



Female byline up by 6% in online media; 1% in print media

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING

(July-September- 2018)



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It has been almost two years now the Freedom Forum continued the monitoring of the media contents through gender perspectives. Begun with the major nine national broadsheets, FF, during this period, expanded the monitoring to major six online news portals and 21 major provincial dailies. This activity is a part of the project 'Enabling conducive atmosphere for free, safe and inclusive media (ECAFSIM)', funded by Free press Unlimited, a foundation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, working on FoE and press freedom issues around the world.

This three monthly (July to September 2018) report presents the quantitative picture of the presence of men and women in the news contents of the dailies. Data and evidences collected from the monitoring are used as advocacy tool to make media editors and concerned authorities aware about women's presence in their media contents. The report is prepared after scanning main news and op-ed's from each media once in a week for their bylines, news sources, and analysis through gender perspective. 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. This evidence-based report, prepared by following the tools and methodologies

Key findings (April-June)

- 21.2% of the articles in Op-Ed pages are by female; while main news of online and print dailies revealed 18.2% and 8.8% female byline respectively.
- Women as news sources are found decreasing this three months with 9.3% in print media and 10.4% in online.
- Highest number of female in bylines (31) and sources (137) from print media are found in the news on social/ legal and political/ governmental issues respectively, while those for online media are 11 bylines in economic and 14 sources in social/ legal news.
- The report in contrary to the previous mentions more women as new sources in political news.
- Data show one among every 3 news stories is about Nepal's government and politics, and economic news covers second highest (19.7%) space in the main news of online portals whereas, social and legal news come second in print media.

Key Findings from (July-September)

- Women as reporter and article writer comprise 10% and 22% respectively in the main news stories and articles of nine print dailies monitored during three months. Likewise, online news contain 24% news with female byline.
- Women as news sources are found 11% and 9% in print and online news respectively.
- Highest number of female in byline and news sources are found in the news about social and legal issues for both online and print news monitored.
- As compared to the previous quarter, women's presence in byline and sources of print media show slight increase by 2% and their byline in online media also increases by 6%.
- Overall, Setopati online and Nagarik daily constitute the highest number of female in news byline and Kantipur daily contributes to the highest number of articles by female authors in this quarter.

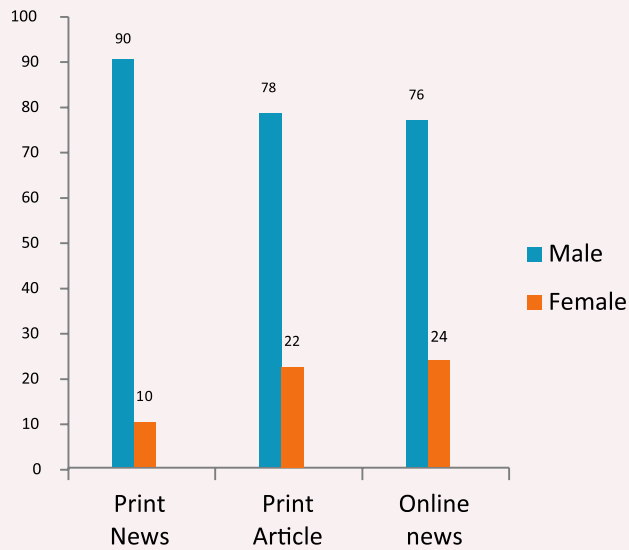
Analysis

1. News Byline

During three months long monitoring from July to September, 863 news items and 200 op-ed articles were scanned from the nine national dailies. Similarly, 360 main news stories from the mainstream online news portals were scanned for their bylines during this period.

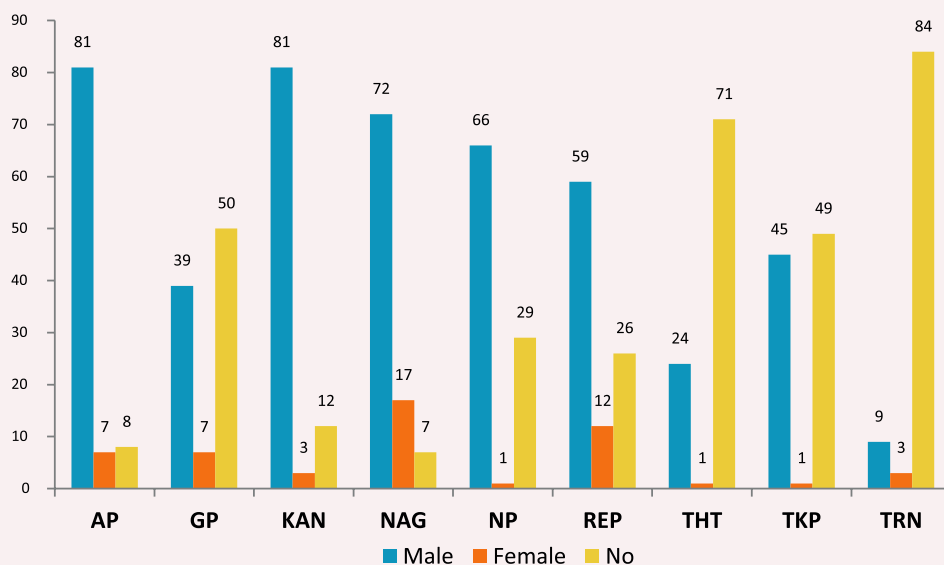
Comparing among three different types of news contents, online news contents are found showing more number of female bylines.(Fig 1)

