



25% Women as Sources in 534 Political Stories

A REPORT ON GENDER CONTENTS MONITORING

April-June 2018



25% women as sources in 534 political stories

Freedom Forum here again presents the report of monitoring from April to June 2018 encasing representation of gender in news byline, news sources and their distribution as per the headlines. The report is prepared after analyzing the data recorded from main news contents and op-eds of nine major national dailies and main news contents of six online news portals. Data recorded are analyzed to derive the study variables like number of bylines, news sources, news headline, and gender representation in the stories. It 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 provided by FPU, is published every three month.

Key Findings

Jan-March 2018

- Women writers comprise 23.98% in Op-Ed while, their presence in byline of online and print main news are 4.14% and 5.2% respectively.
- There is however, a significant increase (3%) on women's presence as news source compared to 2017 in the print media. It is 11.61% on online media in the recent three months.
- Report says majority of female bylines and sources come from news related to social and legal issues.
- Notably, news with female bylines accommodate more women as news sources.
- Number of stories about women (14) is provided more space on the first page of the dailies than before however, majority of the stories about women still perpetuate stereotypes.
- 38.25% and 28.41% of the total news titles fall under Politics and Government category in the print and online media respectively.

Apr-June 2018

- 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.

Analysis

1. Journalists in the news:

During the monitoring period, 860 main news and 203 opinion articles were monitored to know the byline and the writers. From the main news, only 55% news (475) contained byline among which 91.2% are of male and 8.8% are of female (Figure 1). Among nine media outlets monitored, Anna-purna Post (AP) showed the highest number of male bylines (76), while Nagarik (Nag) and Republica (Rep) showed the highest number of female bylines (10). The Rising Nepal (TRN) contained maximum news without any bylines (85).

Contrarily, The Himalayan Times (THT) and The Kathmandu Post (TKP) did not show any female byline (Figure 2).

FIGURE 1. OVER ALL PROPORTION OF BYLINES

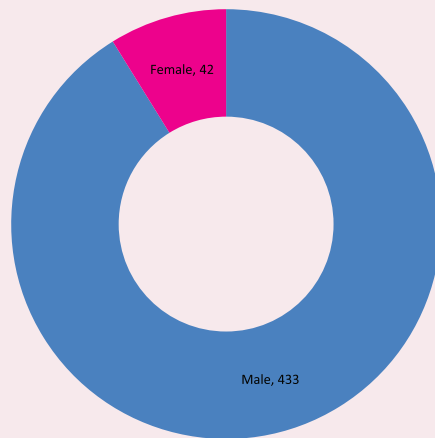
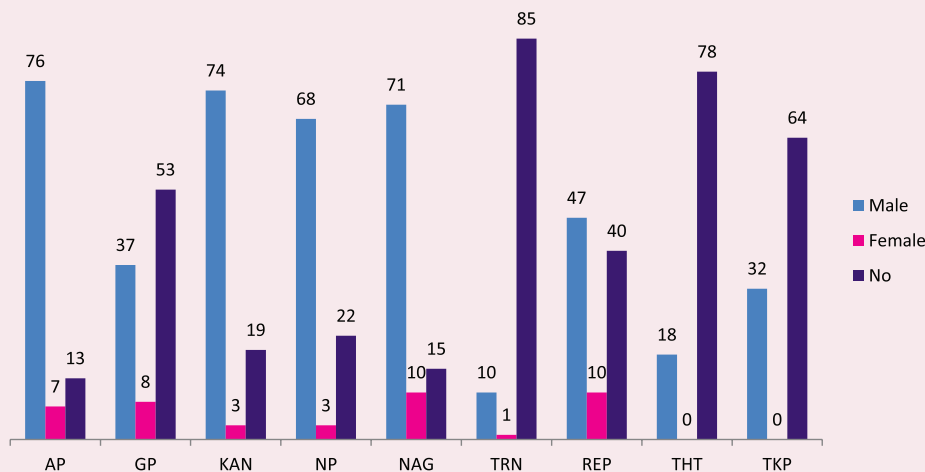


FIGURE 2. BYLINES IN THE MONITORED NEWS



On the other hand, 360 news stories from six online news portals' monitoring revealed only 41% bylines among which 81.8% are of male and 18.2% are of female (Figure 3).

