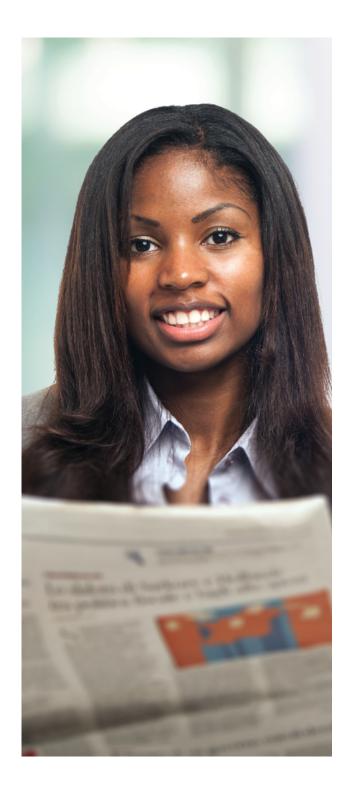


WOMEN IN MEDIA

What is the narrative?

REPORT ON SURVEY FINDINGS PREPARED FOR NEW FACES NEW VOICES



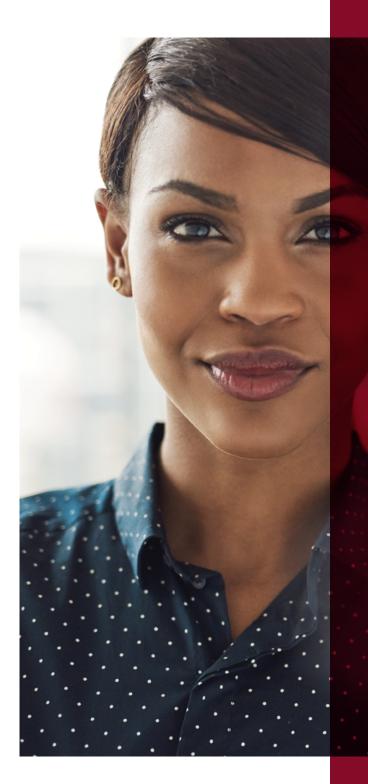


WOMEN IN MEDIA

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Definition of Terms



4

01_ definition of terms



News story

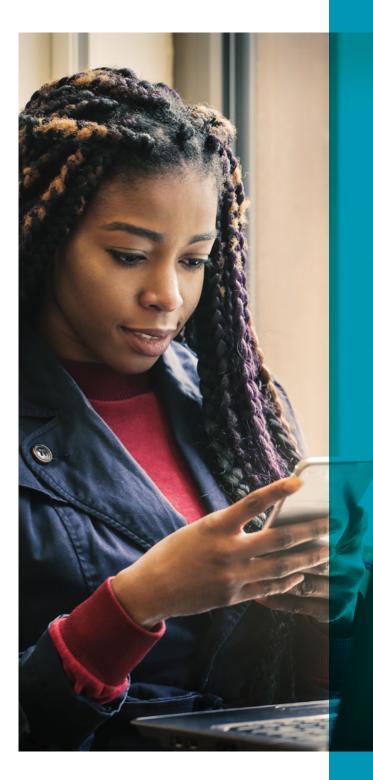
Defined by Infotrak for purposes of this study as any item presented or published by a credible media outlet that reports on women and their issues factually and objectively.

Positive news story

Defined by Infotrak for purposes of this study as any item presented or published by a credible media outlet depicting women and their issues in a favourable manner.

Negative news story

Defined by Infotrak for purposes of this study as any item presented or published by a credible media outlet depicting women and their issues in an unfavourable manner.







02_ executive summary



800

random phonecalls

WHERE RANDOMLY MADE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC



The aim of this research was three pronged. It sought to establish the portrayal of women in Kenyan media; the amount of coverage women's issues receive in the media compared to men and the type of coverage that was accorded to women or issues concerning them. To achieve this the research was conducted in three parts. Almost 800 phone calls were randomly made to the general public to get its perception on women's coverage in Kenya media, 10 anonymous in-depth interviews were conducted with female movers and shakers as well as news producers to get their perceptions, experiences and recommendations and Media monitoring of Kenyan print, electronic and online media between 2015 and 2016 was done.

It was important to carry the research because media is powerful not only as a story teller, but as a highlighter of what and who is important. As women struggle for equality, for recognition of human rights, and space in the economies of Africa, women's experiences in the world must be heard and understood. The women's voices must be recognized as having value. A keen look at the media, assessing the story that the media is telling and how that story is received by the consumer is a vital starting point, if ever we are going to change the narrative in the media in Africa to a true and nuanced version of who the African woman truly is.

6

02_ executive summary

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Perception versus reality

Although the public perception in Kenya seems to point out that women are significantly covered and that the portrayals of women in the media reflect the Kenyan society, there are still concerns that the portrayal of the women in the media is largely negative as it presents women as victims. The general perception in Kenya that because women are allocated columns or spaces in the media that specifically address their concerns is an indication of adequate coverage is a bit disturbing. It just demonstrates the power of the media in influencing or shaping people's opinions. People's opinions and views are influenced by what they read every day and media is one area where gender stereotypes can be reinforced. This is why it is fundamental for to give a true reflection of women based on their voices, experiences and evidence-based information.

Equally worrying is the public opinion that women receive positive coverage in the media because media monitoring has revealed the opposite to be true. There is also the perception that television covers more women than other forms of media, yet a closer look show different results. The majority of African women live in the rural areas and radio must be utilized more to capture views and opinions of these women in the media. In reality, the media is still heavily biased against coverage of women's issues. This is corroborated in the interviews with some of the media producers. It is also confirmed by other research. For instance, research has already shown that women make up only a small percentage in news across all media platforms and this has been the case since 2010. The gender gap is narrowest in stories on science and health, which is of lowest importance on the news agenda only occupying only 8% of the overall news space. - (Who makes the news, Global Media Monitoring Project, 2015)

Another research done in Kenya shows that women's issues are not significant. The women's issues covered are mainly event – oriented meaning they require much less effort to report and in the long run the systems and structures that perpetuate

8

02_ executive summary





associates women's issues

WITH BEAUTY AND FASHION



oppressive and unequal conditions for women are left unchallenged and women's issues are covered mostly as unfortunate accidents or trifling incidents. (Women in Kenya's Print Media: A Study of the Daily Nation, the Standard, and Kenya Times; June 2002 to June 2003)

Women not heard but seen

This research also shows that a significant amount of people 21 percent associated women's issues with beauty and fashion. This research shows that not many women stories about politics, religion, sports were being covered. There was also little focus on gender-based violence, which is prevalent in most African countries. This is supported in research that has been done by Who makes the news, Global Media Monitoring Project.

Women are more likely to cover women better

This research show that gender influence the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media. The media admit that women have played an influential role in exposing the injustices against women such as women assaulted in public transport for allegedly not dressed well.

9

J)

01_ Good

29.9%

judges education

OVER PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (20.9%)



Yardsticks against which society gauges women when they are covered by mainstream media

The audience judges education (29.9%) over physical appearance (20.9%) of women in the news. Professional accomplishments are also very important at 20.2%

When asked to opine how society gauges women when they are aired on mainstream media, 29.9% of the surveyed respondents stated that level of education is the yardstick most used while 20.9% mentioned appearance.

Gender of media personalities versus stories on women's issues

When asked if the gender of people who work on different news stories (e.g. reporters, anchors, writers, editors et cetera) affect or influence the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media, 56.8% of those interviewed stated that the gender of people who work on different news stories does indeed affect or influence the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to 38.0% of the surveyed respondents who were of a contrary opinion.

"...it does, if you have a man covering women issues in this country where a lot of men are not educated about women's equality, women's rights then we have misogynistic overtones coming in; see it in the headlines, choice of stories like now women being assaulted in matatus, before it was my dress my choice the incident that led to that campaign was tapped very deep into news bit stages instead of being a big issue and it took women in newsrooms to make the male editors see it was huge and that changed the narrative because when a woman was drugged and raped in a matatu it was huge. It was given the prominence it deserves by the male editors. So yes, gender plays a role..."

11

"...not at all; because you find men who are great at women issues like health and lifestyle just like you find a woman who is a great editor at men's issues like sports. It is more to do with what's news worthy...."

TV PRODUCER



02_ Worrying

- There is no clear definition of women's issues;
- 36.2% of the general population thinks that women get equal coverage though a closer look reveals that only 30% of news stories cover women.



of the general population

THINKS THAT WOMEN GET EQUAL COVERAGE





03_ Disappointing

- Newsrooms lack knowledgeable professionals who can discuss women and women's issues authoritatively;
- Even though TV has the most coverage of women and women's issues, only 2.3% & 2.4% of those stories cover business and politics respectively;
- Women are scared to speak to media and this reticence extended to this research where more than 20 declined to be interviewed despite the promise of confidentiality.

only



of women stories on TV

COVER BUSINESS AND POLITICS



13

£

04_ Disturbing

66.1%

of the surveyed respondents

THINK WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE GIVEN ADEQUATE COVERAGE



Adequacy of Media Coverage Given to Women's Issues

Significantly, 66.1% of the surveyed respondents indicated that women and women's issues are given adequate coverage by the media compared to 31.1% who were of the contrary opinion.

"... It depends on the forum you are talking about. There aren't any sections in the media that are devoted to men but there are sections in the media that are devoted to women. So it would be wrong to say women don't get a lot of coverage..."

NEWS EDITOR

Accuracy of Portrayal of Women in the Media

Notably, 66.4% of the surveyed respondents indicated that the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to 33.6% of those interviewed who were of a contrary opinion.

"...not at all, it does not reflect the real situation on the ground. It does not reflect the impact women are making in civic education, business and even politics ..."

TV PRODUCER

".... I think so because women are all these things, women can be corrupt, and they can be victims, nurturing, survivors; assumption is women are different from men but we are not, we are all those things that men are, we are good, we are bad, we are evil, thieves, we have a responsibility to not only show women in good light, but we should tell women's stories from all angles. If we are going to show equality then we need to treat women as equals not as different..."

NEWS EDITOR

Topics Which Women are Mainly Covered in by the Media

With respect, the topics in which women are covered in by the media, 21.2% of the surveyed respondents opined that women are mainly covered in Beauty & Fashion. Health & Nutrition was identified by 19.4% of the surveyed respondents as an area in the media that mainly covers women.

"...skewed and male dominated topics include politics, religion, sports where as women are mostly covered in beauty and fashion, and crime especially if it's viral and several activists are reacting ..."

TV PRODUCER

"...health, nutrition, entertainment, beauty and business, if I was to select one out of the four then I would pick business ..." **NEWS EDITOR**

Media Platforms that Provide the Most Coverage on Women's Issues

With respect to the media platforms that provide the most coverage on women, 44.4% of the surveyed respondents opined that TV provides most coverage on women's issues. Mainstream radio stations were identified by 18.8% of the surveyed respondents in this regard while 17.7% indicated that Social Media provided women with the most coverage.

"...if we talk about being misogynistic, the most woman hating media platform is radio. Social media is the most pro feminist... We have very strong feminists on Facebook and Twitter just as we have very strong misogynists. Print has stronger female coverage than television from what I see..."

NEWS EDITOR

"...television by virtue of news, it shows what women are doing; radio is the most skewed because of the nature of the presenters and even the kind of stories they put across. For digital media with access to You Tube you can access what women do; for print media women are mostly found in magazines like True Love..." **TV PRODUCER**

Slant of News Stories on Women's Issues

When asked if they thought that news stories about women and women's issues are positive, 65.2% of the surveyed respondents indicated that they were compared to 34.8% of those interviewed who were of a contrary opinion.

15

16

05_ Encouraging

50.2%

of the surveyed respondents

STATES THAT EDITORIAL POLICY SHOULD BE GEARED TOWARDS EQUAL COVERAGE



What Media and Policy Makers Should Do to Enhance Balanced Media Coverage on Men and Women's Issues

When asked to opine what the media and policy makers should do to enhance balanced media coverage on men and women's issues, 50.2% of the surveyed respondents stated that editorial policy should be geared towards equal coverage of the same.

"...I think what we need are interventions and ongoing education. The media right now is very top heavy with male influence; people who run various media platforms are generally men. We need policies in place to ensure many women have more top positions, sort of like affirmative action. But beyond that we need to stop having forums where women meet and whine about what is not favoring us and how unhappy we are about not getting promotions. If we invite men as stakeholders they will also participate and they will understand. By education I mean we need to open men's mind, all these managing editors, CEO, the chairmen of these media houses are all men, sit them down so that they understand why this is necessary..." NEWS EDITOR

Issues That Affect Women and Those Which the Media Should Focus On

Of those interviewed, 41.5% stated that the media should focus on Gender Based Violence as an issue affecting women. The social and economic empowerment of women was mentioned by 20.8% of the surveyed respondents as another issue that should be covered by the media.