FIGURE 1: GENDER IN BYLINE OF PRINT AND ONLINE NEWS ITEMS



[10% female byline in main news of 9 broadsheets]

FIGURE 2: BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE MAIN NEWS OF NINE BROADSHEETS



Among 863 news stories in the dailies, only 61% contained bylines while remaining ones lack any byline of the reporters. Again, among 61% (528) of the news with byline, 9.8% show female bylines.

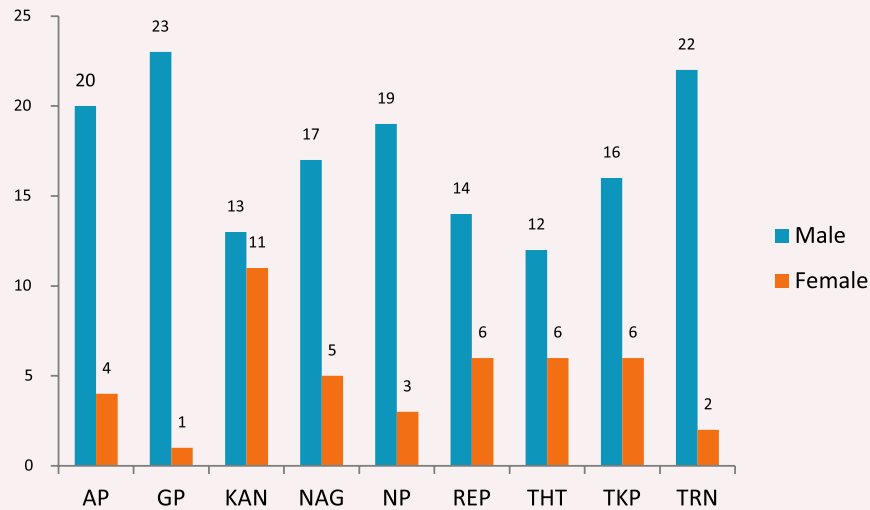
[22% articles on the Op-ed pages are written by female]

Scanning through 200 articles from the dailies, majority were found to be written by male authors and columnists. Nevertheless, one among at least 3 articles scanned during study is written by female.

Among nine broadsheets monitored, Kantipur (Kan) published the highest number of articles by women authors (11), whereas Gorkhapatra (GP) published the highest number of articles by men authors (23).

Kantipur's op-ed page has been found to be more gender inclusive as compared to other broadsheets. (fig 3)

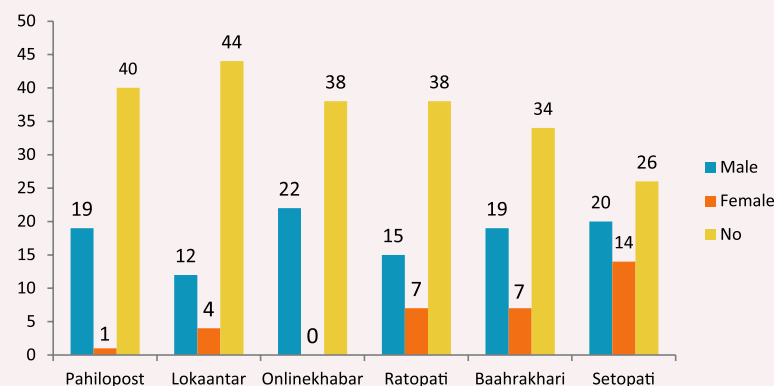
FIGURE 3: OP-ED ARTICLES ON THE NINE BROADSHEETS



[Women journalists are more visible in bylines of online media than in print media]

With the monitoring of 360 main news from six mainstream online news portals, it is found that among 39%

