

WHY THIS MONOGRAPH

Obviously creating awareness about ragging is the first and the last answer to this most pertinent question. In our core of hearts, we felt an inner urge to bring out this monograph on ragging to create a total and complete awareness about the evil and damaging effects of ragging on students, nay, on the whole of academic world. The urge was felt with a sense of fellow feeling with the student community aspiring for the best in their career, who are the jewels of the nation.

Unfortunately data on ragging is not available; reliable and tested information / statistics are also not available. Neither college authorities dare to indicate number of ragging incidents per year nor is the hostel management spontaneous enough with their information to share. Many of the state governments are busy to give lip service for the cause of the students' community and simply did not feel it necessary as its duty to maintain a 'special cell' to monitor and control unwanted barbaric incidents of ragging in educational institutes even after the epoch making historic verdict from the apex court of the country. When we approached so many engineering colleges of repute in the state of west Bengal, we were astonished at their casual approach to this crucial problem of the day. It is a real pity that many of those so-called prestigious educational Institutions even did not felt it necessary to return us the filled-in-questionnaire containing some simple but basic queries pertaining to ragging in campus and the built -in-measures to check it. And all of those institutions in their nicely crafted advertisements do not hesitate to declare that they maintain the best campus on the earth!

Students unions, although it seems funny but unfortunate, are also not committed enough about the plight of the students who are ragged in campus and sometimes are forced to return without completing their dream courses because of the intolerable ragging.



Often parents, particularly coming from rural bases, find it very difficult to deal a case of ragging while lodging an FIR with appropriate authority. In many occasions, police administration gives lip services and practically does nothing to bring culprits to book citing some built-in-defects in FIR lodged.

In this monograph, utmost attempts have been made by us to pass on much required information so that hapless guardians / parents (and of course the students) can take liberal help and complete guidance from this monograph in taking preventive, protective and curative shields. Besides, the monograph mentions many Do's and Don'ts for students while they at the new colleges, which are the results of our year long study. We have also indicated some suggestions for the worried parents and guardians. Through this monograph, we also intend to make an appeal to senior students (who till yester years were fresher!), college as also the hostel authorities. We expect that district administration shall rise to real need of the hour by taking stock of situation at last in order to make educational institutions ragging free.

Telephone numbers of District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of all districts apart from address and telephone numbers of all such authorities who matters in critical hours are given in this monograph.

We are sure that this monograph on ragging which is the first of its kind in India shall be able to set the ball rolling in the desired direction.

We regret any mistake and lapses despite our best efforts and intentions. We welcome suggestions / other inputs and feedbacks from all concerned which shall be of great help to us in our efforts and will be duly acknowledged and incorporated in next edition of this monograph.

We know that we have our weaknesses in writing this monograph as of course we have, due to various factors which intervened in our efforts



to meet time management for bringing out this maiden edition for use of the students stepping into educational campus for higher education in this year itself. More ever, responses from engineering, medical, technical and other colleges were discouraging in spite of our approaching them a number of times. We expected far more spontaneous co-operation and positive support from those colleges of higher education who are supposed to be pro-active for the well being of students. But, we are always hoping against hope. We are sure, this publication of monograph, which is a maiden effort in the entire country as on date shall go a long way and surely blast open the so-called 'shell of confidentiality' practiced by some of the educational institutes. We shall be earnestly requesting for availability of data and other related information forthwith for the sake of students. All these shall help us to make educational campuses ragging free in the near future.

Till such time we, at IEPM, shall be with you. Always.

This is our commitment to the society. To the students. And obviously to you.

*"If you want something very badly, you can achieve it.
It may take patience, very hard work, a real struggle
& a long time, but it can be done.*

*That much faith is a pre-requisite of any undertaking artistic or
otherwise"*

- Margo Jones



RAGGING - MEANING & DEFINITION

Ragging is a form of mental and physical abuse, which the seniors impose on the new comers. The senior students think that this will help

- ? to get acquainted with the new comers
- ? to get respect from the juniors
- ? to inspire discipline among them
- ? to help them in learning endurance

The term “Ragging” is commonly known in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and in many other countries and is a form of abuse on newcomers to educational institutions. It is almost similar to the western form, known as “Hazing”, but is commonly much more severe. Ragging is different from “hazing” in that it is forced on the victim, whereas “hazing” is done with the consent of a person.

There is a reference to ragging, racking and ducking in Everyman’s Encyclopedia, London, Ed. 1938, Vol. II, (Pg. 382) and the Random House Dictionary of the English language, Ed. 1967 (Pg. 487). Ragging, racking and ducking as also teasing differ considerably in details so far as the original practices are concerned.

Oxford English Dictionary, Volume – VIII, 1961 Edition, mentions that the term ‘to rag’ is university slang and is of obscure origin. It is especially an extensive display of noisy, disorderly conduct, carried on in defiance of authority or discipline. The word ‘ragging’ is defined as an action of scolding, annoying, teasing etc. and to torment or assail in a rough noisy fashion or to create wild disorder.

The Roulledge Dictionary of Historical Slang edited by Eric Patridge, defines ragging as “display of noisy, disorderly conduct and great high

spirits considered by the perpetrators (raggers) as excellent fun and by many outsiders as a bloody nuisance.”

After establishment of residential educational campuses, the practice of ragging became a fashion. The practice aimed at creating a relation between the new and the old students and the seniors used to joke and tease at the juniors. Subsequently, however, ragging entirely changed from normal and human methods to very rough, cruel and inhuman methods in absence of adequate supervision and guidance. Sometimes, situation goes too far, resulting in serious physical injury, irreparable psychological damage, and even death.

There is no fixed rule(!) for ragging. It depends on the whims and fancies of the senior students. Consequently, ragging may stretch from the first day to a considerably longer period. After that seniors suddenly become friends; and they go out of the way to help the fresher they ragged. But this is not always be true as many fresher already suffer from stress and trauma, and may thereafter continue to suffer from post traumatic stress disorders. Many leave their institution and some commit suicide. But most survive ragging and are only too happy to forget their trauma and move on. Those who rise up against it are shunned; revenge may also take the form of physical assault, leading to serious injuries.

The broader implication of ragging, which the Apex Court itself set out in the ‘Vishwa Jagriti Mission’ matter as:

“Any disorderly conduct whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or



generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student.”

The Supreme Court of India appointed a High Powered Committee headed by Shri R. K. Raghavan (Ex-CBI Chief) to look into ragging issues in details by holding detailed enquiry. The report submitted by Raghavan Committee has been accepted by the Govt. of India. The Committee came across a variety of aspects of the menace of ragging which are as follows:

OBSERVATIONS OF RAGHAVAN COMMITTEE

- ? Ragging has several aspects with among others psychological, social, political, economic, cultural, and academic dimensions.
- ? Any act that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of a student should be considered with in the academics related aspect of ragging.
- ? Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a junior student by senior students should be considered as an aspect of ragging of economic dimensions.
- ? Any act of physical abuse including sexual abuse, homosexual assaults and stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person can be put in the category of ragging with criminal dimensions.
- ? Any act or abuse by spoken words, e-mails, snail-mails, public insults should be considered with in the psychological aspects of ragging. Any act that affects mental health and self-confidence of students also can be described in terms of psychological aspect of ragging.
- ? Human rights perspective of ragging involves injury caused to fundamental right to human dignity through humiliation heaped on junior students by seniors.



RAGGING – GENERAL CONCEPTS

The result of the sample survey done by us to assess and measure general concepts of people about ragging is very unfortunate one. Most of the members of general public are completely unaware of existence of ragging at all. Judging by the fact that illiteracy percentage of this country is quite high even after more than 60 years of independence, it is, perhaps, nothing surprising. General awareness even among the people of relatively higher strata of society cuts a sorry figure as they are simply non-committal about the menace of ragging in educational campuses. This is perhaps due to the fact that often the sad incidents of ragging at various college campuses are not reported in the print and electronic media with due importance.

The common people still are inclined to believe ragging as a somewhat form of jokes and merry-making at the beginning of academic sessions by some handful merry loving senior students at college class rooms, canteens or at hostels to get themselves acquainted with newly admitted students in new academic session.

***“We don’t see things as they are;
We see things as we are”***

– Anais Nin



RAGGING – HISTORICAL BACKDROP

It is said that ragging is not peculiar to our country. It is prevalent in almost all other countries. But in other countries ragging is looked upon as crime and is handled with an iron hand by all concerned viz. the college / university, administration and obviously the police.

Ragging originated about 1200 years ago and the first ragging death was reported in 1873 at Cornell University (USA). It was then also known as hazing, fagging, bullying, pleading, horse-playing etc. Ragging could be traced back to ancient Greece where it was practiced amongst warriors and soldiers only. Ragging was practiced as a local style of being introduced to the seniors in the armed forces.

Subsequently the concept of ragging on newcomers spread to other parts of the globe and gradually spread in military bases as a popular pass time among the forces. But incidents of ragging were never flashed in public. There were two basic reasons: Firstly, ragging was a sort of pass time in their otherwise boring camp life. And secondly, ragging was at a mild dose mostly in far away barracks as any cases of ragging was severely dealt with by higher military authorities.

Since World War II, ragging started spreading in other fields of civilian life. Here again the main reason was that soon after world war II, many of war brigades were dislocated and soldiers returned to civilian life. Some of them also got admitted in colleges and universities. And with them the concept of ragging spread to colleges and universities. Thus educational campuses were infected with 'ragging syndrome'. The senior students started practicing ragging on their juniors.



RAGGING IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Among the other countries presently Sri Lanka is known to be the worst affected country in regard to incidents of ragging. Ragging has a long history and was a part of early – civilized societies. At ancient seats of learning such as Beirut and Athens, ragging was known. It was a part of the army and English public school tradition. From the army training institutions the practice of ragging came into the fold of engineering, medical and other residential institutions.

In European countries, ragging flourished in the fifteenth century. By the 17th century, master's degree students needed to obtain a document that affirmed they had gone through the equivalent of middle ages hell night. Veteran students' extorted money from fresher ill-treated them physically and forced them to dress in old garbs. One such French custom that immigrated to American universities was the cap or beanie that American fresher and many Greek pledges routinely wore for a term of a year. The custom still exists on a voluntary basis at a few American colleges such as Phillips University in Edin, Oklahoma. The system of pennialism, fortunately, disappeared from the continent, but not before many young men were humiliated, injured and killed.

Early Egyptians, Romans and Greeks knew ragging. The Duke of Exeter is supposed to be responsible for beginning of ragging in practice in England. Racking was also in practice parallel to ragging with a special instrument of torture known as 'rack'. But later, it got mixed up into ragging.

In the Netherlands in 1962 there was uproar because fresher were given 'Dachan treatment', a reference to the dreaded World War II concentration camps. According to Time, one fresher suffered a brain



injury when a senior student tried to knock a ball off his head with a hockey stick. In another custom, more than 200 young men were packed naked or half naked into a small room. The seniors then performed various kinds of barbarities on them.

France has also had its problems controlling young men. The French term 'brimade' includes hazing, ragging, silly and dangerous jokes and forced drinking. During 1920s in France, a national campaign raged against brimades. The minister of public instruction forbade them in all French schools, and the minister of war ordered an end to such practices. According to a 1928 notice in the New York Times, brimades had too often gone beyond the limits of fun, and, especially win anxious boys, who often voiced persecution and cruelty. In the military schools practical jokes had been pushed much further. The ministers of instruction and war emphasized that new boys must be welcomed cordially, fairly and kindly.

Brimades have also been a problem in Canada, perhaps because that country has imported such customs from the British, French and American Greeks. Hazing activities flourished on the Canadian border. Many incidents reported in Canada during orientation week, the conventional method for introducing new students to college life.

Source : Ms. Jayasree Sar, Ragging : Is it a pathological or casual phenomenon of college culture? an exploratory study, unpublished M.Sc. dissertation from Dept of Psychology, Univ. of Calcutta, 2006.

***“The glory is not in never failing,
but in rising every time you fall”***

– A Chinese proverb



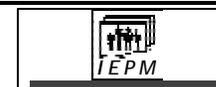
RAGGING IN INDIA

Ragging In Ancient India

In ancient India, students used to visit teachers' home at an early age. The students used to stay at the house of teacher for a couple of years along with other students coming from far away areas learning and practicing lessons from their 'Gurus' & 'Guru-Matas'. They used to stay at 'Guru-grihas' (Gurukul) till they were declared successfully passed out by gurus and allowed to return to their homes where they could practice and utilize acquired knowledge. In the mythological stories or in such ancient documents, we do not find any reference of ragging in those days.