Survey background



03.1_ survey background



1. New Faces New Voices (NFNV) is a Pan - African advocacy group spanning across 15 countries that focuses on expanding the role and influence of women in the financial sector. It engages with decision-makers at national, regional, continental and global levels to better harness women's economic potential.

2. Research carried out by NFNV's research suggests that if the financial and business sectors become more inclusive to women, the result will be a large-scale and fundamental shift in the business and financial landscape across Africa.

18

03.1_ survey background

R

3. Notably here in Kenya, there is disconnect in how women's issues are covered and how their views are shared with the larger public compared to men's issues and views. One may be justified in arguing that the media's general attitude towards matters affecting women and female opinions on diverse topics is skewed and to a certain extent hostile and adversarial.

4. Most issues facing women do not form a significant part of the Kenyan media's and the issues covered are mainly event – oriented meaning they require much less effort to report and in the long run the systems and structures that perpetuate oppressive and unequal conditions for women are left unchallenged and women's issues are covered mostly as unfortunate accidents or trifling incidents.

03.2_ survey objectives

20



Main objective

To assess the current narrative surrounding women within the Kenyan media.

Specific Objectives

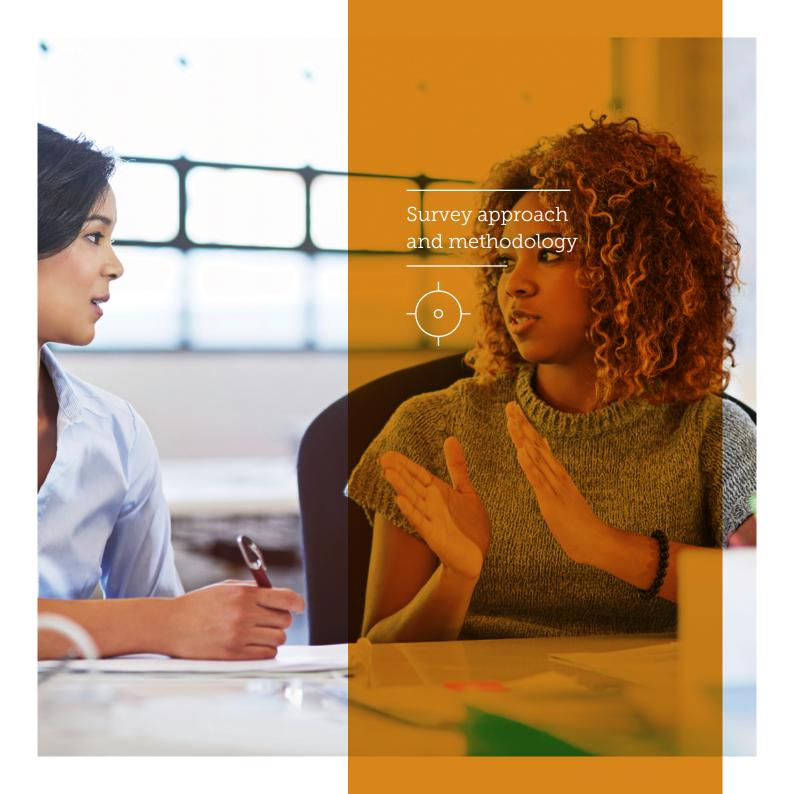
1. Pinpoint exactly what women are depicted as in the media;

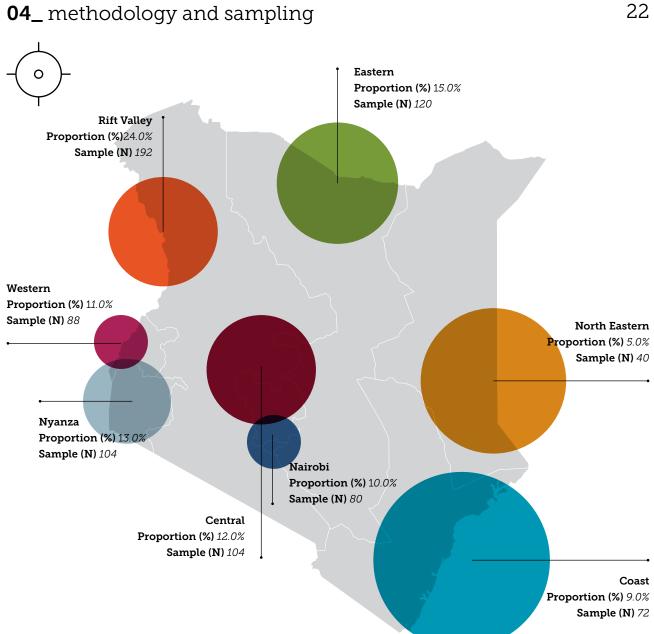
2. Determine what the yardstick women are being measured against is;

3. Pinpoint biases and exactly what they look like – adjectives used to describe women, placement of female-centric stories, non-issue based discourse, lines of questioning that are directed at women (clothing, grooming and shopping);

4. Quantify whether the coverage that women enjoy is in fact equal to that given to men – acreage in print media, airtime in broadcasting, do women get top billing and headlines or are they relegated to the middle pages and lifestyle sections;

5. Establish how much of the coverage is positive and celebratory when women do get it.





N = 800 Margin of Error = +/-3.46%

23

04_ methodology and sampling



A random sample of 800 respondents from the country's 8 regions were interviewed by way of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI).

10 Key Informant Interviews were conducted with purposively identified stakeholders and experts from various fields (media, activism, business, sports, culture and the arts) using semi structured interview guides.



25

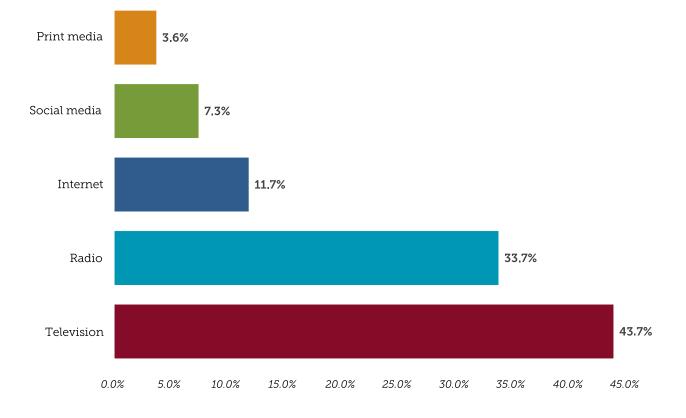
Survey findings

Media Platforms Mostly Accessed by Respondents

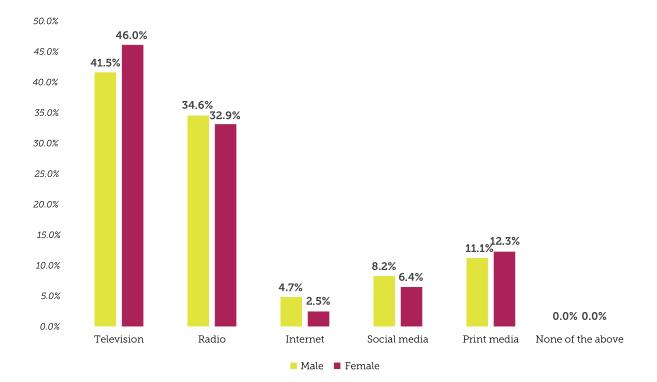
05.1_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 26

Which of the following media platforms *do you access the most?*

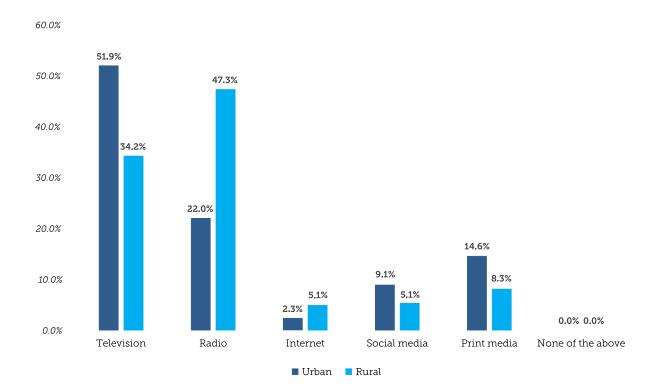
05.1_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 27



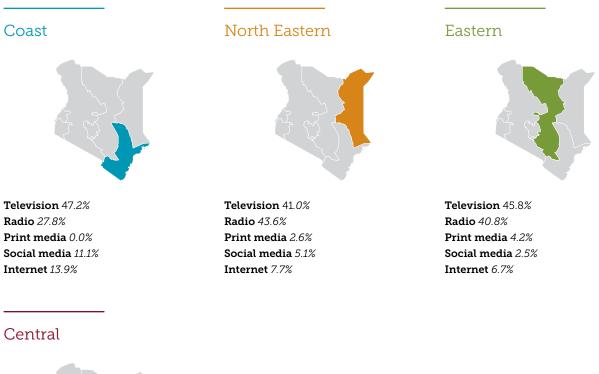
05.1.1_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 28 *analysis by gender*



05.1.2_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 29 *analysis by location*



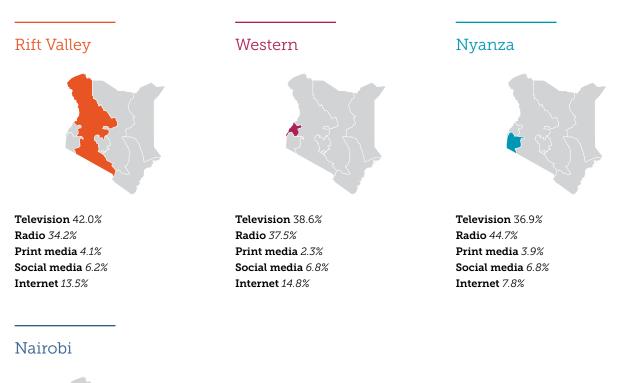
05.1.3_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 30 *analysis by region*





Television 44.2% Radio 23.1% Print media 5.8% Social media 12.5% Internet 14.4%

05.1.3_ media platforms mostly accessed by respondents 31 *analysis by region*





Television 56.3% Radio 17.5% Print media 3.8% Social media 8.8% Internet 13.8%

32

Survey findings

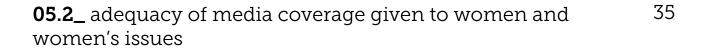
Media Coverage of Issues Touching on Women **05.2_** adequacy of media coverage given to women and 33 women's issues

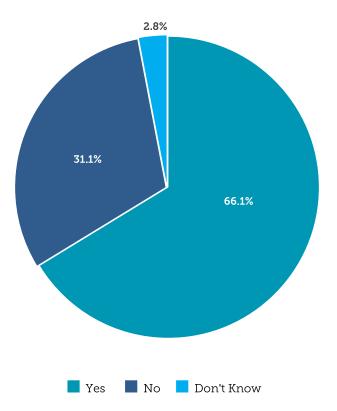
Do you think men's and women's issues *are given adequate media coverage in Kenya?*

05.2_ adequacy of media coverage given to women and 34 women's issues

"... it depends on the forum you are talking about. There aren't any sections in the media that are devoted to men but there are sections in the media that are devoted to women. So it would be wrong to say women don't get a lot of coverage..."

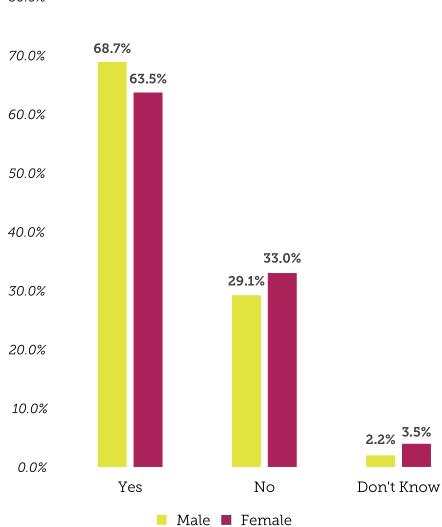
NEWS EDITOR





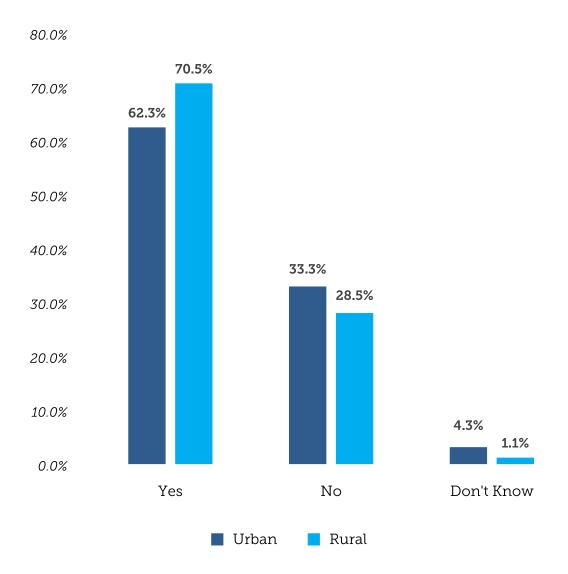
66.1% of the surveyed respondents indicated that women and women's issues are given adequate coverage by the media compared to **31.1%** who were of the contrary opinion

36 **05.2.1_** adequacy of media coverage given to women and women's issues analysis by gender



80.0%

05.2.2_ adequacy of media coverage given to women and 37 women's issues *analysis by location*



05.2.2_ adequacy of media coverage given to women and 38 women's issues *analysis by location*

70.5% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents indicated that women and women's issues are given adequate coverage by the media compared to **62.3%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents and were of the same opinion. On the other hand **33.3%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents indicated that they did not believe that women and women's issues are given adequate coverage by the media compared to **28.5%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents and were of the same opinion.