FIGURE 4: BYLINES RECORDED FROM MAIN NEWS OF SIX ONLINE NEWS PORTALS



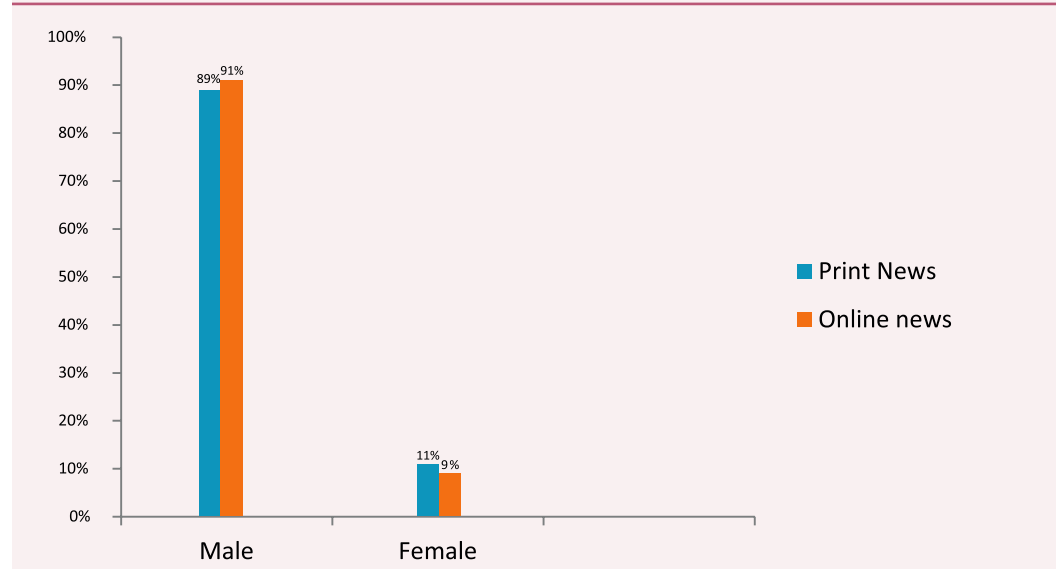
stories containing byline, female reporters reported 24% of the stories. Remaining 61% of the news stories showed no byline.

Amongst six online news portals, Setopati publishes at least 1 story with female byline among every 5 news stories thus, constituting the highest number of female in bylines whereas; Onlinekhabar fails to show any byline. On the other hand, Onlinekhabar contains maximum number of male bylines and Lokaantar contains maximum number of news with no byline. (Fig 4)

2. News sources

From the total news items monitored, 573 news sources from online news portals and 1,830 from print dailies were recorded including person and secondary sources. While person as news sources are quoted in over 90% stories in both types of media, men's voice still dominate the main news section of both types of media outlets.

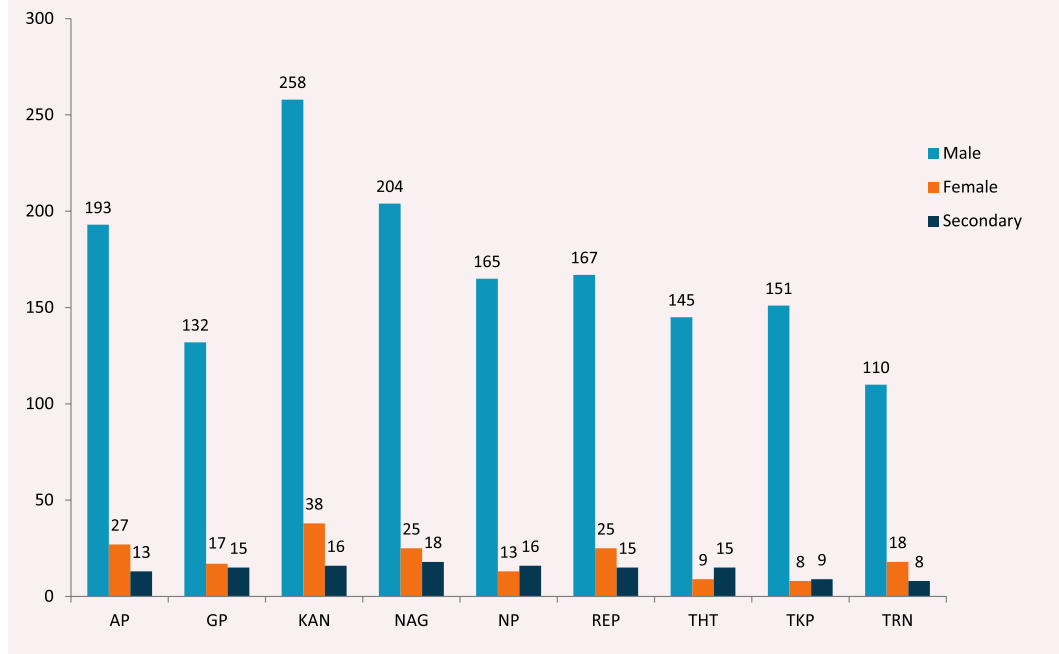
FIGURE 5: NEWS SOURCES AS QUOTED IN THE NEWS STORIES MONITORED



News from print media quotes slightly more number of female sources than those from online media. (fig 5)

[Print media news stories quote 11% women among 1,705 persons identified as news sources]

According to the data recorded from monitoring of the 863 news stories of print dailies, 93% quoted person (men/ women) as news sources, whereas 7% news quoted secondary sources (data, reports, written statements, court statements, etc.) or both. Among those 93% person, 11% are women sources.

