

Youth Leads in Emergency

YUWALAYA

2015



Media Monitoring on Youth Engagement in Post-Earthquake Relief Campaign

December 2015

Media Monitoring Report on Youth Engagement in Post-Earthquake Relief Campaign

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Acknowledgement

In the aftermath of the devastating April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks in Nepal, UNFPA Nepal, Restless Development, Y-PEER Nepal, Yuwa and Yuwalaya jointly launched the 'Youth Leads in Emergency' project. As it had aimed to support the quake survivors via youth mobilization, we think it was a significant need of the hour.

An important component of the project was media monitoring on role of youth in post-disaster rescue and relief campaigns as well as other cross-cutting issues including trafficking and migration and sexual harassment. Yuwalaya had led the media monitoring task throughout the project duration.

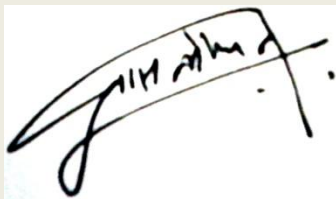
Our team members along with our partners have spent a huge amount of work, research and dedication in the program. It would not have been possible if there had not been support of many individuals and organizations. Therefore we would like to extend sincere gratitude to all of them.

We are grateful to UNFPA Nepal and Restless Development for choosing us as a partner for this challenging task. Similar gratitude from our side to Y-PEER Nepal and Yuwa for working together with us while providing their valuable feedback.

Yuwalaya Executive Secretary Rubina Shrestha and Executive Member Sanjog Thakuri participated in initial meetings with partners to shape strategies for the project and design a detailed plan with a specific timeline. Likewise, our Executive Member Diwakar Pyakurel supervised the project activities from the board. We would like to thank them all.

Yuwalaya's Jenish Maharjan, who worked as the Coordinator for this project, deserves our sincere gratitude. Yuwalaya was successful to conclude the project in his leadership. We have found a competent youth leader in him as he led the activities notwithstanding time constraints and other odds.

We extend our thanks to Yuwalaya staff members Sumikshya Khadka and Keshab Khadka, as well as our intern Asun Bajracharya who devoted their time and knowledge in compiling and analyzing data of media monitoring. Also, we should not forget contributions of all volunteers who contributed for this project.



Subash Neupane
President, Yuwalaya

29 December, 2015

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background

So far the greatest natural disaster of the century for Nepal, the magnitude-7.6 Gorkha earthquake on 25 April, 2015 killed as many as 8,856 human lives and injured 22,309 others.¹ Property worth millions including individual houses and public and governmental buildings was destroyed, rendering thousands homeless for months. Buildings and monuments of historical and cultural significant collapsed.

Out of 75 districts of Nepal, 30 districts have been affected from the earthquake. The hardest-hit 14 districts as declared by the government agencies are Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Sindhuli and Sindhupalchok. In terms of intensity and losses caused, the April 25 earthquake was the worst natural disaster of Nepal since the 1934 (BS 1990) Nepal–Bihar earthquake.

The April 25 earthquake triggered an avalanche on the Mount Everest, killing at least 19, making it one of the deadliest days in the mountaineering history of Nepal. Likewise, another avalanche was triggered in the Langtang valley of Rasuwa, where around 250 people were reported missing. As of December 2015, at least 43 foreigners are still reported missing in the valley.²

Continued aftershocks occurred throughout the affected regions for months. While small aftershocks of around magnitude 4 are being recorded till December 2015³, early aftershocks of greater intensity – including of local magnitude 6.9 on April 26 and of magnitude 6.8 and 6.2 on May 12⁴ – posed continued risk to the nation and its people.

The geographic area affected by the earthquake and its aftershocks is extensive, encompassing mountainous regions with disperse rural populations as well as some very densely populated districts and cities. Many areas affected by the earthquake remain prone to landslides, causing frequent road blockages, with poor weather and ongoing aftershocks adding to these constraints. The scale of the damage means that road clearance / repairs will take some time. Access to many remote villages remains a major challenge and many locations can only be accessed by helicopter.

Disastrous events like the earthquake in poor and politically paralyzed nations such as Nepal often bring other disasters, not only natural but also of socio-economic nature, for next few decades. The earthquake has knock-on effects on a myriad of seemingly unrelated aspects including human trafficking, labor cost and availability, rental and property cost burdens,

¹ Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal, Ministry of Home Affairs

² Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal, Ministry of Home Affairs

³ National Seismological Centre

⁴ The May 12 magnitude-6.8 aftershock was so intense that it was even considered a separate earthquake in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Report prepared by the National Planning Commission. However, the National Seismological Centre records it as an aftershock. Read the NPC PDNA executive summary: http://www.npc.gov.np/images/download/PDNA_Executive_Summary_rev0730.pdf

urbanization, private and public debt burdens, mental health, politics, tourism, as well as disease and healthcare system damages.

Introduction

After the disastrous earthquake and its aftershocks, none of the sector remained unaffected from it. While people and organizations had a challenge to manage themselves and their own people in the disaster, they also came to the front in providing rescue and relief assistance to people of the worst-hit districts. Involvement of youth in disaster rescue and relief was appreciated from all walks of life.

Yuwalaya, under the joint initiative with UNFPA, Restless Development, Yuwa and Y-PEER, attempted to monitor newspaper coverage on involvement of youth in post-earthquake humanitarian assistance projects. While we, ourselves, were involved in relief activities under the joint Youth Leads in Emergencies project. Yuwalaya monitored newspaper stories and articles published on major 10 daily newspapers of Nepali and English languages to find out and assess role of youth in disaster management. In doing so, attempts have been made to identify cross-cutting issues that come along the natural disasters including trafficking, migration and sexual harassment trends.

The newspapers covered in this study are:

- a. The Kathmandu Post
- b. Kantipur
- c. Annapurna Post
- d. The Himalayan Times
- e. Rajdhani
- f. Gorakhpatra
- g. Nagarik
- h. Nepal Samacharpatra
- i. The Rising Nepal
- j. Republica

All issues of these newspapers from August to December 2015 were looked into to examine how many stories they published on post-earthquake relief and reconstruction works and related issues.

While there were numerous studies of media contents from perspectives of women and children and their rights, no any media monitoring from the youth perspective has been found conducted in Nepal yet. This study, hence, perhaps can be the first media monitoring project in Nepal which has been carried out to study contents of national broadsheets from the perspectives of youth rights and participation.

Objectives

Specific objectives of the media monitoring project were as follows:

1. Collect and document newspaper reports that highlighted involvement of youth in post-earthquake humanitarian assistance projects and other related issues including trafficking and migration, education and sexual and reproductive health rights
2. Assess newspapers' priority on youth engagement/participation and other studied issues, especially during the post-disaster situations
3. Suggest ways and strategies to make social and development activities of youth more media-visible and effective

Methodology

To accomplish the set objectives, a specific methodology was set to conduct the media monitoring. The major steps of the study included:

1. Study team formation

Yuwalaya in August 2015 formed a study team to carry out the media monitoring in the aftermath of the April 25 earthquake and its significant aftershocks. Members of the team are listed in annex of this report.

2. Selection of newspapers

The study team at first selected 10 daily broadsheet newspapers – four English and six Nepali – published from Kathmandu to consider for the study. The selection was made on the basis of their greater popularity, widespread geographic and issue-wise coverage. Further, classification made by the Press Council Nepal, the authorized press monitoring government body, was also considered. The study included all seven A+ category newspapers, plus three A category newspapers.⁵

3. Clipping and documentation of reports and articles

The study team began its task by searching the news reports on the related themes from August to December 2015. At first the team clipped related articles and reports and filed them separately on the basis of newspapers as well as online⁶ to keep record for the future.

4. Categorization, comparison and monthly report

At the end of every English month, the documented news reports and articles were studied. They were classified into following five categories:

- i. Youth involvement in humanitarian assistance
- ii. Education
- iii. Sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment
- iv. Trafficking and migration
- v. Others

⁵ See the categorization report: <http://www.presscouncilnepal.org/files/abc%20result%2070-71.pdf>

⁶ youthleadsinemergency.blogspot.com

Coverage of a newspaper was compared against the other in order to analyze news values gained by the issues, priorities of newspapers and status of youth involvement as reflected in the media. A monthly report was prepared in each month of the study discussing the issues and findings.

5. Final analysis

At the end of the project, a final analysis was conducted. All the data recorded in the monthly reports were compiled and analyzed. Results of the final analysis have been documented in the final report.