05.2.3_ adequacy of media coverage given to women and 39 women's issues *analysis by region*

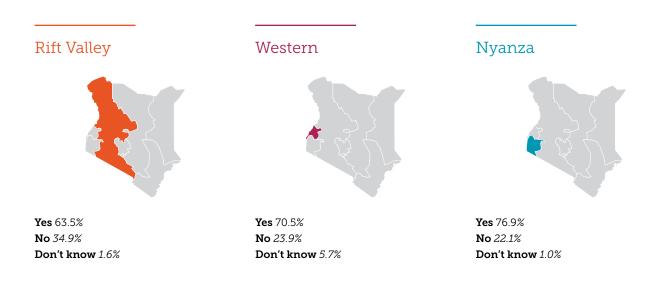


Central



Yes 70.2% No 28.8% Don't know 1.0%

05.2.3_ adequacy of media coverage given to women and 40 women's issues *analysis by region*



Nairobi



Yes 55.0% No 40.0% Don't know 5.0%

Survey findings

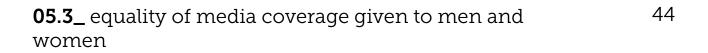
Media Reporting in Relation to Gender

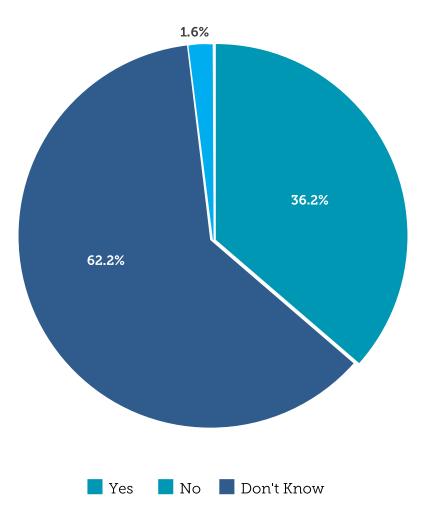
05.3_ equality of media coverage given to men and 42 women

In the media reports, do you think *men and women are given equal coverage?* **05.3_** equality of media coverage given to men and 43 women

"... No. The men get more coverage because there are more male news makers than women news makers. Like when you are covering parliament there are more men than there are women. When you go out to collect news you will probably end up interviewing more men than women ..."

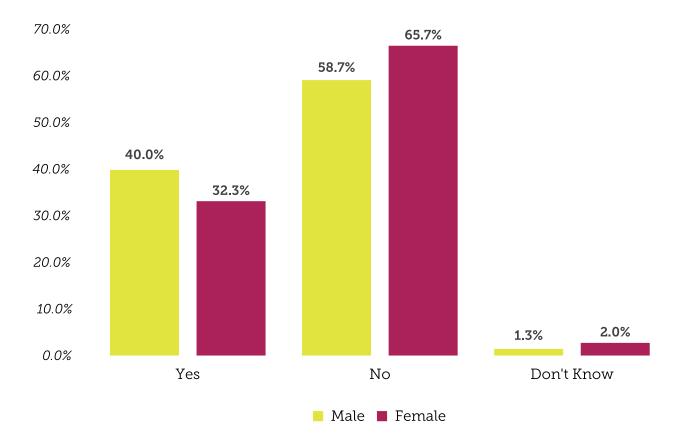
NEWS EDITOR





62.2% of the surveyed respondents opined that men and women are not given equal coverage in media reports compared to **36.2**% who were of the contrary opinion.

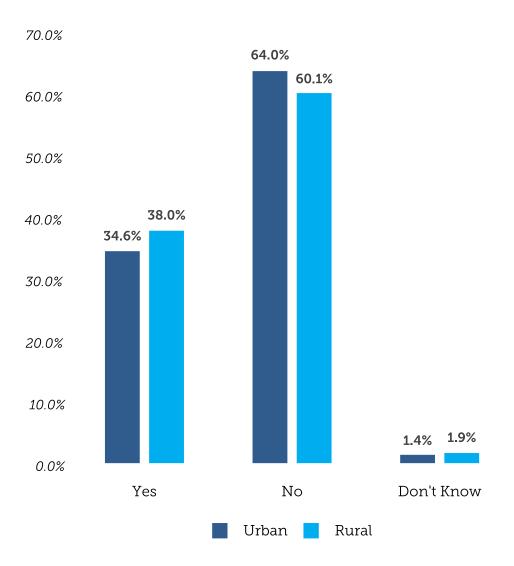
05.3.1_ equality of media coverage given to men and 45 women *analysis by gender*



05.3.1_ equality of media coverage given to men and women *analysis by gender*

40% of the surveyed male respondents indicated that men and women are given equal coverage in media reports compared to **32.3%** of the surveyed female respondents who were of the same opinion. On the other hand **65.7%** of the surveyed female respondents indicated that they did not believe that men and women are given are given adequate coverage by the media compared to **58.7%** of the surveyed male respondents who were of the same opinion.

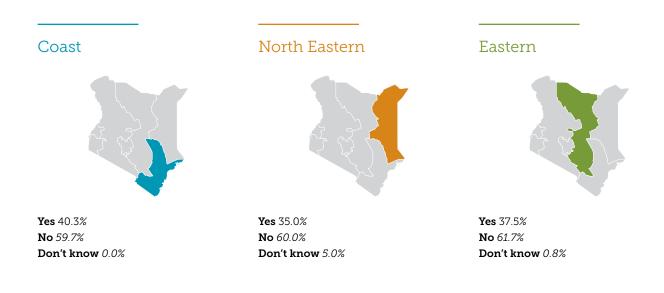
05.3.2_ equality of media coverage given to men and 47 women *analysis by location*



05.3.2_ equality of media coverage given to men and women *analysis by location*

38.0% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents indicated that men and women are given equal coverage by the media compared to **34.6%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents and were of the same opinion. On the other hand **64.0%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents indicated that they did not believe that men and women are given equal coverage by the media compared to **60.1%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents and were of the same opinion.

05.3.3_ equality of media coverage given to men and 49 women *analysis by region*



Central



Yes 31.7% No 66.3% Don't know 1.9%

05.3.3_ equality of media coverage given to men and 50 women *analysis by region*



Nairobi



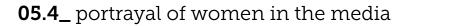
Yes 25.0% No 75.0% Don't know 0.0%

Survey findings

General Portrayal of Women in the Media



In your opinion, how are women *generally portrayed in the media?*

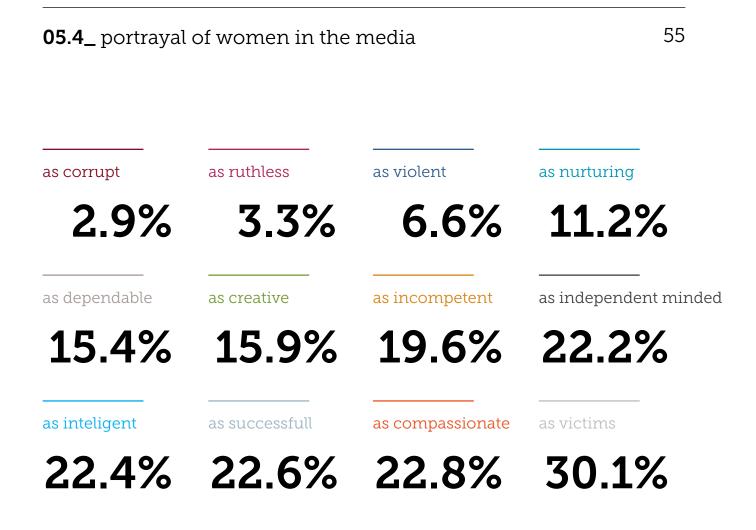


"...well they are portrayed as people who are fighting for their space in society. I cannot think of anything else ..." NEWS EDITOR



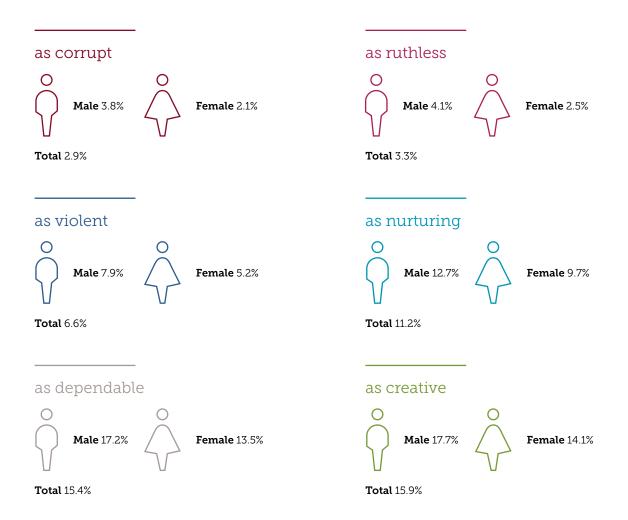
"...generally hysterical, unreasonable, and too emotional especially in business and politics. Their strength is only observed in nurturing health and education issues ..."

TV PRODUCER

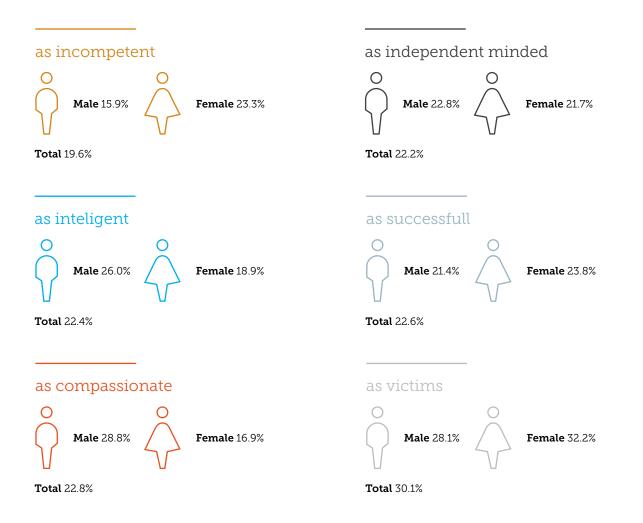


30.1% of the surveyed respondents opined that women are portrayed in the media as victims.

05.4.1_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by gender*



05.4.1_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by gender*



Notably **32.2%** of the surveyed female respondents opined that women are portrayed in the media as victims compared to **28.1%** of the surveyed male respondents who were of the same opinion.

