

A Nepal Press Institute publication

National Survey Report 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on **journalism** in Nepal

Chindu Sreedharan, Einar Thorsen,
Laxman Upreti and Shreeman Sharma



Survey coordinated by Bournemouth University
and Nepal Press Institute

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First published 2020 by Nepal Press Institute, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu

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978-9937-0-7536-7 [print softcover]

978-9937-0-7534-3 [eBook-PDF English]

978-9937-0-7535-0 [eBook-PDF Nepali]

BIC Subject Classification: KNT / KNTJ / DNJ / RNR / 1FKN

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Cover design: Quilt 365

Content design: Rabin Sayami

Cover photographs: Angad Dhakal, Kantipur Publication; Kajal Tamang, Radio Namobuddha

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With contributions from: **Patrick Ward**

Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the hard work of several individuals and institutions across Nepal. We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following:

From the Nepal Press Institute (NPI), Neil Kantha Uprety (president), Tirtha Koirala (former president), Montesswori Rajbhandari (vice-president), Laxman Humagain (general secretary), and Nita Sapkota (treasurer); board members Kapil Afle, Mohan Nepali, and Pushkar Mathema; and Punya Poudel (senior journalist, Gandaki Province), Birendra Sharma, and Aman Ansari (regional media resource centre managers).

From the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), Govinda Acharya (president), Hiranya Joshi, and all central committee members and chapter officials.

Neeta Pandit, president, Sancharika Samuha.

Nirjana Sharma, programme coordinator at UNESCO Kathmandu.

Members of the Working Women Journalists.

Members of the Disaster Journalism Network (DJN), in particular Amika Rajthala and Durga Adhikari.

Shiva Gaunle and Avasna Pandey of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, Nepal.

Abhas Rajopadhyaya of the Kantipur City College, Kathmandu.

Colleagues at Nepal Television, National News Agency, Radio Nepal, and Gorkhapatra.

And, most importantly, the hundreds of journalists across Nepal who invested their time in responding to our questions.

Foreword

The global public health crisis of Covid-19 has affected all sectors of the Nepali society. This includes the mass media, particularly journalists. The efforts to contain the spread of the virus have produced adverse impact on news personnel, their way of communication, the overall information flow across the nation, and the functioning of the institutions essential for informing citizens on a regular basis. While there has been much discourse on the impact of Covid-19 in Nepal, a focussed portrait of the effects of the virus on journalists has not been presented so far.

Keeping this in view, the Nepal Press Institute and Bournemouth University of the United Kingdom have undertaken this national survey. Its findings could be described as a testimony of Nepali journalists' grass-root mental state and experiences, and the changes to their working practices amidst the shocks of Covid-19. It records their personal agony, their professional challenges, and the complexities they live and work in. The survey, hence, constitutes a baseline for understanding how the virus affected Nepali journalists. It will help decision-makers and planners to craft policies and programmes essential for enabling Nepali journalists to recover, and continue their role of championing public interest.

Obstacles, hindrances, struggles, challenges, disruptions, disasters, and interferences are nothing new to Nepali journalism. It has a rich history of facing them in different times and always moving forward in a dynamic way. The resilience Nepali journalists have demonstrated in challenging times is notable, and I am sure that this strength will help them triumph over the shocks of the present pandemic as well.

Just before the Covid-19 threat emerged, the Nepali mass media sector was facing a great challenge from the unregulated information flow on various digital and social media platforms. The challenge, which is still present and could remain for some time, represents the tension between the information disseminated by mass media honouring the values of gatekeeping, decency, and public interest, and the information aired by those who post with no regard for such values. Media users are finding themselves lost in an information blizzard, struggling to filter real news from fake news. They have been encountering the same predicament while seeking to learn about the pandemic as well.

With no vaccine to ward off the virus yet and the multi-dimensional impact of the efforts to check its spread being acutely felt, Covid-19 has placed Nepali journalism in uncharted territory. Prevention measures such as lockdown, social distancing, use of face mask, quarantines, test and tracing, and various hygienic rituals are stressful to all those involved. They have resulted in further additions to the mental, physical, and financial pressures felt by individuals, families, and the whole society. Maintaining

the flow of information in such circumstances as per journalistic standards is demanding. However, Nepali media personnel, like other frontline fighters, are working hard to protect the interests of the public, not minding the risks they personally run.

As this survey highlights, Covid-19 is having a notable impact on journalists and the media institutions in Nepal. Journalists in all the seven provinces have been affected mentally and physically. A large number of news workers suffered financial difficulties, and some have lost their jobs altogether. There have been many notable changes to their newsgathering and news dissemination practices, including reduction in broadcast, print, and radio outputs across the country.

This national survey has followed the ethical guidelines of international research, used the latest Information Communication Technology (ICT), honoured social distancing, and included journalists from all seven provinces engaged in print, radio, TV, online, and news agencies. It has made provisions for respondents to express their views on disaster resilience and disaster preparedness. The questionnaire also provided journalists the option to suggest a road-map for journalism education and training in future, particularly in view of disasters and pandemics. This is an important first step in facilitating actionable recommendations that can be implemented by journalists, news organisations, and other stakeholders. In staking out a course for future capacity building, this report also highlights the need for continuous disaster preparedness training to strengthen our collective resilience.

The Nepal Press Institute and Bournemouth University have, through this national survey, conveyed the message that journalists' problems in times of crises can be best understood through their own participation, intervention, and expression. In my opinion, this report provides a rich evidential basis for strengthening the journalistic resources of the Nepali media sector for coping with disasters and pandemics in future.



Rama Krishna Regmee
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Kathmandu*

Executive summary

This rapid response report presents findings from a national survey undertaken to ascertain the impact of Covid-19 on Nepali journalists and their working conditions. Covid-19 spread as Nepal was approaching the fifth anniversary of the devastating 2015 earthquakes, the effects of which can still be felt in the nation. As such, Nepal faces additional economic, cultural, and social pressures because of the global pandemic. This report outlines how national and regional journalists, and news organisations responded to the pandemic, and identifies the training and capacity building requirements of Nepali journalists to strengthen future disaster resilience.

Methodology

The survey was conducted online, using Microsoft Forms, from 10 July to 24 July 2020. A total of 1,134 journalists took part in the survey. This included news personnel working in print, online, broadcast, and radio, as well as news agencies. Broken down by gender, 80.4% (n=912) of our respondents were male and 19.2% (n=218) female, while 0.3% (4) chose 'other'. The survey had responses from all seven provinces of Nepal (see Figure 1), and included both employed and freelance journalists. For more methodological details, please see Appendix 1, available in the online version of this report.

Number of respondents by province

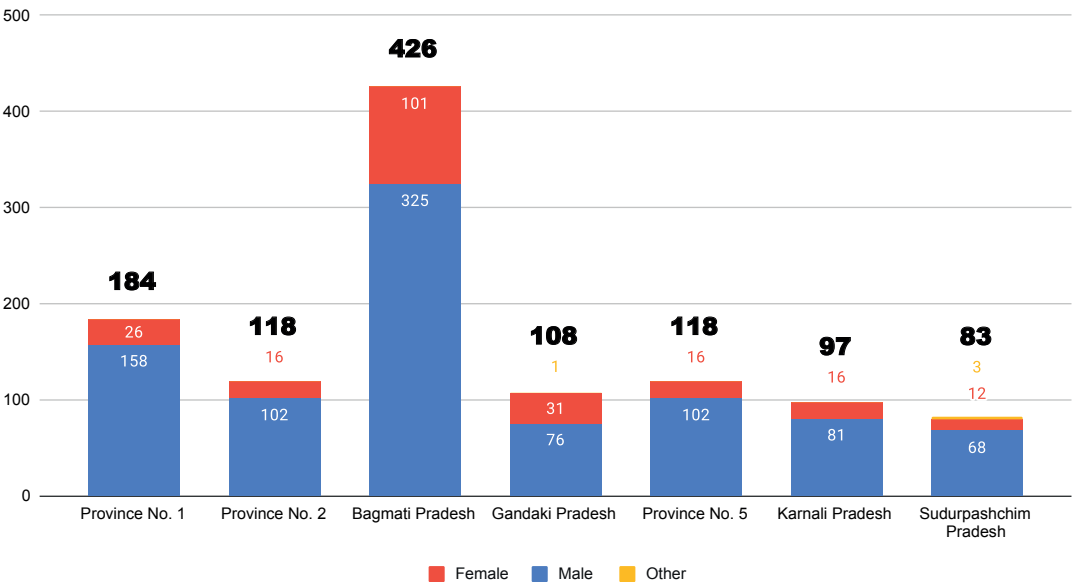


Figure 1

Key findings

Despite the relatively low morbidity rate among Nepali journalists, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a substantial impact on journalists' working practices. The vast majority of our respondents, in all seven provinces, reported significant personal impact as a direct consequence of Covid-19.

- ★ **Covid-19 affected the mental wellbeing of a majority of journalists** in Nepal: 83% reported increased sense of vulnerability, 75% increased anxiety, and 62% grief; 25% reported they experienced depression.
- ★ **74% of journalists have been impacted financially**, with 38% having to take a pay cut, and 6% losing their jobs.
- ★ **66% reported significant changes to their working hours**: 24% were working longer hours, 24% fewer, and 18% on weekends.
- ★ **The pandemic affected newscasts and publishing substantially**. Respondents reported decreased broadcast, video, and audio productions. The print sector saw the reduction of both print frequency and number of pages, and some publications moved to digital-only format.
- ★ Despite Nepal's extreme vulnerability to disasters, including health crises, **most respondents were ill-prepared and ill-trained to face the pandemic**. Overall, the respondents scored -69 on the Net Promoter Scale (see Appendix in online version of this report for details), indicating low disaster preparedness in the news industry; 66% of respondents reported *never* receiving disaster resilience training.
- ★ **Gandaki Pradesh and Province No. 1 were the provinces where journalists were most likely to have received disaster resilience training**. Sudurpaschim Pradesh, followed by Province No. 5 were the areas where they were *least* likely to have received such training.
- ★ Respondents identified **new technologies, investigative reporting, and fact-checking and verification as top priority areas for training** and capacity building. Physical safety aspects, digital safety and security, and editorial preparedness were other key areas.
- ★ **Most journalists preferred future disaster resilience training to be delivered via websites and webinars**. They also showed a preference for physical workshops in their respective provinces.

Personal impact on journalists

We queried journalists on whether they had personally contracted Covid-19. Ninety-eight per cent (n=1,115) of our respondents had not, to their knowledge, been infected by the virus. Just 0.97% (n=11) reported having had the virus, and a further 0.97% (11) responded that someone in their family had been infected with it.

Psychological

However, despite this low morbidity rate, the pandemic had a significant impact on the lives of our respondents, in all provinces, across all sectors (see Figure 2). The majority of the respondents reported being affected by it psychologically.

The most striking concern among 82.6% (n=937) of the respondents was an increased sense of vulnerability, with 30% agreeing strongly and 52.6% agreeing with that statement. Respondents also reported impact of Covid-19 in terms of increased anxiety (74.8% n=848), grief (61.6% n=698), loss of connection from family and friends (37.1% n=421), and sleep deprivation (27.9% n=316).

Importantly, 25% (n=283) of the journalists said they experienced depression as a consequence of Covid-19.

82%
of journalists
experienced an
increased sense of
vulnerability

Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

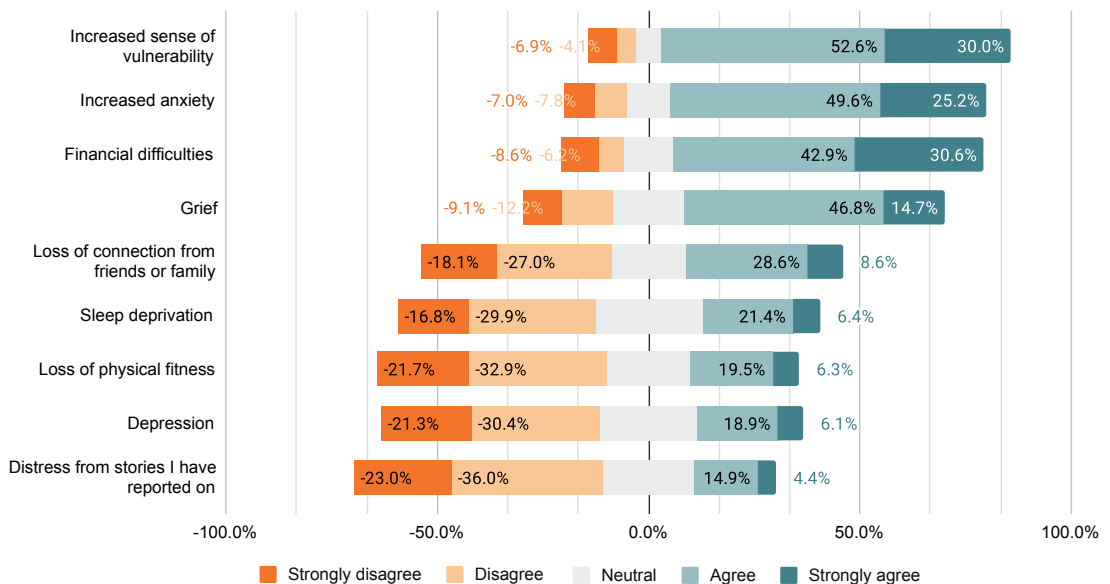


Figure 2

73%
of journalists
experienced
monetary troubles

Financial difficulties

Financial difficulties was the next most cited category of Covid-19 impact among the respondents, with 73.5% (n=834) experiencing monetary troubles. While this was the third most common complaint, financial difficulties had the largest percentage, 30.6%, of those strongly agreeing. Some journalists also highlighted late payment of salaries as a specific challenge that exacerbated their personal financial situation.

Perhaps tellingly, as the incidence rate of Covid-19 in Nepal has been relatively low, those saying they had been distressed by the stories they had reported on was ranked the lowest by respondents, with 59% (n=669) disagreeing and strongly disagreeing with the statement.

Provincial variations: psychological

These trends were noticeable across all provinces, although there were some regional variations. Respondents from Province No. 1, for instance, reported higher rates of vulnerability and anxiety than the national average. Province No. 2, similarly, reported 9.4% *more* respondents experiencing grief, while those in Gandaki Pradesh appeared to be experiencing slightly lower levels of vulnerability and anxiety compared to the national average.

Provincial variations: financial

Bagmati Pradesh, the capital province, showed a slightly lower instance of those concerned with financial difficulties (66.4% n=283) than the national average of 73.5% (n=834). Province No. 5, on the other hand, showed the highest number of financially affected journalists among all provinces, reporting 87.3% (n=103). A detailed breakdown of the provincial variations can be seen in Appendix 2, available in the online version of this report.

Personal impact by gender

The survey gathered responses from 912 male and 218 female journalists, with four respondents selecting 'other' (see Appendix 1 in online version of this report). The two main areas of divergence between men and women respondents in terms of personal impact were mental wellbeing and finance.

Female respondents reported experiencing increased grief, depression, anxiety, and vulnerability than their male counterparts. Specifically, 8.4% *more* female respondents reported they experienced grief (67.9% women, 59.5% men), and 4.8% *more* said they experienced depression (28.9% women, 24.1% men). The percentage of respondents reporting heightened vulnerability and anxiety, too, were higher among women (Figure 3).

In terms of financial difficulties, 74.6% of men either agreed or strongly agreed that their situation was adversely affected by the Covid-19 crisis

Female journalists

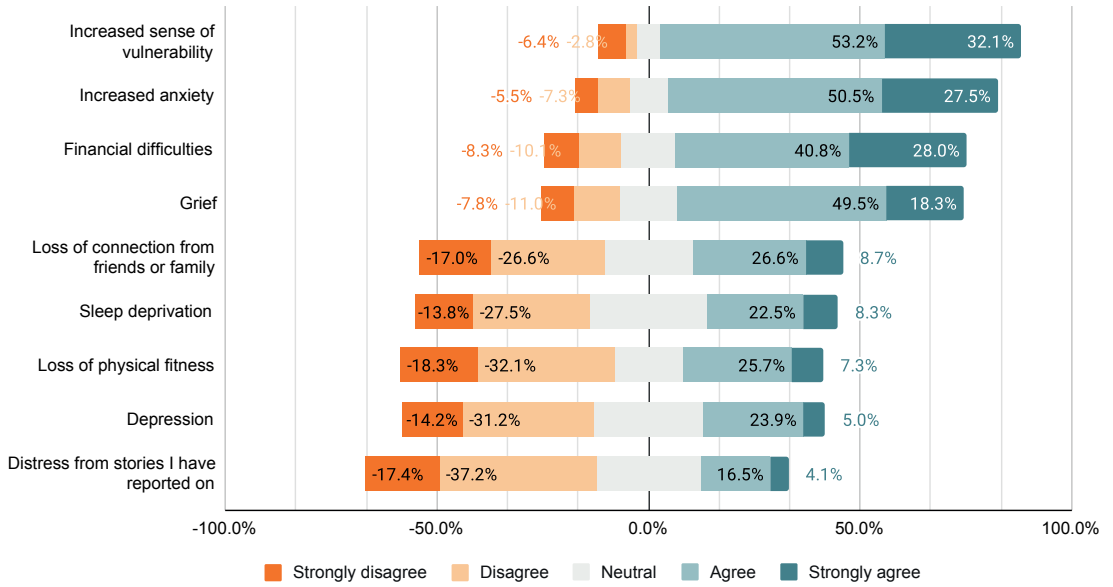


Figure 3

Male journalists

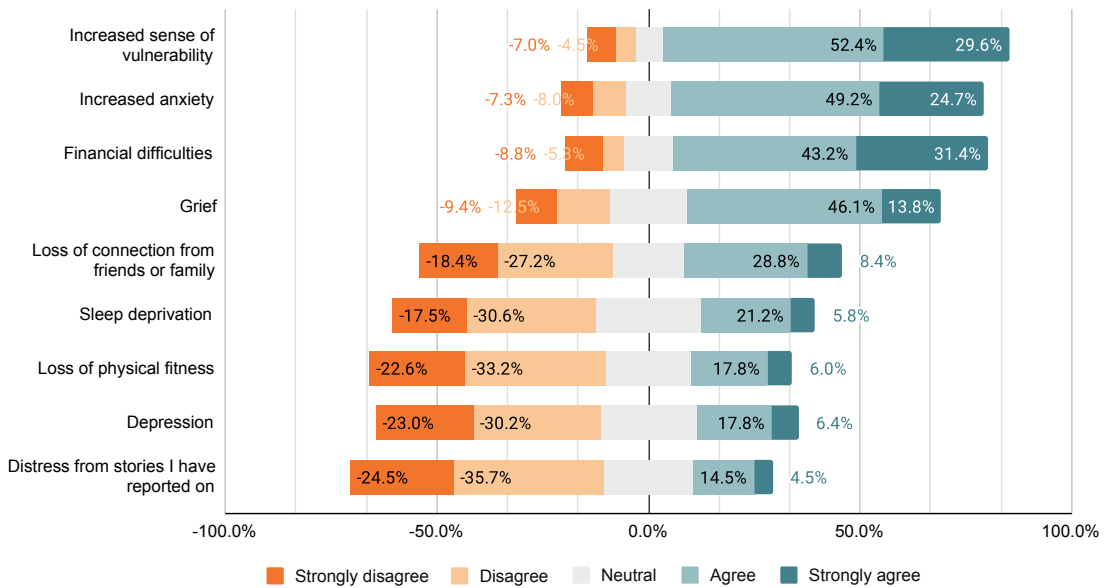


Figure 4

(Figure 4). The proportion of women respondents saying the same was 5.8% lower, at 68.8%.

Women respondents appear to have been more affected than men across other categories as well, with a higher percentage reporting sleep deprivation, distress from stories, loss of physical fitness, and loss of connection from family and friends.

Impact on working conditions

The effects of the Covid-19 crisis were acutely felt by journalists in several professional areas. Job security, working hours, and news production and dissemination practices, our survey found, have undergone disruption and changes.

Employment

6%
of Nepali
journalists have
lost their job due
to Covid-19 cuts

Covid-19 has had a detrimental impact on employment conditions and job security for Nepali journalists. Overall, 38.4% (n=435) reported that their pay was cut — including 18.8% (n=213) of journalists saying that they were working the same hours for less pay; and 19.6% (n=222) responding that both their pay and working hours have been reduced (Figure 5). More concerning, a further 6.3% (n=72) said they had lost their jobs. This marks a worrying trend in the news profession in Nepal, at a time when reliable public health information, scrutiny of public governance, and plans for recovery and future mitigation are ever-more pressing.

