

ANTIRAGGING POLICY
&
MONITORING MECHANISM

PREFACE

- Ragging in educational institutions has been a matter of concern for everyone in the country. It is not a new phenomenon. Early references are found in 'Everyman' Encyclopedia (1938). It is mentioned as racking, ducking, teasing etc. In England the credit/ discredit to introduce the practice of ragging goes to the Duke of Exeter. Racking was another form of ragging in which a special instrument called 'rack' was used to torture the victim. Gradually it mixed up with the term ragging. Egyptian, Romans and Greeks were also not lagging behind. Some form or the other was found in their society.
- Ragging is a systematized form of Human Rights abuse as embodied under the Constitution of India as well as other Constitutions of the World. Over the years, all over the World and especially in South Asia, the practice of Ragging has come to be meant as an extreme harassment, terror and even physical and mental torture of the new students.
- The incidents of ragging have increased over the past few years. Lacks of moral values and discipline have been the main reasons for this spurt. Increased use of alcohol has also contributed to this menace.
- Various regulatory have spelled out measures to contain the menace of ragging in the educational institutions, and the Apex court of the country has also given guidelines for preventing this practice in the educational institutions. HSBPVT's GOI, Faculty of Engineering has resolved to make the college a "Zero Ragging Campus". We have initiated various measures for the prevention of ragging in and outside the campus. In recent years no instances of ragging have been recorded in our campus.
- This document contains the regulatory measures that will be followed in the college against the ragging menace as per guidelines provided by the regulatory bodies. All efforts have been made to include the recommendations of all committees, regulatory bodies and the recommendations of the Apex court in spelling out the measures against ragging.

INTRODUCTION

"Ragging" means the following:

Any act, conduct or practice by which dominant power of senior students, freshly enrolled or students who are in any way former students or outsiders, is brought to bear on students freshly enrolled or students who are in any way considered junior by other students and includes individual or collective acts or practices which:

- i. Involve physical or psychological assault or threat or use of force or wrongful confinement restraint; or
- ii. Violate the status, dignity and honor of such students; or
- iii. Expose students to ridicule and contempt and affect their self-esteem; or
- iv. Entail verbal abuse and aggression, indecent gesture and obscene behavior.

Ragging is a criminal offence as per the Supreme Court verdict. Ragging is an offence under penal code and under section 116 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 (Karnataka Act No.1 of 1995). which define ragging as:

"Causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of practical joke or" 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/her person or exposes him/her to ridicule from doing any lawful act. By intimidating wrongfully confining, or injuring him or by using criminal force on him/her or by holding out to him/her any threat of intimidation, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force."

"Ragging in all its forms is totally banned in this institution including in its departments, constituent units, all its premises (academic, residential, sports, kiosks, cafeteria and the like) whether located within the campus or outside and in all means of transportation of students whether public or private. The institution shall take strict action including but not criminal proceeding and/or cancellation of admission against those found guilty of ragging and/or of abetting ragging and the burden of proof shall hereby lie on the perpetrator of alleged ragging and not on the victim. An offence of Ragging may be charged either on a written complaint by the affected or on independent finding of the Anti-Ragging Squad. The Institution is bound by the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions 2009."




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CAUSES AND LOCATIONS OF RAGGING

Causes of Ragging

The main causes for indulging in ragging are:

1. Eagerness of seniors to show off their power, authority and superiority.
2. An attitude of backlash: a "do-unto-others what others did to you."
3. Importance the seniors get in the initial stages of admission by helping and guiding the new comers for various things in the absence of or ineffectiveness of institutional mechanism to help them at that point, resulting in their getting indebted to seniors and thereby feeling compelled to do their biddings.