Limitations

1. Though the selected newspapers were among the most popular newspapers and of highest ranks as per the Press Council classification, they may fail to represent the entire situation. As the top national newspapers, they may have missed to cover some significant issues of local level for not being an issue of national importance.
2. The study is strictly based on the data collected during five months and it may not be totally representative of the overall post-disaster situation.
3. The study had not covered editorials and opinion articles published in the newspapers. Likewise, weekly supplements of the newspapers have not been included in the study.
4. The study began after more than three months of the devastating earthquake. Probably there might have been more significant coverage of the issues before the monitoring began.
5. Some significant newspaper reports might have been missed during documentation due to human errors.

CHAPTER II

NEWSPAPER-SPECIFIC FINDINGS

1. The Kathmandu Post:

The Kathmandu Post published total 34 news reports and articles relating to post-earthquake risks, protection strategies, humanitarian assistance and youth engagement issues. While most of the stories discussed impact of the earthquake on daily life of the survivors, there were seven stories related to youth engagement in humanitarian assistance. The reports have recognized youth as vital agents for post-quake relief and reconstruction programs as the newspaper encouragingly covered initiatives of individual youth and youth organizations for assistance to quake survivors.



Figure 1: A story in The Kathmandu Post on August 20, 2015

Likewise, five stories have discussed threats to sexual and reproductive health rights of victims as well as issues of sexual harassment including rape in post-quake settings. Four stories have discussed migration and trafficking risks inducted by the earthquake.

As many as 14 stories were recorded under the 'others' category. The 'others' category for the purpose of this study included woes of the quake survivors and situations in the quake-hit regions that are yet to be addressed by the government and related agencies. Few issues which

were a significant concern for youth but could not be categorized into the identified four themes were also included in this category.

After promulgation of the Constitution on September 20, the unofficial blockade allegedly imposed by India dominated the media coverage. However, The Kathmandu Post continued to publish stories of pains of quake survivors and attempts of youth and other humanitarian organizations to support them, connecting them with effects of the blockade.

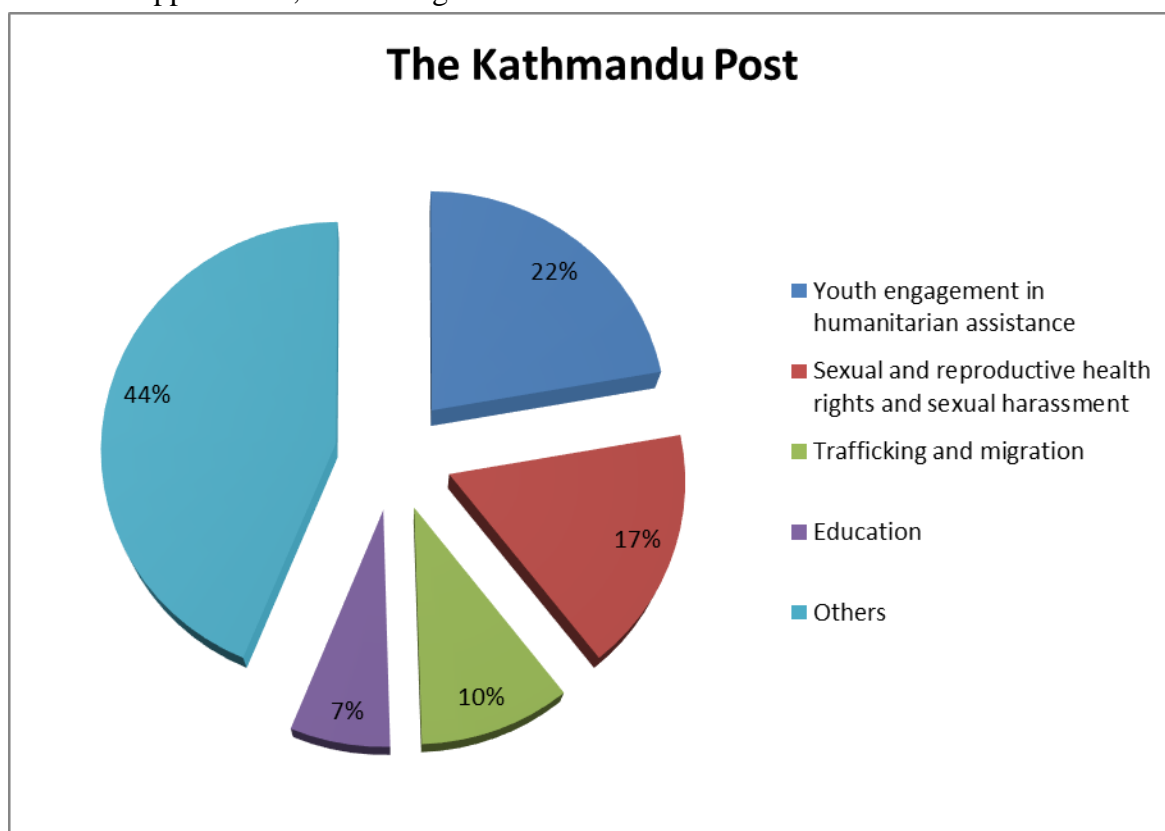


Figure 2: Coverage in The Kathmandu Post

2. Kantipur

Kantipur published a number of news reports urging the government and other related agencies to establish fast-track procedures on the reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. It also had 34 stories on the themes mentioned. Among them, nine stories discussed youth involvement in humanitarian assistance while seven were about education. As many as four stories were about sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment including rape. Three stories had discussed trafficking and migration issues. Other 11 reports had discussed miscellaneous issues related to post-quake situations.

Even after the eight months of the quake, victims are still compelled to live in camps and temporary shelters constructed with zinc sheets. At first, the government indirectly requested the

quake victims to wait till the end of monsoon to start reconstruction showing the vulnerability of landslides in quake-hit districts. But it has been four months since the monsoon ended, yet no sign of the promised reconstruction activities are seen in most of the areas. With the arrival of coldest winter in years, victims living in temporary shelters are severely affected and the newspaper has covered the news of some victims dying due to the lack of proper basic needs. The news reports of relief materials rotting in warehouses, the government failing to pass the Bill on Reconstruction of Earthquake Affected Structures on time and nepotism in aid distribution showed the government's failure to address the real need of its citizen during the hard times.



Figure 3: Figure 3: A story in Kantipur on August 31, 2015

Similarly, the news stories related to humanitarian assistance to foster the reconstruction activities have been covered in some extent. The government has allocated budget to be distributed among the quake survivors so that they can protect themselves from the harsh cold. Likewise, the disaster-related agencies have been continuing their aid in all the possible ways. Other friendly nations have been providing tremendous amount as relief fund, but again, the government has not been able to utilize it for the benefit of the quake victims. The paper has given a priority to such issues as well.

Furthermore, Kantipur has also covered stories of the quake survivors displaced in various places after their settlements were destroyed by the quake. Coupled with this were stories about failure to demolish damaged houses, which have been increasing hazards to human safety.

In overall, the study of the report/article clips of Kantipur shows the increasing demands and needs of quake survivors and the call for more effective relief programs for them.

