



Women as *News Sources* up by 2% *in* Main News Contents

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING OF NATIONAL MEDIA
(Oct-December- 2018)



Women as news sources up by 2% in main news contents

Freedom Forum's monitoring of women's presence in Nepali media is continuous. As media is the frontline source of information on multifarious issues ranging from politics to economy and development from the across the country and abroad, it obviously plays significant role in bringing forth women's issues and concerns. FF's monitoring shows how women are presented and their issues portrayed in the media contents- to categorize further- gender representation in the news byline, news sources, titles of the news and op-ed and their portrayal. This report covers the study of major national dailies and six online news portals and makes quantitative analysis of recent three months- October to December 2018- as well as annual- January to December 2018.

Those variables are monitored from the main news contents and op-ed articles (only for print media) of the selected media. News contents and articles are then scanned for their byline, sources (only for news), category of the news and op-ed titles, and portrayal of women. Data obtained are entered into coding sheets and further processed using MS-Excel. 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.

Key Points:

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.

October-December

- Women as reporter and article writer comprise 9% and 22% respectively in the main news stories and articles of nine print dailies monitored during three months. Likewise, online news contain 15% news with female byline.
- Women as news sources are found 13% and 12% in print and online news respectively.
- Again, the 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.
- Over the year 2018, Nagarik daily and www.setopati.com recorded almost double the number of female byline than other media outlets monitored throughout the year, while Kantipur publishes the highest number of women-authored articles.
- Likewise, news from Kantipur daily and Setopati online were found to quote the highest number of female sources in comparison to others.

Analysis

1. Gender In News Byline:

Total 864 news stories published on the main pages of nine national dailies were scanned for their bylines from October to December 2018. Scanning revealed only 540 news stories with byline among which only 9% are of female and remaining 91% are of male. Remaining 324 stories have nobyline.

Among the nine dailies monitored, Nagarik published the highest number of news with female byline on the main pages (17) followed by Republica (9), whereas news from The Kathmandu Post (TKP) contained maximum male byline (84). News stories monitored from The Himalayan Times (THT) showed no female byline. (Figure 2)

On the other hand, scanning of 197 articles published on the op-ed pages of same dailies revealed 22% written by female and remaining 78% by male authors. Kantipur again published the maximum number of articles (11) by female authors on the op-ed pages as compared to the other dailies. (Figure 3)

