



# Female Byline Down Both in Print, Online

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING OF  
NATIONAL MEDIA

{October – December 2019}





## Female Byline Down Both in Print, Online

Freedom Forum hereby, presents another report of media content monitoring from nine major national dailies and six online news portals. The activity is carried out with the objective of contributing to a more gender inclusive media environment in Nepal, 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.

FF Media as a platform to advocate for empowerment and development can play better role for change if it is gender inclusive. With this view, Freedom Forum started monitoring media contents to observe the representation of women in Nepal media since 2016. Monitoring is done on the news contents published on main pages of the selected national media for their bylines, sources quoted and topics category.

### Monitored Media outlets are as follows:

**Print-** Kantipur (Kan), Gorkhapatra (GP), Nagarik (Nag), Annapurna Post (AP), NayaPatrika (NP), The Kathmandu Post (TKP), The Himalayan Times (THT), The Rising Nepal (TRN), and Republica

**Online-** www.setopati.com (Setopati), www.ratopati.com (Ratopati), www.onlinekhabar.com (Onlinekhabar), www.lokaantar.com (Lokaantar), www.baahrakhari.com (Baahrakhari) and www.pahilopost.com (Pahilopost)

### Key Points in Comparison:

July- September 2019	October-December 2019
Among the total 860 news stories, 70% showed named byline with 15% female. Among 187 op-ed articles, 24% were written by female against 76% male authors. Likewise, 360 online news stories revealed 20% female in bylines.	Out of total 867 news stories, 64% showed named byline with 14% female. Among 180 op-ed articles, 14% were written by female against 86% male authors. Likewise, 360 online news stories revealed 11% female in bylines.
Women as news sources comprise 13% in both print and online news stories respectively.	In this quarter, women as news sources have decreased by 1% (12%) in print but it increased by 5% (15%) in online news stories.
Highest number of female in news and op-ed byline (45%) of both type of media and as news sources (42%) on print media are found in social news but their maximum presence as sources (30%) is found in business news on online media.	Highest number of female in news and op-ed byline (14%) and as news sources (19%) are found in social news on print media and on online media both.
Gorkhapatra (state-owned) and Setopati online contains the highest number of news with female in byline while Kantipur containing the highest number of female-authored op-ed articles.	Comparing individually, Gorkhapatra (state-owned) daily and Setopati online continued the trend contained the highest number of news with female in byline with Kantipur containing maximum women authored op-ed articles.
The Kathmandu Post and Setopati online are found to have quoted the highest number of female as news sources as compared to others.	This time, Kantipur and Barakhari are found to quote the highest number of female as news sources in their main news contents.
As compared to previous quarter, news from print media show increase in the number of female byline by 2% and 3% in online media. Again, number of women as news sources remains same on print news but increase by 3% on online news.	Comparing to the previous quarter, news from print media decreased in the number of female byline on print media by 1% as well as, decrease on online media by 9%. Again, number of women as news sources has decreased on print media with 1% but increased with 2% on online news respectively.

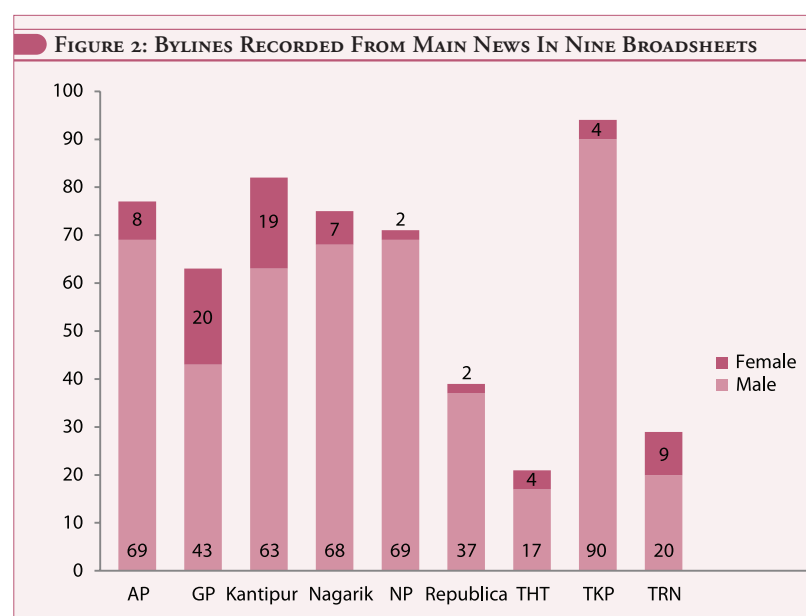
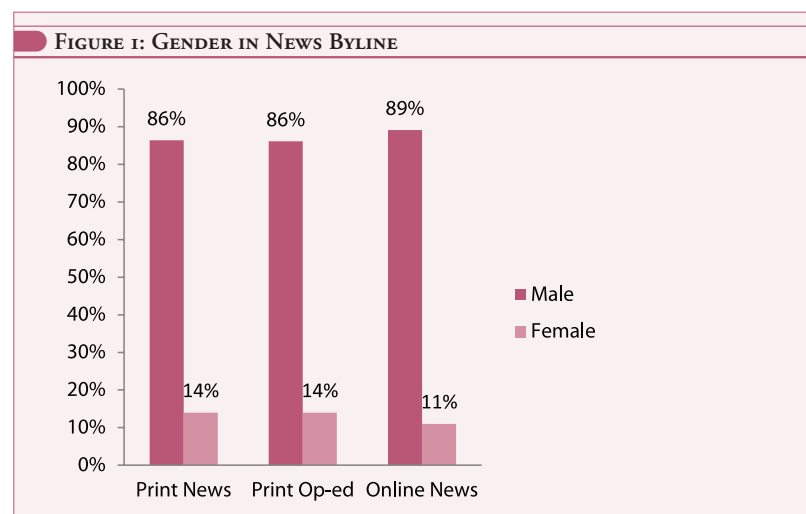
# Analysis

