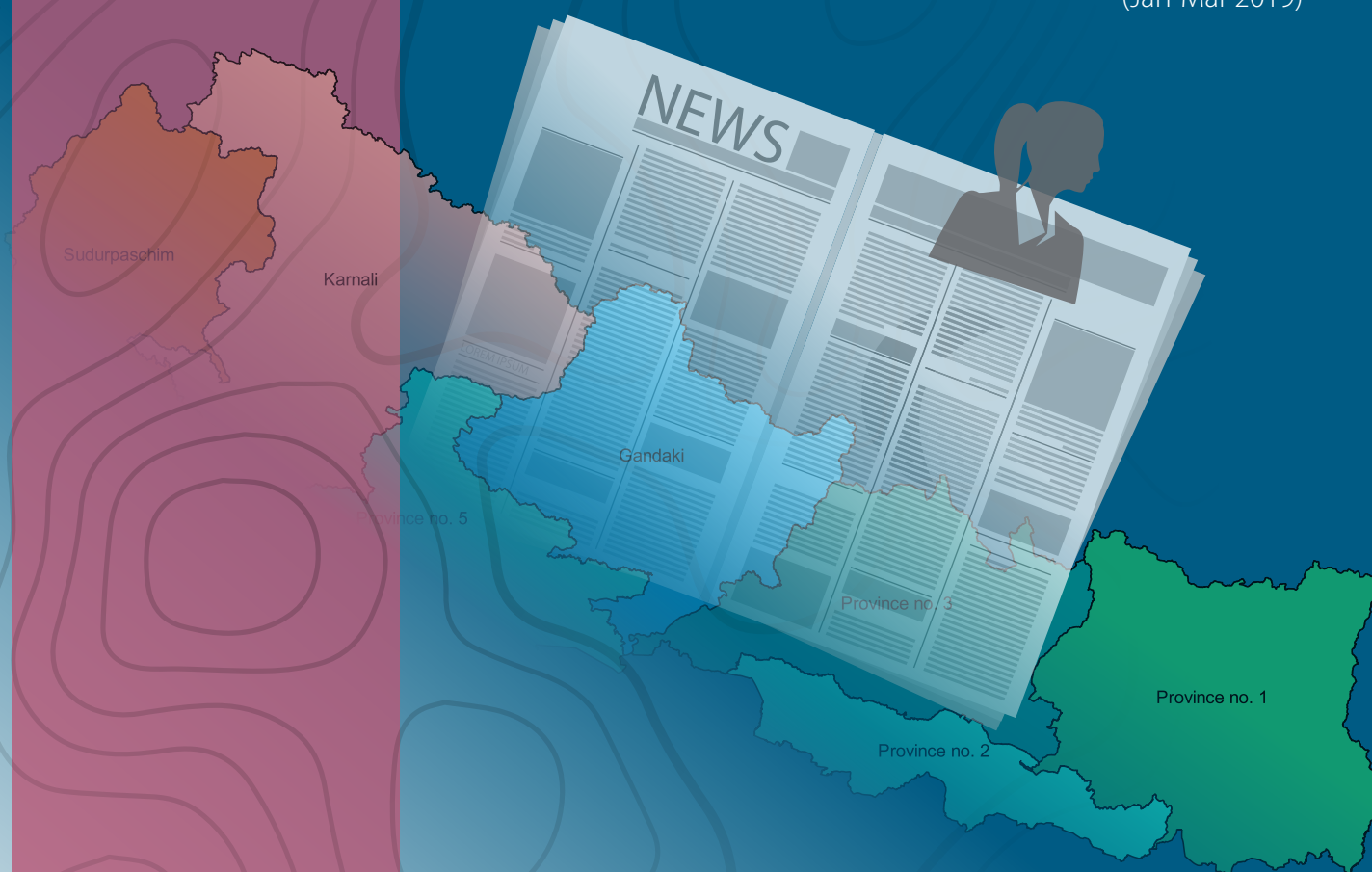




# Political News *third in priority* in Provincial News

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING OF PROVINCIAL MEDIA

(Jan-Mar 2019)





## Political News *third in priority* in Provincial News

The monitoring of three dailies from each seven Provinces of the country is still continued to study the representation of women in media. The variables studied are news bylines, sources quoted, topics and gender portrayal in the stories about women. This report presents findings of monitoring carried out from January to March 2019. During the three months, total 1005 news stories published in 21 selected dailies are scanned, data driven and analyses made.

