

UGC DRAFT REGULATIONS ON CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, 2009

In exercise of the power conferred by Clause (g) of Sub-Section (1) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the University Grants Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, namely

1. Title, commencement and applicability:-

- 1.1. These regulations shall be called the "UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009".
- 1.2. They shall come into force with immediate effect.
- 1.3. They shall apply to all the universities established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, to all institutions deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, to all other higher educational institutions, including the departments, constituent units and all the premises (academic, residential, sports, canteen, etc) of such universities, deemed universities and other higher educational institutions, whether located within the campus or outside, and to all means of transportation of students whether public or private.

2. Objective:-

To root out ragging in all its forms from universities, colleges and other educational institutions in the country by prohibiting it by law, preventing its occurrence by following the provisions of these Regulations and punishing those who indulge in ragging in spite of prohibition and prevention as provided for in these Regulations and the appropriate law in force.

3. Definitions:- For the purposes of these Regulations:-

- 3.1 "college" means any institution, whether known as such or by any other name, which provides for a programme of study beyond 12 years of schooling for obtaining any qualification from a university and which, in accordance with the rules and regulations of such university, is recognized as competent to provide for such programmes of study and present students undergoing such programmes of study for the examination for the award of such qualification.
- 3.2 "Head of the institution" means the 'Vice-Chancellor' in case of a university/deemed to be university, 'Principal' in case of a college, 'Director' in case of an institute.
- 3.3 "institution" means a higher educational institution (HEI), like a university, a college, an institute, etc. imparting higher education beyond 12 years of schooling leading to a degree (graduate, postgraduate and/or higher level).
- 3.4 "Ragging" means the following:

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.

3.5 "University" means a university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, an institution deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees

4 Punishable ingredients of Ragging:-

- Abetment to ragging;
- Criminal conspiracy to rag;
- Unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;
- Public nuisance created during ragging;
- Violation of decency and morals through ragging;
- Injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;
- Wrongful restraint;
- Wrongful confinement;
- Use of criminal force;
- Assault as well as sexual offences or even unnatural offences;
- Extortion;
- Criminal trespass;
- Offences against property;
- Criminal intimidation;
- Attempts to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- All other offences following from the definition of "Ragging".

5 Measures for prohibition of ragging at the institution level:-

5.1 The institution shall strictly observe the provisions of the Act of the Central Government and the State Governments, if any, or if enacted, considering ragging as a cognizable offence under the law on a par with rape and other atrocities against women and ill treatment of persons belonging to the SC/ST, and prohibiting ragging in all its forms in all institutions.

5.2 Ragging in all its forms shall be totally banned in the entire institution, including its departments, constituent units, all its premises (academic, residential, sports, canteen, etc) whether located within the campus or outside and in all means of transportation of students whether public or private.

5.3 The institution shall take strict action against those found guilty of ragging and/or of abetting ragging.

6 Measures for prevention of ragging at the institution level:-

6.1 Before admissions:-

6.1.1 The advertisement for admissions shall clearly mention that ragging is totally banned in the institution, and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished appropriately (for punishments, ref. section 8 below).

6.1.2 The brochure of admission/instruction booklet for candidates shall print in block letters these Regulations in full (including Annexure).

6.1.3 The 'Prospectus' and other admission related documents shall incorporate all directions of the Supreme Court and /or the Central or State Governments as

applicable, so that the candidates and their parents/ guardians are sensitized in respect of the prohibition and consequences of ragging. If the institution is an affiliating university, it shall make it mandatory for the institutions under it to compulsorily incorporate such information in their 'Prospectus'.

- 6.1.4 The application form for admission/ enrolment shall have a printed undertaking, preferably both in English/Hindi and in one of the regional languages known to the institution and the applicant (English version given in Annexure I, Part I), to 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.
- 6.1.5 The application form shall also contain printed undertaking, preferably both in English/Hindi and in one of the regional 13 languages known to the institution and the parent/ guardian (English version given in Annexure I, Part II), to 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.
- 6.1.6 The application for admission shall be accompanied by a document in respect of the School Leaving Certificate/ Character Certificate which shall include a report on the behavioural pattern of the applicant, so that the institution can thereafter keep intense watch upon a student who has a negative entry in this regard.
- 6.1.7 A student seeking admission to the hostel shall have to submit another undertaking in the form of Annexure I (both Parts) along with his/ her application for hostel accommodation.
- 6.1.8 At the commencement of the academic session the Head of the Institution 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 in the Institution and steps to be taken to identify the offenders and punish them suitably.
- 6.1.9 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 multicoloured with different colours 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.
- 6.1.10 The institution shall request the media to give adequate publicity to the law prohibiting ragging and the negative aspects of ragging and the institution's resolve to ban ragging and punish those found guilty without fear or favour.
- 6.1.11 The institution shall identify, properly illuminate and man all vulnerable locations.
- 6.1.12 The institution 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.
- 6.1.13 The institution shall utilize the vacation period before the start of 14 the new academic year to launch wide publicity campaign against ragging through posters, leaflets. Seminars, street plays, etc.

