



# Female *Byline* Increases by 0.5%; Female sources by 3.4% in Provincial Broadsheet

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING

April-June 2018





# Female byline increases by 0.5%; Female sources by 3.4% In provincial broadsheet

(Provinces 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 ahead of Provinces 3 and 5 in women as news sources)

**I**n line with federal setup, the 753 local levels and seven provinces are now preparing to formulate and endorse their policies and programs. Most of the programs have failed to mainstreaming the women related issues and problems. Similarly, in view of the provincial structure, media too are expanding their coverage in the provinces. Needless to state, media is the major source of information to public. Hence, media should play significant role in creating atmosphere conducive for gender-friendly policies and programs.

With this in background, Freedom Forum expanded its regular monitoring into provincial news contents of the media outlets in order to collect quantitative evidence on representation of women in their contents. The monitoring is supported by the Free Press Unlimited (FPU), a Netherlands –based organization working on press freedom in various continents.

This report includes data generated after monitoring 21 newspapers, each of three from seven provinces from January to March 2018. Four main news stories were selected from all the newspapers and scanned for their by-lines, news sources and stories about women. Data generated from the monitoring are entered into MS-Excel and further analyzed to observe presence of male and female in media contents.

However, the study is limited to only main news contents ignoring international news, advertisements, op-eds and other dedicated news pages.

## 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 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

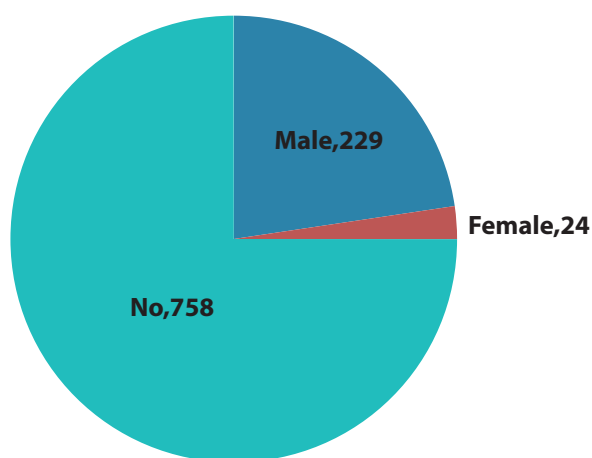
## Key findings

January-March	April-June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among a total of 978 news stories monitored, only 22 were by female and 231 by male.</li> <li>• Province 7's Hill Times daily contained maximum number of female bylines.</li> <li>• Only 183 among 1,794 sources quoted in the news contents monitored are female.</li> <li>• Dailies monitored from Province 3 showed the highest number of both male (287) and female sources (40).</li> <li>• Media outlets from the seven provinces too, are dominated by the political news similar to those of national dailies.</li> <li>• Notably, maximum number of female byline and source is found in the news related to social and legal issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the 1008 news monitored, 24 news contain female byline and 229 contain male byline. Female in byline increase by 0.5% in this quarter.</li> <li>• This time too, Hill Times daily contributed to the highest number of news with female bylines.</li> <li>• Among total 2343 person sources quoted in the news contents, 332 are female. Women as news sources increase by 3.4% in this quarter.</li> <li>• Prateek Dainik (Province 2) contained the highest number of male sources while, Paschim Today (Province 7) contained the highest number of female sources.</li> <li>• Overall business, social and legal news dominated the main pages of Provincial media.</li> <li>• Similar to previous data, maximum number of women in byline and as news sources are recorded in the social and legal news .</li> </ul>