Ragging In Medieval India

In medieval India, students from abroad used to visit India for getting admission in various seats of learning. Many famous sites of learning and educational campuses were scattered all over India. Some of the popular ones were Nalanda, Taxilla and Bikrampur to name a few. All those famous centers of learning were frequented by many students even from far away countries. Some of the students who came to India to study and learn specially the teachings of Lord Buddha were Hieun Tsang, Fa-hien & Megasthenes. Those students from foreign countries lived many years in India for the purpose of study. They also visited many other centers of learning. They have made vivid accounts of their stay in India in their travelogues but there was no mention of any sort of ragging of students especially the students from abroad in any of those places of learning in spite of their being residential in nature.



RAGGING IN POST INDEPENDENCE INDIA

In India, incidents of ragging came into our attention with introduction of modern education system under the British rule. Starting from simple jokes and time pass, the degree and gravity of ragging started to show its ugly powers and negative elements with passage of time. The vulgar and barbaric practices of ragging in some of the educational campuses would even shame the ones in practice in some of the foreign countries. 'Fresher Welcome' (the great grand 'Nabin Baran Utsav') gradually transformed into ragging of fresher and ultimately turned into a great nightmare not only for fresher students but also caused serious concern to worried parents and guardians, college and hostel authorities and the administration at different levels.

Most of the campus authorities have allowed ragging, over the years, as it is limited to moderation and in a healthy form, which is liked, by both the seniors and fresher alike. They also maintain some sort of indirect and low profile supervision. In some campuses, however, ragging degenerated into some vulgar, brutal, sadist and even sexual harassment.

Many engineering colleges and coveted places of learning particularly IIT's, Bengal Engineering College (now BESU), R. E. College now NIT-Durgapur, Jalpaiguri Engineering College to name a few witnessed major incidents of ragging during last couple of years.

With more and more mash-rooming of degree and diploma colleges in engineering, medical, technical and general stream of education with acute dearth of infrastructure and administrative control over huge number of students also gives rise to so many incidents of uncontrolled ragging shattering dreams of many young hearts with so much shocks & pains to hapless parents and worried guardians.



In India, according to reliable sources, during the period of only 3 years from 2005 – 2007, there were as many as 11 unfortunate deaths, 10 suicide attempts by students and 33 cases of physical and 13 cases of sexual abuses. Some of the incidents of ragging as reported in media especially in newspapers and news magazines have been mentioned under the heading 'recent incidents of campus ragging' in this monograph which is not only shocking and undesirable but portrays a horror picture of the affair. We should still remember that whatever is published in news papers are only the tip of the ice.

We are really afraid and concerned that with the passage of time, we are coming across more and more incidents of campus ragging. The nature of torture on fresher by senior students shows that new and newer methods of ragging are constantly being developed which was unheard earlier much to the chagrin of parents, guardians and administration. Alarmed at the growing incidents of ragging in which violence and sexual abuses had been perpetrated against fresher, both boys and girls, the Government seems to be serious to put an end to this horrid practices by invoking criminal laws and, if necessary, by enactment of special Acts.

*"To become a champion,
fight one more round"*

--James J. Corbett



RAGGING AND THE LEGAL PROVISIONS

Enactment of Central and the state laws, makes ragging a cognizable offence with identifying the perverse forms of ragging under such law(s), and giving punishments appropriate with the cruelty of the offence -

- ? A student indulged in the act of ragging his / her juniors may be expelled from college / university.
- ? He/ she may be banned / debarred from staying in hostel / mess
- ? Scholarship / stipend / financial grant can be withdrawn / cancelled by the college / university
- ? He /she may be debarred from appearing at future examinations of university
- ? He /she may be debarred from taking admission to any other educational institute in the state or even in the entire country
- ? He /she may be charge sheeted and court of law may try the accused student.
- ? It may, after taking all precautions, give severe punishment to meet the end of justice.

Specific Sections to Deal with Ragging Cases and Ensuring Justice under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

Minor Complaints Against Ragging :

Sections

- 339 Wrongful restraint
- 340 Wrongful confinement
- 341 Punishment for wrongful restraint
- 342 Punishment for wrongful confinement
- 294 Obscene acts and songs
- 506 Punishment for criminal intimidation

Major Complaints Against Ragging :

Sections

- 323 Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt
- 324 Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means
- 325 Punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt
- 326 Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means

Death or loss of life :

Sections

- 304 Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder
- 306 Abetment of suicide
- 307 Attempt to murder



Extracts from the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973

Information to the Police and Their Powers to Investigate

Section 154 : Information in cognizable cases

1. Every information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence, if given orally to an officer-in-charge of a police station, shall be reduced to writing by him or under his direction, and be read over to the informant; and every such information whether given in writing or reduced to writing as aforesaid, shall be signed by the person giving it, and the substance thereof shall be entered in a book to be kept by such officer in such form as the state government may prescribe in this behalf.

2. A copy of the information as recorded under sub-section (1) above shall be given forthwith, free of cost, to the informant.

3. Any person aggrieved by a refusal on the part of an officer-in-charge of a police station to record the information referred to in sub-section (1) may send the substance of such information, in writing and by post, to the superintendent of police concerned who, if satisfied that such information discloses the commission of a cognizable offence, shall either investigate the case himself or direct an investigation to be made by any police officer subordinate to him, in the manner provided by this code, and such officer shall have all the powers of an officer-in-charge of the police station in relation to that offence.

Note : *FIR is the earliest report made to the police officer with a view to his taking action in the matter. (Soma Bhai v. state of Gujarat AIR 1975 SC 1453)*



Section 155 : Information as to non-cognizable cases and investigation of such cases

1. When information is given to an officer-in-charge of a police station of the commission within the limits of such station of a non-cognizable offence, he shall enter or cause to be entered the substance of the information in a book to be kept by such officer in such form as the state govt. may prescribe in this behalf, and refer the information to the Magistrate.

2. No police officer shall investigate a non-cognizable case without the order of a magistrate having power to try such case or commit the case for trial.

3. Any police officer receiving such order may exercise the same powers in respect of the investigation (except the power to arrest without warrant) as an officer-in-charge of a police station may exercise in a cognizable case.

4. Where a case relates to two or more offences of which at least one is cognizable, the case shall be deemed to be a cognizable case, notwithstanding that the other offences are non-cognizable.

Note : *Police can investigate even, if there is a case a single cognizable offence (Naresh Chandra v. state 1978 A CrR 60)*

Section 156 : Police officer's power to investigate cognizable

1. Any officer-in-charge of a police station may, without the order of a magistrate, investigate, any cognizable case which a court having jurisdiction over the local area within the limits of such station would have power to inquire into or try under the provisions of chapter XIII



2. No proceedings of a police officer in any such case shall at any stage be called in question on the ground that the case was one which such officer was not empowered under this section to investigate.

Section 157 : Procedure of investigation

1. If, for information received or otherwise, an officer-in-charge of a police station has reason to suspect the commission of an offence which he is empowered under section 156 to investigate, he shall forthwith send a report of the same to a Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of such offence upon a police report and shall proceed in person, or shall depute one of his subordinate officer not being below such rank as the state govt. may prescribe, to proceed to the spot, to investigate the facts and circumstances of the case, and, if necessary to take measures for the discovery and arrest of the offender. Provided that –

(a) where information as to the commission of any such offence is given against any person by name and the case is not of a serious in nature, the officer-in-charge of a police station need not proceed in person or depute a subordinate officer to make an investigation on the spot.

(b) if it appears to the officer-in-charge of a police station that there is no sufficient ground or entering on an investigation, he shall not investigate the case.

2. In each of the cases mentioned in clauses (a) (b) of the proviso to sub-section (1), the officer-in-charge of the police station shall state in his report his reasons for not fully complying with the requirements of that sub-section, and in the case mentioned in clause (b) of the proviso, the officer shall also forthwith notify to the informant if any. in such manner as may be prescribed by the state govt. the fact that he will not investigate the case or cause it to be investigated.



Section 158 : Report submission

1. Every report sent to a Magistrate under section 157 shall, if the state govt. so directs, be submitted through such superior officer of police as the state govt. by general or special order, appoints on that behalf.

2. Such superior officer may give such instructions to the officer-in-charge of the police station as he thinks fit, and shall, after recording such instructions on such reports, transmit the same without delay to the Magistrate.

Section 159 : Power to hold investigation or preliminary

Such Magistrate, on receiving such report, may direct an investigation, or, if he thinks fit, at once proceed, or depute any Magistrate subordinate to him to proceed, to hold a preliminary inquiry into or otherwise to dispose of, the case in the manner provided in this code.

Section 164 : Recording of confessions and statements

1. Any Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate may, whether or not he has jurisdiction in that case, record any confession or statement made to him in the course of an investigation under this chapter or under any other law for the this being in force, or at any time afterwards before the commencement of the inquiry or trial.

Provided that no confession shall be recorded by a police officer on whom any power of a Magistrate has been conferred under any law for the time being in force.



2. The Magistrate shall, before recording any such confession, explain to the person making it that he is not bound to make a confession and that, if he does so, it may be used as evidence against him: and the Magistrate shall not record any such confession unless, upon questioning the person making it, he has reasons to believe that it is being made voluntarily

3. If at any time before the confession is recorded, the person appearing before the Magistrate states that he is not willing to make the confession, the Magistrate shall not authorize the detention of such person in police custody.

STATE LAWS

Some of the states in India have enacted state laws to prevent ragging in educational institutions following the recommendations of the Supreme Court of India.

1) Andhra Pradesh state law defines ragging as doing an act, which causes or is likely to cause insult or annoyance or fear or apprehension or threat or intimidation or outrage modesty or insult to a student.

2) According to the Assam Prohibition of Ragging Bill 1998, ragging means display of noisy or disorderly conduct or doing of any act which causes or is likely to cause social, physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to any student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing of playing practical jokes on or causing hurt to such students; or asking the student any act or perform something which such student will not in the ordinary course willingly do.

3) The Chattisgarh Shaikshanik Sansthaon Me Pratarna Ka Pratishedh Adhiniyam, 2001 defines ragging as causing, inducing, compailing or forcing a student, whether by way of a practical joke or otherwise, to do

any act which detracts from human dignity or violets his person or exposes him to ridicule or forbear from doing any unlawful act, by intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining, or injuring him or by using criminal force to him or by holding out to him any threat or such intimidation, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force.

4) Goa Prohibition of Ragging Bill 2006, defines ragging as ‘display of, doing any act disorderly conduct which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing, threatening or playing practical jokes on, causing hurt to, such students; or asking a student to do any act or perform something which such student will not, in the ordinary course, willingly do’.

5) The Karnataka Education Act 1983, defines ragging as ‘Causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his persons or exposes him to ridicule or forbear from doing any lawful act, by intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining, or injuring him by using criminal force to him or by holding out to him any threat of such intimidation, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force.’

6) The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act 1998 defines ragging as ‘teasing, abusing or causing hurt or asking student to do an act which he is unwilling to do’.

7) Ragging as defined by The Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act 1999 is ‘a display or disorderly conduct, doing of any act which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution’.



8) Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Ragging Act 1997, states that ragging means ‘display of noisy, disorderly conduct, doing any act, which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing of playing practical jokes on or causing hurt to, such students; or asking the students to do any act or perform something, which such student will not, in the ordinary course, willingly do’.

The Expert Committee formed by the apex court found that only the Chattisgarh State Act on ragging is intended to ‘prevent’ ragging whereas all other state laws enacted by other states merely seek to ‘prohibit’ ragging. There are very few states in India that have enacted comprehensive laws in respect of ragging. Even those few existing state laws are lacking in provisions intended to prevent ragging. No state laws provide for any detailed scheme of prevention of ragging in educational campus which is needed very much. Supreme Court guidelines on ragging are stated to be followed by the states; however, no state law has been modified or amended to bring them in line with the guidelines and directions of the apex court.

The West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Act, 2000

The state of West Bengal is the only state in India where the Indian Penal Code has been amended to make ragging an offence.

The West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Act, 2000 (W.B. Act XIII of 2000) includes the following provisions

☞ “Ragging” means the ‘doing of any act which causes, or is likely to cause any physical, psychological or physiological harm of apprehension or shame or embarrassment to a student, and includes:

(a) teasing or abusing of, playing practical jokes on, or causing hurt to any student. or

(b) asking any student to do any act, or perform any thing, which he/she would not, in the ordinary course, be willing to do or perform’.

☞ **Proviso for Prohibition of Ragging**

(a) Ragging within an educational institution is hereby prohibited.

(b) No person shall participate in, abet, or propagate, ragging in any educational institution.

☞ **Stipulated Penalty for Ragging**

(a) Expulsion from the educational institution, if found guilty on enquiry by the institution against a complaint lodged by any other student.

(b) Imprisonment of either description up to two years or fine up to five thousand rupees or both.

(c) Any student convicted under 3 (b) shall be dismissed from the educational institution in which he/she has been prosecuting his/her studies for the time being, and shall not be re-admitted to that educational institution.

