



Females Byline Highest in Social-Legal News

GENDER CONTENT MONITORING REPORT OF PROVINCIAL MEDIA

(July-September 2019)



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Freedom Forum hereby, presents another report of its continuous monitoring of media contents from the newspaper representing all seven Provinces. The activity is conducted as part of the project 'Contributing to the Atmosphere Conducive to FoE, Reduced Impunity and Inclusive Media (CACFRIIM) in Nepal' supported by Free Press Unlimited (FPU), an institution based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which works on freedom of expression and information issues across the world.

The report presents findings on gender inclusion in news byline, news sources and their correlation with the headlines. It also serves as an evidence based tool to advocate for and create gender friendly news contents in province media outlets.

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 Naya Yugbodh

Karnali Province - Malika Post, Hamro Akhabar and Dhamaka daily

Far-West Province - Sundaranchal, Hill Times and Paschim Today

Key Points:

April-June

- 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 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.
- While scanning the same news stories for sources quoted, 13% were found to be women with 87% men.
- Udghosh daily (Pro 1) is found quoting 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.
- 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%).
- 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.
- As compared to previous quarter (April to June), this quarter witnesses increase in the number of female in news byline by 2% with equal percentage of those as news sources.

July-September

- Among total **1004 news stories** scanned from the main pages of 21 province dailies, 25% showed named byline with 5% names of female and remaining 95% names of male journalists.
- Amongst the dailies monitored, Hill Times (Far-west Province) dailies published the highest number of news with female byline.
- While scanning the same news stories for sources quoted, 12% were found to be women with 88% men.
- Prateek daily (Pro 2) is found quoting the highest number of female as news sources as compared to other dailies. News from Butwal Today (Pro 5) quoted the highest number of men as news sources.
- This quarter's monitoring recorded majority of news on business and social issues (25%) on the main pages of selected broadsheets followed by news on politics and government (16%).
- The highest number of female in news byline is found in social and legal news by 36% whereas, their maximum presence as news sources is found in business news by 28%.
- As compared to the previous quarter (April to June), this quarter witnesses decrease in the number of female in news byline by 4% and 1% as news sources.

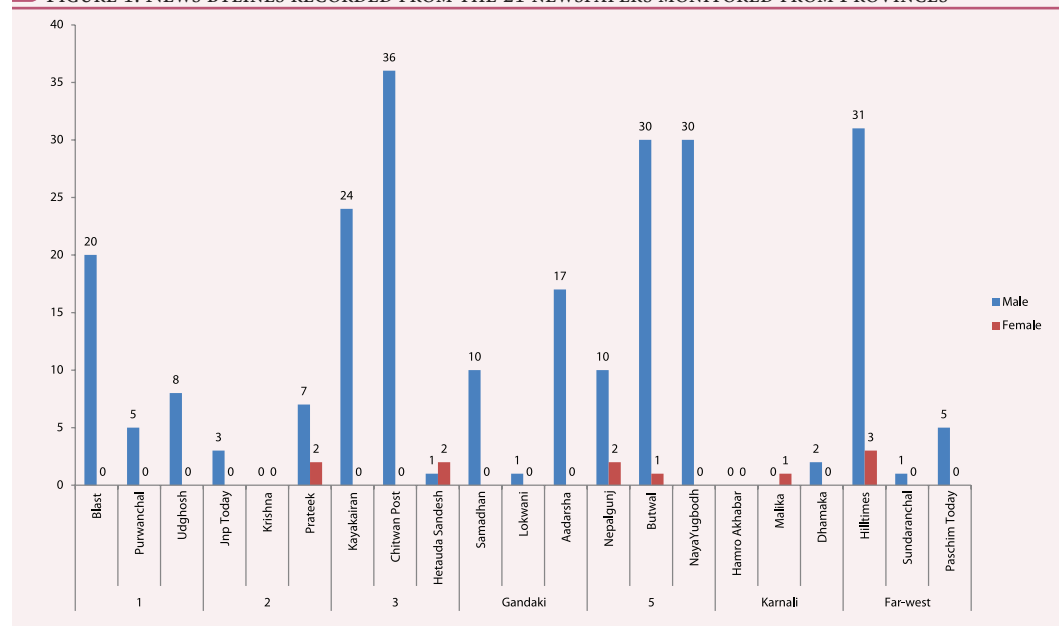
Analysis

A) Gender in News Byline

Total 1004 news were scanned during three months, i.e. July to September. Scanning revealed that only 5% byline of women in the news against 95% men. Among monitored 21 dailies from the provinces, Hill Times from Far-west Province constitute the highest number of women in news byline and Chitwan Post published from Province 3 contains the highest number of male byline.

