



GLOBAL MEDIA MONTIORING PROJECT Women's Participation in the News

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National Watch on Images of Women in the Media (MediaWatch) Inc.

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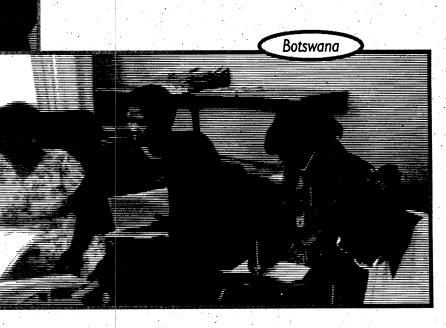
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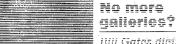
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نضر الله الرحيف الرجيم

AHFAD UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

P.O. Box 167 Telephone: 53363 Omdurman - Sudan

Introduction

In February, 1994 at the Women Empowering Communication Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, Sylvia Spring facilitated a workshop on media monitoring on behalf of MediaWatch, Canada. During the workshop, the idea for an international day of monitoring was born and over 30 women from as many countries indicated such interest in the project that it was eventually included in the conference declaration. MediaWatch, Canada continued the momentum built in Bangkok by taking up the challenge of coordinating this ground breaking initiative - the Global Media Monitoring Project the aims of which were to build solidarity, create media awareness and encourage media monitoring skills on an international level.

MediaWatch contacted hundreds of individuals and organizations to seek their commitment in coordinating the project for their countries. Over 80 countries agreed to participate. Erin Research, Inc. was contracted to design the research, prepare the News Monitoring Guide and research instruments, analyze the data and write the research report. The guide and coding instruments were pilot tested in June, 1994 in Argentina, India, Japan and the Netherlands.

The revised News Monitoring Guide and coding grids were distributed to all the participating countries and on January 18, 1995 hundreds of volunteers around the world monitored their news media – television, radio and daily newspapers – for the representation and portrayal of women. We consulted with our coordinators regarding the choice of January 18th as an "ordinary" day of monitoring which would not interfere with any holidays. On January 17, an earthquake in Kobe, Japan and an avalanche in Iceland made it difficult for volunteers in those countries to participate in the project.

The fact that they did carry through with the monitoring is a testament to their level of commitment.

In the end, 71 countries sent back more than 49,000 data records for analysis. The result is the following document – a global picture of women in the news in 1995 and a benchmark for future monitoring.

Our hope is that this project will lay the seeds for future monitoring projects on a local or regional level as well as foster further global cooperation. If the time and effort contributed by the many volunteers around the world is any indication, we are sure that this important work will continue.

Josie Marchese, Project Manager Meg Hogarth, Executive Director





Asia

Hong Kong
Indonesia
Japan
Korea
Malaysia
People's Republic
of China
Philippines
Singapore
Taiwan

South Asia

Thailand

India Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka Africa

Botswana
Cameroon
Ghana
Mauritius
Nigeria
Senegal
South Africa
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Middle East

Israel Lebanon Turkey Eastern Europe

Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Hungary Lithuania Romania Russia Slovak Republic Slovenia

Western Europe

Austria

Belgium
England
Finland
France
Germany
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Netherlands
Spain
Switzerland

North America

Canada U.S.A.

Central America, Caribbean

Barbados Guatemala Jamaica Mexico St. Lucia Trinidad

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
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Ecuador
Paraguay
Peru
Uruguay

South Pacific

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Vanuatu
Western Samoa



Italy

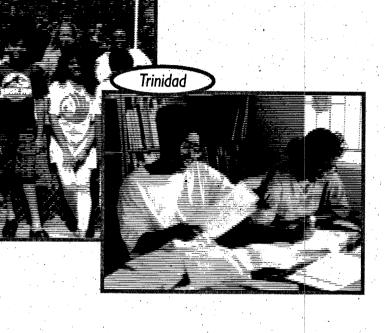
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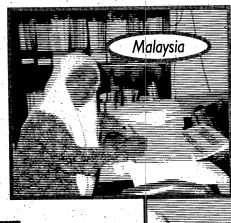
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GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

SECTION 1 Purpose

It is apparent to any observer that the news media portray women and men differently. It is also apparent that the situation is changing. The Global Media Monitoring Project documents the situation at one point in time, January 18 1995. In so doing it provides quantitative definition to the role and image of women in the world's radio, television and newspapers. Its purpose is threefold:

 Create a database on the participation and portrayal of women in the world's news media: newspapers, radio and television.

- Provide women and others around the world with a tested and refined research instrument which they can apply to their own context in the future.
- Establish a benchmark which different regions of the world can use to see themselves in a global context, and which will serve as a standard for measuring future change.

The Global Media Monitoring Project represents the most extensive survey of the portrayal of women in news that has been undertaken to date.

SECTION 2

History of the project



February 1994

The plan for an international study of women in the world's news media evolved at the Women Empowering Communication conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and became a resolution of that conference. Canadian representatives volunteered to take the lead role in implementing the resolution.

March - May 1994

MediaWatch approached Erin Research Inc. to design and direct an independent research study:

- MediaWatch would establish a network of volunteer participants in countries around
- Erin Research would design a monitoring system that people who were not professional researchers could effectively implement, and then analyze the data and prepare a research report.

June – September 1994

A pilot version of the research instruments was tested by groups in Argentina, India, Japan and The Netherlands.

MediaWatch continued to engage participants around the world.

October 1994

Revisions to the draft research materials were made on the basis of the pilot test, and a 32-page News Monitoring Guide containing the complete instructions and research instruments was produced.

November 1994

The Guide was distributed by MediaWatch to participating countries approximately two months prior to the Global Media Monitoring Day, January 18 1995. This allowed participants time to acquaint themselves with the materials, resolve any difficulties, and undertake translation where necessary.

January 18 1995

Global Media Monitoring Day.

January - July 1995

Data, photographs, and other materials returned by 71 countries were analyzed, and the report was prepared.

September 1995

The final report of the Global Media Monitoring Project was released at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

MediaWatch approached Erin Research Inc. to design a methodologically sound research project and to produce an independent, rigorous and objective report of the results.

Erin Research is an internationally recognized leader in the analysis of social issues in the media. The principals, Ms Kasia Seydegart and Dr. George Spears, have examined media portrayal of social roles and political events in more than 40 major analyses conducted for broadcasting networks, regulatory agencies, and private organizations.

SECTION 3 Method

News Monitoring Guide

The News Monitoring Guide that was provided to each country set out:

- Instructions for selecting a sample of news programs for coding;
- Procedures for taping radio and television programs;
- · Procedures for coding;
- Examples of coded news stories.

An outline of these procedures follows.

Sample selection

The sample of news material was selected by the participants in each country. The News Monitoring Guide provided the following guidelines:

- Select news programs only (not documentaries, sports programs or entertainment);
- Try to code at least two radio programs, two television programs, and two newspapers per country. Code the entire radio and television newscasts, and the main news page of each newspaper (that is, the first page in most countries). News stories that begin on the main news page and continue on other pages are coded in their entirety.

2nd Interviewee

- Choose major newscasts and newspapers – those with the largest audiences.
- Keep a balance that is appropriate for your country between daytime and evening programs, national and regional newscasts, and programs by private and public or government broadcasters.

Method of coding

All radio and television programs were taped and later coded. There is a considerable amount of information to be recorded about each person and each news story, and recording the information typically requires listening to or watching the story several times. Coders were advised to work in pairs or groups to ensure accuracy, and to re-check their work when finished.