FIGURE 1: : GENDER IN NEWS BYLINE

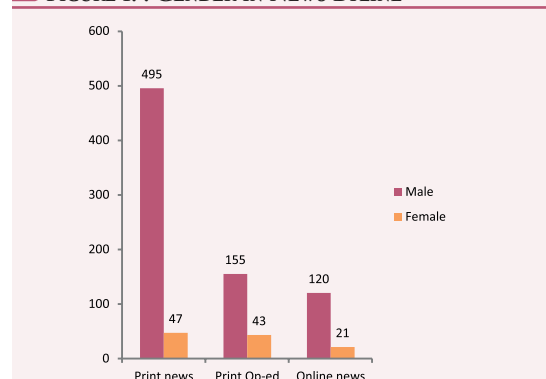


FIGURE 2: BYLINES RECORDED FROM THE MAIN NEWS OF NINE BROADSHEETS

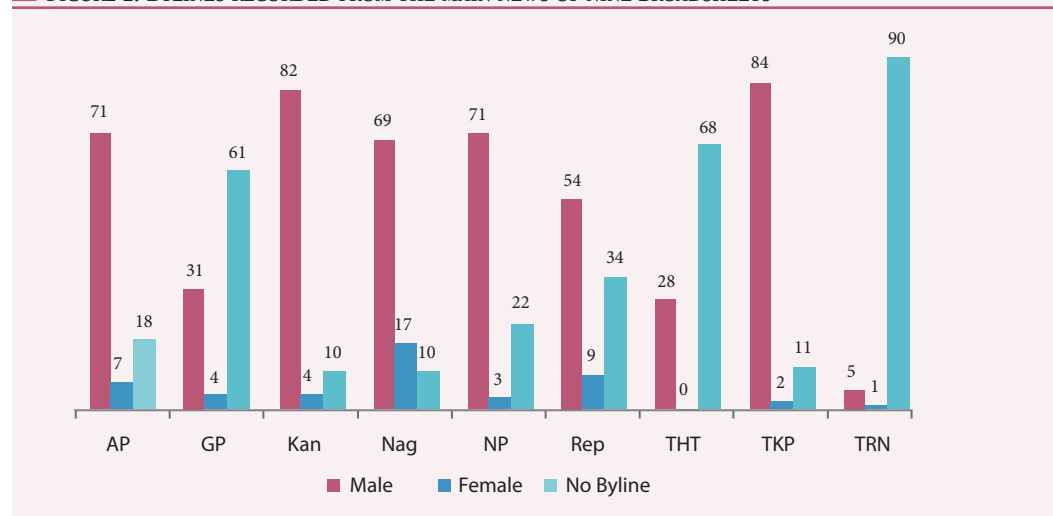
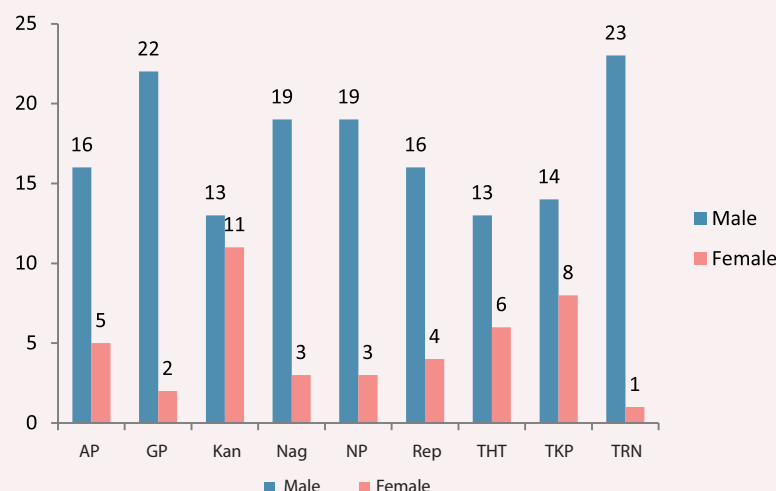
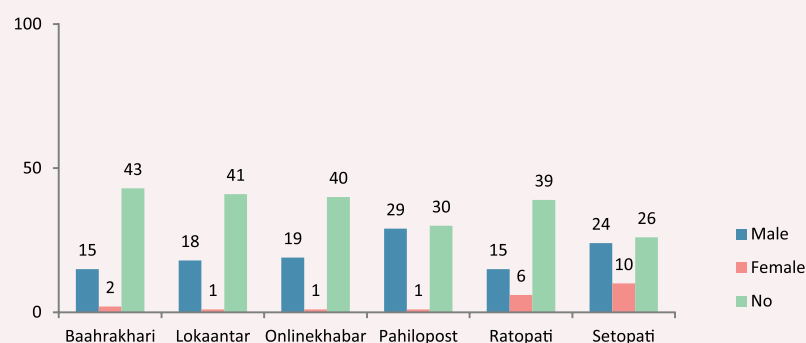


FIGURE 3: AUTHORS FROM OP-ED PAGES OF NINE BROADSHEETS

In case of online news portals, 15% news contained female in their byline against 85% male among 141 bylined news stories out of 360 news stories monitored during three months. Those news stories were scanned from main news section of the six online news portals selected. News stories monitored from Setopati showed the maximum number of female in byline (10) followed by Ratopati (6), while Pahilopost (29) exceeds others on male in bylines. (Fig 4)

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

2. Gender in News Sources:

After monitoring of 864 main news stories from the dailies during the ultimate three months of 2018, total 1,708 persons as news sources were recorded; among which 13% are women and remaining 87% the male.

Nagarik accommodated the highest number of women as news sources (44) which is followed by Kantipur (38) amongst all the dailies, while Kantipur exceeds others in including male sources in the news monitored. (Fig 6)

Similarly, 360 news stories contained 495 person as sources; among which 88% are men and 12% are women. News stories monitored from Setopati online quoted the highest number of female sources (18) and those from Pahilopost online quoted the highest number of male sources (87). (Fig 7)