Whilst the majority of respondents said their employment terms had been affected in some way by the Covid-19 crisis, a significant proportion — 43.3% (n=491) — said their terms of employment had *not* been affected at all by the pandemic. Here, it is worth noting that radio and television journalists reported the most secure employment terms, with 51.8% and 49.4%, respectively, reporting they had seen no change to their employment due to Covid-19. Print and online journalists, in other words, appear to have been the more vulnerable.

Provincial variations: employment

Breaking these results down by province, we find that the highest rate of those who had their pay cut (with or without working fewer hours) was in Karnali Pradesh, at 53.6% (n=52). Journalists in Sudurpaschim Pradesh seem to have suffered the most in terms of job losses, with 13.3% (n=11) responding they were out of employment. The second-most affected province was Bagmati Pradesh, where 8% of journalists reported losing their jobs (Figure 5).

The highest percentage of respondents whose employment had been

How has your employment been affected by COVID-19?

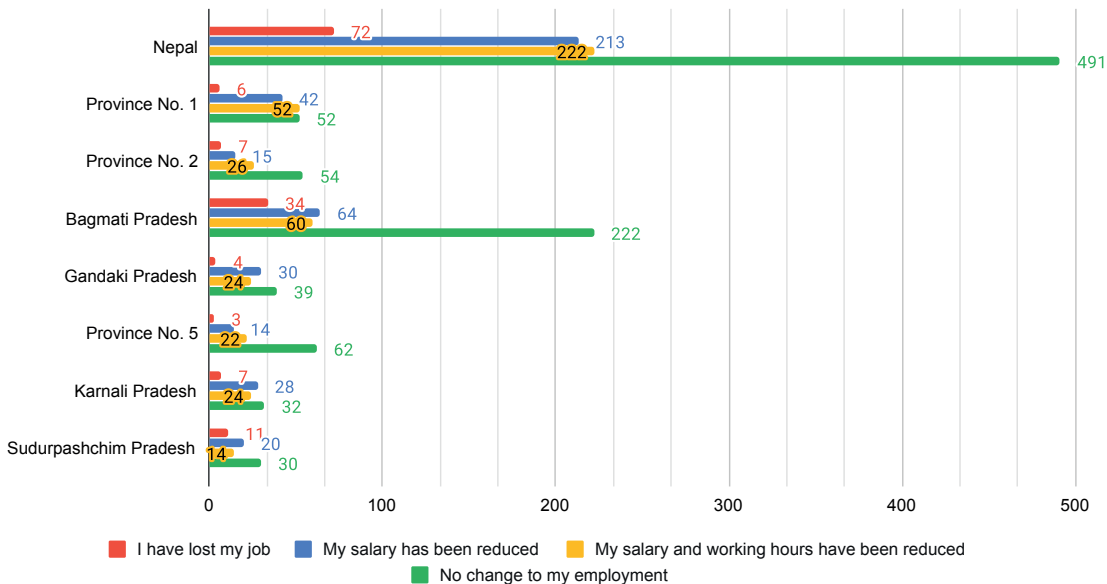


Figure 5

unaffected by Covid-19 was in Province No. 5, at 52.5% (n=62). This was followed by those in Bagmati Pradesh, at 52.1% (n=222), and Province No. 2, at 45.8% (n=54).

Working hours

The largest group of respondents 26.6% (n=302) said that their working hours remained unchanged due to the Covid-19 crisis, while similar numbers said that they were working longer hours, 24.1% (n=273), or fewer hours, 24% (n=272). Some 17.7% (n=201) said that they were doing more weekend work as a result of the pandemic.

Provincial variations: working hours

The survey indicated that changes to working hours affected journalists in provinces differently. For example, 34.9% (n=29) of respondents in Sudurpashchim Pradesh said they were working longer hours, compared to 17.4% (n=32) in Province No. 1. Similarly, Bagmati Pradesh, which had the highest number of survey respondents, also had the highest number of journalists whose working hours had *not* registered any change (30.5% n=130).

How has your working hours changed?

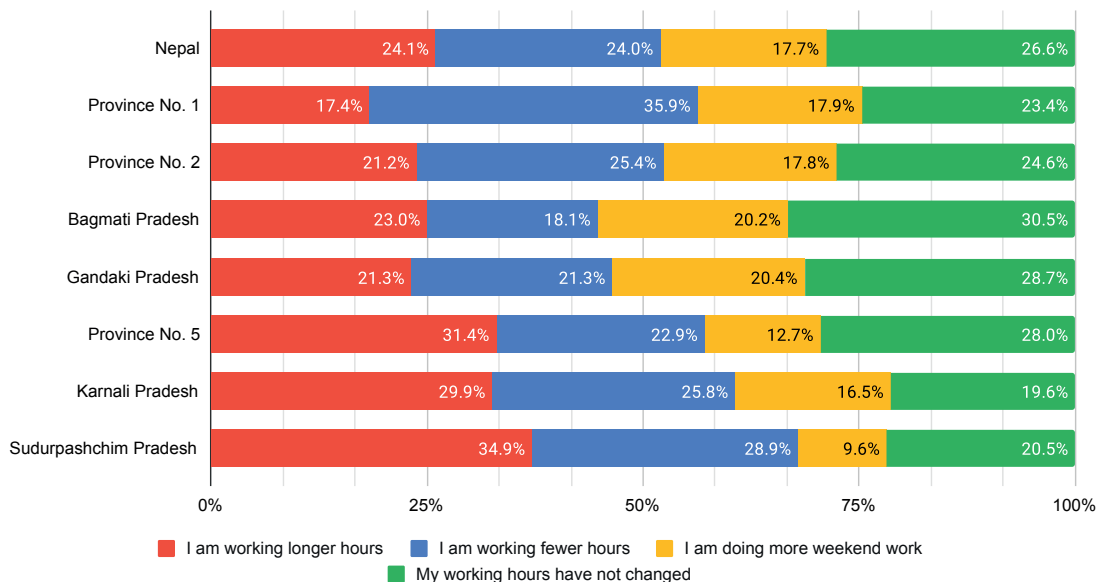


Figure 6

Job security

60%
of Nepali
journalists were
worried about
their jobs due to
Covid-19

The pandemic appears to have triggered significant employment insecurities among journalists, with 60.2% (n=683) acknowledging that they were more worried about their jobs now than they were before the onset of Covid-19. To our question on job security, 37.8% answered they felt less secure, while an additional 22.4% said they felt much less secure (Figure 7).

A significant section of respondents, however, reported that the pandemic had not affected their job security adversely at all. This included 32.6% (n=370) of respondents who said they felt no change, 3.5% (n=40) who felt more secure, and 3.6% (n=41) who felt much more secure than before the Covid-19 crisis.

Provincial variations: job security

Karnali Pradesh had the highest percentage of respondents who felt insecure about their jobs (Figure 7). The combined total of those who said they felt less secure and much less secure in this province was 70.1% (n=68). Sudurpashchim Pradesh and Province No. 1 followed, reporting a combined total of 67.5% (n=56) and 65.2% (n=120) respectively.

Province No. 2 had the largest percentage of respondents who reported no adverse effects in this regard: 39.8% (n=47) said they had no change to job security, while 10.2% (n=12) said they felt much more secure and an additional 5.9% (n=7) said they felt more secure than before the pandemic.

Covid-19 impact on job security for Nepali journalists

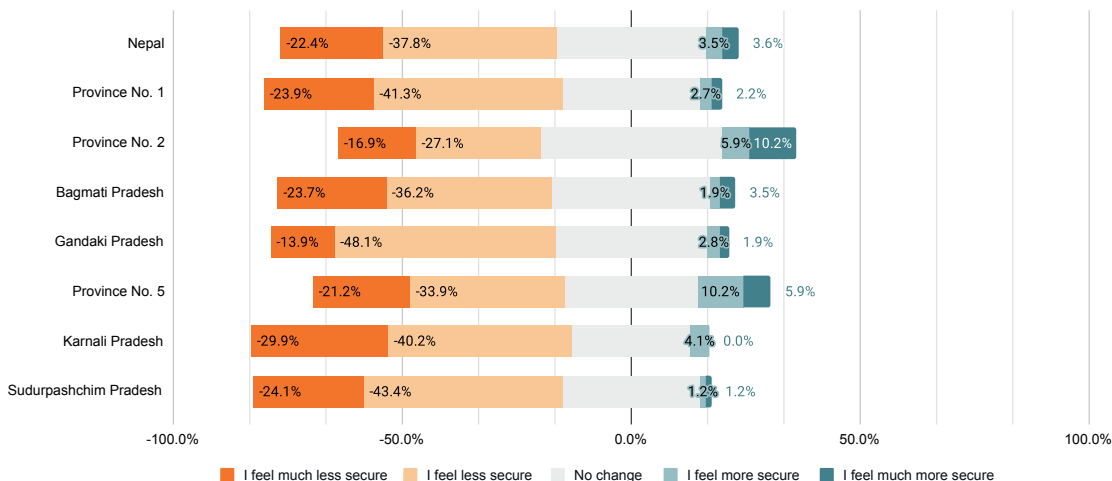


Figure 7

Changes to working practices

As was expected, Covid-19 forced Nepali journalists to change the way they worked. Most relied heavily on remote working practices, not only in terms of not attending office, but also in the way they sourced their news stories (Figure 8).

The majority of newsgathering, according to our respondents, was done online, either on social media (80.4% n=912, both agreeing and strongly agreeing), or on other internet sources (82.6% n=937, both agreeing and strongly agreeing). We also see an increased reliance on official and government sources, with 71.4% (n=810) of journalists acknowledging this trend.

Further, the ability to conduct investigations was severely affected, with 64.8% (n=735) agreeing and strongly agreeing that this was a result of Covid-19, and 63.5% (n=720) that this was a result of associated financial pressures associated with the pandemic.

These constraints reported by journalists have broader implications for disaster journalism in general. Arguably, they limit the quality of news content at a critical time, and raises questions about how the media can perform its role of holding power to account and providing public service journalism during times of crisis.

Response of news organisations

As with individual journalists, Covid-19 had a severe impact on Nepali news organisations. Across the nation, news outlets responded to the situation in line with government regulations, adopting measures such as social distancing and remote working.

Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

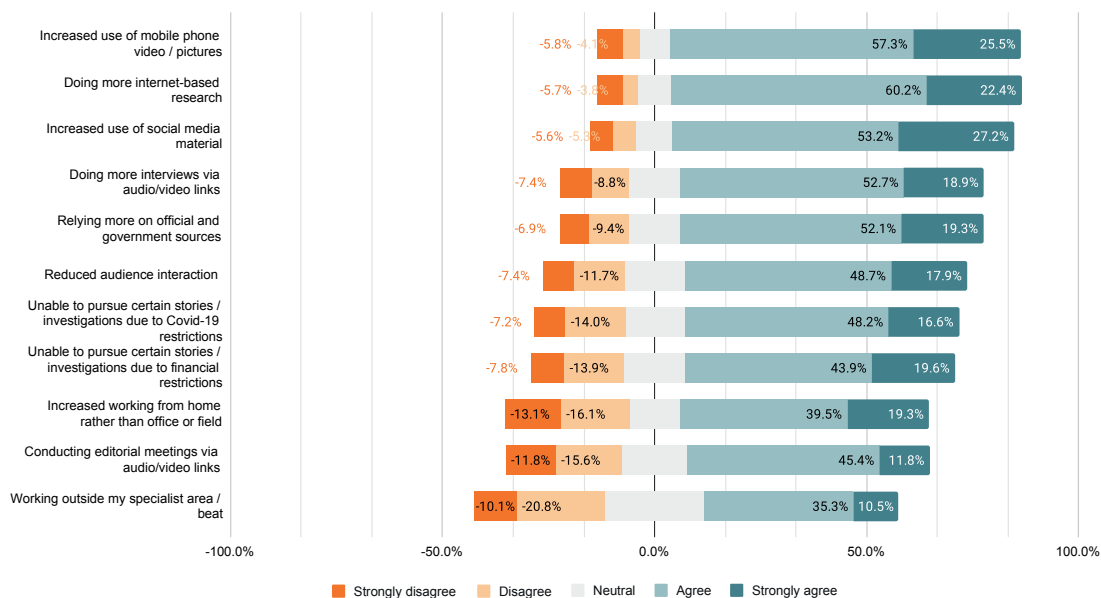


Figure 8

But our survey also indicated two other, more troubling impacts: *a substantial decline in the production of original news content, and decreased news dissemination*. Both are of critical concern during a global health crisis, as they affect the news media's ability to keep the civil society informed, and impact journalists' capacity to interrogate the responses of the government to the pandemic.

Reduced outputs and dissemination

The production of print, video, audio, and online news content saw a marked decline across the nation because of the Covid-19 crisis. The print and broadcast sectors appear to have been the most affected (Figure 9).

Respondents who worked for print outlets reported a reduction in the number of pages published (55% n=258) and reduced print frequency (48.4% n=227).

Broadcast, too, followed the same pattern, with 51.8% (n=176) and 42.8% (n=116) of our respondents from the radio and television sectors, respectively, acknowledging reduced broadcast production.

Respondents also pointed to a substantial reduction in video production. Further, a substantial number of print and broadcast news organisations adopted the digital-only format because of the Covid-19 crisis. In terms of news audio production, radio appears to be the sector that was worst affected by the pandemic, as indicated by the reduction in audio production figures reported by respondents from within the sector (27.4% n=93).

Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

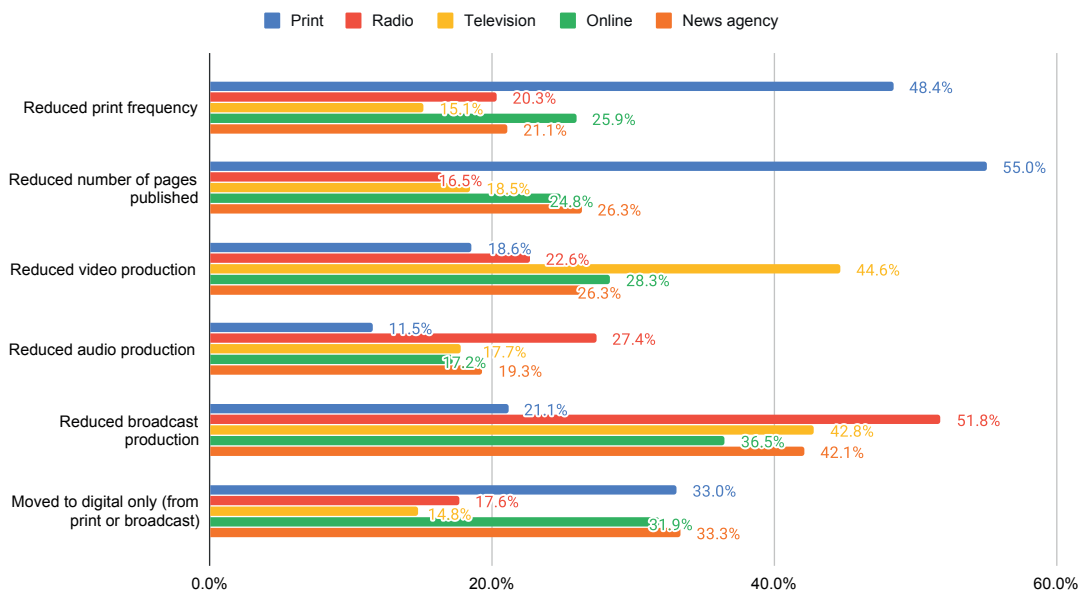


Figure 9

Physical measures

A majority of respondents (69%; n=783) reported that their news organisations implemented physical distancing measures in their workplace (Figure 10). Linked to this was the implementation of staff rotas for attending office, which was acknowledged by 35.4% (n=401) of those who took part in the survey.

The use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), on the other hand, appears to have been facilitated by news organisations to a very low extent. The national average of journalists who reported they had access to PPE was just 5.5% (n=62).

Similarly, very few organisations appear to have adopted or implemented editorial policies to guide journalists during the pandemic. The national average for this was only 14.7% (n=167), with journalists from Sudurpashchim Pradesh reporting the highest percentage (19.3% n=16) in this regard.

Workplace support

The most common support that news organisations offered journalists was flexible working hours (Figure 11). This was reported by 56.5% (n=641) of the respondents. The second most common support available was professional guidance on new working principles (48.5% n=550), followed by time to take care of family (46.6% n=528), guidance on coping mechanisms (41.7% n=473), and social support (37.2% n=422).

Changes to newsroom or newsgathering routines to mitigate Covid-19



Figure 10

Covid-19 support from news organisation

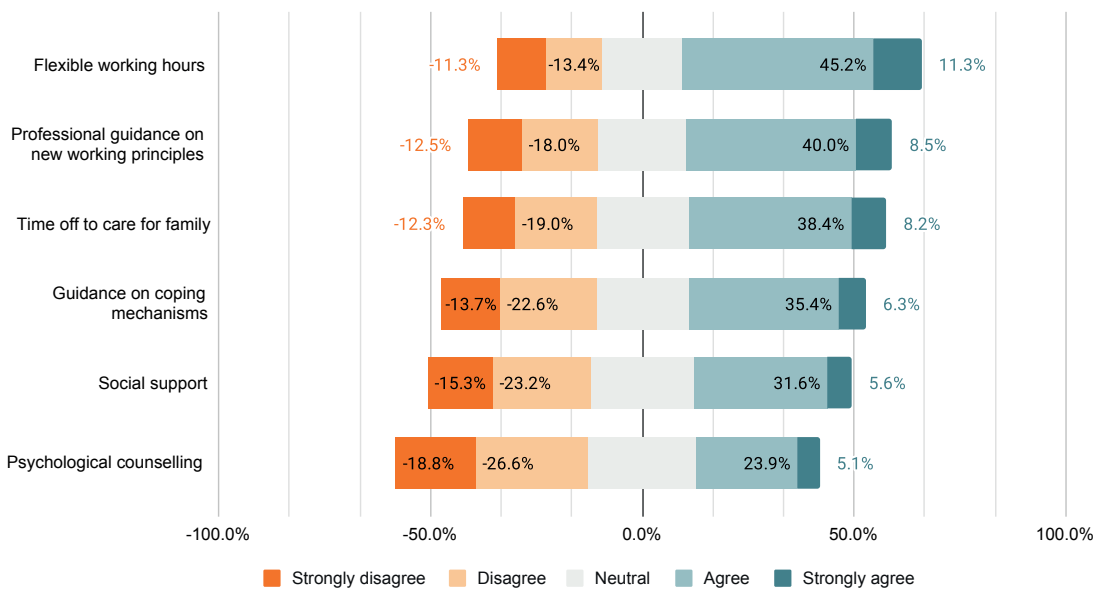


Figure 11

Psychological counselling was the least available measure to the respondents, with only 29% (n=329) agreeing and strongly agreeing that they received this support from their organisation. The acute need that respondents felt for this support is arguably underlined by the fact that this category saw the highest percentage of respondents who disagreed that they received this support: 45.4% (n=515). Similarly, social support had the second highest percentage of disagreement (38.4% n=436). Taken together with the increased vulnerability, anxiety, and grief that respondents reported (outlined earlier), this result further underlines mental health as a key capacity building area for Nepali journalists.

Disaster resilience and capacity building

Previous research by Bournemouth University into disaster resilience after the Nepal earthquake had indicated an emphasis on physical resilience training in Nepal at the expense of other aspects of disaster preparedness (eg: editorial, psychological). To understand the current state of affairs, this rapid response survey queried respondents on the training they had received specifically in this area, their own assessment of their levels of preparedness, and their future disaster training needs.

Our results indicate that at a national level, the majority of journalists have not received any disaster resilience training. Sixty-six per cent (n=799) of those who responded to this question reported they had never taken part in disaster resilience training, with a further 4.2% (n=51) respondents unsure if they had (Figure 12). Thus some 70.7% of journalists in Nepal could not confidently say they had received any disaster resilience training.

