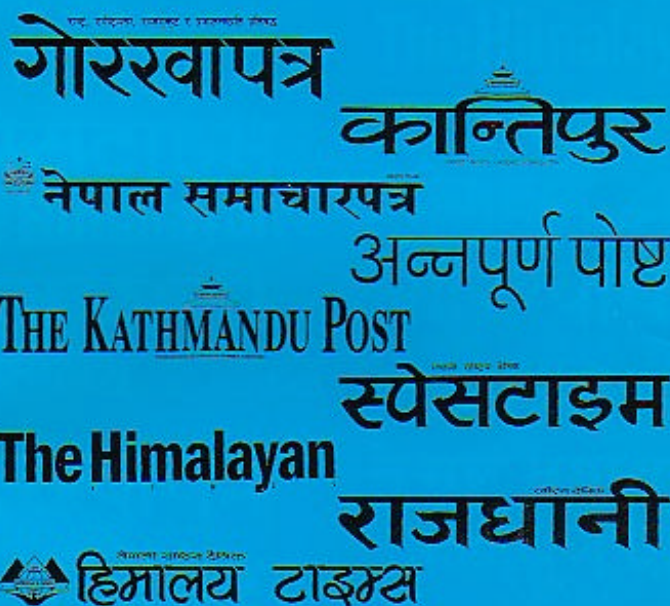


Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues



A Report 2004

Prepared by
Saurav Kiran Shrestha



Hatemalo Sanchar

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500 copies / June 2005

Published by

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Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: 00977-1-5547812
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URL: www.hatemalo.org

Publication Support

Save the Children Norway
Lalitpur, Nepal

Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues: 2004

Acknowledgement

This report on media monitoring, the third in the series, was possible with persistent support and cooperation from many individuals, who believe on the need to keep constant watch on the media coverage to ensure child rights and protect children from possible forms of "media violence".

I am thankful to all of them including volunteers and student trainees of Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, for their pleasing and worthy helping hands. I would like to thank —especially Santosh Maharjan, who rigorously worked during documentation and report preparation. Likewise, special thanks goes out to Pinky Bijayanand and Nina Maharjan for their assistance and Tilak Prasad Pokharel for helping in text editing.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge Save the Children Norway - Nepal (SCN-N) for helping us to initiate the media monitoring programme in 2002. And, I would like to extend sincere thanks to SCN-N for continues support and encouragement to taking up the media monitoring programme to ensure coverage of child rights in media.

Saurav Kiran Shrestha
Programme Manager
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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND

As a pioneer child rights organisation, **Hatemalo Sanchar** has been extensively involved in advocating child rights through media campaigning – both print and broadcast – since 1982. Since its very inception, Hatemalo Sanchar has been broadcasting radio program for children, and has been regularly publishing, *inter alia*, *Sunkesra* (meaning “girl with golden hair”), a monthly child magazine, from 1990. In 1994, Hatemalo Sanchar was established formally as an independent social organisation for child right promotion.

Though Hatemalo was initiated in 1982 with the sole aim of addressing issues of rights of the children with disabilities, its scope expanded tremendously over time. As Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990, Hatemalo group assumed the responsibility of disseminating information on the principles and provisions of the convention as well as advocating for the rights of the Nepalese children by raising different child rights issues through media. Thus, it started encompassing children's rights through multi-media approach from 1990. It continues to promote and advocate for child rights through its radio programmes, child magazines, child club activities, new media along with research work and media monitoring programmes.

Hatemalo Sanchar is probably the first organisation to bring out report on media coverage on children under the Media Monitoring Programme first initiated in 2002. The main aim of the programme is to raise general consciousness on various child-related issues among mass media institutions, journalists and children so as to create child-friendly mass media. And the programme also endeavours to study pattern of media coverage on children and conduct research and document trend of coverage of children's issues in the mass media.

Media Monitoring Programme has so far brought out two reports under the topic "**Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues**" in the years 2002 and 2003. The reports have been prepared on the basis of coverage of child-related issues in eight national dailies, two of them being English-language and others Nepali. The bases of the reports are four categories of child rights

as defined by the UNCRC – Survival, Development, Protection and Participation.

The previous study has found that almost all the dailies have similar kinds of media coverage on children's issues under the four categories of the UNCRC. Out of the total, highest number of news/articles (43 percent) was found under "Development" issues followed by 24 percent of reporting under the issue of "Protection", 22 percent "Survival" and 8 percent "Participation". Almost all the newspapers have similar coverage priority on children's issues. Issues of participation have received the least coverage in the newspapers, which in fact should have been given considerable emphasis (*see annex I*).

While narrowing down media coverage on a particular issue, the Hatemalo Sanchar undertook a micro-scale study **Print Media Coverage on Child Sexual Abuse and Children's Perception** in May 2004. The study found that the print media, in general, respects privacy of victims. However, the challenge ahead of the media is to publish news reports on child sexual abuse, while at the same time, living up to the expectation of the general mass on their preferred kinds of news reports.

Following the past endeavours, in this year too, Hatemalo Sanchar has brought out a report on the print media coverage on children's issues on the basis of documented news/articles collected during January to December 2004 from nine national dailies. In this report, the study has tried to reveal the pattern of print media coverage under the four categories of child rights stated in the UNCRC – Right to Survival, Right to Development, Right to Development, Right to Protection and Right to Participation.

INTRODUCTION

The report is primarily based on the documentation of nine national daily newspapers of the year 2004. However, among nine daily newspapers, the study team had been able to collect new/articles of eight months of two national daily newspapers - "*Annapurna Post*" (May to December 2004) and *Space Time* (January to August 2004). Those newspapers are:

1. *Kantipur* (Nepali)
2. *Rajdhani* (Nepali)
3. *Himalaya Times* (Nepali)
4. *Nepal Samacharpatra* (Nepali)

5. *Gorkhapatra* (Nepali)
6. *Annapurna Post* (Nepali)
7. *Space Time* (Nepali)
8. *The Kathmandu Post* (English)
9. *The Himalayan Times* (English)

It should be noted that special supplements and special columns/sections for children being published by the dailies, taken for the study purpose, have not been incorporated in the data count. However, these supplements and columns/sections have been discussed separately under each newspaper's coverage of children's issues.

Objectives

This report aims to analyse the print media coverage related to children on the backdrop of UNCRC, especially under the four categories of child rights.

The specific objectives are to:

1. know the coverage of children's issues
2. identify the "prioritised issues of children" as per the UNCRC
3. identify the children's issues that are otherwise overlooked in the newspapers
4. know the development of the print media coverage than previous years

Methodology

The descriptive report is based on the collection of 11,943 news clippings, that is, news, news features/analyses, news/articles and the sole opinion of the writers (hereafter "news/articles") based on children's issues. Documented news/articles from the aforementioned nine newspapers – seven Nepali-language and two English-language newspapers – have been taken for primary data. All the news/articles are recorded in the media-monitoring table (*see annex II*).

Strictly following the principles of UNCRC, all the documented news/articles are categorised into four categories – survival, development, protection and participation. The other sub-categorisations are listed in annex III.

All the data and information documented are fact-checked and edited for internal consistency. The statistical tools like graphs, and tables are used for drawing inference and assuring the relation between the variables.

Operational Definitions

News/articles: “New/articles” comprise all news, news features/analysis, news, articles and sole opinion of writers. However, those published regularly in the special supplements and special columns/sections by the newspapers haven’t been considered as “New/articles”.

Children's issues: Any news/articles published in the newspapers regarding the children aged between 0-18 as categorised below:

0-5 Years

5-10 Years

10-15 Years

15-18 Years

General age: without any age specification or news of multiple age specification that could not be categorised in the given age-distribution prepared for study purpose.

UNCRC: The four major issues defined to understand the child rights under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – development, protection, survival and participation.

CHAPTER II

NEWSPAPER-WISE FINDINGS

In this chapter, all the nine newspapers are assessed independently on the basis of their coverage on child rights issues. For the assessment, documented news/articles of the nine newspapers are taken as facts and data during the year 2004.

1. *Kantipur* (Ktp)

Coverage:

The study team collected total number of 1791 news/articles during the study period. Of the total, 7 percent of the news/article were published with the supporting pictures, mostly those pictures were black-and-white photos (71 out of 133 pictures).

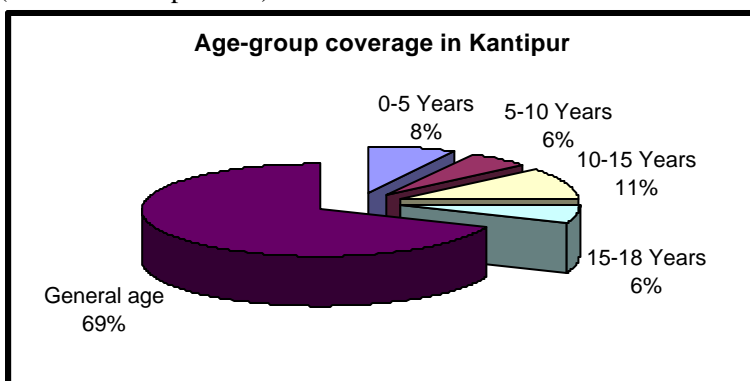


Figure: 1

Of the total, highest number of news/articles (17.3%) was published in page 5 followed by page 3 (13.3%) and page 4 (11.2%) respectively. General national issues are carried in all these pages – 5, 3 and 4. The figure 1 shows that the general age group children's issues were reported in the news/articles followed by the age between 10-15.

In this year 2004, the study found that *Kantipur* had coverage of children's issues from all the 75 districts of Nepal. However, during the study period, the study team had collected only one news/articles published in *Kantipur*

each from Bajhang and Siraha districts. In the previous year 2003, it has been recorded that *Kantipur* didn't have any coverage of new/articles related to children from 13 districts. However, in this year 2004, study shows that at least *Kantipur* had reached out to all the districts. Study found that 47 districts received less coverage than one percent of total published news/articles in *Kantipur* daily. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (20%) followed by Makwanpur (6%), Dang (4%) and Palpa (3%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC :

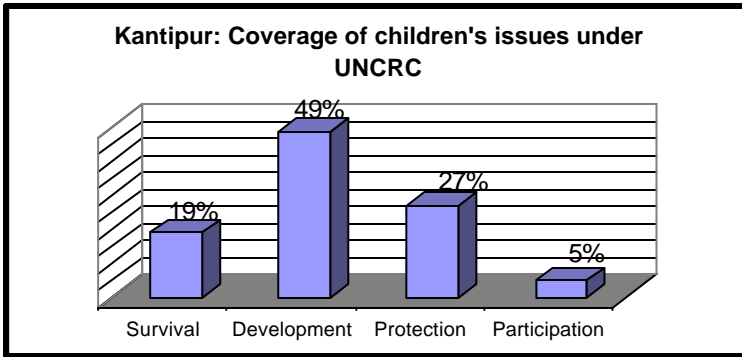


Figure: 2

The figure unfolds the fact that “Developmental’ issues of children were published in greater number i.e., 49 percent of the total, followed by the issues of Protection (27%), Survival (19%) and Participation (5%).

