

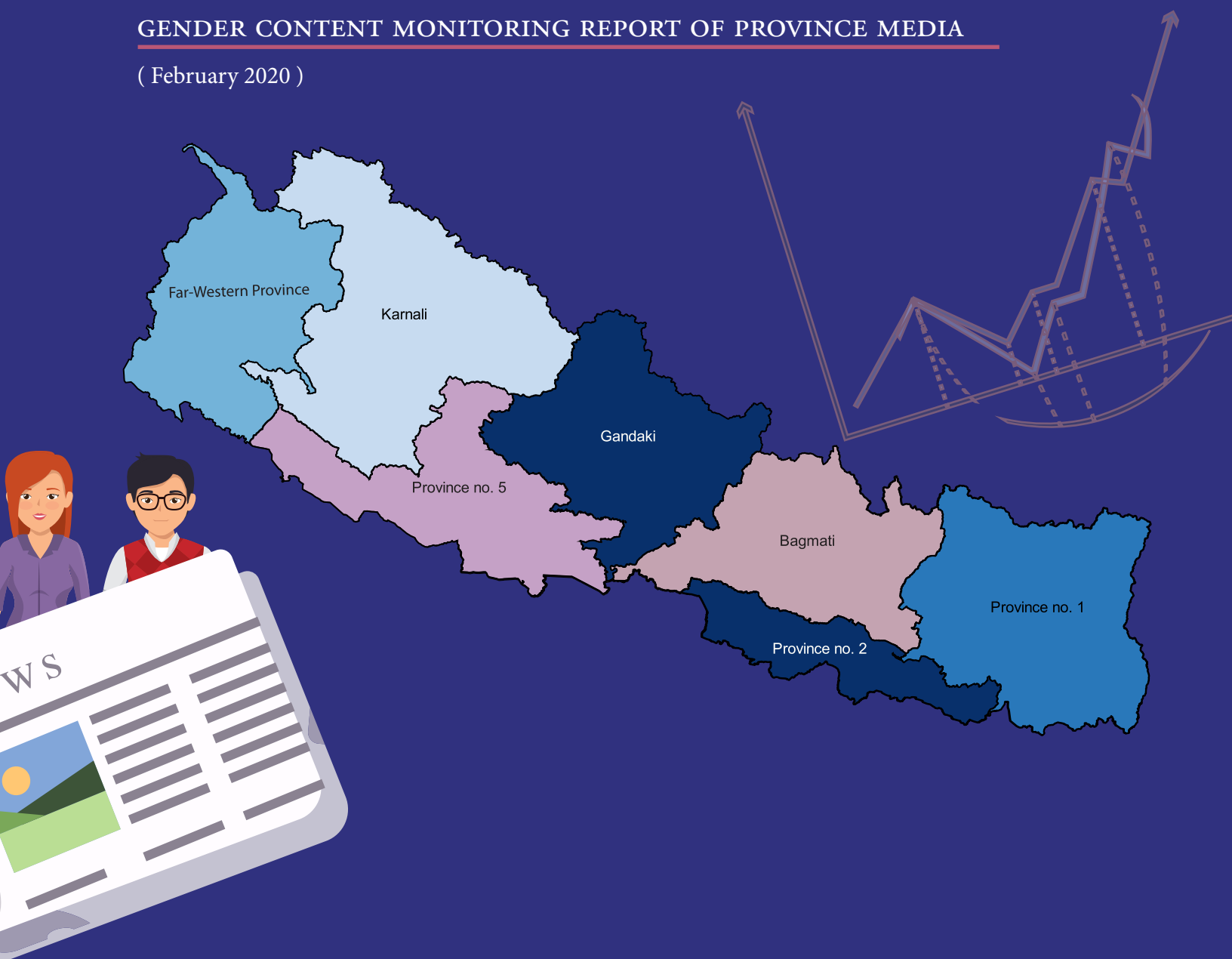


7% Female Byline, 93% Male

SOCIAL AND LEGAL ISSUES DOMINATE PROVINCE MEDIA

GENDER CONTENT MONITORING REPORT OF PROVINCE MEDIA

(February 2020)



7% Female Byline, 93% Male Social And Legal Issues Dominate Province Media

Freedom Forum has been monitoring main news of national media and representative dailies from provinces to see the women's presence for four years. The activity is conducted as part of the project CAFIFIR (*Contributing to the Atmosphere Favorable to Improved FoE and Information Regime*) 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. Monitoring is done with an aim to determine how inclusive the media are in terms of men and women's presence and how they portray women in their contents.