Each news story is recorded as a separate unit. Each journalist and each interviewee who appears in the story is described on a separate line of the coding sheet. The numeric codes and their definitions are described in the News Monitoring Guide.

The example below shows a news story with one reporter and two interviewees. The story is about politics (subject = 11), and it is national in scope (scope = 2). The journalist is an anchor (role = 1) and is female (gender = 1). The first interviewee is a man (gender = 2) whose age appears to be between 35 and 49 years (age = 5). The second interviewee is a woman (gender = 1) of age 25 to 34 years (age = 4). The coding systems used in the project contained approximately 30 different variables, of which six are shown here.

Information about: interviewees the news story journalists Subject Role Gender Gender 1 Age Scope 1 1 lournalist 2 5 1st Interviewee

Accuracy

With so many people involved in assembling the data, the translation into dozens of languages, etc., there is an opportunity for inconsistencies in the data to arise. As well, the volunteers in this project did not enjoy the opportunity that researchers in most media analyses have to communicate with others and resolve problems.

Because of the unusual challenges associated with a global research project, the coding sheets were carefully examined to identify possible errors or inconsistencies. In general, the great majority of material seems to be carefully and correctly coded.

It is apparent from examining a coding sheet whether the basic principles of coding have been followed. Each separate news story must be accompanied by subject and scope-of-story codes; a data record describing a journalist cannot include information designating an interviewee, and so on. "Structural" errors such as this type indicate that coding was not carried out in the intended manner; when apparent errors of this nature occurred, the data were excluded from the analysis.

Any lack of understanding of the coding system could also result in impossible or unlikely combinations of codes; for example, people in professional occupations under the age of 12 years. Data were checked for such unlikely combinations, and the incidence was well under one half of one percent of all codes.

A positive indication that work was done correctly is that out-of range codes were minimal, i.e., participants used only the codes appropriate for the variable in question.

In sum, less than one-half of one percent of the data returned was considered questionable and omitted from the analysis.

Reporting of results

Results are described in three ways:

- For the global sample as a whole;
- By ten regions of the world (East Asia, South Asia, Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, North America, Central

America and the Caribbean, South America South Pacific);

• By each of three news media: newspapers, radio, and television.

Results are not presented for individual countries. While national results would be interesting, the number of news stories, journalists, and interviewees from many countries is relatively small, and results based on these samples may not be truly representative of the country's media. Presenting results by region ensures more widely-based and therefore more representative results.

Weighting

Ideally, each country would provide data in proportion to its size – larger countries more data, smaller countries less. In fact, some large countries provided little data and some smaller countries a great deal.

The data are weighted in order to correct this. The purpose of weighting is simply to represent each country in proportion to the size of its population, rather than in proportion to the amount of data it contributed. This allows a more realistic assessment of the global situation.

Data from countries that provided little information in proportion to their size are given larger weights, greater than 1.0, and data from countries that contributed a great deal of information in proportion to their size are given weights less than 1.0. Extremely large or small weights can cause problems, large weights because they may multiply a small sample of data that is not truly representative of the country in question, small weights because they minimize the contribution of groups that have worked hard to make the project a success. Accordingly, the maximum weight assigned was 4 and the minimum 0.25. For the majority of countries participating, the calculated weights fell between 0.25 and 4.0, so that no arbitrary cap was required.

Weights were calculated separately for newspaper, radio, and television samples. Weights are calculated so that the total weighted number of cases is equal to the unweighted

The purpose of weighting is simply to represent each country in proportion to the size of its population, rather than in proportion to the amount of data it contributed.

number of cases. Countries that did not participate in the project were excluded from the calculation of weights.

Weighting has very little effect on the major results of the study. For example, the overall proportion of female interviewees is 17 percent in the weighted data, and 18 percent in the unweighted data. The difference reflects the fact that some countries in which there was a relatively large proportion of female interviewees contributed more data than other countries with fewer female interviewees.

Weights were calculated for each country participating in the study, rather than for regions. When results are presented by regions of the world, the weighting may not accurately reflect the population of that region. When a large proportion of the countries in a region participated in the survey (e.g., North America and Western Europe), there is a relatively large amount of material from that region. When a small proportion of the countries in a region participated (e.g., Eastern Europe and Africa), the amount of material from these regions is smaller.

Limitations of the sample

While the sample of news material represented in this survey is very large, representing more than 15,000 news stories from 71 countries, it has several limitations that should be kept in mind when considering the results.

Because the sample relied on volunteer efforts, various countries produced differing amounts of data. Weighting corrects this in part, but because of the constraints mentioned earlier, weighting does not fully compensate for the exceptionally large or exceptionally small amounts of data received from some

countries. The most obvious gap in the data is the People's Republic of China, which is only represented by a token amount of data despite having one-fifth of the world's population.

The sample does contain similar amounts of material from newspapers, radio and television, however the balance among these media is not identical in each region of the world. The North American sample, for example, contains a relatively high proportion of television data (47 percent of stories are from television) while the South Asian sample contains an equally high proportion of radio stories, 47 percent. Because women are represented differentially in various media (e.g., there are fewer women in newspapers than on television), certain results may differ from those obtained in an ideal sample.

Finally, an exact error of measurement cannot be readily established for the data. In content analysis, this is usually calculated by means of a reliability test, in which different people code the same material. By comparing the two codings, a margin of error can be calculated. Logistical constraints of time, money, language and distance prevented formal reliability testing in this project. While the data appear to be "clean" — indeed the data appear of comparable accuracy to data produced by trained and experienced researchers — there is necessarily some small error of measurement associated with the results.

Despite these limitations, this survey remains the most extensive global research of gender in news media available today. While an ideally constructed sample might produce results that depart in fine detail from the present study, it would not likely differ in its overall findings and conclusions.

Despite these limitations, this survey remains the most extensive global research of gender in news media available today.

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SECTION 4

Database

Seventy-one countries returned coded data from one, two, or three news media. Table I shows the number of coded data records returned by each country. Some data records contain information about news stories, (e.g., they describe the subject of the story), some records contain information about people in the story, (they describe journalists or interviewees), and some records contain both. The 49,000 data records represent information on more than 40,000 journalists and interviewees who appeared in more than 15,000 news stories.

The country totals in Table I represent the raw, unweighted number of data records returned. The results reported in following sections are weighted to give each country a status that more closely reflects the size of its population. For example, South Korea contributed slightly more data than its population warrants, and so its 1,473 actual records are weighted by 0.77 to produce the 1,178 records that appear in reported results. Ghana contributed one-half of the data that its population dictates, and so its 270 actual records are weighted by 2.0 to produce 540 records for analysis. Data from certain countries such as Mexico and Argentina are almost unchanged by weighting, as the proportions of data they contributed are near the proportions of the population in those countries.

The global sample represents all of the world's major population centres with the notable exception of The People's Republic of China.