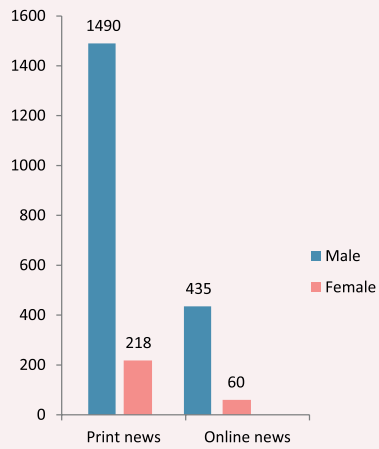
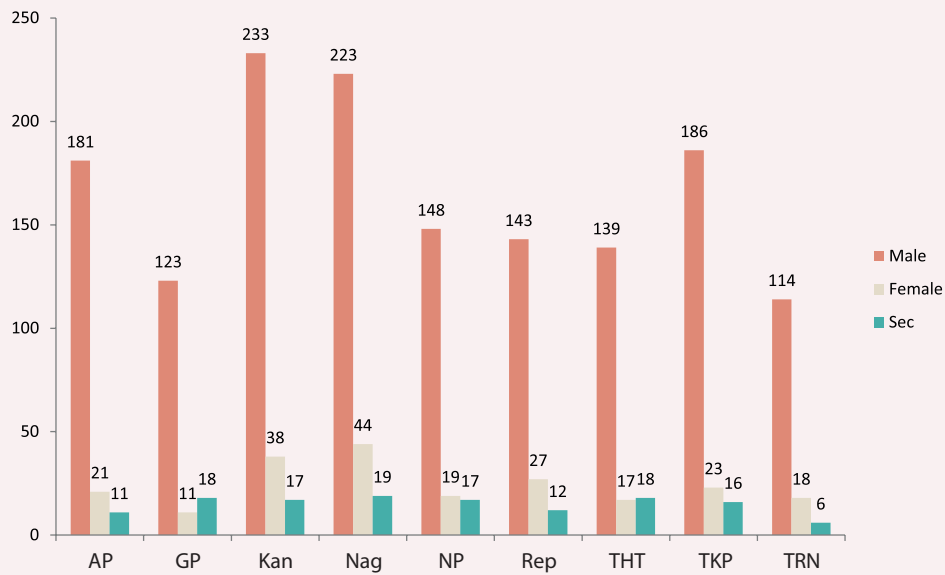
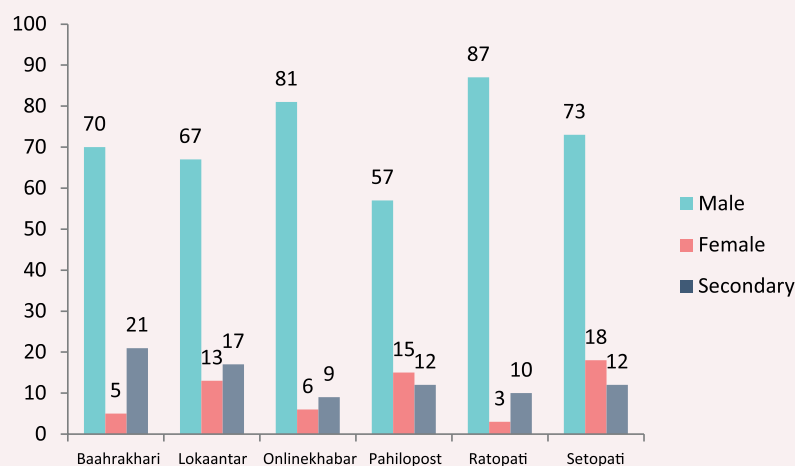
FIGURE 5: GENDER IN NEWS SOURCES**FIGURE 6: : SOURCES QUOTED IN NEWS MONITORED FROM NINE BROADSHEETS**

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

3. News Headlines

As in the previous reports, this report also records the highest number of news related to politics and governmental issues on the main pages of the broadsheets. Almost 36% out of the total news stories monitored are about politics and government followed by Social-Legal (26%) and the least number of news stories are about media, entertainment, sports, etc. which have been coded under Others section.

However, data from individual broadsheet show that Kantipur and Nagarik published more news on social and legal issues than those about politics and government on the main news pages.

Contrary to the news from broadsheets, those scanned from online news portals publish varieties of news related to diverse sectors. As figure 9 depicts majority of the news scanned from selected online news portals are about politics and government being followed by those about economy; however, percentage difference among headline categories is less than those scanned from broadsheets.

Among six online portals, Setopati, Lokaantar and Baahrakhari disseminate more economic news than those about politics and government.

FIGURE 8: TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS FROM BROADSHEETS

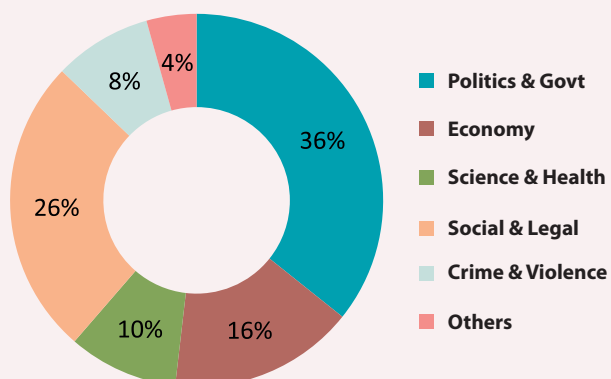
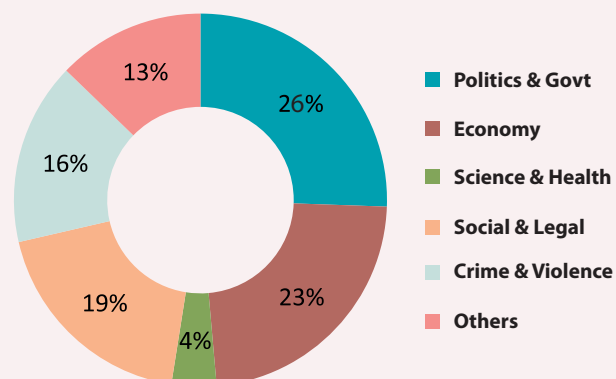


FIGURE 9: : TOPICWISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS FROM ONLINE NEWS PORTALS



4. People in the news

As the figures 9 and 10 depict majority of news monitored during study period come under politics and government category, further analysis is done to derive relation among news byline/ sources and the news headlines.