Of the rest, 13.8% had participated before the 2015 Nepal earthquake (n=166), and 15.5% (n=186) afterwards — in other words, there appears to have been only a marginal increase in the number of journalists who received training, despite the lessons and vulnerabilities underlined by the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Of those who *had* received resilience training, only 17 respondents (1.5%) had participated in training both *before* and *after* the earthquake. Eleven of these journalists were from Bagmati Pradesh, which includes the national capital of Kathmandu, and two each from Karnali Pradesh, Gandaki Pradesh, and Province No. 2. Previous research has identified continuity in disaster resilience training is essential to ensure that knowledge is current and to act as regular refresher. This, however, does not seem to have happened in Nepal. As evidenced by the results of this national survey, such continuity applied to only 1.5% of our respondents.

Analysing the numbers across print, radio, television, online, and news agency, we find that radio journalists were the most likely category to have received resilience training. A total of 36.2% (n=132) of radio respondents said they had participated in resilience training — 14.8% before the Nepal earthquake

66%
of Nepali
journalists have
never participated
in disaster
resilience training

Have you participated in disaster resilience training?

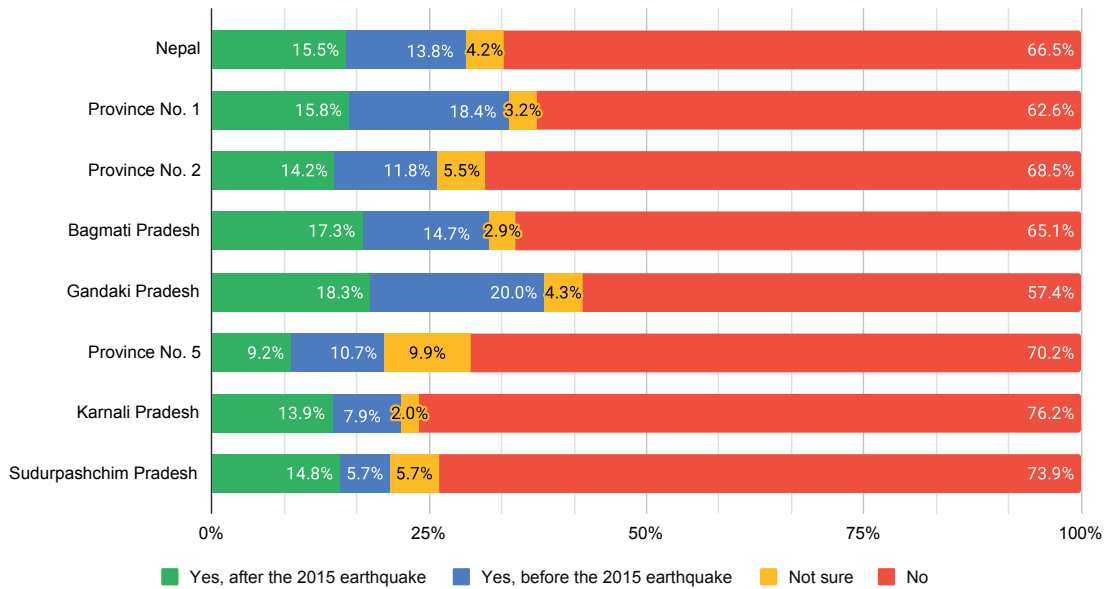


Figure 12

Have you participated in disaster resilience training?

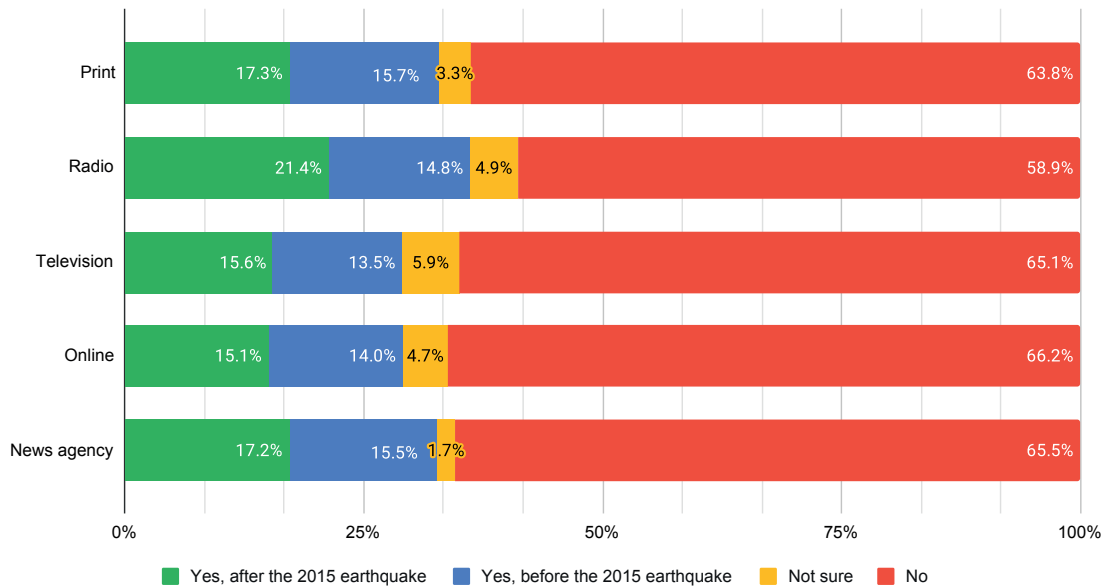


Figure 13

and 21.4% after — compared to 32.9% (n=162) from print, 32.8% from news agencies (n=19), and 29.1% each from television (n=84) and online (n=168).

The above figures, particularly the marginal number of journalists who had undergone disaster resilience training in both the pre- and post-earthquake periods, point to the lack of continuity in disaster preparedness. Such continuity, as argued in previous works from Bournemouth University, is a critical requirement for both the percolation as well as sustenance of robust disaster journalism.

Self-assessment of disaster-preparedness

To understand the respondents’ own perception about their disaster preparedness, we used a Net Promoter Score calculation (see Appendix in online version of this report). As seen in Figure 14, some 75.9% (n=861) of our respondents at the national level self-reported as inadequately prepared, scoring 6 or below on an 11-point Likert scale. Of this, 22.4% (n=254) self-assessed as not prepared, scoring 0-2. At the other end of the scale, only 6.6% (n=75) of respondents assessed themselves as well prepared, scoring 9-10.

A cross-provincial comparison of these figures show that Sudurpashchim Pradesh had the highest percentage of those who scored on the extremes of the scale — both 0 (14.5% n=12) and at 10 (8.4% n=7). Province No. 5, however, had the highest score for all ranks classified as not at all prepared (26.3% n=31 scoring 0-2), and Gandaki Pradesh had the highest percentage

Level of self-reported disaster preparedness

0 = not at all prepared; 10 = extremely prepared

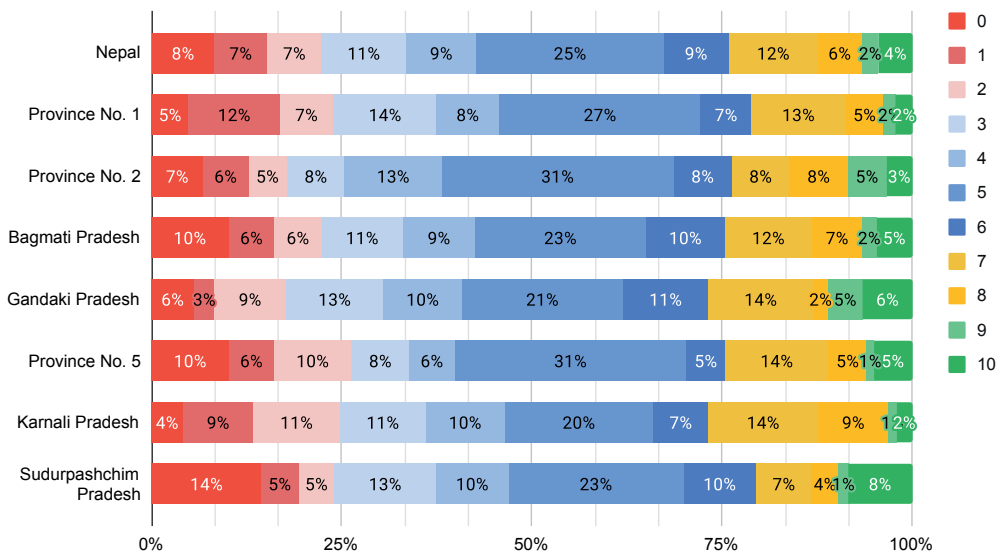


Figure 14

for all ranks classified as very well prepared (11.1% n=12 scoring 9-10).

These findings indicate that a significant number of Nepali journalists have low or extremely low levels of confidence in their ability to carry out their professional duties during disasters. In the context of some 70% journalists reporting they had never undertaken disaster-related training or being unsure if they ever had, and only 1.5% reporting some form of continued training, this remains a key capacity building area where more resources need to be invested.

Training needs

The survey queried journalists on seven areas (see Figure 15) they might require training in, and also their preferred modes of accessing such training. More than three-quarters of our respondents reported that they welcomed training across all the seven areas.

New technologies emerged as the most preferred area in which journalists sought training in, with 87.7% (n=995) indicating so. It was also the category for which the strongest preference was shown by the highest percentage of respondents (48.5% n=550).

Investigative reporting emerged the second preferred area for training, with 86.5% (n=981) journalists agreeing or strongly agreeing. This was followed by fact-checking and verification (82.9% n=940) and digital safety and security (81.5% n=924). Physical safety aspects and editorial preparedness and editorial strategies were indicated as key areas by 80.3% (n=911) and 78.3% (n=888) of the respondents, respectively.

Would personally welcome training in the following areas

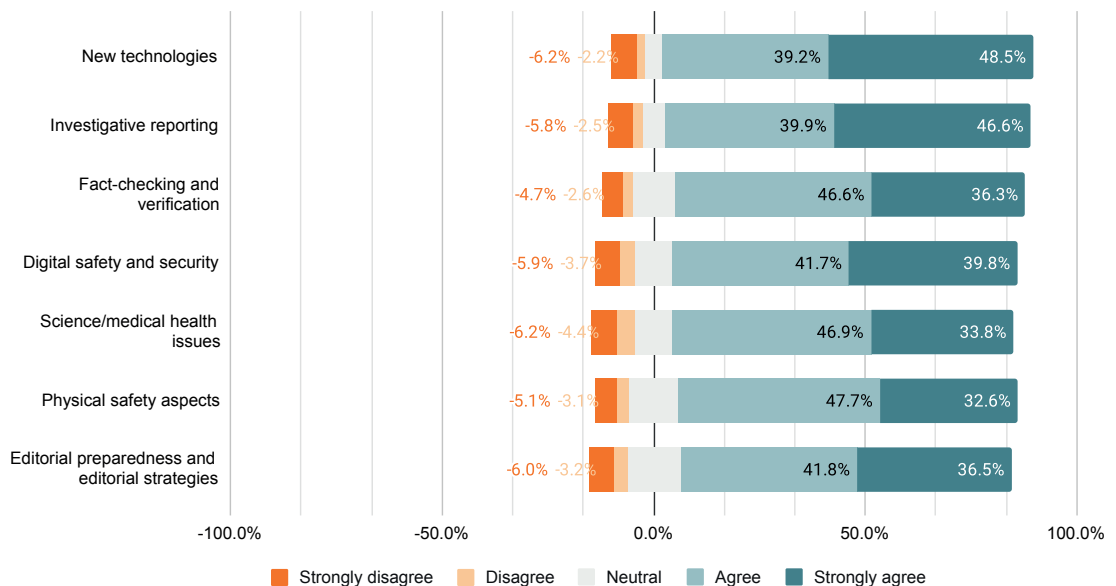


Figure 15

Training delivery

Online website materials was the most preferred mode by journalists for accessing training, with 78.4% responding that they either agreed or strongly agreed to its use. Similarly, online video seminars was the next favoured option: 69.8% either agreed or strongly agreed with that being their preference.

This, to an extent, is perhaps a reflection of the remote working practices that the Covid-19 situation near-normalised in Nepal during its lockdown periods. A more prominent reason, however, could be the accessibility issue that many journalists face in the rural areas and remote provinces, away from Kathmandu.

The latter reasoning finds support in the fact that, besides the digital modes, a majority of journalists indicated their preference for face-to-face training as well. Not surprisingly, a significantly higher percentage (68.2% n=773) preferred the physical workshops to be conducted in places *other than* Kathmandu, as opposed to the 54.4% (n=617) who preferred such training to occur in the national capital.

Podcast was the least preferred mode for training delivery. But even this category appears to be a valid option for Nepal, as 46.6% (n=529) of our respondents indicated their willingness to access training via this mode.

Preferred ways of receiving training

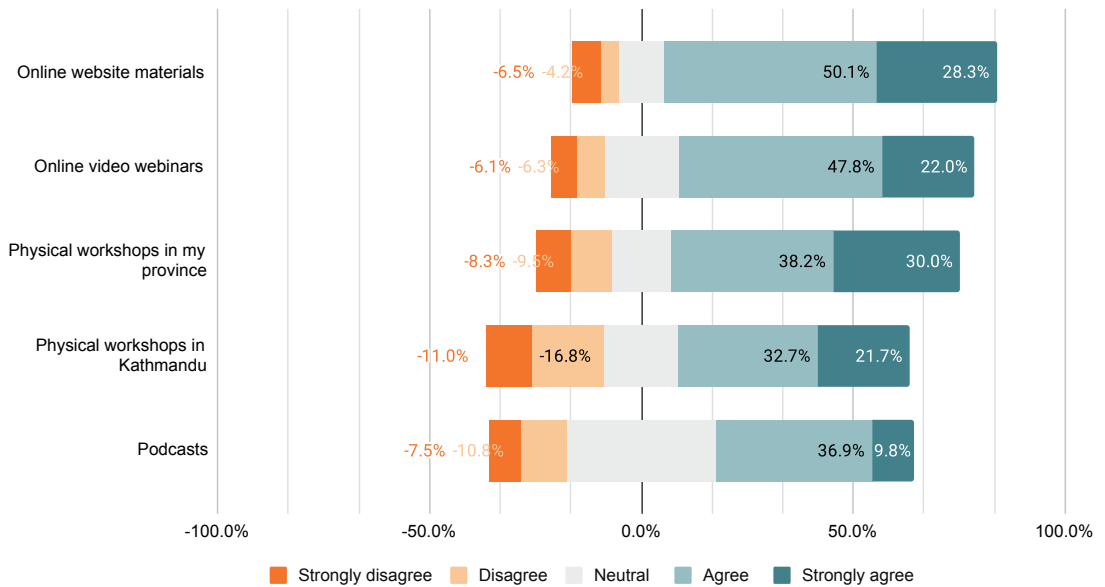


Figure 16

Areas for action

This rapid response national survey found that the Covid-19 crisis has had a severe impact on the journalism industry in Nepal, which inflicted a vulnerable nation when it was still recovering from the devastation of the 2015 earthquakes. Covid-19 affected the mental and financial wellbeing of journalists, and changed their newsgathering, news production, and news dissemination practices in disadvantageous ways across the country. Further, the survey findings have underlined disaster resilience as a key capacity building area that requires urgent investment at the national and regional levels.

Here, it is also important to recognise that the impact of Covid-19 percolates beyond morbidity. Nepal has to date recorded a low infection rate, including amongst journalists, according to our survey — yet the pandemic has had a broader societal impact that is important to recognise. Not only were news personnel affected at multiple levels, as our survey results demonstrate, but the restrictions placed on their journalism by the Covid-19 situation is likely to have impacted Nepal's crisis response.

In view of the critical role that the news media play during crises and disasters, the results of this rapid response survey have highlighted the need for urgent action in four key areas:

Psychological resilience

- ✧ The government, at both the national and provincial levels, should make the **mental wellbeing of journalists a key priority**, and invest resources that will *directly* benefit them in this area (eg: creation of trauma networks, facilities for counselling).
- ✧ A similar commitment is required from news organisations as well as national and regional journalism associations. They must work together, and with other stakeholders (government, NGOs, INGOs), to **protect the emotional and mental health of journalists**.

Financial resilience

- ✧ **The government should provide means-tested grants** to support ailing news organisations and journalists for short-term business continuity, and to support access to PPE and other relevant disaster-related equipment for journalists and media workers.
- ✧ **The government should provide short-term loans** to help bridge funding gaps, especially for salary payment to news personnel.

- ✧ **News organisations and media houses should establish contingency funds** to facilitate business continuity during disasters, including protecting news output and timely payment of workers.

Health protection and resilience

- ✧ News organisations and media houses should work together with other stakeholders (government, NGOs, INGOs) to **provide or facilitate PPE and clear guidelines on physical distancing** for all staff.

Building future disaster resilience

- ✧ All stakeholders (government, news organisations, NGOs, INGOs) should **recognise disaster training for journalists as a key priority** in mitigating Nepal's disaster vulnerability. Investments for training and capacity building for news personnel must increase, and the news media must be better integrated in national disaster reduction plans.
- ✧ Educational and training institutions should **widen the scope of disaster training for journalists** to include areas such as new technologies, investigative journalism, fact-checking, and digital security.
- ✧ News organisation and journalism bodies should take the lead in working with other stakeholders (government, NGOs, educational institutions, UN bodies, etc) to **establish a system for delivering continued disaster journalism training** for Nepali journalists.
- ✧ News organisations should facilitate better preparedness for their newsrooms by **publishing clear editorial guidelines and codes of practice during disasters**.

Appendix

Methodology

This survey was conducted in both Nepali and English, using Microsoft Form. A link to the questionnaire was distributed via email, Viber, and Facebook Messenger by the NPI to journalists in all seven provinces of Nepal. The survey ran from 11am NST on 10 July until 12am NST on 24 July 2020.

A total of 1,166 journalists responded to the survey. Of this, 97% (n=1,134) chose to participate. The survey received the highest rate of response—37% (n=426)—in Bagmati Pradesh, the most populous province of Nepal, which includes the national capital of Kathmandu. A comparison of the responses from each province can be seen in Figure M1.

Number of respondents by province

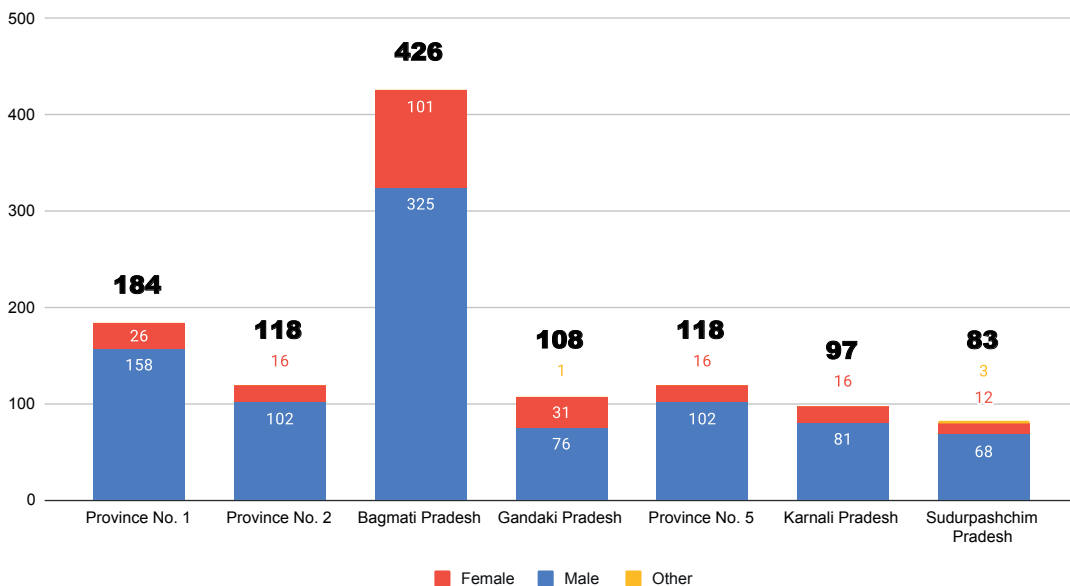


Figure M1

Gender breakdown

Broken down by gender (Figure M1), 80% (n=912) of our respondents were male and 19% (n=218) female, while 0.3% (n=4) selected 'other'. The fact that respondents were overwhelmingly male reflects the dominance of men in the news industry in Nepal. The lowest response rate from female journalists, compared to males, was in Province No 2 (13.5%), followed by Sudurpaschim Pradesh (14.4%), and the highest in Bagmati Pradesh (23.7%).