- 6.1.14 The faculties/ departments/ units of the institution 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.
- 6.2 On admission:-
- 6.2.1 Every fresher admitted to the institution shall be given a printed leaflet detailing when and to 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 committees, relevant district and police authorities), addresses and telephone numbers of such persons/authorities, etc., so that the fresher need not look up to the seniors for help in such matters and get indebted to them and start doing things, right or wrong, at their behest. Such a step will reduce the freshers' dependence on their seniors.
- 6.2.2 The institution through the leaflet 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.
- 6.2.3 The leaflet mentioned above shall also tell the freshers about their rights as bona fide students of the institution 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.
- 6.2.4 The leaflet 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.
- 6.2.5 The institution shall also organize joint sensitization programmes of 'freshers' and seniors.
- 6.2.6 Freshers shall be encouraged to report incidents of ragging, either as victims, or even as witnesses.
- 6.3 At the end of the academic year:-
- 6.3.1 At the end of every academic year the Vice-Chancellor / Dean of Students Welfare / Director / Principal shall send a letter to the parents / guardians who are completing the first year informing them about the law regarding ragging and the punishments, and appealing to them to impress upon their wards to desist from indulging in ragging when they come back at the beginning of the next academic session.
- 6.3.2 At the end of every academic year the institution shall form a 'Mentoring Cell' consisting of Mentors for the succeeding academic year. There shall be as many levels or tiers of Mentors as the number of batches in the institution, at the rate of 1 Mentor for 10 freshers and 1 Mentor of a higher level for 10 Mentors of the lower level.
- 6.4 Setting up of Committees and their functions:-
- 6.4.1 The Anti-Ragging Committee:- The Anti-Ragging Committee shall be headed by the Head of the institution and shall consist of representatives of faculty members, parents, students belonging to the freshers' category as well as seniors and non-teaching staff. It shall consider the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Squad and

take appropriate decisions, including spelling out suitable punishments to those found guilty.

6.4.2 The Anti-Ragging Squad:- The Anti-Ragging Squad shall be nominated by the Head of the institution with such representation as considered necessary and shall consist of members belonging to the various sections of the campus community. The Squad will have vigil, oversight and patrolling functions. It shall be kept mobile, alert and active at all times and shall be empowered to inspect places of potential ragging and make surprise raids on hostels and other hot spots. The Squad shall investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the overall guidance of the said Committee.

6.4.3 Monitoring Cell on Ragging:- If the institution is an affiliating university, it shall have a Monitoring Cell on Ragging to coordinate with the institutions affiliated to it by calling for reports from the Heads of such institutions regarding 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 problems 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 undertakings from candidates/students and their parents / guardians every year, and shall be the prime mover for initiating 16 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.

6.5 Other measures:-

6.5.1 The Annexures mentioned in 6.1.4, 6.1.5 and 6.1.7 shall be furnished at the beginning of each academic year by every student, that is, by freshers as well as seniors.

6.5.2 The institution shall arrange for regular and periodic psychological counseling and orientation for students (for freshers separately, as well as jointly with seniors) by professional counsellors during the first three months of the new academic year. This shall be done at the institution and department/ course levels. Parents and teachers shall also be involved in such sessions.

6.5.3 Apart from placing posters mentioned in 6.1.9 above at strategic places, the institution shall undertake measures for extensive publicity against ragging by means of audio-visual aids, by holding counseling sessions, workshops, painting and design competitions among students and other methods as it deems fit.

6.5.4 If the institution has B.Ed. and other Teacher training programmes, these courses shall be mandated to provide for anti-ragging and the relevant human rights appreciation inputs, as well as topics on sensitization against corporal punishments and checking of bullying amongst students, so that every teacher is equipped to handle at least the rudiments of the counseling approach.