# ANALYSIS

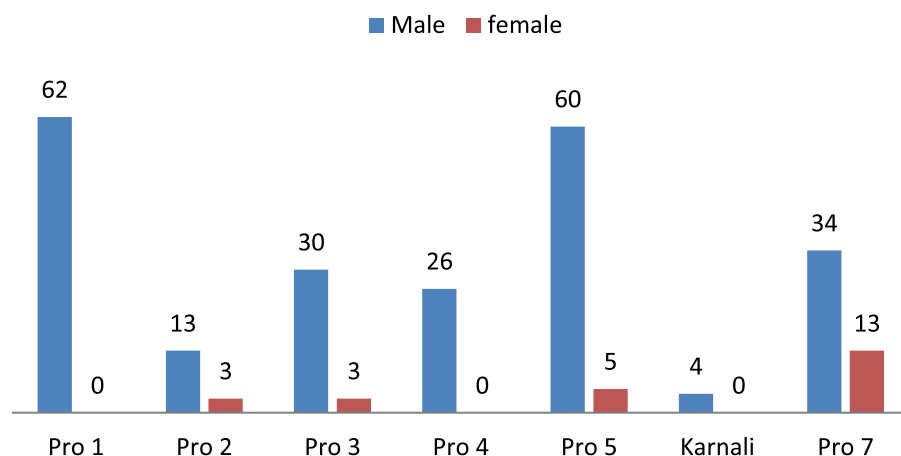
## A. NEWS BYLINE

Three-months long monitoring of 1,008 news stories from different 21 provincial dailies showed 253 bylines. Among those, only 9.5% are of female and 90.5% are of male while 75% of the total news contained no bylines.



**FIGURE 1**  
Gender in News  
Byline

Comparing among the provinces dailies from Province 7 contain maximum number of female in bylines, whereas those of Province 1 contain maximum number of male in bylines (Figure 2).



**FIGURE 2**  
Bylines of News  
Monitored from 7  
Provinces' Broad-  
sheets

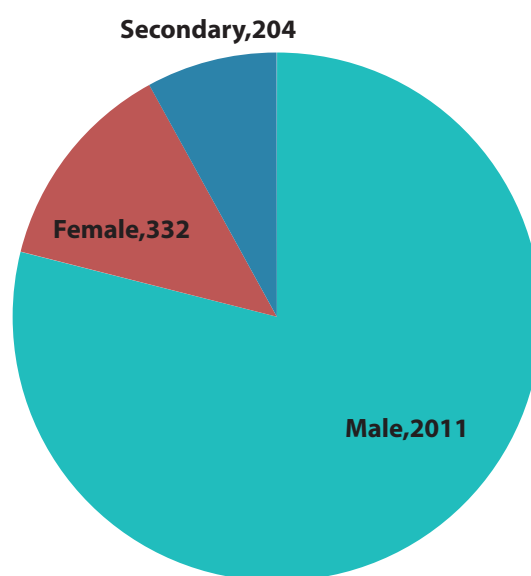
Among all, Hill Times daily from Province 7 contains the highest number of female bylines (8) and Blast Times from Province 1 contains the highest number of male bylines (27). Nine different dailies monitored from Provinces 1, 4 and Karnali (6) did not show any female byline.

## B. NEWS SOURCES

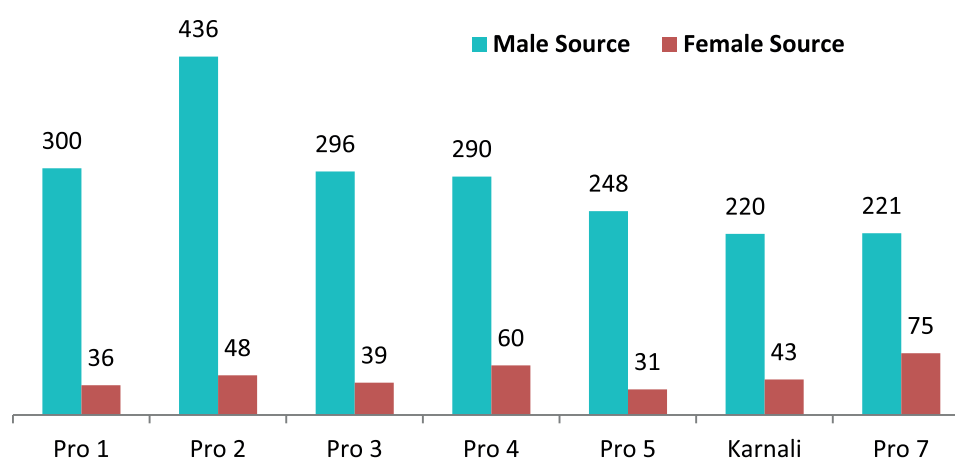
Following the byline, the news stories were further scanned for sources quoted directly or indirectly. There were a total of 2,547 sources in 1,008 news, among which 8% were secondary as data, reports, press statements, court statements, etc.