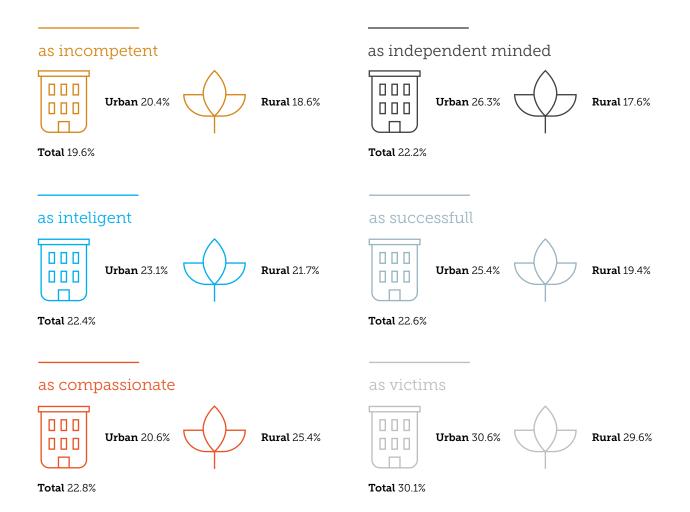
05.4.2_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by location*

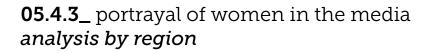
as corrupt as ruthless **Rural** 1.7% **Rural** 2.3% **Urban** 4.0% **Urban** 4.2% **Total** 2.9% **Total** 3.3% as violent as nurturing **Rural** 11.9% **Rural** 5.5% **Urban** 7.5% **Urban** 10.5% **Total** 6.6% **Total** 11.2% as dependable as creative Rural 12.9% **Urban** 11.3% Rural 20.1% **Urban** 18.5%

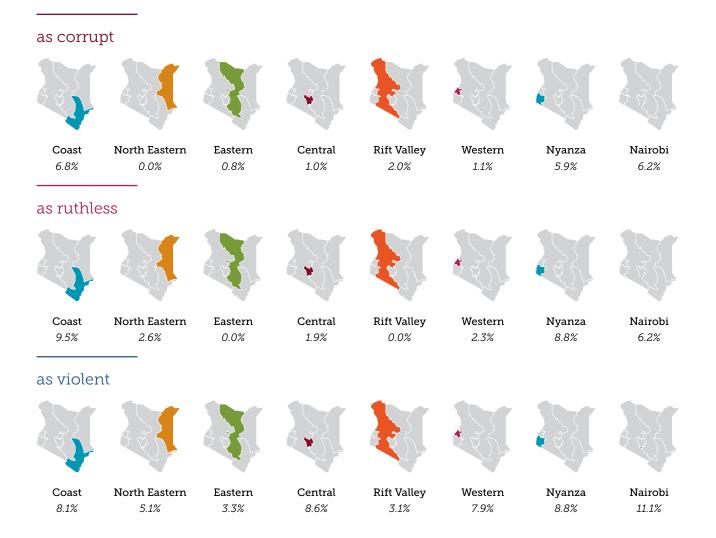
Total 15.4%

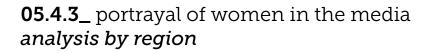
Total 15.9%

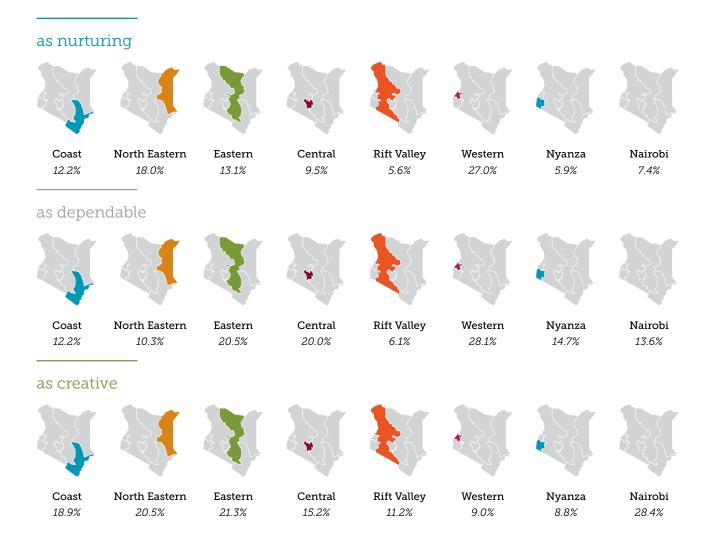
05.4.2_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by location*



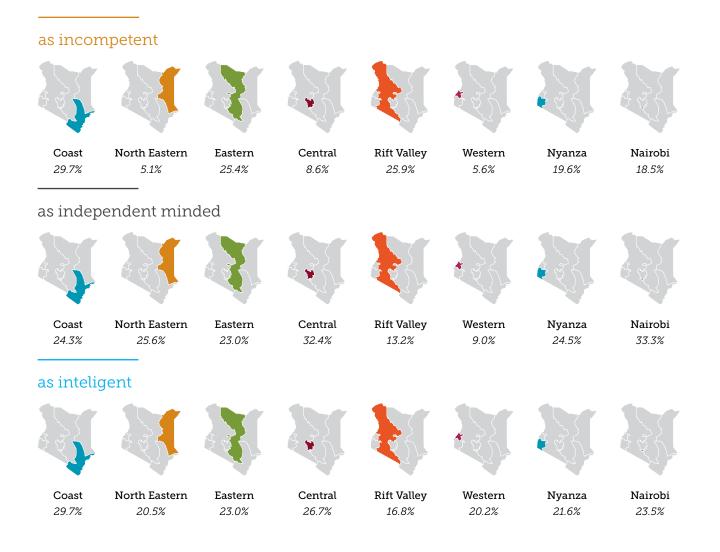




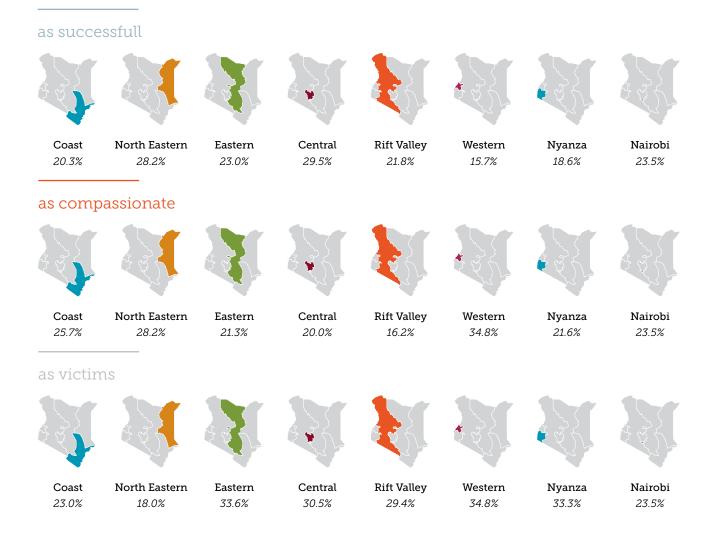




05.4.3_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by region*



05.4.3_ portrayal of women in the media *analysis by region*



Survey findings

Accuracy of the Portrayal of Women in the Media

05.5_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media

In your opinion, are the above mentioned portrayals of women by the media *a true reflection of women in society?*

05.5_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media

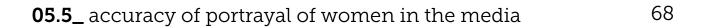
".... I think so because women are all these things, women can be corrupt, and they can be victims, nurturing, survivors; assumption is women are different from men but we are not, we are all those things that men are, we are good, we are bad, we are evil, thieves, we have a responsibility to not only show women in good light, but we should tell women's stories from all angles. If we are going to show equality then we need to treat women as equals not as different...."

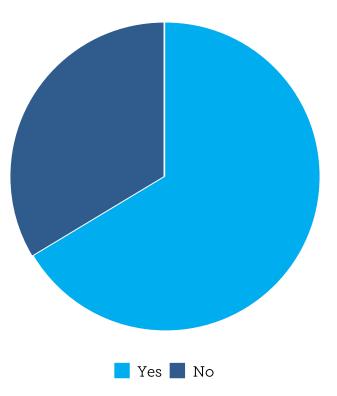
NEWS EDITOR

05.5_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media 67

"...not at all, it does not reflect the real situation on the ground. It does not reflect the impact women are making in civic education, business and even politics ..."

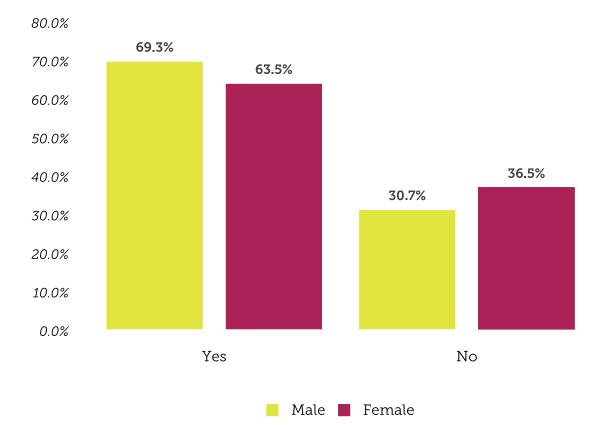
TV PRODUCER





Notably **66.4%** of the surveyed respondents indicated that the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to 33.6% of those interviewed who were of a contrary opinion.

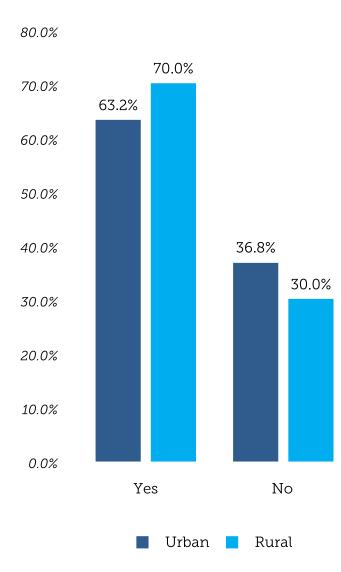
05.5.1_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media 69 *analysis by gender*



05.5.1_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media *analysis by gender*

69.3% of the surveyed male respondents indicated that the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to **63.5%** of the surveyed female respondents who were of the same opinion. On the other hand **36.5%** of the surveyed female respondents indicated that they did not believe the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to **30.7%** of the surveyed male respondents who were of the same opinion.

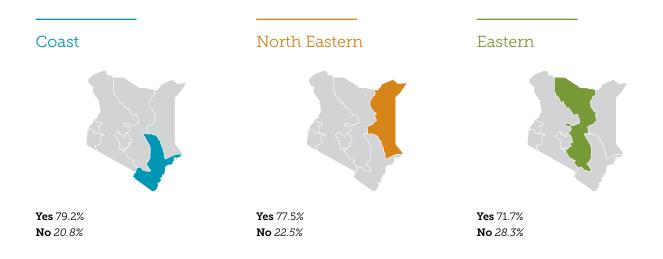
05.5.2_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media 71 *analysis by location*



05.5.2_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media *analysis by location*

70.0% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents indicated that the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to **63.2%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents and were of the same opinion. On the other hand **36.8%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents indicated that they did not believe that the perceived portrayals of women by the media were a true reflection of women in society compared to **30.0%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents and were of the same opinion.

05.5.3_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media 73 *analysis by region*



Central



05.5.3_ accuracy of portrayal of women in the media 74 *analysis by region*



Nairobi



Yes 50.0% **No** 50.0%

Survey findings

Topics Which Women Are Mainly Covered In By The Media **05.6_** topics which women are mainly covered in by the 76 media

Which topics in your opinion are women *mainly covered in by the media?* **05.6_** topics which women are mainly covered in by the 77 media

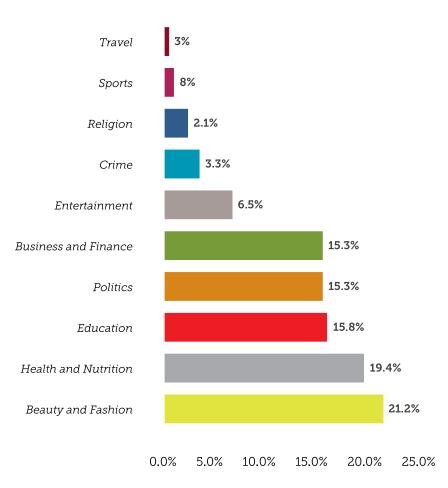
"...skewed and male dominated topics include politics, religion, sports where as women are mostly covered in beauty and fashion, and crime especially if its viral and several activists are reacting ..."

