

SREE BALAJI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, CHENNAI

Guidelines on Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging

1. Objectives:-

In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 24295 of 2006 dated 16-05-2007 and in Civil Appeal number 887 of 2009, dated 08-05-2009 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, Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chennai issues the following guidelines. The institute shall take strict action against those found guilty of ragging and/or of abetting ragging.

2. What Constitutes Ragging: -

Ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- 1) 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;
- 2) Indulging in rowdy or undisciplined 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;
- 3) 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;
- 4) Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;
- 5) Exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- 6) Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students;
- 7) 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;
- 8) Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, 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;

9) 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.

10) Punishable ingredients of ragging are reiterated as follows:

- 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);
- Physical or psychological humiliation.
- All other offences following from the definition of “Ragging” as per Medical Council of India Regulations.

11) Any conduct or act which attracts the provisions of the Act of the Central Government, if any, or if enacted and / or for the time being in force, considering ragging as a cognizable offence under the law at 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.

3. Measures for prevention of ragging:-

1) The advertisement issued for admission by the institution, shall clearly mention that ragging is totally banned and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished appropriately.

2) The ‘Prospectus’ and other admission related documents shall contain the following provision:-

“Ragging:- As per Hon’ble Supreme Court order 16th May 2007 & 8th May 2009 and as per the policy of Bharath University and this College Ragging in any form is strictly

prohibited. Ragging adversely impacts standards of higher education and shows a lack of human values any person who indulges in ragging shall be dealt with severely as per the laid down instructions on the subject. Anti ragging squads and identified persons will ensure that no ragging goes on in the premises of the College. If any incident of ragging comes to the notice of the authority, the concerned student shall be given liberty to explain and if his explanation is not found satisfactory, the authority would expel him from the institution.

A copy of Medical Council of India Notification No. MCI-34(I)/2009-Med/25453 dated 03rd August 2009 containing the Medical Council of India (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges/Institutions) Regulations, 2009 is enclosed. An annual undertaking signed by each student and his/her parent (s) jointly stating that each of them have read the relevant instructions/regulations against ragging as well as punishments and that if the ward has been found guilty he/she shall be proceeded against, shall be procured.

Such an undertaking shall be furnished in English as well as in vernacular (Mother tongue of the person) at the time of admission.

- 3) The application form for admission/enrolment shall have a printed affidavit, preferably both in English, Hindi and Tamil. The affidavit shall 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.
- 4) The application form shall also contain a printed affidavit, preferably both in English, Hindi and Tamil and the affidavit should 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.
- 5) The application for admission shall be accompanied by a document along with the School Leaving Certificate/Character Certificate which shall include a report on the behavioral patten of the applicant, so that the institution can thereafter keep intense watch upon the student who has a negative entry in this regard.
- 6) A student seeking admission to the hostel shall have to submit another affidavit along with his/her application for hostel accommodation that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishments meted out if he/she is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.
- 7) The institution shall maintain a proper record of the affidavits obtained to ensure its safe up keep thereof, including digital copies of the affidavits and such digital copy shall be made available to the Medical Council of India or to an Agency identified/nominated by the Council, as and when required the affidavits shall be furnished at the beginning of each academic year.

- 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.
- 9) Each batch of fresher's should be divided into small groups and each such group shall be assigned to a member of staff. Such staff member should interact individually with each member of the group on daily basis to ascertain the problems/difficulties, if any faced by the fresher's in the Institution and extend necessary help.
- 10) In case of fresher's admitted to a Hostel it shall be the responsibility of the teacher incharge of the group to co-ordinate with the warden of the Hostel and to make surprise visits to the rooms in the hostel where the members of the group are lodged. Fresher's should be lodged in a separate hostel block wherever possible and where such facilities are not available, the college/institution shall ensure that seniors' access to fresher's accommodation is strictly monitored by wardens, Security Guards and Staff.
- 11) 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 in such premises, just as they would be for incidents within the campus. Managements of such private hostels shall be responsible for action in the event of ragging in such premises, just as they would be for incidents within campuses.
- 12) Every fresher admitted to the Institution shall be given a printed information booklet detailing 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.
- 13) The information booklet mentioned above shall also tell the fresher's about their rights as bona fide students 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.
- 14) The information booklet 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.
- 15) 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 with different colors 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.