Data returned by participating countries

Country Newspaper		Radio	TV	Records*
Asia				
Hong Kong	/	/	~	266
Indonesia	1	•	1	222
Japan	/	•	1	310
Korea	/		1	1,473
Malaysia	~	1	~	709
People's Republic of China	/			41
Philippines	/			150
Singapore	•	. •		435
Taiwan	~		~	432
Thailand	•	V	~	339
South Asia				
India	/	~	~	2,028
Nepal				261
Pakistan	•	~		177
Sri Lanka	/	•	~	288
Africa		:		
Botswana	~	• 🗸		29
Cameroon	V	V	1	217
Ghana	•	V.	~	270
Mauritius	1			50
Nigeria	~	V .,	~	205
Senegal	•	V .	~	321
South Africa	✓	~	~	270
Sudan		V	1	53
Tanzania	•		1	57
Uganda	· •	~		6
Zambia		~		15
Zimbabwe	~	V	•	129

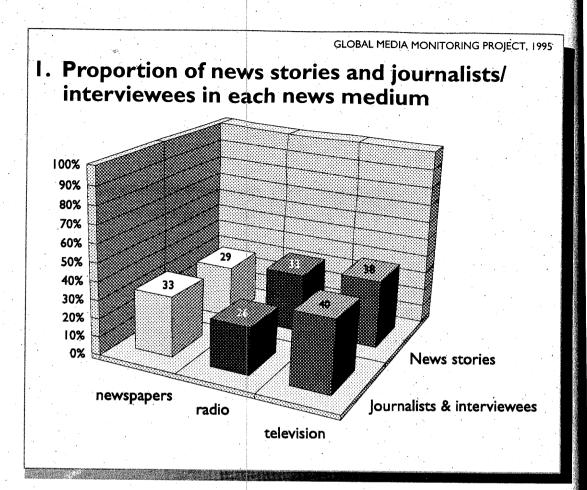
^{*} Records is the total number of data records submitted by the country. A data record describes a news story, or a journalist/interviewee, or both.

Country New	spaper	Radio	TV	Records
Middle East	,			
Israel	V	V	/	927
Lebanon	V	1	, v	135
Turkey	V	1	/	461
Eastern Europ	e			
Bulgaria	V			18
Croatia	/			38
Czech Republic	/		· •	29
Hungary	/	V	V	406
Lithuania	1	V	•	59
Romania	/	V	V	1,009
Russia	V		\ \ \	215
Slovak Republic	/	V	~	227
Slovenia	V		/	287
Western Euro	pe			
Austria	V	V	V	15
Belgium	/		✓	446
England	/	V	V	735
Finland	/	V	V	615
France	✓		V	412
Germany	V	'	•	2,488
Iceland	/	1	V	216
Ireland	· 🗸	V	:	406
Italy	/	•	V	2,700
Netherlands	V	'	V	837
Spain	V	V	/	1,422
Switzerland	✓		1	567

Country Ne	wspaper	Radio	TV	Records*
North Amer	ica			
Canada	V	V	1	4,175
U.S.A.	V .	•	~	10,727
Central Ame Caribbean	erica,			
Barbados	V	1		183
Guatemala	V	1	V	225
Jamaica		1	1	341
Mexico		~		404
St. Lucia	/	1	~	139
Trinidad	✓	V	~	473
South Amer	ica			
Argentina	V	V	1	857
Bolivia	/	1	1	327
Brazil	✓	V	1	742
Chile	V	V.	~	2,072
Ecuador	✓	1	1	286
Paraguay	✓	V	1	732
Peru	V	/	1	754
Uruguay	/	V	1	154
South Pacific	C			
Australia	V	1	1	2,477
Fiji	. V	1	1	234
New Zealand	•	V	1	325
Vanuatu	/	~	-	31
Western Samo	oa 🗸	1	~	69
Total data rec	ords		1	49,152

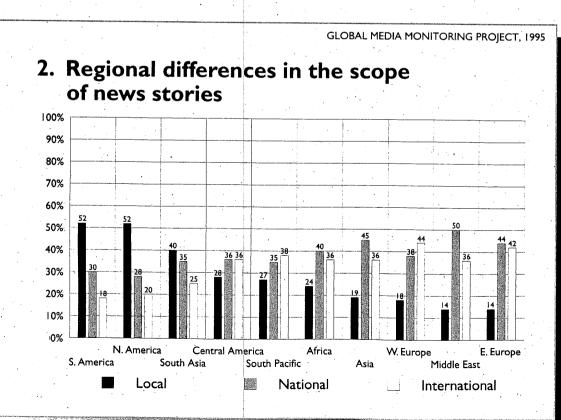
Three news media: Newspapers, radio and television

The sample contains more than 15,000 news stories and more than 40,000 people. It is relatively evenly divided among the three news media, although the largest proportion of both stories and people, by a small margin, is from television.



Regional differences

Regions of the world differ substantially in the proportion of stories that are local, national, and international in scope.







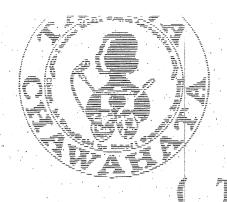
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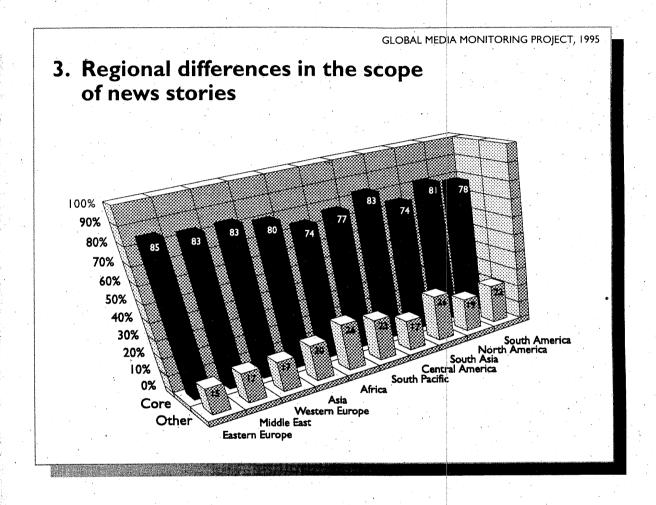
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The amount of local versus other news in a region does not greatly affect the types of news stories that appear. Stories can be divided into the traditional "core" news topics (politics, economics, crime, wars, and so on), and "other" stories (entertainment, social

issues, health, and so on). The ten regions are quite similar in their emphasis on the two types of news, with an average 79 percent of stories being traditional core news and 21 percent being other topics.



SECTION 5 The presence of women in news

The past 30 to 40 years have seen a steady increase in the number of female journalists, and a slow, uncertain increase in the proportion of women who are interviewed in news stories. Chart 4 shows the stage that these trends have reached in 1995 on the global scale.

"Journalists" includes reporters, news announcers, and newspaper photographers. "Interviewees" are all people who speak on radio and television programs, as well as people who are mentioned or quoted in newspaper stories.

Women comprise 43 percent of journalists, and at least in some regions of the world, are nearing parity with men. On the other hand, women comprise only 17 percent of interviewees; parity with men is a distant prospect in any region of the world. News is more often being presented by women, but it is still very rarely about women.

The presence of women differs in the three news media, across the ten regions of the

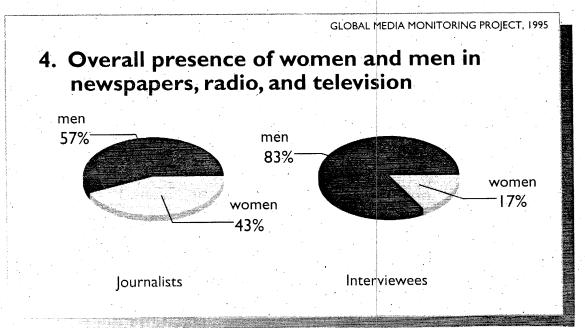
world, and in the different types of news stories. Details are described in following sections.