Among a total of 2,353 persons in news sources derived from the news, 14.2% are women and 85.8% are men (Figure 2). As per figure 4, the highest number of male sources is found in the dailies from Province 2 (436), whereas that of female sources is found in the dailies from Province 7 (75).

**FIGURE 3**  
Gender in News  
Sources



**FIGURE 4**  
Sources Quoted in  
the News Monitored  
from 7 Provinces'  
Dailies



Specifically, Paschim Today published from Province 7 quoted maximum number of female sources (37) among all the 21 newspapers monitored. On the other hand, Prateek Dainik published from Province 2 quoted maximum number of men as news sources (194).

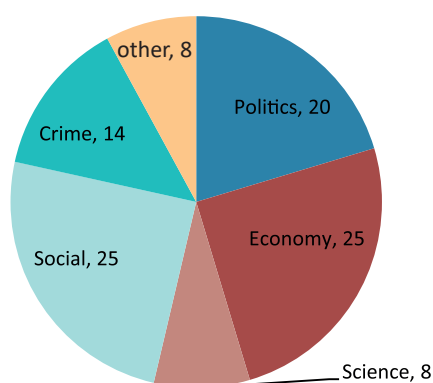
## C. NEWS HEADLINES

During the monitoring period of April to June 2018, total 1,008 news stories were scanned from 21 main dailies published from seven provinces.

While scanning contents for their headlines category, almost 25% of the news items were related to social and economic issues followed by 20% political issues (figure 5).

In contrast to the national level dailies monitored during the same period, provincial dailies showed better diversity of the news items.

News items from the dailies monitored from Provinces 1, 3, 4 and 7 contain maximum number of social and legal news, while those from Provinces 2, 5 and 6 (Karnali) contain maximum number of business news.

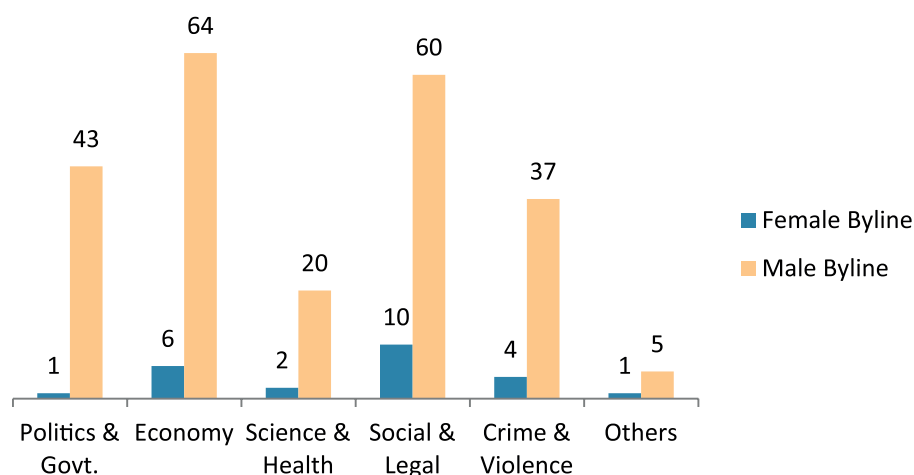


**FIGURE 5**  
Topic-wise News  
Distribution of all 7  
Provinces (%)

## D. PEOPLE IN THE NEWS AND HEADLINES

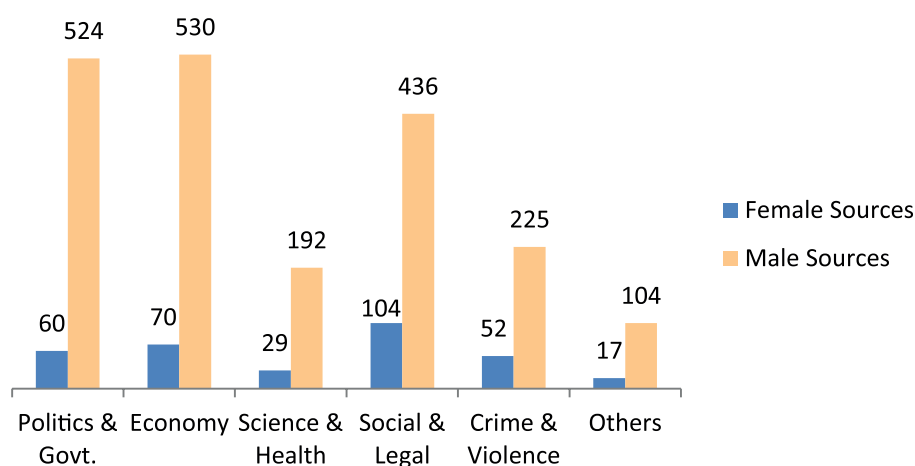
After scanning the news stories for their byline and sources, their relation with the news headlines is also analyzed.

