

Eradication of Ragging

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Ragging is a human rights violation

Feb. 2009, the Hon. Supreme Court of India declared Ragging as a Human Rights Violation. The Hon. Court said that:

“ In modern era Ragging has become to be known only as synonym of teasing, terror, harassment, cruelty, fear and physical and mental torture. By perusal of records and survey, it has come to be accepted that Ragging is a systematized form of Human Rights abuse as embodied under the constitution of India as well as other constitutions of the world ”.

What constitutes ragging?

Teasing, treating or handling with rudeness; **Rowdy or in disciplined activities** ; cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm; **raise fear or apprehension**; generate a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment; **Exploiting the services for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students**; Financial extortion or forceful expenditure ; **sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures**; causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person; **Abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults**; Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority.

What Constitutes ragging – Contd.

Any act of physical or mental abuse (including bullying and exclusion) targeted at another student (fresher or otherwise) **on the ground of colour, race, religion, caste, ethnicity, gender (including transgender), sexual orientation, appearance, nationality, regional origins, linguistic identity, place of birth, place of residence or economic background.**

Please note:

Ragging is not restricted only between a senior & a junior.

It can be between any two students even if both are seniors or both are juniors or the ragger is junior & the ragged is senior.

Ragging is not just innocent fun, It can have severe consequences.

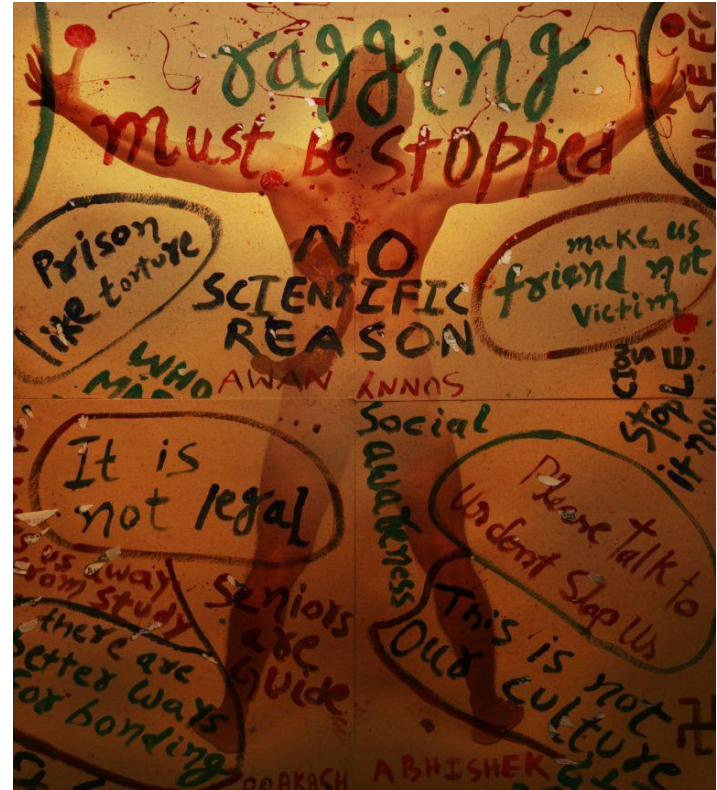
- Ragging behaviours (e.g., humiliation, intimidation).
- Ragging is neither **harmless nor acceptable**.
- Ragging can be subtle or overt, but it always seeks to establish **dominance** and control over others.

Antiragging regulations

Aman Kachroo's death in March 2009 resulted in

May 2009: The Hon. Supreme Court of India directed UGC & other regulatory authorities like MCI, DCI, AICTE etc. to amend their regulations to be exactly like that of UGC so that there is only one regulation throughout the country.

- MAKE US FRIEND NOT VICTIM
- PLEASE TALK TO US. DON'T SLAP US
- PRISON LIKE TORTURE
- IT IS NOT LEGAL



The anti-ragging regulations: Objective

To eliminate ragging in all its forms from universities, deemed universities and other higher educational institutions in the country by prohibiting it under these Regulations, **preventing its occurrence and punishing those who indulge in ragging** as provided for in these Regulations and the appropriate law in force.

Antiragging regulations: Awareness

- The telephone numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and all the important functionaries in the institution, including but not limited to the Head of the institution, faculty members, members of the Anti-ragging Committees and Anti-Ragging Squads, District and Sub Divisional authorities, Wardens of hostels, and other functionaries or authorities where relevant, shall be published in the brochure of admission/instruction booklet or the prospectus
- Every public declaration of intent by any institution, in any electronic, audiovisual or print or any other media, for admission of students to any course of study shall expressly provide that ragging is totally prohibited in the institution,

Anti ragging regulations: Punishment

- No institution shall permit or condone any reported incident of ragging in any form.
- All institutions shall take action in accordance with these Regulations against those found guilty of **ragging and/or abetting ragging**, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.
- Anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging, whether actively or passively, or being a part of a conspiracy to promote ragging, is liable to be **punished** in accordance with these **Regulations** as well as under the provisions of any penal law for the time being in force. □

Anti ragging regulations: Affidavits & Awareness

- The application for admission, enrolment or registration must be accompanied by an Anti-Ragging affidavit signed by a student in a prescribed format and another Anti Ragging Affidavit signed by a Parent/Guardian.
- Both these Affidavits can be downloaded from the Web. (Antiragging.in)
- The Commission shall maintain database of affidavits, affirmed by each student and his/her parents/guardians and stored electronically by the institution, and such database shall function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon. □

Anti ragging regulations **Penal Consequences for administration**

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 out and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorised 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.