Source : www.stopragging.org

*“You can’t shake hands with
clenched fist”
– Indira Gandhi*



INITIATION TO STOP RAGGING IN INDIA

In the year 1999, the University Grants Commission appointed a Committee for framing course of action to fight the threat of ragging in Universities/Educational Institutions. The Committee in its report recommended the following –

- ? Enactment of Central and the state laws, making ragging a cognizable offence, identifying the perverse forms of ragging under such law(s), giving punishments appropriate with the cruelty of offence
- ? Anti-ragging movement in respect of ban on ragging and the consequences of violation should start from the publication of advertisements for admissions. Prospectus, application forms and admission forms should contain clear message against ragging
- ? An undertaking for not indulging in ragging is made mandatory for admission to student hostels.
- ? Various actions should be taken at the beginning of each academic session, like an address by Head of institution to wardens, student activists, parents/guardians, police and faculty and constituting Anti-Ragging Vigilance Committees comprising some senior faculty members, students and wardens
- ? Defaulting institutions should be penalized in the form of reduction in Grants-In-Aid or even dis-affiliation from UGC
- ? Different grades of punishments ranging from suspension of offenders from institution to a fine of Rs. 25,000/- and, even rigorous imprisonment up to 3 years depending on degree of severity of offence. In addition, punishments shall also be given by the concerned institutional authorities

- ? Positive steps and incentives to create an anti-ragging environment

The University Grants Commission had circulated the 1999 Report to all universities on 13th January, 2000 for necessary action. Similarly, the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P.(Civil) No. 656 of 1998 [Vishwa Jagriti Mission] on curbing the menace of ragging in educational institutions have also been circulated by the University Grants Commission to all the States / Union Territory Governments and institutions for strict compliance.

RAGHAVAN COMMITTEE

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India formed a Committee headed by Shri RK. Raghavan, former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in December, 2006 to look into ragging issues in details by holding detailed enquiry and to give suggestions on means of prevention of ragging in educational institutions.

In its Interim Order of 27th November 2006, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India expressed its disappointment by expressing that *“practically very little has been done to prevent the menace of ragging in educational institutions”*. The Apex Court expected that the Raghavan committee shall make recommendations ‘as to how the provisions already enacted in several States and Statutes to be framed to prevent the menace, can effectively eliminate the menace.’

The Committee after elaborately evaluating existing state legislations in India observed that incidents of ragging have increased manifold particularly from 2001 onwards. The Committee also noted that very few States have enacted laws in respect of ragging. Even these few existing State laws are woefully lacking in provisions intended to prevent ragging. The different State laws define ragging more or less in the same manner.



As a matter of fact, the definition of ragging is common to the Acts of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal. They do not take care of the psychological aspect of the trauma.

Some of the observations of the Committee are -

? The Committee found no instance where educational institutions approached police authorities in reporting even the extreme incidents of ragging. Usually, complaints with police are lodged by parents/ guardians of the victims.

? The Committee is concerned with the evasive attitude of educational institutions and it is therefore necessary that institutional authorities are made accountable in a variety of ways.

? The Committee views absence of civil society initiatives on the issue of ragging as a matter of serious concern.

? The locations of hostels are often unknown to institutional authorities or even to local law and order authorities and this is another cause of ragging.

? Possession of mobile phone was the best and immediate source for the ragged to communicate with relevant authorities.

? State Governments haven't monitored whether ragging has been restricted or not in their State. The authorities of institutions have not played a pro-active role which was necessary as primary responsibility was cast on institutional authorities.

Given below are the observations of the Committee specifically in respect of the guidelines of the Apex Court :-



? The Apex Court had prescribed that educational institutions should generate an 'atmosphere of discipline by sending a clear message that *no act of ragging shall be tolerated and any act of ragging shall not go unnoticed or unpunished*'. The continuation of ragging in various forms sometimes in the garb of 'mild ragging', 'introductions' etc. in the opinion of this Committee is equally deplorable and often such 'surrogate' ragging practices are patronized by institutional authorities themselves. This is established by the fact that 'social interaction' sessions or 'fresher,' 'welcome' parties are traditionally organized only after sufficient time is available to seniors to rag 'fresher' – often months after the date of admission to institutions.

In our country the first real initiation to stop ragging was taken in the state of Tamil Nadu in 1997 which witnessed a series of violent incidents of campus ragging at that time. Many incidents of brutal ragging were reported in media which depicts ragging is prevalent in educational campuses in the state. All these ultimately prompted the Govt. of Tamil Nadu to pass an Anti-Ragging Act in the state legislature. Some of the other states are also following steps and have, of late, come up with anti-ragging legislation. The major boost to anti-ragging efforts was given by a landmark judgment of Supreme Court of India in May 2001 in response to a Public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission- an NGO. Ragging, often a matter of great legal concern is defined by Supreme Court as :

'Any disorderly conduct, whether by words spoken or written or by an act which is the effect of teasing or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or in-disciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not do in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or



embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student.’

Very recently, UP Govt. has taken up legislation of an Act completely banning ragging in the educational institutes in the state. But it is needed to be emphasized that real initiation to stop ragging from college campus only came from the apex court of the land. The Supreme Court, in its epoch-making Judgment, desired that all educational institute campuses shall be completely ragging free. Secondly, the report submitted by Raghavan Committee has been accepted by the Govt. of India. Necessary instructions have been passed on to state governments, University Grants Commission and the Ministry of higher education. Educational Institutions all over the country have been advised to file FIR with local police against those who rag or even abet ragging. A list of proposed action plan has been passed out to the educational institutes. Recently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development under Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India has also taken some pro-active positive steps towards awareness campaign against campus ragging throughout the year for lasting and positive impact.

The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi has put up a circular on its web site that ‘ragging in educational institutions in any form is banned under law; all the AICTE approved institutions must ensure that ragging does not take place at their campuses in any form; should such a case be reported or brought to the notice of the AICTE, then the Council shall take necessary action including withdrawal of approval’

The University Grants Commission, the regulatory body to control the affairs of the affiliated universities in India has also recently asked member-universities to follow recommendations of Supreme Court appointed Raghavan Committee to curb ragging. However, presently UGC does not intend to pressure the universities into implementing recommendation



of Raghavan Committee by threatening to snap their purse strings. As per news published in the Telegraph dated 28.11.07, there is no plan to link performance of universities in curbing ragging to the funding they receive from the apex body. Further, UGC, as it appears from reports, is doubtful about the workability in implementing the recommendations of Raghavan Committee.

We, however, express our complete disappointment over the issue.

Sources :

- ? Supreme Court of India Judgment 2001
- ? ‘Raghavan Committee Recommendation Report’, HRD Ministry, Govt. of India
- ‘Hon ble. Supreme Court interim order on Ragging’, Supreme Court
- ? Legal Correspondent. ‘Court :form panel to look into ragging’, The Hindu, Nov. 7, 2006

*“We all have ability.
The difference is how we use it”*

– Stevie Wonder



RAGGING AND STUDENT UNIONS

It is needless to say that ragging is an issue with the students and when it relates to student community, the student unions ought to have a role to play particularly in controlling the menace of ragging in educational campus. But our experience in this field is not encouraging.

Most of the student unions seem not to be interested in handling and dealing with a case of ragging. However, their apathy to this problem can easily be traced back to traditional way of viewing a thing since long and obviously their pre-occupation with other issues some of them, surprisingly, is more of a political rather than academic.

During interview sessions with some of the student unions, we have, however, able to make them aware of the need of their whole hearted co-operation and support to stop ragging in educational campuses immediately.

We are confident that in the days to come student unions shall act much pro-actively in playing the role of guardians of fresher students in the class rooms, canteens and also in the hostels so that senior students (being its members) can gradually desist from being involved in such unwanted ragging activities.

*“Never let your sense of morals prevent you
From doing what’s right”*

– Isaac Asimov



SAFEGUARD AGAINST RAGGING

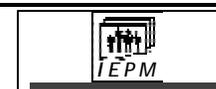
One recent popular Hindi film namely Munna Bhai, MBBS has touched upon this issue of ragging (though the apex court opined not to show ragging in films) in a very interesting way which shall give much pleasure and courage to the newcomers to face ragging. It depicts superbly how new-comers in a medical college hostel are picked up for ragging by seniors & the juniors are forced to undress (with bare undergarments) and danced with music in front of seniors in hostel common room. Now there is the sudden arrival of hero who is a new comer in the college (but in reality happens to be a muscle man). He turned the coin upside down. Hero Munna Bhai, MBBS now led new comers and compelled seniors to do same thing which the seniors forced upon on new comers. Seniors were ragged by new comers and got the lesson ‘Tit For Tat’.

Perhaps the director of the film wanted to lay emphasis on the point of ‘unity is strength’ to the new comers. But heroes only come in films. In our real life, we have to face cruel reality. But we do firmly believe that there is always solution to problems, if we really want it.

In the following paragraphs, we shall indicate about the ‘protection shield’ from ragging for new comers in colleges and hostels.

Do s AND Don’ts FOR FRESHER

Awareness is the best protection against ragging. When you are aware of the environment where you, as a fresher are going to study and / or stay for a couple of your golden years, you are at least to some extent secured and safe. Will power goes a long way in protecting one from the unwanted ragging during initial period.



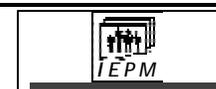
For better protection, we shall recommend the following measures-

- ? Be courteous to all. It will make a favorable impression of you.
- ? Always speak the truth but never be blunt or brutally frank, i.e., never speak truth which is disagreeable.
- ? Never move *alone* in the college and hostel premises.
- ? Even if you are introvert or lazy type, ensure that you are log on with your batch mates/ room mates continuously.
- ? Do not stroll but *move fast* in the college campus.
- ? Do not wait/ waste time in corridors, passages, staircases.
- ? *Avoid* seniors particularly in toilets, bathrooms, canteens.
- ? Never visit canteen when seniors are there.
- ? Always keep Cell phone with you. Model with camera is preferred for obvious reasons.
- ? Let Cell phone on silent / vibration mode.
- ? Load Cell phone with all important telephone nos. (Preferably Mobile Phone numbers) of
 - ✍Principal of college
 - ✍Registrar of college
 - ✍Training & Placement officer
 - ✍Hostel Superintendent / warden
 - ✍Security officer
 - ✍Medical officer, if any
 - ✍Parents / Guardians
 - ✍Local guardians, if any
 - ✍Local police station
 - ✍Superintendent of Police of the district
 - ✍District Magistrate
 - ✍Chairman- WBJEE
 - ✍Chairperson- West Bengal Human Rights Commission
 - ✍Chairperson- West Bengal Women's Commission

- ? Communicate with parents/ local guardians over telephone / Cell phone at least twice a day for initial few months
- ? Keep some standard SMS in your Cell phone ready for rapid and instant communication with your parents / guardians. For example - Ok (every thing all right), LNPW (last night passed well), NP (No Problem) or SOS (save our souls indicating possible ragging) etc.
- ? Collect Cell / telephone number and complete address of office and residence of your local guardian in case you stay in hostel / mess.
- ? Collect, preserve and load your Cell phone with cell / telephone number of class mates/ room mates. Also collect complete residential address and telephone no. of your friends. Your parents/ local guardians also to be supplied with those cell/ telephone no. and addresses of your friends.
- ? Ensure that telephone number and full address of your home is supplied to new friends as well.
- ? A copy of such address book to be readily available with your parents and local guardians.

Dos AND Don'ts FOR GUARDIANS

- ? Collect the telephone nos. (preferably Cell Phone numbers) of different authorities :
 - ✍Principal of college
 - ✍Registrar of college
 - ✍Training & Placement officer
 - ✍Hostel Superintendent
 - ✍Security Officer



- ✍ Medical Officer, if any
- ✍ Guardians
- ✍ Local guardians, if any
- ✍ Local police station
- ✍ Superintendent of Police of the district
- ✍ District Magistrate
- ✍ Chairman- WBJEE
- ✍ Chairperson- West Bengal Human Rights Commission
- ✍ Chairperson- West Bengal Women's Rights Commission

? Parents/ local guardian to contact their ward staying at least twice each day for initial few months

? Collect and keep handy telephone numbers of their ward's close friends and parents.

? Say hello to such parents and guardians regularly and maintain a flow of frank and easy communication.

? Parents must visit college and hostel regularly at least during initial months. Their objective shall be to build up and maintain a rapport with the college and hostel superintendents.

? Net work of communication is required to be building up with different officials namely Principal, Registrar, Training & Placement Officer, Hostel Superintendent/ warden and also other senior teachers and non-teaching staff members.

? If due to distance or for any such reasons personal meeting with such officials is not possible, parents must contact over telephone with such officials to rebuilt and cement their relationship.