Causes for the Increase in the Incidence of Ragging

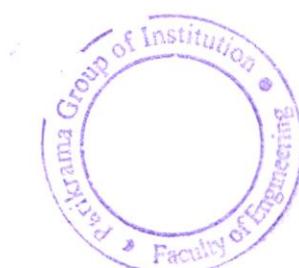
Among the main causes, one can cite the following:

1. Lack of morality, erosion of values and discipline.
2. External pressure of power that hinder enforcement and action against students with powerful connection.
3. Lack of authorities on the part of teachers.
4. The powers and moral authority of the Wardens and other functionaries have eroded over the years, as many of them may not be committed to their work, but take up such responsibilities for the sake of perks attached to those offices.
5. Lack of interest and involvement in such matters among majority of faculty members.
6. Fear among students subjected to ragging that the Head of the Departments and others may be pressurized later on for withdrawal of complaints or for revocation of the orders of punishment.
7. Fear that they and/or their family members may be harassed and victimized by the perpetrators of this menace.
8. Indulgence of parents with too much money to students leading to incidence of abuse etc.
9. Easy access to Alcohol and other psychoactive substances in the campus.
10. Hushing up or downplaying of the reported cases by the authorities

Vulnerable Locations for Ragging

Ordinarily, places which are most vulnerable for ragging are:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hostel blocks and mess | 2. Vacant class rooms |
| 3. Canteen | 4. Stadium or playground |
| 5. Student activity centers, | 6. Bus stands. |
7. Favorite joints of students in the vicinity



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AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE AND ANTI-RAGGING SQUAD

AIM:

To make HSBPVT's GOI, Faculty of Engineering ,Kashti Campus "Zero Tolerance for Ragging" and ragging free zone by weeding out ragging in all its forms.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To absolutely prohibit ragging within or outside the college campus.
2. To prevent the occurrence of ragging by following anti ragging measures in the institution.
3. To provide punishment to those indulging in ragging as per the guidelines.
4. To sensitize students, staff and parents to adopt measures that will prevent ragging.
5. To strictly follow the rules and regulations of Anti Ragging Act 1999 with reference to the booklet submitted by the Savitribai Phule Pune University.
6. To understand and apply the objectives specified in the Booklet submitted by the Savitribai Phule Pune University and also explain the same to the HSBPVT's GOI Faculty of Engineering students.

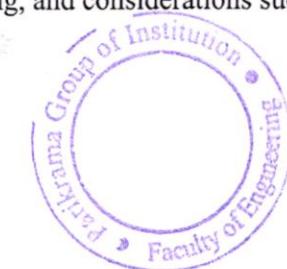
RAGGING MONITORING MECHANISM

Anti-Ragging Committee:

- 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 fresher's 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.
- 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.

Anti-Ragging Squad:

- 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. Anti-ragging squad should include senior faculties from various departments including ladies faculties, first year coordinator, Chief Rector, boys and girls hostel rectors and Chief Security Officer.
- 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.
- 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.



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Measures for Prevention of Ragging:

1. The 'Prospectus' and other admission related documents shall contain directions of the Supreme Court Affiliating University/admission Authority/State Govt/Central Govt. regarding measures of curbing ragging and also, shall clearly mention that ragging is totally banned and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished.
2. Online affidavit on website www.antiragging.in or www.amanmovement.org 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. Parent/guardian should also fill above said affidavit and also, should be duly 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.
3. Every fresher admitted to the Institution, shall be informed with details 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. to be displayed at various locations in the campus.
4. The institution should engage or seek the assistance of professional counselors at the time of first year induction to counsel 'fresher's in order to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly adjusting to the life in hostels. As well as senior students shall also be counseled for ill effects of ragging and severe punishments for involvement in ragging as per Law.



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PROCEDURE FOR FILLING A COMPLAINT OF RAGGING

1. Receipt of application to the Principal through HOD/Rector.
2. Principal to direct the application to Anti Ragging Committee.
3. Anti-Ragging Committee to fix the date and time of meeting. Discussion of Grievances/complaint individually.
4. Committee should take written statement of indulged student/students and applicant student/students.
5. Action to be initiated by the committee and displaying decision on notice boards.



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PUNISHMENT FOR RAGGING

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 :-

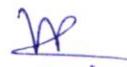
1. Cancellation of admission
2. Suspension from attending classes
3. Withholding/withdrawing scholarship/fellowship and other benefits
4. Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process
5. Withholding results
6. Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
7. Suspension/expulsion from the hostel
8. Rustication from the institution for period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters
9. Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
10. 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 rappers.

An appeal against the order of punishment by the Anti-Ragging Committee shall lie,

1. In case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of the University, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University;
2. In case of an order of a University, to its Chancellor.
3. 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.

The institutional authorities shall intimate the incidents of ragging occurred in their premises along with actions taken to the Council from time to time.




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