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.

The provincial dailies monitored are as follows:

Province 1- Blast Times, Udghosh and Purwanchal daily

Province 2- Krishna, Prateek and Janakpur Today

Province 3- Kayakairan, Hetauda Sandesh and Chitwan Post

Province 4- Samadhan, Adarsha Samaj 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:-

October-December 2018	January-March 2019
A total of 1001 news contents were monitored which revealed 15% news with female byline among 275 bylines recorded.	This time, 1005 news were monitored which revealed 7% news with female bylines among 281 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.	Amongst all, Kayakairan daily (Province 3) had the highest number of news with female byline, while Blast Times (Province-1) recorded the highest number of news with male byline.
Among 2,152 sources quoted in the main news contents, only 14% are women against 86% men.	Among 2089 person sources quoted in news contents, 87% were male and 13% female.
Dailies from Provinces 5 and Far-Western contained maximum number of female sources among others.	News stories scanned from Chitwan Post daily (Province 3) quoted the highest number of female sources whereas, Naya Yougubodh (Province 5) quoted the highest number of male as news sources.
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%).	Yet again, news on social and legal issues (23%) dominate the main pages of Province media outlets followed by business (22%) and then political news (20%)
Majority of the news with female byline are about social and legal issues which also contain maximum number of women as news sources.	Maximum number of women in byline and as sources are found in the news about social and legal issues followed by those in business and political news.
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	Comparing the data with previous quarter, women's presence in news byline decreases by 8% and by 1% as news sources.

## Analysis

### 1. Gender In News Byline:

Among 1005 news stories monitored during the three months, only 281 news stories showed named byline. Among those bylined news, women comprise 7% against 93% male.

Comparing among the dailies, Kayakairan daily published from Province- 3 contains the highest number of news with female byline. On the other hand, Blast Times published from Province-1 recorded the highest number of news with male byline.

Figure 3 depicts that news scanned from all three dailies of Province-1, Krishna and Prateek of Province-2, Samadhan and Adarsha of Gandaki Province and Sundaranchal of Far-west Province did not show any female byline. News from Krishna, Lokwani and all three dailies from Karnali Province did not show any named byline.

FIGURE 1: GENDER IN NEWS BYLINES OF 21 PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS

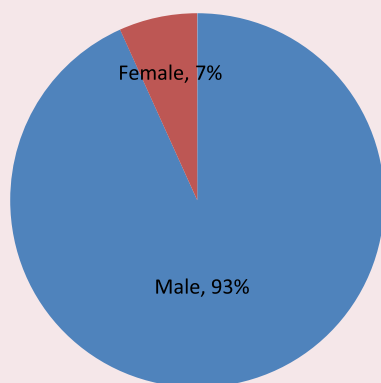
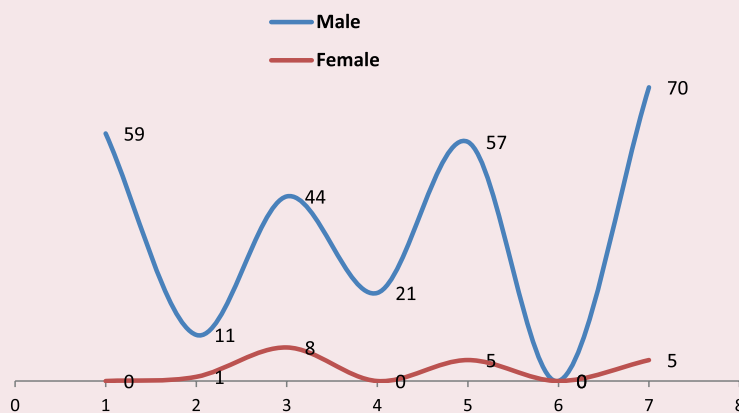
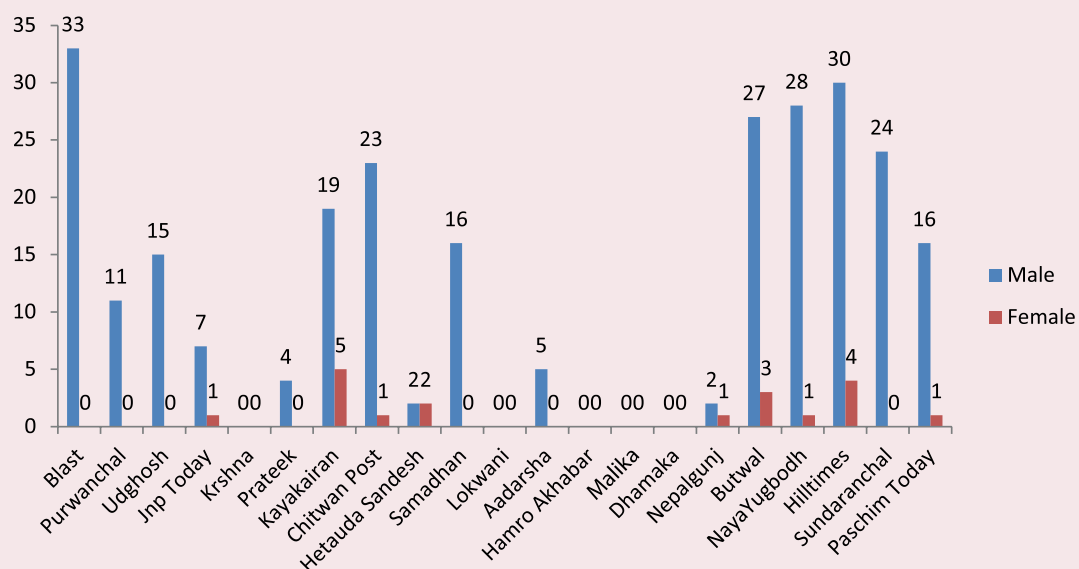


FIGURE 2: NEWS BYLINES RECORDED IN NEWSPAPERS ACCORDING TO PROVINCES



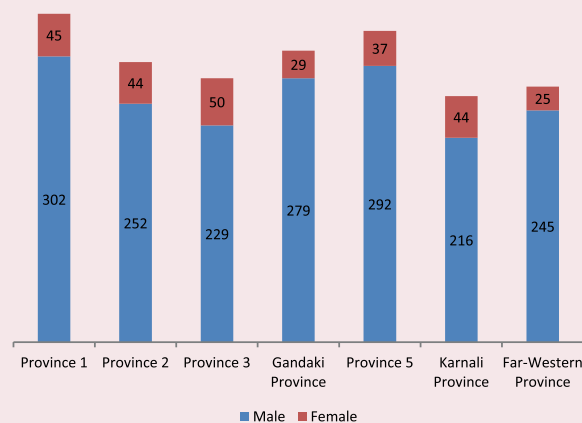
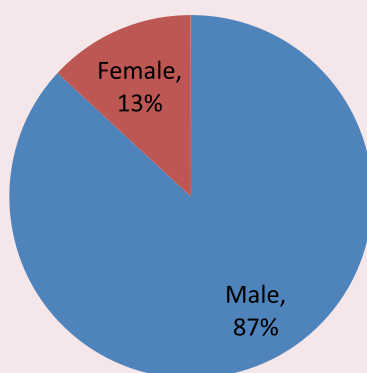
**FIGURE 3: NEWS BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE MONITORED NEWSPAPERS**