FIGURE 6: : NEWS SOURCES QUOTED IN THE MONITORED BROADSHEET DAILIES

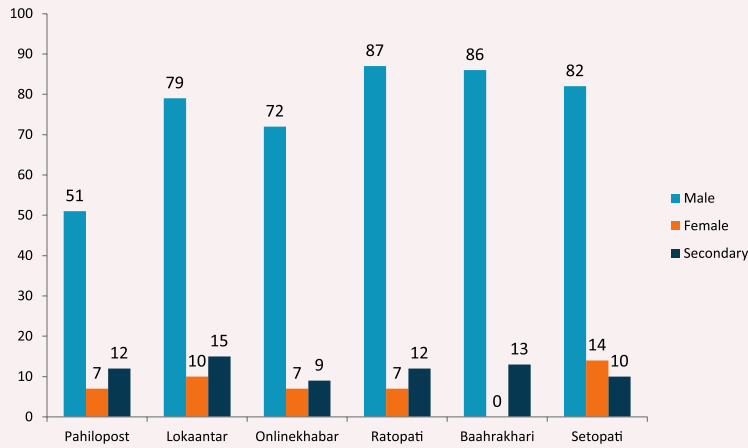
According to figure 6, news scanned from Kantipur daily quoted maximum number of both men (258) and women (38) as news sources, whereas news from The Kathmandu Post (TKP) and The Rising Nepal (TRN) quoted the least number of women as news sources.

[360 news stories scanned from online media during study period quoted only 9% women as sources]

Scanning through the news stories on the selected six online news portals revealed 502 persons as news sources among which 91% are men and 9% are women. It has been found that majority of the online news stories being shorter and brief than those of print news have been found to quote lesser number of the sources.

Comparing among the online news portals monitored for three months, Setopati (14) has been found to accommodate the highest number of women as news sources and subject of the stories while Baahrakhari failed to include any female voice in its news stories monitored.

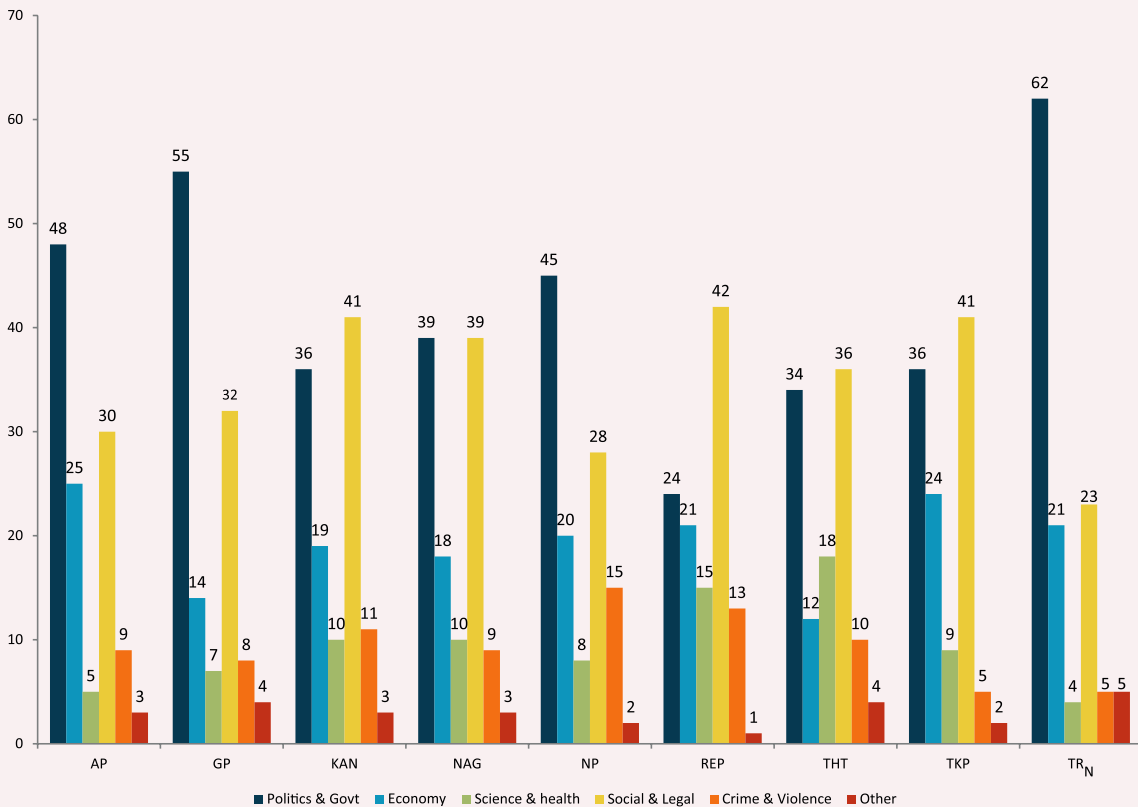
Likewise, Ratopati quoted the highest number of male sources (87) and Pahilopost being the least one to quote male sources (51). (Fig 7)

FIGURE 7: NEWS SOURCES QUOTED IN THE MONITORED ONLINE NEWS

3. News Headlines

Among the news stories monitored from both the online (360) and print outlets (1063), political news dominated other issues on the main news section by over 30%.