According to the data, maximum number of female in byline and as news sources are found in the news about social and legal issues whereas, political news still show more male bylines and quote more male sources in both print and online media. (Fig 10)

However, as compared to the previous data after social and legal news women's presence is found maximum in the business news in both the online and print media.

FIGURE 10: : BYLINE AND SOURCES ACCORDING TO NEWS HEADLINES IN BROADSHEETS

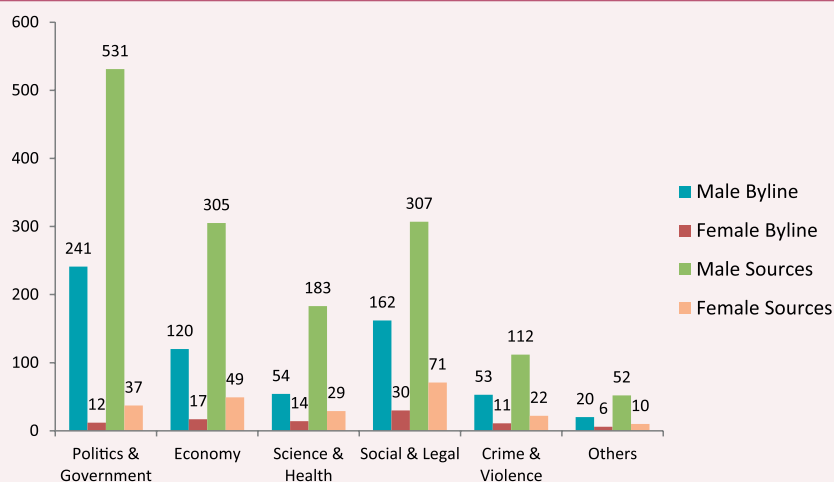
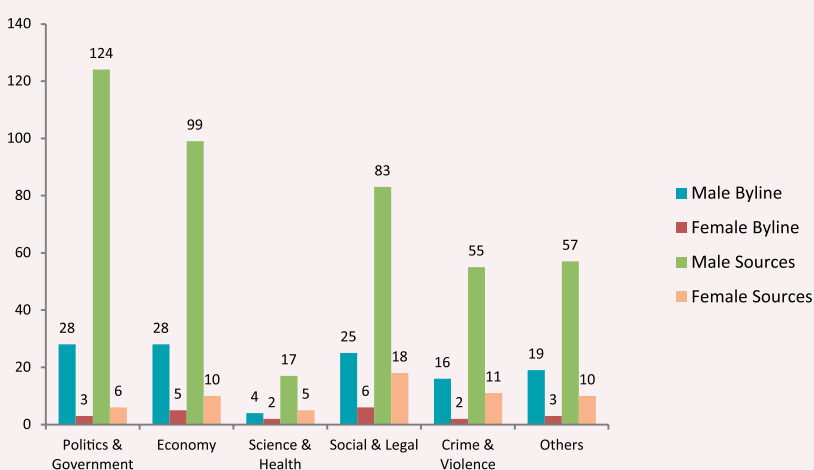


FIGURE 11: BYLINE AND SOURCES ACCORDING TO NEWS HEADLINES IN ONLINE NEWS PORTALS



5. Portrayal of women in stories

Among 1061 news stories scanned from nine broadsheets including op-ed articles, only 31 were about women and their issues and 11 stories challenged stereotype about them. Most of those stories are written by female reporters. The Republica daily published the highest number of stories about women. This also reflects our social construct where women are still presented in the submissive role. During these three months, total 12 female byline stories were published on the first page of Nagarik, Gorkhapatra, Annapurna Post, The Kathmandu Post and Kantipur. Except one published on Gorkhapatra, other stories are about social and legal issues. Likewise, among 360 news stories scanned from six online portals 28 were about women where only 13 presented those in the dominant role. Amongst all, Setopati and Pahilopost published the highest number of stories about women in main news section.