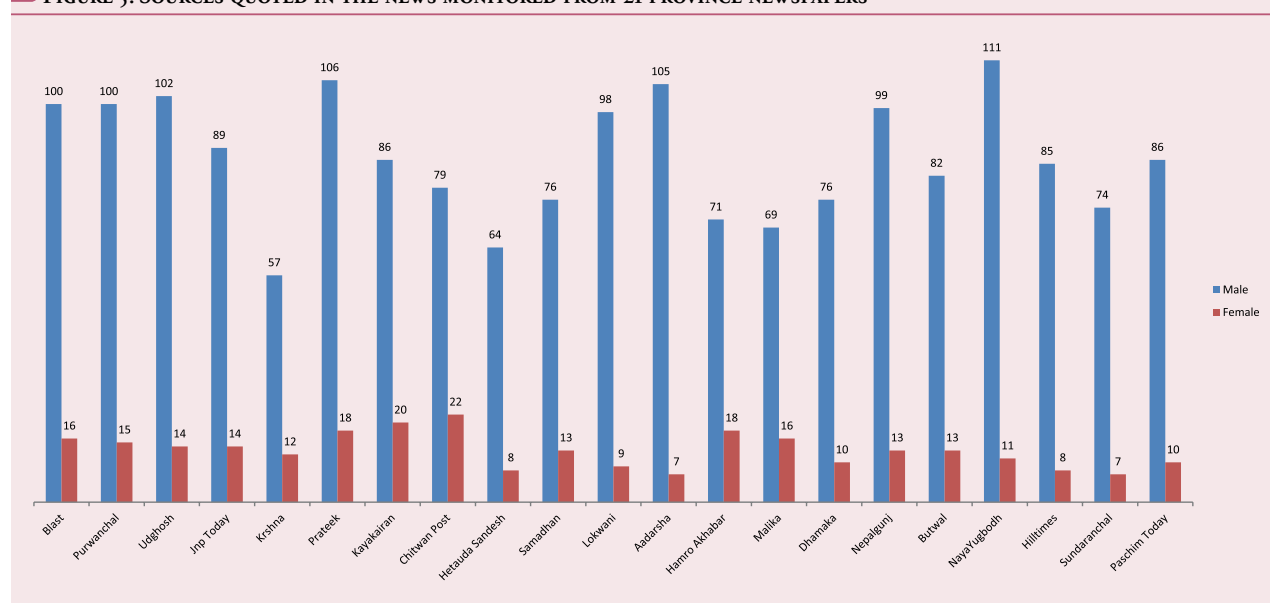
## 2. Gender in News sources:

From the same 1005 stories data on sources quoted were recorded. Three months data recorded 87% male and 13% female as news sources.

Overall, dailies from Province-3 were found quoting the highest number of female sources.

Looking into individual newspapers, news stories scanned from Chitwan Post daily published from Province-3

**FIGURE 4: SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS MONITORED FROM PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS**

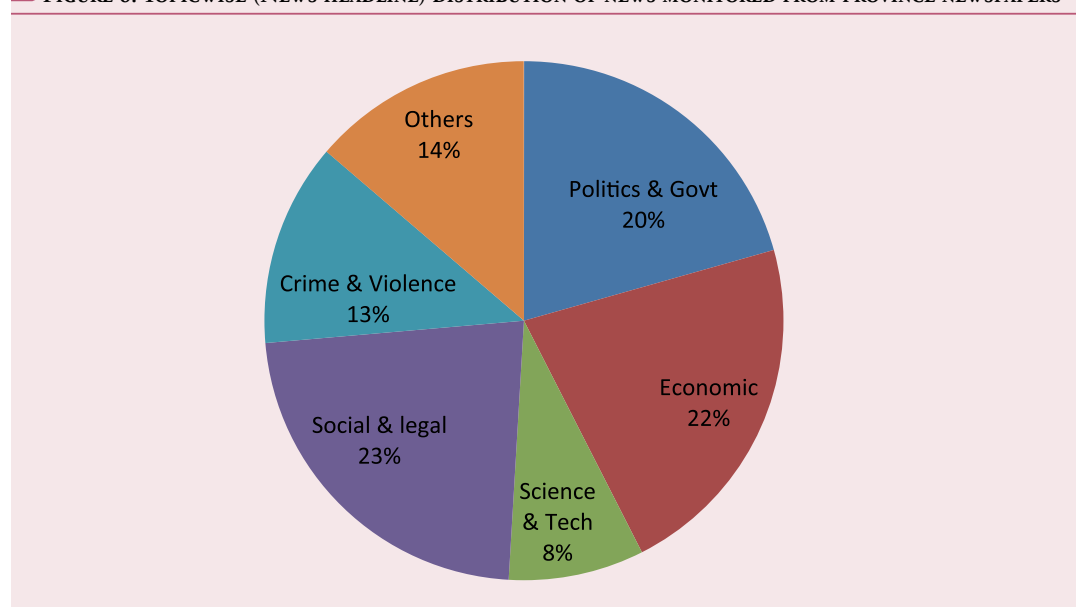
**FIGURE 5: SOURCES QUOTED IN THE NEWS MONITORED FROM 21 PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS**

quoted the highest number of female sources, whereas Naya Yugbodh from Province-5 quoted the highest number of male as news sources.