Among the online news portals, Baahrakhari and Pahilopost contained maximum number of male bylines (24) and Setopati showed maximum number of female bylines (12). Similar to the previous report, Onlinekhabar and Pahilopost this time too failed to show any female byline. (Figure. 4)

FIGURE 3: TOTAL BYLINES IN ONLINE MEDIA

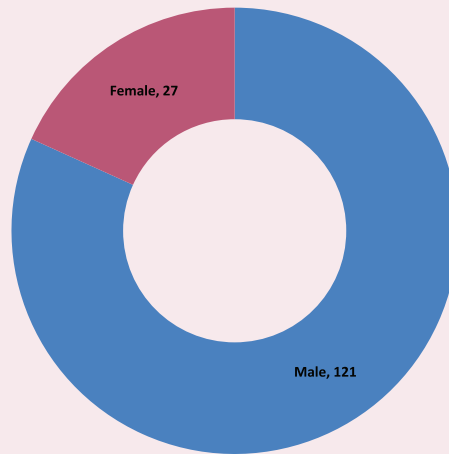
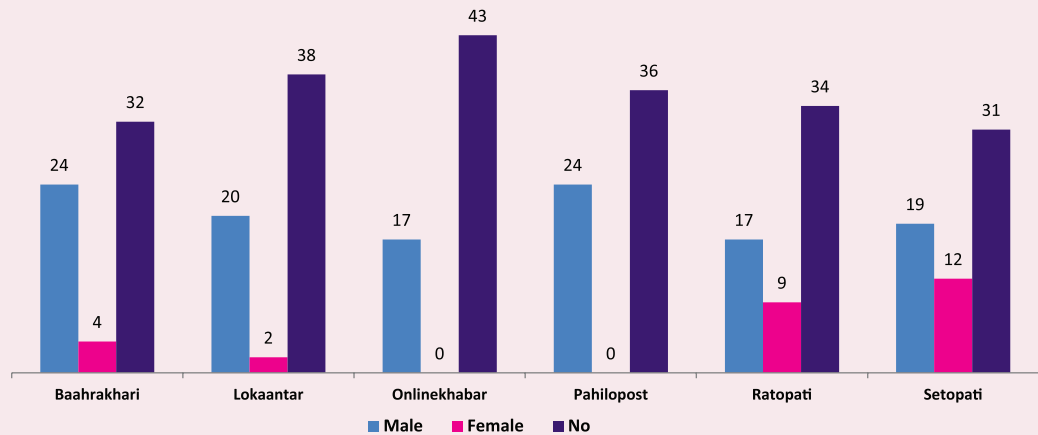
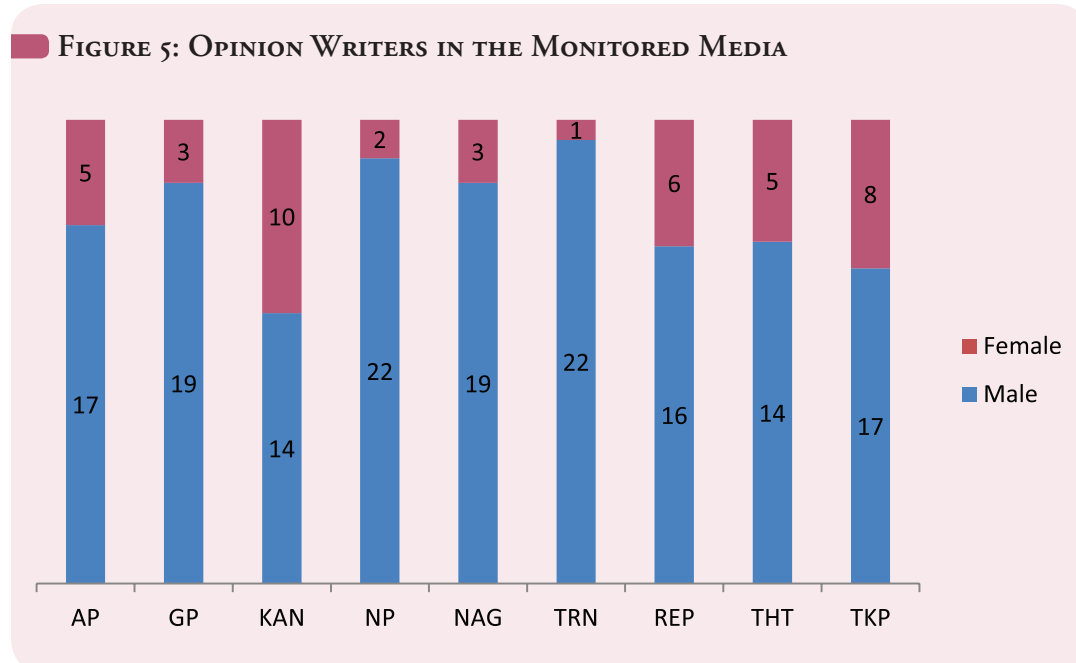


FIGURE 4: BYLINES IN THE MONITORED ONLINE NEWS





Furthermore, the nine media outlets' opinion articles were also monitored for their authors. Data revealed that 21.2% articles were by female and 78.8% by male.