However, compared to previous data this quarter recorded the least number of women in bylines. Only 25% of the total main news stories published on the dailies contain bylines of male and female journalists.

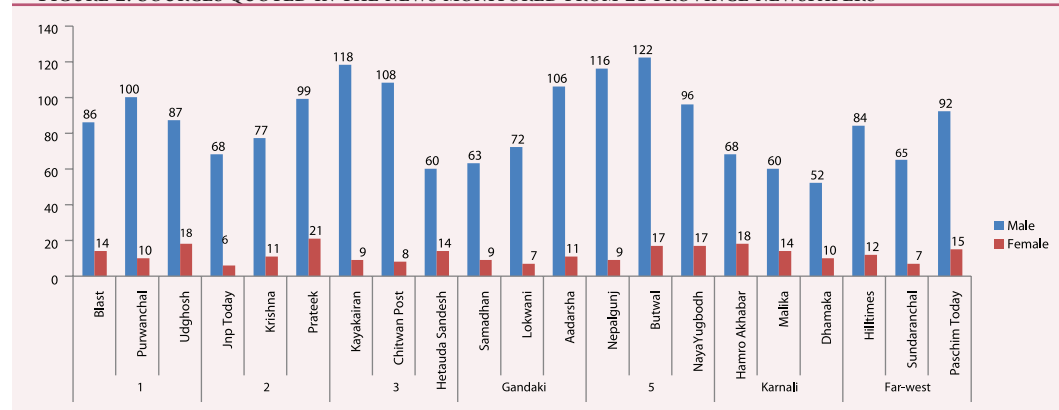
FIGURE 1: NEWS BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE 21 NEWSPAPERS MONITORED FROM PROVINCES



2. Gender in News Sources:

Among 2056 person identified as news sources from 1004 news stories scanned from selected 21 province dailies, 12% are women and remaining 88% are men. Among the dailies, news published on Prateek daily published from Province 2 quoted the highest number of women as news sources, whereas those from Butwal Today published from Province 5 quoted the highest number of men as new sources.

FIGURE 2: SOURCES QUOTED IN THE NEWS MONITORED FROM 21 PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS

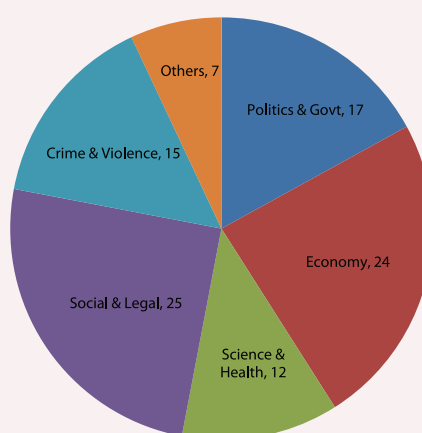


3. Topic of stories:

During this quarter, selected **1004** news stories from main pages of the dailies were categorized according to their headlines into six different categories. Among those stories, majority (**25%**) are found to be about social issues followed by economic stories (**24%**).

Again, comparing among the dailies those published from Province 3 (Kayakairan, Chitwan Post and Hetauda Sandesh) contain the highest number of news about business, social and legal issues.

FIGURE 3: TOPICWISE (NEWS HEADLINE) DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS MONITORED FROM PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS



D. People in the news:

Even though least number of news with female in byline is recorded in this quarter, maximum are in news about social and legal news followed by business news. Likewise, maximum number of male byline is recorded in the news about business issues. News about crime and entertainment/ sports shows no any female byline.