Annual Trend

1. Women in Byline:

I. Print Media : Annual trend for female in news bylines monitored from January to December show decrease in the last three months of the year. Among 2,048 bylines recorded from the scanned news, only 186 are of female that is only 9%. (Fig 13)

Though lesser representation, news from Nagarik daily recorded almost double the number of female byline than other dailies throughout the year. On the other hand, news from The Kathmandu Post contained the least number of female bylines. (Fig 12)

FIGURE 12: ANNUAL DATA OF NEWS BYLINE RECORDED FROM NINE BROADSHEETS

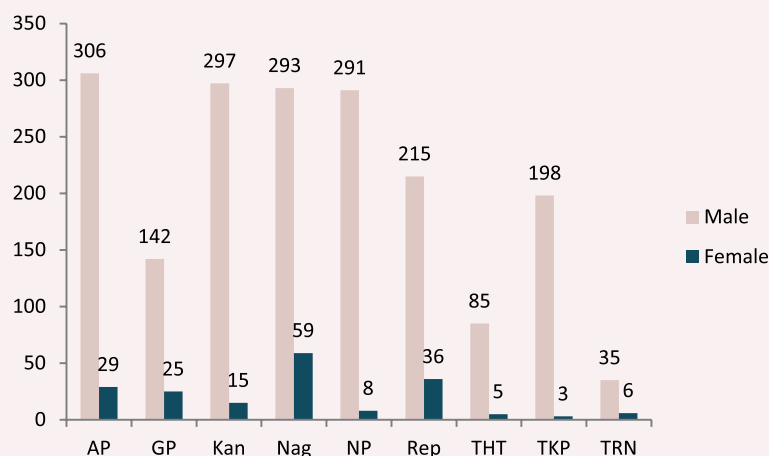


FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF NEWS BYLINE

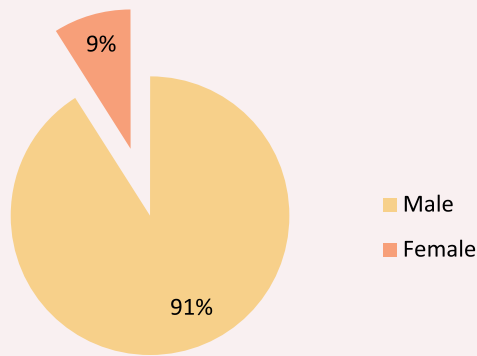
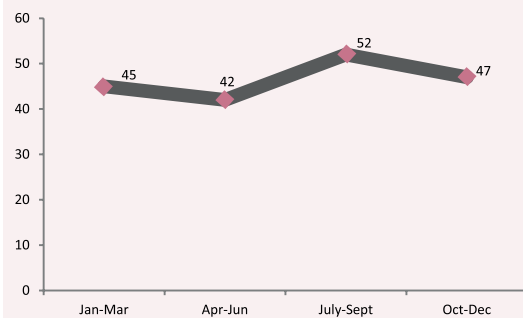


FIGURE 14: ANNUAL TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN MONITORED PRINT NEWS



II. Online Media: Similarly, Setopati among other online news portals published the highest number of the news with female in its home page. (Fig 14 and 15)

Over all, data shows that online news contain 18% news with female byline against 82% with male bylines. (Fig 16)

FIGURE 15: : ANNUAL TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE IN NEWS MONITORED FROM ONLINE MEDIA

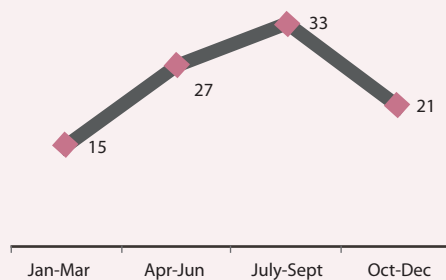


FIGURE 16: PROPORTION OF NEWS BYLINE

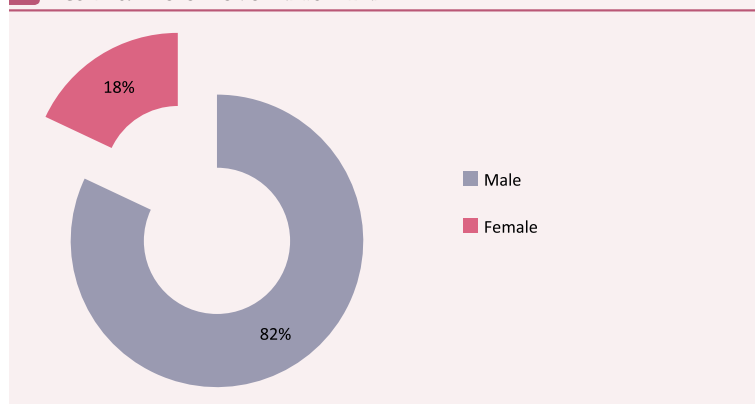
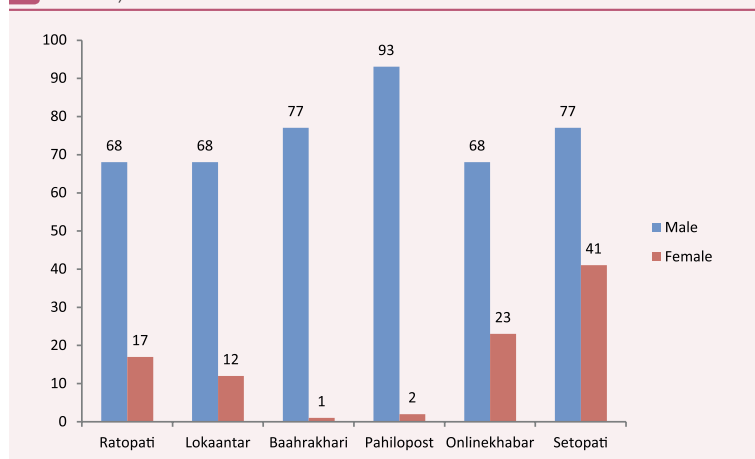