TV PRODUCER

05.6_ topics which women are mainly covered in by the 78 media

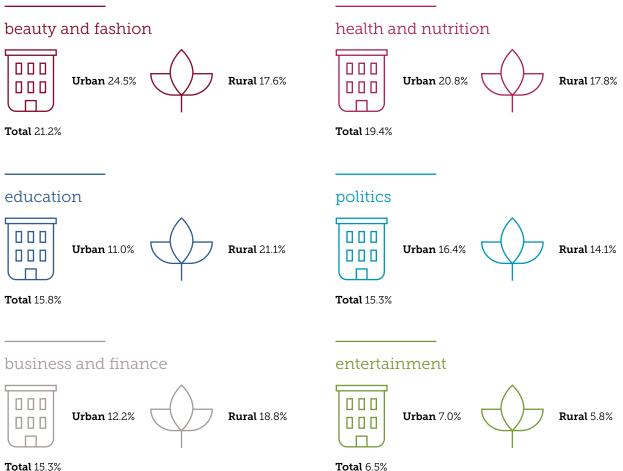
"...health, nutrition, entertainment, beauty and business, if I was to select one out of the four then I would pick business ..." NEWS EDITOR

05.6_ topics which women are mainly covered in by the 79 media



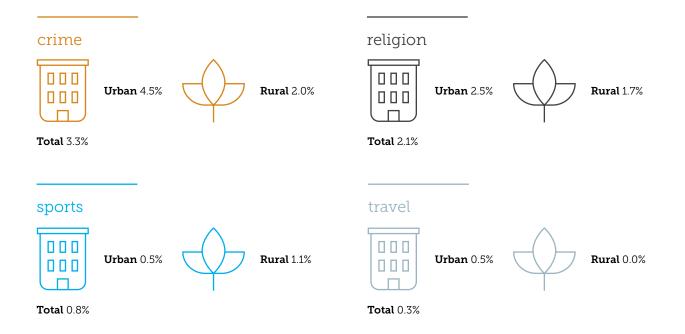
21.2% of the surveyed respondents opined that women are mainly covered in Beauty and Fashion by the media

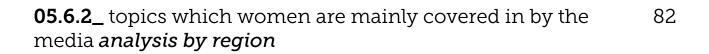
05.6.1_ topics which women are mainly covered in by the 80 media analysis by location

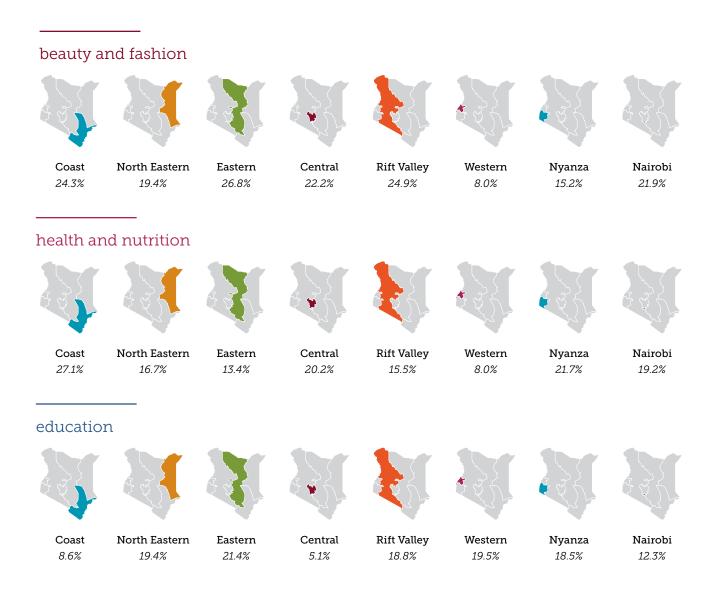


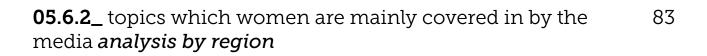
Total 15.3%

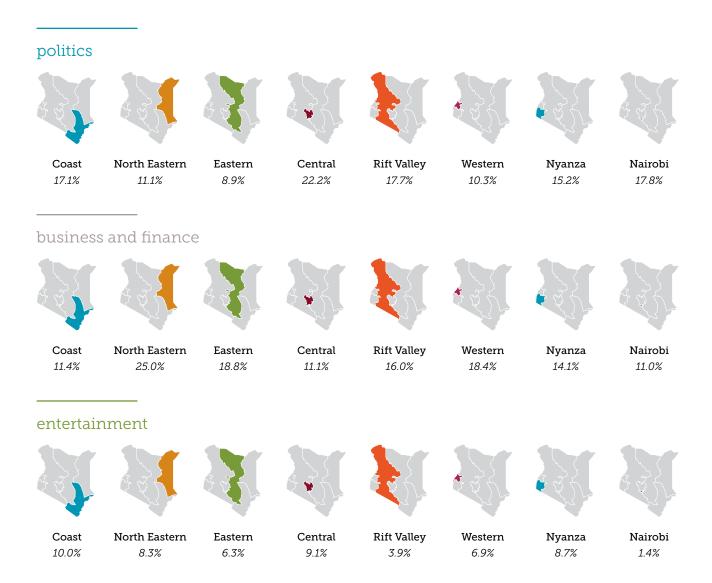
05.6.1_ topics which women are mainly covered in by the 81 media *analysis by location*



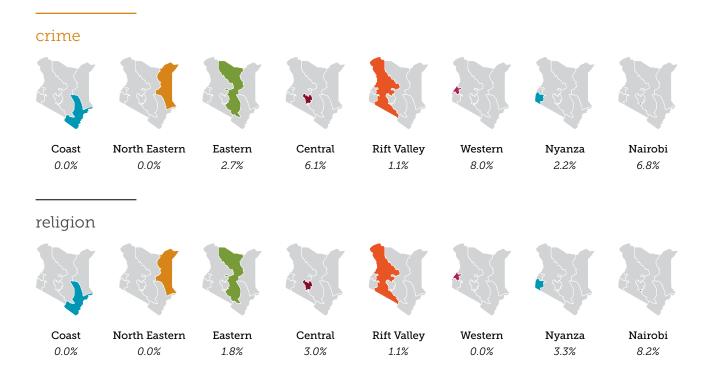




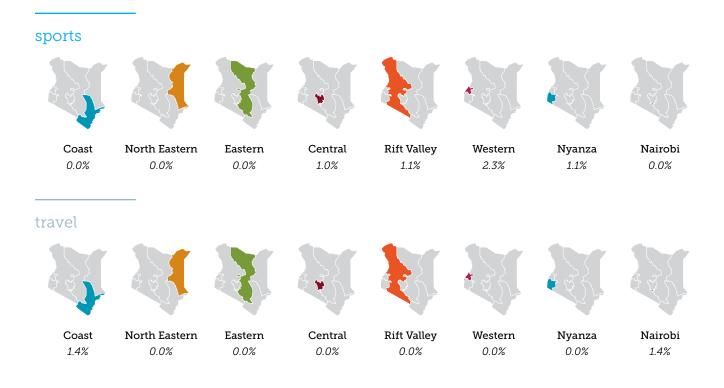












Survey findings

Media platforms that provide the most coverage on women and women issues **05.7_** media platforms that provide the most coverage on 87 women and women issues

Which media platform in your opinion provides *the most coverage on women and women's issues?*

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05.7_ media platforms that provide the most coverage on 88 women and women issues
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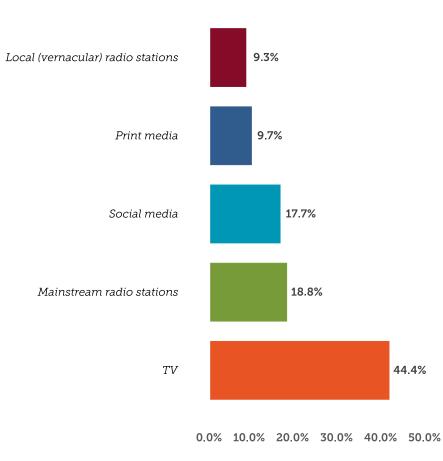
"...if we talk about being misogynistic, the most woman hating media platform is radio. Social media is the most pro feminist... We have very strong feminists on Facebook and Twitter just as we have very strong misogynists. Print has stronger female coverage than television from what I see..." NEWS EDITOR

05.7_ media platforms that provide the most coverage on	89
women and women issues	

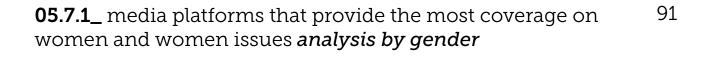
"...television by virtue of news, it shows what women are doing; radio is the most skewed because of the nature of the presenters and even the kind of stories they put across. For digital media with access to You Tube you can access what women do; for print media women are mostly found in magazines like true love..."

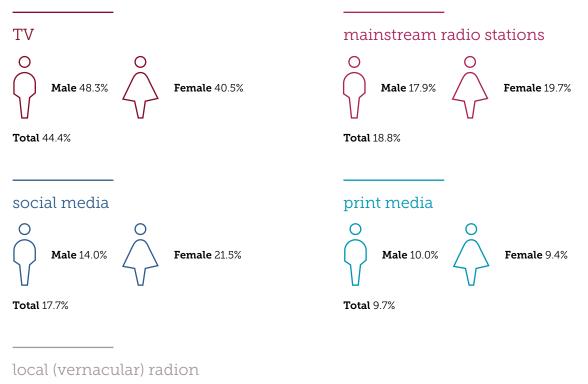
TV EDITOR

05.7_ media platforms that provide the most coverage on 90 women and women issues



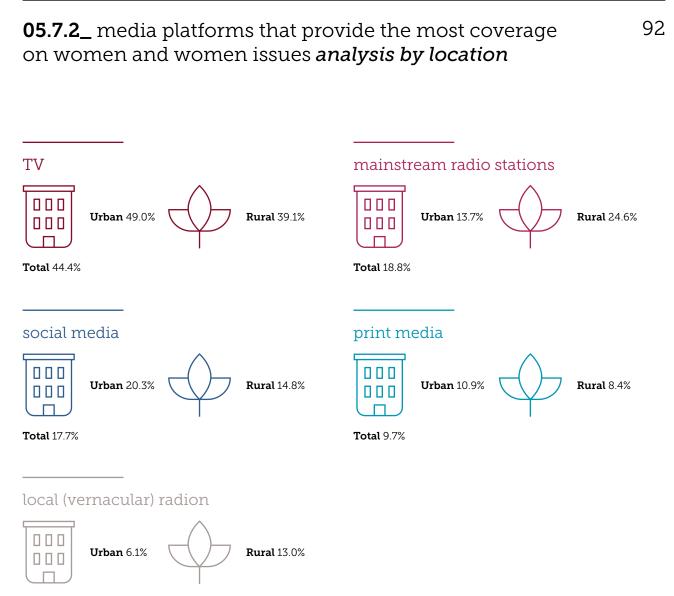
44.4% of the surveyed respondents opined that TV provides most coverage on women and women's issues.



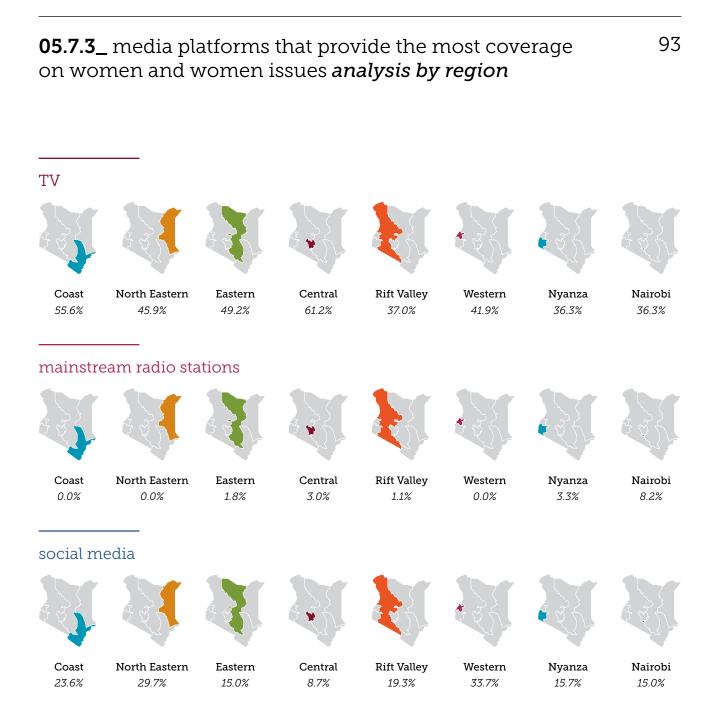


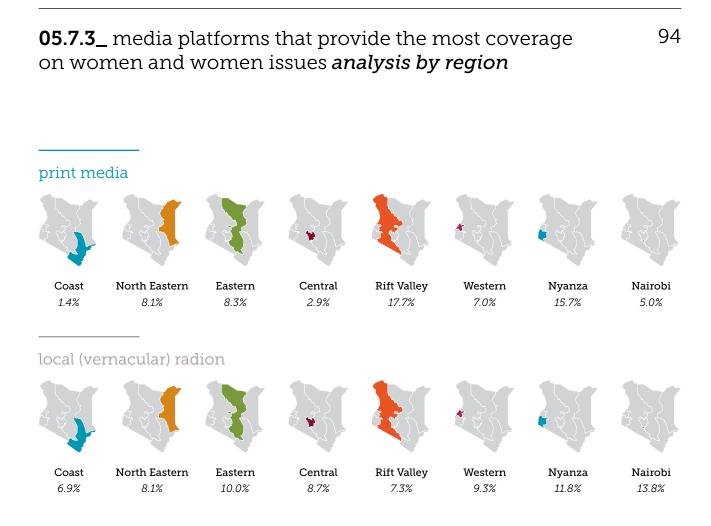






Total 9.3%





Survey findings

Slant Of News Presented On Women And Women's Issues **05.8_** slant of news presented about women and women's 96 issues

Is the news presented about women and women's issues *positive or negative in your opinion?* **05.8_** slant of news presented about women and women's 97 issues

"... I think it depends very much on the issue being talked about \ldots "

NEWS EDITOR

05.8_ slant of news presented about women and women's 98 issues

"... It's positive. The problem is in the way it's presented; like women presenters are a distraction through the way they dress; there is sexualisation of the news. It's like a beauty or dressing competition...."