Following the news on politics and government affairs, news on social and legal issues accounted for 26% and 29% in online and print news respectively.

FIGURE 8: TOPICWISE NEWS DISTRIBUTION OF PRINT OUTLETS' NEWS

[Political news accounted for 36% of all the news items monitored in the print outlets]

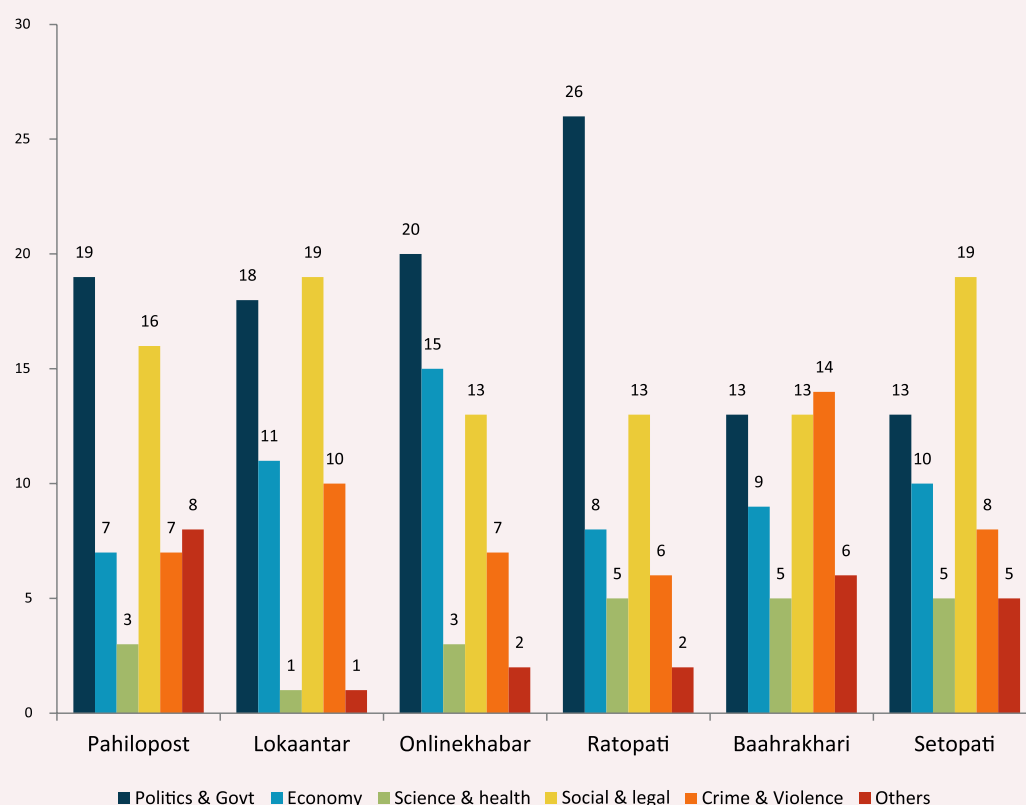
Among the monitored print media, TRN (62) publishes the highest number of political news on its main news pages followed by Gorkhapatra (55). However, number of news on social and legal issues exceeded political ones in Kantipur, The Himalayan Times (THT), Republica (Rep) and The Kathmandu Post (TKP). (Fig 8)

[Online portal's news more diverse in terms of issues coverage]

Compared to the news published in the print media, those published in the online portals are found covering different issues on the main news sections although majority are those about politics. Among the outlets, Ratopati (26) contains maximum number of news on politics and government, while in case of Lokaantar and Setopati news about social and legal issues are also provided significant space.

Additionally, due to rise in the cases of gender based violence such as rape, trafficking and murder news on crime and violence also occupy considerable space in the main news outlets after economic beats. (Fig. 9)