## 1. Gender in News Byline:

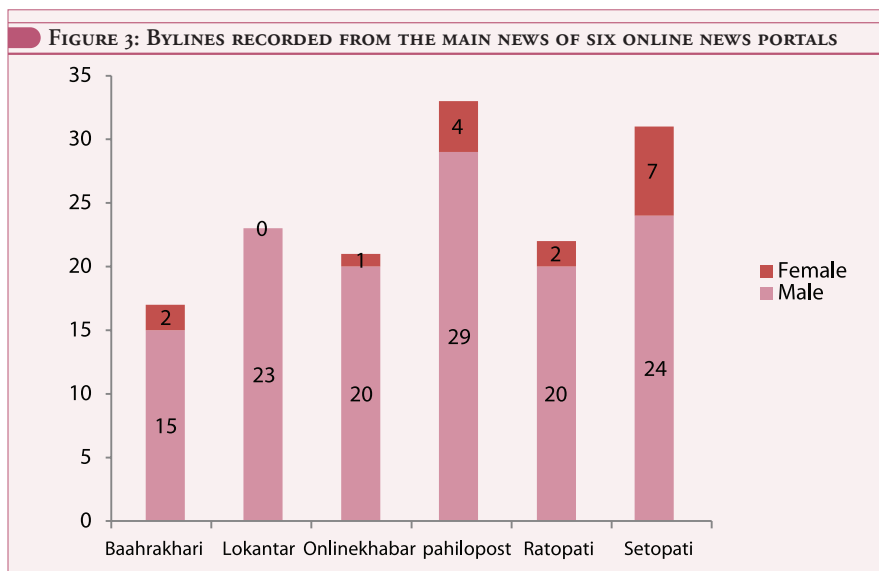
Overall, 1047 news and articles combined from nine broadsheets and 360 news stories from six online portals were scanned from October to December 2019.

Among 1047 stories from broadsheets, 867 were news from main pages whereas 180 were articles from op-ed pages. Three months long monitoring of main news stories from the broadsheets revealed 551 named bylines among which 14% were of female and remaining 86% were of male. Remaining 316 stories contained unspecified bylines such as Staff Reporter, News service, etc.

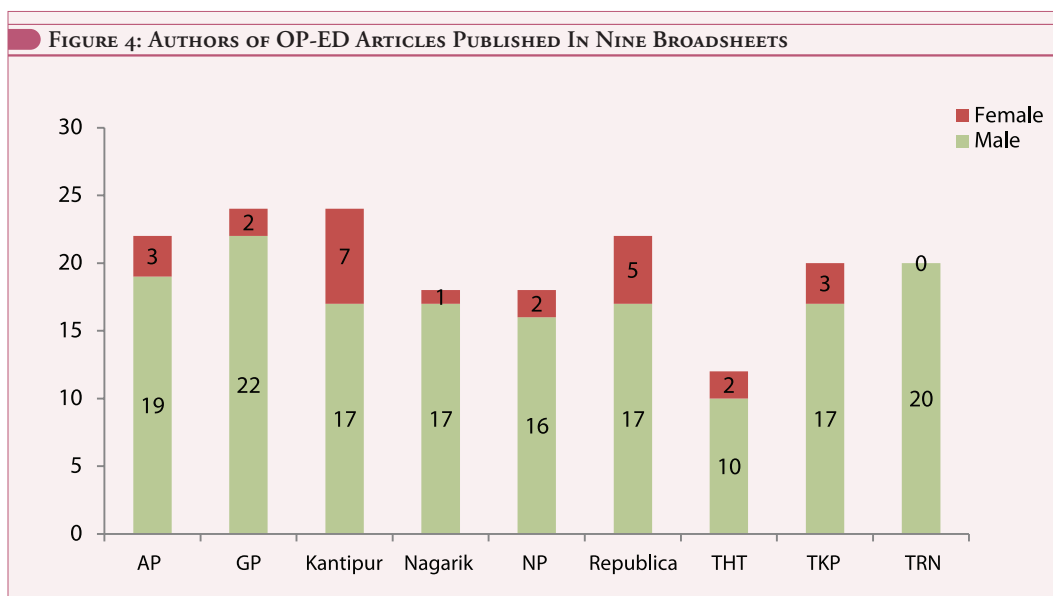
Among the scanned broadsheets, news from Gorkhapatra followed by Kantipur showed the highest number of female byline whereas; those from The Kathmandu Post showed the highest number of male bylines.



