



E-paper and online journalism Media Monitoring

2020



RIGHT HERE
RIGHT NOW



This report has been presented by Visible Impact with technical support from Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Nepal platform.

Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Nepal platform is a strategic partnership between fifteen likeminded youth-led and youth-serving organizations that are advocating for enhanced experience of young people on sexual and reproductive health focused on three thematic areas - provision of age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, legalization of marriage equality and provision of stigma-free, youth-friendly safe abortion services. The partner organizations of RHRN Nepal include Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON), Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC), Blue Diamond Society (BDS), CDS PARK MUGU, Family Planning Association OF Nepal (FPAN), Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal (FSGMN), Human Development and Environment Protection Forum (HUDEP), LOOM Nepal, Restless Development, Rural Women's Network Nepal (RUWON), Visible Impact, Youth Action Nepal, Youth Development Center (YDC), Yuwa, Yuwalaya.

Visible Impact, which is a partner organization of Right Here Right Now, is a young woman led organization that aims to bring visible impact on the lives of every woman, every girl and every youth by unleashing the social and economic leadership of girls, women and youth through human centered approaches. Visible Impact under RHRN Nepal works for provision of quality, stigma free, accessible youth friendly services in Nepal.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AYON	Association of Youth Organizations of Nepal
BBC	Beyond Beijing Committee
BDS	Blue Diamond Society
FPAN	Family Planning Association of Nepal
FSGMN	Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal
GoN	Government of Nepal
HUDEP	Human Development and Environment Protection Forum
RHRN	Right Here Right Now
RONB	Routine of Nepal Banda
RUWON	Rural Women’s Network Nepal
USA	United States of America
VISIM	Visible Impact
WHO	World Health Organization
YDC	Youth Development Center

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We also would like to thank all the media personnel who complied with our frequent follow up and responding accordingly.

We believe that this report will shed light on the status of reporting of print media on the issues related to safe abortion, and will serve as evidence for advocacy, media engagement and interventions design on the issues. This report will be useful not only to advocates but also to Government, media persons, researchers, program managers, youth and anyone who is working on the issue of safe abortion.

Authors

Executive Summary

Media Monitoring is a tool that is used to track the media coverage of campaigns, programs, or issues that an individual or a group is working on. Newspapers, television, radio, and the internet are some of the most commonly used media types by people in their day to day life. Media helps in equipping people with information related to social, political, economic and other issues. Media, mostly newspapers and online news portals have played an important role in addressing the issues of development and humanitarian sector. Media coverage on abortion which is one of the thematic issue of Right Here Right Now Nepal was monitored for the year 2019 to depict how abortion was being presented by newspapers and online news portals.

The process involved review of five national dailies on a daily basis which were selected on the basis of their credibility and reach while some online news portals were also reviewed during the process. The news articles were categorized into various themes and the progressiveness of the news articles published by the newspapers under the study was analyzed on the basis of the caption use, context, and picture used for the articles.

Most of the articles had contents related to service information and access issues while content related to sex selective abortion and stigma were least covered. In regards to youth friendliness, the articles published were neither regressive nor progressive while neutral captions and regressive pictures was found to be used by the monitored media houses. Newspapers that have a separate health section tend to publish more number of news than those that don't. Most of the articles published by the newspapers were found supported by facts and expert opinions which made the news more authentic and reliable. The misleading caption and pictures that were used for the articles most of the time were focused on attracting large number of readers which in return can influence the negativity in the readers in regards to the issue. The content related to young people was least prioritized.

The newspapers and online newspapers seem interested in publishing news articles related to abortion, hence, to maintain the authenticity and aware people, a collaboration between media, civil society organizations and the government is highly recommended to positively influence the advocacy on quality, stigma-free, and youth friendly safe abortion services.

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1. Background: Safe Abortion

Abortion refers to a voluntary intervention to terminate an unwanted, mistimed, or unplanned pregnancy. The persons, skills and medical standards considered safe in the provision of abortion are different for medical and surgical abortion and depend on the duration of the pregnancy.¹

Safe abortion refers to abortion that is done with a method recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) (i.e. medical abortion, vacuum aspiration, or dilation and evacuation) that is appropriate to the pregnancy duration, and is provided by a trained-care provider.²

WHO defines unsafe abortion as “a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking minimal medical standards or both.” Less safe abortion refers to abortion that only meets one of two criteria – i.e. either the abortion is done by a trained health-care provider but with an outdated method (e.g. sharp curettage) or a safe method of abortion (e.g. misoprostol) is used but without adequate information or support from a trained individual.²