As media mirrors the society, it is obvious that their contents reflect structure and practices of our society. With devolution of political and administrative powers after the adoption of federalism, there are seven provincial governments and 753 local levels. It has created opportunity for the media to report numerous issues. Hence, adding new dimension to the regular monitoring, FF started monitoring representative dailies from each province since 2018.

To its continuity, FF hereby presents the monitoring report of 2020 containing the finding from the data analyses based on news byline, news sources and their correlation with the headlines. This year, the monitoring is however focused on a month-long (February) contents.

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

Analysis

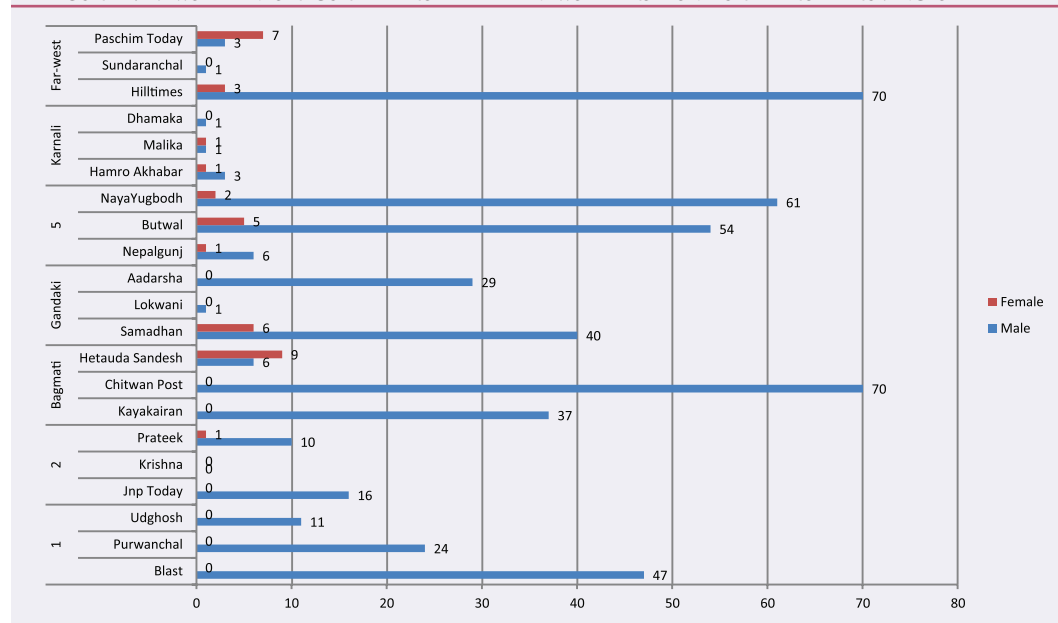
A) Gender in News Byline

A total of 2,309 news stories were scanned during the month of February in 2020. Among these, only 23% contain bylines of male and female journalists. Out of 527 named bylines, 7% are of female journalists against 93% male.

Among the monitored 21 dailies from the provinces, Hetauda Sandesh from Bagmati Province constitute the highest number of women in news byline followed by Paschim Today published from Far West Province whereas, Chitwan Post from Bagmati Province and Hill Times from Far West Province contain the highest number of male bylines.

However, compared to the previous data of October to December 2019 this time monitoring recorded the decrease in number of women in bylines by 1%. But in comparison to data recorded during 2019, same percentage of women in byline is recorded despite change in methodology in 2020.

