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<th>Seminar on Editorial Management For Women Journalists: Kathmandu, Nepal, December 7-14, 1994: [summary of small group discussions]</th>
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Summary Of Small Group Discussions
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Workshop on Editorial Management for Women Journalists
December 7, 199-

GROUP 1

1. Mrs. Jina C. Rani
2. Mrs. M. Basavanagouda
3. Mr. D. G. Prasad
4. Mrs. K. Shankara
5. Mrs. S. V. Parameshwara

Below is the problem faced by some journalists and faced by working women in general, in the respective countries. They have to work harder to prove themselves.

- Some women take up journalism in Bangladesh. There are no formal courses or training programmes for women. As a woman journalist in Bangladesh, one has to constantly prove oneself and do a balancing act between various government interests.

- Problems in all papers alike.

- All of us face the problems of mobility and salary offered recent changes. Night shifts are not given to women in Nepal, Sri Lanka and some publications in India. This sometimes leads male colleagues to comment that women are just half journalists. Those willing to do night shifts have to fight for it.

- Professional jealousy from male colleagues sometimes takes the form of maligning stories in smarter papers as happened with a journalist in Nepal. She was successfully linked with an influential man.

- In a local Indian paper, male colleagues resented publicity (interviews by foreign IV) and awards to women journalists in some papers, men resented authority given to women dubbing her aggressive. No appreciation of good stories.

- In Sri Lanka no woman in Editor’s chair. Not allowed to write editorials.

- Women have the reputation in Nepal and Sri Lanka of quitting after some time.

- Women journalists show distinct lack of interest in covering politics.

- If women get good stories, men sometimes say we did it on strength of our gender and ‘charm’!

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 whether should we wave if interested.

- Suggested that the women journalists should also speak about women opportunities so that men perform better.
GROUP II

Women are not put on payroll. They were hired on shaky voucher system up till 2 years back in Maharashtra. But times have changed. Now young women editors are taking on payroll and full time basis.

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

Women don't write about women's issues, who else worry. These are stories about rape victims, child custody problems, jail victims (female who make journalists don't give importance)

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

GROUP III

1) Anita Pandey - The Kathmandu Post
2) Jehan Navaz - Araliya
3) Rabia Hamid - Press Institute of Bangladesh
4) Shuchalata Srivastav - Lokmat Times
5) Pamela M'Helio - Herald/ Asahi Age

Solutions / Suggestions

Develop a healthy rapport with counterparts in your workplace.

Have confidence in your work, raise yourself and don't let motivated criticism get you - understand why they do it.

Stay take part equally in the organization and its goals.
GROUP IV

1) Shenika Robina
2) Puna Dandkar
3) Malika Saidani
4) Nymdi Godarike
5) Sukiya Sultani
6) Kanaka Satup

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
Staying away from jobs in journalism due to job's 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 wage board has made it mandatory for the papers to provide transportation due to which female journalist want to have women's working conditions which their men equivalents do not.
Summary of Panel Discussion
December 7, 1994

Topic:
Women Journalists in Southeast Asia: Trends, Opportunities and Issues

Panellists
Chair: Prabha Thacker

Panellists:
- Prabha Thacker
- Nupur K.
- Anita Pandey
- Shraddha Shah

The panel discussion began with the introduction to the status of 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 communications is women as they form more than half the population. In general, the women journalists need assistance with the technical aspects of writing. The death of some women journalists on the field is justified by stating the deficiency of women from entering that field.

Hadi, I., & Sheng, S. (1975). Women's involvement in the field of journalism. Women journalists need assistance with the technical aspects of writing. The death of some women journalists on the field is justified by stating the deficiency of women from entering that field.

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.