FIGURE 17: ANNUAL DATA OF NEWS BYLINE RECORDED FROM ONLINE NEWS



B. Women as article writers/ columnists:

Articles by women authors/columnists are found to be more often published on the national dailies monitored as compared to the news bylines. This may be due to the reason that article writers' name cannot be kept anonymous. Almost 22% articles on the op-ed pages of the dailies were by women against 78% by male among 798 articles monitored.

Comparing among the dailies, the Kantipurdaily has been the most gender balanced in terms of articles published on op-ed pages.

FIGURE 18: AUTHORS IN THE OPINION ARTICLES (JAN-DEC 2018)

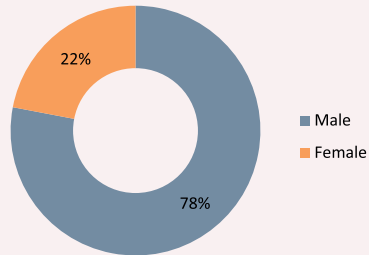


FIGURE 19: ANNUAL DATA OF OP-ED AUTHORS RECORDED FROM MONITORED BROADSHEETS

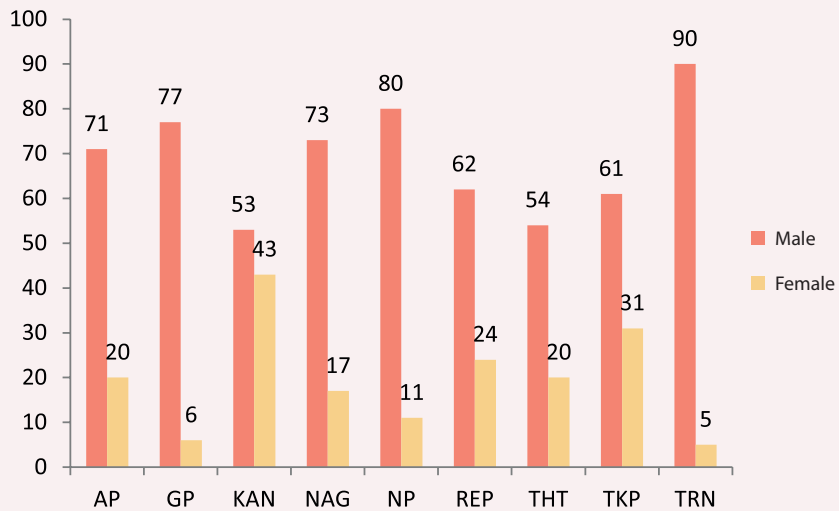
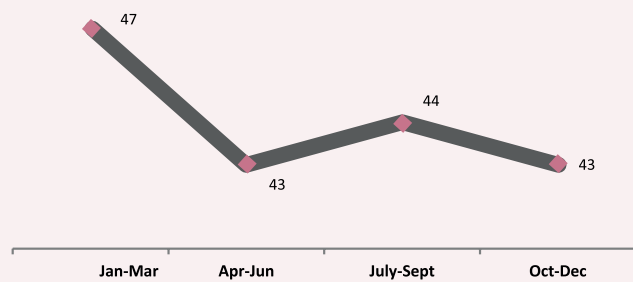


FIGURE 20: ANNUAL TREND OF WOMEN AS OP-ED AUTHORS IN MONITORED BROADSHEETS



C. *Women as news sources:*

- I. **Print Media:** According to the annual data, the Kantipur daily quoted the highest number of both men and women as news sources followed by the Nagarik daily, while The Himalayan Times sourced the least number of women in its news. As a whole, 12% women were quoted in 3,449 news stories scanned in a year. (Fig 19 and 20)