Similarly, among 360 news stories scanned from home pages of selected online news portals 147 showed named bylines with 12% females and 88% males. Setopati amongst all contributed to the highest number of female in news bylines whereas, Pahilopost contained the news stories with highest number of male bylines. However, approximately 60% of the total news scanned did not show any byline and Lokantar did not show any news with female byline.

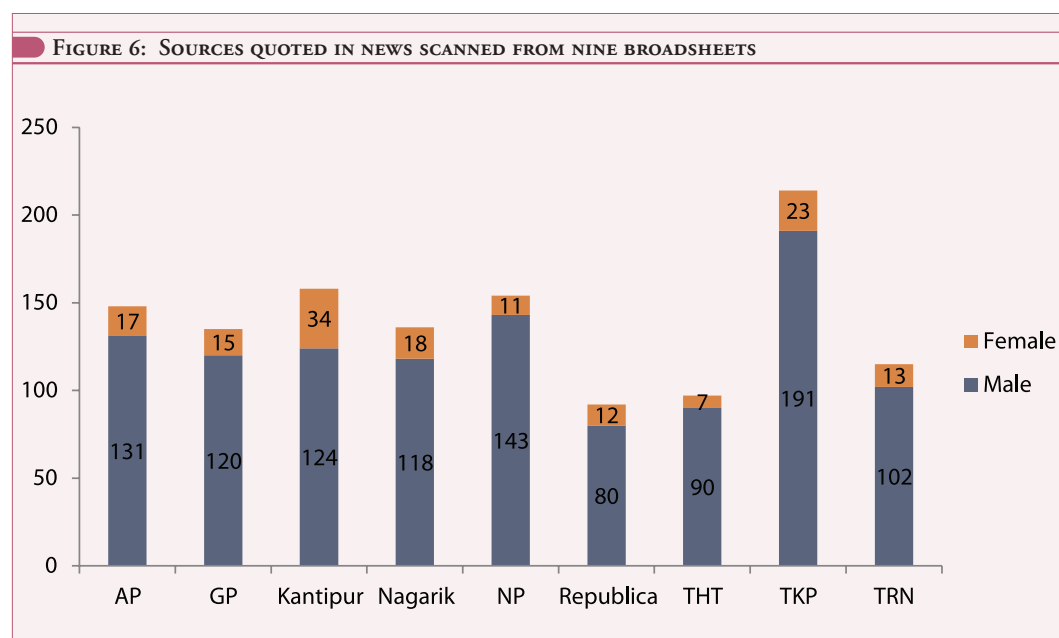
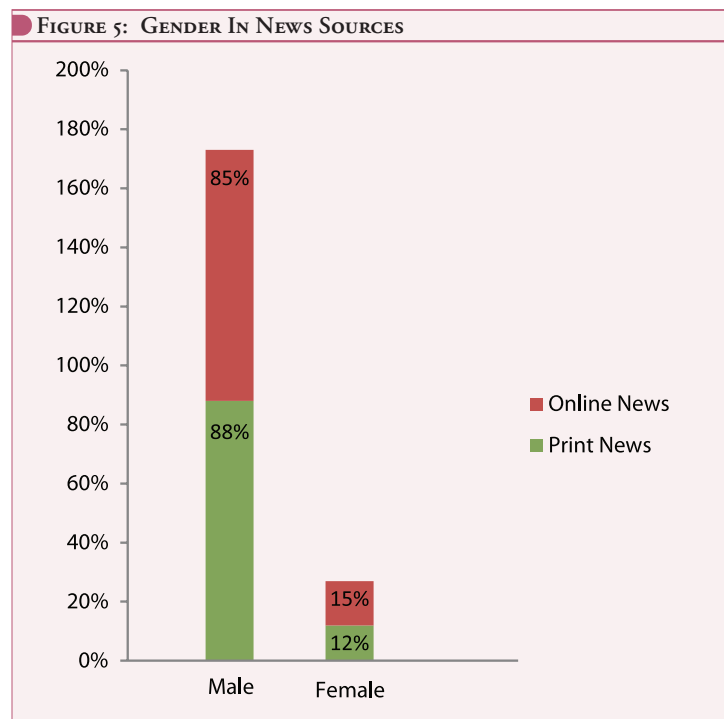