Presence of women in different regions

The most striking result among journalists is in South Asia, where 68 percent of journalists are female. In fact, this result is most indicative of India, with 71 percent female journalists.

Pakistan reports 37 percent female journalists and Sri Lanka 52 percent female journalists. India is the only country in the study in which women form a solid majority of journalists. Women are a majority of journalists on Indian radio and television — a slight majority on national radio and television news programs, and a substantial majority on local radio and television news. In newspapers, India is similar to other countries in that a majority of journalists are male.

Where India has the largest number of female journalists, it has among the smallest proportions of female interviewees, 10 percent.



Excluding India from the global picture changes the estimate of both journalists and interviewees. The global averages without India are 36 percent female journalists and 19 percent female interviewees.

Singapore, Tanzania, New Zealand and Zimbabwe show a similar trend, however the sample of data from these countries are relatively small, and the results may not be representative.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

2. Gender of journalists and interviewees by region

	Journalists Interv			nterviewees	viewees		
Region	% Female	% Male	Base	% Female	% Male	Base	
Asia	36	64	2,167	14	86	3,319	
South Asia	68	32	3,223	13	87	5,218	
Africa	33	68	918	22	78	1,597	
Middle East	43	57	637	14	86	998	
Eastern Europe	37	63	701	15	85	1,018	
Western Europe	37	63	2,608	16	84	4,987	
North America	38	62	2,762	27	72	4,056	
Central America, Caribbean	29	71	424	21	79	569	
South America	31	69	1,717	15	85	3,054	
South Pacific	45	55	303	20	80	418	
Total	43	57	15,460	17	83	25,234	

Presence of women in different news media

Among journalists, fewer women tend to be found in newspapers than on radio or television.

Newspapers have the lowest proportion of female journalists in 7 of the 10 regions, all except Central and South America and the South Pacific, where in each case, radio has the fewest female journalists.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

3. Gender of journalists and interviewees in three media

Journalists					Interviewees		
Media	% Fe	male	% Male	Base	% Female	% Male	Base
Newspape	ers	25	75	1,757	16	84	11,763
Radio		48	52	5,321	15	85	5,460
Television		43	57	8,381	21	79	8,012
Total		43	57	15,459	17	83	23,235

Newspaper photographers

The gender of newspaper photographers was coded, whenever this information was available. News service photos and photos from certain other sources may not be credited to

an individual. Of the 340 credits where the gender of the photographer was apparent, 34 or 10 percent referred to women. This sample is too small to provide a useful regional breakdown.

SECTION 6 Scope of story

Local news is of interest to people in a single community or region within a country, for example, a city election. National news affects the country as a whole, and international/foreign news has implications beyond the country.

There has been a tendency in the past for women to be portrayed most often in local news, less often in national and foreign news. This has been true of both reporters and interviewees.

The global survey shows that there is no meaningful difference between female and male reporters in this regard women and men

participate to almost the same extent in reporting local, national, and international news.

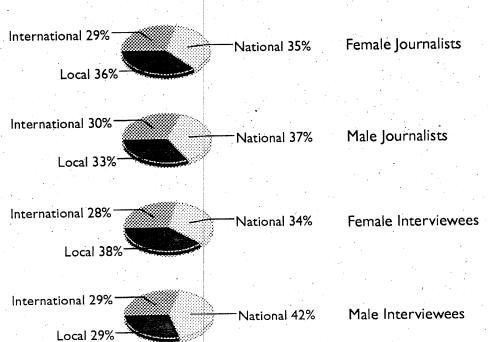
There is a difference among interviewees: women appear more often in local news, men appear more often in national news. This result derives, at least in part, from the media's extensive coverage of politics, which, in most countries, is dominated by men.

Scope of story by region

Table 4 presents the proportions of women and men who appear as journalists and interviewees in local, national and international news for each of the ten regions.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

5. Percentage of people who appear in local, national, and international stories







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Bolivia





bringing the truth to light!

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Singapore

Israel

Uruguay

Nepal



Guatemala

4. Gender in local, national and international stories, by region

			t of Wo			Percen	t of Me	n	
			ME				Inco		
		4	Aria Chi	Ari.	•	local 16	Age The	Ari.	
Region	Role	(OCS)	International Transfer of the Intern	ONAL	A ASE	OCA	Onal	na/	A ASE
								20	
Asia	Journalists	27	38	35	770	28	44	28	1,351
	Interviewees	38	40	22	472	22	47	31	2,827
South Asia	Journalists	39	37	23	2,168	34	33	33	1,039
	Interviewees	35	35	31	693	30	45	25	4,490
Africa	Journalists	23	35	42	294	25	49	27	611
	Interviewees	21	42	. 37	338	26	47	28	1,195
Middle East	Journalists	13	55	32	274	20	42	57	- 361
	Interviewees	7	67	26	137	14	57	29	845
Eastern Europe	Journalists	18	42	41	260	11	44	45	432
	Interviewees	16	54	30	146	7	58	35	852
Western Europe	Journalists	20	35	45	927	16	38	46	1,617
	Interviewees	23	33	44	769	13	43	44	4,14
North America	ournalists	54	25	21	1,023	51	30	19	1,617
	Interviewees	53	27	20	1,093	52	29	18	2,880
Central America	Journalists	24	38	38	123	33	31	36	298
	Interviewees	25	40	34	121	23	44	34	442
South America	Journalists	58	28	. 15	529	52	30	18	1,172
	Interviewees	61	20	18	458	49	33	. 18	2,58
South Pacific	ournalists	22	41	37	134	25	29	46	16!
	Interviewees	34	30	37	80	28	34	39	320
	IIICI TICTICCS	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	30	3,				-	
Total	Journalists	36	35	29	6,501	33	37	30	8,71
	Interviewees	38	34	28	4,309	29	42	29	20,582

Subject of news story

Female and male interviewees tend to be concentrated in stories on different news topics. The largest proportion of male interviewees, 29 percent, appear in stories on politics and government, while the largest proportion of female interviewees appears in stories on dis-

asters/accidents (20 percent of female interviewees) and on crime (17 percent of female interviewees).

The Kobe earthquake was the central story in the world's media on January 18, 1995, the day that monitoring took place. This event was, of course, unanticipated, and the coding system

does not allow precise identification of stories that cover the quake. It is possible, however, to identify stories about accidents/disasters that occur outside one's own country. This category includes disasters other than Kobe, for example, an avalanche in Iceland that occurred the same day. (In the Japanese data, of course the Kobe quake is identified under the category of "accidents/ disasters within one's own country".)

Removing this group of stories, mainly dealing with the Kobe earthquake, drops the accident/disaster category from second place in the list of subjects to fourth place. This ranking of accidents/disasters would be more characteristic of a "typical" news day.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

5. Distribution of women and men across subject areas

	Journalists			Interviewees				
Subject	% Female	% Male		% Fem	ale	% Male		
Politics, government	20	18				29		
Disasters, accidents	16	20			20	14		
Crime, legal stories	10	12			17	12		
Economy, business	10	11			5	10		
Arts, entertainment	9	3			8	4		
Social issues	6	4			. 8	4		
Sports	4	7			6	6		
Health, medicine	4	4			7	3		
War, terrorism	3	4			2	4		
Labour issues, strikes	2	.3			2	2		
Religious issues	2	2			2	2		
National defence, treat	ies etc.	2			2	2		
Environment	2	2			I.	1		
Science	2	I			2	1		
Housing	1	1			1			
Human rights	1				1.	1		
Riots, demonstrations	1							
International crises, UN	1 L				1	1		
Other topics	6	4			4	3		
Total	100	100			100	100		
Base	6,592	8,843		4,	378	20,822		

Table 6 shows the relative proportion of women and men within each subject area. For example, in stories about politics and government, 7 percent of interviewees are female and 93 percent are male.