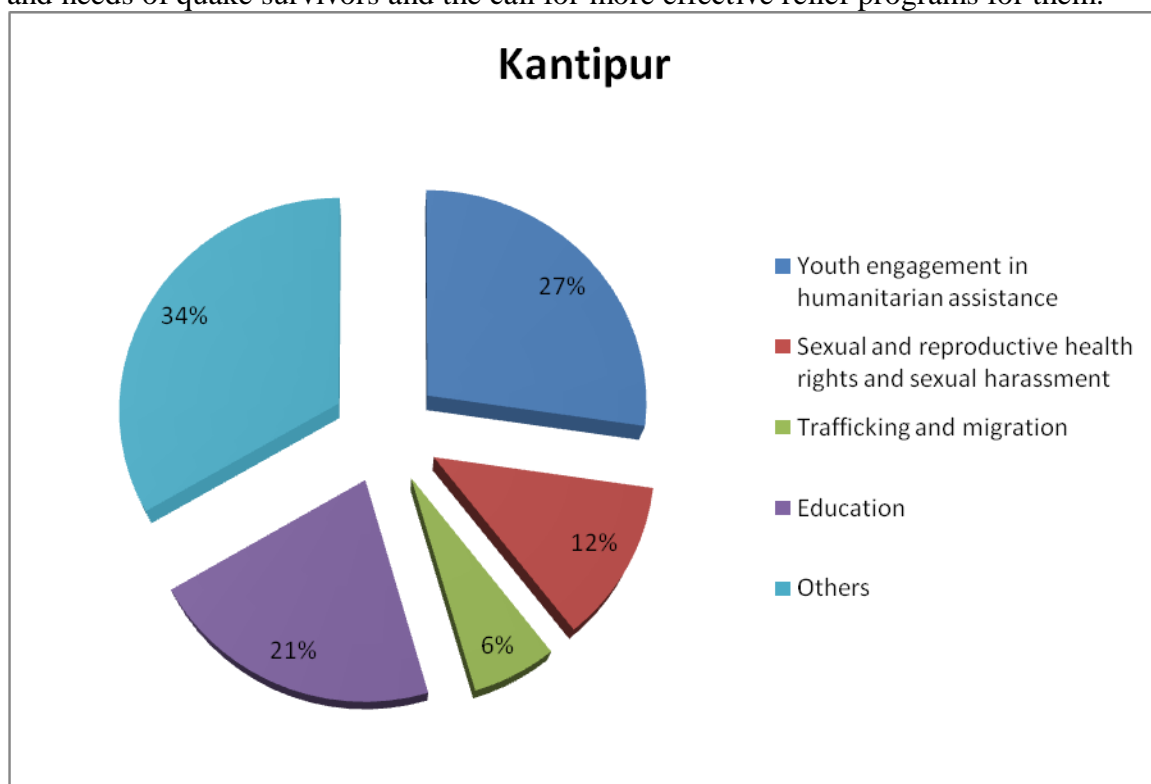


Figure 4: Coverage in Kantipur

3. The Himalayan Times

The Himalayan Times published 42 stories on about the mentioned themes, of which 15 were related with youth involvement in humanitarian assistance. As many as 10 stories were about sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment issues. While eight stories paid attention on post-earthquake education issues, four were about trafficking and migration.

In the duration in which the newspapers were monitored, the news reports related to the humanitarian assistance from national, international, governmental and individual level have been mostly covered. The necessity of the involvement of youths for solving the current socio-economic challenges faced by the nation after the devastating quake has been highlighted by The Himalayan Times. Youth involvement in the reconstruction activities has got a significant space in the paper.

Furthermore, the increasing cases of rape and trafficking after earthquake has been widely covered in this newspaper. It has also published the news stories related to attempts by different

organizations including the Nepal Police to control trafficking. The newspaper focuses on creating awareness, prevention, and protection against violence against women (VAW), child labor, and harassment/rape in the post-quake camps and other areas.

Similarly, news stories related to the need of continuation of education and the efforts being made for it have been found covered to some extent. According to the newspaper, different organizations have been assisting in reconstruction of schools and providing various scholarships to the quake affected students so that they do not have to make any compromise in the education. The paper also has included the news of reconstruction of class rooms.



Figure 5: A story in The Himalayan Times on August 14, 2015

Moreover, the news stories about the quake survivors lacking basic needs like food, clothes and shelters have been covered. It has shown its concern over the humanitarian crisis in the quake-hit zones after the reported unofficial blockade by India. The poor survivors struggling to survive harsh winter has been highlighted in the paper.

Also there are cases covered which show some fake survivors demanding compensation and the real ones struggling to survive and not getting aid.

The newspaper has covered the government efforts to protect, manage and identify open spaces which can be used in the aftermath of the natural disasters like earthquake. Moreover, the resettlement of the survivors whose villages are completely damaged has also been published in the paper.

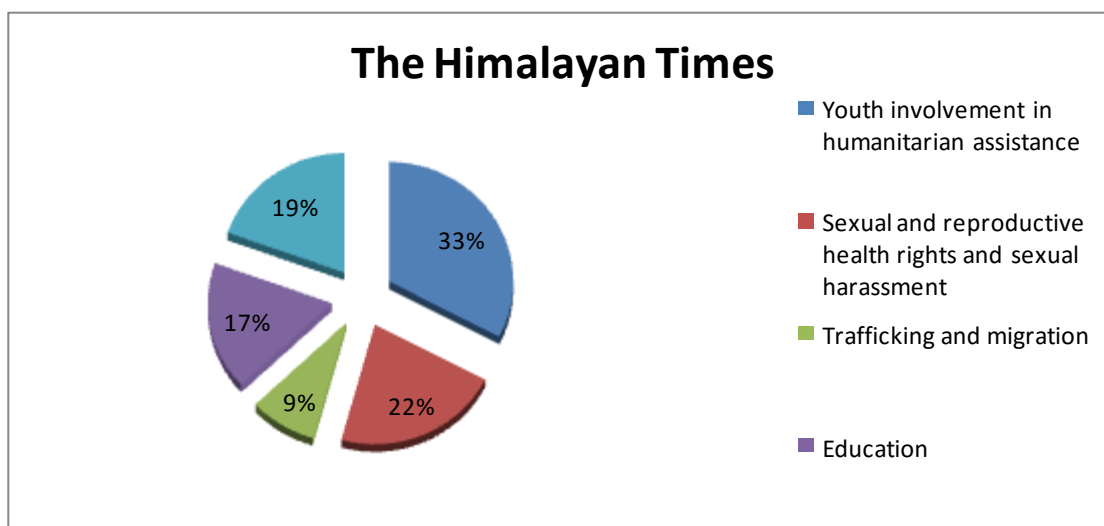


Figure 6: Coverage in The Himalayan Times

4. Nagarik

Total 30 stories were studied from Nagarik. The newspaper has given importance to the news stories related to sexual and reproductive health and youth's involvement in humanitarian assistance whereas no news related to migration was covered.

The cases of rape and sexual harassment in different quake-hit regions were highly covered in this paper. As the survivors are living in temporary camps, the number of rape cases has dramatically increased. Also, the web of trafficking has become more intense as the earthquake has made the people more vulnerable, easily accessible and economically weak. Thus, Nagarik has focused on making the citizens more alert on these threats.



Figure 7: A story in Nagarik on August 12, 2015

Likewise, the aid programs of different national and international agencies, government, and individuals were also notably covered. The news stories associated with the work of youth from both individual and organizational level were found published.

In the similar manner, the woes of the quake survivors are also highlighted by this paper. The survivors already made vulnerable by the massive quake had to face the troublesome monsoon, landslides in some areas; then the unofficial blockade at the border points and finally now the cold winter. Thus, Nagarik has shown how exactly the quake victims are urging the government and related agencies to provide the helping hands. Also, it has shown the government's inefficiency in utilization of aid funds and relief materials. The relief materials are rotting in the warehouses and the quake survivors are struggling in the cold to meet the basic needs like food, clothes and shelter.

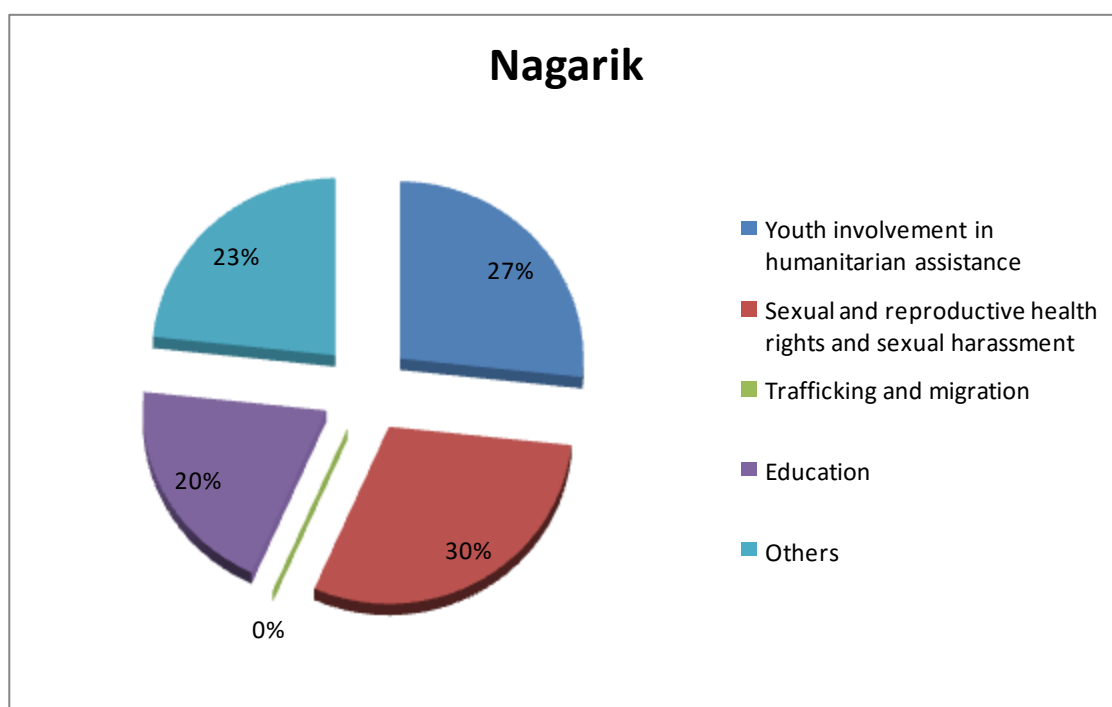


Figure 8: Coverage in Nagarik

5. Nepal Samacharpatra

Total 44 news reports were studied from Nepal Samacharpatra during the media monitoring. As many as 12 of them were about youth involvement in humanitarian assistance.