Again scanning of 180 articles from nine broadsheets' op-ed pages resulted 14% articles by female authors against 86% male authors. Comparing among the broadsheets Kantipur was found to publish the highest number of articles written by women authors.



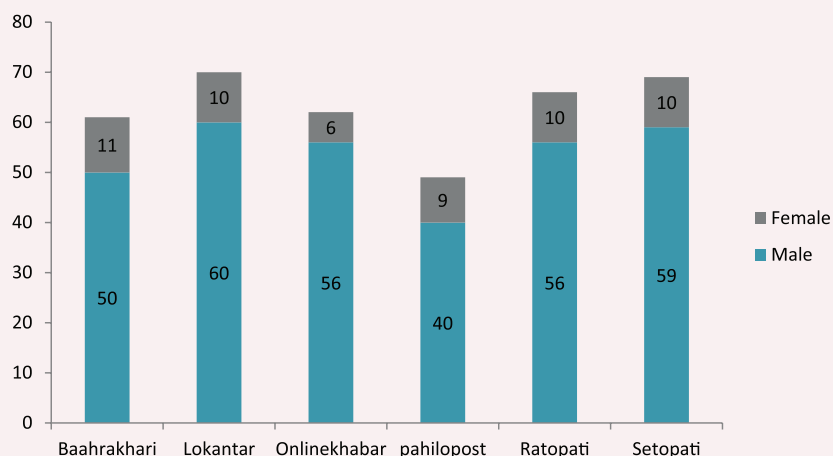
## 2. Gender in News sources:

Monitoring of 867 news stories from nine broadsheets had 1720 persons quoted as news sources among which 13% are women and remaining 87% are men. Comparing among the broadsheets, TKP was found to quote the highest number of both men and women as news sources in the news published on the main pages.



For 360 news stories scanned from online portals, 523 people were found quoted as news sources among which 10% were women against 90% men. Despite zero female bylines, news stories from Onlinekhabar quoted the highest number of both men and women as sources.

FIGURE 7: SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS SCANNED FROM SIX ONLINE NEWS PORTALS

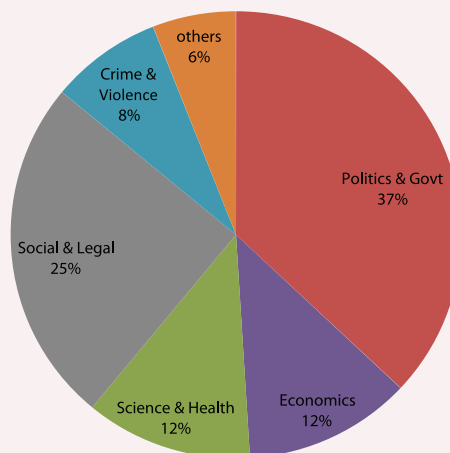


Majority of the news sources were found to be government official, political, political party staff, etc. who were presented in the role of spokesperson and experts in the news stories.

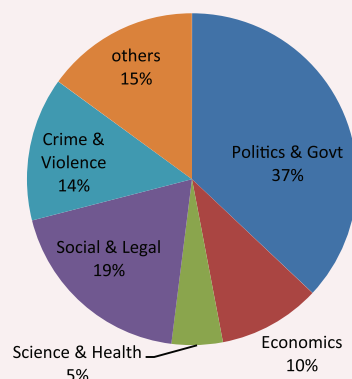
### 3. Topic of the story:

While scanning through the topics of the news stories from broadsheets, majority (37%) were found to be related to Political and Government issues followed by Social news (25%). AP and GP with 53 news stories on politics took a lead followed by KAN (48) was found to publish the highest number of politics news on its front pages in comparison to other broadsheets. The least covered were news about media, arts, celebrity and others in all broadsheets.