Results are ordered beginning with stories having the greatest number of female

interviewees. Ordering results according to the participation of female journalists would lead to a rather different hierarchy of results. This indicates that there is not a strong relationship between the types of stories that women cover as journalists and the types of stories in which women appear as interviewees.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

6. Proportion of women and men in each subject area

	Journalists				Interviewees		
Subject % Fen	nale	% Male	% Fe	male	% Male -		
Health, medicine	39	61		33	67		
Social issues	55	45		33	67		
Arts, entertainment	67	33		31	69		
Housing	38	62		29	71		
Disasters, accidents	38	62		24	76		
Crime, legal stories	40	60		22	78		
Science	64	36		22	78		
Human rights	42	58		20	80		
Religious issues	47	53		19	81		
Riots, demonstrations	47	53		18	82		
Sports	29	71		18.	82		
Environment	47	53		16	84		
Labour issues, strikes	37	63		16	84		
National defence, treaties, etc	33	67		13	87		
International crises, UN	32	68		12	88		
War, terrorism	38	62		10	90		
Economy, business	40	60		9	91		
Politics, government	44	56		7	93		
Other	51	49	, .	22	78		
Total percent	43	57		17	83		
Base	5,592	8,843	1.	4,378	20,822		

Coverage of traditional "core" news

News stories can be divided into a group of core news subjects and a group of other, less central subjects. Approximately three-quarters of news stories are core news, one quarter of stories are other news:

Core subjects

- Crime, legal stories
- Disasters, accidents
- Economy, business
- International crises, refugee situations
- · Labour issues, strikes
- National defence, arms treaties
- Politics, government

- · Riots, demonstrations
- Sports
- War, terrorism

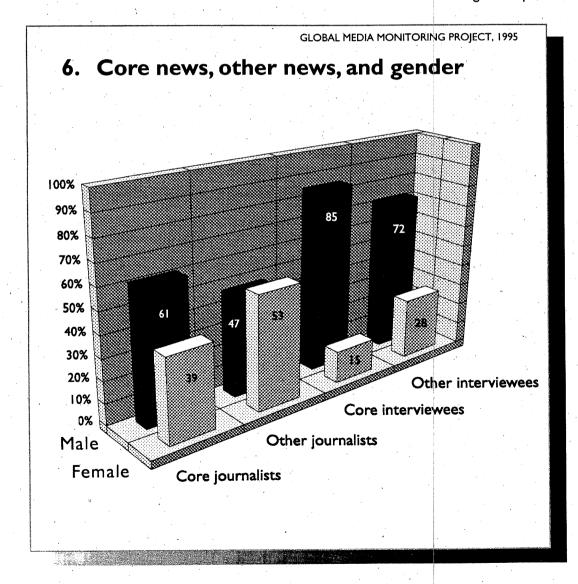
Other subjects

- Arts, entertainment
- Environment, pollution
- · Health, medicine
- Housing
- · Human rights
- Science
- Social issues, e.g., education

The question is whether female reporters and female interviewees are more associated with one type of news than the other. On a global level this is indeed the case, (although some regions depart from the global pattern).

Among journalists, almost equal numbers of women and men cover other stories (53 percent of the journalists in other stories are female), but more men than women cover core stories (39 percent of the journalists in core stories are female).

Among interviewees, women are almost twice as likely to appear in other news stories as in core stories.



Note: Among journalists, there are significant gender differences in the coverage of core and other stories in four regions: South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Western Europe. Among interviewees, significant differences occur in seven regions: South Asia, Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, North, Central and South America.

5.00 Snídaně s Novou\T©7

8.30 Dinosaurové Tony bažin (50)

19 55 Voi patell

9.00 Expedice Nova Tradični svět islámu Poznáni (5)

19.30 M.A.S.H. (133) Americký komediální seriál

Ghana

0.00 Hi Zavět 0.55 Sá

1.45 Šā Švāis

(Pren

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5.55 **Yox popul**i

6.00 **Zlaté hity** Světová molodia

Světové melodie, při kterých zaručeně omládnete

7.00 Expedice Nova

Z cyklu dokumentů televize Nového Zélandu

7.30 Agent Smart (18)



(学) (Ceske Nézávislá televizní společnost

COID Water

10.00 Bylo nás pět (2/6) Anděliček policajt Seriál na motivy známého humoristického románu K. Poláčka (50 min)

11.00 S**-Hagazin** Najočano nadoraz

11.35 **Hedéní ztraceného času** Z historie vzducholodí Připravili K. Čáslavský a P. Vantuch (1993)

12.00 **Zpráty**

12.05 Kultura 95

Dûm kultury v Ostravě-Porubě aneb Co s pomníkem na sídlišti (Ostrava)

12.15 Klakánka

Věci, o kterých chcete hovořit

(Ostava) 13.05 Video1a (The Too Ta

10.00 Vysini 10.00 Vysini 10.00 Vysini 10.00 Vysini

o cyklu

14.30 Historia Bulgaria

O komunikaci a působení na lidi

15.00 Sergievakij pozed Návštěva významného poutního místa ruského pravoslaví

15.15 Star Trek: Nová generace (18/26)



SECTION 7

Issues of concern to women

The subject of a story does not indicate whether that story discusses issues of particular concern to women. A story on health, for example, may or may not present a woman's perspective.

In an effort to learn what prominence is given to issues of concern to women by the world's media, a set of ten such issues was defined, and participants indicated whether each of these issues was present or absent in each news story.

Overall, 11 percent of news stories present women's issues. It is difficult to say what the figure ought to be. A story that contains no issues of particular interest to women is not necessarily a "men's story" — most news stories are probably of general interest, for example the results of an election, a scientific discovery, or a change in interest rates.

Differences among news media

There is a small difference in the number of stories on women's issues carried in the three media. Newspapers had the largest proportion of these stories, 15 percent, followed by radio, 10 percent and television, 9 percent.

Regional differences

Three regions, North America, Africa and the Middle East report considerably more stories on women's issues than other areas.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

7. Issues of interest and concern to women

Percent of stories in which women's issues are:

Issue	Pı	resent	Not present
Changing roles of women		3	97
Violence against women, harassment	* ,	3	97
Portrayal of women in the media		2	98
Women's wages, working conditions		2	98
Women's health	•	2	98
Education and training for women		. 1	99
Birth control		1	99
Child care			99
Minority women	•	1	99
Women with disabilities		< [~]	99
Other issues of concern to women		2	98
Total: Stories with any issue of conce	ern to women		89

Base: 15,530 stories

Note: Some stories discuss several issues of concern to women. The total of 11 percent is therefore less than the sum of the individual issues.

In African media, four issues received prominent treatment. "Changing roles of women" was discussed in 6 percent of stories, "Education and training for women" in 6 percent, "Women's health" in 6 percent, and "Child care" in 5 percent.

In Middle Eastern media, "Changing roles of women" was discussed in 6 percent of stories, "The role of women in the media" in 9 percent, and "Women's wages and working conditions" in 7 percent of stories.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

8. Stories containing issues of concern to women, by region

Percent of stories in which women's issues are:

stories.