According to the Figures 6 and 7, maximum number of women in byline and as news sources are found in the news related to social and legal issues.



**FIGURE 6**  
News Byline Vs  
News Headline

**FIGURE 7**  
NEWS SOURCES VS  
NEWS HEADLINES



Secondly, women are found maximum in both byline and as sources in the news related to economic issues in all the dailies monitored from the provinces.

Contrarily, male in both the byline and as news sources is found maximum in the economic news.

## E. WOMEN IN THE NEWS STORIES

Among 1,008 news stories monitored, 54 were stories about women among which only 23 challenged stereotype and remaining still highlight gender inequality. Among others, maximum number of news stories monitored from the dailies of Province 4 were about women.

Some of the stories challenging stereotype are as follows:

- a. **Crimes involving children on rise (Naya Yugbodh, June 28, Ghorahi):** The news describes increasing number of girls being victimized by the boys. The news also refers to the cases registered in the district court where majority of the cases were about rape and most of the convicts were minors. News also quotes experts who opined that crime of the minor is forgiven as juvenile delinquency and this may be one of the reasons provoking those towards committing more crimes.
- b. **Drunk family head afflicts members (Malika Post, June 8, Dailekh):** The story is about a woman and her children who are forced to suffer from various problems because of her drunkard husband. The family even does not know his whereabouts and the woman is under protection of her parental family for the sake of her children's future. She urges local government to provide aid for her family. Hence, the story perpetuated stereotype.
- c. **Radha welcomed after returning to village (Paschim Today, April 15, Dhangadi):** This is a story about Radha, who was brutally attacked by the locals after they alleged her of practicing witchcraft. She was even displaced to Dhangadi from her village Deukaliya. Later, she was rescued by local social workers. Locals also committed to fighting against existing stereotype on women in the society and welcomed Radha offering her vermilion powder and garland. This incident of far-western region of Nepal is a good example where women receive respect in their society hence, the story breaks gender stereotype and warrants further analysis.



**d. 24 rape cases in six months, 22 girls victimized (Krishna Daily, June 21, Rajbiraj):**

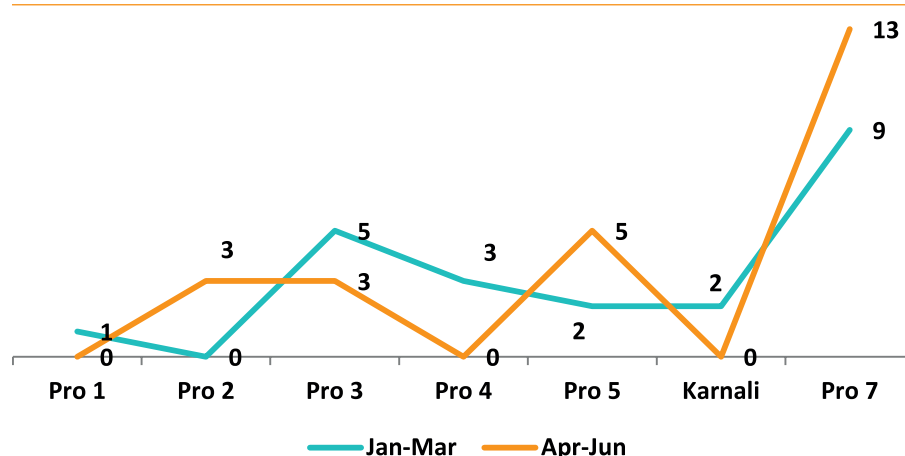
The news is based upon a report presented by an organization after recording number of rape cases during six months. News quotes the report as saying- there were a total of 24 registered rape cases. Among these, 22 of the victims were minor girls as young as 2 and 3 years of age, while remaining 3 were women. Such data clearly depict how females are more vulnerable to the physical attacks since the early ages. Lack of immediate action against culprit is also another factor behind increasing rape cases. Hence, the story depicts the society is still full of intimidation on women.