FIGURE 8: TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS SCANNED FROM THE BROADSHEETS



**FIGURE 9: TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS SCANNED FROM THE ONLINE PORTALS**



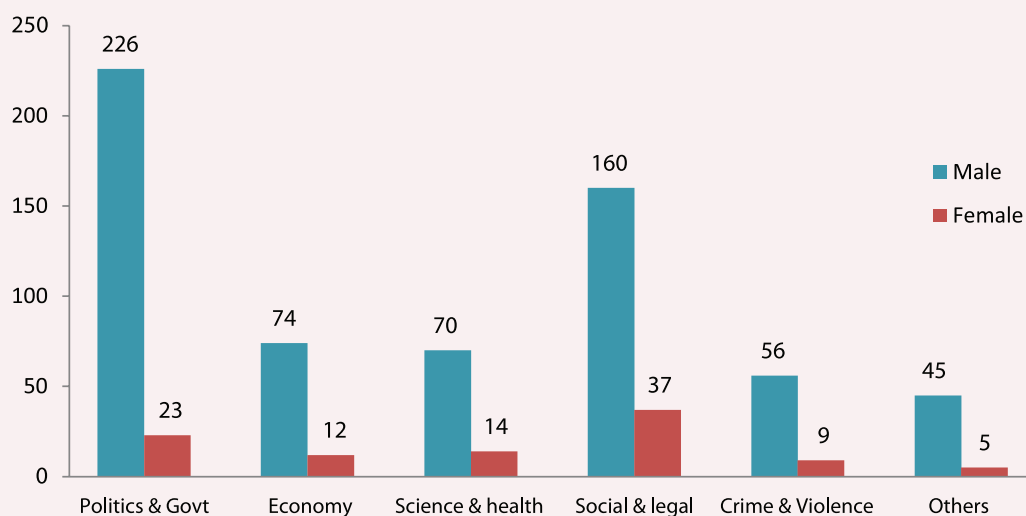
In news contents scanned from online media, out of 360 stories 37% are about politics and government followed by 19% social and legal news. Among six online portals, Lokantar (31) published the highest number of political news, whereas Onlinekhabar (7) published the highest number of social news.

#### 4. People in the news:

##### i) Print Media

According to the data recorded from broadsheets during three months, total 867 news bylines and 1387 quoted sources were recorded. Among 867 bylines of the main news stories and op-ed articles, the highest number of male and female byline was recorded from the news about politics and governmental and social and legal issues respectively.

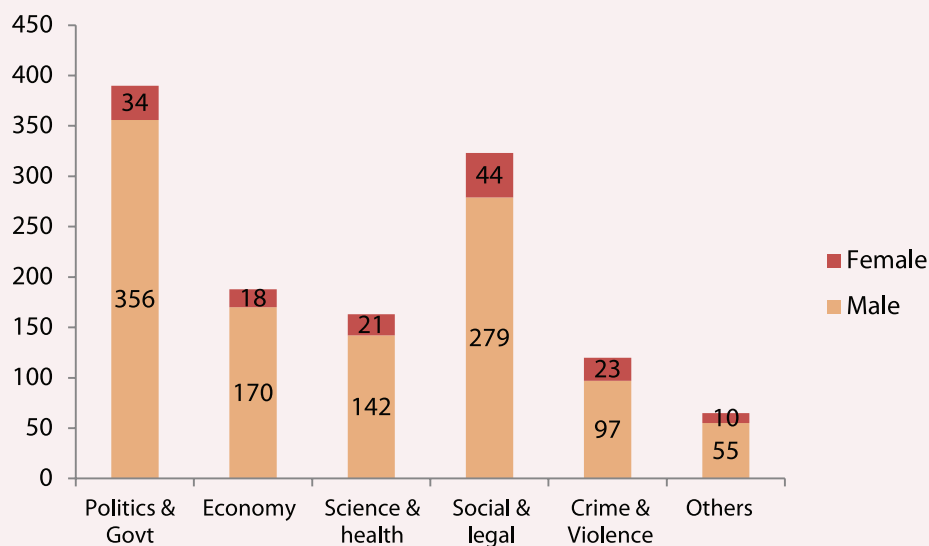
**FIGURE 10: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS**



Similarly, among 1387 sources recorded majority of men and women were quoted in the news about politics and governmental and social and legal issues respectively. Again, women as news sources are found highest (42%) in news about social and legal issues with men in the news about politics and government.