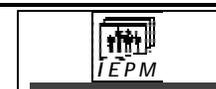
SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SENIORS

- ? Get adjusted to new environment as soon as you can
- ? Know your Institute of learning well and identify yourself with new college.
- ? Do not act over smart
- ? Don't be dramatic
- ? Be yourself and do not try to follow /imitate blindly any one
- ? Work hard from beginning and do not fool around
- ? Do not bunk classes
- ? Your seniors deserve respect. Show respect to them properly
- ? Interact with seniors properly
- ? Steer clear of troubles
- ? Dress yourself properly. Sober dress is always better.
- ? Do not wear really short skirts. (in case of girl students)
- ? Take part in extra-curricular activities like games and sports, indoor competitions, debate, essay writing, songs etc. as are available
- ? Do not bend the rules for your own advantage.
- ? Do not enjoy only fun
- ? Enjoy college and hostel life and share it with your friends

Remember, exposure and experience of college and hostel days shall be of great help you to learn many things of life particularly community life, co-operation, joint efforts and group work to achieve a common goal.

*"I was always looking outside myself for strength & confidence
But it comes from within.
It is here all the time"*

- Anna Freud



SUGGESTED ACTION PLAN FOR COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

- i. Admission brochure of college to have printed guidelines against ragging.
- ii. To ensure an undertaking from each student against indulging in or abetting ragging.
- iii. Separate accommodations for fresher in specific hostels under full time hostel superintendent/ wardens.
- iv. Imposing discipline & strict restriction on movement of students particularly during night hours and holidays.
- v. Ensuring & enhancing watch & ward, security services at college and hostel campuses particularly at night hours.
- vi. Filling up vacant post of hostel superintendent by full time qualified and competent persons with experience to handle typical situations at hostels.

It nice to note that BESU, Shibpur has recently decided to fill up 13 vacant posts of hostel superintendents at a time which were lying vacant for long time. The series of campus disturbance at BESU in recent times are perhaps the reason behind such move by the university authority.

- vii. Constitution of Anti-Ragging Committee with senior faculty members and periodic review of the development. This committee is to prevent incidents of ragging in college and hostels in terms of the guidelines given by the Supreme Court Appointed Raghavan Committee. This committee is also to suggest action plans to create a cordial relationship amongst students as also to enquire into the ragging complaints received from students/ guardians and to suggest remedial prescription.

- viii. Functioning of Anti- Ragging Squad consisting of faculty members, non- teaching staff members, senior students, representatives of students union and ensuring its effective functioning.
- ix. Orientation programme against ragging
- x. Awareness campaign on evil effects of ragging both on fresher and seniors throughout the year.
- xi. Arranging campaigning against ragging by holding various competitions like poster and essay competition among the students with prize money.
- xii. To enquire each incidents of ragging to find out root cause of ragging at campus.
- xiii. To file FIR (First Information Report) with local police station as soon as the incident occurs
- xiv. Confidentiality of source of complaints/ information is to be strictly maintained
- xv. Strict disciplinary action shall be taken against students involved and indulging in ragging.
- xvi. To ensure access to Cell phones and public telephones in hostels and colleges to enable timely communication
- xvii. To ensure publicize telephone nos. of all important functionaries like head of institutions, faculty members, hostel wardens/ superintendents and district administration.
- xviii. Arranging of career development activities for students particularly of final and pre-final year students, as they shall be at employment market soon. This will also enhance their employability in job market
- xix. Special classes for students towards improvement of Presentation skills, Personality development, group discussion, voice modulation classes, knowledge of foreign languages etc.
- xx. Soft skill improvement of students.
- xxi. Arranging seminars, workshop and projects and inviting industry leaders in inter-active sessions and on experience sharing basis.



- xxii. Organizing pro-active cultural activities throughout the year like arranging of inter-depts. football, volleyball and cricket competition, quiz, debate, dance and songs on socio-educative values and suitably rewarding winning teams

*“In a necessarily complex reality,
One cannot see everything from everywhere”.*
– **Louis Althusser**

STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED – IF RAGGED

Get Treatment First

? The first step obviously is to get medical treatment. It is better if first-aid treatment is locally available. This saves from unnecessary loss of time which often arrest further deterioration. This first-aid may be available at college campus or with office of superintendent / warden of hostel. Immediately thereafter, injured student should be rushed to nearest Government hospital. This must be done irrespective of whether injury is grave or not. The simple logic is: an injury is an injury and those who have purposefully inflicted injury on a new comer must be punished.

? Tell ragging incident to the Doctor-In-Charge of hospital on duty. Tell doctor clearly that injuries are solely due to ragging at college/ hostel. Describe assault incident to doctor. Ensure that injuries are specifically noted by doctor in prescription sheet of hospital and medical certificate. Ensure that word ‘assault’ is mentioned by doctor in hospital records.

? Get immediate admission to hospital, if advised by doctor-on-duty. It is always better to be admitted in govt. hospital for a couple of days for obvious reasons. Preserve all treatment papers, x-ray plates and reports.

? Complete course of treatment including x-ray, sonogram and other tests as advised by doctor. Leave hospital only when you are declared fit and a ‘fit certificate’ is issued. Try to avoid private hospitals and nursing homes at least at the initial period.

Lodge A First Information Report (FIR)

? Next immediate duty is to approach local police station and to file



an FIR. In case student himself is sick enough due to ragging injury/ hospitalization, FIR may also be lodged by parents and/ or local guardians at the local police station.

? Lodging an FIR is very vital and crucial. The time of FIR filing is very important as FIR needs to be filed soon after an incident. And the sooner is the better. Describe the assault incident precisely but clearly. All important facts are to be noted in FIR. Any lapses in FIR may help accused to give a slip and to get away easily without any punishment. It is suggested that the parents/ guardians prepare a Draft FIR first and crosscheck to ensure that it is 100% fool prove so that the culprit cannot escape from the law. We suggest use of 'Model Draft FIR' as enclosed in this monograph may conveniently be used by parents/ guardians while filing FIR with filling up with necessary and relevant information.

? FIR must contain names and other detailed particulars of persons who caused injury/ assault. Additional information regarding assaulters viz., year of study, depts. belonged to, name of hostel; room no. etc should be noted in FIR to avoid any future confusion towards identification of guilty.

? Mention names and relevant details of all others who were present at the time of ragging / assault and had promoted / encouraged assaulters instead of saving you from physical assault.

? Mention names and other details of your friends/ room mates who may have also been assaulted along with you or have witnessed the ragging/ assault incident.

? Do not forget to mention that you have been given first aid at the hostel/ college first aid medical room and subsequently at govt. hospital duly examined and treated by doctor-on-duty.

? In case Fresher is still admitted in hospital / nursing home till recovery due to severe injury, the matter needs to be noted in FIR.

Draft Copy Of First Information Report (FIR)

To
The Officer –In – Charge
Police Station :
Dist :

Dated.....

Sir,

Subject : Lodging of FIR into the incident of Ragging on

I, do hereby lodge a complaint with you as detailed below and request you to treat it as an FIR for taking immediate action against the culprit(s) :

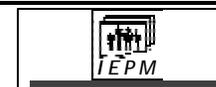
That on..... at about am/pm, my son / daughter namely shri / Miss a student of College / University and staying at hostel namely was ragged by some senior students of the college/ university/ hostel and was seriously injured so much so that his/her life is in danger.

He/ she was beaten, abused, forced to utter filthy languages, forced to uncover his body, made to dance, commit nuisance, sexually abused, hurt in private parts (specify the nature of injury)

He/ she has been rushed immediately to a Govt. Hospital namely,in a critical condition where he / she has been hospitalized with grievous injuries for treatment and medical care by the attending doctors on duty. He/she needs a few days observation and prolonged treatment.

That *the names of the assaulters who ragged* Shri/Miss are

- 1) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
- 2) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
- 3) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year



4) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
(Keep whichever is applicable and delete others. Add names & other details as available)

Further, note that some other students, namely Shri / MissShri/Miss and Shri/ Miss(Add names who had also been assaulted) were also tortured, abused, humiliated, made to stand for hours / sexually assaulted / knelt down on floors (any other specify here) by those senior students.

You are aware that ragging is a punishable offence in the educational campus and the culprits are liable to face criminal charges as per the law of the land. I would request you to treat this complaint letter as the FIR and please take necessary actions so that justice prevailed.

Thanking You,
Yours Faithfully,

(Name & Signature of father / mother)

Address :

Telephone No. / Mobile No. :

Enco: Documents / papers related to treatment in hospital (Photocopies)
X-Ray Report (Photocopy)

Lodge A Complain with College Authority

? You need to lodge a written complaint with the college authority immediately. The complaint may be addressed to the head of college particularly the Principal seeking disciplinary actions against culprits. It must contain detailed incident of ragging and tortures as far as practical. Please ensure that vital detail about time of incident of ragging/ assault, names of students who participated in ragging and witnesses are matching with the medical report and FIR. Photocopy of the FIR done to be enclosed with the complaint.



Complain With External Authority

? Send a copy of the complaint to District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and the Chairperson, Human Rights Commission. In case of female students, a complaint may also be submitted to the Chairperson, Women Rights Commission seeking immediate intervention and protection.

? *Please remember to get all those complaints against proper official receipts for reference in future.*

Draft Copy Of Complain

To
The Principal
(Add name & address of college)

Dated.....

Sir,

Subject: Lodging of complaint into the incident of ragging on in the campus.

I do hereby lodge a complaint with you as detailed below and request you to take immediate action against the culprits.

That on at about am/pm, my son / daughter namely Shri/ Miss, a student of your College/ University studying B.Tech / B.E / Medical / Hotel Management / (specify the name & year of the course) and staying at college hostel namely (delete if ragging incident happened in college premises) was ragged by some senior students of the college/ university/ hostel when he/she was in the college/ hostel and he/ she was hurt grievously and seriously injured so much so that his/her life is in danger.

He/she was beaten, abused, forced to utter filthy languages, kept physically confined for hours, forced to uncover body, made to dance as per their wishes,



forced to commit nuisance, sexually abused, hurt in private parts (Specify the nature of injury whichever is applicable) He/she was rushed immediately to a Govt. Hospital namely, in a critical condition where he/ she has been treated by the attending doctors. The attending doctors on duty hospitalized him/her with major injuries for treatment and medical care. He/ She was released after making necessary investigation by the attending doctors with advice for complete bed rest/ to be examined by a Psychologist whichever is applicable). He/ she needs a few more days of observation and prolonged treatment by the doctors.

That the names of the assaulters who ragged Shri /Miss are

- 1) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
 - 2) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
 - 3) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
 - 4) Shri / Miss alias, a student 2nd / 3rd / 4th year
- (Keep whichever is applicable and delete others. Add names & other details as available)

Further kindly note that some other students, namely Shri / Miss Shri/Miss and Shri/ Miss (Add names who had also been assaulted) were also tortured, abused, humiliated, made to stand for hours / sexually assaulted / knelt down on floors (any other specify here) by those senior students.

Sir, ragging in educational institute is a punishable offence and the culprits are liable to be punished and to face disciplinary actions as per the rules and regulations of the college/ university and law of the land. I would request you to take immediate necessary disciplinary actions so that justice prevailed and the campus will be free of ragging.

Thanking You,
Yours faithfully,

(Name & signature of father/mother)

Address:

Telephone No. / Mobile No. :

*Enclo: Documents / papers related to treatment in hospital (Photocopies)
X-Ray Report (Photocopy)



A copy of FIR dated.....

* add or delete as per documents available.

CREATE PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST RAGGING

? Seek help from media. It is suggested that television, radio and print media like news papers, journals and magazines may be involved immediately. Documents like photocopy of FIR, Hospital treatment papers etc needs to be sent to media who shall prepare suitable 'story' forcing administration and college to take suitable actions without any further delay for fear of negative publicity.

? Team up with other parents and guardians. Maintain contact with other parents and guardians over telephone or meeting on a fixed day and time every week at least in the initial months and put pressure on administration to take disciplinary actions against culprit(s).

*The person who risks nothing,
Does nothing, sees nothing, has nothing & is nothing;
He can't learn, feel, change, grow, love & live".*



WHY STUDENTS ENGAGE IN RAGGING

This is a fact that no general rule is there that why a student rag his/her fellow student. But experience shows that though there are exceptions but in general senior students engages in ragging due to the following causes -

- Senior students think of themselves as Hero, They think that 'WE ARE THE BOSS'.
- To show an attitude of revenge and get sadistic pleasures.
- To vent the mental and physical sufferings which they have suffered in the past.
- Hostel life is boring to them & lacks joyful excitement, so they like to get thrill from ragging.
- Lack of pro-active career development activities by college hostel authorities.
- Lack of games & sports and healthy cultural activities like inter class / inter- hostel football and cricket matches etc.
- Lack of administrative control of college / hostel authorities.
- College authority's apathy to general well being of the students.
- Lack of qualified & competent hostel superintendent.
- Part time hostel super with practically no control over senior students.
- In many cases Hostel super do not stay in the hostel itself and hostel is no man's land particularly in the night.