**e. Female teachers protest for their rights (Udghosh Daily, June 12, Biratnagar):** The news covers the protest carried out by female teachers in a school. They demand the administration to increase facilities provided by the government to them. They have submitted a memorandum of understanding on increasing their salaries and allowances at Province 1 Ministry of Social Development. This story challenges stereotype about women who are able to fight for their rights.

**f. Teenager Mothers (Kayakairan Daily, May 26, Makwanpur):** The news collects stories from teenage mothers who get married and give birth to babies during teenage. Most of the Chepang (indigenous community of Nepal) girls are forced for early/child marriage, which results in several health problems including complications during delivery. They are not even advised to visit hospital during their pregnancy, says the news. Hence, the story clearly perpetuates stereotype about women in the society.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

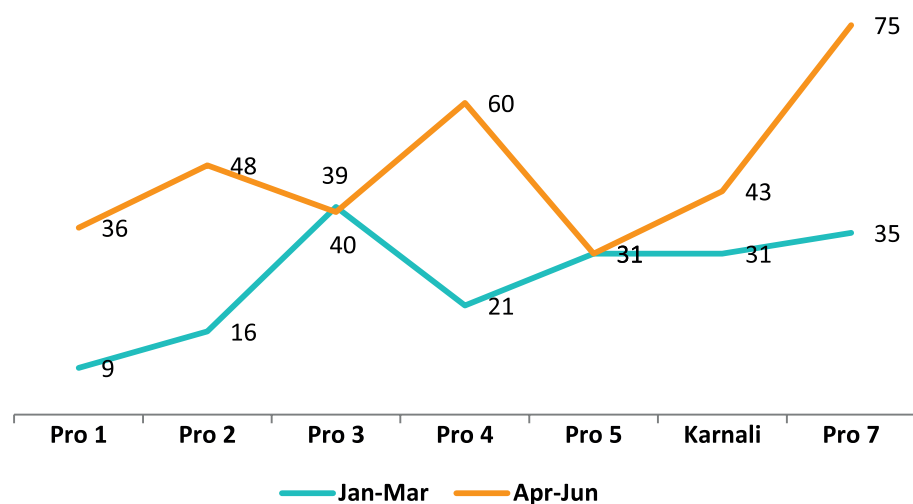
While comparing the data of monitoring from first quarter (January-March 2018) and second quarter (April-June 2018), female in the news bylines show slight increase- by 0.5%. Similarly, this three months monitoring witnessed increase of women as news sources by 3.4%.



**FIGURE 8**  
Trend of Female  
Byline during six  
months (Jan-June)

Dailies from Provinces 2, 5 and 7 show increase in the number of female bylines than in first three months (figure 8).

**FIGURE 9**  
TREND OF WOMEN  
AS NEWS SOURCES  
DURING SIX MONTHS  
(JAN-JUNE)



Provinces 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 show significant increase in the number of women as news sources (figure 9).

## CONCLUSION

This three month long monitoring of news stories from 21 daily dailies of seven provinces recorded increase in number of women both in byline and as sources.

However, their presence in byline is minimal (9.5%) as compared to their male colleagues; their voice in the news contents show slight improvement (increase by 3.4%) compared to the previous three months.

While the national dailies still publish politically dominant contents in their main pages, provincial dailies show fair diversity in their news. Most of the dailies published social and business news more than those of political news during these three months.

Analysis of the relation between news headlines and presence of women in the news revealed that social news accommodated maximum number of women both in byline and as news sources. Hence, data asserts to the fact that news with female byline quoted more women as sources.

## SUGGESTIONS

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After monitoring the news contents provincial outlets, FF has made following suggestions:

- As 75% of the stories still lack byline, news desk should encourage their reporters providing byline to their news except for those in informal and investigative stories.
- Despite the presence of national newspapers, number of female journalists is few in the provinces. So, those involved in journalism must be encouraged and motivated for the main beats.
- Journalists (both male and female) must be encouraged to quote as many female sources as possible along with male sources while reporting the news.
- The media houses should increase number of female journalists in their organization, formulate gender-friendly editorial policies and create gender-friendly workplace as well.

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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