6.5.5 Wardens shall be appointed as per the eligibility criteria laid down for the post reflecting both the command and control aspects of maintaining discipline, as well as the softer skills of counseling and communicating with the youth outside the class-room situations. Wardens shall be accessible at all hours and shall be provided with mobile phones. The institution shall review and suitably enhance the powers and perquisites of Wardens and authorities involved in curbing the menace of ragging.

- 6.5.6 The security personnel posted in hostels shall be under the direct control of the Wardens and assessed by them.
- 6.5.7 Private commercially managed lodges and hostels shall be registered with the local police authorities, and this shall be done necessarily on the recommendation of the Head of the institution. Local police, local administration and the institutional authorities shall ensure vigil on incidents that may come within the definition of ragging and shall be responsible for action in the event of ragging 17 in such premises, just as they would be for incidents within the campus. Managements of such private hostels shall be responsible for not reporting cases of ragging in their premises.
- 6.5.8 The Head of the institution shall take immediate action on receipt of the recommendations of the Ant-Ragging Squad. He/ She shall also take action suo motto if the circumstances so warrant.
- 6.5.9 Freshers who do not report the incidents of ragging either as victims or as witnesses shall also be punished suitably.
- 6.5.10 Anonymous random surveys shall be conducted across the 1st year batch of students (freshers) every fortnight during the first three months of the academic year to verify and cross-check whether the campus is indeed free of ragging or not. The institution may design its own methodology of conducting such surveys.
- 6.5.11 The burden of proof shall lie on the perpetrator of ragging and not on the victim.
- 6.5.12 The institution shall file an FIR with the police / local authorities whenever a case of ragging is reported, but continue with its own enquiry and other measures without waiting for action on the part of the police/ local civil authorities. Remedial action shall be initiated and completed within the one week of the incident itself.
- 6.5.13 The Migration / Transfer Certificate issued to the student by the institution shall have an entry, apart from those relating to general conduct and behaviour, whether the student has been punished for the offence of committing or abetting ragging, or not, as also whether the student has displayed persistent violent or aggressive behaviour or any desire to harm others.
- 6.5.14 Preventing or acting against ragging shall be the collective responsibility of all levels and sections of authorities or functionaries in the institution, including faculty, and not merely that of the specific body/ committee constituted for prevention of ragging.
- 6.5.15 The Heads of institutions other than universities shall submit weekly reports to the Vice-chancellor of the university the institution is affiliated to or recognized by, during the first three months of new academic year and thereafter each month on the status of compliance with anti-ragging measures. The Vice Chancellor of each university shall submit fortnightly reports of the university, including those of the Monitoring Cell on Ragging in case of an affiliating university, to the Chancellor.
- 6.5.16 Access to mobile phones and public phones shall be unrestricted in 18 hostels and campuses, except in class-rooms, seminar halls, library etc. where jammers shall be installed to restrict the use of mobile phones.
- 6.6 Measures for encouraging healthy interaction between freshers and seniors:-
- 6.6.1 The institution shall set up appropriate committees including the course in-charge, student advisor, Warden and some senior students to actively monitor, promote and regulate healthy interaction between the freshers and senior students.

6.6.2 Freshers' welcome parties shall be organized in each department by the senior students and the faculty together soon after admissions, preferably within the first two weeks of the beginning of the academic session, for proper introduction to one another and where the talents of the freshers are brought out properly in the presence of the faculty, thus helping them to shed their inferiority complex, if any, and remove their inhibitions.

6.6.3 The institution shall enhance the student-faculty interaction by involving the students in all matters of the institution, except those relating to the actual processes of evaluation and of faculty appointments, so that the students shall feel that they are responsible partners in managing the affairs of the institution and consequently the credit due to the institution for good work/ performance is due to them as well.

6.7 Measures at the UGC/ Statutory/ Regulatory bodies' level:-

6.7.1 The UGC and other Statutory /Regulatory bodies shall make it mandatory for the institutions to compulsorily incorporate in their 'Prospectus' the directions of the Supreme Court and/or the Central or State Governments with regard to prohibition and consequences of ragging, and that noncompliance with the directives against ragging in any manner whatsoever shall be considered as lowering of academic standards by the erring institution making it liable for appropriate action.