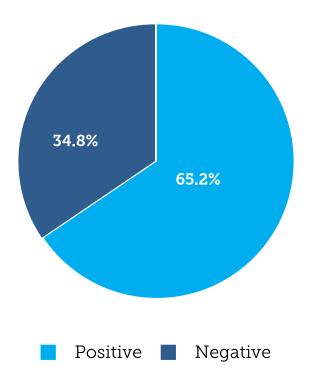
TV PRODUCER

05.8_ slant of news presented about women and women's 99 issues

"... I see a lot of positive...mostly stories of women's struggle... How they triumph, how they grow from it. Those are the kind of stories I see and for me that is positive ..."

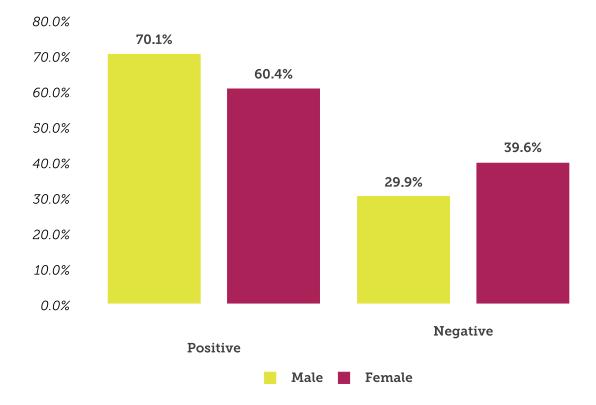
FEMALE SPORTS PERSONALITY





65.2% of the surveyed respondents opined that the news presented about women and women's issues is positive compared to **34.8%** of those interviewed who were of a contrary opinion.

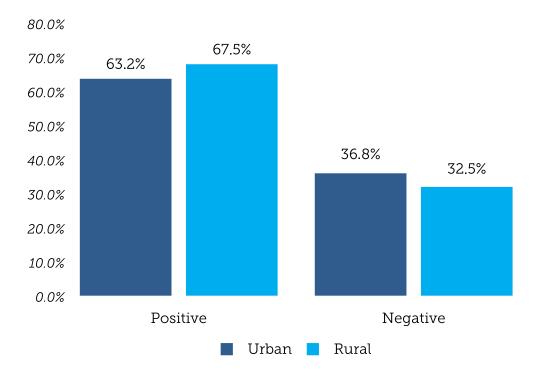
05.8.1_ slant of news presented about women and 101 women's issues *analysis by gender*



05.8.1_ slant of news presented about women and women's issues *analysis by gender*

70.1% of the surveyed male respondents indicated that the news presented about women and women's issues is positive compared to **60.4%** of the surveyed female respondents who were of the same opinion. On the other hand **39.6%** of the surveyed female respondents indicated that they did not believe that the news presented about women and women's issues is positive compared to **29.9%** of the surveyed male respondents who were of the same opinion.

05.8.2_ slant of news presented about women and 103 women's issues *analysis by location*



05.8.2_ slant of news presented about women and women's issues *analysis by location*

67.5% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents indicated that the news presented about women and women's issues is positive compared to **63.2%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents and were of the same opinion. On the other hand **36.8%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents indicated that they did not believe that the news presented about women and women's issues is positive compared to **32.5%** of the surveyed respondents and were of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents and were of the same opinion.

05.8.3_ slant of news presented about women and 105 women's issues *analysis by region*



Central



05.8.3_ slant of news presented about women and 106 women's issues *analysis by region*



Nairobi



Survey findings

Gender Of Media Personalities Versus Stories Touching on Women and Women's Issues **05.9_** gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues

108

Does the gender of people who work on different news stories (e.g. reporters, anchors, writers, editors etcetera) *affect or influence the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media?*

05.9_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues

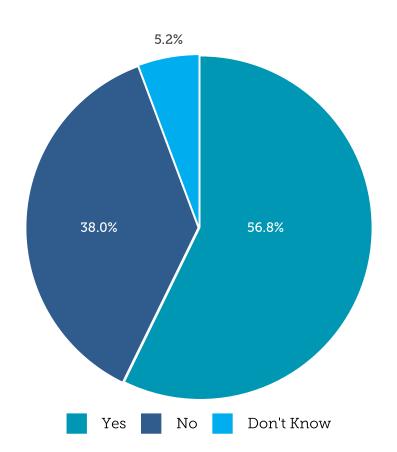
"...it does, if you have a man covering women issues in this country where a lot of men are not educated about women's equality, women's rights then we have misogynistic overtones coming in; see it in the headlines, choice of stories like now women being assaulted in matatus, before it was my dress my choice the incident that led to that campaign was tapped very deep into news bit stages instead of being a big issue and it took women in newsrooms to make the male editors see it was huge and that changed the narrative because when a woman was drugged and raped in a matatu it was huge. It was given the prominence it deserves by the male editors. So yes gender plays a role..."

NEWS EDITOR

05.9_ gender of media personalities versus stories 110 touching on women and women's issues

"...not at all; because you find men who are great at women issues like health and lifestyle just like you find a woman who is a great editor at men's issues like sports. It is more to do with what's news worthy....."

TV PRODUCER

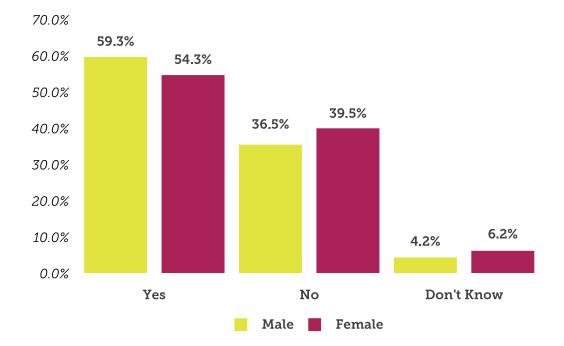


05.9_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues

56.8% of those interviewed stated that the gender of people who work on different news stories does indeed affect or influence the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to **38.0%** of the surveyed respondents who were of a contrary opinion.

111

05.9.1_ gender of media personalities versus stories 112 touching on women and women's issues *analysis by gender*

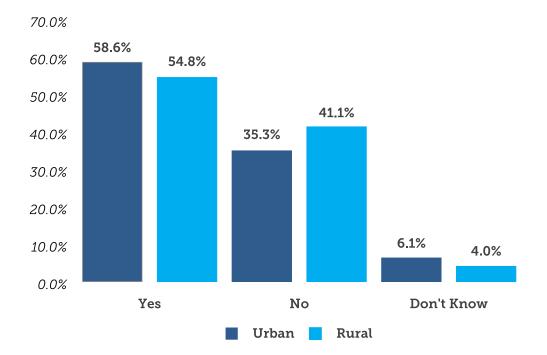


05.9.1_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues *analysis by gender*

59.3% of the surveyed male respondents stated that the gender of the people who work on different news stories affects or influences the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to **54.3%** of the surveyed female respondents who were of the same opinion. On the other hand **39.5%** of the surveyed female respondents indicated that they did not believe that the gender of the people who work on different news stories affects or influences the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to **36.5%** of the surveyed male respondents who were of the same opinion.

113

05.9.2_ gender of media personalities versus stories 114 touching on women and women's issues *analysis by location*



05.9.2_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues *analysis by location*

58.6% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents indicated that the gender of the people who work on different news stories affects or influences the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to 54.8% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents and were of the same opinion. On the other hand **41.1%** of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as rural residents indicated that they did not believe that the gender of the people who work on different news stories affects or influences the way women are portrayed in the Kenyan media compared to 35.3% of the surveyed respondents who identified themselves as urban residents and were of the same opinion.

115

05.9.3_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues *analysis by region*



Central



Yes 43.3% No 45.2% Don't know 11.5%

05.9.3_ gender of media personalities versus stories touching on women and women's issues *analysis by region*



Nairobi



Yes 56.3% No 37.5% Don't know 6.3%

Survey findings

Yardsticks Against Which Society Gauges Women When They Are Covered By Mainstream Media

05.10_ yardsticks against which society gauges women	119
when they are covered by mainstream media	

In your opinion, how does society gauge women **when they are aired on mainstream media?** **05.10_** yardsticks against which society gauges women 120 when they are covered by mainstream media

"...Appearance is usually the first thing. We still live in a country where women are considered objects and not people, when a woman presents herself the first judgement is she is too old or too young, too light skinned or too dark skinned for example Esther Passaris has been in court with Equity Bank for a long time and it doesn't matter all things she did with Adopt a Light because when you look at her all you see is a lady who exploited her good looks to get to where she is, that's the common media narrative; look at Gladys Boss Sholei when she was kicked out of the Judiciary everybody was like "she is a hot mama". There was Miss Langata Prison and everyone said she is sexy because she is light skinned..."

NEWS EDITOR

05.10_ yardsticks against which society gauges women	121
when they are covered by mainstream media	

"... I think education is one of the strongest, professional accomplishments, appearance is always in there."

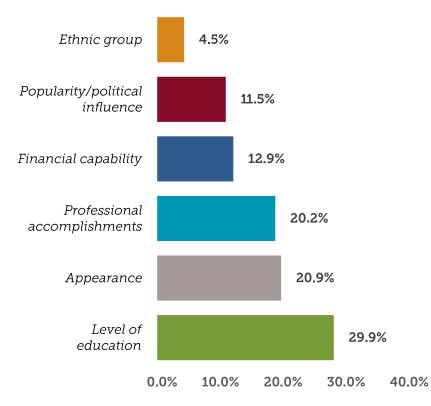
FEMALE SPORTS PERSONALITY

05.10_ yardsticks against which society gauges women	122
when they are covered by mainstream media	

"...most is on professional accomplishment, appearance and marital status. When you are a woman in the media and you are divorced you are written off even if what you put across is newsworthy..."

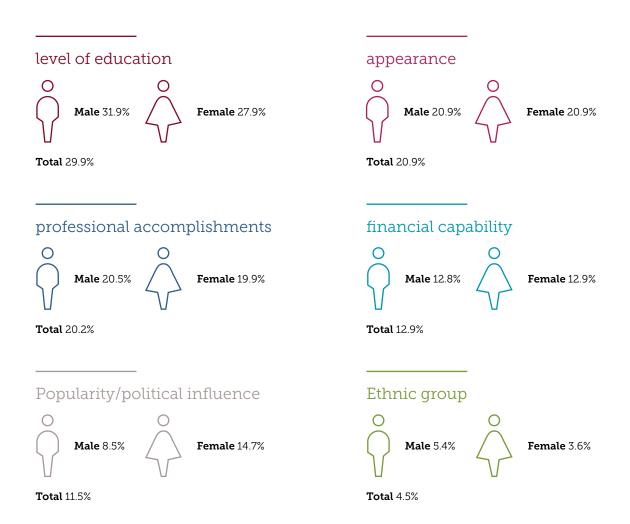
TV PRODUCER

05.10_ yardsticks against which society gauges women 123 when they are covered by mainstream media

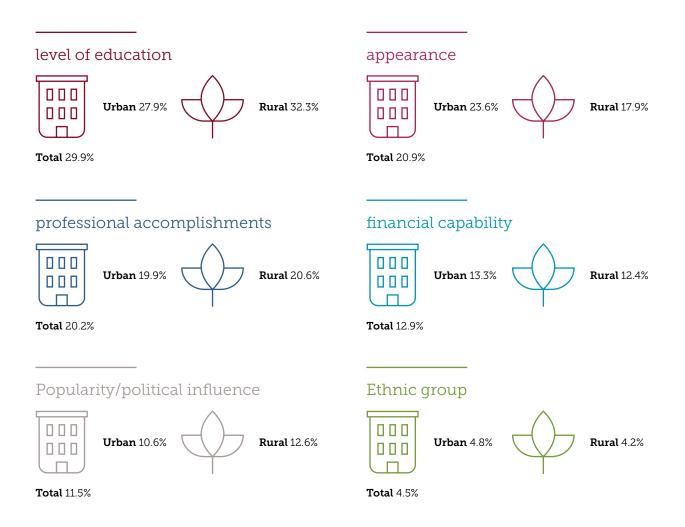


29.9% of the surveyed respondents opined that Level of Education is the yardstick most used when society gauges women when they are aired on mainstream media.