Survival (n=344)		Development (n=877)		Protection (n=481)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	186	Education	549	Armed conflict	192
Accident	96	Sport	138	Abduction	74
Natural Calamities	19	Backward	52	Child labour	59
Death due to crime	17	Award	51	Sexual abuse	53

Table 1: Issues given priority

The table shows that the newspaper (*Kantipur*) has the maximum of reporting on health (under “Survival”), education (under “Development”) and children in armed conflict in (under “Protection”). Similarly, news

reports related to accident, sport and abduction were also published in greater number. Of the total, only 5 percent of news/articles were on the "Participation" rights of children, covering on participation in programmes, various competition and child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *Kantipur* :

Kopila

Kantipur daily newspaper has been publishing supplementary tabloid especially for children every Friday since the first issue was brought out in March 2001. *Kopila*, the supplementary issue of *Kantipur*, is being published in multi-colour eight pages. Generally, it contains feature news/articles related to the children on the first page; news of children's activities, information like Stamps, country information on the second page; general knowledge and science on the third; child literatures like bio-data, story, review of child books, cassette and magazine on the fourth and fifth pages. *Hamro Sirjana* (our creations) like poems, drawings, essay/articles written by children were published in the sixth page. Interesting information, competitions, like *kothe pad* (crossword), fill-the-colour, general knowledge quiz questions, find the way, complete the drawing, cartoons were incorporated on the seven page. The last page (eighth page) contained a regular column *Ma Sano Chhada* ("when I was kid") – biography of renowned individuals authored by Ananta Prasad Wagle is being published, followed by talent hunt, information on environment like animals, birds, insects.

During the study period, certain sections/columns like underwent changes. For example: *Hamro Sirjana*, which was generally being published on the middle pages, was renamed *Hamro Pato* ("our page"). And, the sixth page was allotted for different competitions/contests. Sections for child literature had been reduced and information on science, news and interesting information had been increased.

Kisor Mat ("Adolescents' views")

Kantipur daily had been found publishing especial columns for adolescents named "*Kisor Mat*", which was however often not regular. Generally, the column contained view and ideas about adolescents on various contemporary issues, like issues related to education, child and adolescent psychology, issues of the marginalised people, conflict, among others.

2. *Rajdhani* (Rjd)

Coverage:

During the study period, the study team had collected 1480 news/articles related to children. Among them 8 percent of the articles were published with the supporting picture. Among the 114 pictures, 58 were black-and-white.

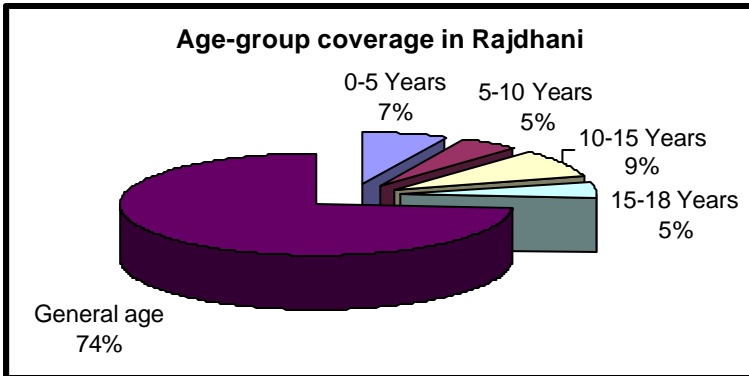


Figure: 3

General age group of the children was given the highest coverage (74%) in the newspaper, followed by the age between 10-15 years. Page 5 (“nation”) has given the highest priority to children's issues followed by the page 4 and page 3 respectively.

During the year 2004, the study found that *Rajdhani* had coverage of children issues from 68 districts of Nepal. During the study period, the study team had collected just a single news/articles from five districts i.e., Darchula, Dolpa, Jumla, Mugu and Pyuthan districts. In the previous year (2003), it has been recorded that *Rajdhani* didn't have any coverage of new/articles related to children from 12 districts. The number came down to seven in the latest study period – Arghakhanchi, Bajhang, Khotang, Manang, Mustang, Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu.

The study has found that 35 out of 68 districts received less than one percent of the total coverage in the daily. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (22%), followed by Dang (4%), Baglung (3%) and Dhading (3%).

Priority given to children's issues under UNCRC :

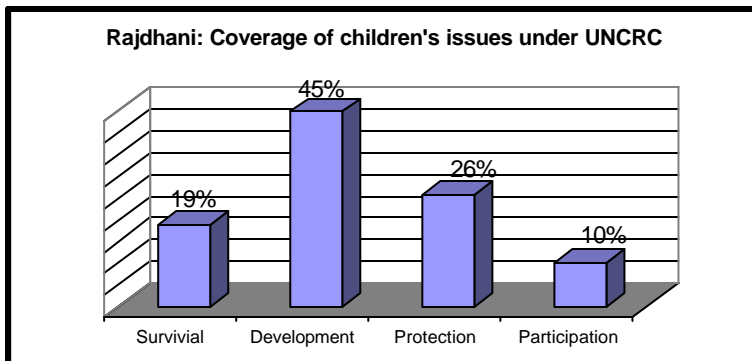


Figure 4

Rajdhani had published maximum number of news/articles (45%) related to “Developmental” rights of the children. Children’s issues related to the Protection, Survival and Participation followed respectively.

Survival (n=284)		Development (n=659)		Protection (n=393)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	150	Education	421	Armed conflict	144
Accident	63	Award	80	Sexual abuse	60
Death due to crime	25	Sport	74	Abduction	
Birth and Maternal issues	15	Backward	20	Child labour	51

Table 2: Issues given priority

The table shows that the newspaper has given the topmost priority to the children’s education under ‘Development’, children in armed conflict under “Protection” and health issues under “Survival”. Similarly, the newspaper has published the news/articles related to award, sport and accident. It has the least coverage of the news/articles under “Participation”, that is only 8 percent of the total. Those news/articles related to children had greater focus on the children's participation in various programmes, children's activity for social change and child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *Rajdhani* :

Bal Batika

Rajdhani daily newspaper allotted a full page for regular column *Bal Batika* (“children’s garden”) especially for children every Sunday. In the beginning of the year 2004, the *Bal Batika* had been published on the tenth page in black-and-white. From the last quarter of the year, the column had been published in the second page in multiple colours.

This section contained two general categories of contents – authored by children for children, and authored by adults for children. Those authored by the children included stories, essays, poems, drawings; and those by the adults included stories, feature news/articles, essays, believe it or not, general news and general knowledge, among others. There also were sections like fill-the-colour competition regularly. Columns like *Hamra Sahityakar* (our litterateurs), *Aphnai Bichar* (children’s own views), *Mero Bichar* (my views) and *Hamro Betha* (our agonies) were not regular, but they were published frequently. It is found that *Nava Sirjana* (new creations) section featuring children's poems had been publishing regularly.

3. *Himalaya Times* (HT):

Coverage:

Media monitoring team was able to collect a total of 1209 news/articles related to children within the stipulated study time period. Among the total, 1 percent of the news/articles were published with the supporting pictures. All of the pictures (18 pictures) were in black-and-white as the newspaper itself is black-and-white.

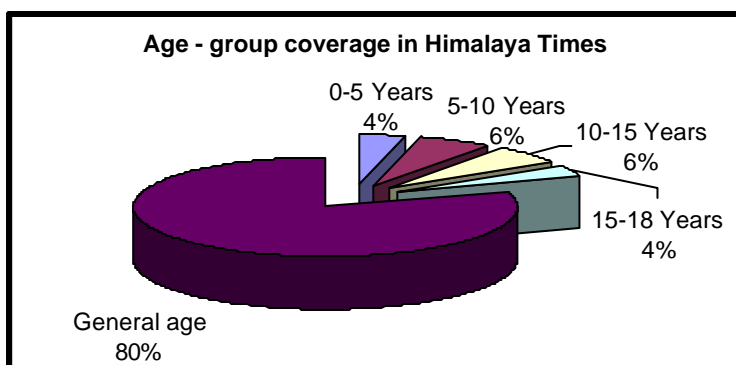


Figure 5

Issues of general age group of the children received the highest coverage (51%) in the newspaper, followed by the age group of 5-10 years and 10-15 years. The third page of the *Himalaya Times* published most of the children-related news/articles (32.2%), followed by page number 2 (21.3% nos.) and page 3 (11.4%) respectively.

The study has found that the *Himalaya Times* covered the issues of children from 67 districts of the country. During the study period, the study team had covered only one news/articles from six districts i.e., Achham, Arghakhanchi, Bajhang, Dolpa, Pyuthan and Solukhumbu districts. In the previous year 2003, it has been recorded that *Himalaya Times* didn't have any coverage of new/articles related to children from 29 districts. However, the number declined to eight in the year 2004 –Baitadi, Bardiya, Darchula, Jumla, Kalikot, Khotang, Manang, Mustang. Most of these districts were considered backward.

The study has found that 43 out of 67 districts received even less than one percent of the total published news/articles in the daily. And, Kathmandu district received the topmost coverage (39%) in the daily, followed by Mahottari (3%), Morang (3%) and Bara (2%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC :

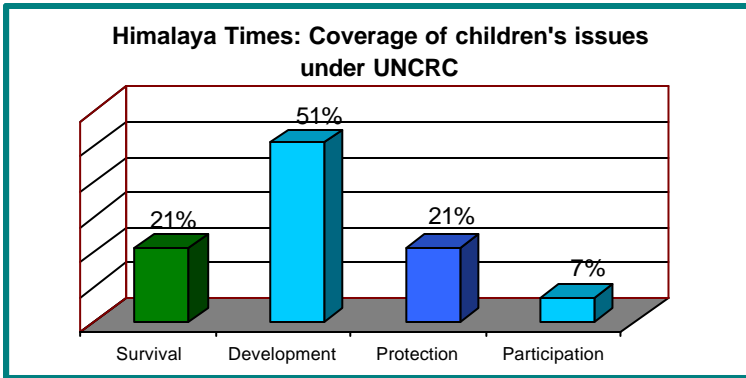


Figure: 6

In this newspaper, “Developmental” issues of the children were given the topmost priority (51% of the total), followed by the issues of protection, survival and participation in the descending order.

Survival (n=257)		Development (n=618)		Protection (n=254)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	126	Education	407	Armed conflict	81
Accident	75	Award	64	Child labour	42
Death due to crime	17	Sport	54	Sexual abuse	30
Infant mortality	15	Backward	29	Abduction	29

Table 3: Issues given priority

The table shows that issues of education under “Development”, followed by health issues under “Survival” and news/articles on armed conflict under

“Protection” were featured as the major coverage in the newspaper. Reports of accident, award, and sports were also published in huge number. Of the total, 7 percent of the news/articles were found under the “Participation”, covering various information of children’s participation in programmes, children and media and about the child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *Himalayan Times* :

Bal Chautari

Bal Chautari (“children’s meeting place”) was a special column of the *Himalayan Times* for children. It was found that the column was not regular and its space was also not specific. The column was generally published in the fifth page, which generally contained articles, poems, short stories, information, and general knowledge.

