in the news about economy.

FIGURE 6: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES NEWSPAPERS



Analysis of the news sources quoted in the news contents revealed that the highest number of both men and women as sources are derived from news on economy. Secondly, maximum number of both as sources is found in the news on social/ legal issues.

FIGURE 7: WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCE VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES NEWSPAPERS

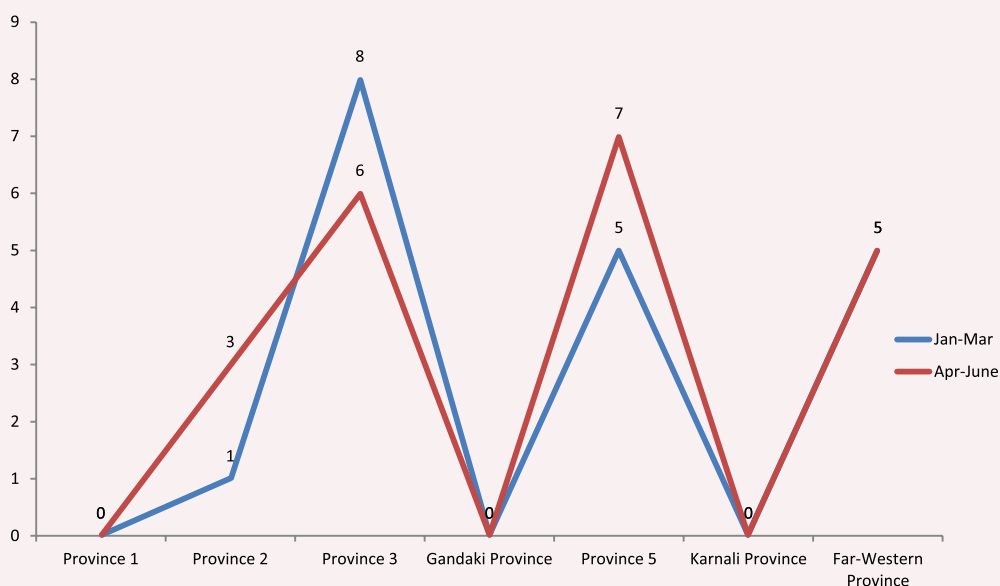


E) Comparative trend

The number of women in news byline and sources recorded during these three months were also compared with those of previous quarter. The comparison revealed increase of women in news byline by 2% in this quarter whereas; their presence as news sources remains same as the last quarter (Jan-Mar 2019).

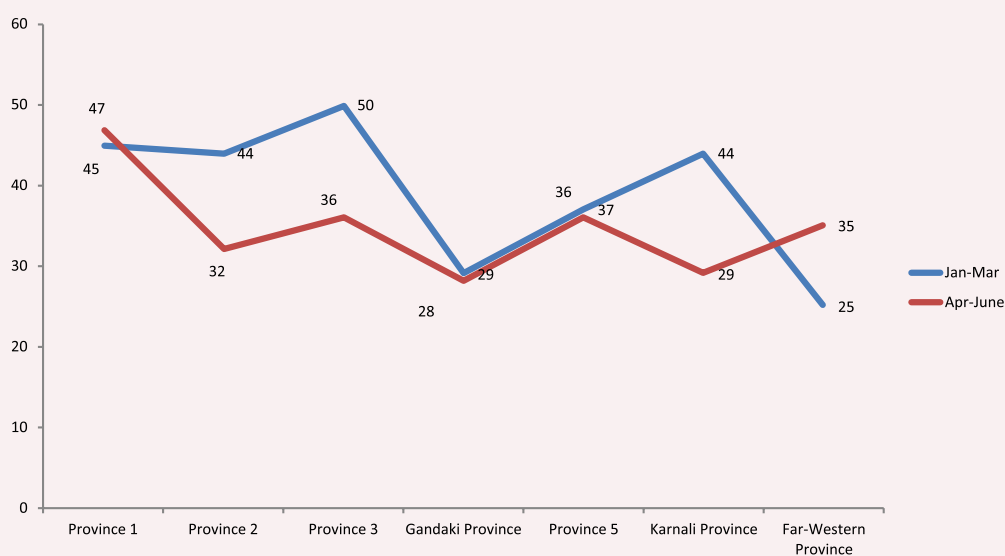
Looking into the provinces, dailies monitored from Provinces 2 and 5 show slight increase in the number of female bylined stories whereas, dailies published from Provinces 1, Gandaki and Karnali failed to show any female bylined news stories in both the quarters.

FIGURE 8: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN PROVINCE NEWS IN SIX MONTHS



Even though, overall percentage of women as news sources in the selected province dailies remains same; data for individual province show slight change. Dailies published from Provinces 1 and Far-west show slight increase in the number of women as news sources as compared to the last quarter.

FIGURE 9: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE AS NEWS SOURCES IN PROVINCE NEWS IN SIX MONTHS



F) Stories about women:

Among 1004 stories monitored during this period, only 27 were about women or the issue related to those with very few presenting those in challenging role. Amongst all, news published on the dailies from Province 5 contained maximum number of stories about women (12).

Observation:

The report presents findings of three months long monitoring of main news contents from 21 dailies published from seven provinces of Nepal. According to the data, women share 9% space as news reporter with men in the major news stories published on the front page of the dailies. This is an increase by 2% in comparison to the last quarter.

Similarly, women comprise 13% among the total news sources quoted in the stories which, however is to the last quarter. Analysis of the news stories for their topic category suggest that majority of the stories published on the front page of the dailies are about business in contrary to those from national dailies. In national dailies, majority of the stories are about political issues.

Even though maximum number of news are about economy in the province dailies, more female bylines are found in the news about social and legal issues. Likewise, maximum number of women as news sources is found in the business news.

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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