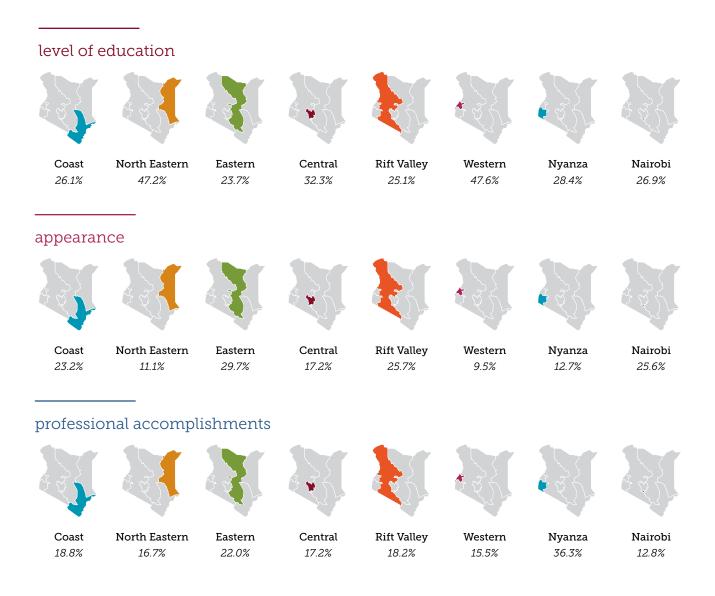
05.10.1_ yardsticks against which society gauges women 124 when they are covered by mainstream media *analysis by gender*



05.10.2_ yardsticks against which society gauges women 125 when they are covered by mainstream media *analysis by location*











Survey findings

Suggested Policy Changes To Ensure More Positive Coverage Of Women By The Mainstream Media

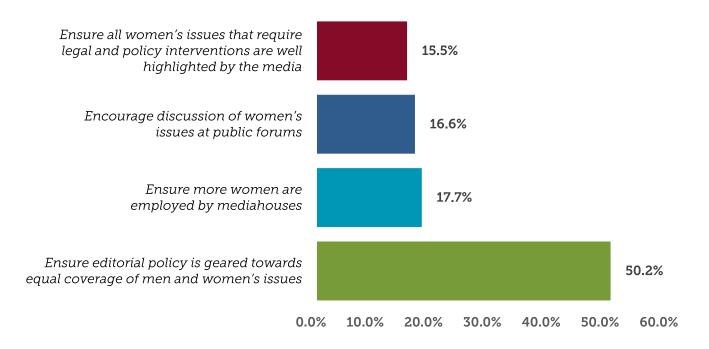
05.11_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive	129
coverage of women by the mainstream media	

In your opinion, what should the media and policy makers do to enhance balanced media coverage on men and women's issues? **05.11_** suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 130 coverage of women by the mainstream media

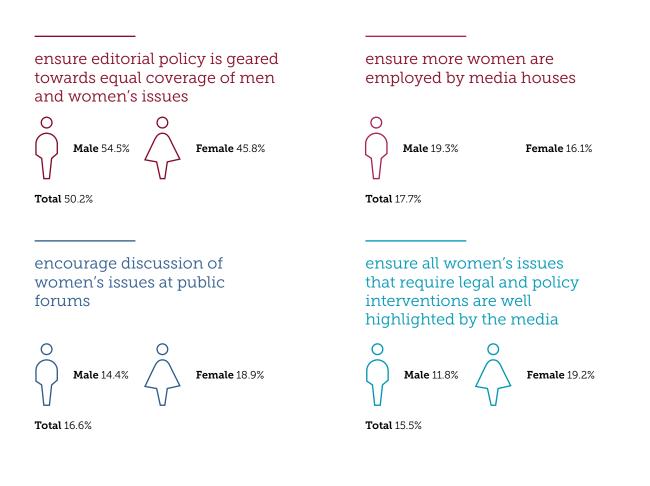
"...I think what we need are interventions and ongoing education. The media right now is very top heavy with male influence; people who run various media platforms are generally men. We need policies in place to ensure many women have more top positions, sort of like affirmative action. But beyond that we need to stop having forums where women meet and whine about what is not favoring us and how unhappy we are about not getting promotions. If we invite men as stakeholders they will also participate and they will understand. By education I mean we need to open men's mind, all these managing editors, CEO, the chairmen of these media houses are all men, sit them down so that they understand why this is necessary..."

NEWS EDITOR

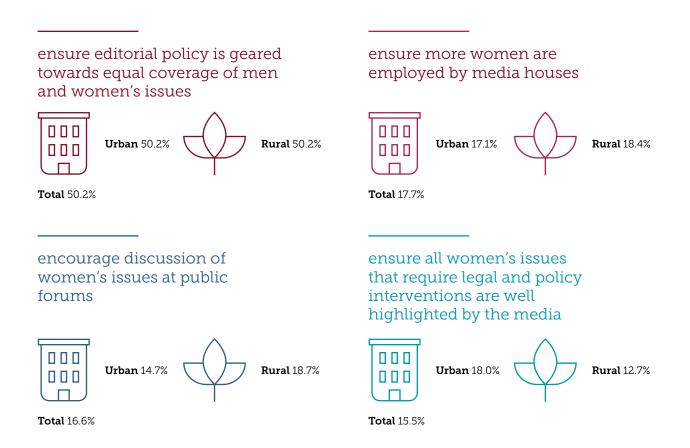
05.11_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 131 coverage of women by the mainstream media



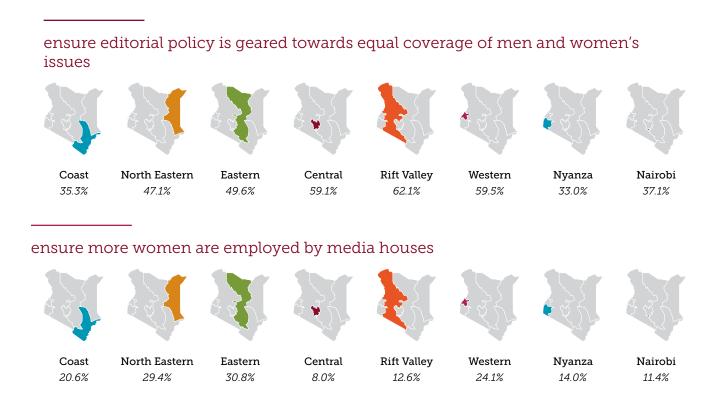
05.11.1_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 132 coverage of women by the mainstream media *analysis by gender*



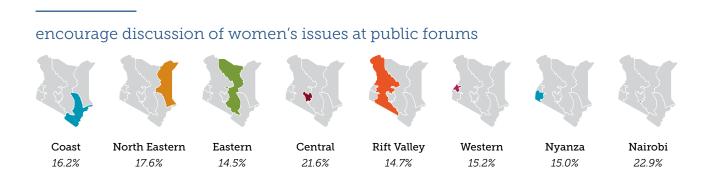
05.11.2_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 133 coverage of women by the mainstream media *analysis by location*



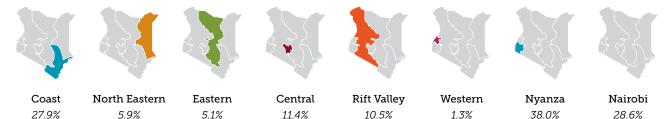
05.11.3_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 134 coverage of women by the mainstream media *analysis by region*



05.11.3_ suggested policy changes to ensure more positive 135 coverage of women by the mainstream media *analysis by region*



ensure all women's issues that require legal and policy interventions are well highlighted by the media



Survey findings

Issues That Affect Women and Those Which The Media Should Focus On **05.12_** issues that affect women and those which the 137 media should focus on

Which ONE issue affecting women *would you advise the media to focus on?*

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05.12_ issues that affect women and those which the 138 media should focus on
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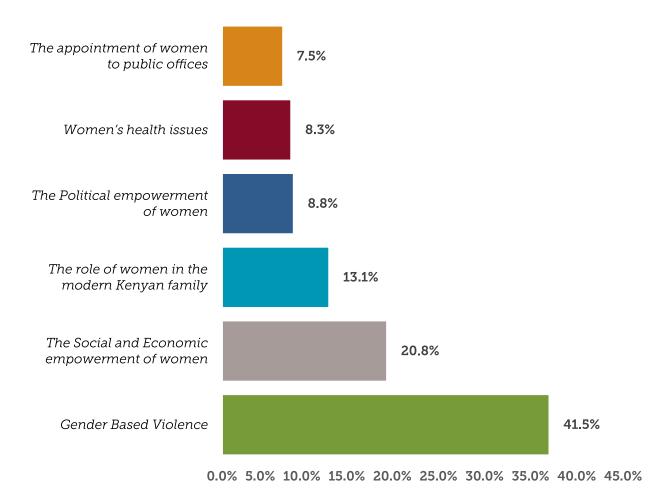
"...I would advise the media to focus on helping more women get elected to leadership positions ..."

NEWS EDITOR

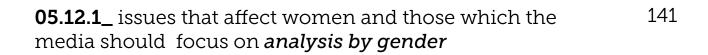
05.12_ issues that affect women and those which the 139 media should focus on

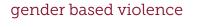
"...equality in everything like resources, job opportunities..." FEMALE SPORTS PERSONALITY

05.12_ issues that affect women and those which the 140 media should focus on



41.5% of those interviewed stated that the media should focus on Gender Based Violence as an issue affecting women







Total 41.5%

the role of women in the modern Kenyan family



Total 13.1%

Women's health issues

Male 8.8% Female 7.9%

Total 8.3%

the social and economical empowerment of women



Total 20.8%

the Political empowerment of women

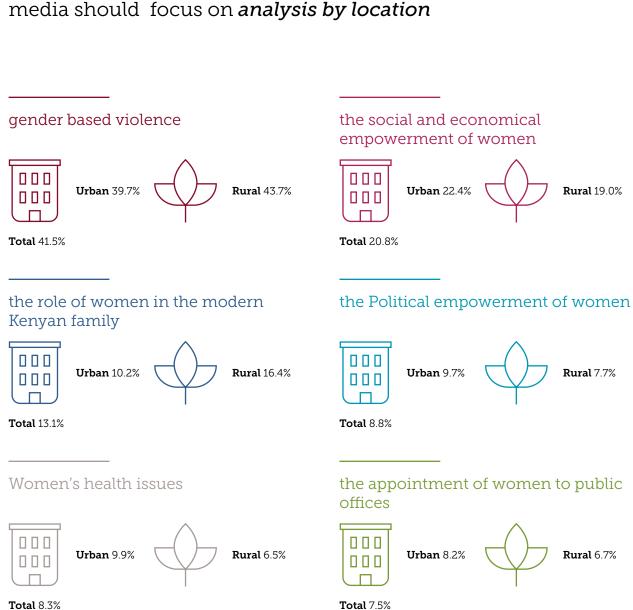


Total 8.6%

the appointment of women to public offices



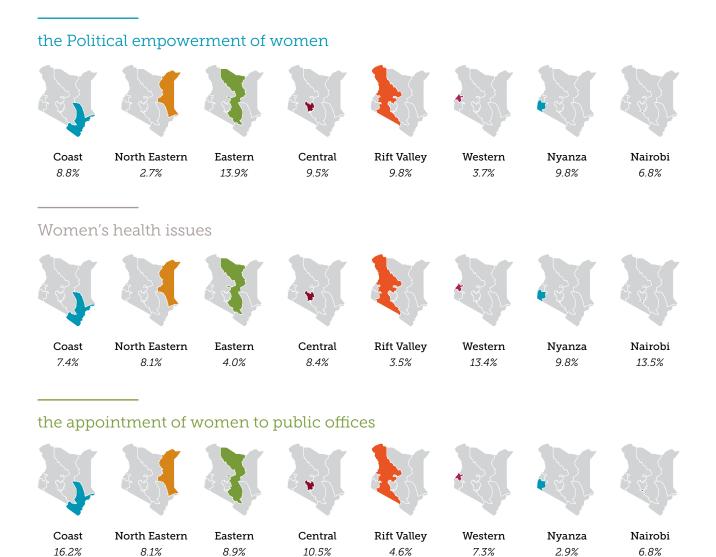


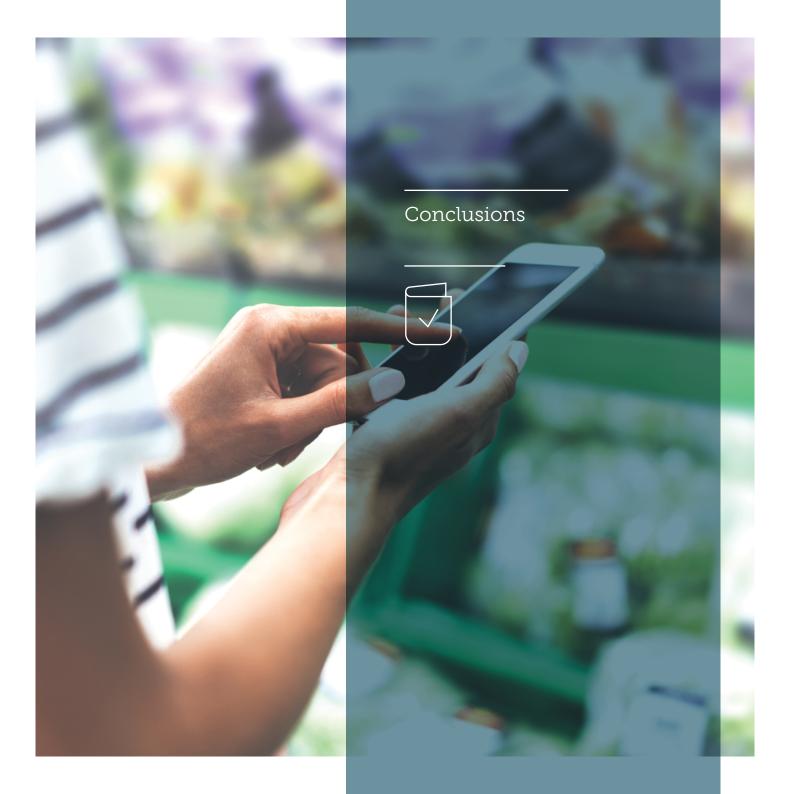


05.12.2 issues that affect women and those which the









06_ conclusions

146

1. Women in the Kenyan media are generally depicted as people who are fighting for their space in society as well as victims of differing social, cultural, economic and political circumstances.