Kantipur (Kan) daily published maximum number of articles by female (10), while Nayapatrika (NP) and TRN had maximum number of articles by male (22). (Figure 5)

It is positive to record at least 1 article by female writer in all the national dailies during the three months period.

Comparative analysis

Compared to the previous three months' female byline (8.9%), this three months' data revealed 8.8% news by women in print media outlets monitored. Figure 6 depicts decrease in female byline in Annapurna Post, Kantipur, Nagarik and The Himalayan Times; whereas Gorkhapatra (GP), Naya Patrika (NP) and Republica (Rep) showed increase in number of female bylines.

Moreover, in case of online news monitored, except Ratopati and Setopati, online portals did not show significant increase in the number of female bylines.

FIGURE 6: TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE DURING SIX MONTHS (JAN-JUNE 2018) IN PRINT MEDIA

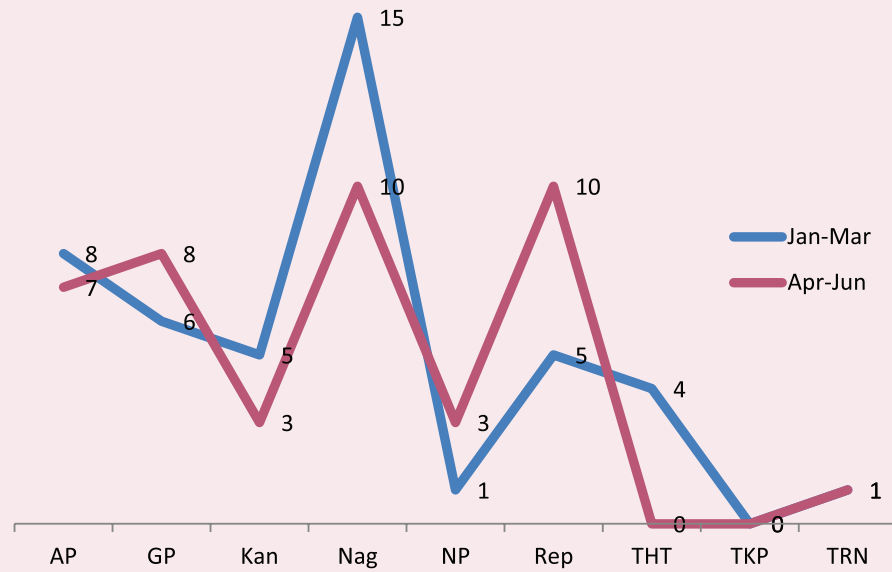
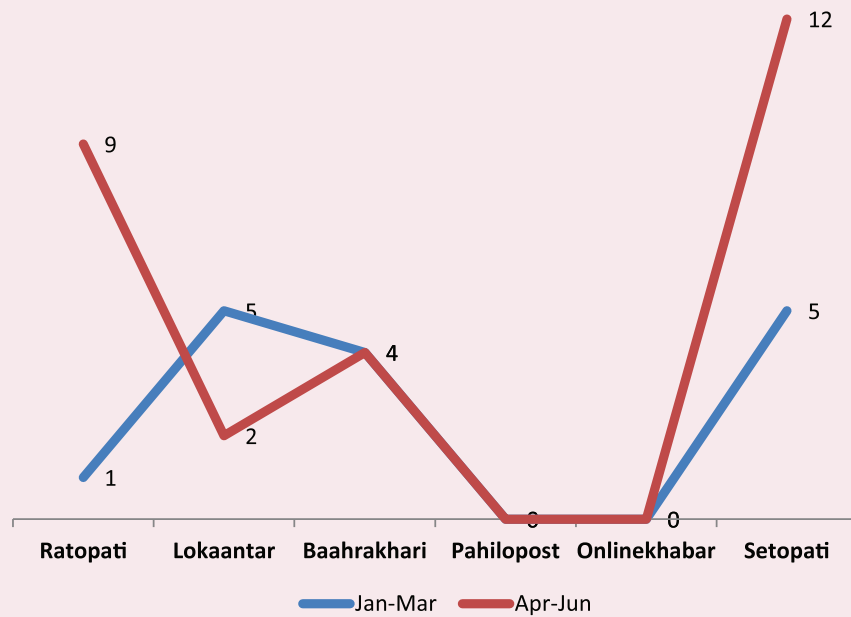