Nepal Samacharpatra has given importance to the news stories related to the humanitarian aid given by the national and international communities and organizations, and also highlighted the significant role that youth have been playing in reconstruction campaigns. Especially the international aid and the emergency programs organized by the non-governmental agencies have been covered by this paper. The government's efforts in the reconstruction are also included, but in limited editions. Also, the news stories of the survivors engaged in the reconstruction of schools so that their children can continue their education and locals being happy with various humanitarian assistance projects were also published.

Likewise, the lack of the relief programs in the actual quake-hit areas, the government's inability to find effective methods to reach those places and the misery of survivors were also covered in a significant scale. According to the newspaper, the blockade and the coldest winter are taking away hopes of relief the victims had from the government as the government is busy in solving the current political crisis rather than keeping an eye on the victims living in the despair.

Likewise, it has published considerable news reports related to trafficking and rape incidents. As per the news stories, many women and children have been rescued who were enticed to India with the hope of better employment after the quake. Highlighting the fact that the human

trafficking is growing like a spider web after the massive quake, this paper has urged the community to work against trafficking with unity.



Figure 9: A story in Nepal Samacharpatra on human trafficking in the post-quake situation

Furthermore, the news stories about displacement of people at different places due to quake-induced landslides were also found covered. The needs of immediate resettlement of the survivors who left their quake-hit villages were also covered.

In the same way, Nepal Samacharpatra has also highlighted the hazardous effects of quake on the field of education. With many schools fully and partially damaged and the students deprived of educational materials, the schools are not being able to run normal classes, the newspaper identified.

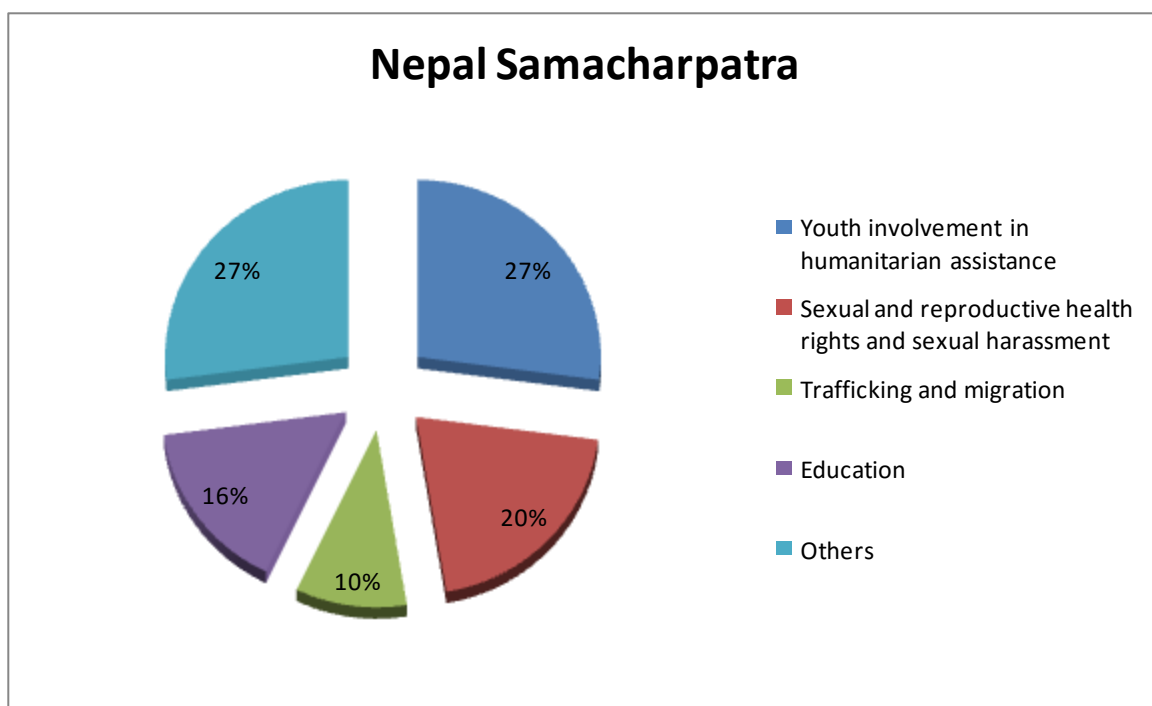


Figure 10: Coverage in Nepal Samacharpatra

6. Republica

Republica published 32 stories in this period about the issues studied. Most of them were about youth involvement in humanitarian assistance, followed by issues of education. It had comparatively fewer stories about trafficking and migration.

It covered a wide range of news stories related to impacts of the massive April earthquake on life of people. It has mostly focused on the issues and events related to humanitarian aid and relief programs of all levels. Youth and their engagement in the reconstruction of earthquake-hit areas have also got a considerable place in this paper. Activities of youth working at the individual as well as organizational levels were found published in this newspaper. Moreover, the tireless efforts of different agencies despite the hardships imposed by the blockade at borders are included and praised in the Republica news stories.

In the same way, the difficulties that the earthquake survivors are facing because of the lack of enough relief materials, (lack of) equality while distributing the relief materials and the government's failure to pass the Bill on Reconstruction of Earthquake Affected Structures on time and also its failure to make effective plans to rehabilitate quake victims are also covered in this paper.

The impacts of the quake on the field of education are also highlighted. As many schools are either fully or partially damaged, students have limited access to the stationery materials, and

above all, there is a lack of warm food, clothes and shelter in the winter season. The schools are finding it difficult to run classes and implement the academic calendar.



Figure 11: A story in Republica on September 18, 2015

Also, the news stories describing acts of human traffickers taking the advantage of the vulnerable conditions of the earthquake survivors and related governmental and non-governmental agencies being active to control trafficking have also been brought out.

Furthermore, some reports explained that those quake survivors who had come to Kathmandu after the quake seeking shelter had to return to their village due to the crisis of fuel and other consumables heightened by the blockade. The government's failure to relocate its affected citizens during the time of the greatest need is also highlighted.