4. *Nepal Samacharpatra* (Smp)

Coverage:

The study team was able to collect 1675 news/article related to children and child rights within the study period. Of the total, 7 percent of the total news/articles were published with the supporting pictures. Most of such pictures were coloured (66 out of 112).

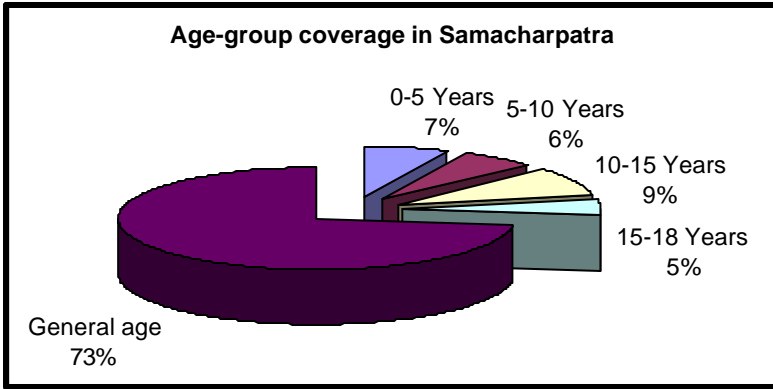


Figure: 7

Issues of general age group of children received the highest coverage (73%) in the newspaper, followed by the age group of 10-15. Of the total, highest number of news/articles (22.8%) was published in the sixth page, followed by page 7 and 3 in the descending order.

During the year 2004, the study found that *Nepal Samacharpatra* had coverage of children's issues from 68 districts of the country. The study team had collected only one news/articles from six districts i.e., Arghakhanchi, Baitadi, Jumla, Khotang, Mugu and Rukum. In the previous year 2003, it has been recorded that the newspaper didn't have any coverage of new/articles related to children from 21 districts. In the year 2004, the number went down to only seven – Dolpa, Kalikot, Kapilvastu, Manag, Mustang, Parsa and Pyuthan.

The study has found that 43 out of 68 districts received less than one percent of the total published news/articles in the daily. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (31%) in the daily, followed by Makawanpur (5%), Morang (5%), and Sunsari (4%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

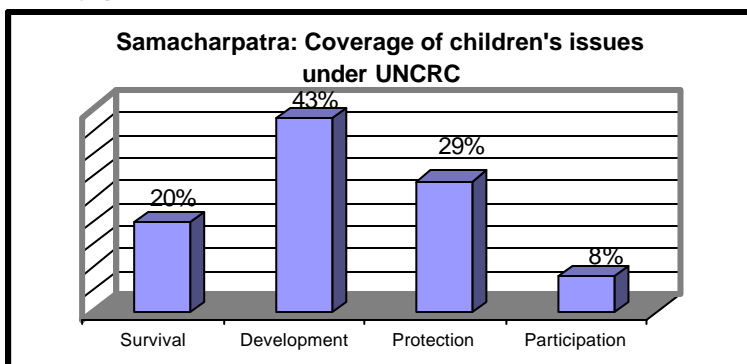


Figure: 8

The figure shows that “Development” issues of children preceded the news/articles followed by Protection, Survival and Participation.

Survival (n=341)		Development (n=726)		Protection (n=483)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	189	Education	417	Armed conflict	143
Accident	80	Sports	110	Sexual abuse	78
Death due to crime	27	Award	79	Abduction	74
calamities	14	Backward	37	labour	54

Table 4: Issues given priority

In this newspaper, education has received the highest coverage, followed by health and armed conflict under Development, Survival and Protection respectively. Of the total, only 8 percent of the total news/articles were found under the Participation, in which they are about various information on children participation in general programmes, children's activities for social change and about children and media.

Special column/supplementary for children in Nepal Samacharpatra:

The study found that the *Nepal Samacharpatra* daily didn't publish specific column or supplement especially meant for the children. However, The newspaper, with joint collaboration with a child rights organisation called CWISH, allotted a special section for the protection of child sexual abuse on the third page. The section was named *Tapaiko Samasya, Hamro Sujhav* (“your problems, our suggestions”).

5. *Gorkhapatra* (Gkp)

Coverage:

The study team collected a total number of 1649 news/articles during the study period. Of the total, 3 percent of the news/articles were published with the supporting pictures, most of them were coloured (32 out of 44 pictures). Of the total, highest number of news/article were published on page 6, followed by page 7 and page 12 respectively in the descending order.

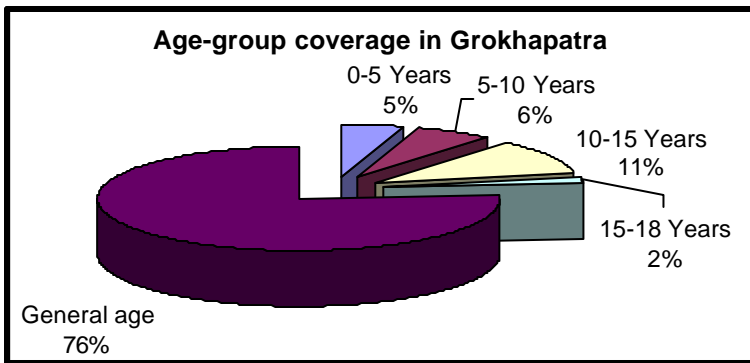


Figure: 9

The figure shows that the issued of the general age group children received the topmost coverage, followed by the age group of 10-15 years.

During the year 2004, the study found that the *Gorkhapatra* had the coverage of children's issues from 66 districts of Nepal. During the study period, the study team had collected only one news/articles from eight districts i.e., Achham, Bardiya, Darchula, Dolpa, Mugu, Salyan, Sankhuwasava and Sindhupalchowk. In the previous year (2003), it was recorded that the *Gorkhapatra* didn't have any coverage of new/articles related to children from 21 districts. The number came down to nine in the year 2004 – Arghakhanchi, Bajhang, Jumla, Kalikot, Kapilvastu, Khotang, Manang, Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu.

The study has found that 41 out of 66 districts received less than only one percent coverage of the total published news/articles in the state-owned daily. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (31%) in the

daily, followed by Morang (4%), Sindhuli (4%) and Sunsari (4%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

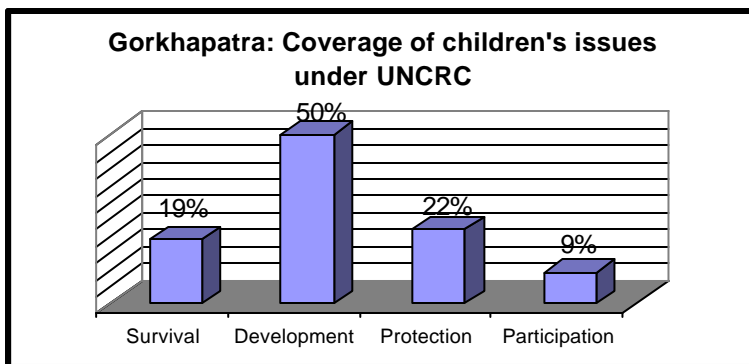


Figure: 10

The figure shows the fact that “Developmental” issues of children were published in greater number i.e., 50 percent of the total, followed by the issues of Protection (22%), Survival (19%) and Participation (9%).

Survival (n=316)		Development (n=829)		Protection (n=358)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	194	Education	494	Armed conflict	98
Accident	62	Award	92	Law and Rights	52
Natural calamities	16	Sports	73	Sexual Abuse	51
Death due to crime	15	Backward	46	Child labour	50

Table 5: The issues given priority

The table shows that maximum of the reporting was on health-related issues (Survival), education (Development) and children in armed conflict (Protection). Similarly, news related to award, sports and accident were also published in greater number. Of the total, only 9 percent of the news/articles dealt with children’s right to participation. Those news/articles were about children participating in general programmes, various competition and child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *Gorkhapatra*:

Bal Sirjana

Bal Jagat (children's world) was the regular column for the children published in the daily, in the less than quarter of the page every Saturday. This section was later renamed to *Bal Sirjana* (children's creations) in more space (more than quarter page) in the year 2004. The section was allotted space on the last page of the supplementary of *Gorkhapatra* called "*Parishistanka*".

Generally, the multi-coloured columns contained stories for children, poems, general knowledge quiz competitions and book reviews (by adult authors); and other stories authored by children themselves. It is found that the column generally allotted more space for poems by children.

6. Annapurna Post (AP)

Coverage:

Unlike other newspapers (which were taken for one whole year), the *Annapurna Post* was taken into consideration for the study purpose only for nine months (May-December 2004). During the study period, the study team collected 1234 news/articles related to children. Among them, 2 percent of the news/articles were published with the supporting picture. Out of the 28 pictures, 18 were coloured.

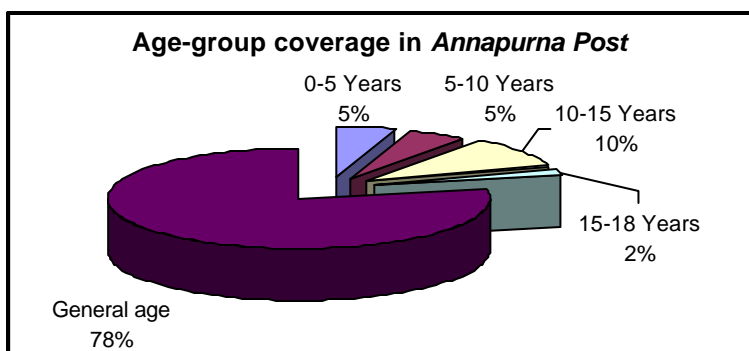


Figure: 11

Issues of the general age group children received the highest coverage (78%), followed by the age groups of 10-15 years. Page 7 (covering the issues of "Nation") had given the highest priority to children's issues, followed by the page 6 and page 4.

The study has found that *Annapurna Post*, during the study period, had covered the children's issues from 59 districts of the country. It has been recorded that the newspaper didn't cover any children-related news/article from 16 districts – Arghakhanchi, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Darchula, Gulmi, Jumla, Khotang, Manang, Mustang, Okhaldhunga, Parsa, Rasuwa, Rolpa, Salyan and Solukhumbu.

During the study period, the study team collected only one news/article published in the newspaper from nine districts viz., Achham, Dailekh, Kalikot, Mugu, Myagdi, Sankhuwasava, Sarlahi, Shupalchowk and Tehrathum.

The study has found that 36 out of 59 districts received less than one percent of the total coverage. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (34%) in the daily, followed by Bara (4%), Bhaktapur (3%), Banke (2%) and Morang (2%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

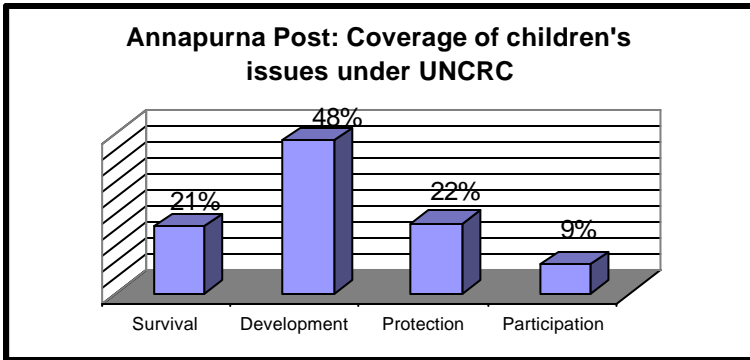


Figure: 12

"Developmental" issues received the highest coverage (48%) in the *Annapurna Post*. This was followed by issues of "Protection", "Survival" and "Participation" in the descending order.