Safe abortion program is a priority program of the Government of Nepal. Abortion was legalized in Nepal in 2002 and considered as an issue of women’s human rights after the landmark 2009 Supreme Court decision. This assisted the expansion and availability of safe abortion services in all districts of Nepal.³ After the legalization of safe abortion, Nepal has seen significant progress in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, and also received a Millennium Development Goal award for this achievement due to its contribution to a sharp decline in the maternal mortality which fell from 580 to 190 per 100000 live births in 2013.⁴ In 2015, the Government of Nepal announced free safe abortion services in public health facilities to help overcome the economic burden of accessing safe abortion services. Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018 served as another landmark document in identifying safe abortion as a women’s right. Likewise, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has enshrined reproductive rights in the constitution of Nepal 2015 as a fundamental right of women.

Despite these positive developments, more than half of abortions that occur in Nepal are unsafe and consequently contributes to around 8 -10 % of maternal mortality of Nepal.⁵ 59% of the women aged 15-49 are still not aware of the legalization of abortion.⁶

2. Rationale of the media monitoring

Media are the fundamental change agents of the society, and have a major role in setting the social norms and values. The role of media becomes more pivotal in sensitive and covert issues like safe

¹ Gfmer.ch. (2018). COMPILATION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION’S CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. [online] Available at: <https://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2018/adolescent-health/pdf/WHO-compilation-tool-abortion-section-2018.pdf> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2019].

² Ganatra B, Gerdtts C, Rossier C, et al. Global, regional, and sub-regional classification of abortions by safety, 2010-14: estimates from a Bayesian hierarchical model. *Lancet* (London, England). 2017;390(10110):2372-2381

³ Abortion law reform in Nepal. *Upreti M Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2014 Aug; 126(2):193-7.

⁴ Rogers C, Sapkota S, Tako A, Dantas JA. Abortion in Nepal: perspectives of a crosssection of sexual and reproductive health and rights professionals. *BMC women's health.* 2019;19(1):40

⁵ Guttmacher Institute. Abortion and Unintended Pregnancy in Nepal. Factsheet 2017. Available at: <https://www.guttmacher.org/factsheet/abortion-unintended-pregnancy-in-nepal>

⁶ Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

abortion, not only because of their quicker mass reach out, but also because factual and value based information can shape the way the society perceives the issue.

Furthermore, newspapers are one the cheapest and widely found source of information used by people of Nepal. Digitalization has made it more accessible and user friendly while retaining its popularity and credibility. According to the Press Council of Nepal, there are 3,865 registered newspapers across the country with 655 dailies, 30 bi-weeklies, 2,778 weeklies and 402 fortnightlies. Among them, 1,640 are registered in the Kathmandu Valley. Compared to daily newspapers, weekly newspapers are highly political in their contents and mostly read by political activists for understanding their party's stances and opinions.⁷

Since, media monitoring is a handy tool to keep track of media coverage of the issues, Visible Impact in support from Right Here Right Now monitored news specific to abortion published by various national dailies and online news portals from January to December 2019. This media monitoring report can be a reference document for any organization or advocates working on media and safe abortion to design evidence-based media sensitization interventions, and can be useful to governments, organizations working on the issue, youth, advocates, researchers and media persons to track media perceptions on safe abortion.

⁷ Acharya U. Media Landscapes. Available at: <https://medialandscapes.org/country/nepal/media/print>

3. Objectives

The major objective of media monitoring was to monitor media coverage on one of the thematic areas of RHRN Nepal i.e. Safe Abortion that included the use of pictures, caption and content of the news articles. The specific objectives media monitoring are as follows:

- To document news articles specific to abortion published online by various newspapers and online news portals.
- To analyze the progressiveness of the content published by newspapers and online news portals.

4. Methodology

4.1 Selection of media houses and online portals

Considering their credibility and greater reach and coverage, only print media have been considered for this monitoring. The focus was on daily newspapers, and five were selected on the basis of their popularity and reach. However, news published by online news portals and social media pages, identified through desk search, were also considered.

The major media houses monitored throughout the year were:

- Annapurna Post
- Kantipur
- My Republica
- Rajdhani Daily
- The Kathmandu Post

Also, online news portals focused on health such as Himal Khabar, Onlinekhabar, Swasthya Khabar were also focused for the monitoring.

