

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

Preamble

In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "University of Kerala v/s. Council, Principals, Colleges and others" in SLP no.24295 of 2006 dated 16.05.2007 and that dated 8.05.2009 in Civil appeal number 887 of 2009, and in consideration of the determination of the Central Government and the University Grants Commission to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging, in all higher education institutions in the country, and thereby, to provide for the healthy development, physically and psychologically, of all students, the University Grants Commission, in consultation with the Councils, brings forth this Regulation.

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 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;
- 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, 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;
- 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.

Measures for prohibition of ragging at the institution levels

No institution or any part of it thereof, including its elements, the departments, constituent units, colleges, centers of studies and all its premises, whether academic, residential, playgrounds, or canteen, whether located within the campus or outside, and in all means of transportation of students, whether public or private, accessed by students for the pursuit of studies in such institutions, shall permit or condone any reported incident of ragging in any form; and all institutions shall take all necessary and required measures, including but not limited to the provisions of these Regulations, to achieve the objective of eliminating ragging, within the institution or outside

Constitution of bodies

Every institution shall constitute the following bodies

Anti-Ragging Committee

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 levels as well as gender.

Anti-Ragging Squad

Anti-Ragging Squad shall have representation of various members of the campus, community and shall have no outside representation.

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

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 whether a case under the penal laws is made out. If so, either through on his own or through an authorized member of the Anti-Ragging Committee 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. Such registration of criminal cases will be under the appropriate penal provisions as follows;

- 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”.

The Head of the institution shall forthwith report the occurrence of the ragging incident to the District Level Anti-Ragging Committee and the Nodal officer of the affiliating University.

The institution shall also continue with its own enquiry under clause 9 of the UGC Regulations 2009 and other measures without waiting for action on the part of the police/local authorities. But, such remedial action shall be initiated and completed immediately and within a period of seven days of the reported incident of ragging.

Administrative action in the event of ragging

The institution shall punish a student found guilty of ragging after following the procedure as under:

- a) The anti-ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts, 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,
 - 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 where the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment.

Provisions for preferring complaints

Ample provisions are there in the regulation to prefer complaints regarding ragging incidents to the designated officers, head of the institution, local police and the **toll free number maintained by the UGC, 1800-180-5522**. These provisions help the aggrieved person to bring the culprits within the clutches of law.