FIGURE 21: ANNUAL DATA OF NEWS SOURCES RECORDED FROM BROADSHEETS

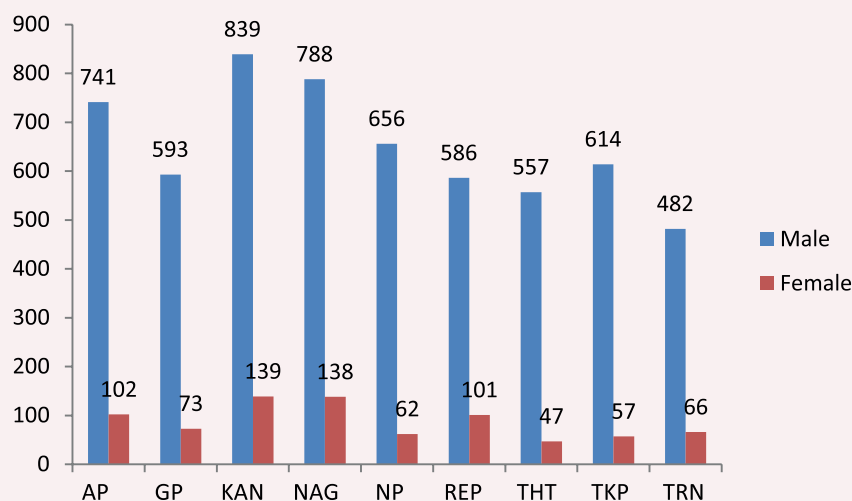


FIGURE 22: PROPORTION OF NEWS SOURCES

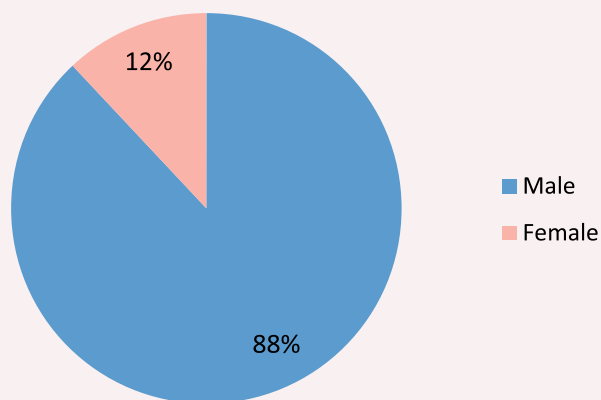
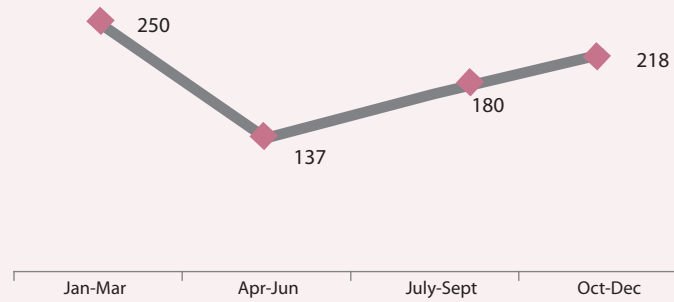


FIGURE 23: ANNUAL TREND OF WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCES IN PRINT NEWS



II. **Online Media:** Among 1,439 news stories scanned from online news portals, 11% women were quoted as news sources. Among the news portals, news from Setopationline quoted the highest number of women as news sources. After first three months, last three months of the year shows significant increase in the number of female news sources.

FIGURE 24: ANNUAL DATA OF NEWS SOURCES RECORDED FROM ONLINE PORTALS

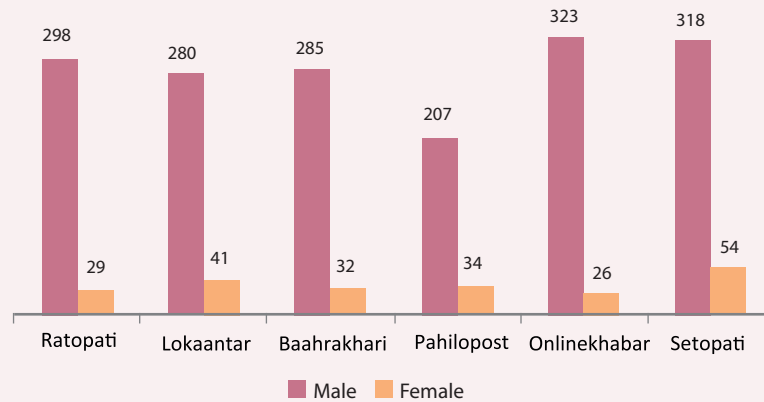
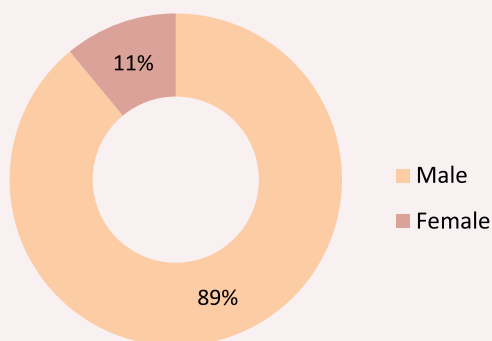
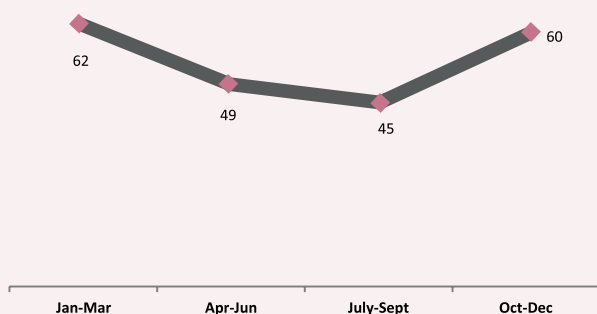