2. Women are generally gauged on their professional accomplishments and appearance when they are aired on mainstream media;

3. It was noted during the survey that topics such as politics, religion, sports are skewed in favour of men who receive the lion's share of coverage whereas women are mostly covered in beauty and fashion and crime;

4. Radio and TV provide the largest coverage of women and their issues while social media regarded as the most pro feminist media platform.

5. The coverage of women in the Kenya media is generally positive.

Recommendations



1.3

07_ recommendations

1. The narrative that depicts women as victims (a position that is also perpetuated surprisingly by media professionals) should be challenged. The successes of women should be highlighted and celebrated more as well as the enormous and positive impact their activities in diverse spheres such as business, education entertainment et cetera are having on society. This can be achieved through continuously educating and training media professionals on how to properly cover and report on women's issues.

2. Established media houses should implement deliberate editorial policies that seek to cover women and women's issues regularly, factually, and as much as possible positively. The coverage should also not be limited to thematic areas traditionally associated with women such as beauty and fashion and nutrition.

3. There is need to effectively lobby media houses to ensure that they embrace inclusivity not just in their editorial policy but also in their staffing.

07_ recommendations

Ч	

4. Their needs to be gender sensitization and capacity building for editors and sub – editors to improve the quality of reporting on women's issues.

5. At the most basic level, there should be an element of gender sensitization with respect to curriculum development to ensure that it is embedded in the psyche of pupils/students in their formative years.

6. There should be a follow up to this study to track the development of media reporting on women and their issues as well as the public's perception on the same.

149



08_ challenges

151

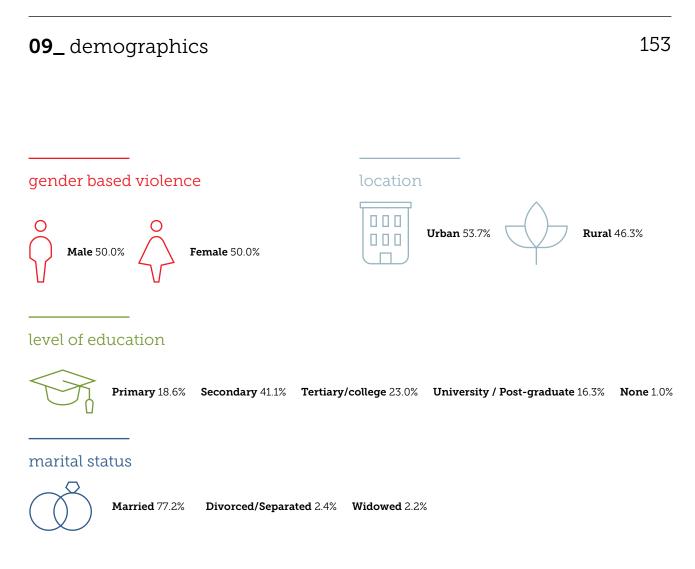


1. During the course of the survey securing key informant interviews with female politicians and senior public officers was particularly difficult due to their reluctance or outright refusal to participate.

2. It was also noted during the survey that a number of media houses do not have representatives who can speak effectively and convincingly to women's issues from an informed point of view.







09_ demographics

154

religion



Catholic 24.9% Protestant 66.9% Widowed 2.2%

employment status

Formally employed 22.4%Casually employed 13.6%Self employed 43.2%Unemployed 20.3%

Refused to answer 0.5%



Annexes

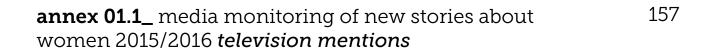


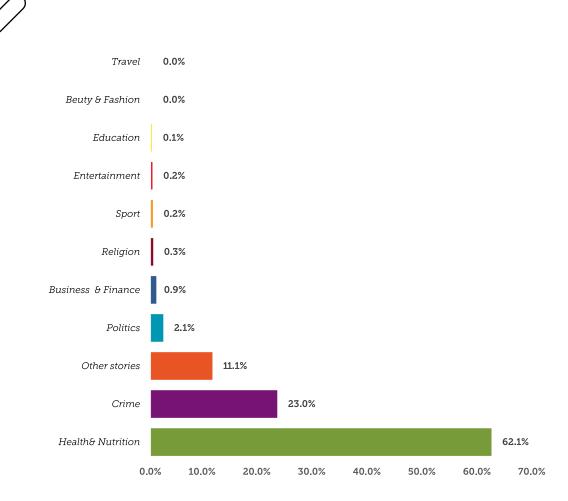


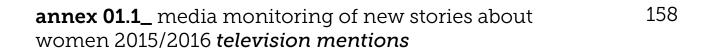
156

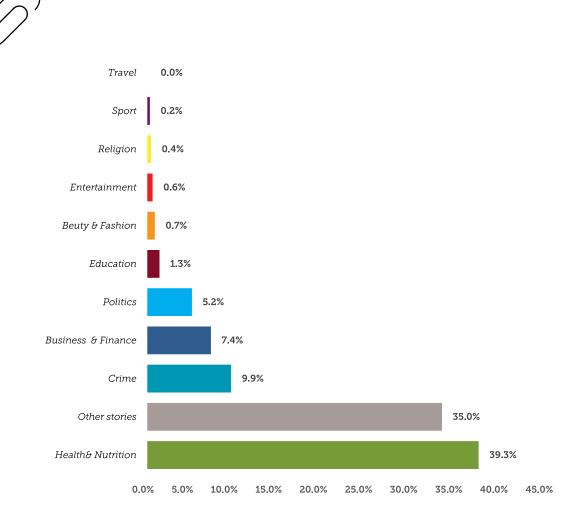
Annexes

annex 1 Media Monitoring of New Stories About Women 2015/2016

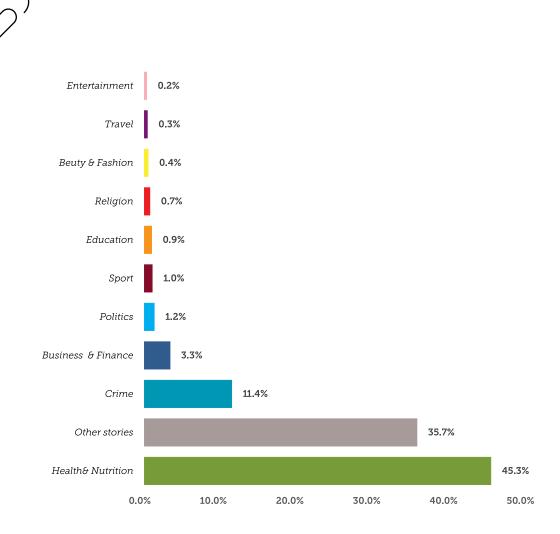




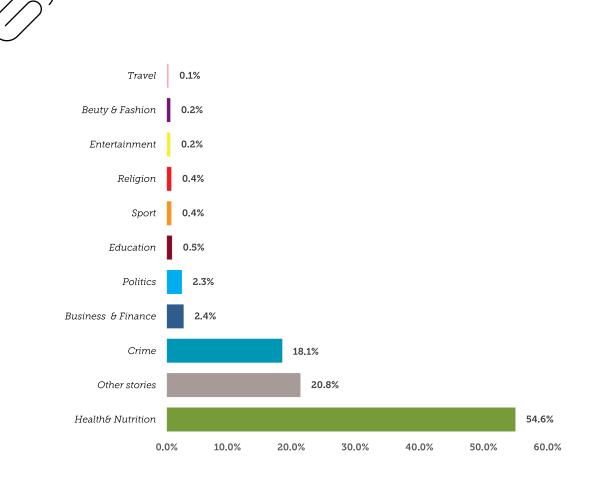




annex 01.2_ media monitoring of new stories about159women 2015/2016 print mentions



annex 01.3_ media monitoring of new stories about 160 women 2015/2016 *overall mentions*



161

Annexes

annex 2 Sample Kenyan News Headlines Depicting Women **annex 02_** sample kenyan news headlines depicting 162 women





163

annex 02_ sample kenyan news headlines depicting women



annex 02_ sample kenyan news headlines depicting 164 women





annex 02_ sample kenyan news headlines depicting 165 women

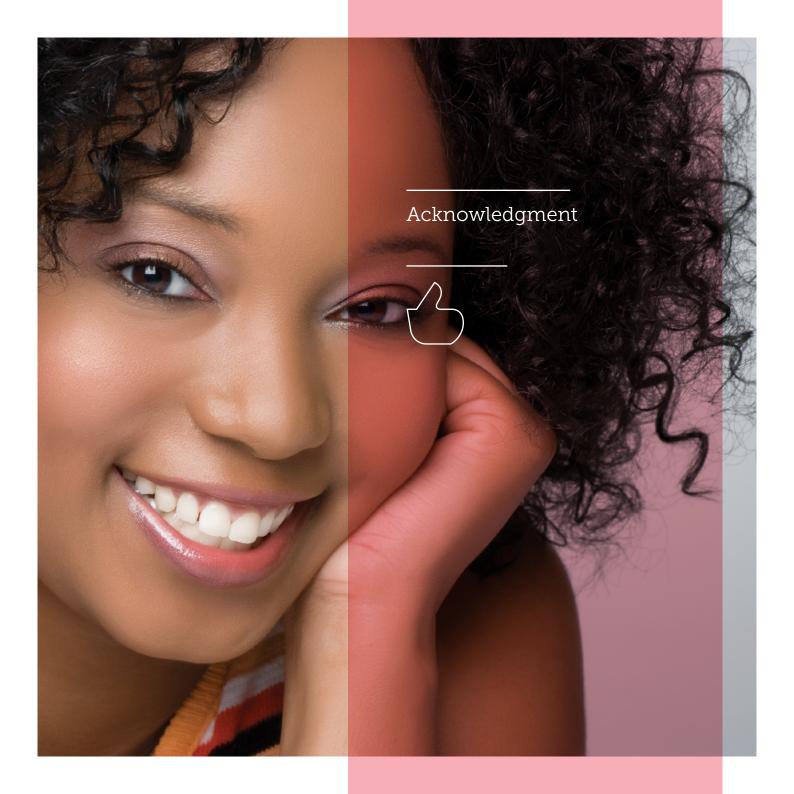




annex 02_ sample kenyan news headlines depicting 166 women







acknowledgement

168

The Graça Machel Trust would like to acknowledge the following people who have helped to produce the Women in Media: What is the Narrative? Study. Angela Ambitho, the Founder and CEO of Infotrak Research & Consulting who generously donated her team, expertise and resources to this study. Walter Nyabundi, the Infotrak Special Projects Manager who was responsible for the collation of the data, providing step by step guidance on the research analysis and sharing invaluable insights.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Valentine Njoroge, Trustee of the New Faces New Voices Kenya Chapter and member of the Graça Machel Trust Women in Media Network, the driving force behind this important research into the portrayal of women in media and what actions are needed to create a shift in the current status quo. Valentine was supported by fellow Trustees of the New Faces New Voices Kenya Chapter – Andia Chakava, Nuru Mugambi, Makena Mworia, Sophia Kamere, Tim Kamuzu Banda and Anena Hansen, whose encouragement and collective wisdom helped bring the idea of this research to fruition.

Thank you



www.infotrakresearch.com/

Thank you!





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