RAGGING AND STRESS

Stress is believed to be caused mostly by external events. Ragging induces stress – this is a known fact to all of us. Even the very thought of ragging provokes enough stress among the students taking admission to 1st year of college education in various courses. We experience stress in the way in which we interpret and react to events. It has physical, emotional and behavioral effects on us and can create negative feelings.

If we are aware of the nature of stress and its harmful reactions then this knowledge may teach us not to rag our fellow students. Also the parents may take necessary steps to treat their ward appropriately with the help of medical practitioners and psychologists.

What is stress :

It is somewhat nonspecific biological, emotional & behavioral process that occurs when physical or psychological well being is disturbed or threatened.

It produces severe anxiety.

Any environmental condition or event, that disrupts or is perceived as a threat to physical or psychological well being, may evoke stress.

Reaction to stressful events :

Responses to stressful events differ from person to person. It is unique to every individual. It can result in a variety of physiological, psychological, cognitive and behavioral problems.



Physiological Problems :

- ? Nausea, headaches, hypertension, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, sleep disturbance,
- ? Elevated blood pressure, increased heart rate
- ? Skin disorders
- ? Reduced immune function and thereby increase in chances of infectious diseases

Psychological Problems :

- ? Anxiety is the most common reaction to stress. Anxiety affects the performance level.
- ? Negative self image, reduced self-esteem and loss of faith
- ? Anger, irritability and nightmares
- ? Depression, lack of interest, and withdrawal behaviour

Changes in cognitive pattern :

- ? Lack of concentration and attention
- ? Reduced productivity
- ? Forgetfulness, errors in judgement etc.

Behavioral Problems :

- ? Alcohol and drug addiction, and increased smoking
- ? Compulsive behaviour, itinerant lifestyle
- ? Aggressive behaviour and criminal activities may also be the reaction to stressful experiences.

Other reactions to stressful events :

- ? Prolonged stress gradually minimize the abilities of effective functioning.



- ? Stress may produce much stronger psychological reaction than simple anxiety.
- ? Stress may generate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), that is the most long-drawn-out and serious of all reactions to severe stress.
- ? Interpersonal relationships may get disturbed

How to cope with stress :

- ? Interact with trusted and dependable people, talk to them about the problems. Take their suggestions and follow them.
- ? Try to change the environment as far as possible.
- ? Try to modify personal behaviour
- ? Judge how stressful the situation actually is. Whether you are over emphasizing it or not.
- ? Think what to do about the stressful situations. How you can adjust with it.
- ? Join stress management programmes
- ? Exercise relaxation techniques
- ? Practice meditation
- ? Exercise regularly

*“You are everything that is,
Your thoughts, your life, your dreams come true.
You are everything you choose to be.
You are as unlimited as the endless universe”*

– Shad Helmstetter



AN APPEAL TO THE SENIORS

? Do not rag ... Just interact with new comers to your college and hostel.

? Welcome them in the true sense of the term. You are the torch bearers. You are the captain and mentors of the fresher. The new comers shall look upon you as a mentor and shall approach you for guidance, suggestion and help in their new environment. Make it a true pleasure.

? Ragging creates a bad blood in the mind set up of juniors which is damaging with cumulative disastrous effect on the life of those affected. Even seniors who participate in active ragging are affected as negative things are wrongly getting charged with long term side effects on inner-mind. Often ragging incidents results into catastrophic impact, although sometimes unintentional. But the after-effect impact of ragging is very much damaging and far reaching.

? Please welcome your juniors to own campus with your warm greeting, love and affection. Do not bully them. Act with maturity. Respect human dignity of your junior-fellow students.

? Remember the very days of yesteryears when your had joined as a fresher in your college was a new comer to college and were shaky about probable ragging at the hand of your seniors. Do you want a repeat of the same thing? No, absolutely not.

? It is only you who can make your campus ragging free.

“Wealth is thoughts, not things”
– Robert G. Allen



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<u>Name of the authority</u>	<u>Ph. (Office)</u>	<u>Ph. (Residence)</u>
Commissioner of Police	2214 5060	2289 3939
Director General of Police	2214 5486	2479 3042
	2214 5400	2248 2233
District Magistrate(South 24 Pgs.)	2479 1694	2479 3713
Supdt. of Police (South 24 Pgs.)	2479 3333	2448 3626
D. M. (North 24 Pgs.)	2552 3662	2552 3474
S. P. (North 24 Pgs.)	2542 3055	2562 1282
D. M. (Howrah)	2641 2024/2961	2641 2024/2961
S. P. (Howrah)	2641 2626	2638 2086
D. M. (Nadia)	(03472) 251001	(03472) 252052
S. P. (Nadia)	(03472) 252878	(03472) 252303
	252229	
D. M. (Murshidabad)	(03482) 251650	(03482) 250002
S. P. (Murshidabad)	(03482) 250751	(03482) 250003
	251750	251750
D. M. (Hooghly)	2680 2044	2680 2040
S. P. (Hooghly)	2680 4827	2680 2325
D. M. (Bardhaman)	(0342) 2662428	(0342) 2625700
S. P. (Bardhaman)	(0342) 2662495	(0342) 2624400
D. M. (Birbhum)	(03462) 255222	(03462) 255223
S. P. (Birbhum)	(03462) 255353	(03462) 254001
D. M. (Bankura)	(03242) 250304	(03242) 250303
S. P. (Bankura)	(03242) 250305	(03242) 250306
		254694
D. M. (Purba Medinipur)	(03228) 263098	(03228) 263120
S. P. (Purba Medinipur)	(03228) 269580	(03228) 269602
	269763	
D. M. (Paschim Medinipur)	(03222) 275570	(03222) 275315
	275571	94347 50400



<u>Name of the authority</u>	<u>Ph. (Office)</u>	<u>Ph. (Residence)</u>
S. P. (Paschim Medinipur)	(03222) 275609	(03222) 275608
D. M. (Jalpaiguri)	(03561) 230127	(03561) 227333
S. P. (Jalpaiguri)	(03561) 230492	(03561) 232024
	232042	
D. M. (Darjeeling)	(0354) 2254233	
S. P. (Darjeeling)	(0354) 2254270	(0354) 2252488
	2257001	2254277
D. M. (Malda)	(03512) 252381	(03512) 253092
S. P. (Malda)	(03512) 252520	(03512) 255699
D. M. (North Dinajpur)	(03523) 252925	(03523) 252289
S. P. (North Dinajpur)	(03523) 252461	(03523) 252527
D. M. (South Dinajpur)	(03522) 255201	(03522) 255202
S. P. (South Dinajpur)	(03522) 255321	(03522) 255689
	255324	
D. M. (Coochbehar)	(03582) 227101	(03582) 227201
S. P. (Coochbehar)	(03582) 227755	(03582) 227632

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SURVEY WORK EXPERIENCE WITH LEADING ENGINEERING AND OTHER INSTITUTES/ COLLEGES OF REPUTE IN WEST BENGAL

Data on ragging is not at all available. Colleges and universities are reluctant to share their data with our research work, if at all they do have any. It is a matter of regret that no data is collected, maintained, preserved and analyzed for finding out some 'cause and effect relationship' which would also indicate the best possible solutions for necessary corrective and preventive measures.

Higher Education Dept. of State Governments or even the Central Governments are yet to find out any systematic procedure /system for this purpose.

While doing our field work on ragging and its effect on student community as a whole, we felt some times very bad and helpless as we were bogged down in midway of our work at the absence of any authentic data on ragging particularly on the matters of number of ragging incidents in an academic year, no. of students ragged, no. of students physically, mentally and/or sexually abused, number of students left the course after being severely ragged, existence of anti-ragging committee and anti ragging squad, enquiry reports of ragging complains, punishment given to guilty students after enquiry reports etc.

Our repeated request and appeal fell in the deaf ear. Even repeated telephone calls and personal visits did not make any difference and failed to fetch any good things.



We approached colleges and institutions of repute in the state of West Bengal well in time allowing them much time to compile with relevant data with a request to generate and share their data with us enabling us to do some really effective work. A detailed questionnaire was designed by us keeping in mind the salient features of employment market.

“It is a kind of fun to do the impossible”
- Walt Disney

OUTCOME OF THE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY IEPM REPORT- 2011

OBSERVATIONS

1. Ragging is not only confined to renowned Engineering and Medical colleges and institutions in India, but is also present in other educational colleges offering degree/ diploma in general stream of education.
2. It is not confined to any particular state in India but has its presence in all other states in India.
3. Students of technical institutes are more innovative in designing new methods of ragging often touching the line of barbarism.
4. Students of 3rd year mostly take lead role in initiating ragging in campus supported by the 2nd year students depending upon separable sufficient time.
5. 4th year students normally act as ‘mentors,’ guides and philosophers to students of 3rd and 2nd year.
6. Fresher with peculiar physical quality are most prone to ragging. e.g. those who are very tall, short or fat or ‘goody look’.
7. Personal attributes like sort temper, communication problems, stress and tension of fresher students often ignites urge to rag- to a greater degree. Even dress/ attire are significant factors.



8. General concept that only students from rural areas are targeted for ragging is unfounded.
9. College/ Institutions take a passive role in curbing campus ragging.
10. In spite of Apex Court's specific Guidelines, none of the colleges formed 'Anti- Ragging Committee' and 'Anti- Ragging Squads' as a preventive and prohibitive action against campus ragging.

Questionnaire developed and used for this study is given in appendix A

BE A GOOD PERSON **SUGGESTIONS TO ALL STUDENTS**

- ✍ Be disciplined and dutiful.
- ✍ Be good to others.
- ✍ Always give yourself positive suggestions and be mentally & physically enriched.
- ✍ Try to accept things with a positive attitude and smile that comes your way.
- ✍ Be satisfied with whatever comes your way.
- ✍ Be careful about other's welfare. Be good to others
- ✍ Be loving, compassionate, optimistic and have self-esteem. This will help you to get rid off cruelty, selfishness, hatred and animosity.
- ✍ Don't be complaining.
- ✍ Try to do something useful always.
- ✍ Try not to act impulsively.
- ✍ Say 'thank you' and 'I am sorry' liberally as and when situation demands.
- ✍ Try to mix with people of culture and refinement.
- ✍ Each day is a new day – look at it with hope and enthusiasm.
- ✍ Whatever the situation, you can make the best by the right approach.
- ✍ Be reasonable in your expectations
- ✍ Be self confident
- ✍ Communicate effectively
- ✍ Maintain & handle personal relationships effectively
- ✍ Understand other's problems & help others understand yours
- ✍ Be sensitive to other's feelings and show sympathetic reactions to them



- ✍ Try to be more pro-social and harmonious in groups
- ✍ Try to be more co-operative, helpful and sharing
- ✍ Be self introspective. Make it a routine to think over the following :-

- ✍ What others think of you
- ✍ What you think of yourself
- ✍ What you really is

This will help you to progress towards a balanced and developed human being.

*“The weak can never forgive;
Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong”
– M. Gandhi*



YOU ARE THE WINNER

How can you reach the dawn without the path of night?
Good times and bad times and all times pass over.

- ✍ Act with intelligence.
- ✍ Be patient
- ✍ Make good relation with faculty, class mates, room mates & seniors.
- ✍ Show due respect to the seniors.
- ✍ Practice general guidelines as discussed in this monograph.

*“Hold your head high; stick your chest out,
You can make it.
It gets dark sometimes, but morning comes
KEEP HOPE ALIVE”*

– Jesse Jackson



EXPERIENCE SHARING - I

My Experience with Ragging **Shri Gautam Ray ***

I still remember the days of my college years. It was in the year 1983. I was admitted as a student of BA Hons. Political Science in Hindu College under the University of Delhi. Every thing was fine and smooth for the first couple of days in the classroom and hostel. Then came ragging! The ordeal created by the issues related to ragging is still alive in my mind.

One day, the seniors in the hostel came to us and ordered that we, the fresher must pay respect and salute to the seniors whenever we come across them in hostel or in corridors of the college. We were also subjected to answer silly questions, fetch things of their choice for them and take oral abuse without flinching.

To avoid doing those things as repeatedly ordered by senior, I had to meet the Principal, Hostel warden and ultimately with the Station officer of the local police station at Delhi. At this, I was threatened by my seniors with ostracism, which, however, did not come about eventually.

The concept behind ragging was abhorrent to me. Ragging, however, mild and non-physical, plants in young and impressionable minds, the seeds of a culture of domination and abuse. Such a culture traps its individuals to lead their existence in an atmosphere of conflict and strife rather than one of co-operation and bonhomie.

Those who rationalize ragging by arguing that it prepares one for the 'big, bad world' only succeeds in keeping the big, bad world that way and making it worse. It is equally stupid to say that ragging helps one to

get rid themselves of their inhibitions, thereby freeing the person from internal fetters. If you look at ragging with eyes wide open, you will see in it the moral equivalent of rape –the elements in common being non-consent on the part of the victim and domination and control on the part of the perpetrator.