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

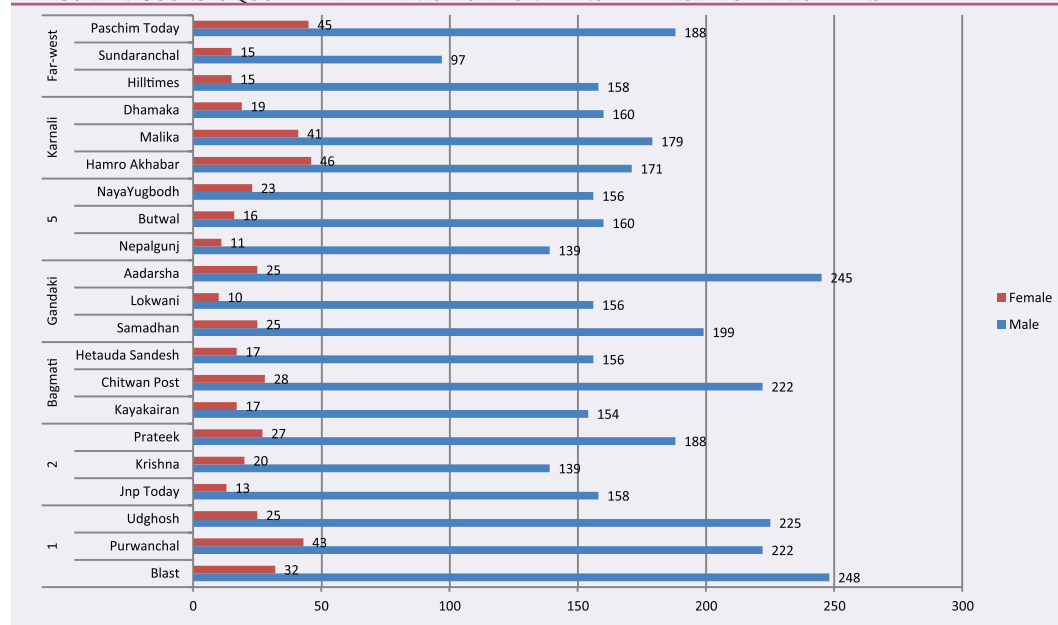


2. Gender in News Sources:

A month-long monitoring of 2,309 news from selected media revealed 4,233 persons as news sources among which 513 (12%) are women and remaining 3720 (88%) are men.

Among the dailies, news published on Hamro Akhabar daily (Karnali Province) is found quoting the highest number of women as news sources as compared to other dailies. Similarly, news from Blast daily (Province 1) quoted the highest number of men as news sources.

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

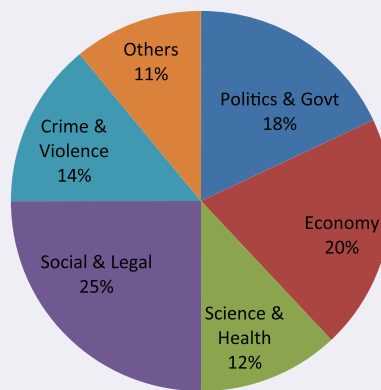


3. Topic of stories:

During this month, 2309 news scanned from main pages of the dailies were again categorized according to their headlines into six different categories; Politics and Government, Economy, Science and Health, Social and Legal, Crime and Violence and others.

Irrespective of the national media prioritizing political issues on the main pages, province media are found to publish majority (25%) of news about social and legal issues followed by business (20%) and political (18%) news.

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



D. People in the news:

Data recorded for gender in news byline and news sources is further scrutinized to analyze its correlation with categories of news headlines. This analysis revealed majority of female both in news byline and as news sources are recorded from news on social and legal issues followed by economic issues. Likewise, maximum number of male in byline and as source is also recorded from news about social and legal issues.