Survival (n=264)		Development (n=589)		Protection (n=268)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	136	Education	324	Armed conflict	65
Accident	61	Sports	99	Child labour	54
Death due to crime	20	Award	83	law and rights	38
Infant Mortality	15	Backward	28	Sexual abuse	36

Table 6: Issues given priority

The table shows that the newspaper has given the topmost priority to the education issues under "Development", health issues under "Survival" and children in armed conflict under "Protection". Similarly the newspaper has published the news/articles related to sports, award and accident. Of the total coverage, only 9 percent dealt with the issues on children's right to

participation, which included children's involvement in various programmes, children's activities for social change and child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *Annapurna Post*:

Bal Sansar

The *Annapurna Post* daily allotted one full page for the weekly column of *Bal Sansar* ("children's world") especially for children every Saturday. Fully multi-coloured, this column appeared on page number 8. Generally it contains feature news/articles related to children, stories, competition, crossword, general knowledge quiz contest, children book review, "Bal Sirjana" column for children's poem, fill-the-colour, find the difference.

It has been found that *Bal Sansar*, published on every last Saturday of each month, was edited by a group of school students with assistance from a teacher of a particular school.

7. *Space Time* (SpT)

Coverage:

The media monitoring team was able to collect a total of 925 news/articles related to children within the period of eight months – January to August 2005 (publication of the newspaper was stopped after its office was vandalised by an unruly mob on September 1, 2004). Among the total news/articles taken into consideration for the study purpose, only 2 percent were published with the supporting pictures. Most of those pictures were black-and-white (18 out of 23 pictures).

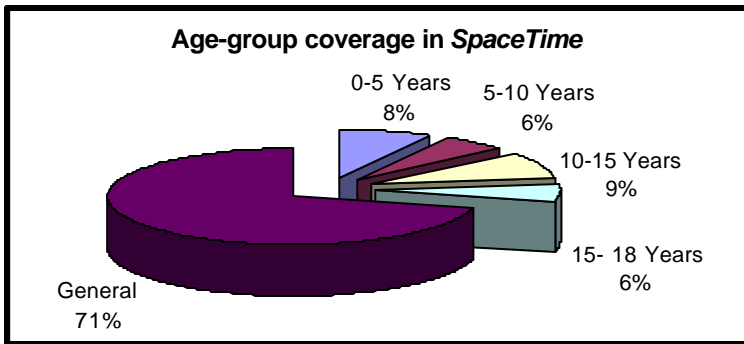


Figure: 13

Children of the general age group received the highest coverage (71%) in the newspaper, followed by the age group of 10-15 years and 0-5 years in the descending order. The fifth page of the *Space Time* published news/articles related to children in the highest frequency, followed by the fourth and third pages respectively.

During the study period, the study team found that *Space Time* had covered the issues of children from 61 districts of Nepal. Only one news or article was published, covering each of eight districts – Achham, Baitadi, Dolpa, Kaski, Mugu, Mustang, Myagdi and Rasuwa. In the previous year (2003), it was recorded that the *Space Time* had no coverage of news/articles related to children from 15 districts. However, it came down to 14 districts in this year 2004, despite the study being conducted for only eight months. They are Arghakhanchi, Bajhang, Darchula, Gulmi, Humla, Jumla, Khotang, Manang, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Parsa, Rolpa, Rukum and Solukhumbu.

The study also found that 34 out of 61 districts received less than one percent of the total coverage in the daily. And, as usual, Kathmandu district

received the topmost coverage (20%) in the daily, followed by Dang (7%), Bara (4%) and Bhaktapur (3%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

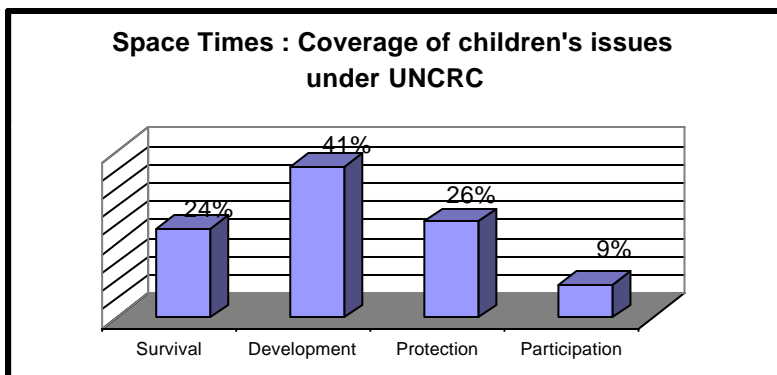


Figure: 14

In this newspaper, "Developmental" issues of the children were in top priority (41% of total news/articles), followed by the issues of Protection, Survival and Participation.

Survival (n=220)		Development (n=380)		Protection (n=238)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	111	Education	252	Armed conflict	87
Accident	60	Award	40	Sexual abuse	40
Death due to crime	16	Sports	27	Child labour	40
Birth and maternal issue	13	Backward	21	Abduction	36

Table 7: Issues given priority

The table shows that education-related issues under "Development", followed by health under "Survival" and news/articles on armed conflict under "Protection" were featured as the major coverage in the newspaper. Reports on accidents, awards, sexual abuse and child labour were also published in greater number. Of the total news/articles, only 9 percent were found under "Participation", which included various information of children's participation in programmes and about the child club activities.

8. *The Kathmandu Post* (TKP)

Coverage:

The study team was able to collect 920 news/articles related to children and child rights within the study period. Of the total, 14 percent of the news/article were published with supporting pictures, mostly coloured (92 out of 131 pictures were coloured ones).

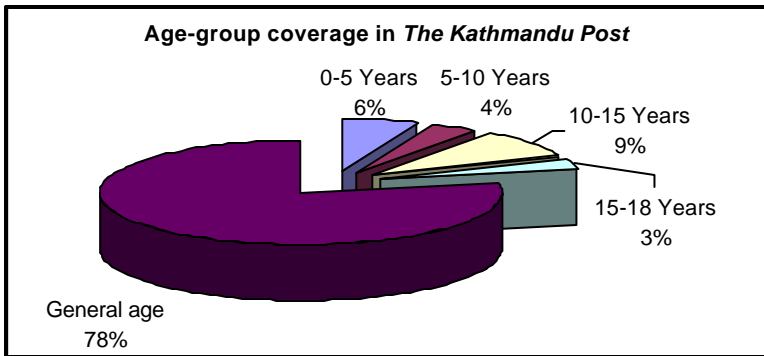


Figure: 15

Children of the general age group received the topmost coverage (78%) in the newspaper, followed by the age group of 10-15 years. Of the total, highest number of news/articles were published in the eighth page followed by page 1 and page 7 ("Sports" page) respectively.

During the year 2004, the study found that only 66 districts of the country received the coverage on children's issues in *The Kathmandu Post*. The study team collected only one news/article from each of nine districts i.e., Arghakhanchi, Dhankuta, Dolpa, Jajarkot, Myagdi, Panchthar, Parsa, Syangja and Tehrathum. In the previous year (2003), it had been recorded that *The Kathmandu Post* didn't have any coverage of news/article related to children from 26 districts. However, in this year 2004, the number came down to nine. They are Darchula, Gulmi, Kavrepalanchowk, Lamjung, Mustang, Okhaldhunga, Rasuwa, Sankhuwasava and Surkhet.

The study found that 56 out of 66 districts received less than one percent of the total coverage. And, Kathmandu district received topmost coverage (50%) in the daily, followed by Dang, (2%) and Makawanpur (2%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

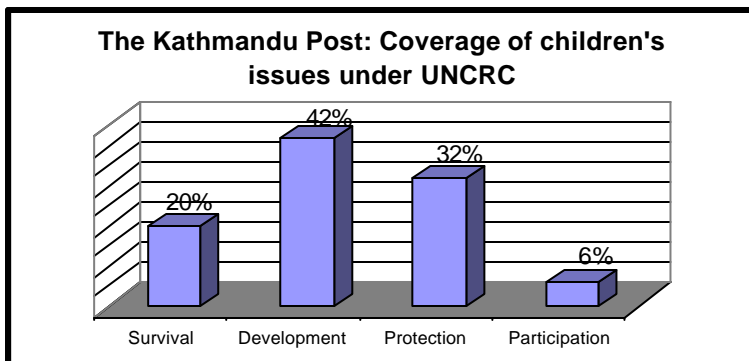


Figure: 16

The bar diagram shows that "Developmental" issues of the children, followed by Protection, Survival and Participation issues, preceded all the news/articles.

Survival (n=185)		Development (n=389)		Protection (n=288)	
	<i>Frequency</i>		<i>Frequency</i>		<i>Frequency</i>
Health	89	Education	193	Armed conflict	111
Accident	39	Sports	127	Sexual abuse	44
Death due to crime	19	Backward	14	Child labour	44
Natural Calamities	16	Award	13	Abduction	36

Table 8: Issues given priority

In this newspaper, issues related to education received the highest coverage, followed by armed conflict and health-related issues under "Development", "Protection" and "Survival" respectively. Of the total, only 6 percent of the news/articles were found under "Participation", which included children's involvement in programmes, children's activities for social change and about children and media.

Special column/supplementary for children in *The Kathmandu Post*:

Children's Post and Our School

The Kathmandu Post daily had published four-page supplementary issue named *CITY POST* daily during 2004. In the *City Post*, two regular columns – *Children's Post* and *Our School* were published for children once in a week. On the third page of the *City Post*, a multi-colour full page of *Children's Post* was published on every Saturday and *Our School* on every Thursday.

Generally *Children's Post* contains poems, essays, competition with segments like Tell a Tale, Asoph's Fable, Budding Star. Garfield (cartoon), Any Answer? and Kids Corner, Interesting Facts are the regular sections of the *Post*.

It is found that students of a particular school had been given responsibility to edit column "*Our School*". Each week, the editorial team and the school were changed. It was said that the main purpose of the publication is to help students develop editorial skills and provide an added forum for their write-ups. Generally "*Our School*" contains poems, school profile, jokes, some facts, information related to the particular school.

9. *The Himalayan Times* (THT)

Coverage:

The study team collected a total of 1060 news/articles during the study period. Of the total, 8 percent of the news/articles were published with supporting pictures. Most of the pictures were coloured ones (64 out of 82 pictures). Of the total, highest number of news/articles were published on page 4, followed by page 3 and page 1 in the descending order.

