

Ragging: Prohibition, Prevention and Punishment

The University Grants Commission vide its letter no F.1-16/2007. (CPP-II) dated June 17, 2009 has reiterated the ban on ragging of students in Institutions of Higher Learning. The students are therefore directed to strictly desist from any kind of ragging.

Forms of Ragging:

Display of noisy, disorderly conduct, teasing, excitement by rough or rude treatment or handling, including rowdy, undisciplined activities which cause or likely to cause annoyance, undue hardship, physical or psychological harm or raise apprehensive fear in a fresher, or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such a student will not do in the ordinary course and which causes him/her shame or embarrassment or danger to his/her life, etc.

Punishment for Participation in/or Abetment of Ragging :

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 national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
7. Suspension/expulsion from the hostel.
8. Rustication from the institution for periods varying from 1 to 4 semesters or equivalent period.
9. Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
10. Fine up to Rs. 25,000/-

Affidavit by students and parents

Each student and his/her parents/ guardian shall have to furnish an affidavit alongwith the application form to the effect that they will not participate in or abet the act of ragging and that, if found guilty, shall be liable for punishment under the penal law of India.

Clause -3 What constitutes Ragging :-

Ragging constitutes one or any of the follows acts:-

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.

Indulging in rowdy or indisciplined 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;

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.

Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;

Exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.

Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students;

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;

Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, 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;

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.

Clause -7 Action to be taken by the Head of the institution :-

On receipt of the recommendation of the Anti Ragging Squad or on receipt of any information concerning any reported incident of ragging, the Head of Institution shall immediately determine if a case under the penal laws is made and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorized by him in this behalf, proceed to file a First Information Report (FIR), within twenty four hours of receipt of such information or recommendation, with the police and local authorities, under the appropriate penal provisions relating to one or more of the following, namely;

- i Abetment to ragging;
- ii Criminal conspiracy to rag;
- iii Unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;
- iv Public nuisance created during ragging;
- v Violation of decency and morals through ragging;
- vi Injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;
- vii Wrongful restraint;
- viii Wrongful confinement;
- ix Use of criminal force;
- x Assault as well as sexual offences or unnatural offences;
- xi Extortion;
- xii Criminal trespass;
- xiii Offences against property;
- xiv Criminal intimidation;

- xv. Attempts to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- xvi. Threat to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- xvii. Physical or psychological humiliation;
- xviii. All other offences following from the definition of "Ragging"

Provided that the Head of institution shall forthwith report the occurrence of the incident of ragging to the District Level Anti-Ragging Committee and the Nodal officer of the affiliating University, if the institution is an affiliated institution.

Provided further that the institution shall also continue with its own enquiry initiated under clause 9 of these Regulations and other measures without waiting for action on the part of the police/local authorities and such remedial action shall be initiated and completed immediately and in no case later than a period of seven days of the reported occurrence of the incident of ragging.

Clause -9 Administrative action in the event of ragging: -

9.1 The institution shall punish a student found guilty of ragging after following the procedure and in the manner prescribed hereinunder:-

a) The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging established in the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Squad.

b) The Anti-Ragging Committee may, depending on the nature and gravity of the guilt established by the Anti-Ragging Squad, award, to those found guilty, one or more of the following punishments, namely;

- i Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- ii Withholding/withdrawing scholarship/fellowship and other benefits.
- iii Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process.
- iv Withholding results.
- v Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival etc.
- vi Suspension/expulsion from the hostel.
- vii Cancellation of admission
- viii Rustication from the institution for period ranging from one to four semesters.
- ix Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.

Provided that whether the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment.

- c) 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 a University, to the Vice Chancellor of the University.
 - ii In case of an order of 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.