Breakdown by media type

Participants in the survey included those working across the industry sectors of print, radio, television, online, and news agencies (Figure M2). Online appears to be the most common sector for journalists to be employed in: of our respondents, 48% (n=540) identified themselves as online journalists. This was followed by print, with 41% (n=469); radio, with 30% (n=340); television, with 24% (n=271); and news agencies, with 5% (n=57). It is important to note here that many respondents worked in more than one sector—for example, print and online, broadcast and online, etc.

Across provinces, there was some difference between the proportion of journalists who responded from each sector. Online was the most common sector for journalists to work in, in all but Province No. 1, where print emerged as the most popular sector at 53% (n=98), with online second, at 50% (n=92).

In Province No. 2, 53% (n=62) respondents said they worked in the online news sector, followed by print, at 47% (n=56). In Bagmati Pradesh, 47% (n=199) worked in the online sector, followed by 34% (n=146) in print. Gandaki Pradesh saw 45% (n=49) work in the online sector, followed by 44% (n=47) in print, just ahead of 42% (n=45) working in radio.

In Province No. 5, 49% (n=58) worked in online journalism, closely followed by 48% (n=57) working in radio. Karnali Pradesh was also led by respondents who worked online, at 41% (n=40), followed by 36% (n=35) in

Type of news organisation

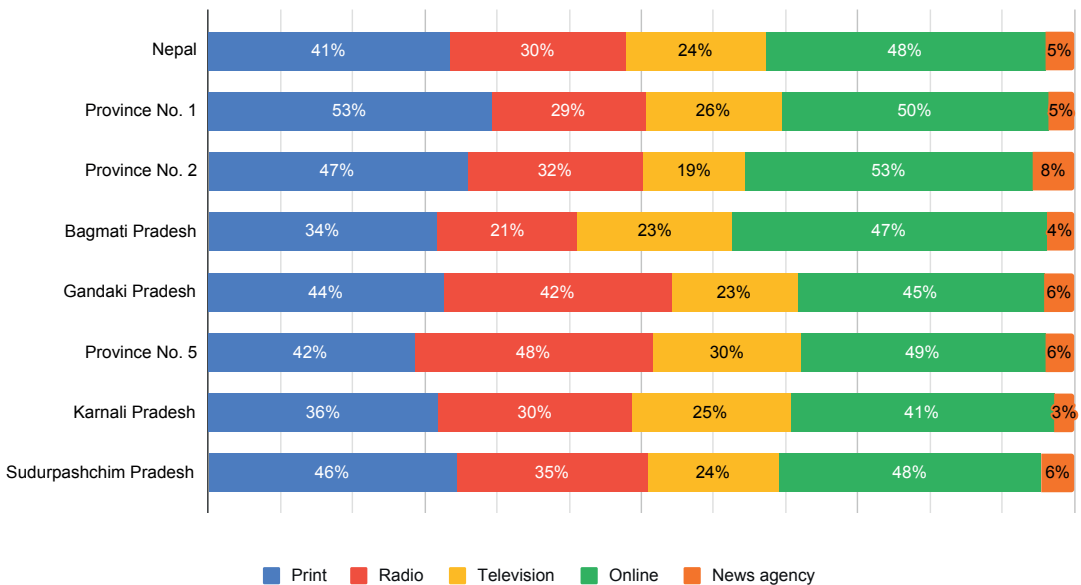


Figure M2

print. In Sudurpashchim Pradesh, 48% (n=40) worked in the online sector, followed by 46% (n=38) in print.

Radio appeared to be the third most common sector for journalists to be employed in, in all provinces bar Bagmati Pradesh and Province No. 5. In Bagmati Pradesh, it was television, with 23% (n=98) respondents from broadcast, compared to 21% (n=89) from radio. In Province No. 5, as mentioned above, radio came second, with 48% (n=57) respondents ahead of 42% (n=49) in print.

The percentage of journalists employed by news agencies, in all provinces, were considerably low, compared to online, print, television, and radio. The highest came from Province No. 2 (8%), and the lowest from Karnali Pradesh (3%).

Net Promoter Score

In order to assess journalists' own perception about their disaster preparedness, we used a Net Promoter Score (NPS) calculation. Whilst this is normally utilised in brand marketing, it can be applied here to understand both the extent of journalists' self-reported resilience, and the extent to

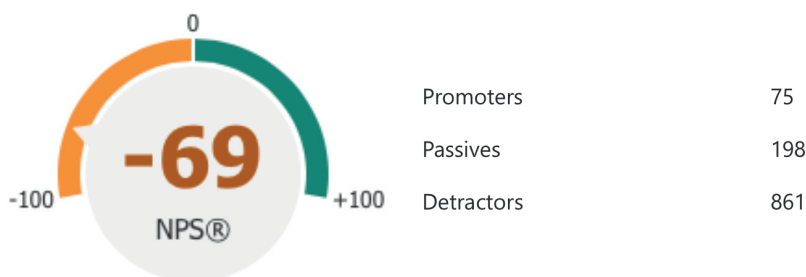


Figure M3

which they are likely to promote disaster preparedness to others.

NPS was calculated using a 0-10 scale, for the question: How would you rate your disaster preparedness? Respondents who scored 9-10 were classified as Promoters, loyal enthusiasts who appreciated disaster preparedness and were likely promote it to others. Respondents who scored 7-8 were classified as Passives, satisfied but unenthusiastic, and those who scored 0-6 were Detractors. Subtracting the percentage of Detractors from the percentage of Promoters yields the Net Promoter Score, which can range from a low of -100 (if every respondent is a Detractor) to a high of 100 (if every respondent is a Promoter). Applied in this survey, the NPS score was -69, which indicates a low level of disaster preparedness.

Province No. 1

Respondents in Province No. 1 were overwhelmingly male, as in all other provinces. There was a slightly larger number of male respondents from the province, at 86%, compared to the national average of 80%. There were no respondents of other genders in Province No. 1.

Respondents in Province No. 1 were more likely to work in the print sector than any other, at 53%, compared to 41% nationally. The online sector came second, at 50%, compared to the national average of 48%.

Province No. 1 - gender breakdown

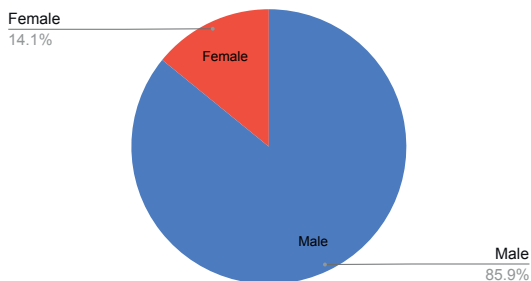


Figure A1

Province No. 1 - breakdown of media type

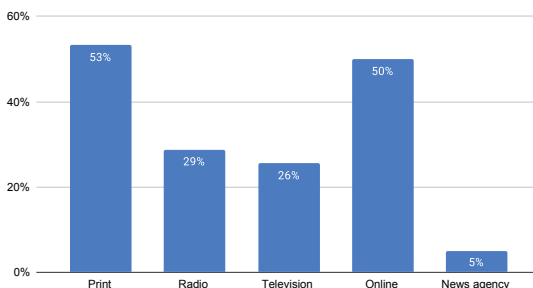


Figure A2

Impact on journalists

Province No. 1 follows the national trend in terms of the impact of Covid-19, although those reporting increased vulnerability (86%), increased anxiety (79%), and financial difficulties (77%)—the three most-cited challenges—were a few percentage points higher here, than nationally.

Issues such as loss of connection from friends and family, sleep deprivation, loss of physical fitness, and depression, and distress from stories reported on were reported to be of marginally less concern.

Changes to newsgathering practices

Province No. 1 saw a 3% higher percentage for journalists doing more internet-based research [CHECK] than the national average, with 86% of respondents agreeing (including strongly agreeing) that they did more research online than before the crisis. The province also saw marginally fewer respondents say they relied on mobile phone videos or pictures, with 79% agreeing with the statement, compared to 83% nationally (CHECK).

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Province No.1 responded in a similar fashion as those in other provinces, reducing print frequency, number of pages, and video,

Province No. 1 - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

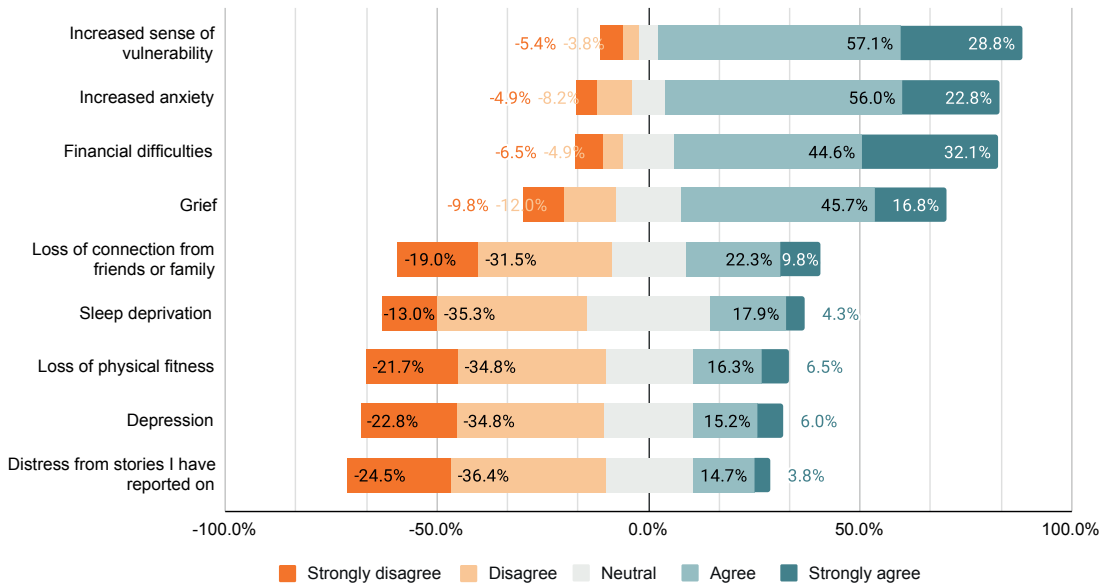


Figure A3

audio and broadcast productions. Similar to other provinces, the print sector appears to have been particularly affected, with 50% print respondents reported reduced print frequency, and 56% reported a reduction in number of published pages. A fall in broadcast production was reported by 43% of television journalists.

Support from news organisations

Respondents in Province No. 1 reported similar results to those across the nation. A majority reported that their organisations supported them with flexible working hours (56%). Psychological counselling was the support least accessible, with only 28% respondents agreeing that they had access to it.

Training needs

The results for Province No. 1 on training areas largely matched that at the national level. All seven areas were key choices for more than three-quarters of the respondents.

Respondents echoed the national trend on ways to access training, largely preferring online website material (a total of 77% agreeing) and video webinars (67%). A significant number of respondents (72%) indicated a preference for physical workshops in their province.

Province No. 1 - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

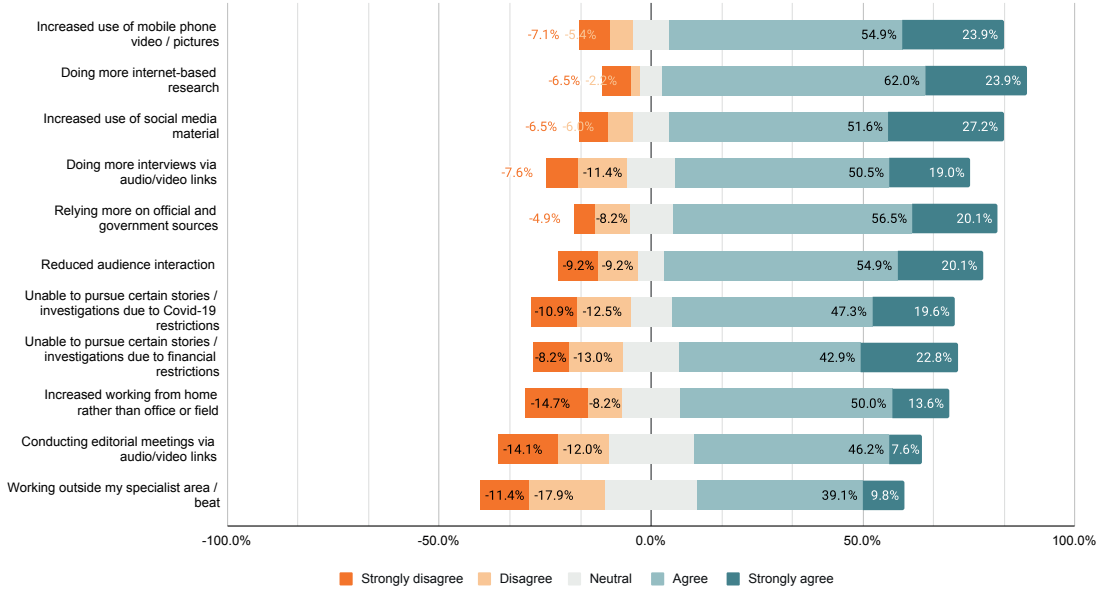


Figure A4

Province No. 1 - Covid-19 support from news organisation

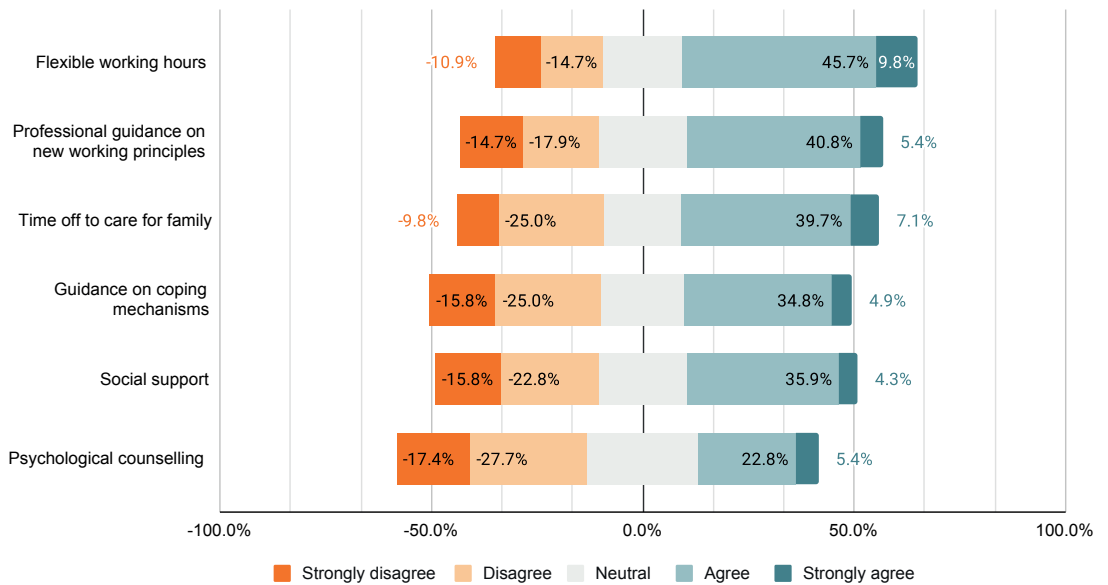


Figure A5

Province No. 1 - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

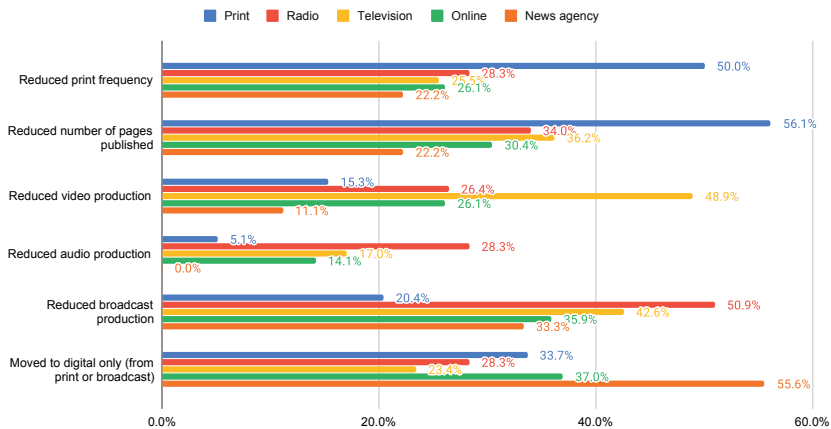


Figure A6

Province No. 1 - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

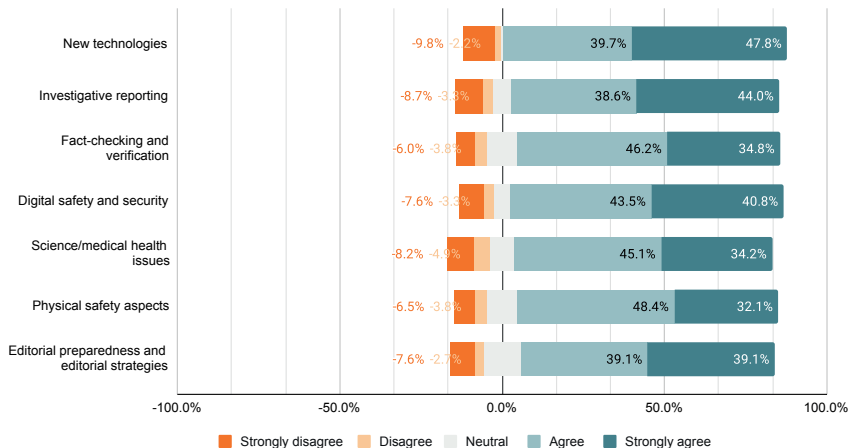


Figure A7

Province No. 1 - Preferred ways of receiving training

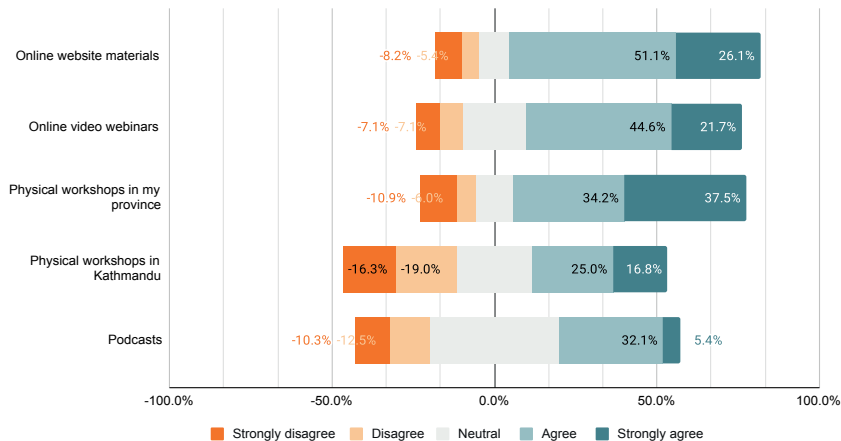


Figure A8

Province No. 2

Respondents in Province No. 2 were overwhelmingly male. There was a larger representation of males from the province, at 86%, compared to the national average of 80%. There were no respondents of other gender from this province.

Respondents from Province No. 2 reported online to be the most common sector they worked in (53%). This was followed by print (47%), and radio (32%). Province No.2 had a higher share of news agency workers: 8%, compared to 5% nationally.

Province No. 2 - gender breakdown

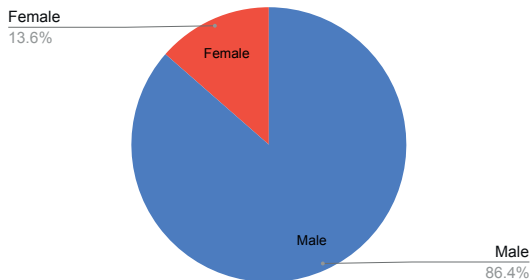


Figure B1

Province No. 2 - breakdown of media type

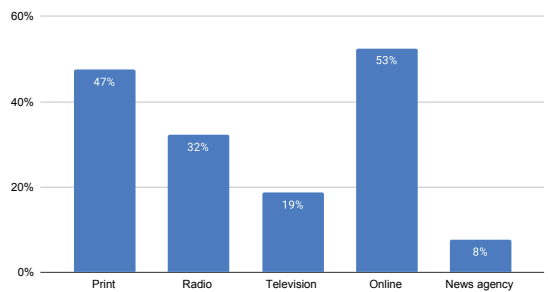


Figure B2

Impact on journalists

Journalists in Province No. 2 followed the national trend, reporting significant impact of Covid-19 on their mental and financial wellbeing. Compared to the national average (62%), there was a 9% increase in those reporting grief from this province. There was also a 4% increase in those citing increased anxiety, and a 5% increase in those who felt the crisis had resulted in more financial difficulties. Some 34% also felt their depression had increased as a result of Covid-19, compared to 25% nationally.