FIGURE 7: TREND OF FEMALE BYLINE DURING SIX MONTHS (JAN-JUNE 2018) IN ONLINE MEDIA



2. Sources in the news

Three-month long monitoring of the 860 main news from nine national dailies produced 1,479 personal sources quoted in the news among which women made up only 9.3% as sources against 90.7% men. Besides persons quoted as sources, news also quoted 9.8% secondary sources such as data, reports, bills, court statements, etc. Among the nine national dailies, AP accommodated the highest number of both women and men quoted as sources while THT accommodated least female voices (Figure 9).

In case of online news contents, women comprise 10.4% among the total 470 sources identified from the news with 89.6% men. (Figure 10)

FIGURE 8: SOURCE IN THE NEWS MONITORED FROM PRINT DAILIES

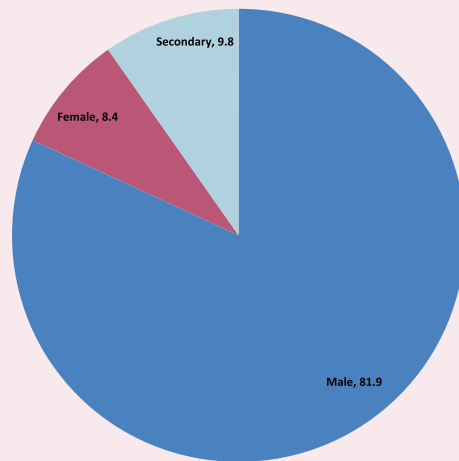


FIGURE 9: SOURCES IN THE MONITORED NEWS

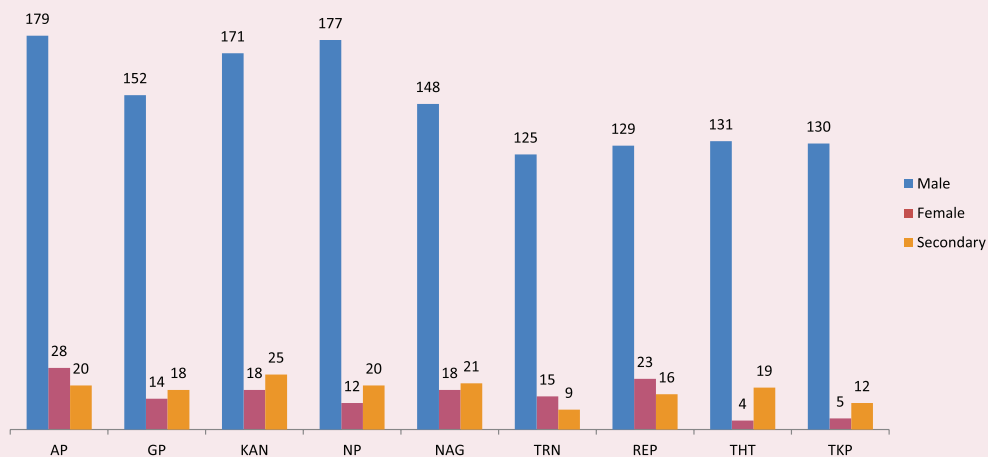
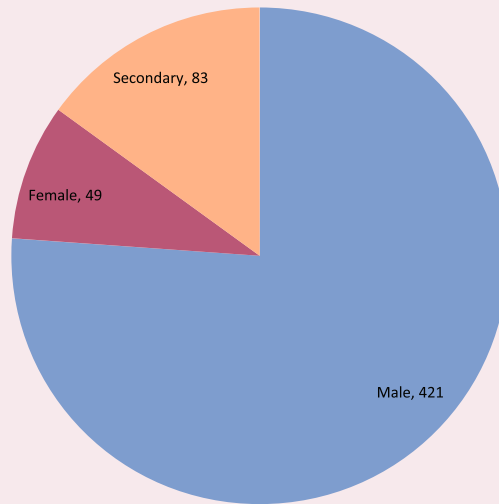


FIGURE 10: SOURCES QUOTED IN THE ONLINE NEWS



Scanning of 360 main news stories from six online news portals revealed maximum number of both male and female sources were in the Setopati online. Onlinekhabar too showed the highest number of female as news sources whereas Ratopati showed the least number of female sources. (Figure 11)