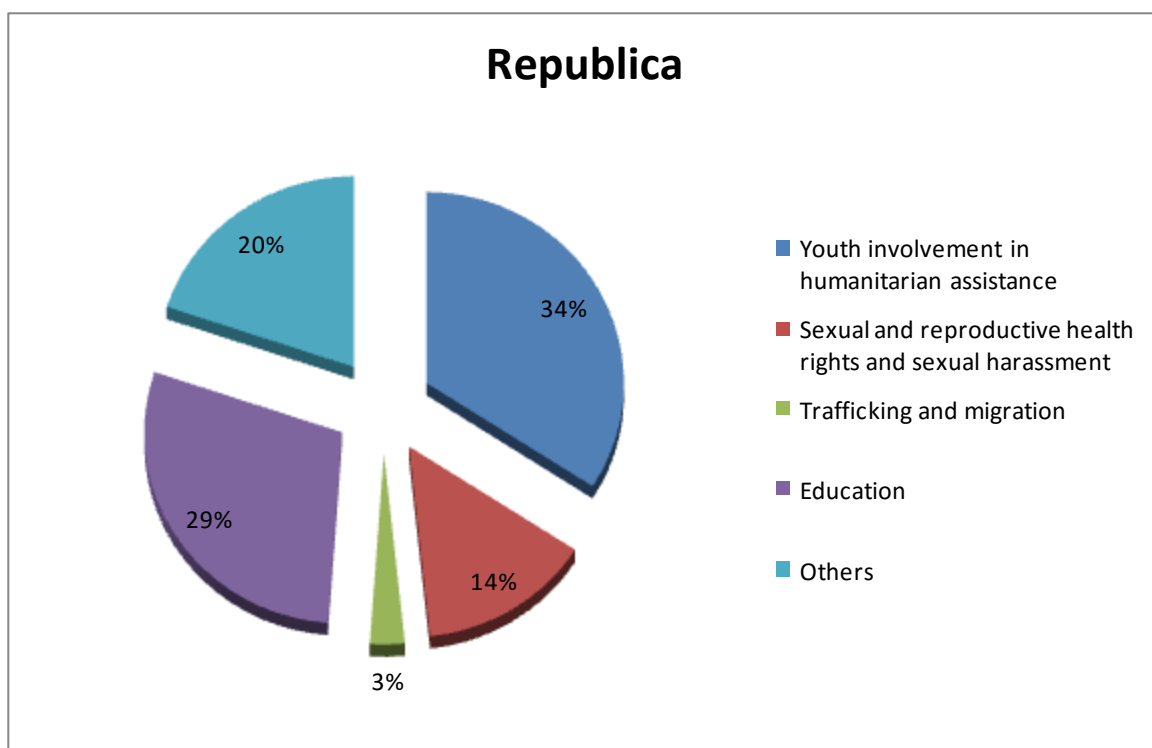


Figure 12: Coverage in Republica

7. Gorkhaptra

In the monitoring period, total 43 news stories were studied from Gorakhpatra. Of them, more than 40% of the reports/articles were related to youth involvement in humanitarian assistance. This included the aid of different national and international organizations, individuals and the government over the period of five months. Especially, the government's efforts to rehabilitate the quake survivors are highlighted in this paper.

The news stories related to youth involvement for the reconstruction are not published much in this paper, but few news of the relief programs conducted with the effort of individuals are found. According to the paper, the quake survivors who failed to get the relief assistance promised by the government have become more than happy to receive aids from some individuals and private organizations.

Likewise, news stories related to the woes of quake survivors awaiting relief programs in different quake-hit districts have been published. Though the news stories have covered the lack of enough relief materials in the camps and the victims celebrating festivals bleakly tolerating harsh winter, the Gorkhapatra stories have not said much about the government's failure to address real needs of real quake survivors and to utilize foreign aid in their interest.

Gorkhapatra published a news story about trafficking of quake survivors to sell their kidney. The news story covered a bitter truth of locals in Kavrepalanchok district who are compelled to

sell their kidneys to meet their daily expenses. Though traffickers promise them to provide a huge sum at first, later they get a very small amount. Also, according to the paper, the rate of trafficking is increasing due to unemployment heightened by the recent quake. Especially, the female survivors are lured with the hope of a high income and are trafficked.

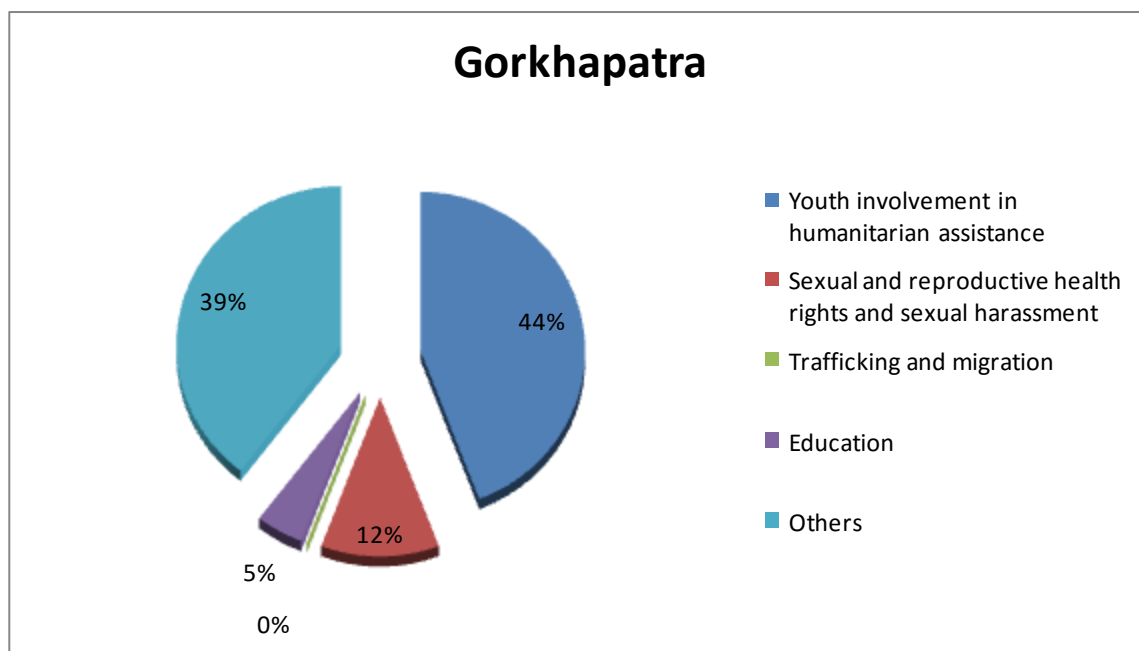


Figure 13: Coverage in Gorkhapatra

8. The Rising Nepal

The Rising Nepal, in comparison to other newspapers studied, has more unbalanced distribution of news. Of total 28 stories studied from the newspaper, 20 were about youth involvement in humanitarian assistance works. It did not have any story about trafficking and migration, while very few stories were published about educational issues in the post-earthquake situation.

Most of the news stories studied from The Rising Nepal are related to the humanitarian assistance from the government as well as non-governmental organizations. It has mostly focused on the assistance the nation is receiving from different international organizations. The foreign aid according to The Rising Nepal ranges from individual to national level. Also, the efforts of Nepali youth living inside and outside the country to rehabilitate the quake hit society have got significant space in its pages. It has drawn the attention towards ensuring basic rights of the survivors. As per the news report, the survivors have been facing harsh living conditions with the beginning of winter and due to fuel crisis and shortage of daily essentials.



Figure 14: A story in The Rising Nepal on December 22, 2015

Likewise, the government's failure to distribute relief assistance with equity and reach the most devastated regions has also been covered by the paper. Despite the continuous efforts at all levels for reconstruction, the blockade, the fuel crisis and the winter have hit quake survivors harshly. The newspaper has not covered any news related to sexual and reproductive health and sexual harassment.