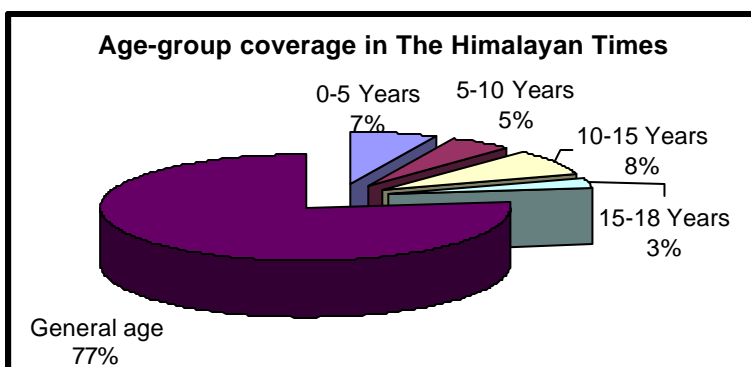


Figure: 17

Children of the general age group received the highest coverage (77%), followed by the age between 10-15 years.

During the year 2004, the study found that *The Himalayan Times* had the coverage of children's issues from 52 districts of Nepal. The study team had collected just a single news or article from each of seven districts i.e., Darchula, Humla, Parbat, Pyuthan, Sankhuwasava, Sindhuli and Tehrathum.

In the previous year (2003), it was been recorded that *The Himalayan Times* didn't have any coverage of news/articles related to children from 34 districts. However, in this year 2004, the number went down to 23. The districts not receiving any coverage on children's issues are Achham, Arghakhanchi, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dailekh, Dolpa, Jumla, Kalikot, Kapilvastu, Khotang, Lamjung, Manang, Mugu, Mustang, Okhaldhunga, Parsa, Rasuwa, Rolpa, Rukum, Salyan, Sarlahi, and Solukhumbu

The study has found that 42 out of 51 districts received less than one percent of the total coverage in the daily. And, Kathmandu district received the highest coverage (42%), followed by Lalitpur (5%), Banke (4%) and Dhading (2%).

Priority given children's issues under UNCRC:

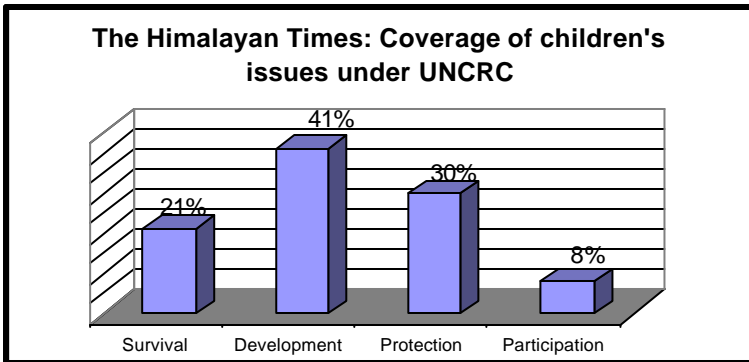


Figure: 18

In this newspaper too, "Developmental" issues of children were in top priority (41% of total news/articles), followed by the issues of Protection, Survival and Participation in the descending order.

Survival (n=218)		Development (n=438)		Protection (n=320)	
	Frequency		Frequency		Frequency
Health	99	Education	233	Armed conflict	97
Accident	78	Sports	114	Child labour	43
Natural Calamities	12	Award	27	Abduction	43
Death due to crime	11	Communication/ media	13	Sexual abuse	40

Table 9: Issues given priority

The table shows that the newspaper has given the topmost priority to the education-related issues under "Development", health issues under "Survival" and children in armed conflict under "Protection". Similarly, the daily has published the news/articles related to sports, accident, child labour

and abduction. As usual, the issues related to "Participation" received the least coverage, i.e., only 8 percent of the total. Among the issues being reported under the "Participation" were related to children's involvement in various programmes, children's activities for social change, children and media, and child club activities.

Special column/supplementary for children in *The Himalayan Times*:

School Times

The Himalayan Times daily allotted full-page for regular column "School Times" especially for schoolchildren every Thursday. The section published on the 11th page was usually in colour. Generally, the column contained articles, essays, and segments like candid quote contest, principal's perspective, school briefs (news of activities of a particular school), among others.

CHAPTER III

MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals with major findings on coverage of children's issues in nine national newspapers. Furthermore, it also discusses the general trend and analyses the findings in relation to the coverage of children's issues. The discussion is not intended to compare between different newspapers, since the study is descriptive in nature.

Coverage of children's issues

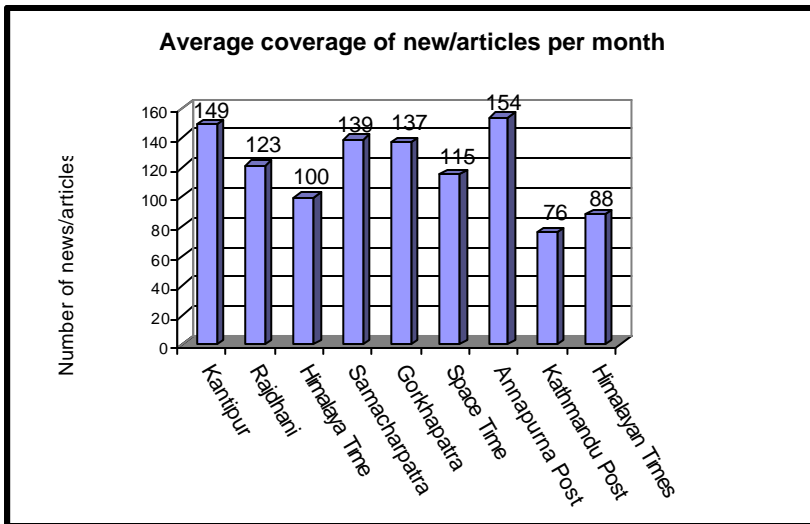


Figure: 19

During the twelve months of study period (January to December 2004), a total of 11,943 news/articles were collected from nine national dailies as primary source of data for the study purpose. However, it should be noted that the study team had just been able to collect news/articles of eight months of the two national dailies - *Space Time* and *Annapurna Post*.

Figure 19 shows the average monthly coverage of news/articles on children in the daily newspapers. It shows that the *Annapurna Post* has the highest monthly average coverage, followed by *Kantipur* and *Nepal Samacharpatra*.

Page-wise news/article coverage:

Page	Ktp n=1791	Rjd n=1450	HT n=1209	Smp n=1675	Gkp n=1649	AP n=1234	SpT n=925	TKP n=920	THT n=1060	Total
1	185	110	138	156	127	138	90	172	142	1258
2	125	126	258	211	165	--	98	6	--	989
3	239	218	398	227	157	140	178	46	196	1799
4	201	302	31	39	30	161	211	41	286	1302
5	311	417	54	61	23	159	212	54	89	1380
6	17	9	74	382	329	180	12	78	27	1108
7	55	63	95	233	268	196	34	120	70	1134
8	230	14	125	31	42	26	5	353	11	837
9	7	13	2	10	10	54	3		44	143
10	3	77	16	74	165	48	33		87	503
11	32	17	7	111	77	90	13		42	389
12	64	76	8	125	229	40	33		54	629

Note: The table does not represent total number of news/articles. Only the pages from 1 to 12 are included for generalisation.

Table 10: Page-wise news/article coverage

The study found that out of the total news/articles on children's issues, the highest number (15%) was published in the third page followed by page five and four respectively. Most of the news/articles published in the third page were about armed conflict in relation to children like, death in crossfire, bomb explosion and abduction of children. This is followed by education such as news/articles on school closure due to strikes, SLC related issues, scholarship and award. Health is another issue being featured prominently that includes death due to gastro-entities, measles, encephalitis and issues related to vaccination. News/articles on accidents also got frequent coverage. These issues included deaths due to road accident, burn, electrocution and attack from wild animals.

It is also found that 10.5 percent of the news/articles were published on the first page. Most of the issues published on the first page were about effect of armed conflict on children, like deaths due to bomb/landmine explosion and playing with explosive, abduction of school students, bomb in school. Another prominent issue was education, which included issues like problems related to schools including community-based school and management, supports to school. Health is another top issue that includes death due to gastro-entities, pneumonia and unknown disease/virus and supply of vaccines (of mostly measles). News/articles on accident (mostly about burns and road traffic), natural calamities (mostly about flood), child marriage, sexual abuse (mostly news related rape cases), child labour

(mostly children rescued from Indian circuses) were also frequently found on the first page.

The findings show that both first and third pages gave top priority to children-related issues on Protection followed by issues of Development and Survival. As usual, Participation received the least coverage.

Supporting picture in news/articles:

	Colour photo		B&W photo		Colour illustration		B&W illustration		Total	%
	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M		
Ktp	50	2	63	8	9		1		133	7
Rjd	40	14	37	21		1	1		114	8
HT	-	-	13	3	-	-	2		18	1
Smp	58	8	46		-	-	-	-	112	7
Gkp	32	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	44	3
AP	17	1	8	-	2	-		-	28	2
SpT	4	-	18	-	-	-	1	-	23	2
TKP	79	13	30	1	8	-	-	-	131	14
THT	56	8	14	-	4	-	-	-	82	8
Total	336	47	240	33	23	1	5		685	5.7

Note: S: single photo, M: Multiple photos in a news/article

Table 11: Supporting picture in news/articles

During the study, only 5.7 per cent of the total 11,943 news/articles were found with supporting pictures. Among those news/articles, majority of them had multi-coloured pictures. It is found that most of the news/articles about education had supporting pictures, followed by sports-related events, children’s creativities and activities/programmes and issues of health (mostly children living with health problems). It shows that most of the supporting pictures were related to Development followed by, Participation and Survival.

Age-wise coverage in the newspapers:

It is found that majority of the news/articles (75%) had addressed news and issues of general age-group, which is followed by age group of 10-15. News/articles under general age-group contained education, toll of internal armed conflict on children, abduction, health issues, participation in

programmes. In general, it is found that the news/articles under general age-group had diversity (of issues) in their coverage.

The study has found that news/articles covering the age-group of 0-5 years were mostly about infanticide, abandonment of children/infants, gastro-entities, vaccination, infant care and child mortality. It shows that issues of Survival were mostly published under this age-group. Likewise, news/articles about the age group 10-15 were mostly about death of children due to playing with bombs, gastro-entities, road accident, sexual abuse/rape and creativities. It shows that mostly news/articles about Protection were published under this age group.

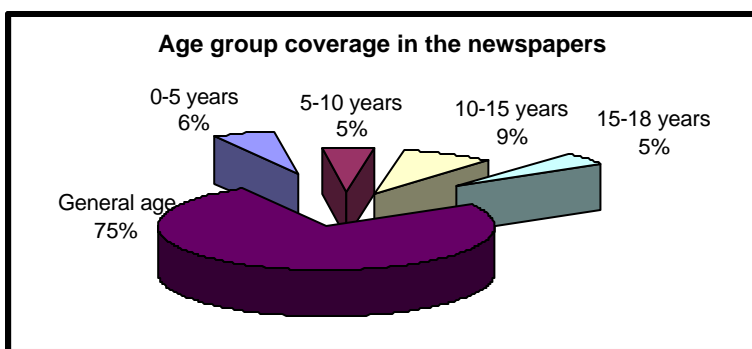


Figure 20

The study has found that mostly issues of Development and Protection were published under the age group 10-15. News/articles on sports, children's creativities, education, issues of teenage under development and sexual abuse, natural calamities, accidents were found under Protection.