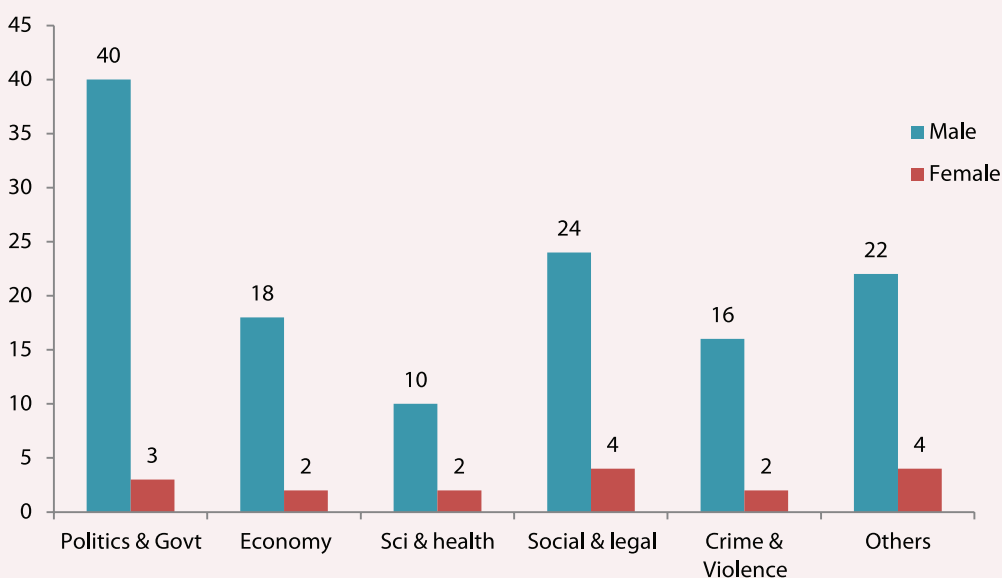
FIGURE 11: FEMALE SOURCE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS

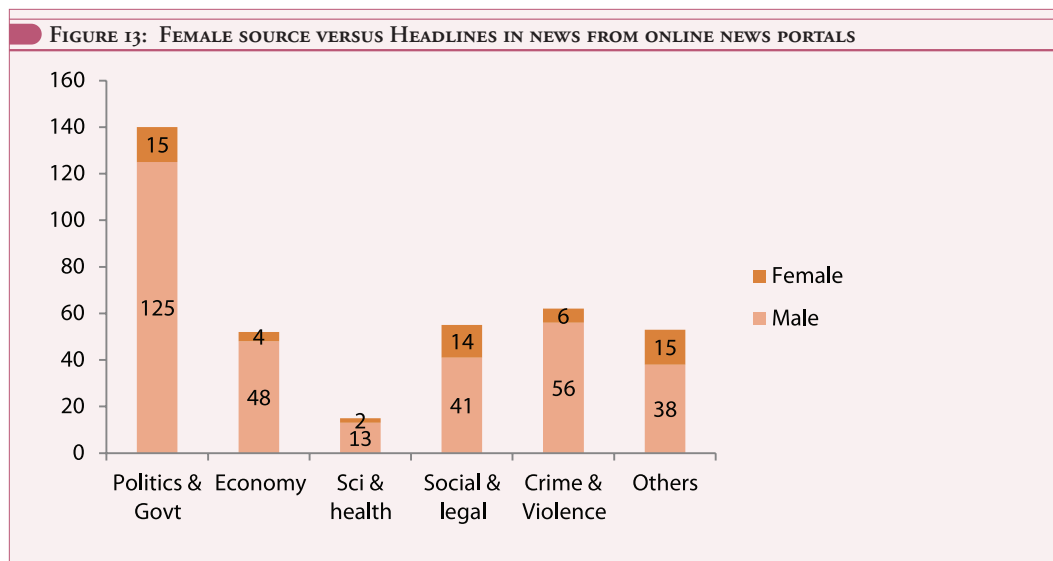


## ii) Online Media

Out of 147 news bylines recorded from online portals during same three months, majority have been recorded from news about Politics by male journalist and social and other news stories by female journalists .

FIGURE 12: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS FROM ONLINE PORTALS





But the highest number of women as news sources was quoted in news about politics & other and the highest number of men was quoted in news about politics and government.

## 5. Stories about women:

Among 1047 stories scanned from nine broadsheets, 11 are stories about women and 5 stories challenge stereotype against women. Again, out of total news with female byline 32 were published on the first pages of the scanned broadsheets where GP had highest (11) followed by KAN (7).

In case of news stories from six online news portals, among 360 stories 10 are stories about women and 2 challenge stereotype against those. Setopati is found to publish the highest number of stories about women which is followed by Pahilopost.