Punishment for those found guilty of ragging include imprisonment.

- Cancellation of admission.
- Rustication from the institution for periods varying from 1 to 4 semesters or equivalent period.
- Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.



Consequences of Keeping Quiet

- Bystanders can be equally held **accountable if they do not report ragging**.
- Bystanders will have lifelong guilt and **psychological burden of silence**.
- **Silence** perpetuate the **cycle of ragging**.
- **Collective responsibility** is to prevent ragging.

National Ragging Prevention Program

Following directions of the **Hon. Supreme Court**, the program was started in 2009.

It was designed by the Aman Movement & also implemented by the **Aman Movement for 10 years from 2012.**

It comprised 3 components

- 24x7 Anti-ragging helpline
- Database of affidavits
- Compliance & Independent Monitoring

24x7 Anti Ragging helpline: Regulations

1800 180 55 22

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. □

Reporting Ragging Incidents

- Anti-Ragging Helpline (**1800-180-5522**) for reporting incidents.
- Reporting process is just a simple **phone call**.
- Identification will be kept confidential when reporting.
- Reach out for help if you **witness or experience** ragging.
- **Keep evidence safe** if possible, like **video, photos, texts**, etc.

The National Ragging Program is a **success**.

- Ragging has not stopped but it has **reduced substantially**.
- Ragging is not **fashionable** anymore.
- Ragging has reduced from an estimated **40% in 2009 to less than 5% in 2019**.
- The complaints of ragging reported each year are increasing but that is an indicator of increase in ragging. It indicates **increased confidence in the helpline**.

Results of Confidential Survey of experience of ragging

Year	No. Of students	Mild %	Severe %	Very Severe %	Total
2019	13,16,668	3.14	0.46	0.63	4.22
2018	15,03,589	3.43	0.5	0.67	4.59
2017	21,47,601	3.38	0.44	0.63	4.45
2016	19,37,887	3.59	0.48	0.67	4.74
2015	10,05,688	5.02	0.75	0.99	6.75
2014	4,14,692	8.11	1	1.26	10.36
2009	Estimated				40%

S.No.	Year	Total Cases Registered	Total Closed Cases	Total Cases Active	Active at UGC & other regulatory authorities
1	2012	306	306	0	0
2	2013	640	640	0	0
3	2014	543	542	1	1
4	2015	423	422	1	1
5	2016	515	514	1	1
6	2017	901	896	5	5
7	2018	1016	1013	3	3
8	2019	1070	1058	12	6
9	2020	219	197	22	5
10	2021	187	122	65	0
Grand Total		5820	5710	110	22

Ragging in **Medical Colleges** is persistent

Ragging in medical colleges has reduced from its 2009 levels but it has not reduced compared to colleges of other disciplines.

- Total complaints received between 2012 to 2020 is: from 30,000 colleges is: 5633 complaints, i.e., 0.18 %
- Number of complaints from 750 medical colleges is: 916 complaints, i.e. 1.2 %

The proportion of reported cases of ragging from medical colleges is much higher than the proportion of reported cases of other colleges.

Reacting and Keeping **Mental Health** in Control

- Discuss **emotional reactions** like fear, anxiety to witnessing/experiencing ragging.
- Seek support from friends and family or **counsellors available**.
- Take **professional help**, such as counselling services provided by the college.
- Take **self-care** strategies, mindfulness, stress management.

- A safe, respectful college environment is **everyone's responsibility**.
- Be responsible, respectful, and supportive of **each other**.
- **Every student** has a role in creating a respectful, healthy college environment.
- A ragging free campus and **student-friendly** environment at all times.
- Ragging causes **emotional and physical** toll on victims.
- **Anxiety, Trauma, Depression, Isolation, Demoralization** and many other forms of detrimental effects on personality.
- **Traumatic experiences** can affect individuals long-term.
- They impact on **academic performance and mental health**.
- Sometimes, people are so affected by ragging, that they tend to **drop out of college**.

***LET US PUT A STOP, LET US MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
LET US JOIN HANDS AND PUT AN END TO THIS EVIL!***

Ragging is a natural enemy of Emotional Intelligence

Academic excellence & ragging can not go hand in hand.

- Ragging destroys empathy and it is most needed by the doctors.
- Ragging destroys **self confidence & motivation**.
- Ragging suppresses **creativity & free thinking**.