Region	Present	Not present
North America	20	80
Africa	16	84
Middle East	16	84
Central America, Caribbean	. 11	89
South Pacific	10	90
Western Europe	9.	91
Asia	8	92
South Asia	8	92
Eastern Europe	8	92
South America	6	94
Total	11	89

Base: 15,530 news stories

SECTION 8 Victims

Twenty-nine percent of female interviewees are victims of accidents, crimes or other events. Only 10 percent of male interviewees are victims.

This may give rise to the impression that the media play on female victims, or that they "victimize" women. The results of this survey demand a very different conclusion: there are, if anything, too few female victims in the news. If they seem numerous, it is because women who are not victims are under-represented to an even greater degree than women who are victims.

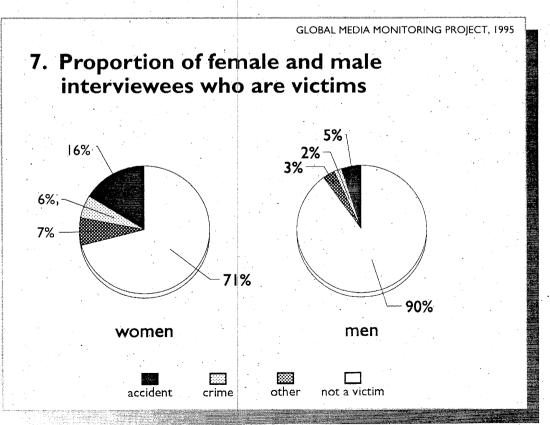
If women and men are equally likely to become victims, then media reports should portray equal numbers of female and male victure is appropriate to the contract of the second second second second second second second sec

tims. It may be that men experience more accidents as a result of working in certain high-risk occupations, or because in some countries they spend more time than women driving automobiles, and so on. If so, a slight majority of victims may be men. Nevertheless, we should expect to find similar numbers of women and men falling victim to events, and being so portrayed in media accounts.

The fact is that only 38 percent of all victims appearing in the media are women while 62 percent are men. Among victims of accidents and disasters, 39 percent of victims are women. The large majority of men calls for an

explanation — are men really victims so much more often than women, or do the media find the type of events in which men happen to be involved more newsworthy than those in which women are involved? A definitive answer to this question requires more detailed information than is available in this survey. The phenomenon, however, appears universal, in that women are a minority of victims in all ten regions of the world.

If women appear over-represented as victims, it is only because they are under-represented even more severely in other areas of media coverage. Women account for 38 percent of victims, but only 14 percent of all other interviewees.



GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

9. Victims of accident, crime, and other events Gender of interviewee

Type of victim		Women	Men
Accident, disaster			
	Number of victims Percent	717 39	1142 61
Crime		259 44	326 54
Other events, e.g., political oppression		288 32	624 68
Victims of all kinds		1,264 38	2,092 62
Not victims		3118 14	18,761 18

Victims in 10 regions

The earthquake in Kobe, Japan on January 17, 1995 dominated news on the day of monitoring. Because of its prominence in media coverage, Table 10 presents regional results on people portrayed as victims twice, first for all news and second with coverage of the earthquake excluded.

While pictures of the earthquake filled newspapers and television reports, the number of victims who were interviewed was relatively small. Many of the interviewees were rescue workers and officials, rather than victims.

In most regions, earthquake coverage has a small but noticeable effect on the number of women portrayed as victims; there are

more female

vict

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

10. Proportion of interviewees who are portrayed as victims in ten regions

	All news Earthquake exclu				
% of Women	% of Men	%	of Women	% of Men	
59	15		43	10	
12	5		11	4	
27	16		26	16	
26	П		21	П	
18	4		18	4	
30	9		22	7	
26	9		24	8	
ribbean 24	- 11		24	9	
28	, 11		23	10	
28	1	. * .	19	7	
29	10		22	8	
4,381	20,853		3,807	18,913	
	12 27 26 18 30 26 4 28 28 28	% of Women % of Men 59 15 12 5 27 16 26 11 18 4 30 9 26 9 aribbean 24 11 28 11 28 11 29 10	% of Women % of Men % 59 15 12 5 27 16 26 11 18 4 30 9 26 9 4 11 28 11 28 11 29 10	% of Women % of Men % of Women 59 15 43 12 5 11 27 16 26 26 11 21 18 4 18 30 9 22 26 9 24 26 9 24 28 11 23 28 11 19 29 10 22	

victims when the earthquake coverage is included than when it is excluded. Earthquake coverage has almost no effect on the proportion of men who are portrayed as victims, except in Asia, where the proportion increases from 10 percent with quake stories excluded to 15 percent with earthquake stories included.

소대통령 고등군시서 함칙 수 활



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Senegal
Hungary
Western Samoa
Thailand
Russia





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SECTION 9

Praise and accusations

Do the media mete out accusations and praise differently to women and men? There is little difference in the overall proportions of female and male interviewees who receive either praise or blame. Eight percent of women and nine percent of men in the sample were accused of wrong, while nine percent of women and seven percent of men were praised.

These patterns of praise and blame for women and men are highly consistent across levels of age, different occupations, and regions of the world.

Leaving gender aside, people in some occupational groups are more often praised or blamed than people in other groups. The range is shown below. It is interesting to note that the three largest and most influential occupational groups — government spokespersons, politicians and professionals — receive the least evaluative coverage.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

11. Interviewees accused of wrongdoing

Type of accusation	% of Women	nen % of Men	
Against the governme	nt 3	5	
Other accusations	5	5	
Not accused of wrong	92	90	
Total	100	100	
Base	4,381	20,853	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

12. Interviewees receiving praise

e of praise % of Women	
9	7
81	93
100	100
4,376	20,849
	9 81 100

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995

13. Praise and blame in occupational groups

Percent of interviewees who are:

Occupation P	raised	Blamed	Neither	Base
Criminal	0	77	23	300
Unemployed, homeless	3	39	58	36
Celebrity, artist, entertainer	29	9	62	872
Athlete	24	4	72	1,075
Religious leader	19	6	75	471
Police, military	6	17	77	910
Trades person	8	14	78	503
Student	17	4	79	441
Other	8	13	79	461
Retired, pensioner	9	10	81	150
Office, retail	2	15	83	345
Homemaker	6	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	83	309
No occupation stated	. 3		86	3,024
Judge, court official	8	5	87	539
Professional: executive, lawyer etc	. 7	6	87	4,281
Politician	4	8	88	8,888
Government spokesperson	2	7	91	2,629
Total	7	9	84	25,234

Note: 0.3 percent of interviewees were both praised and blamed. They are included with those blamed in this table.

SECTION 10 Occupation

The occupations of women and men in the news differ in two very striking ways:

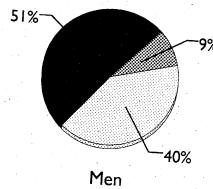
- Politicians and government spokespersons account for 19 percent of women and 51 percent of men;
- People whose occupation is unspecified account for 28 percent of women and 9 percent of men.

The large proportion of men involved in

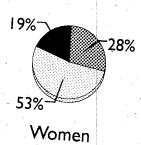
government and politics accords with experience, but why is no occupation specified for such a high proportion of women? Approximately half of all people without occupations are victims of accidents, of crime or of other events. In many accident situations, the victim's occupation may be unknown or may not be relevant to the news story. Because women appear in the news as victims more frequently than men, they are more frequently portrayed with no specified occupation.