FIGURE 11: SOURCE IN THE MONITORED ONLINE NEWS

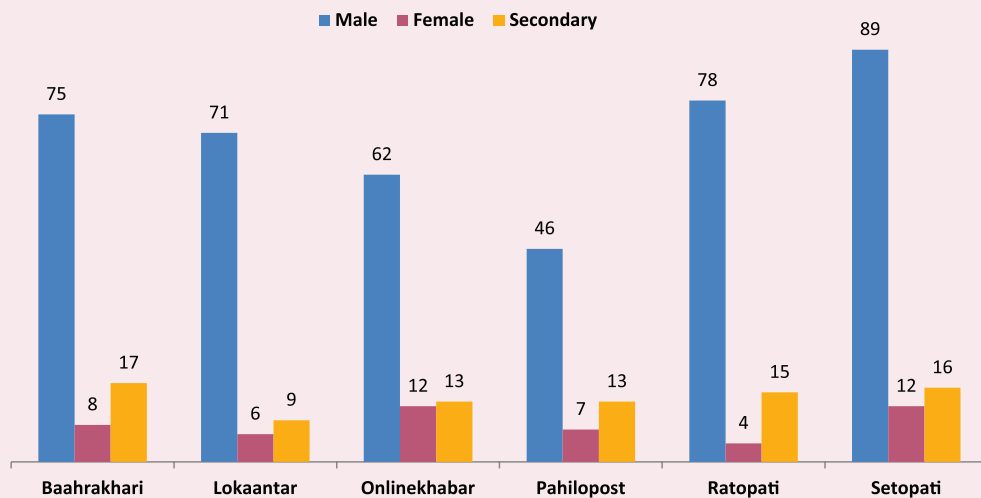


FIGURE 12: TREND OF WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCES IN PRINT MEDIA

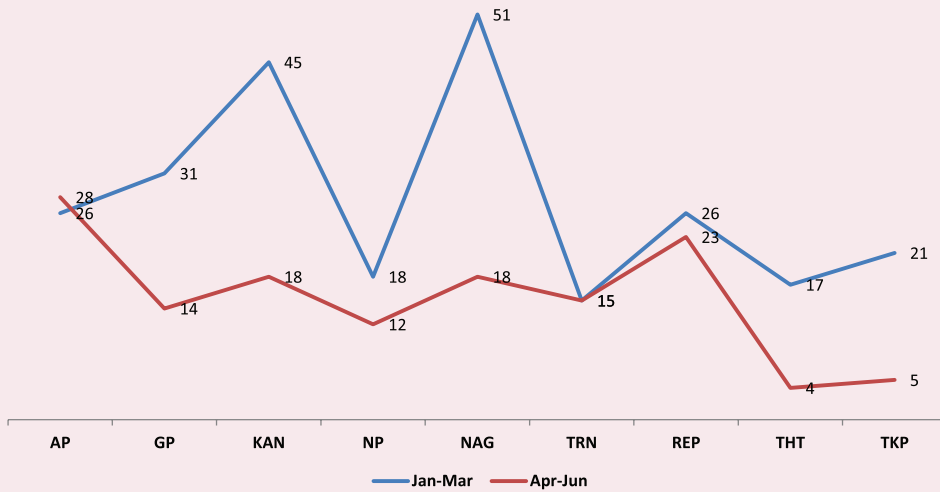
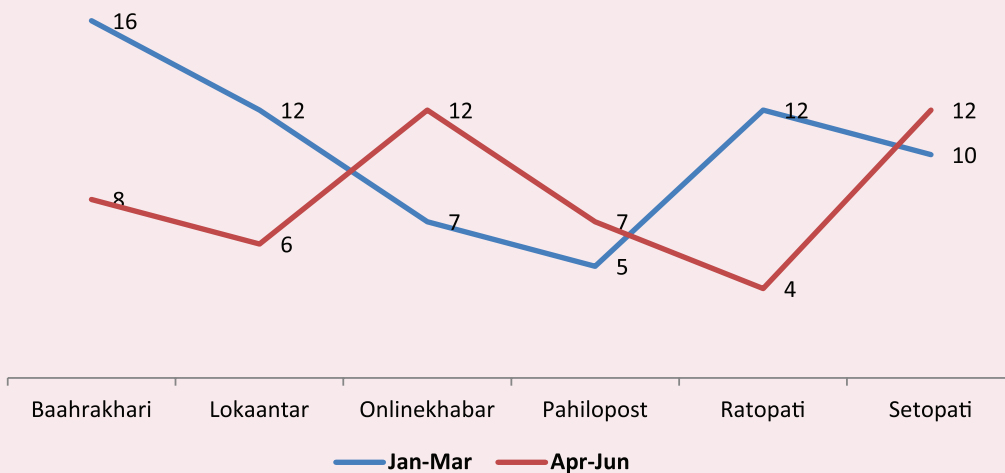


FIGURE 13: TREND OF WOMEN AS NEWS SOURCES IN ONLINE MEDIA



Trend of female sources in the news of media

Figures 12 and 13 show the trend of women being quoted as news sources in the main stories in print and online media monitored in the last six months.