4.2 Analysis of the collected data

The e-papers published by the five monitored news houses were reviewed each day for a whole year. The link to the articles specific on abortion was documented. The articles were then classified on the basis of their progressiveness of contents and pictures, themes and analyzed likewise.

4.3 Limitations and Challenges

Only print media, that too daily newspapers were the major focus, and may not be representative of the overall media scenario.

5. Findings

5.1 Number of news covered

A total of 42 news article on abortion were documented during the media monitoring process. Out of the total news articles published, 37 were published by national dailies. Apart from the national dailies 4 news articles were published by online news portals and a Facebook post made by Routine of Nepal Banda, one of the popular social media page of Nepal. Among the national dailies, Kantipur published the most number of news articles (12) while My Republica Post published the least number of news articles (3) on abortion. In average, the daily newspapers published 7.4 articles in a year, which is quite satisfactory, and shows that the media houses have quite an interest on the issue.

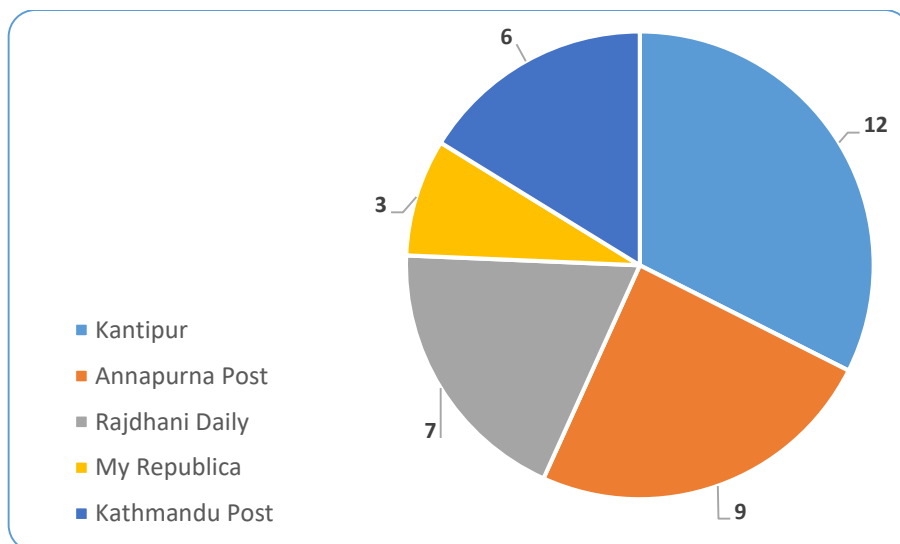


Figure 1 No. of articles related to safe abortion published by media houses in a year.

5.2 Major Themes Covered

The articles and news coverage were studied thoroughly to identify the major themes. 7 major themes were observed, as follows:

- Addressing stigma
- Policy and law
- Youth
- Service
- Access issues
- Crime
- Sex selective abortion

While most of the articles covered one of these themes, and two themes in average in an article one of the article also covered information upto 6 themes.

Content related to the theme policy and law was present in most of the news articles (52.39%) while content related to the theme sex selective abortion was least present in the news articles (9.53%).

Themes	No. of News	Percentage
Addressing stigma	7	16.62
Policy and law	22	52.39
Youth	12	28.58
Service Information	17	40.48
Access issues	17	40.48
Crime	8	19.05
Sex selective abortion	4	9.53

Table 1 Theme-wise coverage of safe abortion in the media

Addressing Stigma

Very few articles covered the theme “addressing stigma”. At least one article was published under this theme by each of the national dailies. The stigma around abortion was presented mostly through case stories from rural places of Nepal and incidences where women had to be treated for the consequences of unsafe abortion. For eg: one of the articles (in the picture below) had a case story of a woman who went to a safe abortion service center that was far from her village while a safe abortion service center was available in her village itself because she was worried that her villagers would find out about it and would question her decision and her morale.



Figure 1 News article on consequences of unsafe abortion in women, rajdhani Daily, 1 October 2019

Policy and Law

Out of the total news documented, about 52% news were policy-related. The information related to the legality of abortion, where can it be accessed and under what conditions were mentioned. Information related to safe abortion being a free health service was also found written in some of the articles while some of the media houses also covered the restriction on abortion that various states of US were implementing.



Figure 2 News article on the legal aspects of abortion in Nepal, Kantipur, 27 August, 2019.