Changes to newsgathering practices

Province No. 2 saw a larger number of respondents agreeing they had increased their use of mobile phone videos or pictures since the crisis, at 74%, compared to the national average of 57%. However, those strongly agreeing with the statement was lower than the national share, at 17%, compared to 26% nationally. Further, 7% more journalists said they were unable to pursue certain stories or investigations due to financial constraints, compared to the national average of 64%.

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Province No. 2 responded in a similar fashion as those

Province No. 2 - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

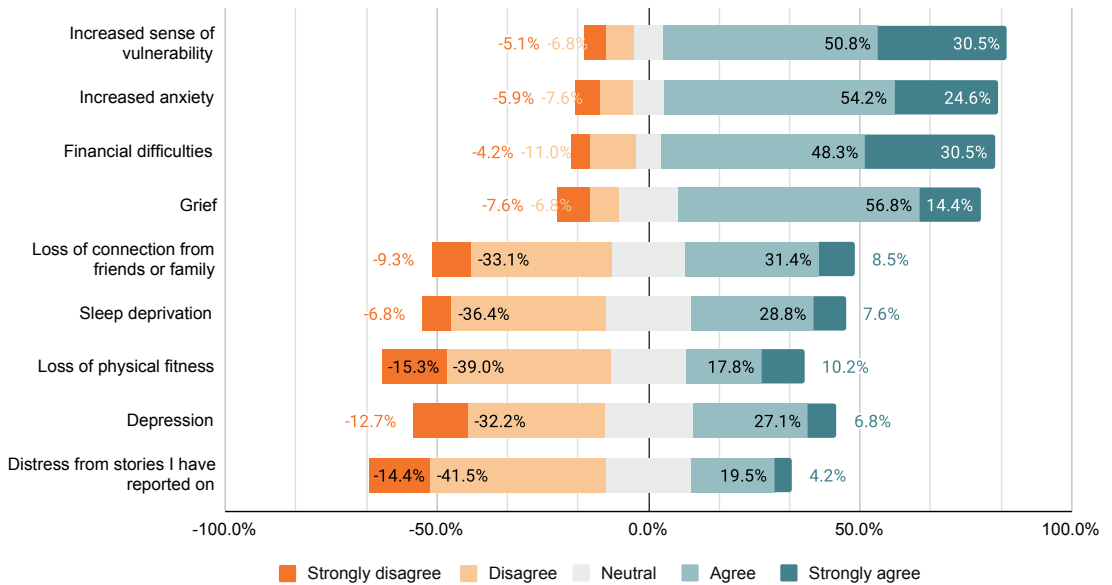


Figure B3

in other provinces, reducing print frequency, number of pages, and video, audio and broadcast productions. Notable variation could be seen in a higher percentage of broadcast journalists reporting reduced broadcast production (59%, compared to the national average of 43%). In terms of reduction in print pages published, this province appears to have seen less disruption than at the national level, with 43% print journalists reporting a fall, compared to the 55% print journalists who reported so nationally.

Support from news organisations

Province No. 2 respondents appear to have received better support from their news organisations than the national average. Seventy per cent agreed that their organisations offered time off for them to care for their families, compared to the 47% agreement on this at the national level. Similarly, 56% from this province reported that they were given professional guidance on new working principles, compared to the national average of 49% in this category.

Training needs

The overall numbers of those in Province No. 2 agreeing that they would welcome various forms of training were similar to those of Nepal as a whole. Those agreeing (including strongly agreeing) that they welcomed new technologies was 86%, slightly lower than the national average of 88%. All categories appear to find favour with a significant segment of the respondents in the province.

Province No. 2 respondents were generally less positive about the available options, although still overwhelmingly supported them all, on balance. Physical workshops in Kathmandu had 40% respondents disagreeing (including those who strongly disagreed), and 47% agreeing. Workshops in the province, however, had 70% respondents agreeing.

Province No. 2 - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

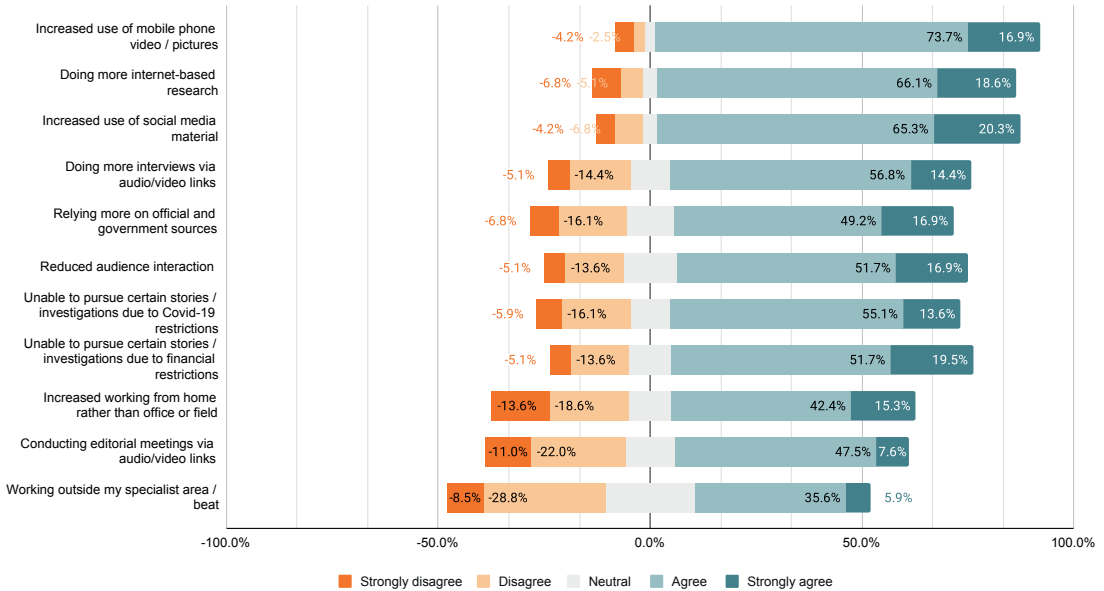


Figure B4

Province No. 2 - Covid-19 support from news organisation

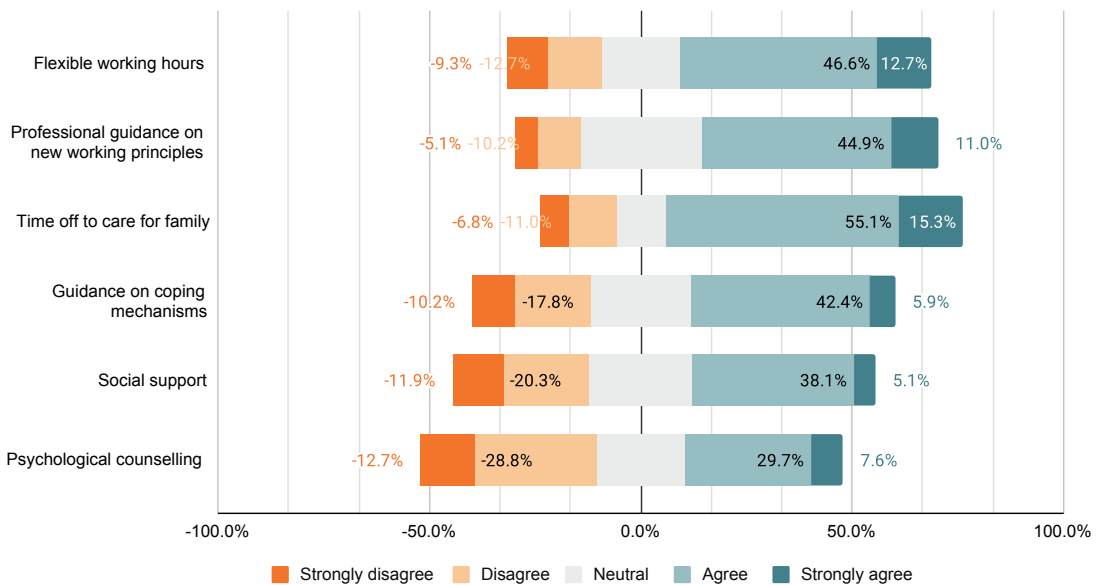


Figure B5

Province No. 2 - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

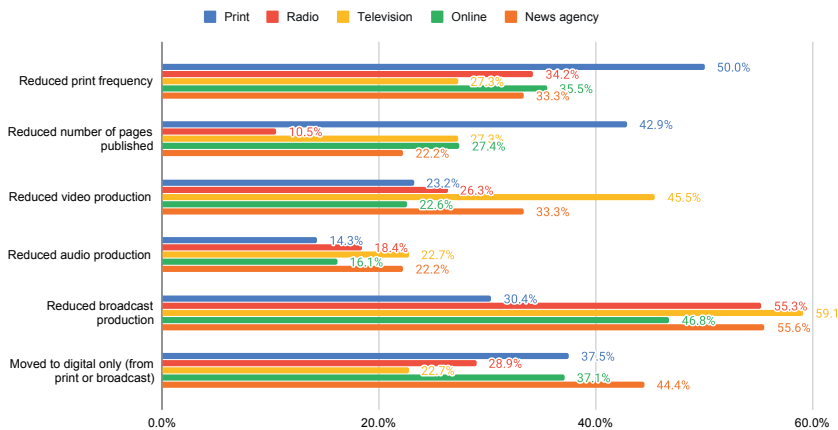


Figure B6

Province No. 2 - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

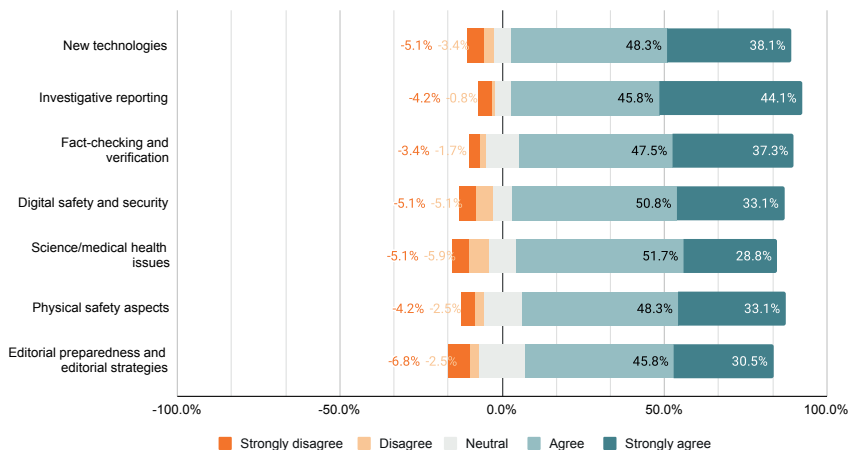


Figure B7

Province No. 2 - Preferred ways of receiving training

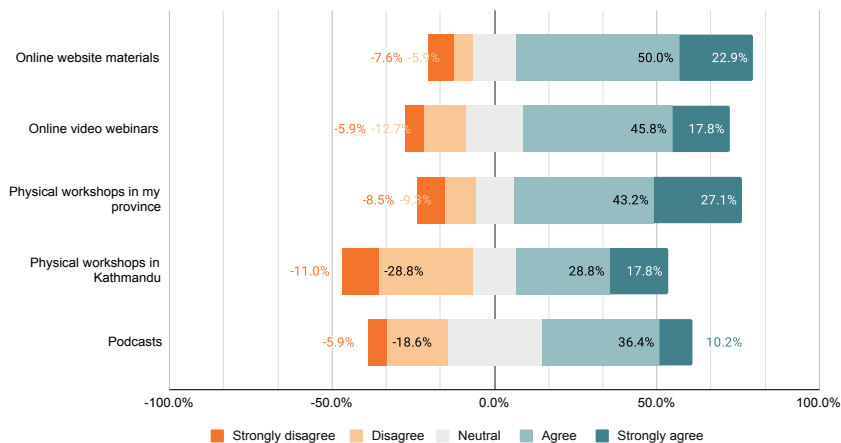


Figure B8

Bagmati Pradesh

Respondents in Bagmati Pradesh were overwhelmingly male, as they were in other provinces. There was, however, a slightly larger number of women respondents than the national average. Here, 24% were women compared with 19% nationally. There were no respondents from other genders.

Online was the most common sector in which respondents in Bagmati Pradesh worked, at 47%. Print followed, with 34% respondents, lower than the national average of 41%. Radio, too, had lower respondents, at 21%, compared to 30% nationally. News agency, as in other provinces, appeared to employ the lowest number of respondents: 4%.

Bagmati Pradesh - gender breakdown

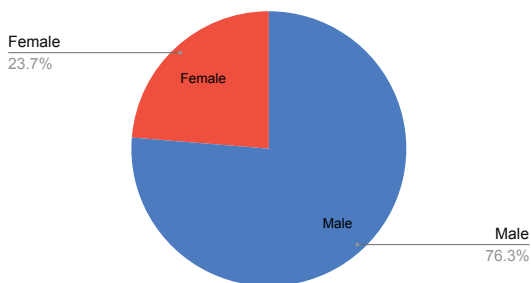


Figure C1

Bagmati Pradesh - breakdown of media type

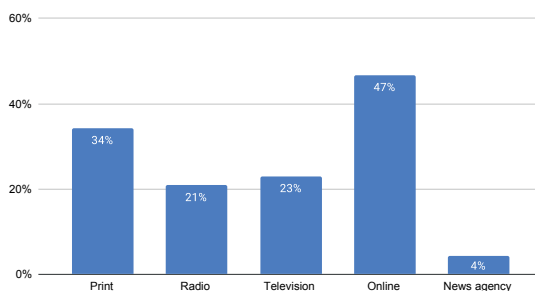


Figure C2

Impact on journalists

Bagmati Pradesh recorded a lower number of respondents concerned with financial difficulties. Here, 35% agreed they had experienced financial difficulties, and 31% strongly agreed, against the national averages of 43% and 31%, respectively. This may be due to fact that Bagmati Pradesh, which includes Kathmandu, is the economic centre of the nation, with a high concentration of larger media organisations.

Changes to newsgathering practices

Bagmati Pradesh saw results similar to those in other provinces in terms of newsgathering practices. Respondents were more likely to strongly agree with several of the survey statements than the national average. For example, in this province, 28% strongly agreed that they were doing more internet-based research, compared to 22% nationally. Those strongly agreeing that they were working more from home rather than in an office or in the field stood at 25%, compared to 19% nationally.

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Bagmati Pradesh responded in a similar fashion as

Bagmati Pradesh - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

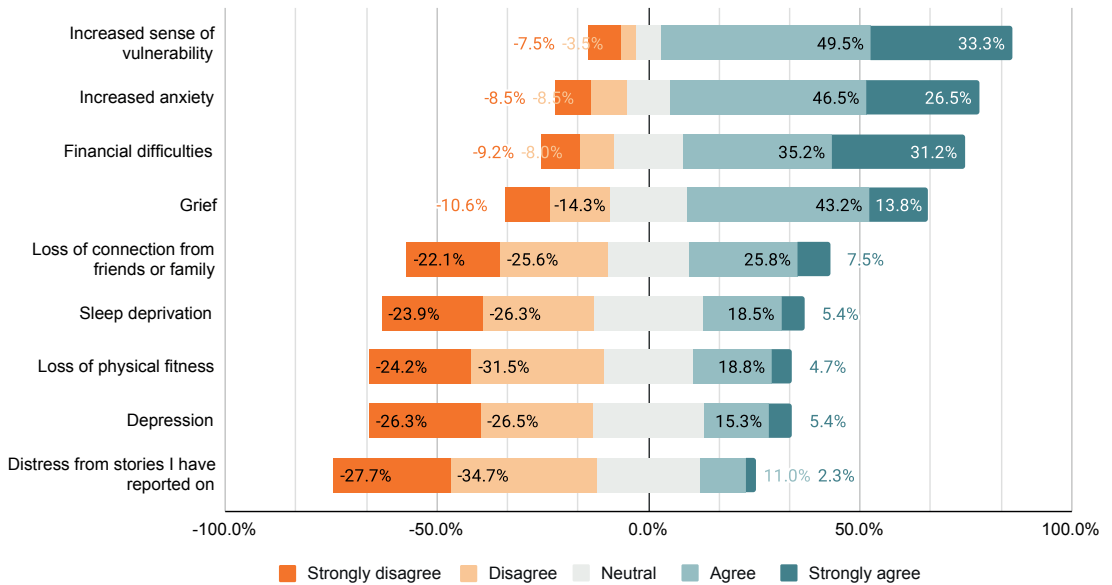


Figure C3

those in other provinces, reducing print frequency, number of pages, and video, audio and broadcast productions. Fewer respondents in the print sector, however, said that print frequency was reduced (45%, compared to the national average of 48%), though there was an increase in the number of print journalists who reported reduced number of pages (69%, against the 55% at the national level).

Support from news organisations

Respondents in Bagmati Pradesh showed a slightly higher likelihood of being offered flexible working hours than in other provinces (59%, compared to 56% nationally). But on social support, only 27% said that they had been given the option, compared to the national result of 39% responding so. Similarly, on being offered the opportunity for time off to care for their families, only 39% agreed (including strongly agreed) in the province, compared to 46% nationally.

Training needs

Similar to other provinces, respondents in Bagmati Pradesh largely welcomed all training options. New technologies was a preferred choice for 87%, with investigative reporting, at 84%, emerging second. All categories appeared to find favour with significant segments of the respondents in the province.

Respondents in Bagmati Pradesh largely agreed with the national trend,

preferring training offered via website material and video webinars. Not surprisingly, they also had a strong preference for physical workshops in Kathmandu (in their province), with 62% agreement. At 49%, podcasts was the least preferred option.