Ragging helps the victim no more than does rape. On the contrary, it leaves behind a psychological scare that gives rise to behaviour pattern that are harmful to society as well as to the individual.

I, for one, refused to get ragged and later on, refused to rag, even if it was at the cost of souring my relations with some of my batch mates. That was too small a price to pay for what I acquired – a philosophy that has no place for abusing and getting abused.

This philosophy has helped me in later life deal with big bad world more effectively than many raggers and ragged ones can claim to do. We could imp over of the major evil influences on society in the bud by eliminating ragging.

The one person who can make a start in this direction is you. *And All the Best...*

** Shri Ray is presently the HOD-MIS at Mother Dairy Calcutta*

“Strong is the man who is alone & fighting”



EXPERIENCE SHARING - II

First Impression **Shri Abhijit Mondal***

Green grass, red buildings,
Tiny things, not dwarfs,
Make me feel my existence here
At Lalbaba college, I have no fear.

I was taught to be a man,
To achieve every goal well,
I was taught here to be a man
A man of head, heart and hand.

It is 'we' not 'me' here,
That moves each and every sphere,
We were taught here to live for others,
And not to forget all that hurt our brothers.

Friends, Teachers, and Unions are its Jewels
None against the other rebels
Every one has own entity,
Though all are leaves of the same tree.

Oh! our great college
Make us strong in resolve
That we may be near and near,
To you, Lalbaba College! My crib of ideas.

** Abhijit Mondal is a student of Lal baba College The poem is collected from annual college magazine published by Students Union 2007. We are indebted to him. Our best wishes to Shri Abhijit Mondal.*



JIS Group Educational Initiatives

Every year, over 2,000 students choose JIS Group Education Initiatives. They come from all walks of life to benefit from an academic environment and community that is stimulating, supportive and based on mutual respect.

Spread over several sprawling campus, JIS Group Educational Initiatives with multifarious business interests, since 1998 has started fulfilling a mission – *Igniting Minds, Empowering Lives*. Stretching from the northern fringes of Kolkata to satellite township of Kalyani, an hour's drive from Kolkata, and one at Asansol we have already established nine educational institutions in the last seven years. Each of them has carved its niche with its academic ambience, infrastructure, student's performance and most importantly creating successful opportunities for its students through impeccable placement records.

The Group's Educational Initiatives accepts unreservedly that creating an academic ground for social, cultural, scientific, economic and technological development in a national context with a with global demands as a prime reference point is essential for its mission. For this reason, each of our institution aims to be a dynamic institution focusing on excellence that will bring the development of our society and mankind to the highest universal standards.

JIS Group Education Initiatives is a unique model of amalgamation of a private initiative through several foundations offering graduate/postgraduate programmes with degree provided by state-run universities.

JIS Group Education Initiatives put its first steps through Joint Venture in 1998 with Asansol Engineering College, and then ventured single-



handedly in 2000 with JIS College of Engineering, Kalyani followed by Narula Institute of Technology, Agarpara in 2001. In the following years these two institutions has provided thousands of students' quality technical and management education to build their careers. IN 2002 both these technical institutes started their own separate management study centre viz, Centre for Management Studies – JIS College of Engineering, and School of Management Studies – NIT, offering graduate and postgraduate management degree programmes.

2003 was a landmark year with JIS Group establishing the first and only private dental College in West Bengal, which now encompass the largest and most sophisticated Dental Hospital and Research Centre in Eastern India. Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Science and Research is also proud to have the best academic record within its affiliating University - the West Bengal University of Health Sciences. In 2003 the Group also established another technical institute – the Guru Nanak Institute of Technology at Panihati, Kolkata, nestled within a composite higher education campus with a sprawling infrastructure and excellent educational ambience. In 2005, with a vision to provide students opportunity to more and more career linked courses, JIS group started the Guru Nanak Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology (GNIPST), and, Guru Nanak Institute of Hotel Management (GNIHM) both at Panihati, Kolkata. GNIHM pledges to give its students the best exposure to working in international standard hospitality sector, while. GNIPST is a significant step towards contributing to the pharmaceutical industry by training a large pool of students, an asset for the pharmaceutical industry.

The Group's Education's Initiatives also reaches out to foreign nationals of several countries like Indonesia, Cambodia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Nepal offering international degree/diploma programmes on several technical, management and techno-commercial subjects.



The Group now aims to launch two more engineering colleges, Dr. Sudhir Chandra Sur Degree Engineering College (DSCSDEC), Dum Dum and Aasian Institute of Technology (AIT), New Town Kolkata. The Group has now started Sardar Jodh Singh's most ambitious project. In a phased manner it will launch a medical college with a mega-hospital – Guru Nanak Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (GNIMSR) - (starting with at-least 500 beds) with combined facilities of medical service, academics and research activities. The project will involve a holistic approach of medical treatment including homeopathy, ayurvedic, physiotherapy etc. It will give opportunity to students for studying in not only graduate and post graduate medical programmes, but also graduate and post-graduate programmes on paramedical science, tele-medicine, tele-surgery, public health, occupational therapy, hospital management among other academic programmes.



Institute Of Educational & Psychological Measurement

(An Educational & Public Charitable Trust)

Institute of Educational & Psychological Measurement, a non-profit non-government organisation, is an educational & public charitable trust, was formed and duly registered with in the year 2005 at Kolkata.

IEPM helps students and budding professionals to judge and evaluate their aptitude through time tested Psychometric Tests in the ambit of career counseling which help them in identifying, choosing and selecting right career course at the right time without wastage of time, money and energy.

We are honoured with the patronage from, among others, the following noted organisations :

Calcutta University
Burdwan University
Visva Bharati University
North Orissa University
Utkal University
IIMT Bengal
International School of Business
International Institute of Advanced Studies
NSHM Academy, Durgapur
National Institute of Personnel Management
International Institute of Information Technology & Management
International Institute of Information Technology, Kolkata
International Institute of Management Technology
Bengal Institute of Technology & Management

Bengal Institute of Hotel Management
Institute of Advanced Management
International Institute of Hotel Management
International Management Academy
Hiralal Bhakat College, Nalhati, Birbhum
Scottish Church Collegiate School

IEPM & RAGGING :

Sometimes in the year 2007, we started thinking to work actively against ragging in educational institutions. We felt seriously that there is a lack of initiative on the part of different NGOs and other organizations working for the social cause.

We know that ragging is now a real menace in arena of education. Educational institutions all over the country are now gasping to get out of this pervert behavioral expression. The newly admitted students are very much worried for their career as many of them are to experience a horror-stuffed phase of their lives completely at the mercy and sweet will of their seniors. Many of them are to return home leaving behind their shattered dreams and career plans at the coveted and prestigious educational Institutions.

The Govt. of India through its Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi, has given prime importance on keeping the academic campuses free from ragging. The Ministry could realize the need for educating all concerned about the high voltage negative impact of ragging, not only in the career of the young students but also its serious negative society.



Some of the state governments have their respective anti-ragging laws; even then students are actually not at all aware to stop it. Considering all these we thought to start campaign against ragging through training, seminar, workshop etc. and in this way support the state government to making the educational campuses ragging free.

In 2007, we designed and developed some awareness material and organized some awareness programmes on ragging for the students of higher studies. This was done primarily

- ? to make them aware about the ill effects of ragging, so that in future as senior students they would not take part in it and
- ? they can combat it as fresh student, if the seniors try to rag them

This was a success story. Media reported about it in their columns. The Times of India published an article 'Ragging Reversed' praising our maiden efforts in combating the social menace of ragging.

From the beginning of this year we thought of giving more emphasis on our work against the menace of ragging in an extensive manner.

An 'All Bengal Essay Competition on Anti-Ragging' has been organized by us in collaboration with the JIS Group Educational Initiatives, with tremendous response.

Our present work plan :

- ? to create awareness among the students against ragging through posters, banners, leaflets etc.
- ? to create awareness among the students through work shops, seminars, and other social programmes



- ? to extend help and support to the affected students.
- ? to extend help to any person who is in distress

Other Activities of the Trust

- ? Training course on Communicative English
- ? Mock Interview & GD / GT
- ? Presentation Skill Development Training
- ? Confidence Building and Decision Making Training
- ? Assertiveness Training
- ? Training to Overcome Stress and Stress Related Problems
- ? Career Counselling / Guidance
- ? Psychological Counselling
- ? Marital Counselling / Family Counselling
- ? Child Guidance
- ? Behaviour Therapy

Our Future Plan Of Work

- ? A day care centre for the mentally challenged children
- ? Medical guidance & assistance to the needy
- ? To give financial support to the meritorious students, below poverty line
- ? Creating environmental awareness among school children.



ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

New Delhi

NOTIFICATION

Dated 01-07-2009

Sub:Prevention and prohibition of Ragging in technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.

F.No.37-3/Legal/AICTE/2009 - In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 23 read with Section 10 (b), (g), (p) and (q) of AICTE Act, 1987, the All India Council for Technical Education, hereby makes the following Regulations:-

1. Short title and commencement:-

- (i) These Regulations may be called the All India Council for Technical Education (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education) Regulations 2009.
- (ii) They shall come into force on the date of the notification.

2. Objectives:-

In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 24295 of 2006 dated 16-05-2007 and in Civil Appeal number 887 of 2009, dated 08-05-2009 to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging including any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which

has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student, or indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student or asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student, with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student, in all higher education institutions in the country, and thereby, to provide for the healthy development, physically and psychologically, of all students, the All India Council for Technical Education,(AICTE) brings forth these Regulations.

3. Definitions:-

- (a) "**Act**" means the All India Council for Technical Education Act 1987 (52 of 1987);
- (b) "**Technical Institution**" means an institution of Government, Government Aided and Private (self financing) conducting the courses/programmes in the field of technical education, training and research in Engineering, Technology including MCA, Architecture, Town Planning, Management, Pharmacy, Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Applied Arts & Crafts and such other programmes and areas as notified by the Council from time to time;
- (c) "**University**" means a University defined under clause (f) of section 2 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and includes an institution deemed to be a University under section 3 of that Act.



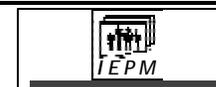
- (d) **"Academic year"** means the period from the commencement of admission of students in any course of study in the institution up to the completion of academic requirements for that particular year.
- (e) **"Head of the institution"** means the Vice-Chancellor in case of a university or a deemed to be university, the Principal or the Director or such other designation as the executive head of the institution or the college is referred.
- (f) **"Fresher"** means a student who has been admitted to an institution and who is undergoing his/her first year of study in such institution.
- (g) Words and expressions used and not defined herein but defined in the Act or in the General Clauses Act, 1887, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act or in the General Clauses Act, 1887, as the case may be. And
- (h) All other words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (52 of 1987), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the said Act;
- 4. What constitutes Ragging:** - Ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:
- a. any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student;
- b. indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student;



- c. asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student;
- d. any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;
- e. exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- f. any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students;
- g. any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h. any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student;
- i. any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student.

5. Measures for prevention of ragging:-

It shall be mandatory for every technical Institution, University, deemed to be University imparting technical education to take following measures for prevention of ragging at such institutions.



1. The advertisement issued for admission by a technical institution, University including Deemed to be University concerned and/or the admission authority/ affiliating University/State Govt./UT/Central Govt. as the case may be, shall clearly mention that ragging is totally banned and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished.
2. The 'Prospectus' and other admission related documents shall contain directions of the Supreme Court Affiliating University/admission Authority/State Govt./Central Govt. shall make it mandatory for the institutions under their jurisdiction to compulsorily incorporate such information in their 'Prospectus'. These Regulations shall be printed in the brochure of admission/instruction booklet for candidates.
3. The application form for admission/enrolment shall have a printed affidavit, preferably both in English and Hindi and/or in one of the regional languages. The affidavit should be filled up and signed by the candidate to the effect that he/she is aware of the law regarding prohibition of ragging as well as the punishments, and that he/she, if found guilty of the offence of ragging and/or abetting ragging, is liable to be punished appropriately.
4. The application form shall also contain a printed affidavit, preferably both in English and Hindi and/or in one of the regional languages and the affidavit should be signed by the parent/guardian of the applicant to the effect that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishment meted out to his/her ward in case the latter is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.
5. The application for admission shall be accompanied by a document along with the School Leaving Certificate/Character Certificate which shall include a report on the behavioral patter of the applicant, so



- that the institution can thereafter keep intense watch upon the student who has a negative entry in this regard.
6. A student seeking admission to the hostel shall have to submit another affidavit along with his/her application for hostel accommodation that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishments meted out if he/she is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.
 7. Every technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall maintain a proper record of the affidavits obtained to ensure its safe up keep thereof, including digital copies of the affidavits and such digital copy should be made available to the AICTE or to an Agency identified/nominated by AICTE.
 8. The AICTE or an Agency identified/nominated for the purpose and affiliating Universities and Directorate of Technical Education of the concerned State Govt./UT shall maintain an appropriate data base of the affidavits in the digital form obtained from every student at the time of admission to the technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.
 9. Each batch of freshers should be divided into small groups and each such group shall be assigned to a member of staff. Such staff member should interact individually with each member of the group on daily basis to ascertain the problems/difficulties, if any faced by the freshers in the Institution and extend necessary help.
 10. Incase of freshers admitted to a Hostel it shall be the responsibility of the teacher incharge of the group to co-ordinate with the warden of the Hostel and to make surprise visits to the rooms in the hostel



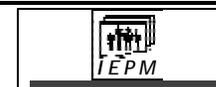
where the members of the group are lodged. Freshers should be lodged in a separate hostel block wherever possible and where such facilities are not available, the college/institution shall ensure that seniors' access to freshers' accommodation is strictly monitored by wardens, Security Guards and Staff.