Young people

Decent number of articles (12) had content related to youth in regards to abortion. Most of the articles were related to how young adolescents and girls seek abortion services after facing sexual harassment, abuse, and rape. Some articles also shared concern on abortion being misused as a method of family planning by most of the youth in Nepal. These articles also mentioned the consequences of unsafe abortion which many young people have been practicing.

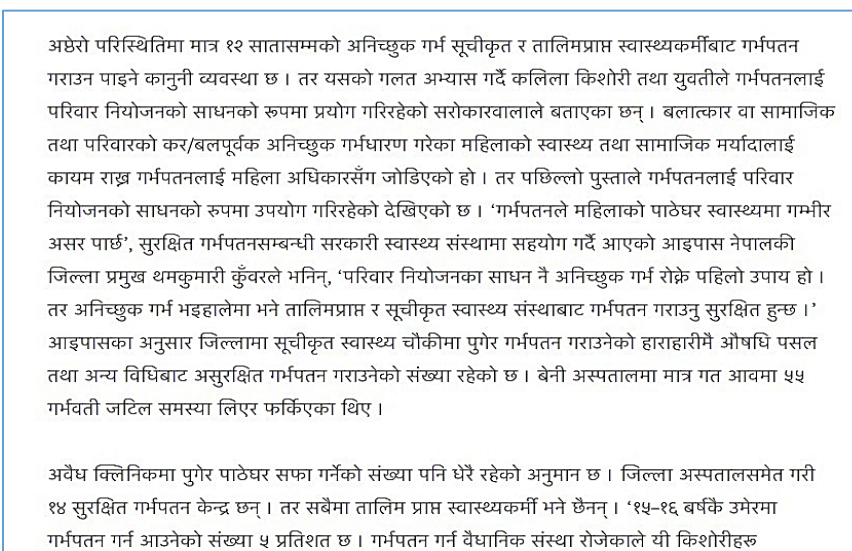


Figure 3 News article on abortion being used as a measure of family planning by young people, Kantipur, 15 November 2019.

नेपालगञ्ज : यौन शोषणमा परेकी १३ वर्षीय बालिकाको असुरक्षित गर्भपतन गराउन खोज्दा ज्यान नै जोखिममा परेको छ। असुरक्षित गर्भपतनका कारण स्तुश्रव नरोकिएपछि चिन्ताजनक अवस्थामा उनको नेपालगञ्ज मेडिकल कलेज शिक्षण अस्पताल कोहलपुरमा उपचार भइरहेको छ। ती बालिकाको भेन्टिलेटरमा राखेर उपचार भइरहेको अस्पताल प्रशासनले जानकारी दिएको छ।

सुर्खेतको भेरीगंगा नगरपालिका-९ घर भई नेपालगञ्ज-१० गोसाइँ गाउँमा बस्दै आएकी ती दलित बालिकामाथि यौन शोषण गर्दै आएका व्यक्तिले नै गर्भपतन गराउन भारतीय सीमावर्ती बजार रुपैडिहा लगेको प्रारम्भिक जानकारी प्राप्त भएको प्रहरीले जनाएको छ। गर्भपतन गराएर घर फर्किएपछि बालिकाको अवस्था जटिल बनेको प्रहरीको भनाई छ।

यौन शोषण गर्ने व्यक्ति पक्राउ परिनसकेको र बालिका पनि अचेत अवस्थामा रहेका कारण रुपैडिहाको कुन ठाउँमा गर्भपतन गराइएको खुल्न सकेको छैन। बाँके प्रहरी प्रमुख प्रहरी उपरीक्षक अरुण पौडेलका अनुसार यौन शोषणमा परेकी बालिकाको परिवार ज्यालामजदुरी गर्दै आएको थियो।

Figure 4 News article on a child at health risk due to unsafe abortion, Rajdhani Daily, June 2019.

Information about services

This theme included issues regarding the abortion services being provided in Nepal. The challenges in making safe abortion services accessible due to the gaps in policies was also highlighted. About 40% of the news articles had content related to service. Some of the articles covered local level issues where the women of some particular districts and villages were facing difficulty accessing safe abortion services due the unavailability of trained safe abortion service providers. One of the articles published by The Kathmandu Post (second below) was related to the consequences of Trump's anti-abortion rules in Nepal. The article was found widely shared in the social media sites.

Youths in Rolpa resorting to unsafe abortion instead of using contraceptives

Published On: September 8, 2019 04:05 AM NPT By: Dinesh Subedi

9

SHARES



Facebook



Twitter



Messenger

According to the research of 2014 done by Guttmacher Institute in Nepal, out of the total maternal deaths in Nepal, seven percent death is caused by unsafe abortion.