FIGURE 9: : TOPIC-WISE NEWS DISTRIBUTION OF ONLINE PORTALS' NEWS



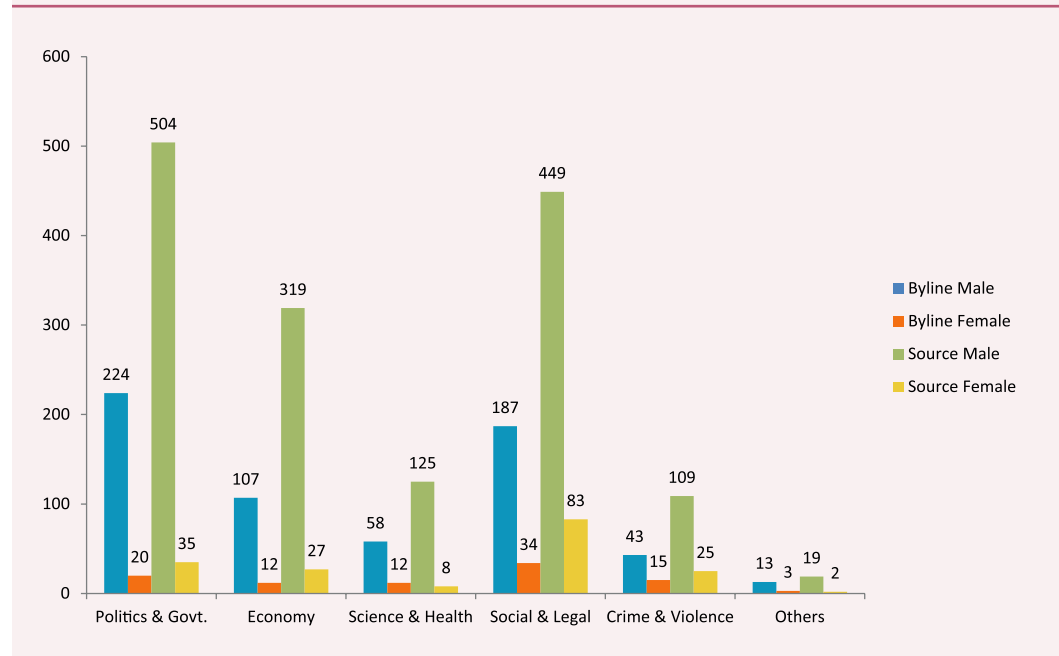
4. People in the news

Scrutinizing the news headlines in relation with the gender of reporters and sources on the news, it is noted that those news with the highest number of male byline contain the highest number of male as sources and similarly, those with the highest number of female byline contain the highest number of female sources.

[*Main news of print outlets news are more male centered*]

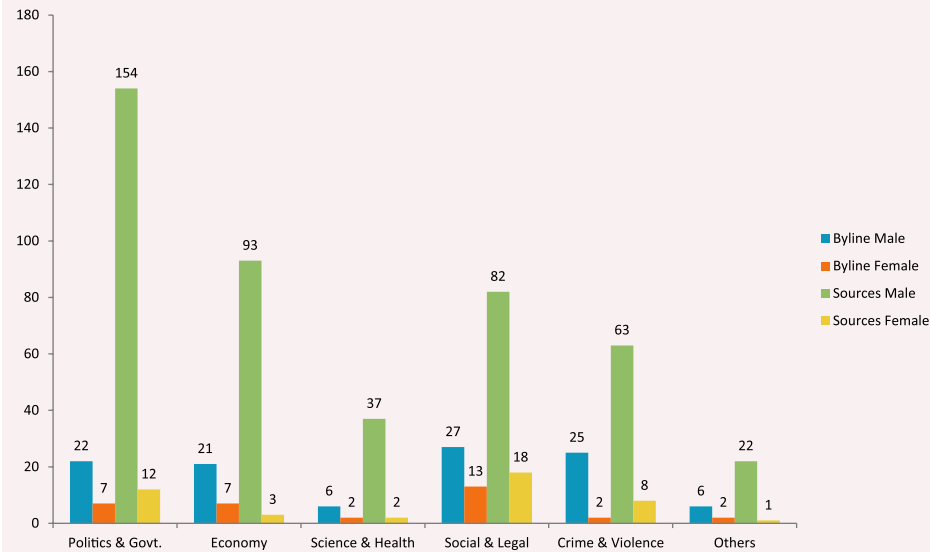
According to figure 10, news on politics and governmental affairs recorded the highest number of male byline (224) as well as male news sources (504). Likewise, news on social and legal issues showed the highest number of female byline (34) and female sources (83). (fig 10)

FIGURE 10: BYLINE AND SOURCES ACCORDING TO NEWS HEADLINES IN PRINT OUTLETS



However, after the social and legal news women as reporters and news sources appear second in the news on politics and government.

Contrarily, both male and female bylines are found maximum in the news on social and legal issues in online media.

FIGURE 11: : BYLINE AND SOURCES ACCORDING TO NEWS HEADLINES IN ONLINE NEWS

In case of the news stories studied from online news portals, the highest number of both male (27) and female (13) byline is found in the news on social and legal issues whereas, the highest number of male source (154) is found in political news with highest number of female sources (18) in social news. (fig. 11)

[Comparative trend from January to September]

A.Print media:

Figure 12 depicts increasing trend for female in byline in Nagarik (Nag), Republica (Rep), The Kathmandu Post (TKP) and The Rising Nepal (TRN).