Adarsha Samaj from Gandaki Province and Sundaranchal from Far-West Province quoted the least number of female sources.

### 3. News headlines:

As recorded in the previous report of 2018, this time too, news on social and legal issues dominate the main pages of Province media outlets. This three monthly data recorded the highest number of social news on the front pages of monitored media followed by business and then political news.

**FIGURE 6: TOPICWISE (NEWS HEADLINE) DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS MONITORED FROM PROVINCE NEWSPAPERS**

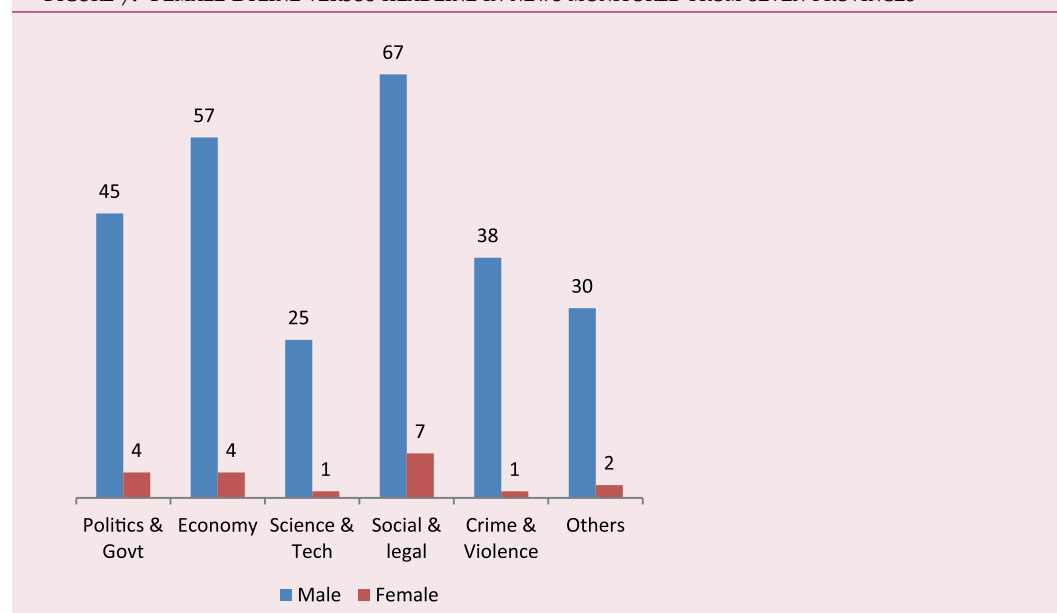
Comparing among Provinces, dailies published from Province-1, 3 and Gandaki cover more than double social news than political ones, whereas those from Province-2 cover maximum political news.

Secondly, business news exhibits majority on the main pages of the dailies from Provinces with highest score from those of Province-5 and Karnali.

#### 4. *People in the news:*

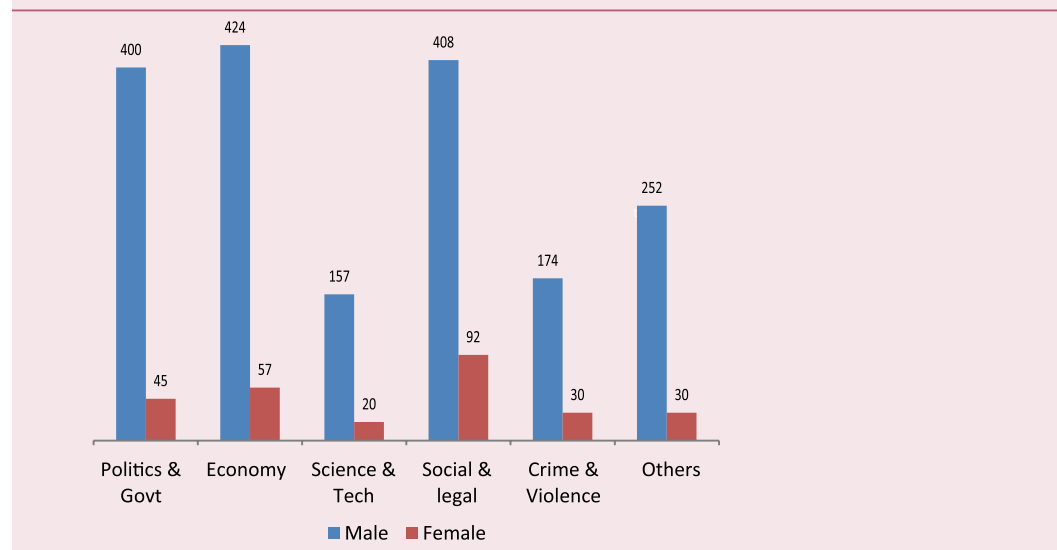
In the dailies from Provinces, maximum number of women in byline and as sources is found in the news about social and legal issues followed by those in business and political news. The least number of women are found reporting on science/ technology and crime issues.