ROLPA, Sept 8: At least 12 health institutions including Rolpa District Hospital in Rolpa provide safe abortion, a non-surgical abortion that is done by using medicines, for unwanted pregnancy of up to nine weeks free of cost. The hospital and two primary health centers also provide safe clinical abortion,

Figure 5 News article on Youths in Rolpa district resorting to unsafe abortion instead of using contraceptives, my Republica, 8 September 2019.



Figure 6 News article on Trump's anti-abortion rule and its consequences on Nepali women, The Kathmandu Post, 1 November 2019.

Challenges in access

Under this theme difficulty face by women in accessing safe abortion service due to unavailability of service providers; young people seeking safe abortion services due to hesitation and fear of being judged by others; growing number of unsafe abortions due to illegal and unauthorized sell of abortion pills were covered by the national dailies. Some of the articles had also mentioned about the lack of awareness and education on abortion to be one of the barriers to access safe abortion.

समाचार

गाउँमा गर्भपतन सेवा, स्वास्थ्यकर्मी अपर्याप्त

सुरक्षित गर्भपतनको सेवा सुलभ भए पनि सबैतिर तालिमप्राप्त स्वास्थ्यकर्मी पर्याप्त छैनन्

जेठ २६, २०७६ | डीआर पन्त

डडेलधुरा – डडेलधुरा अजयमेरु ५ की एक १८ वर्षीया युवतीले छिमेकी गाउँपालिका भागेश्वरको स्वास्थ्यचौकीमा पुगेर गर्भपतन गराइन् । हाडनाता पर्ने पुरुषबाट जर्जस्ती करणीका कारण गर्भ रहेको थियो चौकीमा उनले आफ्नो नाम र ठेगाना भने साँचो लेखाइन् ।

 [Click for more details.](#)

लोकलाजका कारण उनले आफूमाथि भएको घटनाको सुइँको गाउँलेलाई दिइन् । आफ्नै गाउँपालिकाको स्वास्थ्यचौकीमा गर्भपतन गराउँदा अरूले थाहा पाउलान् भनेर सुटुक्क भागेश्वरको चौकीमा पुगिन् । पाटन नगरपालिका ६ दानखोलाकी १६ वर्षीया एक किशोरीका आफन्तले उपक्षेत्रीय अस्पताल डडेलधुरा पुगेर ४ महिनाको गर्भपतन गराए । टाढाको नाता पर्ने फुपूको घरमा बसेर एसईई परीक्षा दिने क्रममा उनले पनि आफन्तकै गर्भ बोकेकी थिइन् ।

उपक्षेत्रीय अस्पतालमा गर्भपतन गर्न आउँदा उनी अचेत अवस्थामा रहेको स्वास्थ्यकर्मीले बताए । पेट दुख्ने रोगका कारण अस्पताल ल्याएको बताउने उनका आफन्तले महिला चिकित्सकबाहेक अरूलाई यथार्थ खोलेनन् । पछिल्लो समय गाउँगाउँमा गर्भपतन सेवा सञ्चालन भएपछि सुरक्षित गर्भपतन गराउन आउने धेरै

 **नेपालमा सर्वाधिक बिक्री हुने राष्ट्रिय दैनिक** [CLICK TO S](#)

Figure 7 News article on difficulty face by women due to less number of safe abortion service providers, Kantipur, 9 June 2019

सिरहा । सिरहामा गर्भपतनका लागि मान्यता नपाएका नर्सिङहोमले पनि गर्भपतन गराउँदै आएको खुलेको छ । मिर्चैया नर्सिङहोममा गर्भपतन गराउन गएको एक महिला गर्भपतन गराउँदा रक्तश्राव नरोकिएपछि उक्त भेद खुलेको हो । आर्थिक प्रलोभनमा परी गर्भपतन गराएको स्थानीयको आरोप छ । नर्सिङहोमका डाक्टर सम्भु यादवले ४ महिनाको गर्भपतन गराएका कारण रक्तश्राव भएको बताए । घटना बाहिर आएलगत्तै प्रहरी र स्थानीयहरू नर्सिङहोम पुगेका थिए । त्यहाँ महिलाको उपचार सम्भव नभएपछि थप उपचारको लागि लहानस्थित सप्तऋषि अस्पतालमा पठाइएको जनाइएको छ । नर्सिङहोमका डाक्टर शम्भु यादवलाई फोनमा बुझ्दा पहिलादेखि नै रक्तश्राव भइरहेको बताए । उनले आफूहरूले उपचारपछि डिस्चार्ज गरिसकेको अवस्थामा बाटोमा जाने क्रममा रक्तश्राव भएको बताए । प्रदेश २ का मुख्यमन्त्री लालबाबु राउतले 'बेटी बचाउ अभियान' को घोषणा गरेका बेला मिर्चैया, लहानलगायतका स्थानमा लिङ्ग पहिचान गरी भुरण हत्या फस्टाएको हो । लिङ्ग परीक्षण कानूनरूपमा प्रतिबन्ध भए पनि सिरहाको मिर्चैया, गोलबजार लहानलगायतका स्थानमा खुलेआम रूपमा दुईहजार पाँचसय लिएर छोराछोरी छुट्याउने गरेको नाम नछापे शर्तमा एक महिलाले बताइन् ।