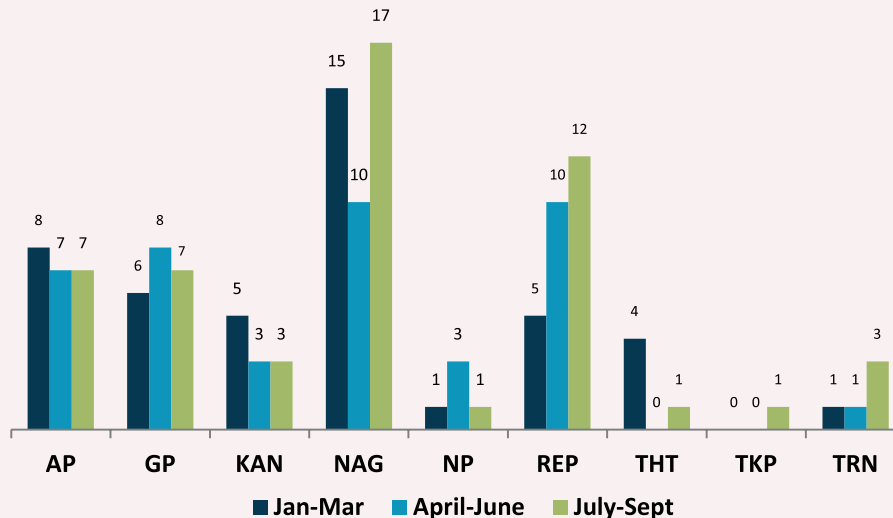
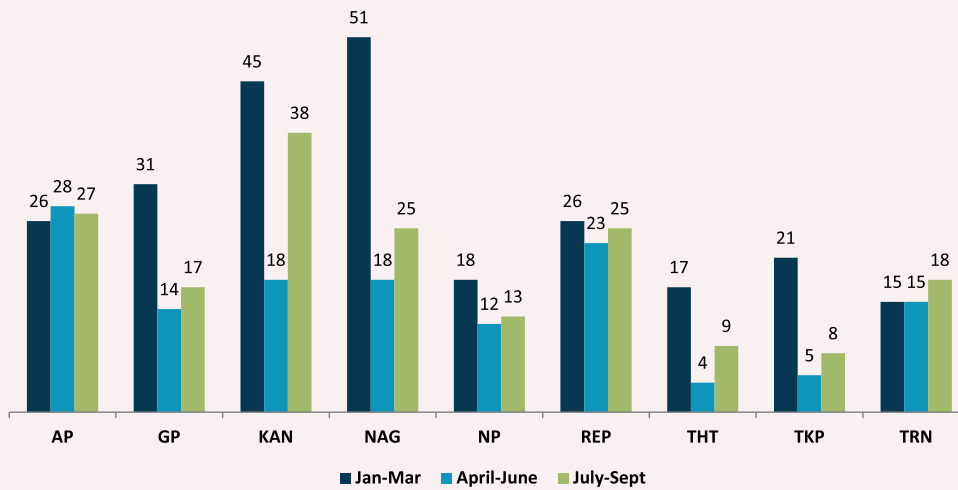
FIGURE 12: QUARTERLY TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN THE NEWS FROM PRINT MEDIA

FIGURE 13: QUARTERLY TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN THE NEWS FROM PRINT MEDIA

In term of news sources, news stories studied from all the print media show slight increase as compared to those of April-June, while decreasing trend than those of first three monthly of Jan-March except for TRN. (fig 13)

B. Online Media:

According to Figure 14, Setopati shows sharp increase in the number of female in bylines coming from first three month to third three month, whereas Onlinekhabar fails to show any byline of female. Nevertheless, Pahilopost online which did not show any female byline on first and second three month showed at least 1 female byline in this quarter.

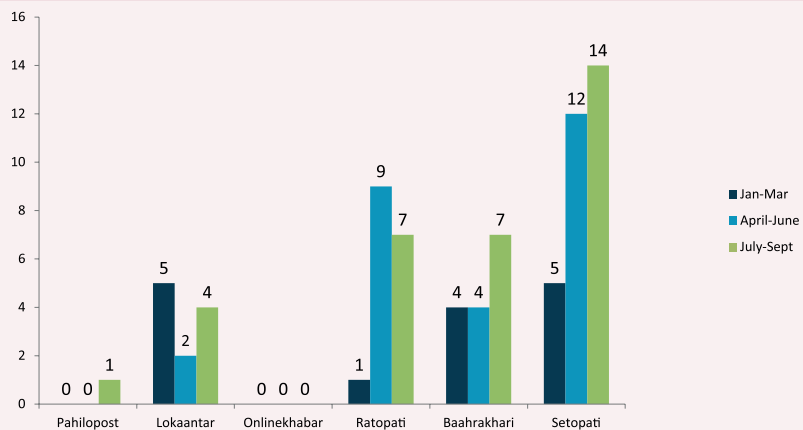
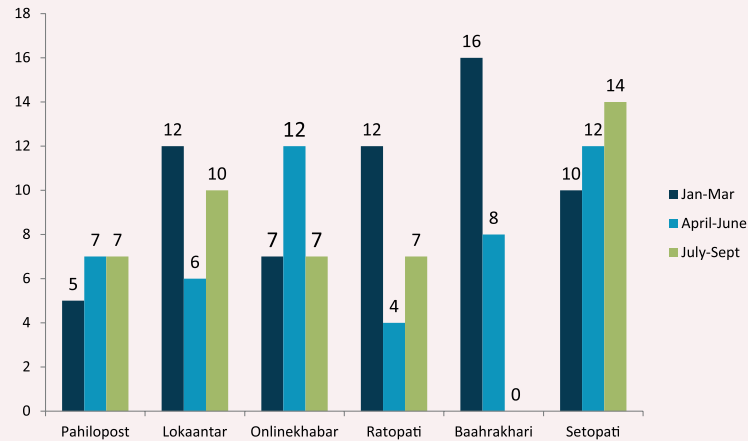
FIGURE 14: QUARTERLY TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN THE NEWS FROM ONLINE NEWS PORTALS