Bagmati Pradesh - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

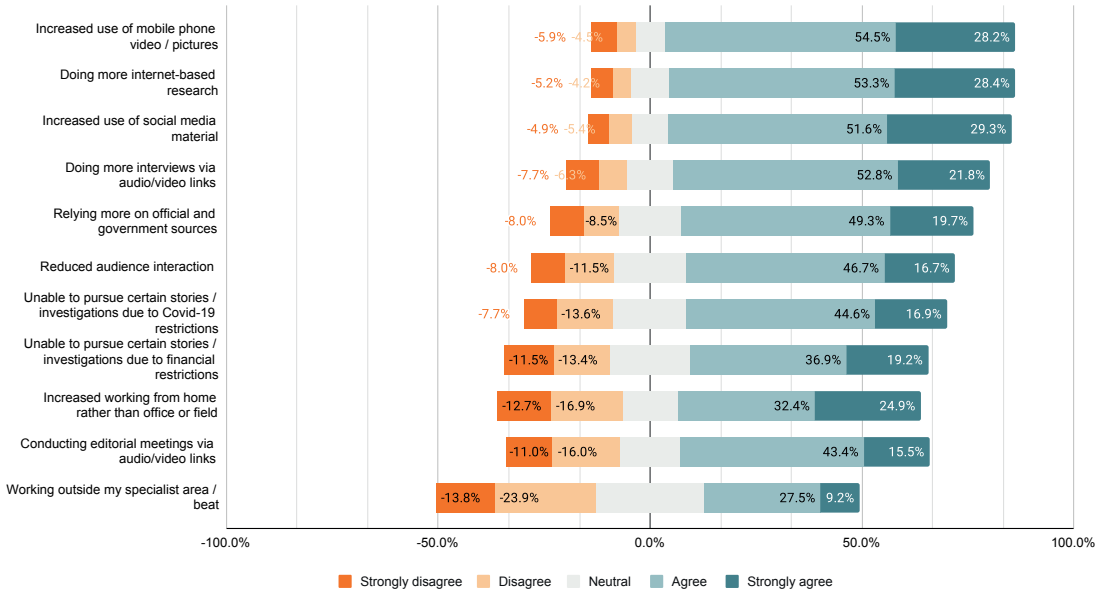


Figure C4

Bagmati Pradesh - Covid-19 support from news organisation

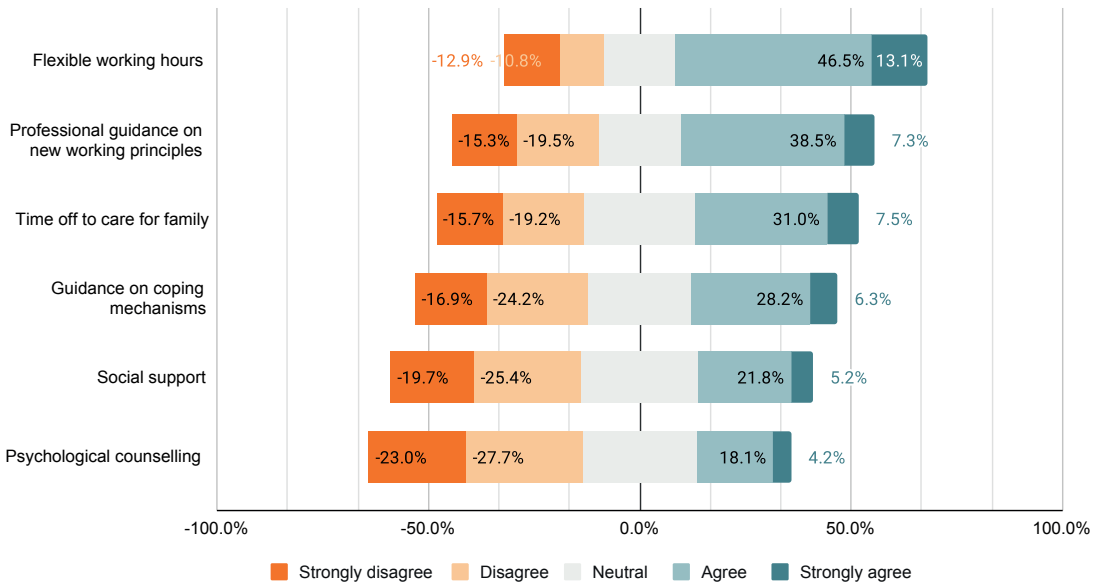


Figure C5

Bagmati Pradesh - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

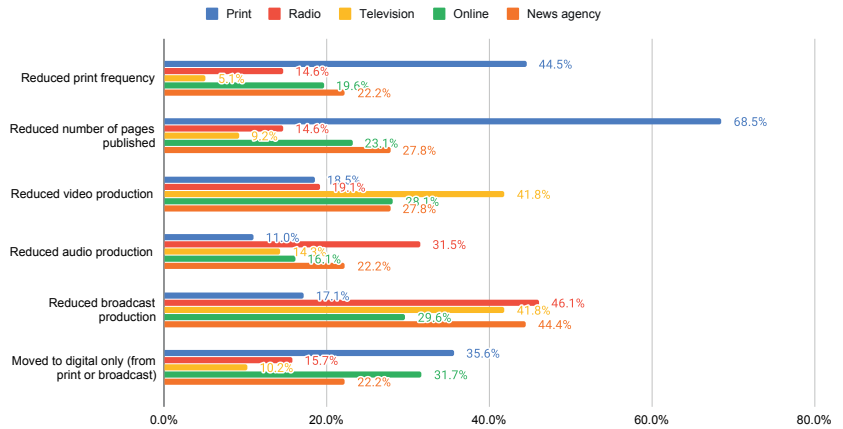


Figure C6

Bagmati Pradesh - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

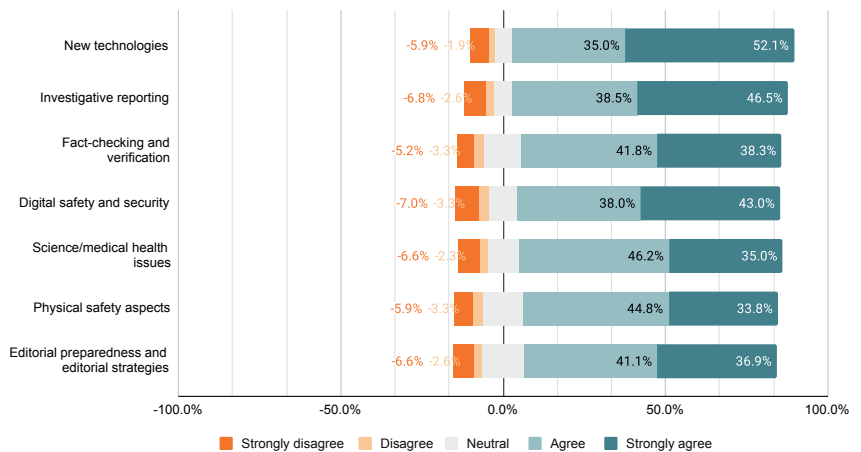


Figure C7

Bagmati Pradesh - Preferred ways of receiving training

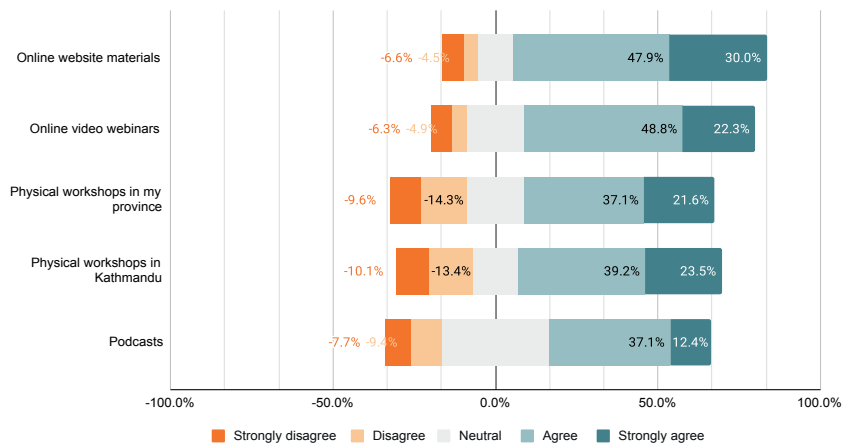


Figure C8

Gandaki Pradesh

Respondents in Gandaki Pradesh were overwhelmingly male (70%), although they made up 10% fewer than the national average (80%). Women made up 29% of respondents in the province, compared to 19% nationally. Respondent of other genders were also present in Gandaki Pradesh, making up 0.9%, against the national average of 0.4% for this category.

There were only marginal variations in the proportion of respondents from online and print sectors in Gandaki Pradesh. Responses from the online sector were lower, at 45%, compared to the national average of 48%. The radio sector in the province, however, appeared robust, with 42% respondents, against the national average of 30%. News agencies seemed to employ slightly higher numbers here than across the nation: 6% respondents, compared to the 4% average in this sector nationally.

Gandaki Pradesh - gender breakdown

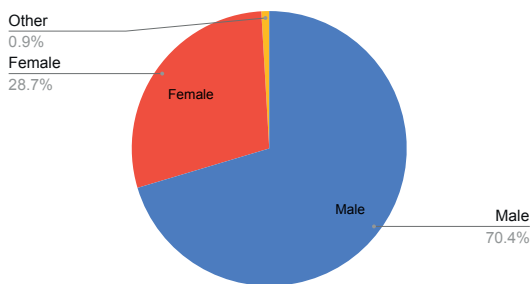


Figure D1

Gandaki Pradesh - breakdown of media type

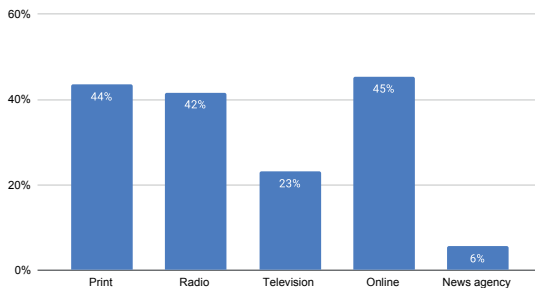


Figure D2

Impact on journalists

Respondents in Gandaki Pradesh appeared slightly less affected by the pandemic than those of the nation as a whole. Some 79% cited an increased sense of vulnerability, compared to the national average of 83%, while 64% said they had increased anxiety, compared with 75% nationally.

Changes to newsgathering practices

Gandaki Pradesh respondents felt less inclined to agree with statements compared to the national figures. For example, 51% in the province were in agreement that they worked from home more, compared with the national total of 59%.

Similarly, 70% were in agreement with the statement that they were doing more interviews via audio/video links, compared to the national average of 72%.

Gandaki Pradesh - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

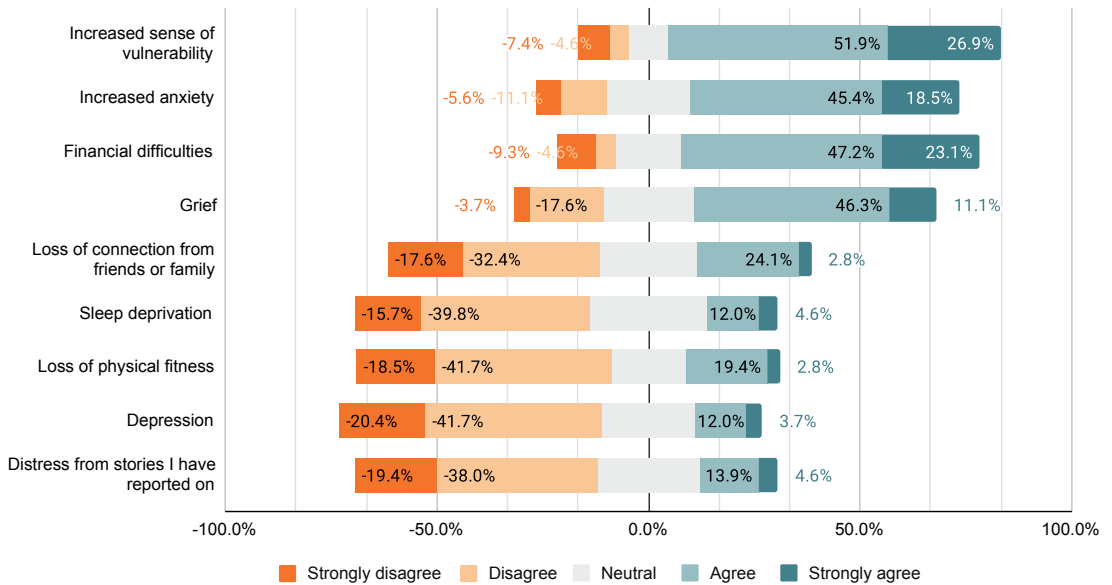


Figure D3

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Gandaki Pradesh responded in a similar fashion to those in other provinces, reducing print frequency, number of pages, and video, audio and broadcast productions. Reduced print production in this province, however, appeared to be more acute than across the nation, with 55% print journalists reporting such a move, against the 48% who did so nationally.

Support from news organisations

Journalists in Gandaki Pradesh appear to have received less support in most areas that we queried them on, compared to the national figures. For example, those agreeing and strongly agreeing they had access to flexible working hours in the province totalled to 49%, compared to the national average of 56%. Those disagreeing and strongly disagreeing they had time off to care for family totalled to 38%, compared to the 31% nationally.

Training

Respondents in Gandaki Pradesh were more likely to agree or strongly agree to all proposed areas of training when compared to the national picture. For example, 95% were in agreement that investigative reporting, compared to the national result of 87%. Those agreeing they would welcome training on editorial preparedness and editorial strategies stood at 89% in the province, compared to the national average of 79%.

Respondents in Gandaki Pradesh were more likely than those nationally to want physical workshops in their province, with 82% welcoming it, compared to 68% doing so nationally. They were also more likely to want online website materials (83%), compared to the national figure (78%).

Gandaki Pradesh - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

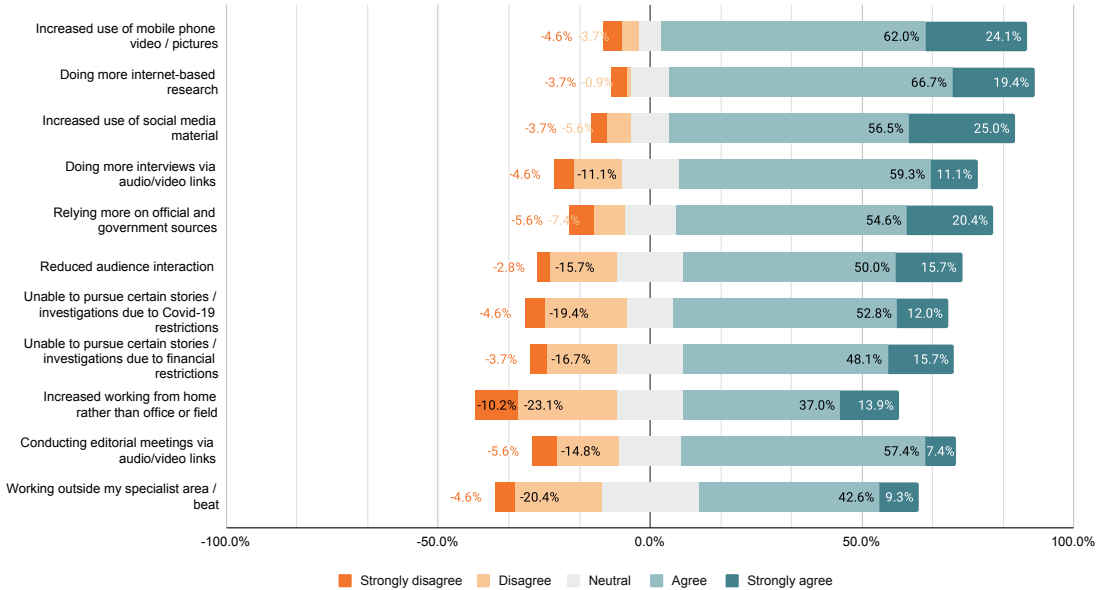


Figure D4

Gandaki Pradesh - Covid-19 support from news organisation

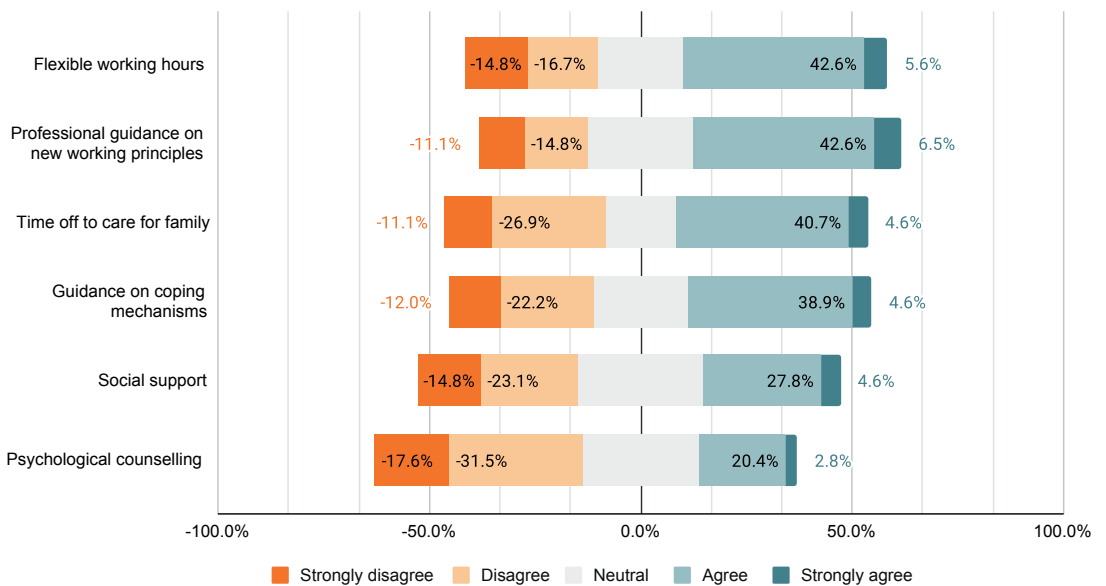


Figure D5

Gandaki Pradesh - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

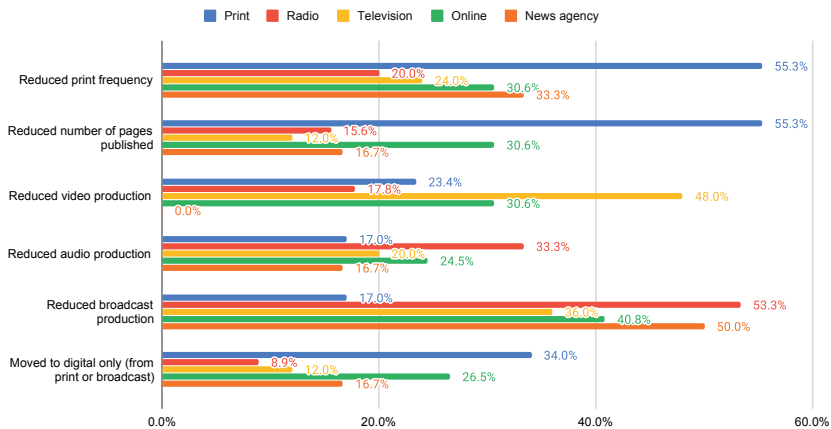


Figure D6

Gandaki Pradesh - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

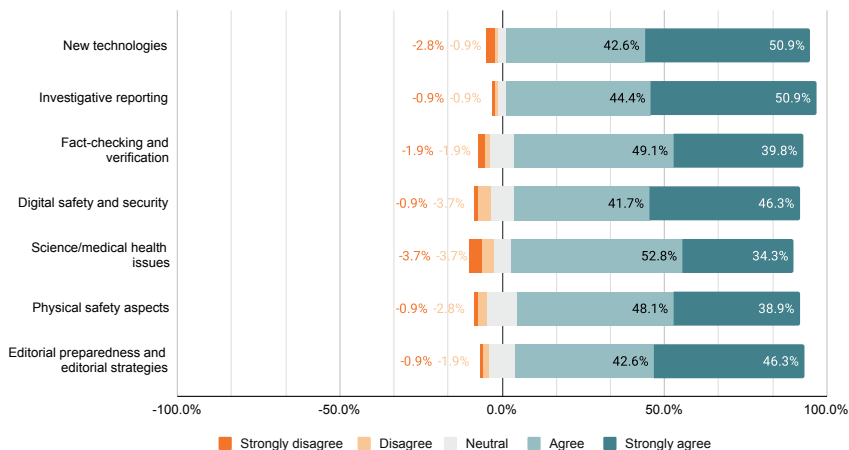


Figure D7

Gandaki Pradesh - Preferred ways of receiving training

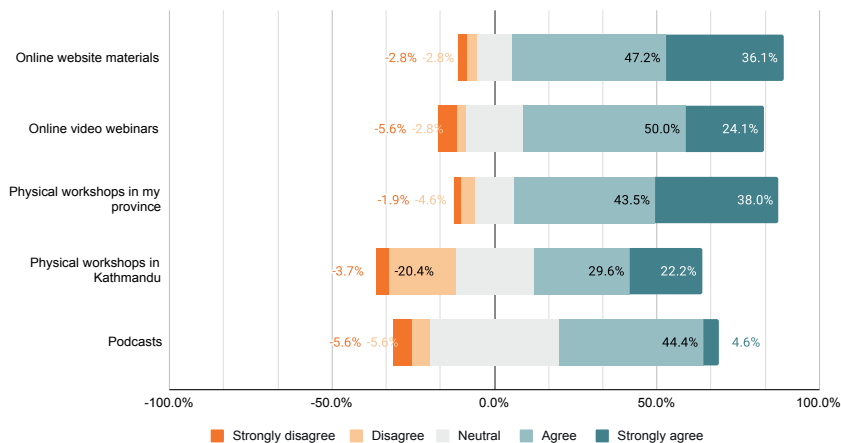


Figure D8

Province No. 5

Respondents in Province No. 5 were overwhelmingly male (86%). Women made up 14% of the respondents here. No respondent from the province chose other as their gender category.

Respondents in Province No. 5 were most likely to work online, at 49%, compared to 48% nationally. However, the second most common media in which respondents worked in this province was radio, at 48%, compared to 30% nationally. This makes Province No. 5 the only province in which radio was the second most common area in which journalists worked. Print was the third most common, at 42%, compared to the national result of 41%.