Figure 8 News article on illegal abortion being provided by various clinics in Siraha district, Kantipur, 4 March, 2019

Sex selective abortion

News related to abortion due to sexual abuse and harassment, and rape can be seen published and shared frequently. Similarly, news articles related to this theme have been covered quite a few times during the timeframe of media monitoring. A total of 8 articles were related to crime while 4 articles were on sex selective abortion. The articles mainly focused on the abortion services being provided illegally by various hospitals and clinics as well as selling of unlisted abortion pills by pharmacies, adolescent girls aborting pregnancy due to rape and sexual abuse, and sex selective abortion. One of the articles was about government taking measures to address sex selective abortion in Nepal.



Figure 9 An article on sex selective abortion, myRepublica, 10 August 2019.



Figure 10 News article on a minister meeting a child who was the victim of rape, The Annapurna post, 11 Nov 2019

5.3 Online News Portals

Online news portals have grown popular with the ever growing digital world. These news portals have become one of the most desired source of information and news for the people in Nepal. We came across few news articles on abortion that were published on these portals.

The articles published by onlinekhabar.com, nepalgatha.com, himalkhabar.com, swasthya khabarpatrika were documented in the process. The news articles on the delay in finalization of regulations and directives of safe motherhood and reproductive health rights act, growing trend of unsafe abortion causing difficulty in reducing maternal mortality were published.



Figure 11 News article on delay in development of regulations and directives for safe motherhood and reproductive health rights act 2075, Himalkhabar, 14 Nov 2019



Figure 12 News article on the challenge in reducing maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion, swasthya khabar, 27 Sep 2019.

5.4 Facebook (Routine of Nepal Banda)

Routine of Nepal Banda (RONB) is one of the most popular social media pages of Nepal. The page usually shares short notices, news and information to their followers. Since, the content is short, people tend to follow the page more than the other sources.

The page posted about the status (data) of abortion in Kathmandu. The data shared was not specific on the type of abortion neither had any credible source. But, the major issue was the alarmed emoticon at the end of the post that created rage among advocates of safe abortion, as it gave negative connotation. Due to the pressure from them, the page later edited and removed the emoticon. However, the discussions include large number of prochoice (below) and prolife comments.



Figure 13 Facebook post on status of abortion in Nepal, Routine of Nepal Banda, 26 Jun 2019

#abortion
 facts about abortion
 1. An abortion is a medical procedures that ends a Pregnancy. There is less chance (less than 30 %) to get pregnant again after aborted first baby. It's more safe to abort 2nd, 3rd baby but dnt abort first
 ✖
 2. You can't hide about your abortion in future, i.e normal check up ma pani abortion gareko easily dekhinxa.
 3. Do safe and complete abortion.
 Unsafe/Incomplete abortion le afno jyan pani jana sakxa.
 Symptoms of incomplete abortion : : dherai bleeding vairakhxa, dherai pet dukhxa, uterus naram vayera sano hudaena

 Symptoms of complete abortion:: kehey samaye bleeding hunxa ra bleeding sangai Bachha, saal, nal purai niskepxi bleeding banda hunxa ra staining matra pni vairahanxa, pet dukeko ekasi kam hunxa, kahele kahey 20 week ko garba khera gayekoo xa vane breast milk pni niskena sakxa.
 Ultra sound is the best way to knew whether it is complete or incomplete, dnt take risk! maternity hospitals cost low price for ultra sound around 400 to 500 not more than that.