There is a decrease in the number of women sources in all print media and most of the online news portals monitored as compared to that of first three months of 2018. This may have happened most probably due to March being the month of International Women's Day and the related activities that helped generate stories relating to women issues.

3. News Headlines Category

Starting from April to June 2018, total 1063 news and opinion articles were monitored from the nine national dailies. Among those, 39% news items were based on political and governmental issues followed by 21% social and legal news and 20% news on economy. Figure 14 shows that economic news too have been provided significant space on the main news pages of monitored outlets after social and legal news.

Likewise, among 360 news items monitored from six online news portals, among which 33% news were about politics and government followed by 20% business and 16% social and legal news. News stories on online news portals are more diverse compared to those of print media.

FIGURE 14: TOPIC-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS FROM PRINT OUTLETS

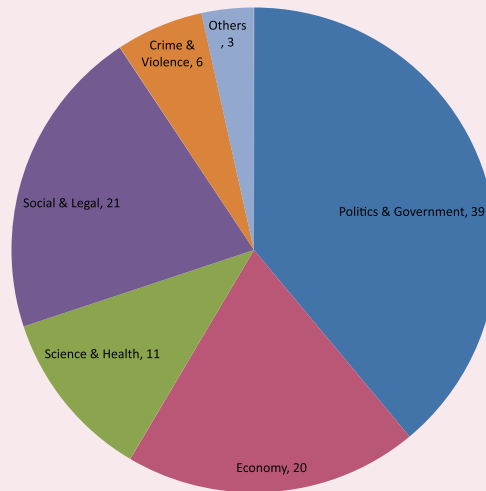
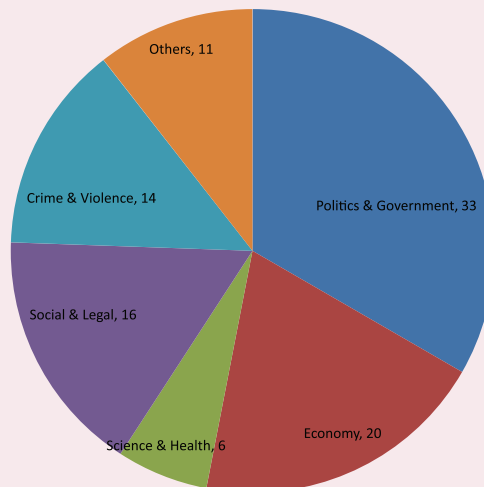


FIGURE 15: TOPIC-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS FROM ONLINE PORTALS



4. People in the news and headlines

Number of bylines and news sources recorded during the three months period were further analyzed for their relation to news headlines. In both print and online media monitored, male bylines dominated female byline for all type of news especially political ones. For the print, the highest number of female byline was recorded from the news on social and legal issues (Figure 16). Contrarily, for online portals maximum number of female byline was recorded from economic news (Figure 17).

Again, among the sources quoted in the news monitored from print media the highest number of sources was recorded from news on politics and government. Following this, more female sources were derived from social and legal news (Figure 18).