FIGURE 25: PROPORTION OF SOURCES IN ONLINE NEWS**FIGURE 26: ANNUAL TREND OF WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCES IN ONLINE NEWS**

In case of both the online and print media, majority of women as reporters and news sources are found in the news under social and legal categories. Although political news are dominant on the main section of the media monitored, women are very less visible in their contents as compared to their counterparts.

Conclusion:

Conclusively, data recorded from October to December this year presents 9% female in byline and 13% as news sources in print media, while it is 15% and 12% for byline and news source respectively in case of online media. On op-ed pages, 22% articles are by the females. Among 90 female byline news in the monitored broadsheets, 12 are about politics and government, whereas, it is 3 out of 21 female byline in online media monitored.

With this, monitoring of Nepali media contents throughout the year features slight increase (by 2%) in the number of female news sources as compared to the last year. The study was carried out in the nine mainstream national dailies and six major online news portals.

Among total 3,449 news stories scanned from the selected broadsheets this year, women comprise 9% byline and 12% as news sources. Comparison among the data of broadsheets showed that Nagarik daily had significant increase in the number of women in news byline and as news sources.

This year the study was expanded covering six online news portals too where scanning of 1,439 stories resulted 18% female reporters in byline and 11% females as news sources. This indicates news published on online media are more inclusive of women than those on print media. Among six news portals, Setopati constituted the highest number of news with female in byline and accommodates more women as news sources.

Furthermore, monitoring of 798 articles published on the op-ed pages for their author/columnists from the same nine national dailies showed that almost 22% articles are female-authored. Kantipur daily is found publishing at least an article by female on each issue among other dailies.

Analysis of headlines reveal that political news (above 50%) are dominant on the main pages of the media monitored where women are very less visible as both reporters (17%) and sources (21%) as compared to their male counterparts. Those are much more visible and presented in the role breaking the gender stereotypes in most of the news about social and legal issues (36%). But majority of female reporters report on economic issues (30%) as revealed by data from online media.

Annual trend analysis for presence of women in news byline and inside stories suggests that news contents published on first three months of the year was more inclusive as compared to the months latter. However, last three months data show increase in the number of women inside stories by 2-3% as compared to the second and third quarter.

Hence, the yearly data concludes that females are still underrepresented in Nepali media contents compared to their male counterparts. Likewise, women are not quoted as frequently as men in the news published on the main sections of print as well as online media. Also the gap of imbalance in byline of print media is wider than that of online media but percentage gap of sources in both types of media is similar.

More participation of female in online news as compared to print news as per report justifies that along with the attraction of new media, female journalists find it easy and secure to work in the online media.

Recommendations:

Linking to the findings of a year-long monitoring of main news contents from the mainstream broadsheets and online news portals, following recommendations are made :

1. Government and Policy makers
 - Include women in media and communications department and as spokesperson of the state agencies,
 - Facilitate media houses to implement tangible measures for safety and security of female journalists
 - Adopt professional guidelines to reduce gender discrimination and establish media watch groups to monitor their implementation
2. Media Houses
 - Prepare gender inclusive guidelines so as to make balanced newsroom recruiting at least 33% female journalists,
 - Appoint and promote women in the editorial role
 - Eliminate any kind of discrimination, if any, in the newsroom
 - Ensure safety and security of female journalists in and out of media house
3. Editors and Chief Reporters
 - Assign female reporters to the mainstream beats and provide byline to their news
 - Encourage the reporters to include more voices of women and also present those as leader and role models making gender balanced news contents
 - Prioritize social news into mainstream beat and give space in the front page

4. Female Reporters

- Be careful on presentation of news subjects while writing on gender sensitive issues
- Boost self-confidence to report on the mainstream beats
- Speak up for the your rights and space in the media and its contents

5. Civil Society Organizations and Donor agencies

- Provide different trainings to build capacity of female reporters
- Promote those in online journalism and provide digital literacy training to increase their accessibility in the emerging online media

6. Freedom Forum

- Expand content monitoring for electronic media (Radio, Television) and other weekly/fortnightly bulletins
- Lobby for inclusive newsroom in the media houses with editors, journalists with reference to the findings of monitoring

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.

**Freedom Forum**

P.O. Box: 24292

Block No. 22, Adarsha Marg

Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: 977-1-4102022, 4102030

Fax: 977-1-4226099

Email: info@freedomforum.org.np

monitoring@freedomforum.org.np

Web: www.freedomforum.org.np

www.nepalpressfreedom.org