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT, 1995 8. Number of interviewees in three occupational groups

Based on 20,843 interviewees



Based on 4,381 interviewees



politicians

all other occupations no specific occupation

14. Distribution of female and male interviewees across occupations

Occupation	% of Women	%	of Men
No occupation state	d 28		9
Professional	18	٠.	17
Politician	14		40
Homemaker	7		_
Celebrity, artist, ente	ertainer 6	,	3
Government spokes	person 5		11
Athlete	5		4
Student	5		1
Other	3		2
Office, retail	2		1
Trades person	2		2
Police, military			4
Judge, court official	. 1.		2
Religious leader	1		2
Retired, pensioner	1		<
Criminal	1		
Unemployed, homel	ess <		<
Total	100		100
Base	4,381		20,853

Occupational results are presented in two ways. Table 14 shows the distribution of women and men across occupations. Table 15 shows the composition of each occupation by gender.

15. Female and male interviewees in different occupational groups

Occupation	% who are women	% who are men	Base	
Homemaker	97	3	309	
Student	46	54	441	
Retired, pensioner	42	58	150	
No occupation stated	d 41	59	3,024	
Office, retail	30	70	345	
Celebrity, artist, enter	rtainer 29	71	. 872	
Unemployed, homele	ss 29	71	36	
Other	29	71	461	
Athlete	19	81	1,075	
Professional	18	82	4,281	
Trades person	18	82	503	
Criminal	13.	87	300	
Religious leader	П	89	471	
Government spokesp	erson 9	91	2,629	
Judge, court official	8	92	539	
Politician	7	93	8,888	
Police, military	6	94	910	
Total	17	83	25,234	

SECTION 11

Age

The data on interviewees include the apparent age of people appearing in newspapers and on television. On television, each interviewee is seen, and age can be readily assigned to most interviewees.

In newspapers, age information can sometimes be gathered from reporters' descriptions of the interviewee, from photographs, or in the case of well-known figures such as a head of government, the individual's age may be known to all. The age of the interviewee was coded for just over one-third of all newspaper interviewees.

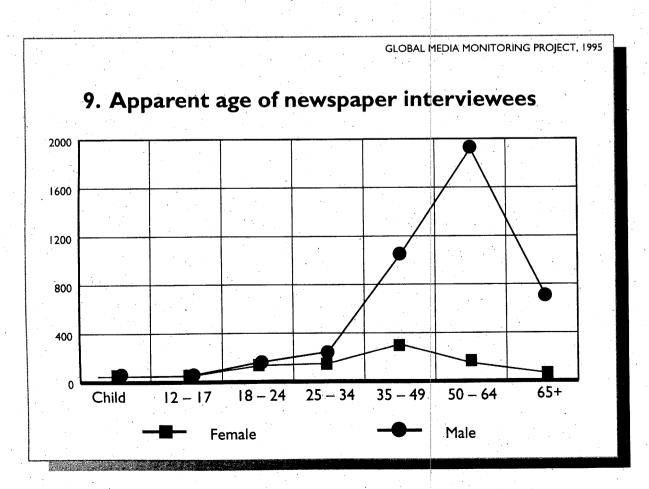
The age of most interviewees on radio is not known, and no attempt was made to record

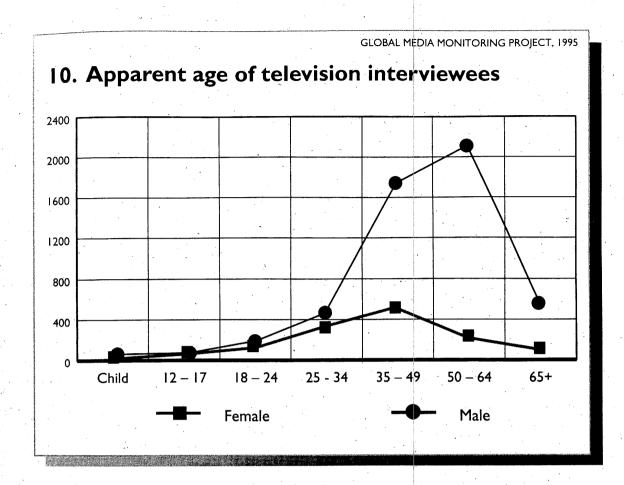
the age of radio interviewees.

A consistent pattern of age and gender has been documented in numerous analyses of the media in past decades. In brief:

- Below a certain age, usually about 35 years old, there are similar numbers of women and men.
- Above the age of about 35 years, there are several times as many men as women.

The results of this global survey adhere closely to this pattern.





Age of interviewees

The numbers of women and men are similar in each age group up to 35 years. There are three times as many men as women in the 35 – 49 year group, and 14 times as many men as women in the 50 – 64 year old group.

The age profile of television interviewees is very similar to that of newspaper interviewees. There are similar numbers of women and men up to about age 34, while above this age there are 5 times as many men as women. The following chapter identifies the source of this difference.

SECTION 12

Age, gender and influence

Examining Table 15 shows that occupations that are conventionally associated with lesser power and influence tend to have relatively high proportions of female interviewees. Occupations such as office workers and retired people have larger proportions of women, while occupations such as politician and police/military have large proportions of men.

Power and influence are also associated with age as well as with gender. Older interviewees, those above 35 years of age, tend to be found in positions of high power and influence more frequently than younger people.

This chapter examines the degree to which interviewees in positions of influence are concentrated among older males.

To begin with, the 16 occupations defined in the study are divided into higher- and lower-influence groups ²:

Occupations traditionally associated with higher power and influence

- Politicians
- Government spokespeople
- Police and military
- · Judges, court officials
- Religious leaders

 Professionals: executives, doctors, lawyers, etc.

Occupations traditionally associated with lower power and influence

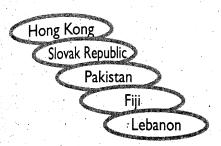
- Office workers, retail employees
- Trades persons
- · Celebrities, artists, entertainers
- Athletes
- Homemakers
- Students
- Retired
- Unemployed, homeless
- People with no specified occupation

A glance at Chart II shows how older men in higher influence occupations dominate the news. In fact, this group constitutes 55 percent of all interviewees. Results from newspaper and television have been combined, as they are exactly parallel. Age and gender combine in the following manner:

In higher-influence occupations:

- There are few interviewees of either gender in the 18 - 34 year group;
- There are ten times more men than women in the 35+ group.

This grouping omits two occupational categories comprising 4 percent of interviewees – criminals and people coded as having "other" occupations. Neither of these can clearly be defined as either high or low in influence.





