



Female byline *up by 1%* in Provincial news

Far-west ahead of both Male (64), Female byline (25)

GENDER CONTENT MONITORING REPORT OF PROVINCIAL MEDIA

(October-December 2018)



Female byline up by 1% in Provincial news

Far-west ahead of both male (64), female byline (25)

Freedom Forum presents the last quarter's media monitoring report of the provincial dailies of the year 2018. At a time when newly drafted provincial bills related to media are drawing wide concerns among stakeholders for violating constitutionally guaranteed provisions on press freedom and freedom of expression, FF is continuously advocating for gender inclusive news rooms and production of gender balanced news contents through this study report based on monitoring of the dailies.

The report presents result of three months long monitoring (October-December) of main news contents from 21 major dailies in seven provinces. Selected main news stories are monitored for inclusion of gender in their bylines and quoted sources, news title and portrayal of gender, especially the women in the contents. Data recorded from monitoring are then analyzed using MS-Excel.

The activity is carried out with the financial support of the Free Press Unlimited (FPU), a foundation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, working on freedom of expression issues across the world.

Province 1- Blast Times, Udghosh and Purwanchal daily
 Province 2- Krishna, Prateek and Janakpur Today
 Province 3- Kayakairan, Hetauda Sandesh and Paradarshi
 Province 4- Samadhan, Adarsha Samaaj and Lokwani
 Province 5- Dainik Nepalgunj, Butwal Today and Nayayugbodh
 Province 6- Malika Post, Hamro Akhabar and Dhamaka daily
 Province 7- Sundaranchal, Hill Times and Paschim Today

Key Points:

July-September

- Monitoring of 1008 news contents revealed 39 female and 243 male in news byline. Number of female byline increased by 5% in this quarter.
- Among the monitored dailies, Hill Times (Pro 7) contributed to the highest number of news with female byline and Naya Yugbodh (Pro 5) contained the highest number of news with male byline.
- Among 2243 person sources quoted in the news contents, 358 are women which is an increment by 2% in this quarter.
- News from Janakpur Today and Krishna Daily published from Province 2 contained the highest number of male and female sources respectively.
- News on Social, Legal, Business, Crime and Violence dominate the main pages of monitored newspapers.
- As usual, social and legal news stories accommodated maximum number of women in byline and news sources.

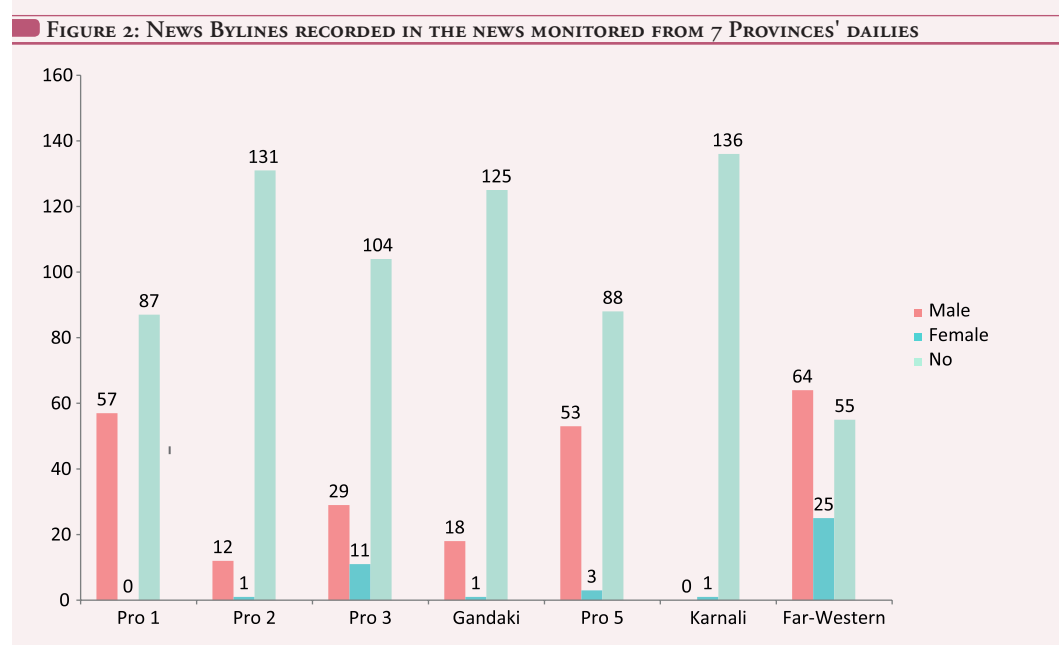
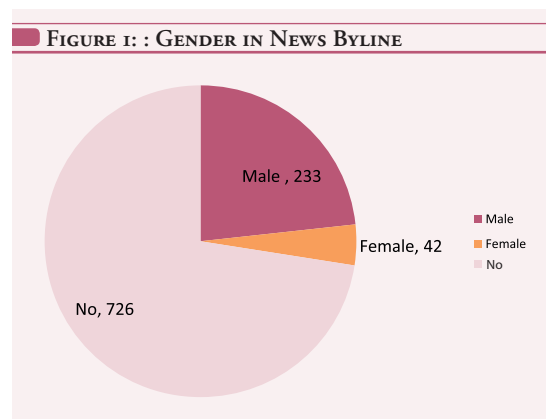
October-December