**FIGURE 7: FEMALE BYLINE VERSUS HEADLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES**



Moreover, dailies from Province-2 and Karnali are found to have quoted more number of women in political news apart from social news as compared to other Provinces. Dailies from Province-5 quote maximum number of women in business news apart from social news.

**FIGURE 8: FEMALE SOURCE VERSUS HEADLINES IN NEWS MONITORED FROM SEVEN PROVINCES**



## 5. *Stories about women:*

Monitoring of 1005 news during three months showed 15 stories related to women. Maximum stories presenting women in challenging role were published on the dailies from Gandaki Province. Dailies monitored from Province-1, 2 and 7 did not contain any stories about women.

### Some stories about women:

#### **Disabled recognizing country through games (March 9, Butwal, Butwal Today)**

The story highlights stories of female players, who, despite being differently able, have been able to represent Nepal through different sports. The story quotes four female players who have already participated in different national and international competitions, representing Nepal; and have won awards too. One of the players, Laxmi Kunwar, became disabled after spinal cord injury. Later, she established Spinal Cord Injury Sports Association and is actively involved in different sports like swimming, basketball. Other female players too play wheelchair cricket, weight lifting championship, table tennis etc. Hence, the story clearly challenges stereotype.

#### **Pressed by in-laws, women compelled to follow 'Chhau' tradition (January 29, Malika Post, Kalikot)**

Even though various campaigns and advocacy are made to practically end 'Chhau' tradition in the rural places of west regions in Nepal, many still practice it. The story described the plight of women in Kalikot district where even female teachers have to practice the tradition. According to their In-laws, the family will be cursed if they stay at home during their menstruation. So they should leave home to stay in outhouse called Chhaugoth. The story hence, clearly perpetuates stereotype, where even the educated women are presented in submissive role.

#### **Age does not bar learning (March 24, Butwal Today, Dang)**

The story is about Member of Parliament Shanta Chaudhary who has attended Secondary Education Examination at the age of 46. She was illiterate and a forced child labourer. She could not attend school regularly resulting in a dropout. Even after being elected MP, she did not hesitate to continue her studies. The story also quotes her as saying, at every step of her career she found education very important. The story clearly challenges stereotype for women who struggled during childhood to free herself from forced labour, then entered into politics and successfully became Member of Parliament. It is also an inspiring case indeed.

## Conclusion:

This three months long monitoring report concludes minimal participation of women in both byline and news sources. Data recorded 7% female in news byline and 13% as news sources which is a decrease by 8% and 1% decrease respectively as compared to the previous quarter (Oct-Dec 2018).

Among the monitored 21 province dailies, news from Kayakairan published from Province 3 recorded the highest number of news with female byline, while Blast Times from Province 1 recorded the highest number of news with male byline.

Likewise, news stories scanned from Chitwan Post daily (Province 3) quoted the highest number of female sources whereas, Naya Youbodh (Province 5) quoted the highest number of male as news sources.

Contrary to the national dailies monitored, those from Provinces are found to be more diverse for news headlines. Except for those published from Province 2, all the dailies publish more news about social and business issues than political ones.

With the majority of news about social issues on front pages of the Province dailies, maximum number of female in byline and news sources are also found under same category.



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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