News/articles about sexual abuse (rape cases), children's aims were mostly found under the age group 15-18, followed by other news/articles like child marriage, kidnapping and award, among others.

Location-wise news/articles coverage on children's issues:

The study found that the highest number of news/articles (53%) were from Central Development Region of the country, followed by Eastern and Western Development Regions. The Far-west Region received the least coverage, i.e., only 5 percent of the total news/articles. Mid-west Region received 8 percent of the total coverage. The rest, 7 percent, accounted for

“Others” category that included national news/articles (without mentioning specific location) and international issues. The study found that, mostly, news/articles from India followed by China and the United States were published as international news/articles. It is also observed that most of the international news/articles were about death of children due to crime, health-related problems, i.e. disease, crime committed by children, and most of the news/articles datelined India were about children in circuses.

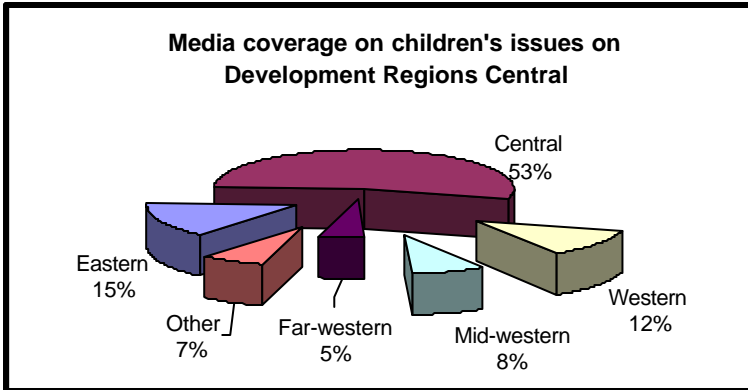


Figure 21

In terms of district-wise coverage, the study found that Kathmandu district received the highest coverage, 31 percent. Other districts, after Kathmandu, have relatively very low coverage with only 2.6 per cent of each of Makawanpur, Morang and Dang. It is also found that the collective new/articles of 48 districts didn't even make up one per cent of the total coverage.

Children's issues given priority under UNCRC

The study has found that Development issues had received top-most media coverage among children's issues under four categories of UNCRC. It is followed by Protection, Survival and Participation.

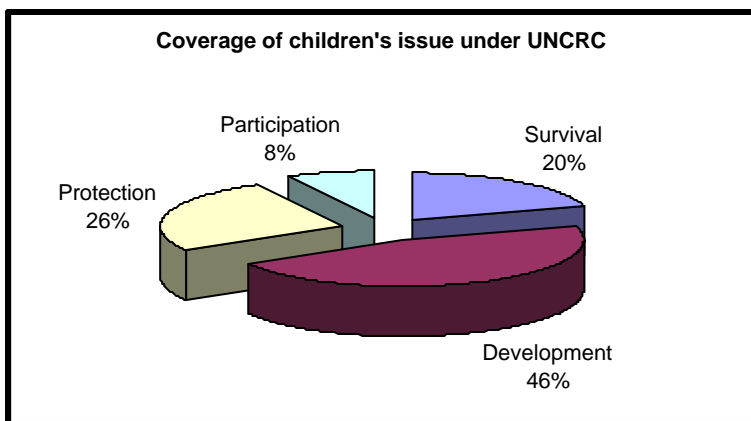


Figure 22

The table 12 shows that almost all of newspapers had given similar kind of coverage priority to the children's issues in relation to the four categories of UNCRC. All the four categories – Development, Protection, Survival and Participation – are briefly discussed below:

Newspapers	Development	Protection	Survival	Participation	Total
KTP	877	481	344	89	1791
Rjd	659	393	284	144	1480
HT	618	254	257	80	1209
Smp	726	483	341	125	1675
Gkp	829	358	316	146	1649
ST*	380	238	220	87	925
AP*	589	268	264	113	1234
TKP	389	288	185	58	920
THT	438	320	218	84	1060
Total	5505	3083	2429	926	11943

**During the total study period of 12 months, news/articles of these newspapers were documented only for eight months due to various reasons*

Table 12: Newspaper-wise coverage of children's issues under UNCRC

Development

The study has found that out of the total, 46 percent of news/articles dealt with the issues of Development. Significant number of those news/articles was on education followed by issues of sports, award and underprivileged children (Table 13).

The study found that effect of armed conflict in schools, closure of schools, strike, issues related to private and community schools, support to schools, news/articles about SLC and construction of school building, educational policy. Issues related to teachers and parents were also found under the education.

Likewise, news/articles about intra- and inter-school programmes/competitions did come under the topic “sports”. Basketball, cricket, football, volleyball, karate, table tennis, badminton, swimming, and shooting were the most reported sports activities in the newspapers.

News/articles related to scholarship, prize and honours given to the students and talented children were reported under Award. Mostly, those awards were related to schools and students.

Likewise, news/articles on underprivileged children included educational issues for marginalised/backward children. This comprised scholarship for dalit children, deprivation from education and parents denying their children right to education.

	Development	%	Protection	%	Survival	%	Participation	%
1	Education	27	Armed conflict	8	Health	11	Participation in program	5
2	Sport	7	Child labour	4	Accident	5		
3	Award	4	Sexual abuse	4	Death due to crime	1		
4	Underprivileged	2	Abduction	3	Natural calamities	1		

Table 13: Highest coverage of issues under four categories of UNCRC

Protection

Out of the total, 26 percent of news/articles were about issues of protection. Under the Protection, issues of children in armed conflict topped the total number of news/articles under “Protection”. Issues of child labour, sexual abuse and abduction followed respectively (Table 13).

News/articles on children in armed conflict were mostly about death and injury of children while playing with bomb or due to landmine explosion, effect of conflict on children and about peace.

Likewise, news/articles about children rescued from Indian circuses, plan, policies and programmes related to child labour elimination, torture and exploitation were mostly published under the child labour issue.

The cases of rape and murder, legal action and prosecution to culprits, sexual exploitation in schools were frequently published issues under sexual abuse.

During the study period, it was found that there was a remarkable increment in the news/articles related to the abduction of children, mostly abduction and release of school-going children by Maoist rebels followed by appeal to release the abducted children.

Survival

Under the “Survival” issue that accounted for 20 percent of the total news/articles, issues of health had made majority followed by accident, death due to crime and natural calamities (Table 13).

The health issue generally contained child deaths due to gastro-entities, measles, encephalitis, and unknown disease; news/articles on vaccination like polio, vitamin 'A', contaminated water, stories of children in need of financial aid for treatment and health camp, among others.

The news/articles of death or injury due to mishaps like road accident, electrocution, burning, drowning were mostly reported under accident. Death due to crime against children, mostly murder cases of girls and infants were reported. Likewise news/articles about landslide, flood, thunderstorms, cold wave and its toll on children were reported under natural calamities.

Participation

During the study period, only 8 percent out of the total news/articles related to “Participation” were documented. Majority number of the news/articles under Participation was about participation of children in programmes organised by organisations, usually competitions. Other issues related to Participation had coverage of less than one percent. Such issues were children’s activities for social change, child club activities, children and media, children creativity. Thus, these issues are not mentioned in Table 13 as dominating issues.

News/articles that report children participating and being involved actively in activities that efforts to make changes and for awareness were included in the issues under children’s activities for social change. Usually the study found that such activities were also managed or organised by organisations or schools.

News/articles related to the children’s activities and participation under the banner of child clubs were included under child club activities. Such activities included formation of child clubs, its programmes like competition, discussion, wall magazine / magazine publication and intervention in the social problems like child marriage

Children and media included activities that strive to promote media for children, like training on child journalism for children and adults, wall magazine / magazine publication for children or by children.

News/articles related to children’s creativity like talent shows, dance and drama performance, book publication, inventions, creation like arts, poem, story, music, scientific discovery were studied under children's creativity

Overlooked issues that received least coverage

Survival	Development	Protection	Participation
Child birth and maternal issue	Adoption	Drug abuse	Child club activities
HIV	Birth registration	Child trafficking	Children activity for social change
Infant mortality	Child care home	Children in prison	Children's creativity
Natural calamities	Child Marriage	Corporal punishment	Children and media
Suicide	Children park	Crime by children	
	Child psychology	Missing children	
	Culture	Orphan	
	Early childhood development	Refugee	
	Environment	Social discrimination	
	Gender discrimination	Street Children	
		Violence against children	
		Children at crisis	

Table 14: Issues with low coverage

Each of these issues related to children published in newspapers had received the least coverage, less than one percent of the total.

CHAPTER IV

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE OVER YEARS

This section unfolds the development found on print media coverage on children's issues in the year 2004 in relation to the year 2003.

The coverage

The studies conducted over years show that newspapers are giving more priority to the children's issues. Significant numbers of news/articles related to children were found in the year 2004 than the previous year. During the year 2004, it is found that news/articles related to the children increased on average by 84 percent in comparison to the year before. The following table gives the comparative increment on coverage in 2004 and 2003:

	Newspapers	Average monthly coverage		Increased by (%)
		Year 2003	Year 2004	
1	Kantipur	93.1	149.25	60.31
2	Rajdhani	73.2	123.33	68.48
3	Himalaya Times	39.5	100.75	155.60
4	Nepal Smacharpatra	59.2	139.58	135.77
5	Gorkhapatra	47.88	137.41	186.98
6	Annapurna Post*	--	--	--
7	Space Time	92.1	115.6	25.54
8	The Kathmandu Post	55.8	76.66	37.38
9	The Himalayan Times	44.88	88.33	96.81

* Since the paper was not studied in the year 2003

Table 15: Increment percentage of coverage of individual newspapers

Page-wise news/article coverage:

The study shows that newspapers are still giving preference to news/articles related to children on the third page. However, in comparison to the previous year, it is found that percentage of publication of news/articles related to the children in the third page is decreasing and increasing on first page and other pages.

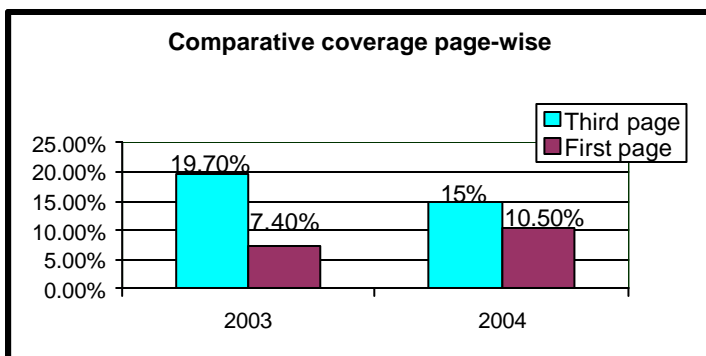


Figure 23

In 2003, third and first page had 19.7 percent and 7.4 percent of the respective total coverage, however in this year 2004, third and first pages respectively had 15 percent and 10.5 percent coverage respectively.