FIGURE 16: BYLINE VS. HEADLINES IN PRINT MEDIA

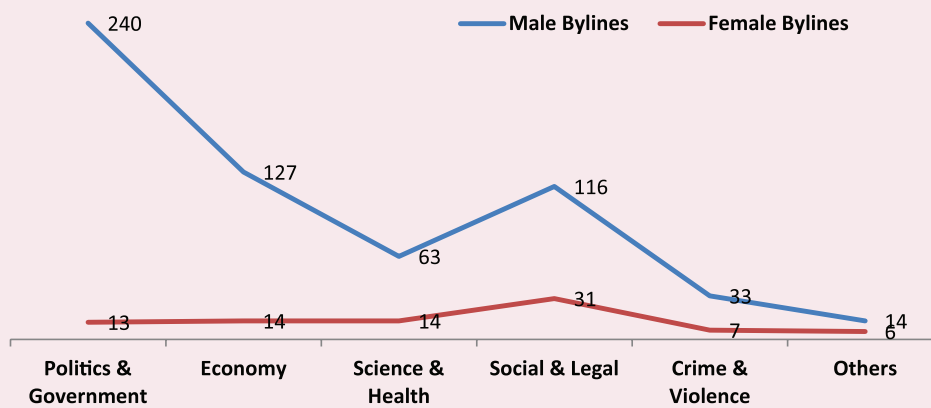


FIGURE 17: BYLINE VS. HEADLINES IN ONLINE MEDIA

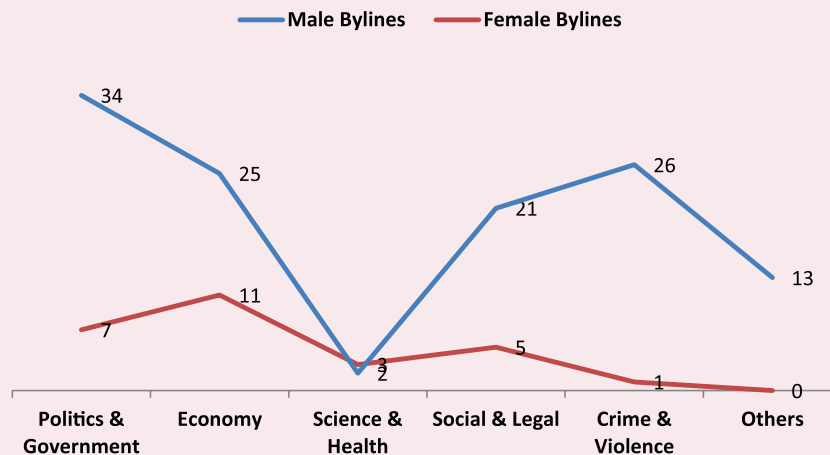


FIGURE 18: NEWS SOURCE VS. HEADLINES OF PRINT MEDIA

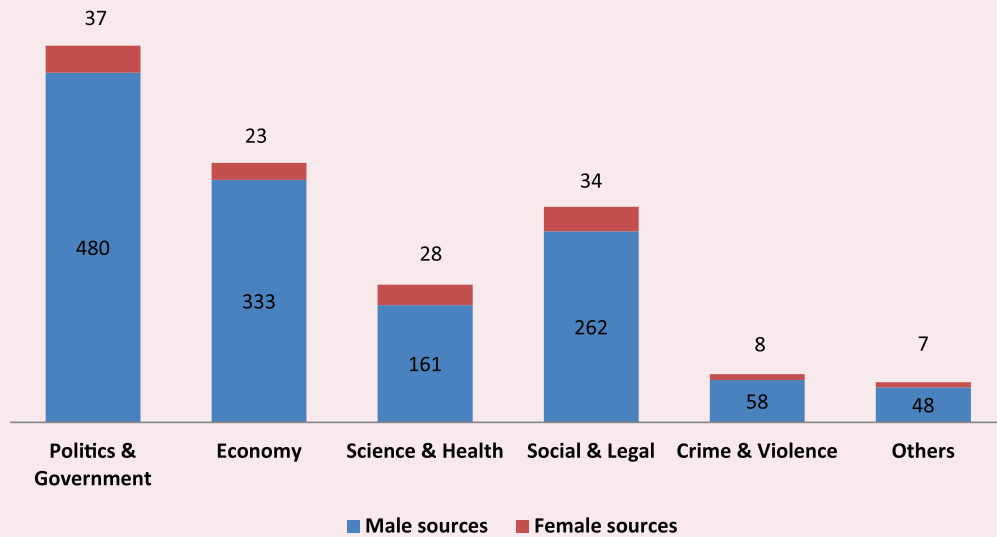
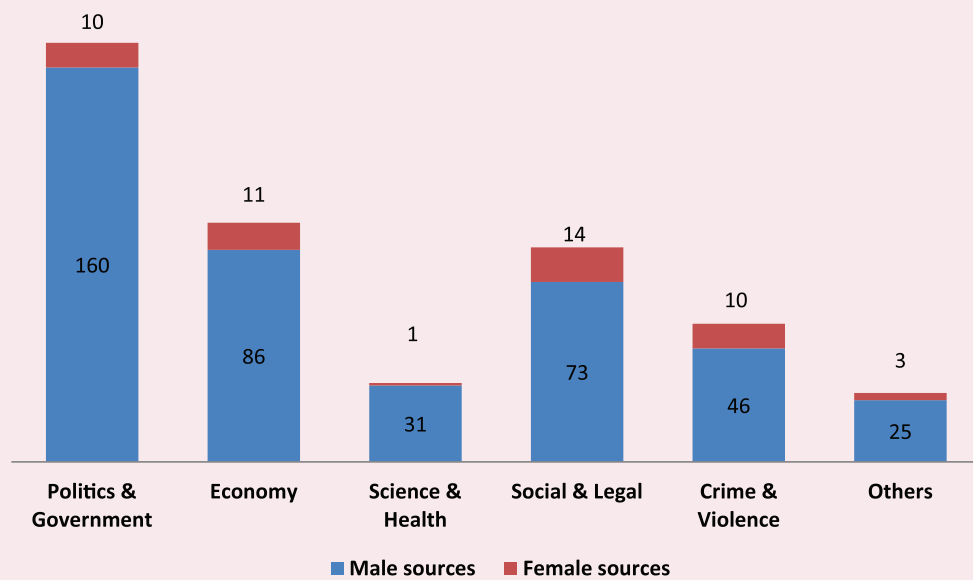