11. Every institution should engage or seek the assistance of professional counselors at the time of admissions to counsel 'freshers' in order to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly for adjusting to the life in hostels. At the commencement of the academic session the Head of the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall convene and address a meeting of various functionaries/agencies, like Wardens, representatives of students, parents/guardians, faculty, district administration including police, to discuss the measures to be taken to prevent ragging and steps to be taken to identify the offenders and punish them suitably.
12. Every fresher admitted to the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall be given a printed information booklet detailing when and whom he/she has to turn to for help and guidance for various purposes (including Wardens, Head of the institution, members of the anti-ragging committee, relevant district and police authorities), addresses and telephone numbers of such persons/authorities, etc.
13. The technical institutions, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education through the information booklet mentioned above shall explain to the new entrants the arrangements for their induction and orientation which promote efficient and effective means of integrating them fully as students.
14. The information booklet mentioned above shall also tell the freshers about their rights as bona fide students and clearly instructing them



that they should desist from doing anything against their will even if ordered by the seniors, and that they have nothing to fear as the institution cares for them and shall not tolerate any atrocities against them.

15. The information booklet mentioned above shall contain a calendar of events and activities laid down by the institution to facilitate and complement familiarization of juniors with the academic environment of the institution.
16. To make the community at large and the students in particular aware of the dehumanizing effect of ragging, and the approach of the institution towards those indulging in ragging, big posters (preferably with different colors for the provisions of law, punishments, etc.) shall be prominently displayed on all Notice Boards of all departments, hostels and other buildings as well as at vulnerable places. Some of such posters shall be of permanent nature in certain vulnerable places.
17. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall request the media to give adequate publicity to the law prohibiting ragging and the negative aspects of ragging and the institutions' resolve to ban ragging and punish those found guilty without fear or favor.
18. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall identify, properly illuminate and man all vulnerable locations.
19. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall tighten security in its premises, especially at the vulnerable places. If necessary, intense policing shall be resorted to at such points at odd hours during the early months of the academic session.

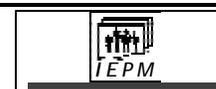


20. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall utilize the vacation period before the start of the new academic year to launch wide publicity campaign against ragging through posters, information booklets, seminars, street plays, etc.
21. The faculties/departments/units of the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall have induction arrangements (including those which anticipate, identify and plan to meet any special needs of any specific section of students) in place well in advance of the beginning of the academic year with a clear sense of the main aims and objectives of the induction process.
22. Mobile Phones and other communication devices may be permitted in residential areas including hostels to provide access to the students particularly freshers, to reach out for help from teachers, parents and Institution authorities.

6. Monitoring mechanism in technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education:-

- a) **Anti-ragging Committee:** Every institution University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Anti-ragging Committee to be nominated and headed by the Head of the Institution, and consisting of representatives of civil and police administration, local media, Non Government Organizations involved in youth activities, representatives of faculty members, representatives of parents, representatives of students belonging to the freshers' category as well as senior students, non-teaching staff; and shall have a diverse mix of membership in terms of level as well as gender.

- b) It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Committee to ensure compliance with the provisions of these Regulations as well as the provisions of any law for the time being in force concerning ragging; and also to monitor and oversee the performance of the Anti-Ragging Squad in prevention of ragging in the institution.
- c) **Anti-Ragging Squad:** Every institution University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall also constitute a smaller body to be known as the Anti-Ragging Squad to be nominated by the Head of the Institution with such representation as may be considered necessary for maintaining vigil, oversight and patrolling functions and shall remain mobile, alert and active at all times. Provided that the Anti-Ragging Squad shall have representation of various members of the campus community and shall have no outside representation.
- d) It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Squad to be called upon to make surprise raids on hostels, and other places vulnerable to incidents and having the potential for ragging and shall be empowered to inspect such places.
- e) It shall also be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Squad to conduct an on-the-spot enquiry into any incidents of ragging referred to it by the Head of the institution or any member of the faculty or any member of the staff or any student or any parent or guardian or any employee of a service provider or by any other person, as the case may be; and the enquiry report along with recommendations shall be submitted to the Anti-Ragging Committee for action. Provided that the Anti-Ragging Squad shall conduct such enquiry observing a fair and transparent procedure and the principles of natural justice and after giving adequate opportunity to the student or students accused of ragging and other witnesses to place before it the facts,

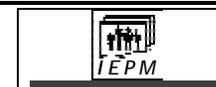


documents and views concerning the incidents of ragging, and considerations such other relevant information as may be required.

- f) **Mentoring Cell:** Every institution shall, at the end of each academic year, in order to promote the objectives of these Regulations, constitute a Mentoring Cell consisting of students volunteering to be Mentors for freshers, in the succeeding academic year; and there shall be as many levels or tiers of Mentors as the number of batches in the institution, at the rate of one Mentor for six freshers and one Mentor of a higher level for six Mentors of the lower level.
- g) **Monitoring Cell on Ragging:-** The State Govt./UT and the affiliating University shall set up a Monitoring Cell on Ragging to coordinate with the institutions to monitor the activities of the Anti-Ragging Committees, Squads, and Mentoring Cells, regarding compliance with the instructions on conducting orientation programmes, counseling sessions, etc., and regarding the incidents of ragging, the problem faced by wardens and other officials, etc. This Cell shall also review the efforts made by such institutions to publicize anti-ragging measures, cross-verify the receipt of affidavits from candidates/students and their parents/guardians every year, and shall be the prime mover for initiating action by the University authorities to suitably amend the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye-laws to facilitate the implementation of anti ragging measures at the level of the institution.
- h) The Monitoring Cell shall coordinate with the the institutions, universities including deemed to be universities imparting technical education to achieve the objectives of these Regulations; and the Monitoring Cell shall call for reports from the Heads of institutions in regard to the activities of the Anti-Ragging Committees, Anti-Ragging Squads, and the Mentoring Cells at the institutions, and it shall also keep itself abreast of the decisions of the Anti-Ragging Committees etc.



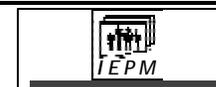
- i) The Monitoring Cell shall also review the efforts made by institutions to publicize anti-ragging measures, soliciting of affidavits from parents/guardians and from students, each academic year, to abstain from ragging activities or willingness to be penalized for violation; and shall function as the prime mover for initiating action for amending the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye-laws to facilitate the implementation of anti-ragging measures at the level of the institution.
- 7. Action to be taken against the Principal or the Head of the Institution/Faculty Members/Non-Teaching staff of technical institution, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.**
1. The Head of the Institution along with other administrative authorities should take adequate measures for prevention of ragging. Any lapse on the part of these authorities shall make them liable for criminal action for negligence of duty. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education should incorporate a clause in their letter of appointment that the Director, Faculty and other administrative Heads should ensure all possible steps for prevention of ragging in the premises of the educational institutions, and that they are liable for action, in case of non-compliance.
 2. The Principal or Head of the Institution/Department shall obtain an affidavit from every employee of the Institution including teaching/non-teaching staff, contract labor employed in the premises either for running canteen or as watch and ward staff or for cleaning or maintenance of the building, lawns etc. that he/she would report promptly any case of ragging which comes to his/her notice. A provision shall be made in the service rules for issuing certificates of appreciation to such members of the staff who report ragging which will form part of their service records.



3. Departmental enquiries shall be initiated, in addition to penal consequences against such heads of the Institution/Faculty members/non-teaching staff who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging and would not take timely steps in the prevention of ragging and punishing those who rag.
 4. The Principal or the Head of the Institution/Faculty Members/Non-Teaching staff, if found negligent in taking necessary measures for ensuring safety of students and preventing the ragging would be declared unfit for holding any post in any technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education.
- 8. Actions to be taken against students for indulging and abetting ragging in technical institutions Universities including Deemed to be University imparting technical education:-**
1. The punishment to be meted out to the persons indulged in ragging has to be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrent against recurrence of such incidents.
 2. Every single incident of ragging a First Information Report (FIR) must be filed without exception by the institutional authorities with the local police authorities.
 3. The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, with regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.
 4. a) Depending upon the nature and gravity of the offence as established the possible punishments for those found guilty of ragging at the institution level shall be any one or any combination of the following:-



- (i) Cancellation of admission
 - (ii) Suspension from attending classes
 - (iii) Withholding/withdrawing scholarship/fellowship and other benefits
 - (iv) Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process
 - (v) Withholding results
 - (vi) Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
 - (vii) Suspension/expulsion from the hostel
 - (viii) Rustication from the institution for period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters
 - (ix) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
 - (x) Collective punishment: when the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment as a deterrent to ensure community pressure on the potential raggers.
- b) An appeal against the order of punishment by the Anti-Ragging Committee shall lie,
- i. In case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of the University, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University;
 - ii. In case of an order of a University, to its Chancellor.
 - iii. In case of an institution of national importance created by an Act of Parliament, to the Chairman or Chancellor of the institution, as the case may be.
5. The institutional authorities shall intimate the incidents of ragging occurred in their premises along with actions taken to the Council form time to time.



9 Action to be taken against the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education which fail to take measures for prevention of ragging:-

1. Role of the concerned technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education shall be open to scrutiny for the purpose of finding out whether they have taken effective steps for preventing ragging and action taken against provision indulged and/or abetting ragging. The Council shall constitute Committees to inspect technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education to verify the status of anti ragging measures and to investigate specific instances of ragging and take appropriate action.
2. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education should submit an affidavit along with its compliance report submitted to AICTE annually with details of measures taken for prevention of ragging in technical institutions. The Compliance Report should also contain the details of the instances of ragging and action taken against students, and others for indulging and abetting ragging.
3. All Letters of Approval issued by AICTE such as extension of approval letters, letters issued for additional courses/increase in intake and letters issued for new technical institutions, release of grants, letters of approval issued to integrated campus, second shift etc. shall contain a specific clause of prevention of ragging.
4. The AICTE shall, in respect of any institution that fails to take adequate steps to prevent ragging or fails to act in accordance with these Regulations or fails to punish perpetrators or incidents of ragging suitably, take one of more of the following measures, namely;

- i. No admission/Withdrawal of approval granted under section 10(k) of AICTE Act.
- ii. Withholding any grant allocated.
- iii. Declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes of the AICTE.
- iv. Informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice displayed prominently in the newspapers or other suitable media and posted on the website of the AICTE, declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.
- v. Taking such other action within its powers as it may deem fit and impose such other penalties as may be provided in the Act for such duration of time as the institution complies with the provisions of these Regulations.

5. As regards the Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education the actions proposed to be taken such as stopping release of grants, withdrawal of approval/recognition will be sent to University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India and the concerned State Govt./UT. The UGC, MHRD Govt. of India, and the State Govt./UT concerned shall initiate immediate action on the recommendations of the Council.

10. Duties and Responsibilities of the All India Council for technical Education:-

- a) All India Council for technical Education, or the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall establish, fund and operate, a toll-free Anti-Ragging Helpline, operational round the clock, which could be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents.



- b) Any distress message received at the Anti-Ragging Helpline shall be simultaneously relayed to the Head of the Institution, the Warden of the Hostels, the Nodal Officer of the affiliating University, if the incident reported has taken place in an institution affiliated to a University, the concerned District authorities and if so required, the District Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police, and shall also be web enabled so as to be in the public domain simultaneously for the media and citizens to access it.
- c) The Head of the institution shall be obliged to act immediately in response to the information received from the Anti-Ragging Helpline as at sub-clause (b) of this clause.
- d) The telephone numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and all the important functionaries in every institution, Heads of institutions, faculty members, members of the anti-ragging committees and anti-ragging squads, district and sub-divisional authorities and state authorities, Wardens of hostels, and other functionaries or authorities where relevant, shall be widely disseminated for access or to seek help in emergencies.
- f) The All India Council for technical Education, the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall maintain an appropriate data base to be created out of affidavits, affirmed by each student and his/her parents/guardians and stored electronically by the institution; and such database shall also function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon.
- g) The All India Council for technical Education, the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall make available the database to a non-governmental agency to be nominated by the Central Government, to build confidence in the



public and also to provide information of non compliance with these Regulations to the Councils and to such bodies as may be authorized by the All India Council for technical Education/Central Government.