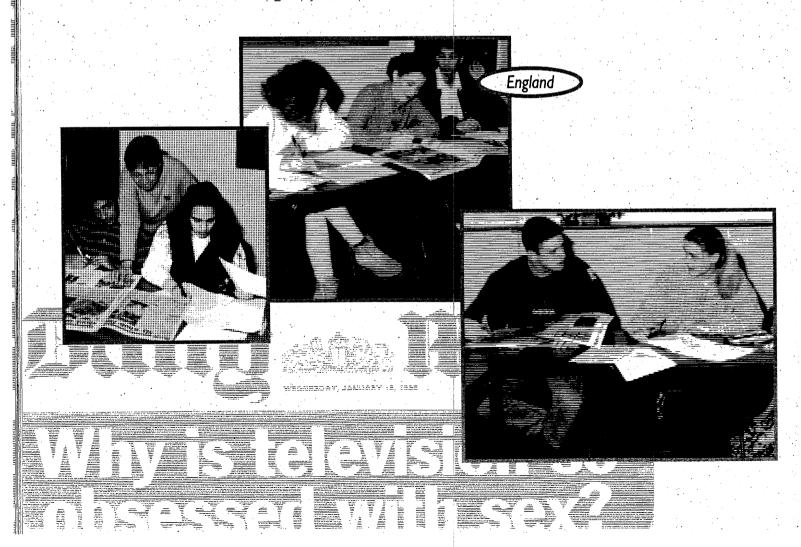


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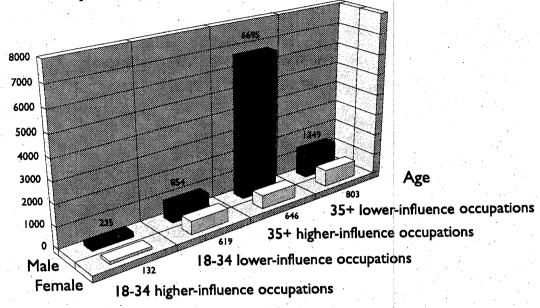


Odette Ndoumbe (CANEROUN)





11. Age and gender of interviewees in higher-influence and lower-influence occupations



In lower-influence occupations:

- The numbers of older and younger interviewees are evenly balanced. (Given that the 18-34 year group encompasses a span of 16 years and the older age group a span of more than 30 years, there are slightly more younger adults than would be expected on the basis of chance alone.)
- The numbers of women and men are more evenly balanced than in the higher influence occupations; there are approximately twothirds as many women as men.

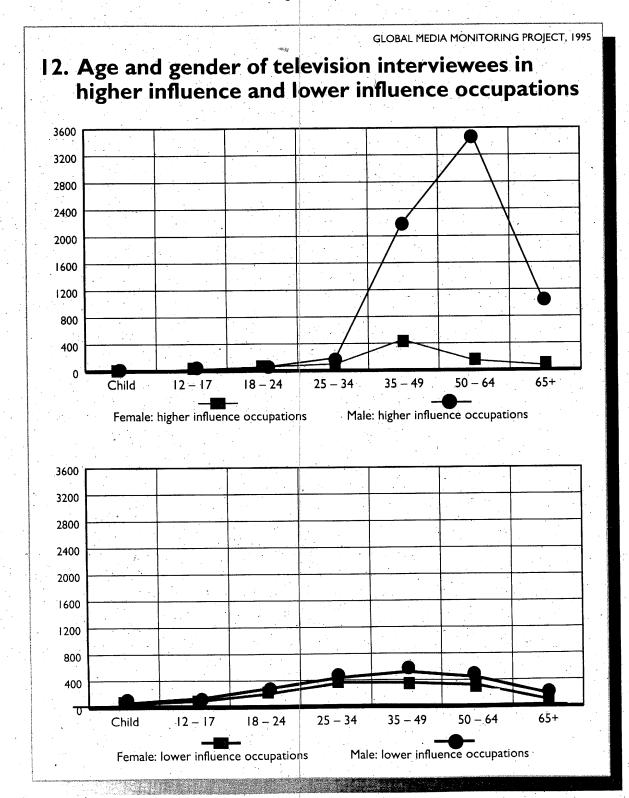
When power is the issue, news focuses almost exclusively on older males. When power is not

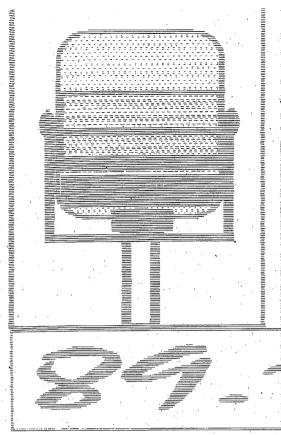
at stake, news portrays as many young adults as older adults, and it portrays almost as many women as men. While the numerical balance of women and men is not quite equal, it is close; the number of women in the lower-influence occupations in Chart 12 is two-thirds the number of men.

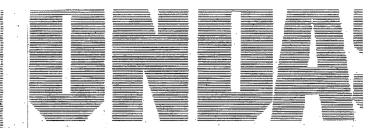
It is important to make clear that this analysis deals with the numbers of women and men in lower-influence groups as a whole. Certain individual lower-influence occupations have a majority of women; others have a majority of men. The gender composition of the different occupational groups is shown in Table 15.

Chart 12 shows the age profile for higher and lower influence occupations. This contains essentially the same information as Chart 11, but with age expanded into 7 groups to match Charts 9 and 10. It is evident that the huge

numerical imbalance between women and men in the news is almost entirely due to men aged 35 and over who occupy positions of power and influence.











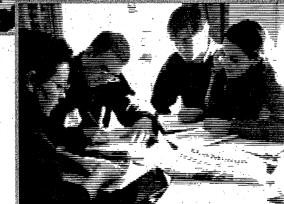
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SECTION 13 Future Directions

How can a more equitable balance be achieved in the portrayal of women in the world's news media? It is evident that gender differences are linked to power and influence, and any attempt at achieving equality in the news media must address this dynamic. Four approaches are outlined.

1. Shift media emphasis

The news media can shift their attention away from the traditional events of politics, government, and business to cover other areas in which women participate more fully. The relatively small proportion of women's issues in the news suggests that there is room to move in this direction. A shift of this nature does not necessarily mean that the media abandon their interest in power and influence. Rather the media should broaden their search and achieve greater inclusiveness and diversity.

2. Increase access to power and decision-making

Women can be given the opportunity to participate more fully in traditionally male-dominated areas of society. This study establishes the fact that women are participating as journalists in the world's media, but participation in politics, business, the economy and so on is much lower.

3. Address policies and regulations

Regulation may facilitate the process. Several countries have extensive regulations and guidelines that encourage or direct media (radio and television, rarely newspapers) to achieve an equitable gender balance in their programming, in their hiring practices, or both. This report is not the forum to debate the merits of regulation, and it is a controversial matter whether regulations have a significant impact. Canada has possibly the strongest such regulations of any country in the world, and one indication of success can be found in a 1992 study of television news on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The age profiles of female and male interviewees were parallel, i.e., there was not a significant "hump" due to older men. While there were more male interviewees overall, the link between gender, age and influence was eliminated.

4. Conduct ongoing analysis

Countries individually and collectively can continue to analyze the portrayal of gender in their media in order to pinpoint areas requiring change, to assess the effectiveness of strategies, and to develop an empirical, scientific basis for increasing the participation of women in mass media.

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[◆] These countries belong to the South American network coordinated by Gloria Bonder of Argentina.

APPENDIX B News Monitoring Guide

As mentioned in the introduction, one of the aims of this project has been to encourage media monitoring on an international level. Our hope is that this project will lay the seeds for future monitoring projects on a local or regional level as well as foster further global cooperation.

MediaWatch would like to encourage organizations and individuals to continue to work on media and gender issues and monitor the media in their lives. The News Monitoring Guide is a tool that can be adapted for future projects.

The Guide is a 32 page document which was used by all the participating countries on January 18, 1995 to monitor their news media.

The document contains information on organizing volunteers and equipment; which news to monitor; how much news to monitor; and how to monitor the news. Easy to follow coding guides and coding grids are included in three stand-alone sections for television, radio and newspapers. An example of a completed coding grid and explanation is included in each section.

If you would like to monitor the news media in your life, you may order a copy of the News Monitoring Guide and coding grids from MediaWatch at Suite 204 - 517 Wellington St. W., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5V 1G1, Tel: (416) 408-2065, Fax: (416) 408-2069, E-mail: mediawat@web.apc.org.