FIGURE 19: NEWS SOURCE VS. HEADLINES OF ONLINE MEDIA



News from online media showed the highest numbers of male and female sources were quoted in the political and social news respectively. In this case, economic news followed political in accommodating maximum number of female sources.

5. Women in the news stories

After deriving quantitative variables of the study, those news stories were observed for their representation of subjects. Among total 1,063 news stories and opinion articles monitored, 19 were stories about women and among those too, 15 stories challenged stereotype.

Similarly, from 360 online news stories monitored 18 were stories about women and among those 9 challenged stereotype.

Almost 50% of the stories highlight inequality either in term of sources or in term of gender representation.

Some stories highlighting gender stereotypes:

1. *50% Female Police Officers to Be Appointed in Province 2 (Setopati, June 19, Kathmandu)*

The story is about recently prepared draft bill for provincial police to appoint at least 50% female in Nepal Police. As the population of women in the province is almost 50%, their contribution in building nation should also be significant, said Attorney General of Province 2. Hence, this story challenges stereotype for women.

2. *Poor Men! (Kantipur, April 8, Op-Ed)*

This is an article by female writer, Ms Shital Dahal, arguing that men in Nepali society had 'poor' status against generally accepted perspective towards males. Though most of the males are the breadwinners of their families, the way they devote to the family welfare despite everyday hardship and tribulation is described as weaker side. While Nepali society valorizes the plights of males making their role significant and ideal, the writer wonders why don't the males take their toils as servitude. To be the patron and protector of females after the marriage, he seems like machine. Therefore, the write-up breaks the traditional narrative of male boldness and aggrandizement by sympathizing with the males and urging one and all for 'real' gender equality in the society. It therefore breaks gender stereotypes.

3. *Sexually victimized women crying for justice (The Rising Nepal, May 9, Chitwan)*

The story is about women who are victims of forced sexual relations with Nepal Army persons at Chitwan National Parks. Those poor women were victimized while collecting fodder and firewood in the forest. Babies born from those victims have been deprived of education and other basic facilities. Hence, these women have been fighting for justice for long. While few have been provided justice, many are still waiting desperately. Hence, the story clearly perpetuated stereotype on women.

4. *Women and Livestock (The Himalayan Times, June 11, Op-Ed)*

This article describes the empowerment of rural women who are involved in the livestock farming. The writer connects rural women business being the major source of country's economy. He, through the article, praises rural women's contribution to increase the country's economy hence, says lets recognize their roles. Thus, the way of presentation of women in the article challenges stereotype.

Conclusion

Main news contents of Nepali media are found to have huge gender gap in terms of news reporters and sources. However, op-ed pages show appreciable participation of female writers in comparison with the news sections.

According to the data recorded from April to June, only 14% of the main news stories monitored from major print outlets and online news portals show female in the bylines, while 42% news stories still lack byline. However, online media are found to be more gender sensitive in terms of providing bylines- 18.4% female byline during the monitoring period.

Furthermore, men as news sources outnumber women on the main news contents by almost 90% in both online and print media.

However, it has been noted that maximum number of female sources has been quoted in the political news in print media outlets. But as usual in online media, more women are quoted as source in the social news most often.

In comparison with the first three months of this year, number of women in byline shows sharp increase in online news. On the other hand, number of female sources has decreased significantly in both online and print media news contents.

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