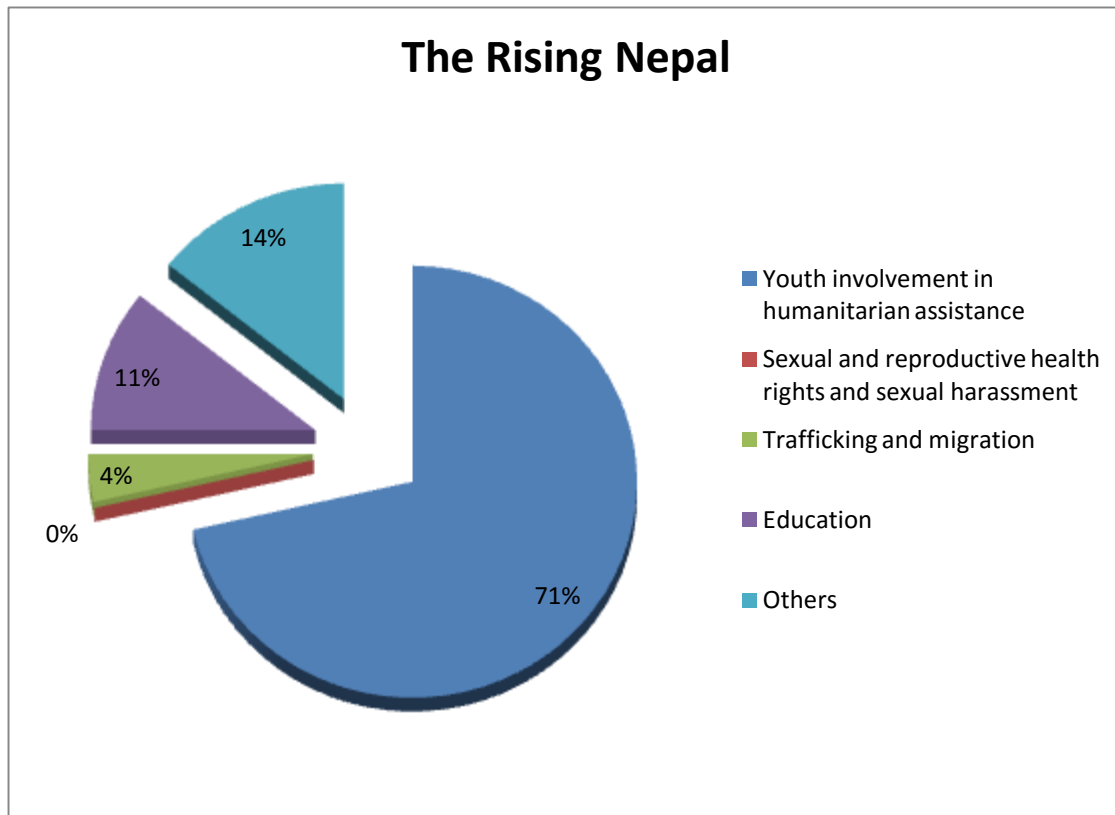


Figure 15: Coverage in The Rising Nepal

9. Rajdhani:

Total 43 news stories of this study's concerns were found published in the paper during monitoring period. Of them, 13 were about youth involvement in humanitarian assistance while 10 each were found in education and sexual and reproductive health rights themes. It had fewer news stories on trafficking and migration.

Efforts of different national and international organizations, youth and the government for resettlement of the quake survivors have been most highlighted in stories published by Rajdhani national daily. Especially, the aids from youth living in and out of the country at individual and organizational level have been covered. The relief programs conducted by focusing on the marginalized groups and disabled have also been shown. The government, despite being involved in the burning political issues, has been making considerable efforts to uplift the status of the quake survivors and save them from the harsh winter, according to the newspaper. The international communities have also been providing financial support.

Similarly, the report/article clips indicate that despite all the efforts, the quake survivors are still suffering bitter days in makeshift tents without any warm food and cloth. Students are still studying in the open field. Thus, by studying the report/article clips, one can conclude that though efforts have been made from all the levels, they are far from being enough.

Likewise, the news stories about sexual and reproductive health rights, rape and harassment have also got significant place in Rajdhani. Alleged traffickers and rapists being caught in different places of the nation have been reported.



Figure 16: A story in Rajdhani on August 19, 2015

Furthermore, the migration-related news stories have been published in a limited number and the quake survivors struggling to be relocated after leaving their quake-hit villages have been shown.

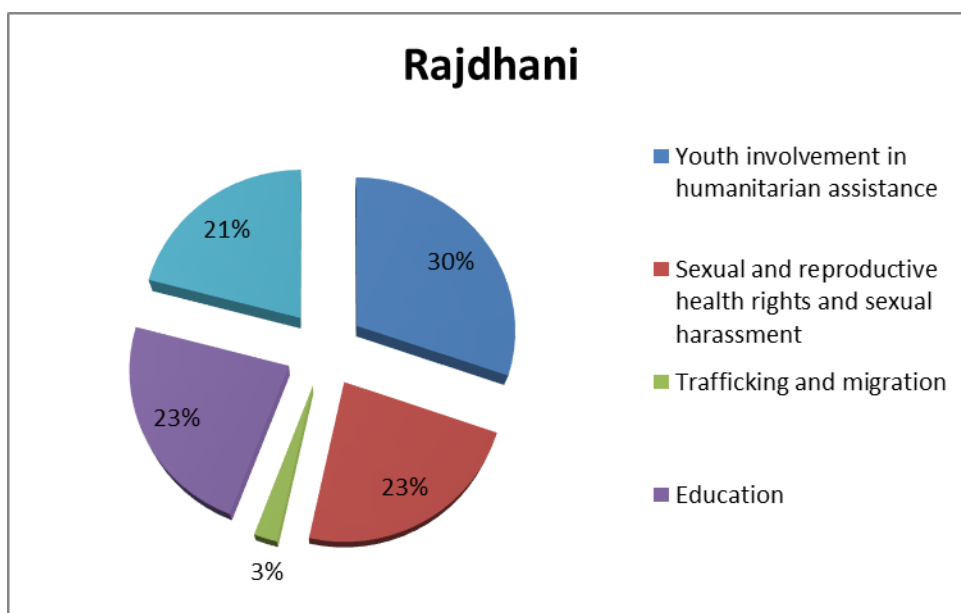


Figure 17: Coverage in Rajdhani

10. Annapurna Post

Of total 43 news stories studied from Annapurna Post, 11 were related to youth involvement in humanitarian assistance programs. Efforts of youth at individual and organizational level to reconstruct the quake-hit communities are covered. Youth have been engaged in rehabilitation and construction of temporary shelters and camps, temporary toilets as well as spreading awareness on different issues like sanitation, hygiene, sexual and reproductive health rights among others, according to the paper.

Many of other reports/articles were related to needs of quake survivors and the call for the enough relief programs. This newspaper has focused on those groups of survivors who are still deprived of the basic needs and are suffering terribly from the monsoon at first, then the blockade and now the cold. It has also published the news stories of government officers' misuse of authority to take advantages from the assistance meant for quake survivors, the government's failure to provide the promised winter aids and loans to build houses. Impacts of the unofficial blockade imposed by India on the reconstruction and rehabilitation process have also been widely covered.



Figure 18: Annapurna Post story on September 22, 2015

Likewise, news stories about international and national non-government organizations working determinedly to take relief programs to the quake-affected regions are found in this paper. The government's involvement to renovate the quake-hit buildings has been published to some extent.

Similarly, news stories related to sexual and reproductive health and increasing cases of rape, harassment and trafficking are found published Annapurna Post. According to those news reports, especially women of the city areas have been infected with sexually transmitted diseases in the aftermath of the quake. Likewise, news reports of women and girls being rescued from being trafficked are also found in the paper. Also, this paper has highlighted the importance of being more alert as the traffickers are seen more active after the quake.