6.7.2 The UGC (including NAAC and UGC Expert Committees visiting institutions for various purposes) and similar Committees of other Statutory/Regulatory bodies shall cross-verify that the institutions strictly comply with the requirement of getting the undertakings from the students and their parents/ guardians as envisaged under these Regulations.

6.7.3 The UGC and other funding bodies shall make it one of the conditions in the Utilization Certificate for sanctioning any financial assistance or aid to the institution under any of the general or special schemes that the institution has strictly complied with the anti-ragging measures and has a blemish-less record in terms of there being no incidents of ragging during the period pertaining to the Utilization Certificate.

6.7.4 The NAAC and other accrediting bodies shall factor in any incident of ragging in the institution while assessing the institution in different grades.

6.7.5 The UGC shall constitute a Board for Coordination consisting of representatives of the AICTE, the IITs, the NITs, the IIMs, the MCI, the DCI, the NCI, the ICAR and such other bodies which have to deal with higher education to coordinate and monitor the anti-ragging movement across the country and to make certain policy decisions. The said Board shall meet once in a year in the normal course.

6.7.6 The UGC shall have an Anti-Ragging Cell within the Commission as an institutional mechanism to provide secretarial support for collection of information and monitoring, and to coordinate with the State level and university level Committees for effective implementation of anti-ragging measures.

6.7.7 If an institution fails to curb ragging, the UGC/ the Statutory/ Regulatory body concerned may stop financial assistance to such an institution or take such action within its powers as it may deem fit and impose such other penalties as provided till such time as the institution achieves the objective of curbing ragging.

7 **Incentives for curbing ragging:-**

- 7.1 The UGC shall consider providing special/ additional annual financial grants-in aid to those eligible institutions which report a blemish-less record in terms of there being no incidents of ragging.
- 7.2 The UGC shall also consider instituting another category of financial awards or incentives for those eligible institutions which take stringent action against those responsible for incidents of ragging.
- 7.3 The UGC shall lay down the necessary incentive for the post of Warden in order to attract the right type of eligible candidates, and motivate the incumbent.

8 **Punishments:-**

8.1 At the institution level: Depending upon the nature and gravity of the offence as established by the Anti- Ragging Committee of the institution, the possible 20 punishments for those found guilty of ragging at the institution level shall be any one or any combination of the following:

- 8.1.1 Cancellation of admission
- 8.1.2 Suspension from attending classes
- 8.1.3 Withholding / withdrawing scholarship / fellowship and other benefits
- 8.1.4 Debarring from appearing in any test / examination or other evaluation process
- 8.1.5 Withholding results
- 8.1.6 Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
- 8.1.7 Suspension/ expulsion from the hostel
- 8.1.8 Rustication from the institution for period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters
- 8.1.9 Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution
- 8.1.10 Fine of Rupees 25,000/-
- 8.1.11 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 raggars.

8.2 At the university level in respect of institutions under it: If an institution under a university (being constituent of, affiliated to or recognized by it) fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Regulations and fails to curb ragging effectively, the university may impose any or all of the following penalties on it:

- 8.2.1 Withdrawal of affiliation/ recognition or other privileges conferred on it
- 8.2.2 Prohibiting such institution from presenting any students then undergoing any programme of study therein for the award of any degree/diploma of the university
- 8.2.3 Withholding any grants allocated to it by the university
- 8.2.4 Any other appropriate penalty within the powers of the university.

8.3 At the UGC level:

If an institution fails to curb ragging, the UGC may impose any or all of the following penalties on it:

- 8.3.1 Delisting the institution from section 2(f) and /or section 12B of the UGC Act

- 8.3.2 Withholding any grants allocated to it
- 8.3.3 Declaring institutions which are not covered under section 2(f) and 21 or 12B as ineligible for any assistance like that for Major/ Minor Research Project, etc.
- 8.3.4 Declaring the institution ineligible for consideration under any of the special assistance programmes like CPE (College with potential for Excellence), UPE (University with Potential for Excellence, CPEPA (Centre with Potential for Excellence in a Particular Area), etc.
- 8.3.5 Declaring that the institution does not have the minimum academic standards and warning the potential candidates for admission accordingly through public notice and posting on the UGC Website
- 8.3.6 Collaborating with other Statutory/ Regulatory bodies to work out other possible deterrents.