Supporting picture in news/articles:

The study has found that number of supporting pictures in this year decreased. In 2004, only 5.7 percent of news/articles were placed with supporting pictures, whereas in the previous year, it was 9 percent.

Age-wise coverage in the newspapers:

The study has found that news/articles concerning 'general age group' (news/articles with no age specification and multiple age-groups) were increased than that of the previous year. In this year, news/articles related to the 'general age group' increased to 75 percent (that was 61 % in the previous year). Consequently, news/articles related to the specific age groups like 0-5 and 5-10 years were found decreased in 2004.

Location-wise news/articles coverage on children's issues:

The figure 24 shows that most of the five development region of Nepal received increasing coverage except the Eastern region. The figure also makes clear that in this year too; central region was getting prominent coverage with significant increment. The increase in the coverage vis-à-vis development regions is due to the declining coverage in the 'other' category (which contains news/articles on international affairs and unspecified particular location).

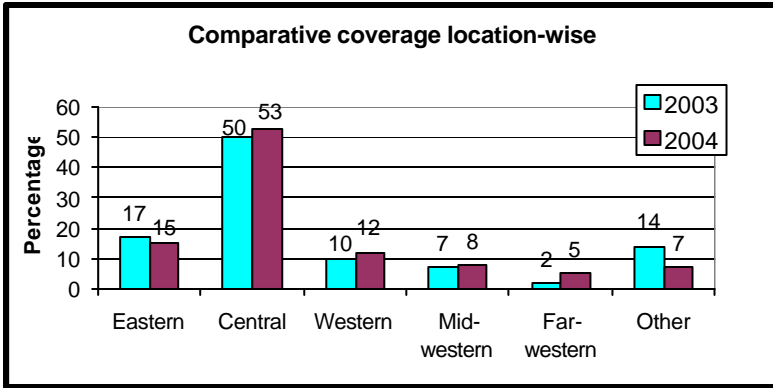


Figure 24

In this year too, Kathmandu district (capital of Nepal) had received highest coverage among 75 districts of the country. In the previous year, 27 percent of news/articles were from Kathmandu district, which increased to 31 percent in the year 2004.

It is also found, albeit ironically, that six districts were added in the list of the districts not making out even one percent of the total coverage. In the previous year, 42 out of 75 districts of Nepal had received less than one percent of the total coverage. However, in 2004, it was found that at least all the 75 districts have received coverage in print media. In previous year there was not even a single report from two districts — Manang and Mustang.

Priority given children's issue under UNCRC

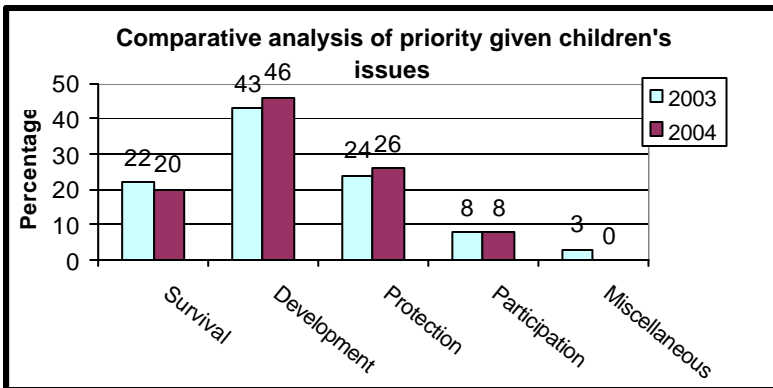


Figure 25

The figure 25 shows that issues like Development and Protection received the highest coverage in both the years. News/articles related to both the issues are in increasing trend than the issues of Survival and Participation.

In the year 2004 too, there was seen similar pattern of print media coverage vis-à-vis four components of the UNCRC. News/articles related to education, armed conflict, health, sports, children's participation in programmes, accidents, awards, child labour, sexual abuse, issues of underprivileged children, death due to crime and natural calamities were frequently published & in the year 2003. The news/articles on 'abduction' (of children particularly by rebellion) was remarkably found increased in the year 2004.

Overlooked issues

In 2004, some issues of children such as disability, abduction, laws and rights related to children, children participating in programmes were given higher priority than the pervious year. Those issues had received more than one percent coverage among total news/articles in the print media. In the year 2003, those issues had been enlisted as the issues overlooked by the print media.

Issues like child birth, child care home, child marriage, child trafficking, orphan's issues, street children, violence against children, child club activities were found as frequently published issues in the print media though these issues didn't make up more than one percent coverage among total documented news/articles. But those issues had shown potentials to receive adequate coverage (at least more than one percent) in coming years.

CHAPTER V

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

With each passing year since the first media monitoring report was brought out in 2002, it has been seen that there is a trend of steady increase in coverage of children-related issues in Nepal's national dailies. In fact, while comparing the coverage of the year 2003 and 2004, it has doubled. With the escalation of violence in the country, children have been equally affected and it must be attributed to, albeit partly, for the increase in the coverage of children's issues. Being the most vulnerable section of the society, children have been at the helm of all the new emerging problems. So has their issues been reported more frequently. In this regard, suggestions and recommendations are made on the basis of the study especially for responsible print media in order to bring positive changes in the life of children and/or preventing the frequency of untoward incidents affecting the children.

- Despite the increase in the coverage, most of the news/articles on children have been attributed to negative consequences i.e., deaths in armed conflict, accidents and crimes, among other incidents. Hence, there should be shift in news selection priority from “death reporting” to positive sides.
- Though some improvements vis-à-vis wide coverage of children's issues geographically have been observed, yet the children's issues from far-flung districts and inner hinterlands have been consistently overlooked. This has excluded majority of the children, which should be avoided.
- Most of the news/articles are event-oriented. Hence, the reporting should go beyond covering a mere formal programme. Further exploration and in-depth investigation into the issues arising in such programmes can be taken into consideration by reporters/analysts.
- Over years, most newspapers have started publishing special supplements or segments on children's issues. But, some of the dailies have either stopped publishing such things or have decreased space meant for children, which shouldn't have been done.
- Whenever it's reported on children, the media personnel should rise above the customary/regular issues such as educational activities, health-related reports, conflict, among others. Even these issues could be reported differently. Many overlooked issues (*please refer*

to the report for this) should be covered.

- If the number of supporting pictures or sketches alongside the news report is increased, it draws more readers and makes the case stronger.

LIMITATIONS

- During the study period of 12 months, news/articles of *Space Time* and *Annapurna Post* were documented only for eight months. It was because publication of *Space Time* was stopped after September 1 and documentation of news/reports of *Annapurna Post* was started only from May.
- This report doesn't incorporate special supplements on children and special page/column/segment on children as news/articles.
- Photo captions were not taken as data for the study
- Limited numbers of newspapers were used as source of data
- Constraint of time, human and monetary resources
- Methodological limitations
- Chances of any news/articles being missed or misplaced while documentation
- The page-wise coverage of the children's issues may not be identical in all sample newspapers as there are variations in the page numbers and page categorisations.
- The 2003 media coverage report was based on news/articles documented in only nine months, while the case is different with the year 2004.

CONCLUSION

The study shows hopeful days ahead in relation to the print media coverage on children's issues. The increasing media coverage on children's issues unfolds that the print media has been giving due importance to the children over the last couples of years. It is silver lining for children whose issues and voice have been heard and identified. In this context, print media and concerned journalists should be appreciated for their concern to the children, who are of course future of the nation.

Despite a positive attitude of the print media towards children and children's issues, the study has found a lot of things to be worked for children and to ensure child rights for their development.

However, the print media has challenges ahead in reporting sufficiently many identified and unidentified issues of children, voice of children residing in remote areas and to practise possible participation of children in the publication process. The print media has another challenge of rising above its existing nature of being city-centric and event-oriented in order to empower voiceless people and children.

The media naturally has both positive and negative impacts. Since the coverage is increasing and most of the news/articles related to the issues of Survival and Protection were about death and abuse, it may have negative impact on children. But it has been realized that very few studies have been done on the impact of media on children. In this context, media are expected to be more sensitive and responsible. Dealing with children and children's issues is not trouble-free. It rather demands accountability and reliability; and seeks down-to-earth implementation of the code of conduct of professional journalism.

Likewise, government and concerned children rights organisations have to play effective role of duty bearer to ensure children's rights through media and to protect from harms of media. In this context, media literacy or media education for children and appropriate training to journalist/reporter should be made available. And, guiding policies and code of conduct while reporting children's news should be regularly monitored.

The study explicitly argues for the need to establish effective and authorised body/mechanism that helps and supports media to implement the code of conduct. Likewise, it also advocates for the need of practice of professional journalism that well considers child rights principles — best interest of children, non-discrimination and children's development and participation.

Despite all the challenges the print media has to confront, the coverage of children's issues so far is indeed remarkable. The coverage will hopefully go for even wide and justified coverage in this regard, so as to create a world fit for children.

Annex I

Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues in Nepal

A Report: 2003 (Summary)

The significant role of media in all spheres of society is well recognised because of its power to influence on attitude and behavior of the public. It also plays a key role in influencing the planning and policy designing on national and international levels. Like every other sector, it has to be acknowledged that media too has certain drawbacks, which, they often are not aware of due to numerous tasks they have to perform.

In this context, Hatemalo Sanchar believes that the drawbacks of the mass media can be overcome through regular critical analyses of contemporary trend of media especially in relation to the child development and child rights.

Hatemalo Sanchar, being an ally of media and children, has been taking initiatives for Media Monitoring Programme from April 2002 in its endeavour to watch the media coverage. "Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues : A Report" prepared in 2002 was completely an innovative initiation on part of Hatemalo. Acknowledging the feedbacks and suggestions drawn from journalists and children, the second report published in 2003 is prepared with improvements in its methodology.

This report has been prepared in an effort to shed light on the media coverage related to children on the backdrop of United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC), especially under the four categories of child rights - Survival, Development, Protection and Participation.

The report is primarily based on the documentation of eight national dailies in a period of nine months from January to September 2003. They are:

The Kathmandu Post (English), *Kantipur* (Nepali), *Rajdhani* (Nepali), *Nepal Samacharpatra* (Nepali), *Space Time* (Nepali), *Himalayan Times* (Nepali), *Gorkhapatra* (Nepali), *The Himalayan Times* (English)

Objectives:

The specific objectives are:

- to know the coverage of children issues.
- to identify the "prioritised issues of children" as per the UNCRC
- to identify overlooked children issues in the newspapers.

- to make suggestions for the print media.

Methodology:

The descriptive report is based on the collection of 4,553 news clippings, that is news, news features\analyses, news\articles and the sole opinion of writers (hereafter news\articles) based on children's issues. Documented news\articles during January to September 2003 from the aforementioned eight newspapers - six Nepali-language and two English-language newspapers - have been taken for primary data.