Figure 14 & 15 Positive and Negative comments done by followers of RONB

5.5 Progressiveness of Coverage

The progressiveness of the articles published during the timeframe of monitoring was categorized under three headings: youth friendliness, progressive words, and progressive picture. Each of the news articles were scored in the range 1 to 5, where 1 was the lowest score and 5 was the highest. Based on the findings, youth friendliness got an average score of 59% which means the contents published were neither regressive nor progressive in terms of youth friendliness. Similarly, neutral caption/title were found to be used by the publishers while covering the news related to abortion. However, the pictures used for the articles seemed to be regressive.

Criteria	Percentage
Youth Friendliness	59.04
Progressive words	61.95
Progressive Picture	46.67

Table 2 Progressiveness of the news articles

Youth friendliness

The news articles that were published were mostly targeted at people of all age groups which is the reason why the content were neither progressive nor regressive in regards to youth friendliness. Since, the abortion pills are easily available in the pharmacy and clinics, there has been illegal sell and use of such pills. Some of the news articles have blamed young people for the use of abortion pills as a measure of family planning.

Progressiveness in words

The coverage are 62% progressive, which is a good data. While most of the articles use neutral language to establish safe abortion as a human rights, and present facts and data in a neutral manner, some of the articles have been bold to talk about the issue with correct choice of words and compelling sensitivity towards the issue. Completely regressive or negative articles were not found during this media monitoring.

Progressiveness of pictures used

The choice of pictures for the news articles were not progressive in comparison to the articles itself. The pictures did not depict the true essence of abortion. These picture tend to alarm the general public thus, igniting hate and stigma to the girls and women who have undergone an abortion as well the issue itself. A lot of news articles contained negative pictures that seemed to be downloaded from Google.



श्रीमान्ले परिवार नियोजनका साधन प्रयोग गर्न नमानेपछि धेरै पटक गर्भपतन गर्नकुर्वै विकल्प नपाएको उनले

Health Ministry continues to defend new abortion law even as gynecologists express strong reservations

Experts say the new abortion law which extends abortion period for special cases to 28 weeks was wrong



Figure 16 & 17 Examples of regressive images used for the news articles

6. Analysis and Discussion

The media monitoring conducted for the year 2019 indicated that media houses are willing to write and publish news articles on the stigmatized issues such as abortion, which might be because it is controversial and people have very diverse reactions and opinions when discussed. The frequency of articles published reflects on the interest of the media personnel to cover about safe abortion through their respective mediums.

The national dailies that had a health section in the newspaper tend to publish more news and articles on abortion in comparison to those that don't. The content of the articles that the writers used are supported by facts and figures and expert opinion most of the time. In comparison to the media houses/e-papers, the online news portals seemed to use misleading titles more frequently. The misleading titles seemed to be used in order to attract more readers. Most of the articles that were documented contained caption that had the word "GARBHAPATAN" (Abortion) which doesn't clarify the type of issue article is implying to. Addition of word "SURAKSHIT" (Safe) or "ASURAKSHIT" would be more appropriate and clarifying.

The news articles published in the newspapers are more structured and inclusive of case stories than the online news portals. A separate journalist who is well informed or someone who has knowledge in the health issues is hired by the media houses to cover such issues while only a handful of people are behind the run of online news portals. This is one of the major reasons behind the quality of the articles both the medias publish.

However, the use of pictures for the articles seems to be audience- attracting, meaning they tend to use misleading pictures that attracts their audience but degrades the quality of the news. A lot of organizations including RHRN Nepal have provided media professionals sensitization and value clarification training on safe abortion including the appropriate use of pictures. After the training, use of progressive language was observed but the use of misleading pictures continued to persist. The matter was discussed with some of the media persons who received the training who explained that the choice of pictures was in the hands of the editors of the media houses.

Contents related to youth were very less in comparison to other themes and the ones that were published were not progressive. Some of the articles have blamed the young people for misusing the abortion services while the focus should have been the level of awareness they have and the stigma around SRHR in our country that limits the young people in accessing contraceptives and safe abortion.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The results from the media monitoring indicate that media personnel are conscious on the challenges and consequences of unsafe abortion in Nepal. They have been sensitized to view safe abortion as a right of women to some extent, and some have invested their efforts to sensitize the public and government to make safe abortion quality, accessible and stigma free.

However, there are various gaps and issues that the media houses need to address for the information to be factual, informative and progressive. The choice and use of progressive words, non-misleading captions and appropriate pictures along with facts and figures with appropriate source and case stories are the major things to be considered to make the news more issue friendly, reader oriented and informative.