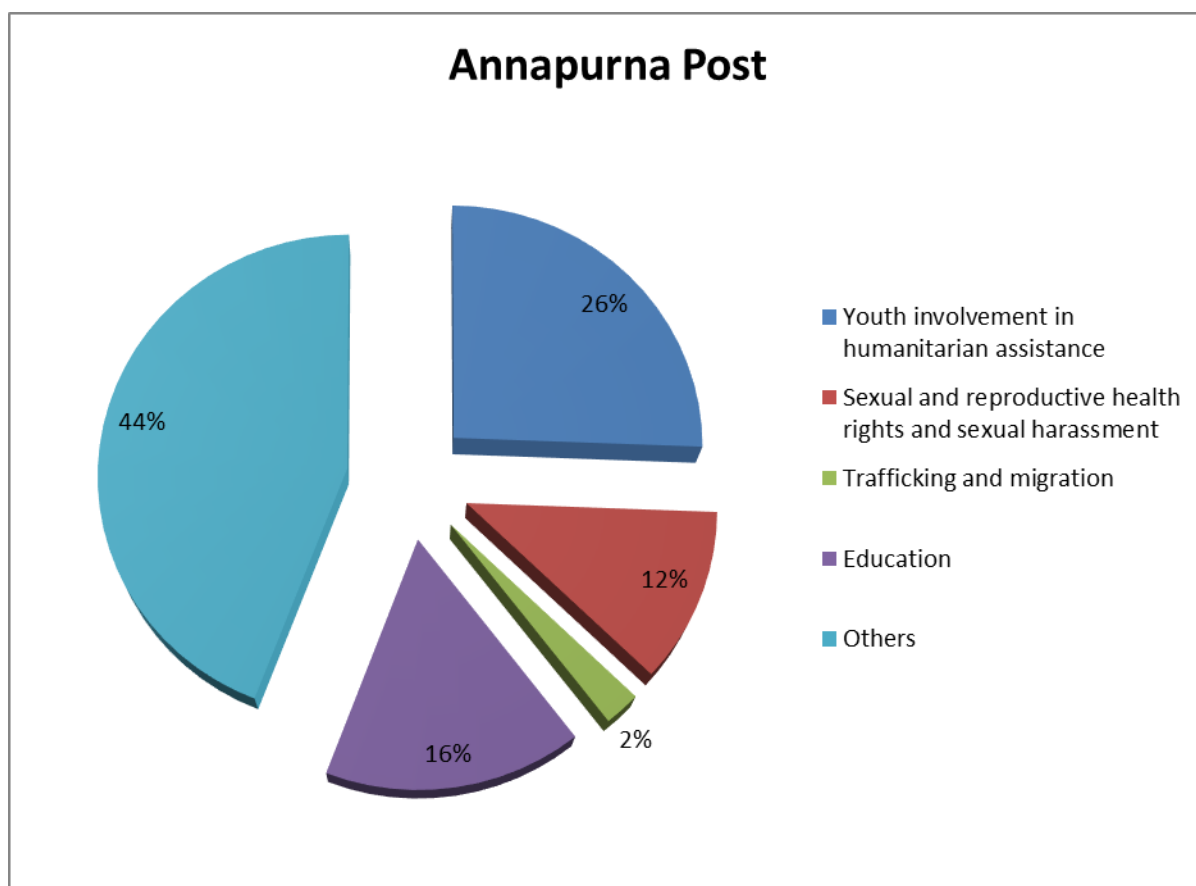


Figure 19: Coverage in Annapurna Post

CHAPTER III

MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

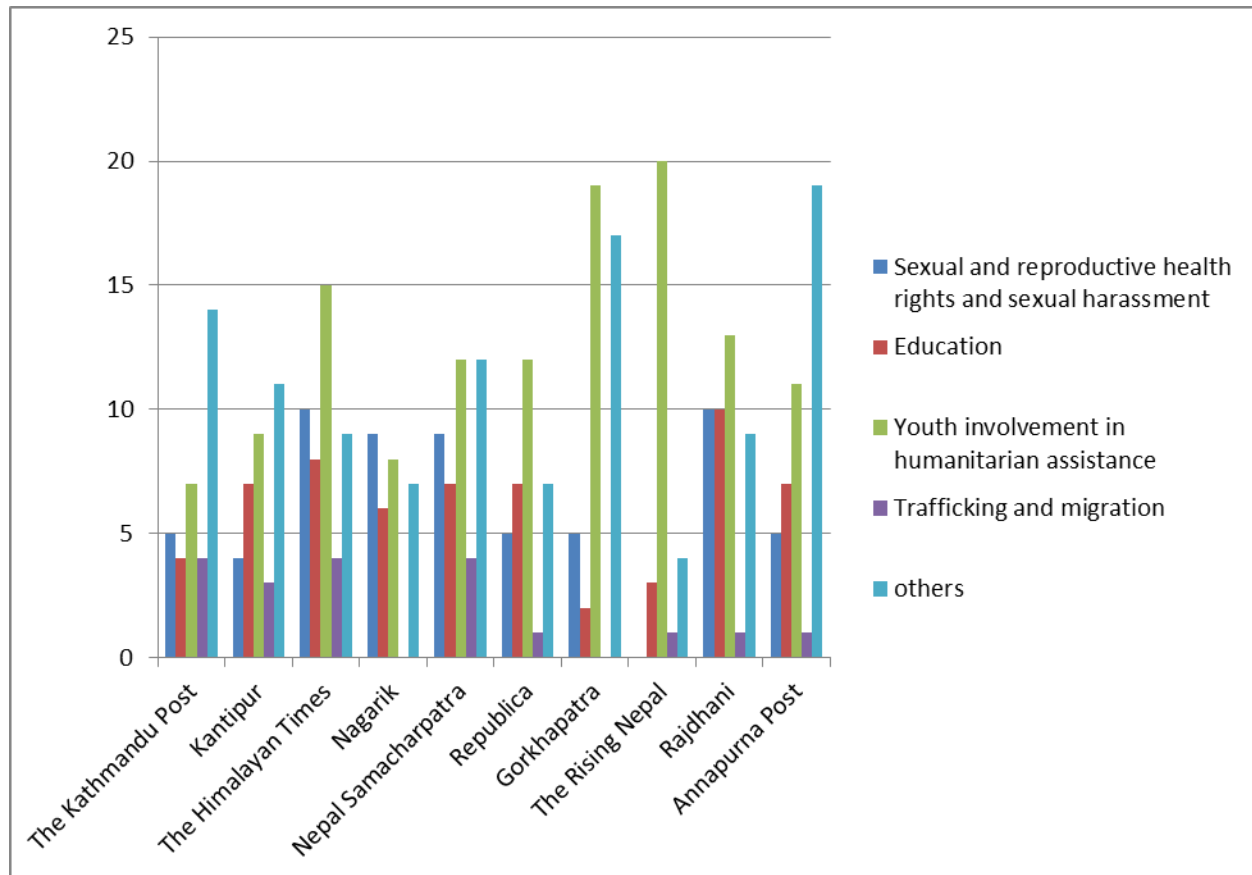


Figure 21: Integrated chart of major findings

A total of 383 news reports/articles were documented and analyzed for the study purpose, which were collected during a period of five months from August to December 2015.

1. Thematic distribution

Of total 383 articles/reports considered in the study, 131 reports were about youth involvement in humanitarian assistance, which was the highest number among four themes identified for the purpose. Following that was the issues of sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment, on which 62 reports were published. Likewise 20 reports discussed the issues of trafficking and migration and 61 of education. There were 109 reports and articles about other related issues.

The theme of youth involvement in humanitarian assistance included news reports about attempts of youth at individual and organizational levels to support earthquake survivors in any

place in any way, their fund raising and distribution campaigns and awareness campaigns on earthquake protection measures during the time of consistent aftershocks among others. Likewise, the theme of sexual and reproductive health rights included news stories about violation of sexual and reproductive health rights of youth in the post-earthquake situation as well as bids of youth to cope with the challenges. Incidents of sexual harassment for which the earthquake was responsible in any way were also included in the same category. Impacts of the earthquake on education of children and youth including damages in school and college buildings and initiatives to renovate/rebuild them were included in the education category. Likewise, migration and trafficking caused by the earthquake and its aftermath were studied under another theme. The 'others' category for the purpose of this study included woes of the quake survivors and situations in the quake-hit regions that are yet to be addressed by the government and related agencies. Few issues which were a significant concern for youth but could not be categorized into the identified four themes were also included in this category.

Of course, many news stories were cross-thematic. They could fall under different themes. In such cases, they were studied under only one category using the discretion of the study team to judge which theme they are more about.

i. Youth involvement in humanitarian assistance

Out of total report/article clips collected on the theme, the Rising Nepal has covered the highest number of news stories (15.26%) and Nagarik has published the lowest number of news (6.10%). Similarly, both Nepal Samacharpatra and Republica is credited for equal 9.16% of total news clips, 11.45% of news reports were covered by The Himalayan Times, 6.87% by Kantipur, 14.50% by Gorkhapatra, 9.92% by Rajdhani and 8.39% by Annapurna Post.

ii. Education

Of total articles and reports studied under the theme of education, Kantipur, Nepal Samacharpatra, Republica and Annapurna Post have covered 11.47% each; The Himalayan Times is accounted for 13.11% whereas 9.83% of news/articles have been obtained from Nagarik. Likewise, Gorkhapatra published the lowest number of news (3.27%) and Rajdhani is credited for highest number of news (16.39%) in this theme.

iii. Sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment

The figures illustrate that of the total news collected on the sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment theme, The Kathmandu Post has been accounted for 8.06% news stories; Kantipur has covered 6.45% stories; and Nagarik and Nepal Samacharpatra have covered 14.51% each. Likewise, Republica, Annapurna Post and Gorkhapatra have also contributed for 8.06% each and each of Rajdhani and The Himalayan Times have covered 16.12% which is the highest coverage. No news related to this category was found in The Rising Nepal.

iv. Trafficking and migration

In this theme, each of The Kathmandu post, The Himalayan Times and Nepal Samacharpatra have covered 20% of total news; 15% of the studied reports were from Kantipur and 5% each from Nagarik, Republica, The Rising Nepal, Rajhdani, and Annapurna Post. No news on this category was found in Gorkhapatra.

v. Others

Of total news/articles collected as 'others', The Kathmandu Post has covered 12.8%, whereas 10.09% stories have been published by Kantipur, 8.25% each by Rajdhani and The Himalayan Times, 6.42% each by Nagarik and Republica. Likewise Nepal Samacharpatra has covered 11% where 15.59% is covered by Gorkhapatra, 3.66% by The Rising Nepal. A total of 17.43 %, which is the highest percent, is covered by Annapurna Post.