Following the principles of UNCRC, all the documented news\articles are categorised into four dependent variables - Survival, Development, Protection and Participation. The other independent variables are listed in the Annex III of the report.

Major Findings:

Coverage of children's issues

A total of 4,553 news\articles were documented and analysed for the study purpose, which were collected during a period of nine months starting from January to September 2003. *Kantipur* has been accounted for 18.4 percent of the total news\articles collected on children's issues, followed by *SpaceTime* (18.2%) and *Rajdhani* (14.7%). The findings does not lead to the conclusion that *Kantipur* has the highest coverage due to more number of pages published in each newspaper, which ranged from 8-24 pages.

Page-wise news\articles coverage

The findings show that out of total news\articles on children's issues, the highest number (19.7%) was published in the third page. It reveals that almost all newspapers allot the third page for the publication of the children's issues, which is followed by the second and fourth pages respectively. Most of the children-related news\articles published on the third page were about the Development issues, followed by Protection and Survival. Participation issue received the least coverage in each newspaper.

The finding shows that the news\articles of children are published in regular manner with the maximum reporting in the inside pages. The fact cannot be ruled out that the issues have received the coverage on the first page too, though not regularly.

Supporting picture of news\articles

The study has found very less number of news\articles with supporting pictures. Out of total 4,553 news\articles, only 427 news\articles were found with pictures, which makes up only 9.8 percent of the total number of news\articles. And most of them had single picture along with the text.

Age group coverage in the newspapers

The research team has found that the majority of the news\articles (61%) have addressed news and issues of general age group children, which is followed by age group of 10-16 (17.4%), of 5-10 (11%) and 0-5 (10.6%) respectively.

Location-wise news\articles coverage on children's issues

Significant number of children related issues carried by the sample newspapers were from the Central Development Region of the country (which also has the national capital city Kathmandu) that is 2,275 out of the total, which is followed by Eastern (17%), Western (10%), Mid-western (7%), and Far western (2%) respectively. 14% of "others" include national (without specific location) and international issues.

District-wise coverage on children's issues

Kathmandu district has been ranked on the top with the highest number of news\ articles (27%) coverage. Other districts following Kathmandu have relatively very low coverage with only 3.2 percent in Sunsari, 2.5 in Morang and 2.1 in Bhaktapur districts. The newspapers had covered the news\articles of 73 districts, barring Manang and Mustang, the two least developed districts. The news of 42 districts did not even cover up 1% of the total coverage.

Priority given children's issues Under UNCRC

The study has found that, almost all daily newspapers have similar kinds of media coverage on children's issues under the four categories of the UNCRC. Out of total, highest number of news\articles (43%) was found under Development issues followed by 24% of reporting under the issue of

protection, 22 percent Survival and 8 percent Participation. The study has found that almost all the newspapers have similar coverage priority on children's issues.

Survival

Out of the total, 999 (22%) news\articles were about issues of Survival. Out of 999, articles\news 583 (12.8%) were about health issues, followed by issues of accidents (242), death (80) and natural calamities (55).

Development

Out of total, 1,947 (43%) news \ articles were about issues of Development. Out of 1,947, significant number (1,365) of those news \ articles was on education, followed by issues of marginalized \ backward children (125), children and sports (97) and child care home.

Protection

Out of total, 1093 (24%) news\articles were about issues of Protection in which a merge majority (336) of those news\articles were of armed conflict. It is followed by issues of child labour (204) and sexual abuse (146).

Participation

Out of total, only 390 (8%) news\articles related to Participation were found during the study. The articles that were categorised under this heading were mostly about the children participation on different competition programmes, child club activities, children's camps, rallies, creative children, campaigns, and children's day celebration.

Suggestions and Recommendation:

It is found that print media seem to be more concerned about the issues and are giving priority to the children's issues. In this regard study team came up with, suggestions and recommendation on the basis of the study especially for responsible print media in order to bring positive changes in the life of children.

- The finding shows that the least reporting of the news\articles about the

issues related to age group 0-5. The news of immunisation, infant mortality, and early childhood development are reported but the findings show a need of increment in the publication of such news.

- Newspapers should give high-frequency coverage on children's issues on the front page.
- The data shows a need of increase in supporting pictures. Keeping in view the fact that the pictures have a psychological impact on children's learning, the number of picture needs to be increased in the newspapers.
- The newspaper coverage is largely urban-centric, which is sidelining many serious issues of the faraway and remote places.
- The general news\articles coverage in the newspapers is of similar pattern, with more focus on three issues - health, education and armed conflict. But other serious issues, which are now adversely affecting the lives of the children, have not been featured in the newspapers.
- Issues of participation have received the least coverage in the newspapers, which in fact should have been given utmost emphasis.
- Many issues, though are of high important have been overlooked by media. Hence, the print media needs to give higher importance to these overlooked issues.

Limitations

- Photo captions were not taken as data for the study.
- Special children sections published by various newspapers on some specific days were not included in documentation.
- Limited numbers of newspapers were used as source of data.
- Study is strictly based in the coverage of the collected data during nine months, which may not be totally conclusive and relevant to compare in the context of current situation.
- Constraint of time, human and monetary resources.
- Methodological limitations
- Chances of any news\articles being missed or misplaced while documentation.
- The page-wise coverage of the children's issues may not be identical in all sample newspapers, as there are variations in the page numbers and page categorisation.

Annex II

Media Monitoring Table

Newspaper

Duration

Overall analysis				Content analysis			
SN	Page	Picture	Size	Topic	Age group	Location	Basis

Annex III

News/articles related to children issues were categorized under following headings (CRC Principles):

Survival	Development	Protection	Participation
Accident	Adoption	Abduction	Child club activities
Child birth and maternal issue	Communication/ media	Drug abuse	Children activity for social change
Death (due to crime)	Birth registration	Armed conflict	Children's creativity
Health	Award	Child labour	Participation in programmes
HIV	Backward	Child trafficking	Children and media
Infant mortality	Child care home	Children in prison	
Natural calamities	Child Marriage	Corporal punishment	
Suicide	Children park	Crime by children	
	Culture	Law and rights related to children	
	Disability	Missing children	
	Early childhood development	Orphan	
	Education	Refugee	
	Entertainment	Sexual abuse	
	Environment	Social discrimination	
	Gender discrimination	Street Children	
	Child Psychology	Violence against children	
	Sport		

Annex IV

District	Ktp	Rjd	HT	Smp	Gkp	AP	SpT	KTP	THT	Total
Achham	22	3	1	8	1	1	1	12	--	49
Argkhanchi	2		1	1				1	--	5
Baglung	32	43	9	5	28	11	19	9	4	160
Baitadi	14	3	--	1	9	--	1	5	--	33
Bajhang	1	--	1	2	--	--	--	2	--	6
Bajura	17	15	4	2	7	--	5	4	--	54
Banke	30	36	9	38	23	33	19	15	39	242
Bara	55	26	30	29	21	52	34	15	13	275
Bardiya	5	7	--	2	1	11	2	3	2	33
Bhaktapur	13	24	11	13	22	44	31	5	13	176
Bhojpur	8	6	8	5	15	4	3	2	2	53
Chitwan	24	24	20	24	36	22	2	15	13	180
Dadheldhura	11	2	2	8	3	2	11	4	3	46
Dailekh	16	13	3	6	5	1	5	5	--	54
Dang	80	56	19	18	29	18	63	20	7	310
Darchula	23	1	--	2	1	--	--	--	1	28
Dhading	48	46	21	23	33	29	28	8	20	256
Dhankuta	5	12	4	8	17	10	6	1	7	70
Dhanusha	6	13	19	16	11	3	19	2	7	96
Dolkha	26	14	12	19	11	21	19	7	10	139
Dolpa	2	1	1	--	1	2	1	1	--	9
Doti	26	11	8	3	7	18	3	5	6	87
Gorkha	10	8	10	11	9	2	10	5	3	68
Gulmi	20	7	6	9	2	--	--	--	3	47
Humla	9	6	2	2	4	2	--	3	1	29
Ilam	10	12	14	30	12	22	17	4	15	136
Jajarkot	2	18	3	6	5	2	7	1	2	46
Jhapa	18	7	21	35	34	32	28	5	10	190
Jumla	5	1	--	1	--	--	--	2	--	9
Kailali	33	20	15	16	22	8	7	12	3	136
Kalikot	8	2	--	--	--	1	4	2	--	17
Kanchanpur	7	15	12	9	15	9	11	3	8	89
Kapilvastu	21	22	8	--	--	2	2	5	--	60
Kaski	18	20	19	14	40	22	1	6	9	149
Kathmandu	367	317	467	524	513	420	190	464	446	3708
Kavrepalanchowk	13	20	20	17	50	19	3	--	3	145
Khotang	9	--	--	1	--	--	--	4	--	14

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Lalitpur	26	10	21	16	37	11	7	5	52	185
Lamjung	12	18	6	19	2	5	6	--	--	68
Mahottari	11	19	31	24	51	6	14	6	2	164
Makwanpur	101	38	14	88	15	23	17	19	5	320
Manang	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	17
Morang	27	39	40	79	68	33	8	4	14	312
Mugu	7	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	--	17
Mustang	3	--	--	--	2	--	1	--	--	6
Myagdi	16	8	7	13	3	1	1	1	2	52
Nawalparasi	15	24	11	8	29	9	7	6	4	113
Nuwakot	7	6	8	22	12	12	--	2	6	75
Okhaldhunga	2	--	2	8	--	--	--	--	--	12
Palpa	64	15	5	10	7	7	24	8	4	144
Panchther	6	6	6	5	9	19	8	1	2	62
Parbat	41	25	22	20	53	9	6	4	1	181
Parsa	17	4	8	--	2	--	--	1	--	32
Pyuthan	5	1	1	--	3	9	2	2	1	24
Ramechhap	30	19	10	32	29	18	23	9	9	179
Rasuwa	9	4	3	8	3	--	1	--	--	28
Rautahat	9	14	18	12	15	17	11	4	4	104
Rolpa	8	9	3	11	3	--	--	3	--	37
Rukum	23	12	3	1	3	3	--	2	--	47
Rupandehi	51	20	21	31	20	23	26	6	7	205
Salyan	17	15	2	7	1	--	6	2	--	50
Sankhuwasava	2	4	2	4	1	1	6	--	1	21
Saptari	12	34	15	29	33	31	21	10	9	194
Sarlahi	13	8	4	6	14	1	6	4	--	56
Sindhuli	16	31	15	11	69	2	6	5	1	156
Sindhupalchowk	18	16	6	26	1	1	6	3	3	80
Siraha	1	10	13	21	5	16	16	2	2	86
Solukhumbu	9	--	1	2	--	--	--	3	--	15
Sunsari	37	25	29	70	70	11	30	12	13	297
Surkhet	4	30	4	24	10	5	10	--	8	95
Syangja	19	7	2	4	8	7	2	1	3	53
Tanahu	39	27	9	14	16	10	12	3	9	139
Taplejung	4	15	14	18	26	15	20	2	4	118
Tehrathum	5	5	5	4	6	1	3	1	1	31
Udayapur	9	24	14	29	38	21	26	8	8	177