Province No. 5 - gender breakdown

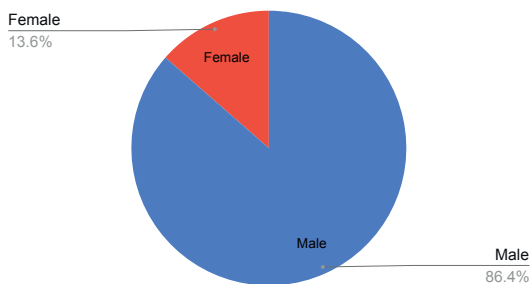


Figure E1

Province No. 5 - breakdown of media type

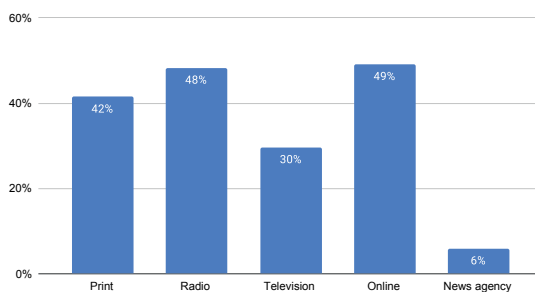


Figure E2

Impact on journalists

Province No. 5 saw an increase on the national average in several areas. There was an increase in the combined totals of people agreeing and strongly agreeing that they had an increased sense of vulnerability (87% in the province, compared with 83% nationally), increased anxiety (78%, against the national average of 75%) and, most strikingly, financial difficulties (87%, against the national average of 74%).

Changes to newsgathering practices

Respondents in Province No. 5 were more likely to be in agreement with most statements in the query related to newsgathering. For example, those in agreement that they had increased their use of mobile phones for videos/pictures stood at 90%, compared to 83% nationally. Similarly, those agreeing that they were doing more internet-based research stood at 90%, compared to the national average of 82%.

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Province No. 5 responded in a similar fashion to those in other provinces, indicating constrained news production and

Province No. 5 - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

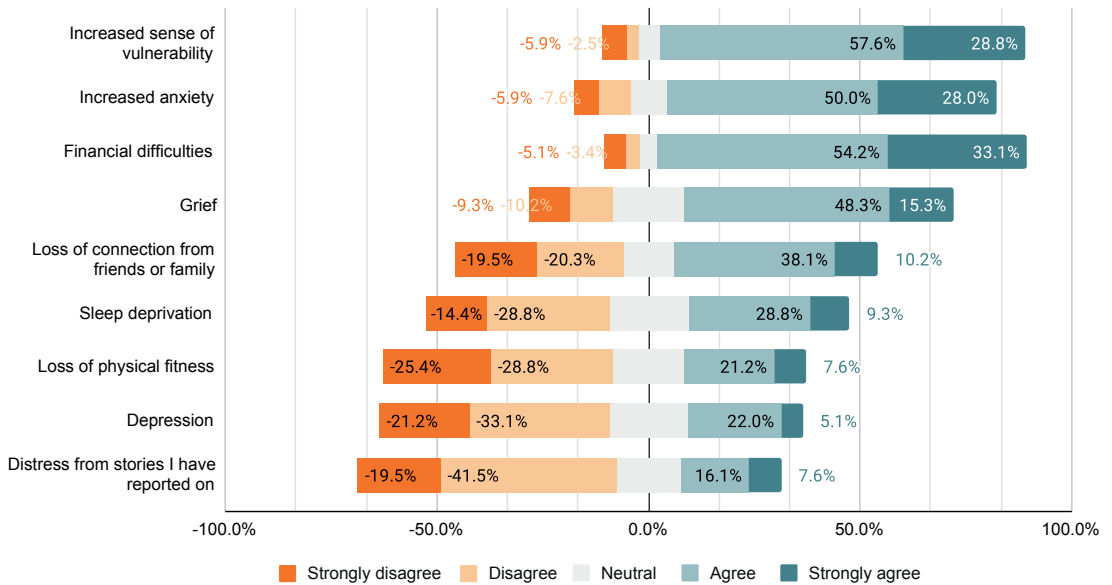


Figure E3

dissemination. The print sector appears to have seen some significant reductions, with 53% per cent from this sector reporting reduced print frequency, and 51% acknowledging a reduction in the number of pages published. Thirty-seven per cent of broadcast respondents, similarly, reported reduced production.

Support from news organisations

Respondents in Province No. 5 agreed and strongly agreed that they were more likely to receive support in all areas. On whether they had access to flexible working hours, 68% were in agreement in the province, compared to 56% nationally. On receiving time off to care for family, 59% agreed, compared to 46% nationally.

Training needs

Respondents in Province No. 5 were largely in agreement with respondents across the country to this query. New technologies (89% agreeing and strongly agreeing), investigative reporting (88%), and physical safety aspects (85%) were three most preferred areas for training.

Respondents in Province No. 5 were more likely than those across the nation to agree to wanting online website materials, with 84% agreeing and strongly agreeing, compared to the national average of 78% doing so. In terms of physical workshops in their province, 73% responded that this would be welcome. Podcasts were a valid option for 48% in this province.

Province No. 5 - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

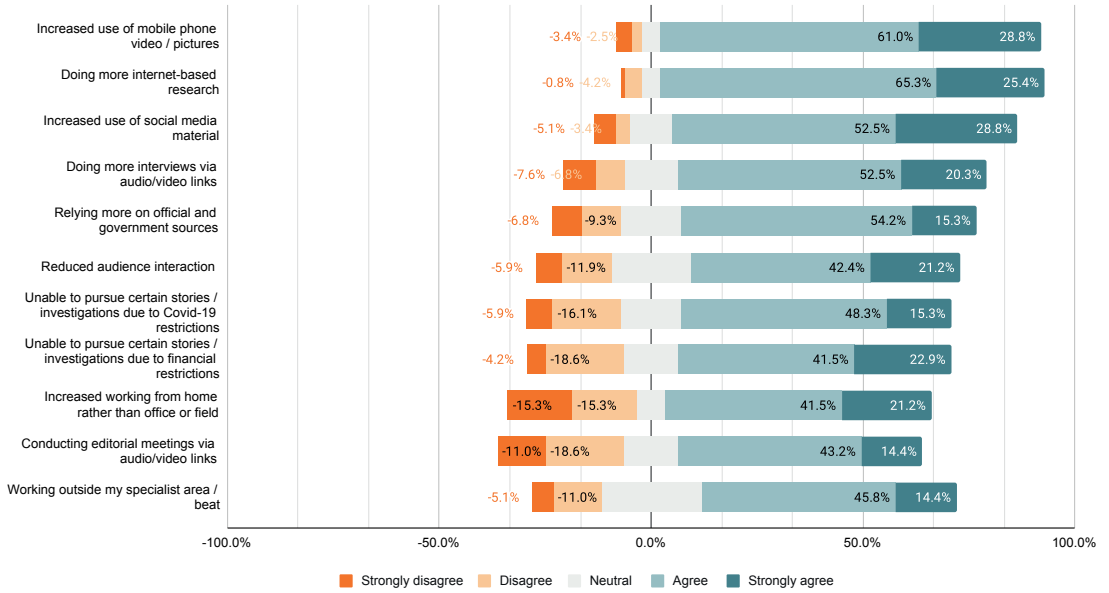


Figure E4

Province No. 5 - Covid-19 support from news organisation

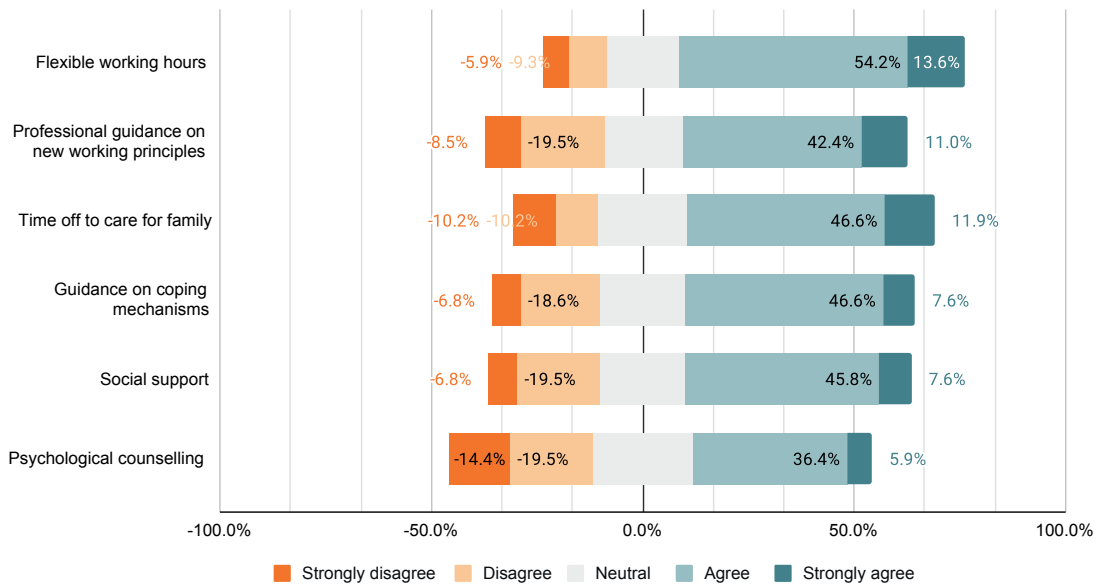


Figure E5

Province No. 5 - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

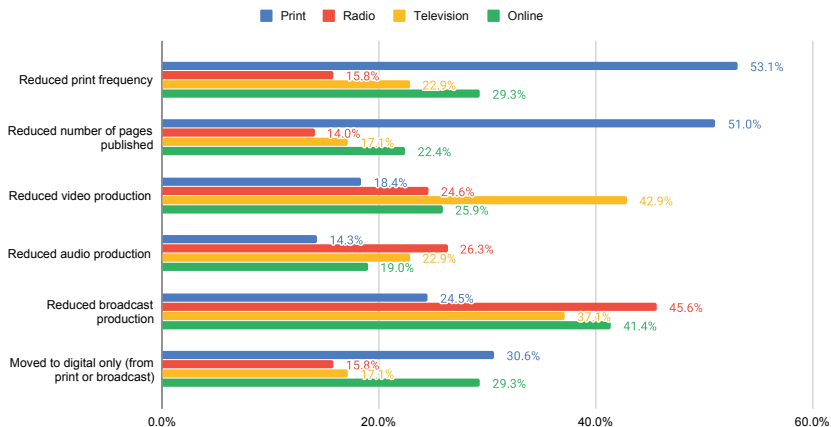


Figure E6

Province No. 5 - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

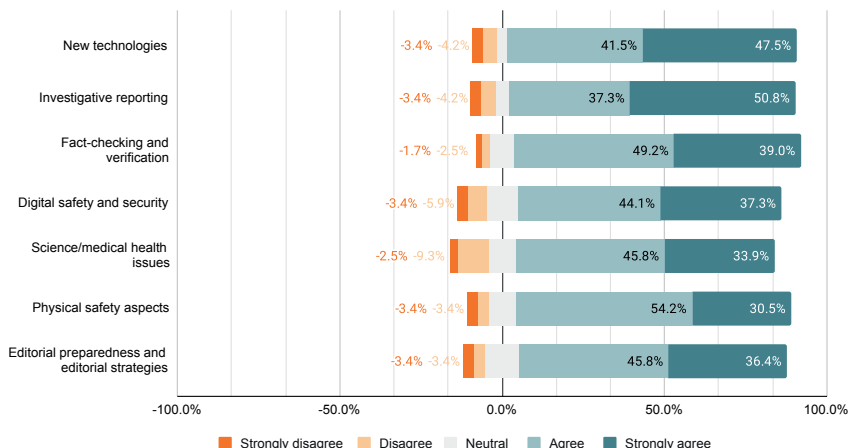


Figure E7

Province No. 5 - Preferred ways of receiving training

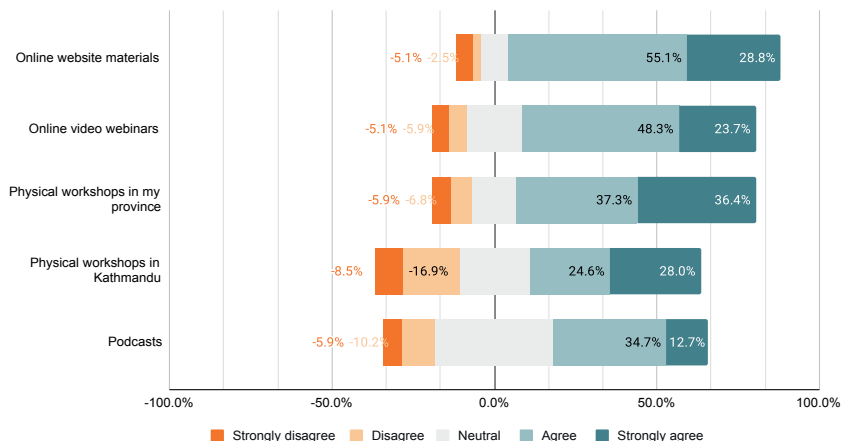


Figure E8

Karnali Pradesh

Respondents in Karnali Pradesh were overwhelmingly male (84%), which was 4% higher than the national average (80%). Women made up 17% of respondents here, compared to 19% nationally. No respondent in Karnali Pradesh chose other to specify gender.

Karnali Pradesh reported similar results as the rest of the nation in terms of media type. Online was the most common sector of work for respondents, at 41% (compared to 48% nationally), followed by print at 36% (41% nationally), and then radio at 30% (same as national average).

Karnali Pradesh - gender breakdown

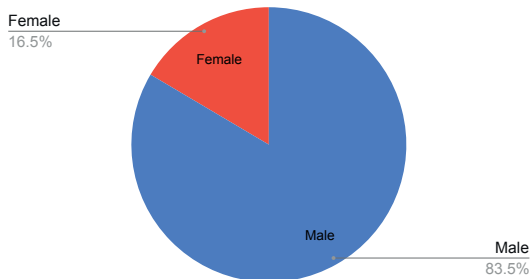


Figure F1

Karnali Pradesh - breakdown of media type

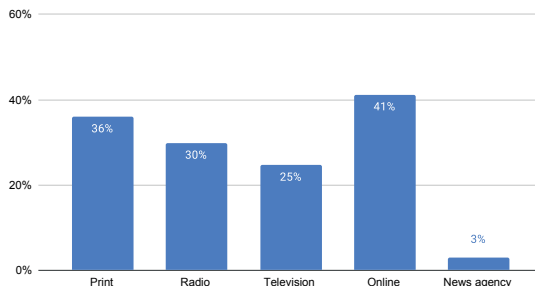


Figure F2

Impact on journalists

At 79%, Karnali Pradesh respondents saw a 5% increase on the national average of those responding that they faced greater financial difficulties. Additionally, those reporting depression rose from a combined total of 25% nationally, to 37% in the province.

Changes to newsgathering practices

The respondents in this province followed the national trend largely, reporting increased use of mobile phone video/pictures, increased reliance on government sources, and increased use of social media material, among others. They were, however, more likely than the country as a whole to feel they were unable to pursue certain stories/investigations due to financial restrictions, with 75% respondents agreeing and strongly agreeing, compared to the national average of 64%.

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Karnali Pradesh followed a trend similar to that witnessed at the national level. Respondents reported reduction in news content across all sectors. Broadcast appears to be significantly impacted: 42% of broadcast respondents in this province reported reduced broadcast

Karnali Pradesh - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

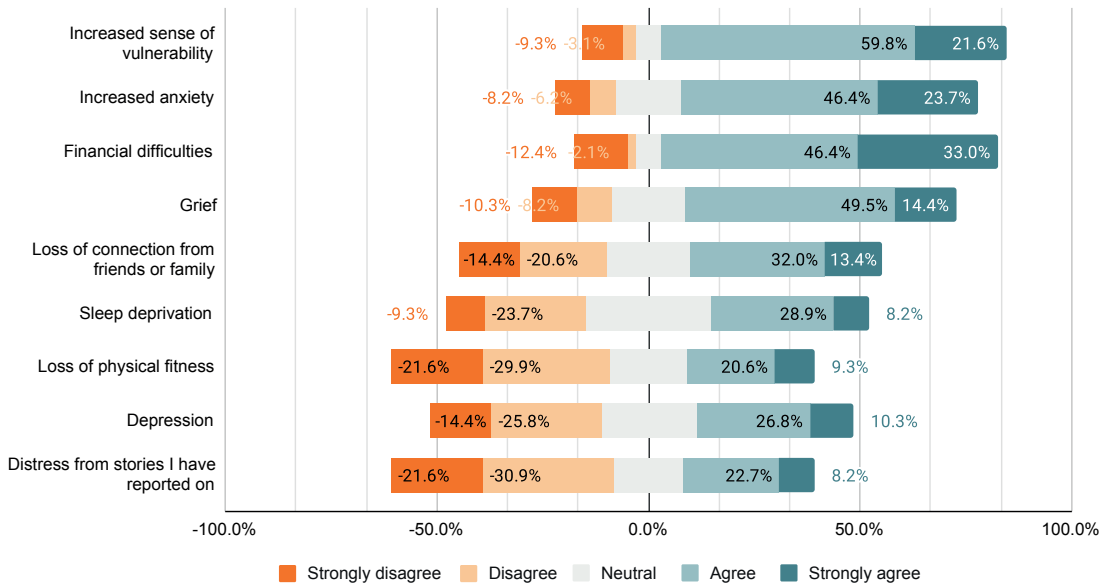


Figure F3

production, with 50% reporting reduction in video production. However, the reduction in print frequency and reduction in number of pages published, as reported by print journalists in this province, was lower than at the national level—31%, against 48%; and 31%, against 55%, respectively.

Support from news organisation

In every area other than access to social support (46% in agreement, compared to the national average of 38%), respondents from Karnali Pradesh suggested lesser support from their news outlets. For instance, only 39% reported that flexible hours were available to them, compared to the national average of 56%. On access to psychological counselling, 33% disagreed it was available in the province, and 18% strongly disagreed (totalling 51%), compared to the national result of 27% disagreeing and 19% strongly disagreeing (46%).

Training needs

There were several variations in the degree of agreement on training areas between respondents in Karnali Pradesh and Nepal as a whole. The main difference was in editorial preparedness and editorial strategies. Here, in the province, 69% were in agreement that it would be welcome, compared to the national result of 79%. On the same issue, for those in the province, 17% were in disagreement, compared to 9% disagreement nationally.

Website material was the most preferred way of accessing training for the

respondents in Karnali Pradesh, with 80% indicating so. Physical workshops in their province came second (76%), followed by video webinars (71%). Podcasts, though preferred by the lowest percentage of respondents, still emerged a viable option, with a combined total of 48% agreeing.