- A total of 1001 news contents were monitored which revealed 15% news with female byline among 275 bylines recorded.
- Among the monitored dailies, Hill Times (Far-Western Province) had the highest number of news with female bylines followed by Kaya-kairan daily published from Province 3.
- Among 2,152 sources quoted in the main news contents, only 14% are women against 86% men.
- Dailies from Provinces 5 and Far-Western contained maximum number of female sources among others.
- Contrary to those from national media outlets, majority of news stories from provincial media outlets are about social and legal issues (25%) followed by business news (22%).
- Majority of the news with female byline are about social and legal issues which also contain maximum number of women as news sources.
- Looking into the quarterly trend women's presence in news byline increases by 1% whereas their presence as news sources decreases by 2% in this last quarter.

Analysis

1. News Byline:

Total 1001 news stories were monitored from first pages of above mentioned 21 mainstream dailies of seven provinces from October to December 2018. According to the data, among 275 byline news, only 15% is of female reporters and remaining 85% of male reporters. However, remaining 725 news stories have no gender byline.



Comparing among the provinces, newspapers from Far-western province contained the highest number of both male (64) and female bylined news (25) whereas, those published from Province 1 did not show any female byline. Newspapers from Province 2 which did not show any byline in the previous quarter contained at least one female byline news during the monitoring period.

Among the newspapers, Hill Times daily contributes to the highest number of news with female byline as in the previous reports.

2. News Sources:

During three months, 1001 news stories quoted 2,152 persons and only 125 secondary as sources. Among 2,150 persons as news sources, 14% are women and remaining 86% the men.

News stories of outlets from Provinces 5 and Far-western quoted the highest number of women (50) in their stories followed by those from Province 1 (45). News stories of outlets from Gandaki Province quoted the least women sources (35) of all.

FIGURE 3: GENDER IN NEWS SOURCES

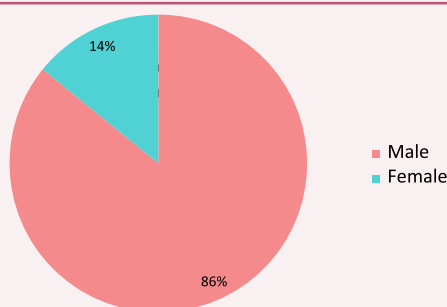
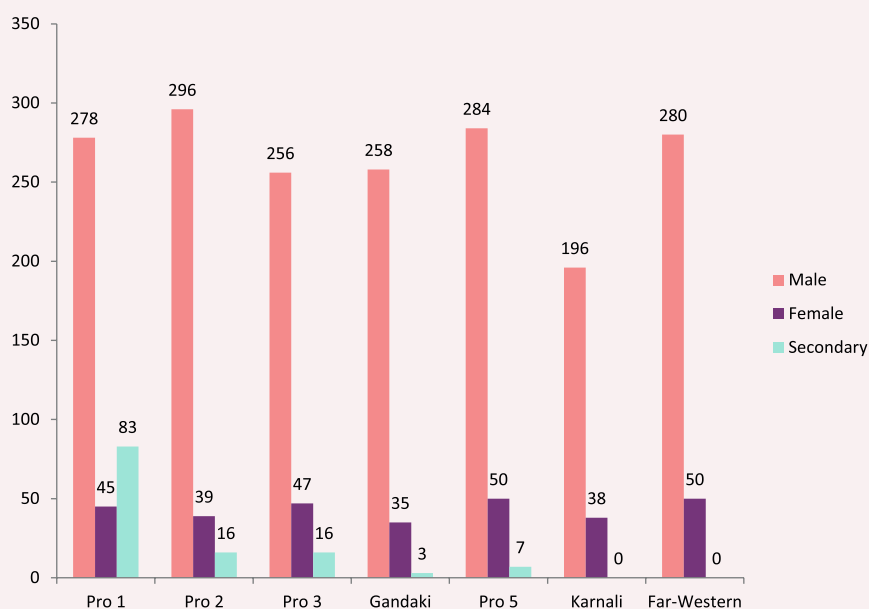