2. Cross-thematic comparison

The figures point out that among the four categories in which the news were collected and analyzed, the most abundant news were related to youth involvement and humanitarian assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation. A total of 34.20% reports were related to that theme. Also, among all the newspapers, The Rising Nepal published the highest number of news on it. From this, one can conclude that the relief and aid programs were conducted in considerable number in the quake-hit districts and the involvement of youth in them was also remarkable.

Furthermore, 28% of news that are categorized as 'others' are the news related to woes of the quake victims and situation of the quake-hit regions that are yet to be addressed by the government and related agencies. This information points out the fact that though humanitarian aid programs have been conducted in the entire quake-hit districts, they are not yet enough and the quake victims in many regions are still waiting for the needful relief and response.

Likewise, issues related to trafficking and migration got the least coverage, only 5.22% of total news. This shows that though the locals were displaced in some quake-hit districts after their entire villages were rattled by the quake and many survivors migrated to city areas with the hope of better facilities, migration was the least of worries for concerned stakeholders and general people. The blockade at border points has imposed additional hardships to those internal migrants and most of them are in the verse of returning to their quake hit villages.

Also, the news related to education in the post-quake situation was found in significant number (15.93%). It is very evident that the April quake had tremendous negative impacts on the field of education. Many schools were partially and fully damaged, the students were short of educational materials, and the teaching learning activities were not continued for a long period of time. Though the reconstruction campaign has begun in many places with the effort of different agencies, youth and local people, still there are lots of schools to be renovated and classes to run effectively.

In the same way, 16% news reports studied have been categorized under the theme of sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment. Among them, most of the news stories are related to rape and trafficking of women for commercial sexual exploitation. It was found that after the April quake, there was a significant increase in the number of rape and the traffickers were also relatively more active. Thus, the quake has made the groups targeted by the traffickers more vulnerable. The lack of proper settlement has become the main reason behind increasing cases of rape and the low economic conditions have been seen as the pulling factor for trafficking.

Findings of the entire media monitoring can be summarized in the table below:

| Newspapers | Sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual harassment | Education | Youth involvement in humanitarian assistance | Trafficking and migration | Others | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| The Kathmandu Post | 5 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 14 | 39 |
| Kantipur | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 34 |
| The Himalayan Times | 10 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 46 |
| Nagarik | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 31 |
| Nepal Samacharpatra | 9 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 44 |
| Republica | 5 | 7 | 12 | 1 | 7 | 32 |
| Gorkhapatra | 5 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 17 | 43 |
| The Rising Nepal | 0 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 4 | 28 |
| Rajdhani | 10 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 43 |
| Annapurna Post | 5 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 19 | 43 |
| Total | 62 | 61 | 131 | 20 | 109 | 383 |

Table 1: Summary of major quantitative findings

3. Overall observation

Youth have been actively involved in reconstructing the shaken society and the nation. Nepali youth living both inside and outside the country have been helping the earthquake survivors in various ways. Despite the ongoing political crisis and all its negative impacts on life of the people, they have continued their aid to the earthquake victims. Youth in Nepal have played a crucial role in responding to the earthquake, from clearing rubble to mobilizing their networks to support relief efforts and providing emotional support. Many young people have been affected by the earthquake in one way or the other, especially in districts outside the Capital city. The fact that young people made significant contributions and responded spontaneously right after the earthquake has not remained hidden in major news stories of the period.

The news stories related to different I/NGOs working for the rehabilitation of earthquake victims were covered in different newspapers. Also, they have covered the news stories of the victims staying under makeshift homes and still waiting to get help for rehabilitation.

Also, according to the news stories covered, for the continuation of education after the devastating earthquake, different organizations have been playing their part by helping in the rebuilding of the schools and the classrooms. But the news stories of students still devoid of proper places to study have also been widely covered. These gaps point out a need to meet their needs at the earliest.

Traffickers are seen very active in earthquake-affected areas, especially villages. After the massive earthquake, rape and harassment cases have been registered in an increasing trend. In this critical situation, people need to get aware. Many youth and adolescents are involved in awareness programs on issues including child sexual abuse. Yet, there are still many problems of child sexual abuse due to lack of a safe shelter. Because of this, children and women do not feel safe in their temporary houses. The government, however, has played a pivotal role in checking the trafficking rate which has increased after the devastating April earthquake. Many women on the verge of being trafficked to India and Iraq via India were rescued by Nepal police, especially by personnel from its Central Investigation Bureau.

After September, almost all the attention of the government has been taken by the blockade at the borders and the protests in the Tarai (southern plains). People awaiting the relief are disappointed and are facing a cold and cruel winter. Reconstruction works in affected districts are continuing and the government's promise to provide NRs.10,000 to assist the victims to buy warm clothes is being fulfilled in some areas. Yet, there are still many places to be distributed. But the effort of the government to rehabilitate the earthquake survivors is not sufficient enough and many of them are left out in the cold with no proper shelter to keep themselves warm in the coldest season. Even eight months after the quake, hundreds of families from earthquake-affected districts are still compelled to live in temporary shelters as the government has failed to come up with its programs to re-establish them.

The news stories of those survivors dying of cold while the government is being accused of nepotism while providing services to them is just a symbol of the government's failure to support its citizens in the needy time. Likewise, because of the lack of an effective distribution mechanism, blankets, rice and other relief materials that were supposed to be distributed are still rotting in warehouses when the victims are struggling to get warm and fed. Thus, different health problems like asthma, gastritis, eye infections and dysentery are seen in the earthquake survivors who have no other options than to live in tents/camps. In addition to it, as the land ownership certificates are most for claiming concessional loan and subsidy for rebuilding the quake-damaged house, the survivors who do not have the papers are likely to be denied these subsidies. The newspapers were found covering these stories with a priority, which was good as they were based on the real situation of earthquake survivors.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Media have emerged as the most important tool of change in the 21st century and they have become a subject of concern for all. Importance of media lies mainly on their potential to disseminate information and knowledge among the public mass, making a large impact. They can make decisive impacts at the local, national as well as the international fronts.

Even in the world of hi-tech communications, newspapers have been considered as the most effective and everlasting source of information. They can influence a large group of civilians at once and with their analysis, one can get ideas on the current situations on the related issues as well as gaps existing between the demands and the programs being run. Then, the effective plans should be implemented to bridge that gap.

In this project, the newspapers' coverage on the issues that are likely to have either positive or negative impacts on the survivors of the earthquake were studied and evaluated. Those issues were youth involvement in humanitarian assistance, education, migration and trafficking and sexual and reproductive health and sexual harassment in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. A considerable number of both optimistic and pessimistic news stories were found published which suggested that during the time of the greatest need, the quake-hit society got both the helping hands and the preying eyes. But the serving hands were not enough and the ones victimized by the quakes are still lingering in the light of hope and struggling to meet their basic needs.

News reports and articles published in the studied newspapers have given a due space to such issues. By helping people including those in the policy making level and law enforcement mechanisms know facts about pains of quake survivors, the media have responsibly played their roles. The studied newspapers, in overall, were found representing the truth, as they were supposed to, about problems of earthquake survivors and attempts from different fronts to solve them. However, the media can still give a better priority to youth activism as it is capable of making some significant changes in such critical situations.

CHAPTER V

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Youth have been the most pivotal actors of the reconstruction of quake-hit societies. But the news stories on them and their roles are covered in a limited number. Thus, the news reports on them must be given more priority to so as to encourage them to continue their works.
2. In the later months of monitoring, almost all the newspapers were occupied with the news of Tarai-Madhes protests and the border blockade. Subsequently, the news reports on the situations of the quake survivors were hard to find. Thus, the newspapers are recommended not to be focused on the political issues only. They should not stop to publish and highlight woes of people like the earthquake survivors once some political tensions grip the nation.
3. Regardless of whether their activities are covered by media, youth campaigners have been doing their works for reconstruction of the nation. These activities should be continued and encouraged.
4. The government should mobilize youth in its reconstruction campaigns as they can make significant changes in affected communities.

Annex

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Media Monitoring Report on Youth Engagement in Post-Earthquake Relief Campaign

The 'Youth Leads in Emergency' was a joint initiative of UNFPA Nepal, Restless Development Nepal, Y-PEER Nepal, Yuwa and Yuwalaya aimed at supporting earthquake survivors via youth mobilization in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal on 25 April, 2015.

Under the project, Yuwalaya conducted a media monitoring on role of youth in post-disaster rescue and relief campaigns as well as other cross-cutting issues including trafficking and migration and sexual harassment.