FIGURE 4: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES NEWSPAPERS

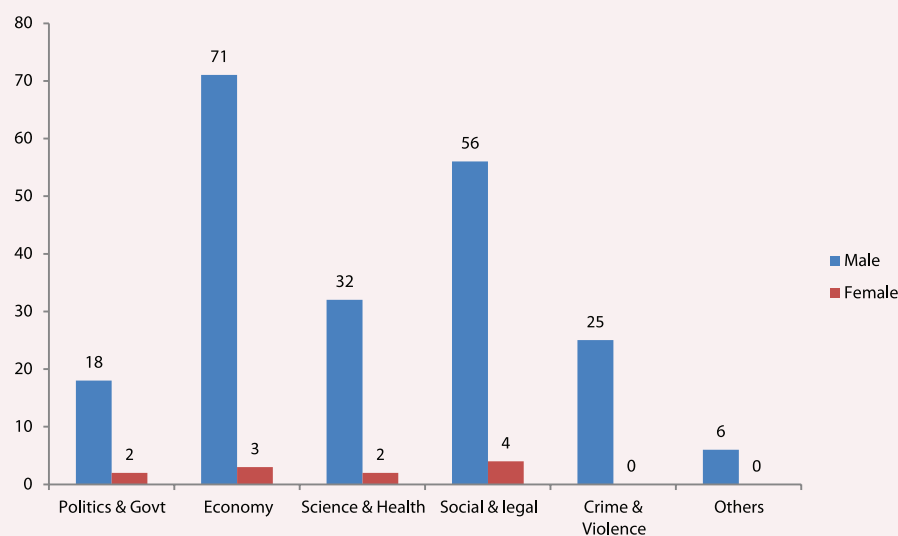
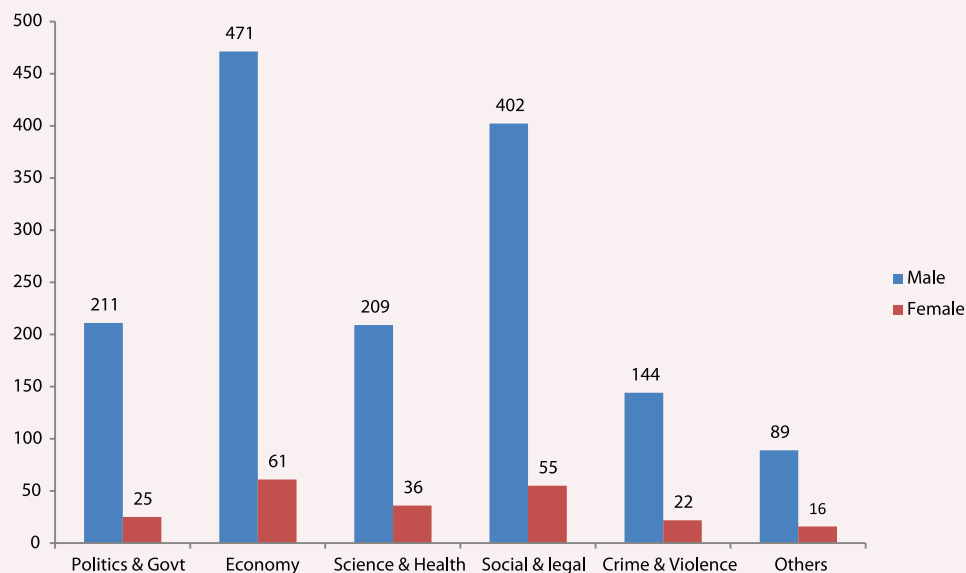


FIGURE 5: WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCE VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES NEWSPAPERS



Again, segregating the data on gender in news sources under topics category reveals the highest number of both male and female voices in the news about business issues followed by social news in both the cases.

5. Comparative trend:

Comparison of data recorded during second (April to June 2019) and third quarter (July to September 2019) show clear decrease in the number of female bylined news as shown in figure 7. This quarter shows decrease of female byline by 4% and increase of male byline by 4% as compared to the last quarter (April to June 2019).

FIGURE 6: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN NEWS FROM DAILIES FROM APR-SEPT

