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Summary Of Small Group Discussions
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Workshop on Editorial Management for Women Journalists,
December 7, 199-.

GROUP I

- St. John, nepali... for the nepali news
- Ratna Basnet... for the nepali news
- Gunjan, nepali... for the nepali news
- Shweta, nepali... for the nepali news
- Nalini, nepali... for the nepali news

Some solutions

The change has to come from within. We should not sit waiting for society to change.

We should not be apologetic or try to suppress the fact that we have to play the dual role of a homemaker and a journalist. Women should be able to manage things.

We need to have a mindset change and also change in our media. Women journalists need a chance to rise to the top.
Women were not put on payroll. They were hired on short term contracts up till 2 years back in newspapers. But times have changed. Now young women editors are looking for pay and full time basis.

Professional jealousy with male colleagues in journalism is common to all professions and any gender.

If women don’t write about women’s issues, who else will? These are stories about rape victims, child custody problems, jail victims(female who made journalists don’t give importance).

There is the other side of the story too. Women are considered more responsible journalists as far as the story is concerned. She completes the story to the end, follows it and delivers it properly. They take care of others and do not indulge in yellow journalism.

**GROUP III**

1. Anita Pandey - The Kathmandu Post
2. Jehan Navaz - Araliya
3. Rabin Hamid - Press Institute of Bangladesh
4. Snehalata Srivastav - Lokmat Times
5. Pamela D’Mello - Herald/ Abhinav Age

**Solutions / Suggestions**

- Develop a healthy rapport with colleagues in your workplace.
- Have confidence in your work, voice opinions and don’t let motivated criticism get you - understand why they do it.
- Speak to peers equally in the opinion of the one-who-
- listen.
GROUP IV

1. Sreenath flaha - Brunch manager, Hilton Colombo
2. Kuma Rajendran - Legal Officer
3. Nitya Salayant - Business Manager
4. Syamal Gupta - Sales Officer
5. Sivakumar Sunda - Media Strategy
6. Komal Gauri - Assistant

Problems identified:

Resentment on staying late, not been able to attend family functions on time
Neglecting home - as homemaking is supposed to be a female's responsibility
Husbands are envious of visibility of the wife as a journalist
Shying away from jobs in journalism, jobs of responsibility
Politics and crime are the beats where problems usually are manifest for women
Inviting people related to you out for meals is still a male-dominated domain since the reputation of a woman would be at stake
Since journalists are trained to be independent, this independence is resented
Discrimination in salary scale
Government salary in Sri Lanka is better compared to the private sector
Staying late for night shift
In India, if female journalists have to stay late, the work board has made it mandatory on the premises to provide transportation due to which people usually dont want to hire women in services. In Sri Lanka, due to a man like position, women are nominated to do the shift.
Summary of Panel Discussion
December 7, 1994

Women Journalists in Southeast Asia: Trends, Opportunities and Issues

Panellists
Chair: Prabha Thacker
Panelists: K. V. Somashekhar, Ramu Dandekar, Ramana Shrestha

The panel discussion began with the underlining issue of gender press in Nepal. Opportunities in the field of journalism for women journalists were also discussed and problems faced by women journalists were also identified.

Most of the participants felt that they were given fewer opportunities than their male colleagues. Male domination is prevalent in all professions but more so in the field of journalism. The work of women journalists is looked down upon. Some participants did not agree with it. According to them they were given equal opportunities in their organisation regardless of gender. In their opinion, women are the ones who do not want to assume responsibility. It is partly due to familial constraints that limit their mobility. They should seize the opportunities given to them and prove that they can also do the job instead of shunning risks involved in work such as in investigative journalism. They need to be more aggressive and take part in political news reporting and breaking news stories. One of the reasons for deterring women journalists from the field of politics is that they do not want to be stamped as a mouthpiece of a certain party.

Women Journalists are branded as feminists if they write on women's issues. It looks like they are entitled just to culture beats. There is a need for them to diversify into different beats which are considered coveted e.g. Politics, Business, Finance etc.

Orientation for women journalists is missing.

Panel Chairperson Prabha Thacker stated that in this age of technology, there is a need for women journalists to be conscious of technical competence. There's a need for professionalism and efficiency which is facilitated by technology. There is also a need for them to be sensitive to gender issues. Women should be assertive and affirmative to steer away from social constraints. Women want to be conformists. Household dynamism should be changed and it takes time to do so. Taking in view the desires and expectations expressed by the participants, Ms. Thacker expressed the belief that network of women journalists from SAARC countries will be formed in future.
field of communication as women are now more able to participate more and not more as they have more control of the population to speak the women's issues. And alongside with this comes the demand of a

Umanath Chandra (Chairperson of Women's Forum) in his talk, women's need is to be taken into account and to be respected. Women are now actively involved in the media. It is very much true that the women's role in the news is being undermined. They are often not taken seriously in a woman's role. Some prominent positions in journalism are often held by women, but they are not treated as such. They are not given the respect that they should be.

Gauri K. C. on the panel highlighted the Government's negligence of women's needs. There is lack of training facilities and also lack of national policy for intelligent women folks. Government should give more opportunities to female journalists. She also decried the poor working conditions and low pay for journalists. It is hoped that there would be transparency in running of the Government and professionalism in journalism.

In conclusion, the panelists expected a consensus that the solutions to the problems of women journalists in South Asia lie in more professionalism and more technical competence. Primarily, women should do a good job and never lose sight of their audience — their readers — with whom their ultimate responsibility lies.