FIGURE 4: NEWS SOURCES QUOTED IN THE MONITORED DAILIES



Likewise, news stories monitored from outlets of Province 2 quoted the highest number of men (296) as news sources.

3. News Titles

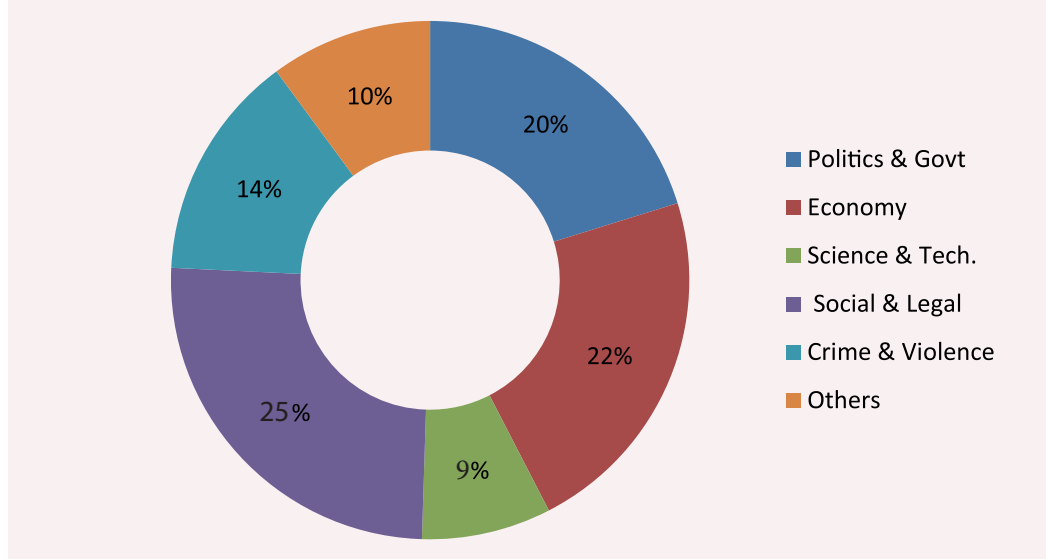
While 1,008 news stories were monitored in the previous quarter, this quarter recorded only 1,001 news stories' data due to less number of news in few issues of Hamro Akhabar and Malika Post dailies published from Province 6.

Scanning those 1,001 news stories for their categories of titles revealed that maximum number of news (25%) published on the first pages of the dailies are about social and legal issues followed by business news (22%).

Contrary to the national dailies monitored, provincial dailies are found to publish more social news than political on their front pages.

Newspapers from Provinces 3, 5 and Gandaki published the highest number of social news on their front pages, whereas those from Provinces 2, Karnali and Far-western published the highest number of political news. But surprisingly newspapers of Province 1 are found publishing maximum number of crime and violence news on their front page compared to other beats.