FIGURE 4: GENDER IN BYLINE VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS

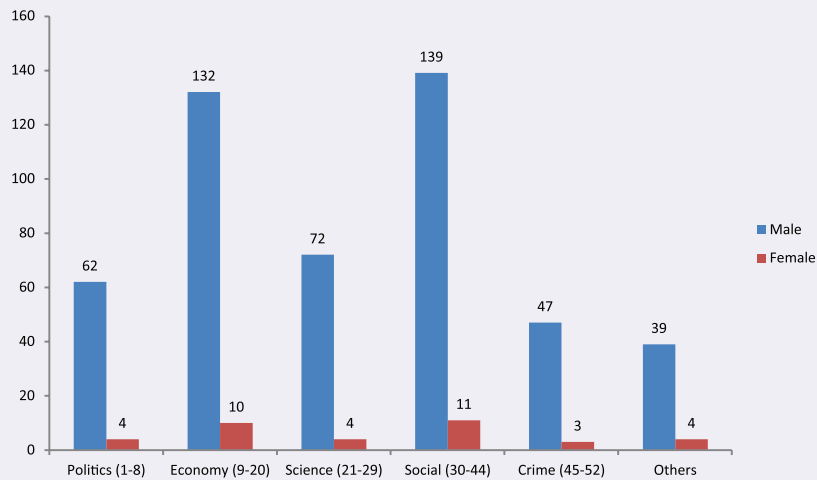
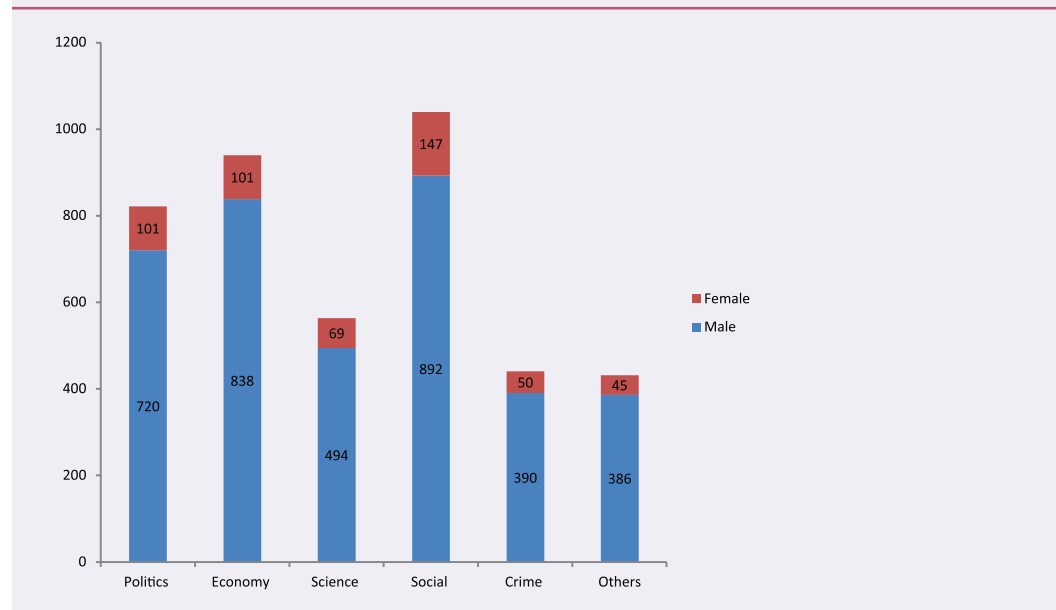


FIGURE 5: : GENDER OF NEWS SOURCES VERSUS CATEGORY OF HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS



Observation:

This report presents the finding of a month-long monitoring of 21 dailies published from seven provinces for inclusion of women in their main news. Monitoring reveals similar data trend on inclusion of women in news byline and as sources coming from 2019 to 2020.

Among the dailies, Hetauda Sandesh published from Bagmati Province constitutes the highest number of female byline while Hamro Akhabar published from Karnali Province covered the highest number of women in news sources.

Contrary to the national dailies published from the federal capital, Kathmandu, those published from provinces are found to publish majority of news about social issues on their front pages. Similarly, the highest number of both men and women in byline and as source are derived from news covering social issues.

This year also shows similar percentage of female as both news reporters and sources despite variation on monitoring methodology.

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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