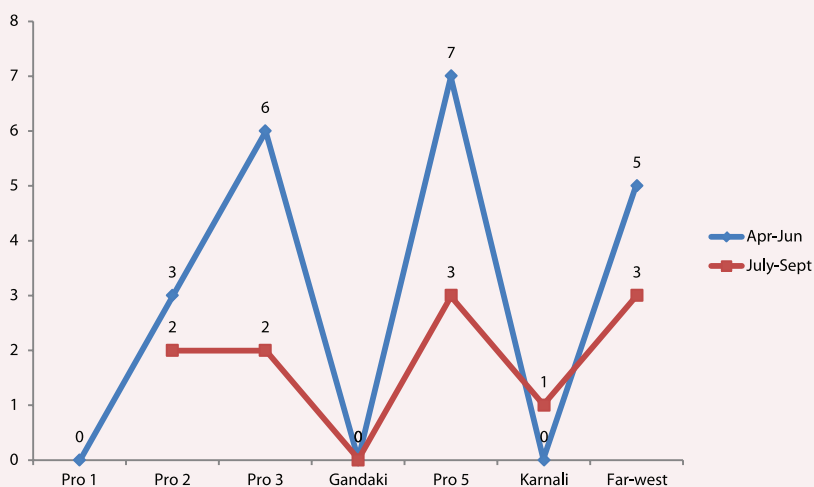
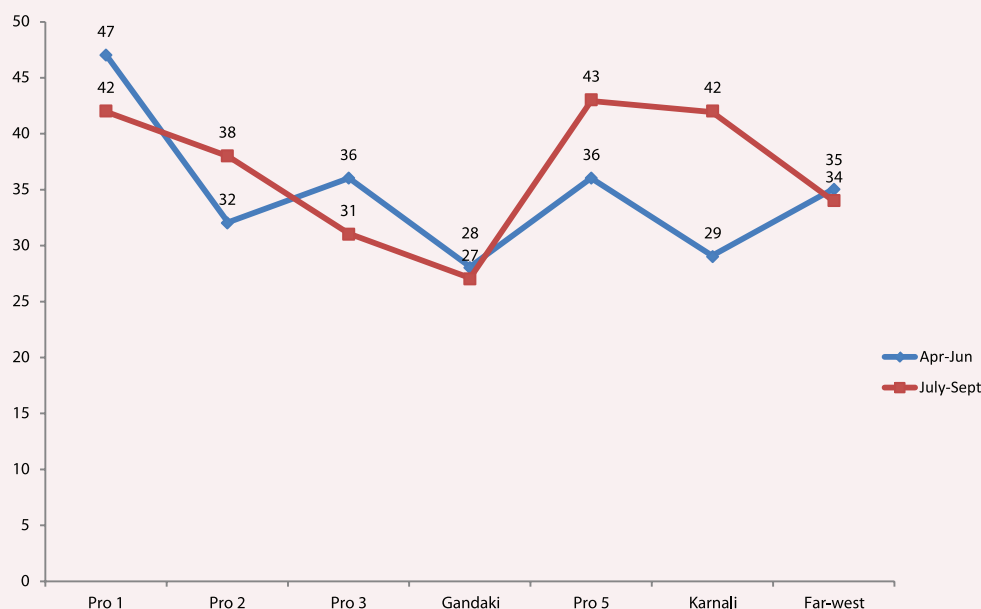


FIGURE 7: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN NEWS FROM DAILIES FROM APR-SEPT



On the other hand, 1% less women as news sources quoted in news in this quarter as compared to the previous quarter. While comparing the data among Provinces, Province 2, 5 and Karnali show increasing trend for women being quoted in the news as sources.

6. Stories about women:

Province dailies are found to have provides least space to the stories about women on their main pages. In this quarter, total sixteen stories were published on the monitored dailies during three months period. Among those, only five stories present women in the role challenging stereotype.

Few stories warranting further analysis:

i) **Increasing child marriage through Facebook connectivity (Butwal Today, July 26, Palpa):** The story describes current trend of increasing marriages among school children with Facebook connectivity occurring in the district. Such incidents have caused increased dropout rate among students in the schools, states the story quoting their teachers. The story also quotes the ward chairperson as saying, "Facebook is the leading reason of child marriages in the district nowadays where girls are the major victim of early motherhood". Hence, the story highlights how females are more prone to risks of child marriages.

ii) **Daughters in a campaign to respect their mothers (Dainik Nepalgunj, August 11, Nepalgunj):** The story is about an innovative campaign brought forth by women in the city in memory of their deceased mother. Women in the city have decided to create a fundraising campaign for daughters who have lost their mothers and use it in the social works. Hence, the story challenges stereotype about women.

iii) **Woman murdered on initiation of her husband (Adarsha Samaj, July 18, Pokhara):** The news is about murder of a woman as planned by her husband. According to the story, husband has planned murder of his wife for the sake of money. Police discovered the murderer after few days of crime. The story depicts how unsafe women are even in their own family and hence, warrants further analysis.

7. Observation:

This report presents the findings of three months long monitoring of 21 province dailies for inclusion of women in their main contents. Monitoring revealed the least inclusion of women in news contents in both byline and sources. This quarter recorded only 5% women in news byline and 12% as news sources. This is 4% decrease in their presence as news reporters and 1% decrease as news sources.

Moreover, majority of the news stories monitored from the selected dailies are found to have published the highest number of news about business issues in contrary to the other national dailies monitored at central level (Kathmandu).

Similarly, highest number of women as news sources is found in the news about economy but their presence, though negligible, maximum is found in news about social issues.

Conclusively, this quarter recorded the least percentage of female as news reporters and news sources as compared to the previous quarters.

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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