11. The All India Council for technical Education shall take the following regulatory steps, namely;

- a) The All India Council for technical Education shall make it mandatory for the institutions to incorporate in their prospectus, the directions of the Central Government or the State Level Monitoring Committee with regard to prohibition and consequences of ragging, and that non-compliance with these Regulations and directions so provided, shall be considered as lowering of academic standards by the institution, therefore making it liable for appropriate action.
- b) The All India Council for technical Education shall verify that the institutions strictly comply with the requirement of getting the affidavits from the students and their parents/guardians as envisaged under these Regulations.
- c) The All India Council for technical Education shall include a specific condition in the Utilization Certificate, in respect of any financial assistance or grants-in-aid to any institution under any of the general or special schemes of the All India Council for technical Education, that the institution has complied with the anti-ragging measures.
- d) Any incident of ragging in an institution shall adversely affect its accreditation, ranking or grading by National Board of Accreditation or by any other authorised accreditation agencies while assessing the institution for accreditation, ranking or grading purposes.
- e) The All India Council for technical Education shall constitute an Inter-Council Committee, consisting of representatives of the various



Councils, the Non-Governmental agency responsible for monitoring the database maintained by the All India Council for technical Education/Central Government and such other bodies in higher education, to coordinate and monitor the anti-ragging measures in institutions across the country and to make recommendations from time to time; and shall meet at least once in six months each year.

- f) The All India Council for technical Education shall institute an Anti-Ragging Cell within the AICTE as an institutional mechanism to provide secretarial support for collection of information and monitoring, and to coordinate with the State Level Monitoring Cells and University Level Committees for effective implementation of anti-ragging measures, and the Cell shall also coordinate with the Non-Governmental agency responsible for monitoring the database maintained by the All India Council for technical Education/central Government.

RAGGING – SOME STATISTICS

Ragging cases double, deaths rise too: Report

Ragging can be thought of in terms of verbal, physical and sexual aggression. A single act may be a combination of more than one of these forms. Ragging in India commonly involves serious abuses and clear violations of human rights. Often media reports and others unearth that it goes on, in many institutions, on innocent victims. Senior students, force the unorganized newcomers to undergo several forms of mental, physical and sexual abuses.

Now-a-days with the increase of students enjoying hostel facilities, academic institutions in India have been experiencing increasing number of ragging related incidents. A report of 2007 highlights 42 cases of ragging, where physical injury occurred, and 7 to 10 death incidents were reported which might be the result of ragging.

Statistics gathered by CURE, based on media reports, indicate the number of cases in 2008-09 were 88 while in 2009-10, it was as high as 164 across India. The academic year 2009-10 registered the highest number of ragging deaths in recent times in the country. Maharashtra is one of the two states that have registered highest number of deaths owing to ragging. An analysis of Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education (CURE), points that ragging percentage is high in Engineering and Medical Colleges.

According to the organization, in the academic session 2009-10 (July 2009 June 2010) a total of 164 cases of ragging were reported. This shows that ragging cases reported have doubled this academic year. The maximum number of ragging deaths was recorded in Maharashtra (4), West Bengal (4) and Punjab (3) registered maximum deaths due to ragging. It is alarming to observe that 4 states comprise to 57% of the



total ragging deaths across the country. The highest incidents were reported from Uttar Pradesh (26), Andhra Pradesh (18), Tamil Nadu (14), Kerala (13) and West Bengal (11). In comparison to last year, Tamil Nadu is a new entrant to this list, whereas Punjab has exited the list.

There were 56 cases of ragging that led to major and minor injuries to students including several incidents leading to hospitalization and even permanent disability to young students. 22% of the total cases involved sexual abuse of fresher's. 24 cases of ragging led to serious group clashes, protests and strikes and violence between students. Element of drug abuse, alcoholism, extortion, caste difference or regionalism was noted in 19 ragging cases.

Source-deccanchronicle.com & CURE

President Termed Ragging a violence - not to be tolerated

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) President Pratibha Patil Tuesday strongly condemned incidents of ragging in educational institutions, saying it is violence and should not be tolerated. 'Cases of ragging in educational institutions are also disturbing. Ragging is violence,' Patil said in her address to the nation on the eve of the 62nd Republic Day. 'It is heinous and should not be tolerated, for it can cause irreparable loss to the parents and to the country,' she said. 'Our social fabric is deeply damaged by such incidents and it is essential that these tendencies are curbed in the interest of social harmony and cohesion. I appeal to my fellow citizens to never resort to violence,' she said.

It was unusual for the president to single out ragging in schools and colleges in her Republic Day speech, and showed the government's reaction to mounting public rage over incidents of ragging, which has claimed at least 30-31 lives in the last 7 years.

source:sify.com



Some cases are illustrated below

CASE 1

Institute : Sree Institute of Science & Technology, Bhopal, M.P.

Name of the Student : Vishal (19), a fresher student of BE (IT) ragged. Other fresher boys were also ragged regularly in the hostel in nights.

Incident : Seniors called Vishal and made to dance for hours, beaten, tonsured his head, shaved moustache & tried to sexually abuse him in hostel at night. Vishal was forced to drink and stripped off his clothes.

Action Taken : Police registered a case of physical assault against two senior students. Eight senior students were suspended by college.

CASE 2

Institute : Anand Engineering College, Agra, U.P.

Name of the Student : Abdul Wahab (21) a 2nd year student

Incident : Abdul was beaten when he refused to pay Rs. 2000/- for seniors' drinks. He was pushed off 4th floor hostel balcony. He got multiple fractures in legs and injuries in spinal cord which made him unable to speak any more

Action Taken : College dean tried to underplay the incident 'we have not received any written complaint from Wahab' – responded dean. SP, Agra Police lodged a case of ragging and investigations are on.

CASE 3

Institute : Sahara Arts & Management Academy, Lucknow, U.P.

Name of the Student : Sanjoy Singh, student of management

Incident : Sanjoy Singh was beaten, ragged & humiliated by senior students from Lucknow University & some other Colleges staying in same hostel when he was going to college on a bus. Later he ran away from hostel.



Action Taken : Sanjoy was sent to Psychiatric Centre of a Hospital as ragging made him traumatized and doctors found symptoms of psychosis. Hostel super observed that he was suffering from 'some mental disorder'. Local guardian lodged FIR against 3 seniors.

CASE 4

Institute : Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakpur, UP

Name of the Student : Sushil Pandey

Incident : Sushil committed Suicide after being haunted by seniors.

Action Taken : State Govt. initiated a comprehensive law banning ragging in campus. Law shall debar those found guilty of taking admission anywhere in state for 5 years. Institute Heads shall also face action for negligence in dealing with cases of ragging.

CASE 5

Institute : Not Known

Name of the Student : Vivek, an LL.B (Hons) 1st year student

Incident : Vivek was beaten by Seniors in hostel room when seniors entered into his room late in night & demanded money to buy Liquor.

Action Taken : Vivek named 4 senior students on FIR. He also reported that some seniors keeps arms to terrorize juniors. University assured that action shall be taken against seniors, if ragging charge is proved.

CASE 6

Institute : Amrut Vahini Dental College, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Maharashtra

Name of the Student : Gaury Mohandas Bhoi, a lady student

Incident : Gaury jumped to her death after being constantly ragged by seniors.

Action Taken : Previously parents lodged complaint with college but no action was taken.



CASE 7

Institute : Kandi Raj College, West Bengal

Name of the Student : 14 1st year students of Kandi Raj College, West Bengal

Incident : 'Every night we were asked to do sit-ups at least a hundred times & touched their feet. We were forced to dance in underwear. If we protest, they beat us up with sticks and made us write indecent things about our families'.

Action Taken : FIR lodged. Police raided College hostel for 8 senior 2nd Year students & 3 third year students. They were missing. No full time Hostel Super is there in a hostel of 60 students. A non-teaching staff is In charge. College Principal tried to suppress matter saying it was not ragging but simple jokes.

CASE 8

Institute : Jadavpur University

Name of the Student : Satyajit Ghosh, a 2nd year student of International Relations

Incident : Enquiry committee found complaint correct.

Action Taken : 4 office bearers of students union of faculty of engineering & technology (FETSU) resigned and over pressured to deny an incident of ragging at university campus which led to suspension of 5 senior Students. University remained tensed for a couple of days. Official were gheraoed for several hours demanding withdrawal of suspension.

CASE 9

Institute : Asansol Engineering College

Name of the Student : Azizul Haque Mondal, 19 Yrs. a 1st year student

Incident : He was beaten by seniors for his protesting and requesting to pay the bill for buying drinks for seniors during 'welcome to fresher's' event. He got injury with chest, eye and lower abdomen and admitted in



nursing home. Father lodged FIR against 3 senior students of 2nd year. Father said, he will think twice before sending his son to college again. First year student boycotted classes.

Action Taken : Principal observed that incident happened outside the gate of college and college has no responsibility.

CASE 10

Institute : Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur, West Bengal

Name of the Student : Soumik Basu, a 3rd year student

Incident : Soumik was a victim of a clash between two rival students' unions when he was thrown out of balcony causing death. University saw as many as 9 incidents of serious campus violence within a period of 3 years requiring a series of enquiry commissions and even police camp inside campus.

Action Taken : CID is handling the complain. Guardians of other students were called into rein their wards. Model code of conduct published, revival of students' facilities like common room, yoga etc., intensive faculty – student's interactions.

CASE 11

Institute : Stephen's College, Delhi

Name of the Student : Not known

Incident : Seniors spread deodorants on body of the newcomers and put match-stick on causing burn. The victim later on with aid of friends attacked 4 boys who set him on fire, dragged them out and beat causing serious injuries.

Action Taken : Matter under investigation. Some of the boys suspended for one month from class 7 hostel.

APPENDIX - A

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Filling up of this questionnaire is voluntary and there is no compulsion either; however the objective being solely academic and for research purpose with a view to fathom the depth in which ragging element has spread its impact).

(BE SURE THAT ALL YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND BE USED SOLELY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSE.)

1. Name :
2. Address :
3a) Contact Tel. No.
3b) Mob. No.
4. Highest Qualification attained with year of passing :
.....
5. Have you ever been ragged in your college / educational Institutions? (Put ☐ Mark) : Yes / No
(You may indicate Name & address /location of your college /Institution.)
6. If ragged, can you indicate / describe, in brief, the incident of your being ragged
7. Please indicate the following : (Put ☐ Mark)
 - i) Place of ragging : Class room / Institute premises / Hostel / Canteen / Common room
 - ii) Time of ragging : Day time / Night hours
 - iii) While being ragged you were : alone / alongwith batch mates / alongwith room mates / alongwith others
 - iv) Duration of ragging : Less than 15 mins. / More than 15 mins. but less than 1 hour / More than 1 hour
 - v) Ragged for : 1 Day / 2 - 7 Days / More than 7 Days
 - vi) Do such ragging caused you any of the following –
 - a) Physical discomfort / injury / disabilities
 - b) Mental stress / strain / disorder / complexes
 - vii) Do you still feel the punch of ragging incident : Yes / No
 - viii) Did you lodged any complaint in writing : Yes / No / I was not aware of



- a) If yes, with whom complaint lodged : College Authority / Hostel Super / Local Police Station.
- b) Your reaction to action taken by such Authority : Satisfactory / Not satisfactory
- ix) Please indicate whether such ragging helped you to face hurdles in your life : Yes / No
- x a) Please indicate whether ragging forced you to change your aspirations/Career path : Yes / No
- b) If yes, then please illustrate
- xi) Did you ragged any fresher in your college / institutions : Yes / No
- a) Reasons you ragged fresher : To pass your idle time / To make fresher smarter / To get psychological pleasures over your own ragging incident in the past as if to get some sort of justice or solace / Any other reasons (please illustrate))
- b) Do you feel ragging is an inseparable part of career development : Yes / No / Not sure
- c) Do you support / advocate ragging in campuses : Yes / No Not sure
- xii) What will be your feeling/reaction if any of your near and dear ones ragged in the campus :
- a) You shall feel bad as career may suffer : Yes / No
- b) You shall be worried for the safety and security : Yes / No
- c) You shall feel 'good' as the person ragged is now 'smarter' to face any odd situation : Yes / No
- d) You shall feel indifferent : Yes / No
- ☞ Please add anything you want to further share with us :
.....
- ☞ Please indicate whether you want to join with us in our movement to make '*Educational Campus Ragging Free*' : Yes / No

(Signature with date)