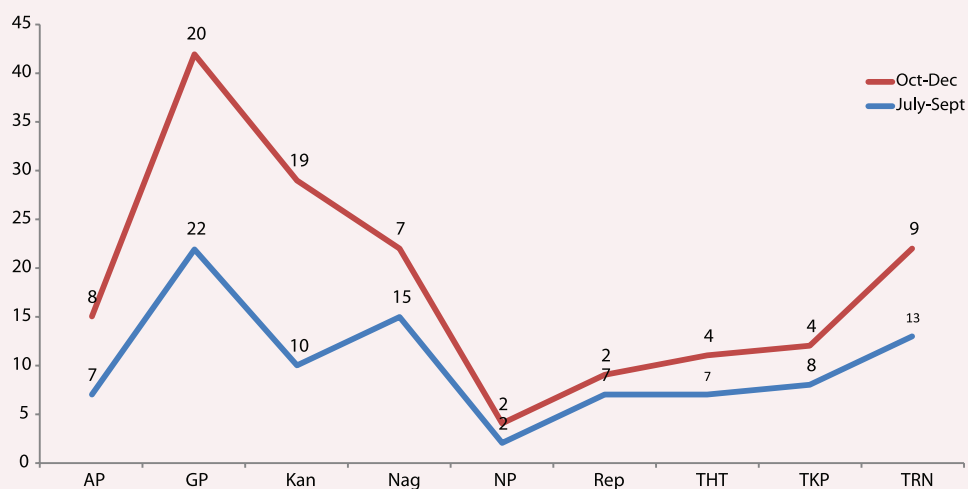
### Challenging stories :

- I. *Desire after 8 years of injustice* (Kantipur, Kathmandu, and October 26): The story is based on a girl, named Pooja who became a victim of rape at the age of 5. Despite being a victim, she stood firm and fought for 8 long years to get justice. In the story she describes about her suffering and the humiliation, she faced. At the end, she won her battle and intended to become a chief-justice. The story challenges stereotype against women.
- II. *Two Jha sisters set an example in sports* (Kabaddi) (Gorkhapatra, October 3): This story revolves around two sisters who excel in national and international Kabaddi championship with the support of their family. The story hence highlights equality and shows that women are no less than men.
- III. Where women devotees are obstructed to enter in temple at dashain (Setopati, October 3): The story describes the women who are denied to enter temple during the festival of Dashain. Although, Dashain celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga women are not allowed to enter the temple during this time. Thus, it highlights inequality between men and women and perpetuates stereotypes.

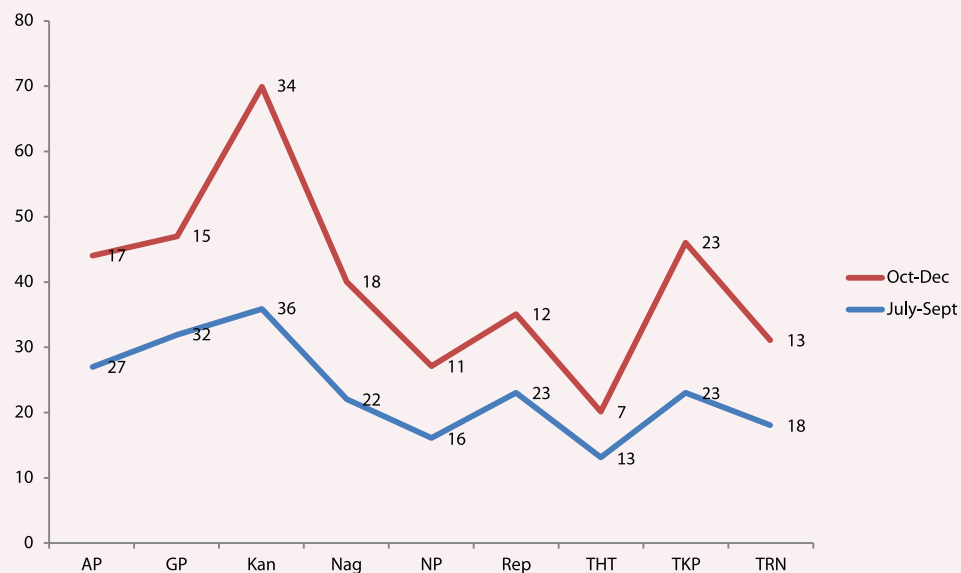
## 6. Comparative trend:

As compared to the previous quarter (July -September), the presence of women in news byline showed decreasing trend in all the selected broadsheets.

**FIGURE 14: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS FROM APR-DEC 2019**



**FIGURE 15: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS FROM APR-DEC 2019**



Likewise, presence of women as news sources is also found decreasing trend in the selected broadsheets.