Karnali Pradesh - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

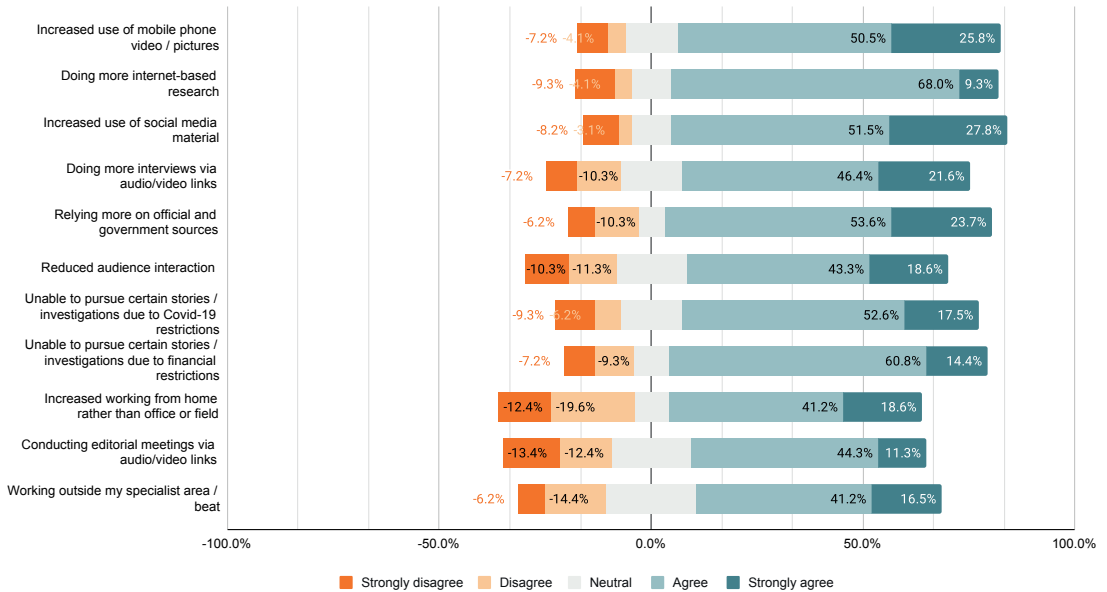


Figure F4

Karnali Pradesh - Covid-19 support from news organisation

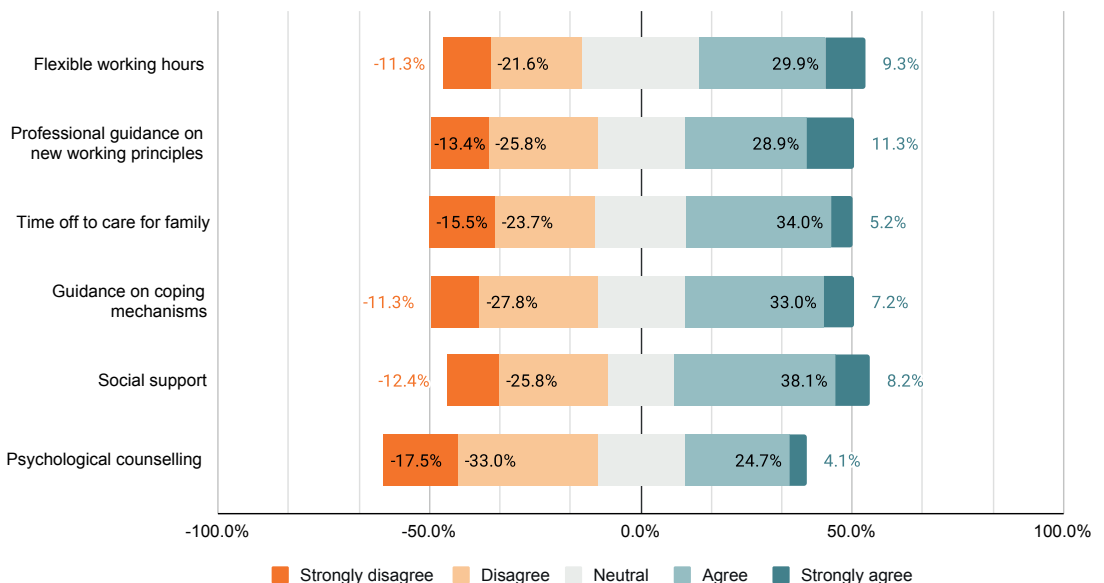


Figure F5

Karnali Pradesh - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

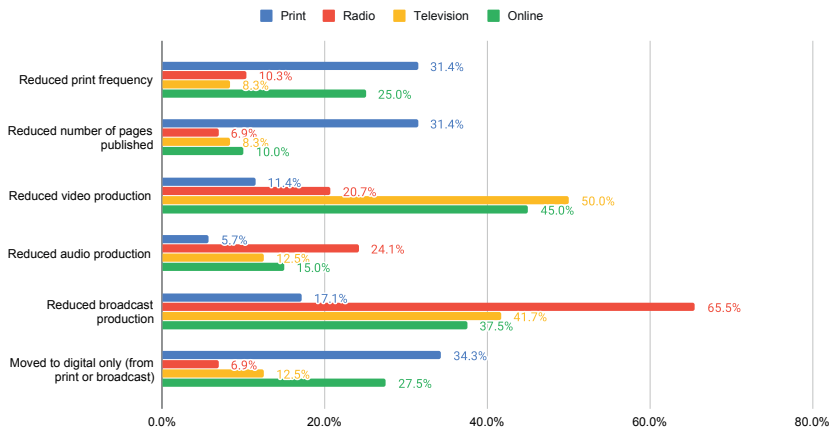


Figure F6

Karnali Pradesh - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

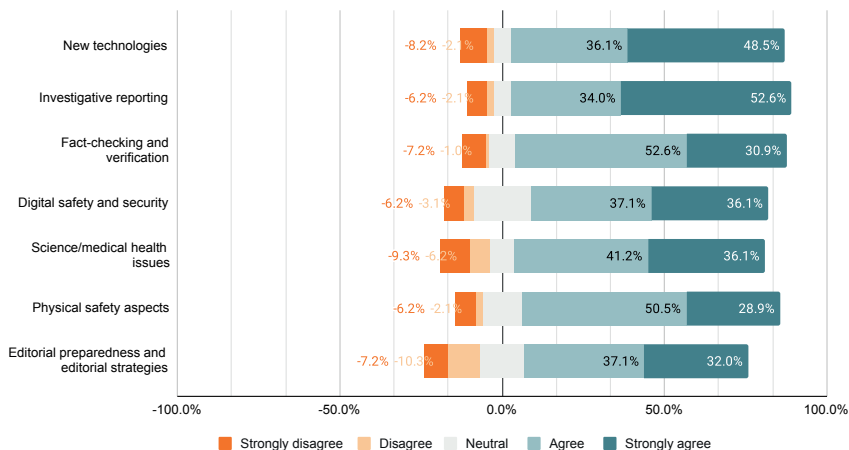


Figure F7

Karnali Pradesh - Preferred ways of receiving training

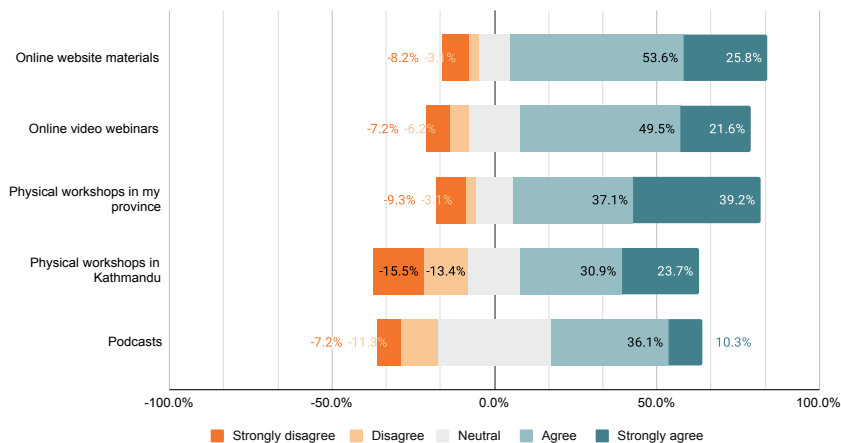
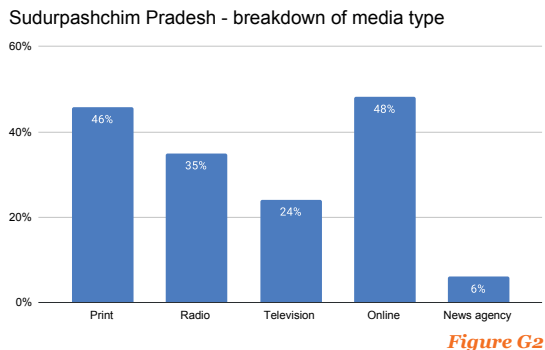
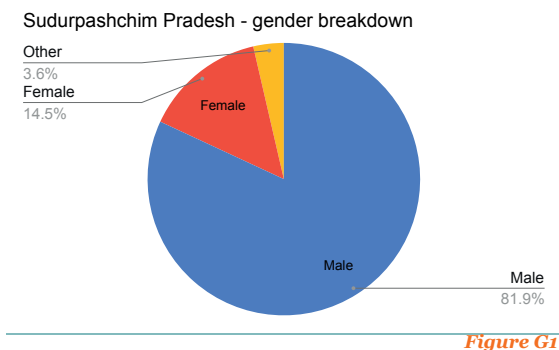


Figure F8

Sudurpashchim Pradesh

Respondents in Sudurpashchim Pradesh were overwhelmingly male (82%), a slightly larger share than the national average of 80%. Women made up 15% here, against 19% nationally. Sudurpashchim Pradesh also had the highest share of those in the other category (0.4%).

Sudurpashchim Pradesh exhibited similar trends as the rest of the nation, with online being the most common sector in which respondents worked (48%, same as the national average). Print came second (46%), with a higher response rate than the national average of 41% for this sector. The third largest percentage of respondents was from radio (35%), 5% higher than the national average of 30%.



Impact on journalists

In Sudurpashchim Pradesh, 6% fewer respondents noted that they had increased sense of vulnerability than the national average (83%), but 9% more stated they had experienced increased in anxiety (compared to the national average of 75%).

Changes to newsgathering practices

Respondents in Sudurpashchim Pradesh were notably less likely to be doing more internet-based research than the nation as a whole, with 67% in agreement on this in the province, compared to 83% doing so nationally. They were also less likely to have increased their use or mobile phone video/pictures (75%, against the national average of 83%), and use of social media material (73%, against 80%). A higher percentage of respondents here reported that financial difficulties impeded their ability to pursue certain stories / investigations. While at the national level 64% had reported this limitation, Sudurpashchim Pradesh had 69% journalists acknowledging it.

Changes to news outputs

News organisations in Sudurpashchim Pradesh followed a trend similar to that witnessed

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Covid-19 related impact on Nepali journalists

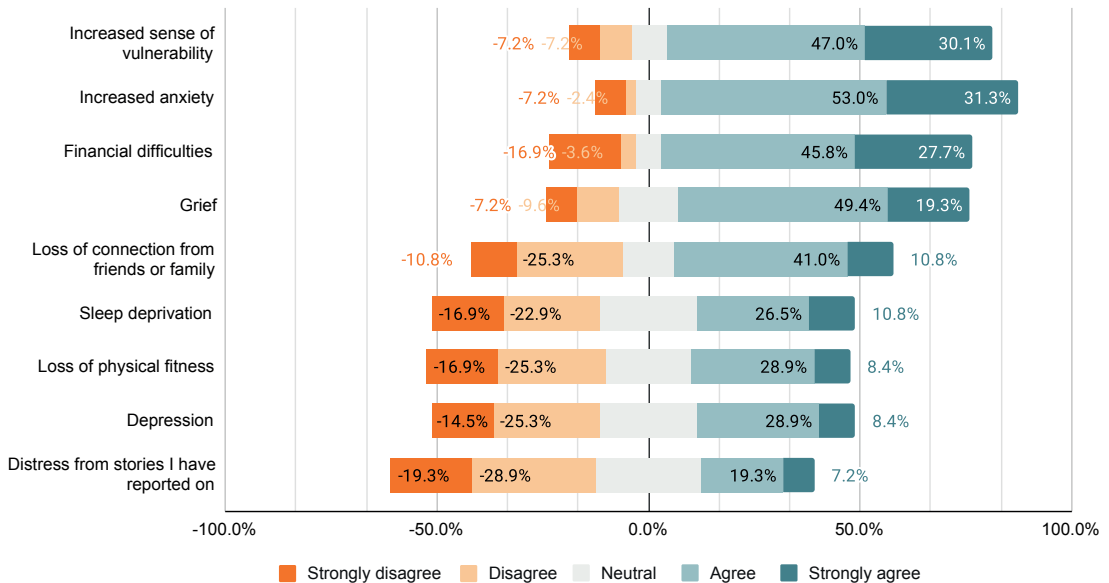


Figure G3

at the national level. Respondents reported reduction in news content across all sectors. The most acute impact in this province was felt in the broadcast sector, followed by the print sector. A higher percentage of broadcast respondents in Sudurpashchim Pradesh reported lowered production in their sector (50%, compared to the national average of 43%). The percentage of print respondents noting reduced print frequency was high in the province, at 58%, compared to the national average of 48%.

Support from news organisation

Journalists in Sudurpashchim Pradesh appear to have been better supported by their news outlets than in other provinces. The availability of psychological counselling, according to our respondents, was higher here than the national average, at 42% agreement, compared to the national average of 29%. Similarly, 55% of the respondents here indicated that they were being offered guidance on coping mechanisms, compared to 41% doing so at the national level.

Training

In Sudurpashchim Pradesh, while the overall agreements and disagreements were similar to the national results, fewer respondents strongly agreed with the training areas. For example, only 30% strongly agreed that they would welcome training in digital safety and security, compared to 40% doing so at the national level. Similarly, 37% strongly agreed that investigative reporting was preferred (compared to 47%)

The province followed the national trend for preferred ways of accessing

training. Online material was highlighted by the majority of respondents (76%). Video webinars was another choice area (69%). Respondents also showed a preference for physical workshop in their province (71%). Physical workshops in Kathmandu and podcasts, too, were reported as welcome modes for training by significant sections (57% and 48%, respectively).

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Changes to newsgathering / production practices after Covid-19

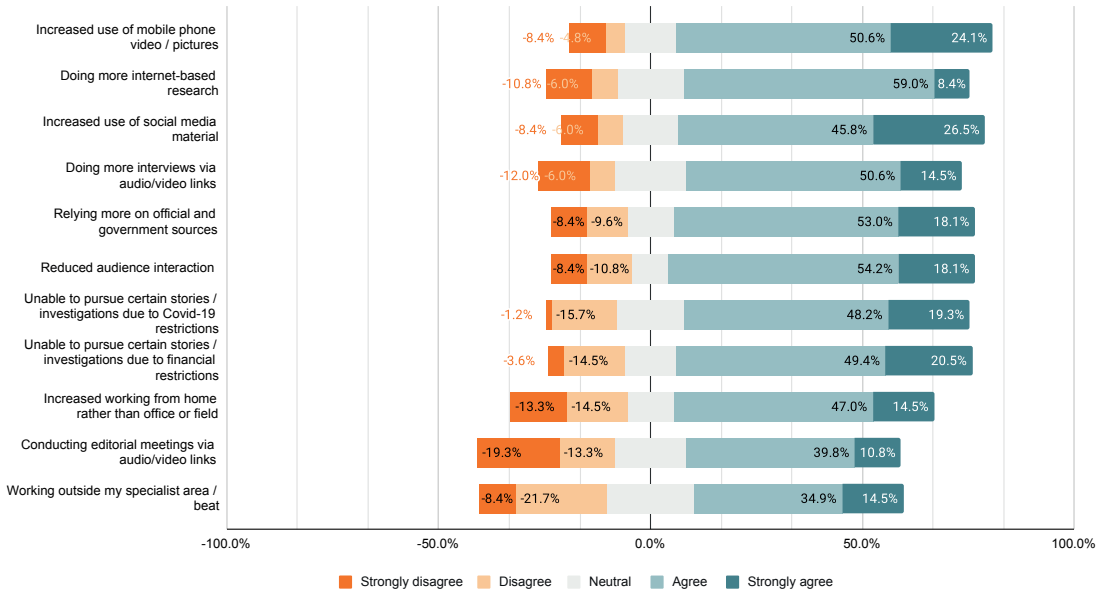


Figure G4

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Covid-19 support from news organisation

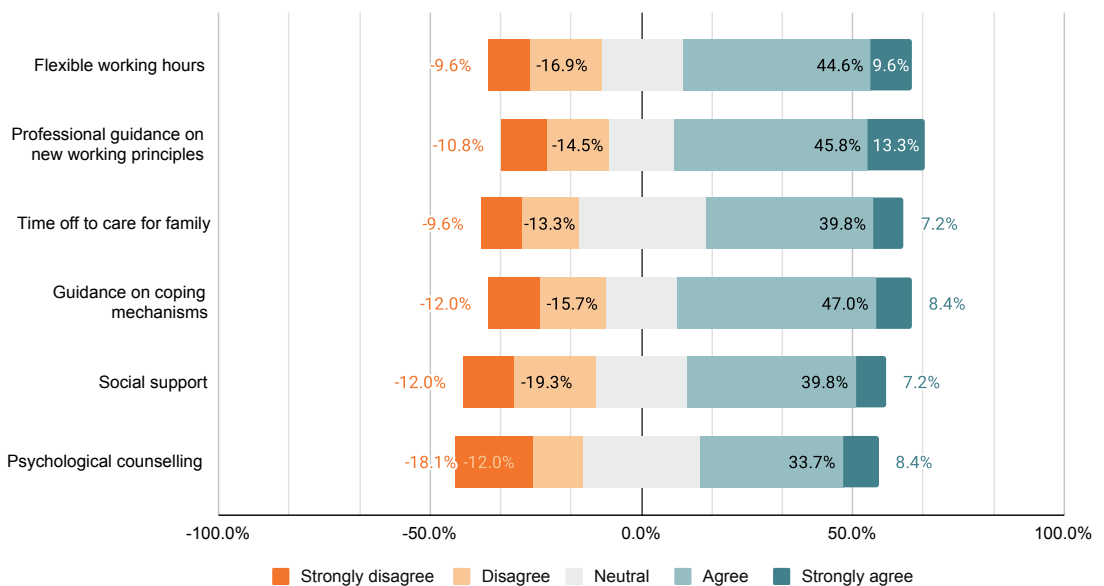


Figure G5

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Has your news organisation made any of the following changes to its output since Covid-19?

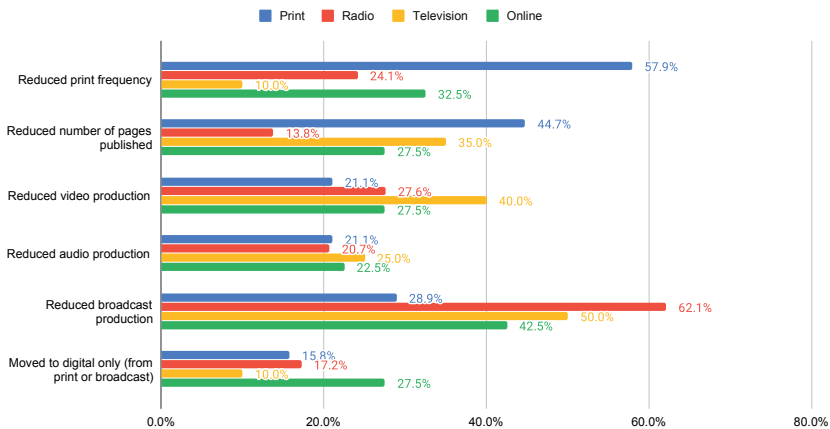


Figure G6

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Would personally welcome training in the following areas

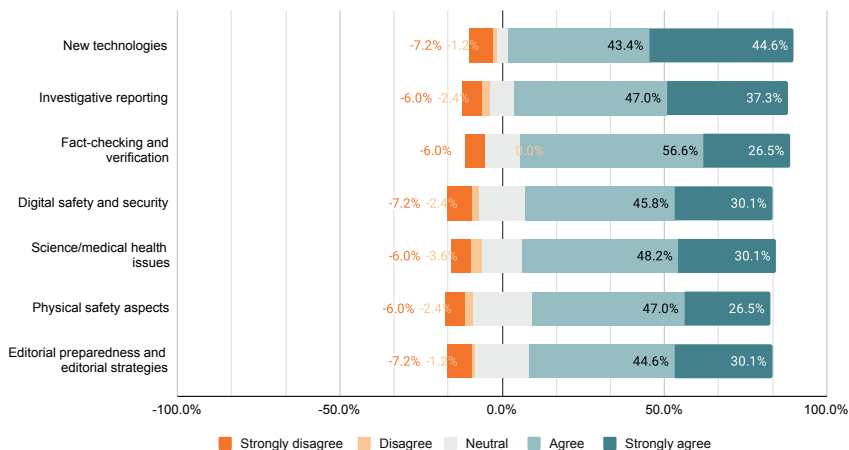


Figure G7

Sudurpashchim Pradesh - Preferred ways of receiving training

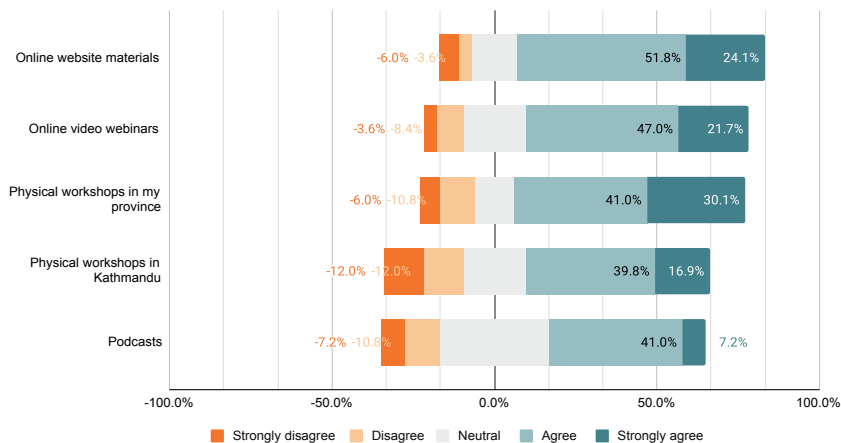


Figure G8