FIGURE 5: : TOPIC WISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS CONTENTS MONITORED FROM PROVINCIAL DAILIES

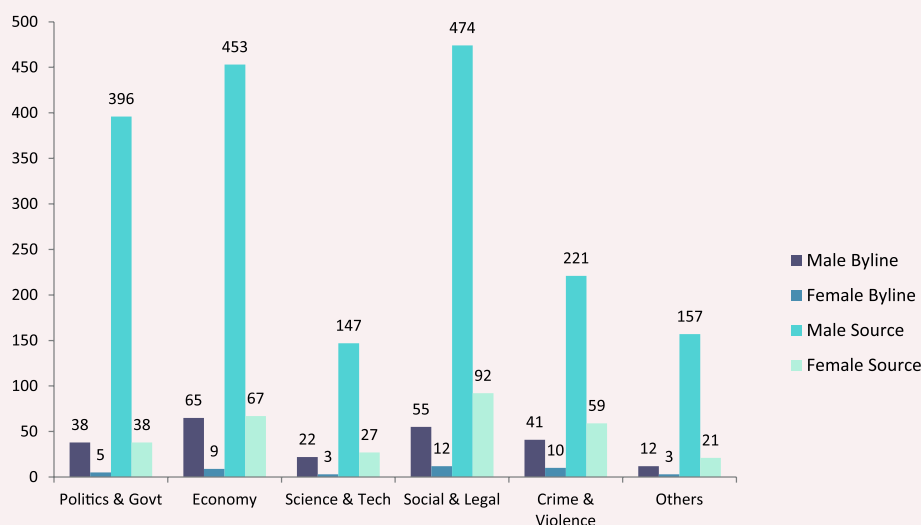


4. People in the news and headlines

Three monthly data recorded for news byline and sources were again scrutinized for their relation with news titles which showed that maximum number of news with female byline (12) and sources (92) are about social and legal issues. Secondly, more female byline (10) was found in the crime news whereas, female sources (67) were found in business news.

Similarly, men are sourced the highest in social news, whereas they are found reporting maximum number of business news.

FIGURE 6: BYLINE AND SOURCES ACCORDING TO NEWS HEADLINES



5. Stories about women:

Among 13 stories about women published on the front pages of the dailies monitored during the period, only 6 stories present women in dominant role. Dailies published from Provinces 2 and 7 do not contain any stories about women in their first pages.

Some stories about women

- i. *Woes of Badi women (Haamro Akhbar, Surkhet, November 14):*
The story describes the caste discrimination being faced by Badi women in the community. Other caste communities discriminate those as of being lower caste which has made their daily life go through hardship. They are also facing difficulties in earning livelihood because of which they are forced to go to neighbouring country seeking jobs, states the story. Hence, the story shows women in submissive role.
- ii. *Incidents of violence against women - reconciliation limited in papers (Butwal Today, November 22, Butwal):*
The story is about incidents of domestic violence which end with reconciliation but actually lack in practice. Giving few examples of victims, the story further elaborated that even though women file legal case of violence, they end up with reconciliation notice which leads to more torture for them. The story also quotes two women experts. Hence, the story perpetuates for stereotype against women.
- iii. *Rape case filed against Ward Chair at Judicial Committee (Lokwani, November 21, Damauli):*
The story states that a rape victim herself filed rape case against the ward chair at judicial committee mentioning she was raped at her home at night. Although she received several threats and pressures to withdraw the case, she did not step back. Hence, the news story challenges stereotype against women.
- iv. *'Increase fund' (Dainik Nepalgunj, December 21, Banke)*
Women entrepreneurs requested to increase Women Entrepreneurship Development Fund and adopt flexibility in the loan limit with the government, according to story. Speaking in the program for increasing awareness and literacy among women entrepreneurs about WEDF, women demand for increase in the fund and loan limit. Hence, the story is about women and clearly challenge stereotype for women.

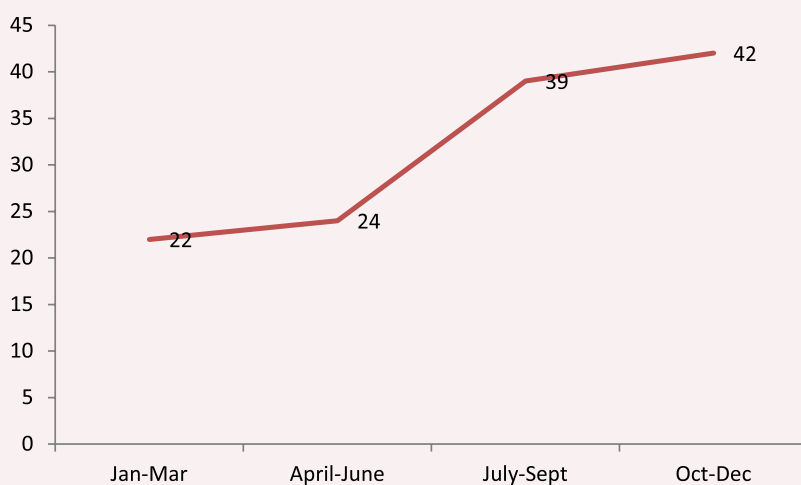
Annual Trend

1. Women in Byline:

After completion of a year of monitoring, data recorded were again analyzed to observe annual trend of the variables. Women's presence in news byline show sharp rise through the quarters (fig 7). Coming to the last quarter, percentage of female bylined news increases by 6% as compared to the first quarter.