FIGURE 16: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN ONLINE NEWS FROM APR-SEPT 2019

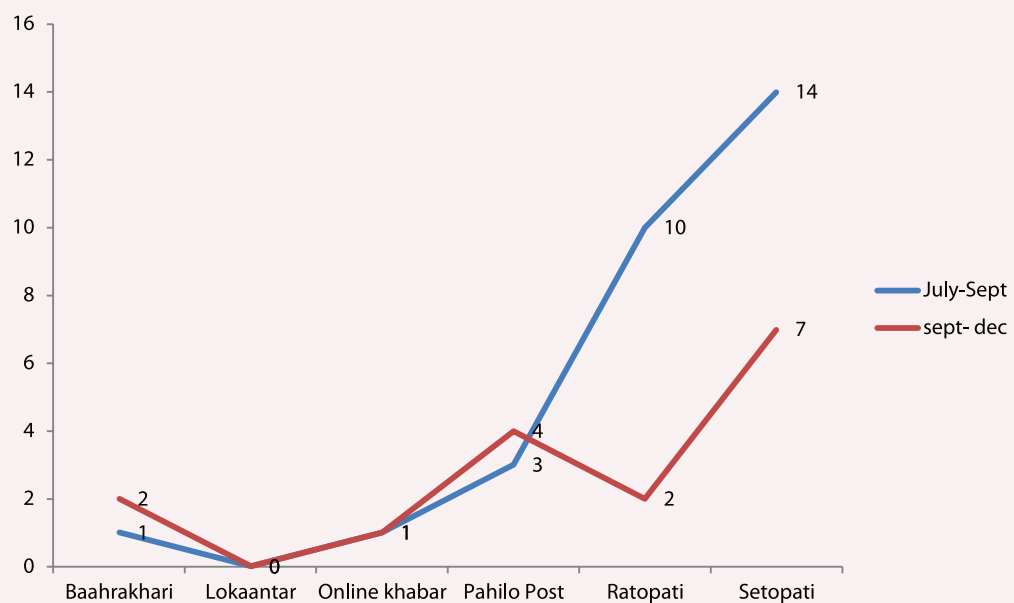
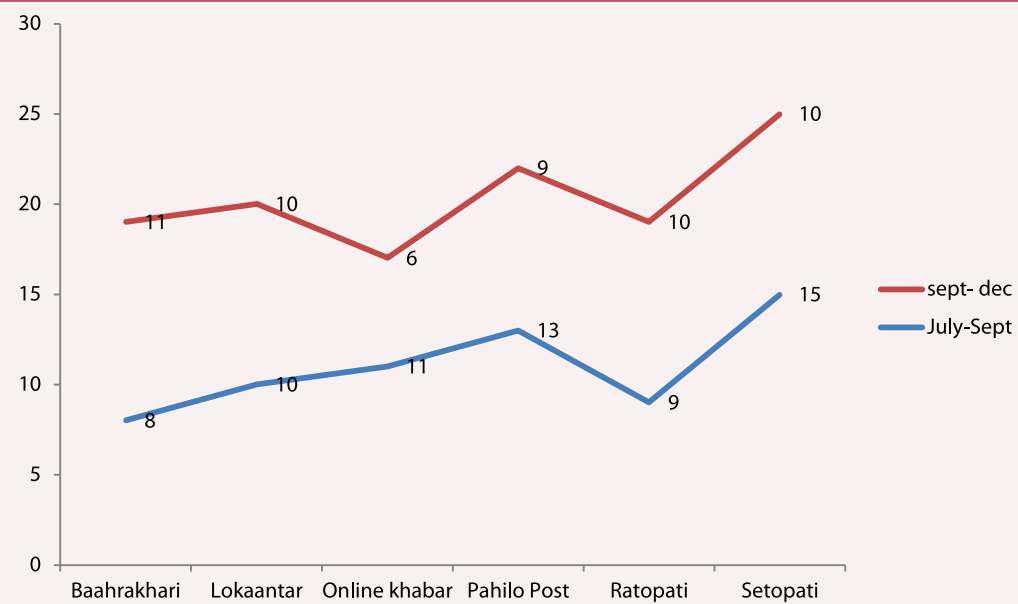


FIGURE 17: COMPARATIVE TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN ONLINE NEWS FROM APR-SEPT 2019



On the other hand, online portals too show slightly decreasing trend in terms of presence of women in news byline. On the other hand, number of women quoted as news sources is found slightly more than previous quarter.

## Observation:

This report presents the finding of data recorded from October -December 2019 on presence of women in news by line, news sources and analysis of their relation with news categories.

According to the data recorded from October -December 2019, women in byline comprise 14% in news from national broadsheets and 11% in news from online news portals. This shows decrease in their presence by 1% for broadsheet and 9% for online news compared to last quarter (July-September).

Moreover, the women as sources of news reached 12% in print whereas, increased in online portals by 2%. Among the media outlets monitored, Gorkhapatra constitutes maximum number of female in byline and op-ed articles respectively and news from Setopati online shows the highest number of female in byline.

Furthermore, news from Kantipur among the broadsheets and Barakhari among online portals quoted the highest number of women as sources.

While main news contents of both print and online media are dominated by political issues, women are visible more in news about social and legal issues followed by entertainment issues.

Overall, this quarter recorded the highest percentage of women in news sources in online as compared to previous reports.

~~~~~ **The End** ~~~~~

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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