The government, CSOs, and other organizations working on safe abortion should closely collaborate with the media personnel to ensure a holistic approach in reducing unsafe abortions happening in the country.

Recommendations

- The media personnel should reach out to the organizations working on safe abortion to create more informative and progressive content to support and be part of the advocacy being done to make abortion safe, quality, accessible, stigma free, and youth friendly.
- The government, CSOs, and other organizations working on the issue should keep the media personnel including the editors updated on the frequently changing language used for abortion.
- Training along with refresher should be provided to the media personnel and mobilize them to sensitize the people on safe abortion such that the stigma around it is reduced.

8. Annex- Links to the issue coverage

1. <https://ekantipur.com/health/2019/08/27/156690321925357178.html>
2. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-4/2019/06/25/156143776830012037.html>
3. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-1/2019/05/10/15574562059134179.html>
4. <https://ekantipur.com/world/2019/05/12/155767159154792302.html>
5. <https://ekantipur.com/world/2019/05/16/155797619613426458.html>
6. <https://ekantipur.com/news/2019/06/09/15600517248434245.html>
7. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-1/2019/06/22/156117439780629608.html>
8. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-4/2019/06/10/156014183892419622.html>
9. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-4/2019/11/15/157379203918825526.html>
10. <https://ekantipur.com/world/2019/04/12/15550386047768091.html>
11. <https://ekantipur.com/pradesh-2/2019/03/04/155167562303295604.html>
12. <https://ekantipur.com/news/2019/03/24/155339799170352933.html>
13. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/148225/>
14. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/168737/>
15. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/168776/>
16. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/179461/>
17. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/188259/>
18. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/192030/>
19. <https://rajdhanidaily.com/194116/>
20. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/140456>
21. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/grbhptn-graundaa-mhilaako-mrtyu-142767>
22. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/grbhptnko-aassdhi-bikrii-grnemaathi-muddaa-140907>
23. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/asurkssit-grbhptnko-jokhim-138988>
24. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/avaidh-grbhptn-graeko-aaropmaa-cikitsk-pkraau-132657>
25. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/grbhptnsmbndhii-kaanunlaaii-ttrmpko-smrthn-127741>
26. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/amerikaamaa-grbhptnsmbndhii-kddaa-kaanun-paarit-127404>
27. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/13-vrssiyaamaathi-yaun-shossnn-asurkssit-grbhptnle-jyaan-jokhimmaa-127392>
28. <http://annapurnapost.com/news/baalik-blaatkaar-grii-bhaart-lger-grbhptn-graeko-khulaasaa-120919>
29. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/12-daughters-and-still-waiting-for-a-son/>
30. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/youths-in-rolpa-resorting-to-unsafe-abortion-instead-of-using-contraceptives/>
31. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/let-the-girls-live/>
32. <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2019/11/01/how-donald-trump-s-anti-abortion-rule-is-creating-a-dystopia-for-nepali-women>
33. <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2019/10/15/health-ministry-to-monitor-hospitals-to-curb-sex-selective-abortions>
34. <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2019/05/26/with-abortion-pills-easily-available-men-are-refusing-to-use-condoms>
35. <https://kathmandupost.com/opinion/2019/04/23/eliminate-unsafe-abortion>
36. <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2019/07/25/health-ministry-defends-but-gynecologists-express-reservation-over-new-abortion-law>
37. <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2019/07/02/doctors-take-exception-to-new-law-that-allows-late-term-abortions-in-exceptional-cases>
38. https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2019/09/800471?fbclid=IwAR0Xk6TPzUpo7vgsW2bl9-js7_6zmy04kdYd0SwbJ9OoxkxWpiMGvphPhVl
39. <https://www.nepalgatha.com/samaj/11989?fbclid=IwAR0phFr0bJDTetgHYLEFDdxZ-tJ37YuOslSUwdlKs11vOabAmRStZdFT4Lk>
40. <https://www.himalkhabar.com/news/16003?fbclid=IwAR2OvChO2xT9ye1dp7icuZhaTEjklHmBUjW0hu-DlNrTBY5u9bJjSSYpxvM>
41. https://swasthyakhabar.com/story/29310?fbclid=IwAR3tdexOWKGjJdHtc08g5tPmoT6ItaM001KHm_c0-UqAkyCT-DJCTXIF4c#.XY36r6gsGNw.facebook