Among seven provinces, newspapers from Far-western province recorded increasing number of female byline coming from first to last quarter followed by Province 3.

FIGURE 7: TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE DURING A YEAR (JAN-DEC 018)

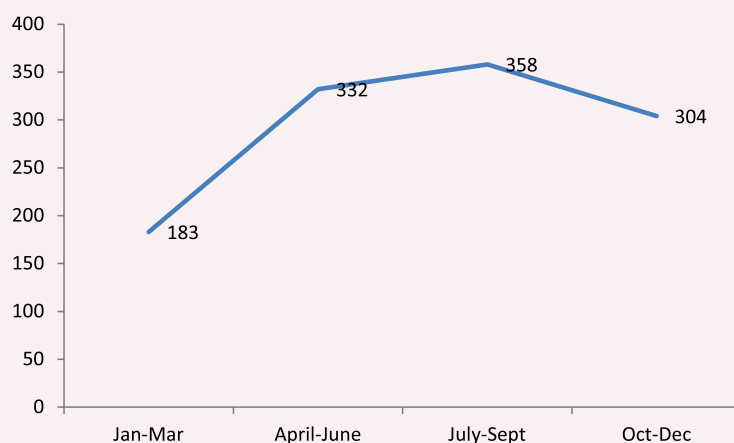


B. Women as news source

According to the data, the highest number of women was quoted as news sources (16%) during the third quarter (July-September) which decreases by 2% in the last quarter of 2018. However, those percentage from first to third quarter increased by 5%.

Comparing among the provinces, Provinces 3 and 5 show increasing order for their number in news sources, whereas other provinces show decrease from third to fourth quarter.

FIGURE 8: TREND OF WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCES DURING A YEAR (JAN-DEC 018)



Conclusion:

Conclusively, during September to December 2018 total 1,001 news stories were scanned from the front pages of 21 dailies which revealed 16% women in byline. This is a rise by 1% as compared to the last three months.

Likewise, among 2,152 sources quoted in the scanned news 14% are women which is a decrease by 2% compared to the previous three months.

Overall, data recorded throughout the year states that the third quarter (July-September) is the most inclusive of women with the highest percentage of female in news byline and sources among others.

Moreover, among seven provinces Far-western Province shows the highest number of women in the news contents published on the front pages of the dailies. Among the three print dailies monitored from far-western province too Hill Times published the highest number of news with female byline and also quotes them as sources more than other dailies.

Analysis of the news contents for their titles reveal that provincial newspapers publish more news about social (25%) and business (22%) issues than political (20%) ones on their front pages.

Majority of the female in both bylines and sources are found in the news about social and legal issues.

In comparison to the national dailies provincial dailies publish more news with female byline and also provide due space to the social news rather than political news.

Recommendations:

On the basis of findings and conclusions, FF makes the following recommendations:

- Government should appoint women as spokesperson in the provincial public organizations and implement tangible measures for safety and security of female journalists
- Media houses should prepare gender inclusive guidelines so as to make balanced newsroom recruiting female journalists
- They should also appoint and promote women in the editorial role; and eliminate any kind of discrimination, if any, in the newsroom
- Media houses must ensure safety and security of female journalists in and out of media house
- Editors should assign female reporters to the mainstream beats and provide byline to their news and encourage the reporters to include more voices of women while reporting
- Female journalists should also themselves boost self-confidence to report mainstream beats. They should speak up for their rights and space in the media and its contents.

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.

**Freedom Forum**

P.O. Box: 24292

Block No. 22, Adarsha Marg

Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: 977-1-4102022, 4102030

Fax: 977-1-4226099

Email: info@freedomforum.org.np

monitoring@freedomforum.org.np

Web: www.freedomforum.org.np

www.nepalpressfreedom.org