FIGURE 15: QUARTERLY TREND OF FEMALE SOURCES IN THE NEWS FROM ONLINE NEWS PORTALS

Looking into the trend of women as news sources in the online media, Setopati shows gradual increase from first to third three months, while Baahrakhari shows sharp decrease from the first to third three months.

5. Story about women

Among 1,063 news stories scanned from nine broadsheets, only 57 stories were about women among which 25 challenge stereotype against women.

Similarly, among 360 news stories scanned from six news portals, 43 stories were about women among which 14 presented women in the way challenging stereotype.

Among others, Pahilopost online and Nagarik daily contributed to the highest number of women subject stories that challenge stereotype.

Stories warranting further analysis

1. **Five children go missing daily: majority girls (Onlinekhabar, September 27, Kathmandu)**- The news story presents data from National Human Rights Commission's survey which concludes that at least five complaints of children gone missing are registered everyday at various police stations. According to the report, among the children gone missing, more than a half are girls. The report says reasons behind more girls gone missing are for trafficking, pornography, organ trafficking, etc. Hence, the story highlights even minor girls are at high risk of trafficking and sexual abuse.
2. **UML's standard for parliamentary committee chair: Ex-Minister and chairpersons ineligible! Majority are women leaders (Pahilopost, September 18, Kathmandu)**- The news is about the nomination of candidates for chairperson of parliamentary committee where leading party UML has nominated majority of women candidates. Despite the demand of increasing women's participation in the politics, most of the political parties except UML failed to nominate women. Hence, the story challenges stereotype. The UML has taken women as eligible though excluding old ministers and candidates.
3. **Breaking Menstrual taboo (The Kathmandu Post, August 3, Dadeldhura)**- The news states that a campaign against menstrual exile (Chhaupadi) has helped change the way people view and treat pubescent girls and women in their monthly cycle at Bhageshwor Rural Municipality, Dadeldhura. Kaushila Bhatta, the Chairperson of the Municipality started the campaign named Chhui Barsha campaign immediately after being elected due to which teenage girls no longer miss their schools during their periods, women can go

about their daily businesses and most importantly, they are allowed to sleep in their homes. After a yearlong campaign, women have been successful to break the taboo at their own place which is a milestone. Hence, the story clearly challenges stereotype.

4. **Justice seeker at gunpoint (Kantipur, September 14, Kathmandu)**- The news is based on the grievance of the a woman right activist Laxmi Malla who fought for the right and justice of Nirmala Pant, the girl who was raped and murdered. At a time the story shows Laxmi in a strong role while fighting for the victim family it also shows how the case is being overlooked even by the police officers on the other hand. According to the story, Laxmi was attacked and put into custody while voicing for justice to the victim Pant. Hence, while the story presents Laxmi in an assertive role, it also highlights inequality as the case is being overlooked by the security officials.
5. **Women experts in stress management (Nagarik, July 1, Khotang)**- The story describes how women have been experts in training the local women about their stress management. According to the story, women in the place suffer from various mental problems because of their relations with husband and families, especially after their husband go abroad for work. Such trainings have become successful to relieve them of stress and maintain good relations with family members, says the story quoting several trainees. Hence, the story challenges stereotype against women for presenting them as experts who work for other women's welfare.

Conclusion

This report witnessed slight increase in the presence of women as news reporters in case of both online and print news stories. For news scanned from print media, female byline increased by 1% while for online media it was increased by 6%.

Likewise, participation of women as news sources has also shown slight increase (2%) this quarter as compared to the previous quarter in news stories from print media.

The report also concludes that the more the male reporters the more the men quoted as news sources. And political news stories are most often male dominated, whereas social news are more female dominated both in terms of reporters as well as sources.

Nevertheless, monitoring of online news revealed that maximum number of both male and female byline is found in the news about social and legal issues.

Comparing the main news contents from the national dailies and online news portals monitored during this three months, women journalists are more visible in bylines of online media. Contrarily, women are more quoted as sources in the news contents of print dailies.

On to the provincial dailies monitored during same period, women as news sources are found maximum in the provincial dailies as compared to the national print and online media. While, their inclusion is slightly more than those in the national print media.

Despite slight improvement, three months monitoring data show that media contents are still imbalanced in terms of male-female representation. However, it is also the evidence that Nepali media is yet to encourage and retain more women reporters.

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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