- 16) The Institution shall request the media to give adequate publicity to the law prohibiting ragging and the negative aspects of ragging and the institutions 's resolve to ban ragging and punish those found guilty without fear or favor.
- 17) The Institution shall identify, properly illuminate and man all vulnerable locations.
- 18) 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.
- 19) The Institution shall utilize the vacation period before the start of the new academic year to launch wide publicity campaign against ragging through posters, information booklets, seminars, street plays, etc.
- 20) 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.
- 21) The Principal or Head of the Institution / Department shall obtain an undertaking from every employee of the institution including teaching and non-teaching members of staff, contract labour employed in the premises either for running canteen or as watch and ward staff or for cleaning or maintenance of the buildings / lawns etc. that he/she would report promptly any case of ragging which comes to his/her notice. A provision shall be made in the service rules for issuing certificates of appreciation to such members of the staff who report ragging which will form part of their service record.
- 22) Mobile Phones and other communication devices may be permitted in residential areas including hostels to provide access to the students particularly fresher's, to reach out for help from teachers, parents and Institution authorities.
- 23) The institute shall ensure that a student affected by ragging in spite of the best intentions of the institute, is provided the required counseling to ward officer Physical & Psychological humiliation and to resume her/his normal activities/studies.

4. Monitoring mechanism in the institution, University including Deemed to be University:-

1) **Anti-ragging Committee:**

- a) The institution shall constitute 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.
- b) It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Committee to ensure compliance with the provisions of these guidelines 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.

2) **Anti-Ragging Squad:**

- a) An Anti-Ragging Squad shall be nominated by the Head of the Institution with such representation of various members of the campus community as may be considered necessary for maintaining vigil, oversight and patrolling functions and shall remain mobile, alert and active at all times.
- b) The Anti-Ragging Squad shall be empowered 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.
- c) 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. The squad shall investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the overall guidance of the Anti-Ragging Committee.
- d) All matters of discipline within the institution will be resolved within the campus except those impinging on law and order or breach of peace or public tranquility, all of which shall be dealt with under the penal laws of the land.

- 3) **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 fresher's, in the succeeding academic year; and there shall be as many levels or tiers of Mentors as the number of batches in the institution, at the rate of one Mentor for six fresher's and one Mentor of a higher level for six Mentors of the lower level.

- 4) **Monitoring Cell on Ragging:** The affiliating University shall set up a Monitoring Cell on Ragging to coordinate with the institutions to monitor 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 problem 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 affidavits from candidates/students and their parents/guardians every year, and shall be the prime mover for initiating 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.

5. **Actions against students:**

- 1) The punishment to be meted out to the persons indulged in ragging has to be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrent against recurrence of such incidents.
- 2) Every single incident of ragging a First Information Report (FIR) must be filed without exception by the institutional authorities with the local police authorities.
- 3) The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, with regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.
- 4) a) 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:-
 - (i) Cancellation of admission
 - (ii) Suspension from attending classes
 - b) Withholding/withdrawing scholarship/fellowship and other benefits.
 - c) Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process
 - d) Withholding results
 - e) Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
 - f) Suspension/expulsion from the hostel
 - g) Rustication from the institution for period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters
 - h) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specific period.
 - i) Fine of Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1 lacs.
- 5) Fresher who do not report the incidents of ragging either as victims or as witnesses shall also be punished suitably.
- 6) The burden of proof shall lie on the perpetrator of ragging and not on the victim.

- 7) The institutional authorities shall intimate the incidents of ragging occurred in their premises along with actions taken to the Council from time to time.
- 6. Penal consequences for the heads of the institutions/administration of the institution who do not take timely steps in the prevention of ragging and punishing those who rag.**

The authorities of the institution particularly the Head of the institution shall be responsible to ensure that no incident of ragging takes place in the take prompt and appropriate action against the person(s) whose dereliction of duty lead to the incident. The authority designated to appoint the Head shall, in its turn, take prompt and appropriate action against the Head.

In addition to penal consequences, departmental enquiries shall be initiated against such heads of institutions / members of the administration / faculty members / non-teaching staff, who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging.

Attachments:-

- 1. Copy of MCI Regulations as 03rd August 2009.**
- 2. Copies of undertakings by Students and Parents.**
- 3. Constitution of Anti-Ragging Committee**
- 4. Constitution of Anti-Ragging Squad.**